

**AUGUST 2012** 

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:**



During the months of May and June, the city of Rochester experienced a significant spike in violent crime, specifically gun violence. In response the Rochester Police Department initiated a "Cool Down Detail", with the primary focus of removing guns from the street. Our strategies included heightened proactivity, combined with increased officer and community interactions.

As a result of your efforts, we were able to significantly influence violent crime for the month of July. From 7/1 to 7/14, Rochester had 14 shooting incidents; however, for the rest of July, there were only four incidents, resulting in a 71% reduction in shooting incidents. Also significant is the reduction of incidents (robbery, menacing, assaults, etc.) in which a firearm was used. Your efforts influenced the reduction of firearm incidents by 21% from June through July.

This is the first time in my recollection that we have experienced such positive results from a summer crime initiative. As previously highlighted, while the detail cannot be solely credited as the cause of the noted crime reductions, it is important that I recognize the hard work, proactive strategies and tremendous community interaction of the officers of this department. You have made me proud, and I truly appreciate all of your hard work. Thank you.

Chief James M. Sheppard

Policing in the Spirit of Service

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Investigator Jackie Shuman

#### -SPECIAL INSERT- PAL presents its most recent activities:

#### PAL BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP

On Saturday, July 14th, the Rochester Police Activities League, in collaboration with Ray Smith & Next Level Hoops, held their first ever PAL Basketball skills camp at St. Monica's Church on Genesee Street.

Kids, aged 8-14 years old, were coached by officers and instructors on basic basketball fundamentals. The purpose of the event was to strengthen the relationship between inner-city youth and our Rochester Police Department, by engaging the youth in a positive way. The idea and its format were conceived by Ray Smith and



Chief Sheppard. The event is committed to connecting with inner-city youth and making a difference in their lives early on. This free event gave city youth and RPD officers the chance to meet in a non-threatening atmosphere, and for youth to see officers as people, not just uniforms.

Volunteers for this event included Sgt. Bob Snow, Officer Rob Osipovitch, Officer Moses Robinson, Officer Jim Perry, Officer Bill Baker and Officer Brandon Ince.

#### PAL"FISH WITH A COP"

On Saturday August 4th, the Rochester Police Activities League, in collaboration with Rochester City Recreation, held its first ever PAL "Fish With A Cop" outing. Kids, aged 7-13, were taught the fundamentals of fishing

by some Rochester Police Officers on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Seneca Park pond.

Thank you also to Anthony Jordan, Carl Diliberto & staff from City Recreation for making this day such a success!

Volunteers for this event included Off. Steve Kovacic, Lt. Cheryl Fridley, Off. Jeff Kester, Off. Eric Ferguson, Sgt. Joe Laiosa, Sgt. Bob Snow and Off. Sir Glynn.

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### -SPECIAL INSERT- PAL presents its most recent activities:

#### PAL "BUFFALO BILLS TRAINING CAMP TRIP"

On Saturday, July 28th, the Rochester Police Activities League, along with "Do The Right Thing", hosted youth from the city of Rochester on a day trip at Buffalo Bills camp. Kids, 10-16 years old, met players, had snacks and enjoyed interactive football games with Rochester Police Officers on a sunny Saturday afternoon at St. John Fisher College.

This the second annual Buffalo Bills PAL Training Camp trip. PAL thanks Anthony Jordan City Recreation & Greg Hopkins from Change the Community (CTC) for making this day such a success!



Volunteers for this event included Officer Steve Kovacic, Officer Carlos Alvarado and Sergeant Ralph Montinarelli.



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#### OFF. WOODWORTH WINS AWARD

Off. Joanne Woodworth won 2nd Place Overall in the 2012 Police Mounted Skills Competition, held at Hemlock Lake Fairgrounds on July 18th. This was Joanne's first year participating in the event. There were

a total of seven riders competing from four different police agencies in this year's event. Joanne also won additional an for Top award English Rider.



#### RPD COLLABORATES WITH THE ROCHESTER **EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

The Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Education Foundation joined forces this summer to give 20 teenagers an activity-packed summer. The teens were participants in an experiential learning program called "The World of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice". The program was funded by a grant through RochesterWorks and the Summer of Opportunity.

This collaboration offered in-depth educational experiences as a means to teach future leaders about our legal and law enforcement systems, understanding that with informed experience comes creative community solutions.

The program began on July 9th, with an introduction to law enforcement and criminal justice. Sergeants Elena Correia and Mark Simmons, City Court Judge Stephen Miller, District Attorney Sandra Doorley, Assistant Public Defender Andre Vitale, and private

defense attorney Karen Bailey Turner, each spoke of their role in providing our community with protection and justice.

The ten older students interned in the RPD, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Hall of Justice. Rochester Teen Court and the Brown & Hutchinson, and Easton Thompson Kasperek and Shiffrin law firms. Chief Sheppard welcomed four interns into the Department.

In Law Camp, ten students met each afternoon to learn about law enforcement issues through research, discussion and writing, mock trials and public speaking.

All 20 participants served as jurors in Rochester Teen Court. They also observed arraignments, trials and Drug Treatment Court. The Public Defender's Office and the Harter Secrest and Emery law firm hosted the younger students for "Lunch & Learn", during which the students toured the workplace, were treated to lunch and discussed with attorneys a particular case involving criminal justice.

In addition, RPD officers met with the students every Wednesday to discuss a variety of topics including law enforcement as a career field, how to prepare

for a career in law enforcement, tips on how to interview for a job, conflict resolution, and crime prevention for teenagers.



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#### KUDOS, RPD!

I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you and express my admiration for three Rochester Police Officers; Bradley Pike, Thomas Luciano, and Adam Harden. These men answered my call to 311 on Saturday morning, July 21, for assistance in removing a suitcase of belongings from an unsafe and potentially dangerous home off Monroe Ave.

My 20-year old daughter had run from this home a few days earlier, and due to my fear she would return to retrieve her things, and my own experience as a community health nurse in my career, I knew not to attempt going to this home without police protection. It was also evident to me when three officers responded that I had made the right decision.

They treated me with respect, secured the house and allowed me to retrieve her property, ensuring my safety at all times. After experiencing the inside of this house, I was very aware of the evident instability of the environment. I also recognize that, as police officers, they would have been within their rights to question the necessity of this task, but they answered this request without question. I hope you will recognize each of them individually. I want them to know they do matter.

I would also like to commend Captain Lorraine Strem of the Special Investigation Unit. Kudos to her are long overdue. Since February of this year, she has relentlessly brought organization, resources, support, guidance, and has assisted me through a very dark place consisting of crime and fear brought upon my family through the actions of my daughter. She is an extremely knowledgeable, relentless investigator. I feel very privileged and blessed to know her.

I know these individuals do not get even close to the amount of recognition they deserve. Please help me to do so.

Gratefully,
MIchelle Christenson, RN
Excellus BCBS

# Additional comments from the City of Rochester's website "Contact Us" page:

"I live on Norton Street near Hudson. It is usually very loud after the Puerto Rican Festival every year. This year the police were around much more. The horns honking, shouting and violence didn't last nearly as long this year as it has in past years. Most of the time it is so loud you can't even sleep until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. In my area there wasn't much violence at all.

This year I was able to go to sleep at midnight.

Thank you and the whole police force!"

Joan

# RPD PILEWS AUGUST 2012

**HOW TO HELP A VETERAN** 

By Hon. John R. Schwarz, Presiding Judge Rochester Monroe County Veterans Court



The Rochester Monroe County Veterans Court was established to address the special needs of individuals who served in our country's military and have become involved in the criminal justice system. It is a way to recognize the immeasurable sacrifices made by those in

uniform and help them get their lives back on track. While most members of our nation's military are strengthened by their military service, some are unable to escape from their combat experiences unscarred. The Veterans Court recognizes that the tools used to train our military to be effective in combat do not always result in a smooth reintegration and transition back to civilian life. As a result, many have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, other mental health disorders, or substance abuse issues, often leading to involvement in the criminal justice system. The goal of the Veterans Court is to address these underlying issues that led to arrest in the first instance and link the veterans to the services and support they need. This is accomplished by the collaborative efforts of the court system and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Outreach Center, Monroe County Veterans Service Agency, N.Y. Department of Labor, and many community-based service providers.

Once a veteran charged with a crime is identified, his or her case may be referred to the Veterans Court by Judges, Pre-Trial Services, Probation, Police, community-based treatment providers, correctional

medical services, and/or family members. Participation in the court is voluntary. The court provides the veterans with judicial supervision and therapeutic programs and services to address their specific needs, while holding them personally accountable for their actions. The veterans must sign a contract that outlines the expectations of the court. They must submit to frequent and random testing for substance abuse. A case manager is assigned to coordinate and monitor a treatment plan tailored specifically to meet the needs of the veteran. A distinctive component, and a key to the success of the court, is the role of peer mentors, comprised of volunteers who served in the armed forces. This common element allows the mentors to share a special bond with the veterans in the court. The mentors help the veterans maintain focus on their treatment and assist in navigating the challenges of adjusting to a healthy and productive life.

The members of the Rochester Police Department, many who are veterans themselves, can help get the word out about the Veterans Court by asking everyone arrested or issued an appearance ticket if they ever served in any branch of our nation's military (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, including the Reserves and National Guard, and honorable or other than honorable discharge). If the response to the question is "yes", the officer may call either **428-4429** or **371-3323** any time of day or night and leave a message setting forth the veteran's name, the criminal charges, and the date of the arraignment. The staff of the Veterans Court will take it from there. The new Prisoner Data Report (PDR) will have an entry that identifies the subject as a U.S. military veteran. Until the new report comes out, officers can help us by putting in the "Officer's comments", information that identifies the subject as having served in the military.

In this section we will highlight one member of the department in each issue and highlight their career and interests both on and off the job.



#### JACQUELINE SHUMAN, INVESTIGATOR: PATROL DIVISION EAST 3RD

#### My Career:

I became a police officer with the Rochester Police Department in June 1999. During my time as a patrol officer, I became involved in teaching and training officers. I attained instructor status in many different areas so that I could share my knowledge and expertise with other law enforcement members. Some of the areas where I attained instructor status include the following: Physical Fitness Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, General Topics Instructor, E.V.O.C. Instructor and Field Training Officer. I have also worked in the Rochester Police Department Backgrounds and

Recruitment Unit, assisting the department in recruiting and conducting background investigations on candidates that were seeking a career in law enforcement.

In 2005, I was promoted to Investigator, and am currently assigned to the Patrol Division Eastside. In 2006, to expand my knowledge and expertise with the Law Enforcement field, I graduated from Keuka College with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. In 2007, I also had the opportunity and privilege to attend the AALDP (African American Leadership Development Program) which allows me to interact with the community in a positive manner, as well as finding ways to solve various problems within a diverse community. In 2008, I attended the Virginia School of Polygraph, where I became a Polygraph Examiner. While working within the police department, I have utilized my skills as an Investigator and as a Polygraph Examiner to assist with serious investigations, including homicides. I have also used those same skills to assist in background investigations for incoming prospective police officer applicants.

#### Why did you want a career with the Rochester Police Department?

For many years, I have always wanted to find ways to help build a safer community within the City of Rochester. In addition, I had a strong desire to help people and assist them in their time of crisis. Becoming a Police Officer and Investigator with the Rochester Police Department has given me the opportunity to achieve these goals.

#### Tell me a time in your career when you were most proud to be a member of the Rochester Police Department?

The time that I felt most proud during my time as a member of the Rochester Police Department was the day that I was promoted to Investigator. It was not only a sense of accomplishment, but it was also rewarding to be recognized for all of the hard work and dedication that I had given to my career and the citizens of the Rochester community.

#### What are some things you like to do when you're off duty?

When I'm not working, I like to work out, travel and spend time with my family. I have found that it's very important to spend quality time with the people that you love because every day is a blessing.

#### **AUGUST SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

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#### PAL PINS ON DISPLAY:

Chief Sheppard announces the rollout of the new PAL pins. Several different posters will be on display, at various locations, depicting recent PAL activities connecting with youth.

Silver pins will be given to officers, and gold pins will be given to investigators and above ranks, who have volunteered in at least one to five events. The blue and silver pins will be given to officers who have volunteered in over five events, engaging kids in challenging, and educational events.



The Rochester Police Department is excited to announce the creation of the Police Activities League pin. The pin has been authorized by Chief James Sheppard to be worn by officers who have volunteered time to engage with youth in the City of Rochester.

Over the last year, police officer volunteers have connected with youth through a variety of engagements and events. Some of the engagement events include: Book drives, readings to children, video gaming events, basketball camp, horse riding program ("A Horse's Friend"), visits with children at Golisano Children's Hospital, and cops and kids tishing event.

Rochester Police Department: Policing in the Spirit of Service