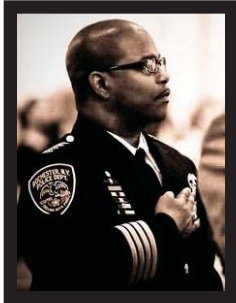


# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:



*Excerpt from Chief Sheppard's welcome speech at the 32nd Annual Awards Ceremony, held on May 8th:*

Ladies and Gentlemen, WHAT IF? What if the City of Rochester had the kind of police officers who reached out to kids on a daily basis to build trust and establish relationships within this community?

We do: Officer Walt Sanders. You should see him mentoring youth as they prepare for the Edison's Got Talent competition that he coordinates singlehandedly. Officer Sanders also volunteers for numerous events and fundraising opportunities for the Special Olympics.

What if we had the kind of police officers that would take the time to engage young adults on the street, to counsel them to get their education and not get caught up in these mean streets? We do: Officer James LaRuez.

What if we had the kind of officers that would rather stay on the trail of a known homicide suspect until they were seized and in custody, instead of going home and enjoying their weekend, because they knew that if this individual remained on the street, it was likely that they would kill again? We do: Investigator Jennifer Morales.

What if we had the kind of police officers who were willing to dress up as Santa Claus in order to bring Christmas joy to young children, or were willing to take a young man under their wing to ensure they passed through to manhood successfully? Ladies and Gentlemen, we do: Investigator Otto Harnischfeger.

These officers, as well as every member of this Department, demonstrate every day what it means to serve and protect, as well as to Police in the Spirit of Service. If asked if they consider themselves heroes, they would respond, "No, I was just doing my job." To each and every member of the Rochester Police Department, know that I am grateful for your service, and I am very proud to serve as Chief of Police of such an outstanding organization.

Chief James M. Sheppard

***Policing in the Spirit of Service***

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# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## RPD LAUNCHES NEW RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)



Starting in January 2012, the Rochester Police Department, Information Technology and the City's vendor, New World Systems, began a project to replace RPD's legacy Records Management System and Investigations Assignment System with a new integrated system and improved processes. There are various benefits that will be realized with the new system:

- Officers have the ability to capture incident information electronically, in their vehicles, thus eliminating multiple handwritten reports.
- Officers are provided with valuable information in their vehicles; this was not possible with the legacy system.
- Information is available to RPD personnel in a much timelier manner, which is important for investigations and crime analysis.
- The new system provides for improved investigation case management and New York State reporting.
- The risk of possible failure of the legacy system is eliminated as newer technologies are deployed.

Implementation of the new system was completed on March 24, 2013. There will be future initiatives that will expand this application to provide additional integrated functionality.

## CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY #22

On Thursday, May 2nd, twenty-two people from the deaf and hard of hearing community graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) Class #22. This is the first academy that was designed specifically for the deaf community. RPD personnel were aided by certified sign language interpreters in teaching the class.

The City of Rochester has the largest per capita deaf population in the United States. The CPA helps students better understand how the Department operates, "So there's not a misunderstanding between the deaf community and the police officers," explained Officer Renee Nicholls, the RPD's liaison to the deaf and hard of hearing community.

"We're just trying to bridge and strengthen that relationship so that there are no misunderstandings or miscommunication."



# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## GROVELAND CHECK WILL BUY BACK GUNS

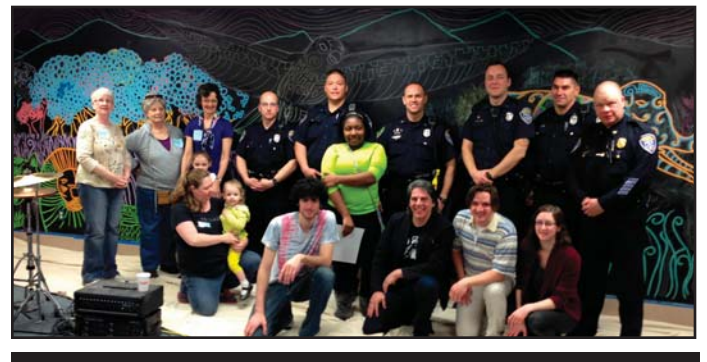


On April 4th, correction staff and inmates from DOCCS, staff from the Rochester Police Department, and representatives of the Gandhi Center for Nonviolence and Groveland's Community Advisory Board, took part in the closing ceremony of the "Season for Nonviolence." Inmates performed for each other in a talent show and a check was presented to Rochester Police Chief James Sheppard in support of a gun buyback program. Money raised will buy back guns in Rochester.

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and the founder of the Gandhi Center for Nonviolence in Rochester, kicked off the fund drive on February 7, 2013. During the 64 days between the anniversary of the assassination of Mohandas Gandhi on January 30, and that of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, inmates participated in a series of special events. These included an essay and poetry contest, an art show, and a talent show/peace concert, all with the theme of nonviolence. The best of show categories were reviewed during the event, and three DOCCS employees will select one overall winner from all categories. The \$1,000 collected from the inmate population, and the \$500 donated by Groveland's Women in Correction Committee, will be earmarked for a gun buyback in September.

## POLICE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Arnett Block Association (ABA) hosted an informal Police Appreciation Breakfast for the dedicated RPD officers who serve the Southwest area neighborhood. Dr. Morehouse said that the Arnett Block Association members enjoyed serving food and getting to know the officers a little better personally. Also, the young people involved in the Rochester Youth Outreach (RYO) project were delighted to show the officers the progress they're making on their mural.



## YOUTH LAW ENFORCEMENT FAIR

On April 13th, the RPD participated in PathStone Corporation's Collective Action Project 2nd Annual Youth Law Enforcement Fair. The goal of the event was to expose young people to the opportunities and rewards of a career in law enforcement. Many other law enforcement agencies were also represented at the event, which was held at the Dr. Freddie Thomas School, 625 Scio Street.



# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## OFFICER NAMED NBD ASSOCIATE OF MONTH



Officer Kelly O'Hara has been named the Neighborhood Business & Development (NBD) Associate of the Month. A Crime Prevention Officer with the Northwest Neighborhood Service Center (NW NSC), Kelly goes out of her way to engage members of the community and address

their problems in a caring and compassionate manner.

Kelly is the first female member of the Rochester Police Department's Scuba Squad. She is also associated with NYS Operation Safe Child.

Kelly has been working with the new Americans who have recently emigrated from Nepal and Burma, attending community meetings and conducting personal safety classes for the groups. She has also conducted safety classes for clients of the Regional Center for Independent Living, which were greatly appreciated by the citizens and staff.

Officer O'Hara's positive attitude is a tremendous asset to the Northwest Neighborhood Service Center. She is always sympathetic and understanding when dealing with people in crisis. Kelly interacts with residents at both the office and at neighborhood and community meetings.

Kelly is always accessible to the civilian staff, as well as other members of the RPD in the office, and is always willing to provide assistance when needed. In a highly stressed atmosphere, she is willing to drop everything to help. She resolves conflicts and/or issues regarding residence and business owners alike.

Quotes received from the public regarding Officer O'Hara include: "She really cares!"

## ROCHESTER POLICE FOUNDATION'S FIRST FUNDRAISER A "HUGE SUCCESS"

"A tremendous success!" Those were the words Dennis Kessler, President of the Rochester Police Foundation's Board of Directors, used to describe the Foundation's inaugural fundraiser, which was held April 27th at ONE Restaurant and Lounge.

More than 350 guests filled the venue on a gorgeous spring evening. Our Color Guard greeted guests at the front door and members of the SWAT team were on hand to display tactical equipment.

The Foundation, which works to provide financial support to the Department for innovative public safety programs and special equipment purchases, marked its first full year of service on May 2nd.



Among those who joined Chief Sheppard for this special evening were Mayor Tom Richards and our own Officer Tony DiPonzio. A spirited live auction for the prize of a lunch with Tony resulted in two winners with bids of \$2,500 each!

The Foundation extends a sincere thank you to all the generous community sponsors, hosts and supporters who helped to make this first ever Foundation fundraising event an overwhelming success.

# RPD NEWS

MAY 2013



## LEADERSHIP *Lt. Scott Peters*



You can pick up countless books, read many articles and take classes on any style of leadership. Many people have a limitless supply of telling us how they motivate people. This is all great information, and allows us to form our style of leadership, but nothing will provide

you with the “golden key” that will unlock every door. I do not profess to have all the answers; what I think I have is common sense and experience. I have been a “boss” in this Department since 2004, and up until January of this year, it was all in Patrol. I also spent almost 16 years on ETF, with the last three as the Team Commander. I have had time to find my way and learn to make the tough decisions. These are some basic tenets I try and follow, which have allowed me to be successful in my career:

1. Do not ask your personnel to do anything you wouldn't. Do not be afraid to stand in the rain, walk in the snow or even write a report. You can add all the brass you want to your collar, but you still wear a blue uniform. I have seen a sergeant in the past point at his stripes and say, “I worked too hard for these to write a report.” Really?! The day you can't do these things should be the day you retire.
2. Once you become a “boss,” you are no longer only responsible for just you. Like it or not, with rank comes increased responsibility. You should be the last person to leave at the end of a shift. You need to ensure every one of your officers is accounted for, and is all set with the support they need. If you have eight officers assigned to your team, you now have eight more lives you need to be concerned with. There's a reason we make extra money each day....earn it!

3. Follow the rules! How can you tell your officers to act accordingly if you don't set the example? In the academy, we were told our reputation is the only thing we have. That does not change once you are promoted. In fact, the scrutiny on you becomes larger. This goes for your personal life as well.

4. This is the best job in the world! If you don't believe it, do something else. They write books and make movies and TV shows about our job. Where else would you be able to see the things we see and get paid for it? Remember what it was like when you drove that police car for the first time alone? Embrace that feeling and never forget it. If you are not happy with the job, how can you expect to be effective when you come to work?

5. Make a decision! As long as no one is getting killed or hurt, make a decision! Some of the best lessons are learned through our mistakes. People can handle “No.” If you don't know the answer, don't be afraid to ask. Also, do not be afraid to accept advice from your officers. They can provide you with some invaluable advice.

6. We all make mistakes. Every one of us has made mistakes. If a young officer does something wrong, but not with malicious intent, do not hammer him/her. It is our job to develop people and turn the situation into a learning experience. Fix the problem instead of trying to pass it on to someone else.

This is by no means a “be all and end all” list. These are just a few of the rules I try and follow. At the end of the day, I treat people the way I want to be treated. I still make mistakes, and I like to think I am man enough to admit when that happens. Always be open to constructive criticism as none of us has all the answers.

# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## KUDOS TO THE RPD

*The following kudos are excerpts from comments received by the Chief's Office, commending officers on courtesies that were greatly appreciated:*



I took my 4-year-old son to East Avenue this evening to see what we could see of filming for the Spider-Man movie. I would never have guessed that a high-speed car chase would be only the second most interesting event of the day for my son, but that's just what happened. Officer Rodriguez (mustache, three youngish sons) was stationed at the barricade where we stood, and he was perfect with my son: attentive (without in any way neglecting his duties), appropriate and helpful. We moved to Rochester in the last year, and his behavior gave me yet another reason to love our new hometown.

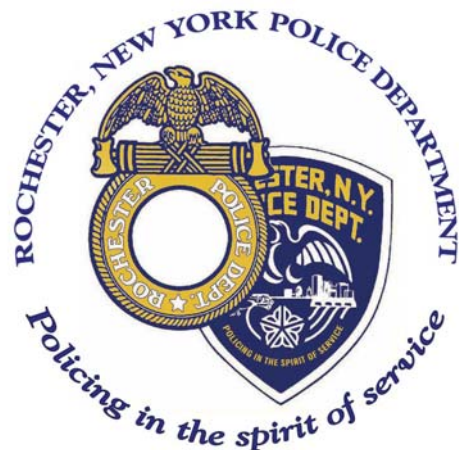
-Eric Grode

@RochesterNYPD kudos to one of your officers for helping me cross the street during the filming breaks [of The Amazing Spiderman 2], since I have a dislocated knee!

-Shayna Leib

We just wanted to thank the officers of the RPD that worked last night on Main Street. They were very helpful with information on the movie set and shared other key parts of some scenes. It was great to have the children interact with them in this manner. The RPD certainly made our day and many memories. Thank You, RPD!

-The VanEpps & Andrews Families



# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013

## “MEET THE RPD”

*In this section, we will feature individual members of the Department, highlighting their careers and interests, both on and off the job.*



### **COMMANDER JOSEPH MORABITO** **EAST DIVISION**

Joseph Morabito II was born and raised in Rochester, and grew up on the west side of the city, in the Edgerton Neighborhood. He attended St. Anthony of Padua Grammar School and Jefferson High School. He has been married to his wife Kathy for 28 years and has two sons, ages 24 and 22.

Commander Morabito joined the Rochester Police Department in December of 1986, after working for five years with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, in both Court Security and for a brief time on the Road Patrol. He has had various operational and administrative assignments in the RPD, including: Patrol, Tactical, Emergency Task Force (ETF) and Headquarters. In addition, he has been assigned as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the Special Investigation Section, and his most recent assignment, prior to his promotion, was as the Commanding Officer of the Greater Rochester Area Narcotics Task Force (GRANET) for the past ten years.

Appointed to his new position on December 18, 2012, Commander Morabito will oversee the East Division, which is responsible for providing direct police services to the public, and includes the coordination of the East Division Neighborhood Service Centers (NSC).

“I was honored to be selected by Chief Sheppard to assume my new role in the Rochester Police Department. It's very exciting to take on this new challenge in my career and to join the A-Staff as we move forward in our continued focus to make Rochester a safer place to live, raise a family, and start a business.”

Although the days pass by very quickly as he acclimates back into patrol, he hopes to be able to find time to resume his passion of coaching youth hockey in the near future.



## WE PRODUCE LEADERS

*Over the years, the Rochester Police Department has developed a national reputation for excellence, due in large part to the tremendous talent, commitment and innovative thinking exhibited by those who have worn the uniform of the Rochester Police Department. The "We Produce Leaders" series highlights RPD alumni who have gone on from the Department to continue serving the community in a variety of leadership roles. We hope these articles inspire current RPD members and demonstrate the many ways that the skills and professionalism gained as a RPD officer benefits the community for a lifetime.*



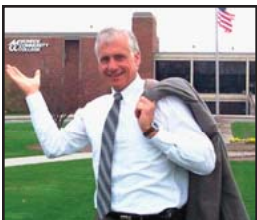
### **CAPTAIN JOSEPH STURNICK (RET.)**

**Served: 1979-2005**

Officer: Atlantic, Highland and Genesee Sections 3rd Platoons, Class Counselor for Recruit Class #14 (1985), Investigator in Highland Section, Sergeant: Highland 3rd, Clinton 4th, Supervisor Class Counselor, License & Warrants; Lieutenant: Lake 1st, Chief's Office Aide to DCO Duffy, Info Systems; Captain: SDO 1st Platoon, Goodman Section; Exec. Captain to Cmdr. Sheppard: Patrol Division East.

### **DESCRIBE A HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER IN RPD AND HOW THAT SHAPED YOUR FUTURE:**

Over the course of 26 years with the RPD and four prior years with the MCSO, it is quite a challenge to choose any single "highlight" that stands out above the rest. There is, however, one that I do keep coming back to when I am asked what I miss most about "the job." On a hot, August, 4th Platoon shift at 2:30 AM, Officer John Nobrega and I were holding a position at the corner of Joseph and Cuba, amid a crowd of 300+ very unruly people on the streets around a popular local night club letting out. Bottles, rocks and shots were flying and John and I looked at each other and both shared the same thought: "Where else would you rather be?!" An insane thought to most people but not to cops. The lesson this fortified in me involves the strength of teamwork and camaraderie and that when people are brought together in a common goal with a shared trust in each other's abilities and the talent and temperament to succeed, no task is impossible.



### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE YOUR RETIREMENT:**

Since my retirement in 2005, I have had the extreme pleasure of teaching full-time on the faculty of MCC's Law and Criminal Justice Department. Along with RPD Retirees, Bob Kennedy, Adrian Smalls and a host of other law and criminal justice professionals, I have the privilege of helping to shape the next generation of criminal justice practitioners.

### **ADVICE THAT YOU WOULD GIVE TO THE OFFICERS CURRENTLY ON THE JOB:**

Love what you do. See all the positives, deal with—but don't dwell on—the negatives. And please, don't infect the next generation with dismay.



# RPD NEWS



MAY 2013



**Our Badge is Your Shield.**  
**THE ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

