CHIEF'S MESSAGE



The article below is reprinted from a Speaking Out editorial written by Chief Sheppard for the June 4th issue of the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

After a long, cold and otherwise typical winter here in Rochester, the warmer months of spring and summer are finally upon us. I believe that pleasant temperatures factored into the equation that led to the recent incident involving large groups of young people involved in fighting and other unacceptable behavior at Ontario Beach State Park in Charlotte.

As the Chief of the Rochester Police Department, I am obligated to provide for the safety of those who work, visit and play in the City of Rochester and I will not accept "nice weather" as an excuse for violence in any of our neighborhoods, period. The fights in Charlotte are of great concern not only to me, but to the community at large. Visitors to the beach area should not have to fear for their family's safety. Nor should residents and business owners feel threatened by the presence of youth who congregate at the park with the intent of causing trouble.

Those who choose to engage in offensive or violent behavior will be addressed swiftly and appropriately. We cannot and will not tolerate this type of behavior in any neighborhood, particularly in a preeminent destination such as the Charlotte neighborhood and the Ontario Beach State Park. The Rochester Police Department will continue to work collaboratively with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to ensure that adequate resources are available to curtail any disruptive behavior.

As a police department, we have an obligation and a duty to protect the citizens we serve. As citizens of this community, you have an obligation and a responsibility to abide by the laws which are written for everyone to follow. Without respect for the law by everyone, it becomes a greater challenge to protect anyone.

Also, keep in mind that order maintenance in our neighborhoods is not solely dependent on law enforcement. We need our citizenry to take responsibility for their actions; we need to continue to hold those who choose to make the wrong choices accountable. Most importantly, we need adults to role-model appropriate behavior because children become what they are exposed to.

The Rochester Police Department cannot accomplish this alone. With your help, we can get it done.

RPD STORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A variety of items available for purchase from the RPD Store are on display in the case located next to the FACIT Office on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. Currently available are ceramic coffee mugs (\$6), stainless steel water bottles (\$12), and T-shirts, blue or gray in sizes Large, XL, XXL & XXXL (\$12). Just in are RPD blankets! All items have the RPD Badge/Patch logo on them. To make a purchase, contact Cheryl Hickey at 428-3652 or ch5847@cityofrochester.gov. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday—Friday.

OFFICER RECOGNITION

The following note was sent to the Department's Special Events Office from Anita Rosenfeld of Rochester:

I have recently had the great fortune of dealing with two very special officers: John Kompanijec and Theodore Coriddi. An elderly gentleman, Erwin Loewn, could not be located by me at the Lilac Festival. With all the thousands of people there, they not only found him, but brought him home with laudable efficiency, courtesy and kindness. I have always respected the Police Department, but now my respect is increased 20-fold.

The following letter was sent to Chief James M. Sheppard by Town of Brighton Police Chief Mark T. Henderson:

Two Rochester Police Officers were nominated by a member of the Brighton Police Department for consideration for a Brighton Police Department Excellent Police Service Award.

Officer Susan Koehn and Officer Aaron Wilcox assisted members of the Brighton Police Department with a burglary investigation on December 30, 2010. Both officers assisted with checking an area that ultimately led to the apprehension of one of the suspects.

The incident, while perpetrated in the Town of Brighton, was an example of good teamwork and inter-agency cooperation.

I am pleased to inform you that the Town of Brighton awards committee has approved the award nomination and on Friday, May 20, 2011 the two officers will be formally recognized at the Brighton Police Department/Brighton Police Patrolmen's Association Awards Dinner.

HELP POLICE SOLVE PAUL VASCONCELLOS JR.'S HOMICIDE

On May 23, 2011, Police Chief James M. Sheppard and the family of homicide victim Paul Vasconcellos Jr. held a press conference at the Public Safety Building to ask the community's help in identifying the suspect(s) involved in the murder of Mr. Vasconcellos, who was shot to death outside of his home on Post Ave. on October 24, 2010. The homicide is still unsolved and the family has placed billboards around Rochester to raise awareness and to ask for the public's help in solving this case.

The victim's father, Paul Vasconcellos Sr., pictured at right, urges anyone with information about the crime to contact Crime Stoppers at 423-9300, or text a tip anonymously to 274637 using the keyword SAFETIP.

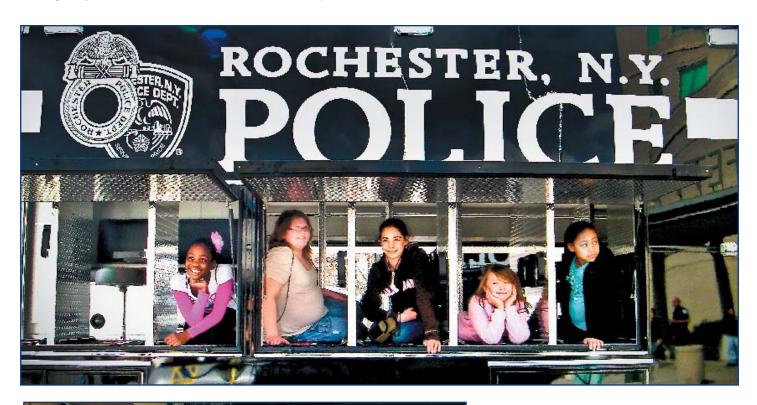


RPDINEWS

June 2011

"TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY"

On April 28, City of Rochester employees and their children enjoyed an educational and fun-filled morning learning about city government and future career paths. Following a welcome event and refreshments at City Hall, they visited the Public Safety Building to learn more about the Police and Fire Departments. Special displays included equipment and members from SCUBA, Mounted Patrol, Traffic Enforcement, Operation Safe Child, K-9, the Emergency Task Force, and Rochester Fire Department Truck 10.





Children enjoyed exploring the new special unit vehicles, "hands-on" displays such as Bomb Squad gear and meeting Chief Sheppard.



RPDONEWS

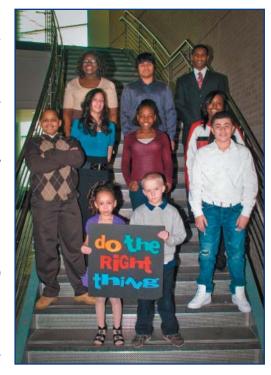
June 2011

"DO THE RIGHT THING" WINNERS HONORED

Ten young adults from the City of Rochester and Monroe County have been named as the March and April winners in the Rochester Police Department's "Do The Right Thing" Program.

The program is sponsored by the Rochester Police Department, the Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust, C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Coca-Cola Refreshment, Daisy Marquis Foundation, Democrat and Chronicle, Dynamic Recording Studios, Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, J & T Security Associates, McDonald's (Upper Falls Blvd.), Memorial Art Gallery, News 10NBC, Pirate Toy Fund, Rural Metro Medical Services, Seabreeze Amusement Park, TOPS Friendly Markets, Trophies and Awards by NYRA, The Battery, the Buffalo Bills, the Rochester City School District, Salvatore's Old Fashioned Pizzeria, Walmart (Hudson Ave. store) and the Wildlife Educators Coalition.

March winners were: Danielle Best, 12th Grade, Charlotte High School, turned in property worth \$350 that she found outside her school and refused any reward for her actions; Jacob Heredia, 5th Grade, Helen Barrett Montgomery



School #50, while helping his mother and cousin to stop a heavy glass and wood entry door from falling on his two-year-old brother, suffered a severe cut to his face; Miya Davis, 4th Grade, Henry W. Longfellow School #36, helped save her mom's life when her clothes caught fire by calling 911 to provide needed emergency information; Mustafa Said, 10th Grade, and Christopher Patino, 11th Grade, both from Rush-Henrietta Senior High School, intervened to save a young woman who was stabbed by her boyfriend in a Henrietta supermarket.

April winners were: Jareliz Padovani –Torres, Kindergarten, John James Audubon School #33, saw a classmate choking on a piece of food and immediately alerted her teacher, who helped dislodge the food and get the student to the school nurse; Nathalie Velez, 12th Grade, Bioscience and Health Careers High School at Franklin, after her mom passed away last year, reached out to her school resource officer to get help for another family member who was struggling with drugs and alcohol to deal with the loss; Jacob-Thomas Darrel Meyering, 8th Grade, Bioscience and Health Careers at Franklin, found a pocket knife at the entrance of his school and turned the knife in to the school resource officer; Courtney Crews, 8th Grade, School of the Arts, helped provide information that led to the arrest of an arson suspect believed responsible for a fire that displaced four families and caused thousands of dollars in property damage; Kiel Briggs, 3rd Grade, Helen Barrett Montgomery School #50, assisted police in locating a thief who stole \$250 from another student who had collected the money to benefit their school.

Congratulations to all of "Doing The Right Thing" winners. For information on the program or to nominate a deserving student, visit www.DoTheRightThing.org.

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.



As portrayed by most TV police shows, there is a perceived stigma for officers who work as Internal Affairs investigators. But Sammie Drayton Sr. believes his six and a half years in the Rochester Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit (now known as the Professional Standards Section) had the most impact on preparing him for the position he holds today as Director of Corporate Security for UnityHealth Systems.

"I had a commander who was very, very fair, and the investigations were conducted fairly. We also had a good relationship with the Union" Drayton explains. "That assignment certainly enhanced my management skills as a result of having to deal with staff, the community, our adminstration and City Hall. The law enforcement experience and skills I developed during my time in that position had a direct impact on preparing me to be where I am today."

In his current position with UnityHealth Systems, he oversees safety and security for the staff, patients and visitors of Unity Hospital/St. Mary Campus and several other UnityHealth System off-sites. He manages a staff of approximately 55.

Drayton joined the RPD at the age of 26. The Department had launched a recruitment effort and it peaked his interest, so he applied and was hired in March 1979. One of his early assignments was working as a youth officer–now called School Resource Officers. "It was one of the assignments I enjoyed the most, working with the kids."

Pastor Drayton served patrol assignments in the Goodman, Lake and Maple sections before working in PSS from August 1990 to March 1997. From there he went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Administration and finally Deputy Chief of Operations before leaving the Department in August of 2001. He has earned degrees in Human Services and Theology.

Another aspect of Sammie Drayton's life that has had a profound influence on his career is his lifelong dedication to God and church. "My father was a pastor, and I held a number of roles in my church. I became a minister myself in 1987 and was ordained in 1992." He served as pastor of Hope Divine Church of God in Rochester.

"I absolutely believe that my ministry and my career in law enforcement have complimented each other. It's all about dealing with people and working together to achieve good."

His advice to officers currently on the job: "It's important to do what you do well. Allow integrity to move to the forefront in all you do. Know your interests and look for opportunities where you can enhance your skills. Working for the RPD is working for one of the finest departments in the country. You will have many opportunities to be well-prepared for life after the RPD."

RPDONEWS

June 2011

NEWS BRIEFS:

RETIRED RPD DETECTIVE DONATES FLAG

Lou Tacito, a 33-year veteran of the RPD who retired as a Detective Grade B in 1986, presented an American flag to the department. The flag was hand-knitted by Carlene Lynn Vanaman who is blind and has never seen a flag but was able to create a faithful reproduction that will now hang in Atrium of the Rochester Public Safety Building for all to enjoy. Chief James M. Sheppard recognized Mr. Tacito and his thoughtful donation at the Do the Right Thing Award ceremony on June 9.

SERVING UP COFFEE TO HELP KIDS ATTEND CAMP

RPD School Resource Officer Moses Robinson and R. Carlos Carballada, City Commissioner of Neighborhood and Business Development, manned the service counter and window at the University Avenue Tim Hortons on June 1 to support the



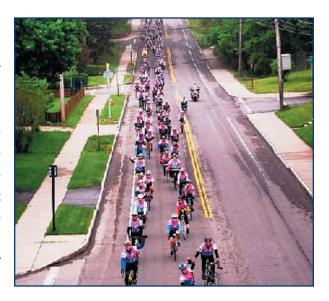
chain's annual Camp Day fundraiser. Tim Hortons restaurant owners across Canada and the United States donate every penny from coffee sales on Camp Day to the Tim Horton Children's



Foundation, which helps children who otherwise could not afford to attend one of the Foundation's six camps. Restaurant owners will work closely with local youth organizations and schools to select children, 9–12 years old, from the Rochester area to either a 10-day summer camp session or seven-day winter camp session.

BIKE RIDERS RAISE AWARENESS OF MISSING CHILDREN

On June 20, three members of the RPD completed a 100-mile charity bicycle ride benefitting the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Capt. John Koonmen participated for the second year, Capt. Peter Leach for the first time and civilian Kimberly Peluso from the License Investigation Unit rode for her 10th year. The mission of the Ride is to remember all missing children, spread awareness of the plight of all missing and exploited children and raise funds to support prevention education programs and poster distribution. Riders make a commitment to raise at least \$300, and this year they stopped along the route at schools to teach students about internet safety and other dangers they need to know about to stay protected.



RPDONEWS

June 2011

NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D.):

FREDERICK A. NICHOLS (1951 – 2011)



The Rochester Police Department mourns the loss of Frederick A. Nichols, who passed away recently in May 2011. Fred was a Counseling Specialist with the Department's Family and Crisis Intervention Team (FACIT).

Born in Tallahassee, Florida and raised in the New York City area, he relocated to the Rochester area over 20 years ago, and fulfilled his dream of helping others through his employment with the Rochester Police Department.

He leaves behind his mother Rutha Nichols, sister Eloise Nichols, brothers Horace and Clayton Nichols, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister Glenda Nichols, and brothers David Nichols and Eddie Nichols.

SAFER RECOGNIZES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS

In honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week (May 15-21), the domestic violence prevention advocacy group SAFER held its first formal Officer Appreciation Ceremony at the Public Safety Building on May 20, 2011. The group recognized officers from multiple police agencies who have made a positive impact in the life of domestic violence victims and survivors. Survivors Advocating for Effective Reform (SAFER) is a group of survivors of domestic violence who have worked through their personal process. SAFER works to change things in our community, state, and nation so that all people will be safe from domestic violence. Among those recognized from the RPD were: Officer Adam Alliet, retired Sgt. Lori Baldwin, Officer Gregory Bello, Sgt. Steven Boily, Sgt. Justin Collins, Officer Gina Faggiano, Officer Brian Flint, Sgt. Mark Freese, Officer James Gashlin, Officer Michael Grabowski, Officer James Hall, Officer Steven Kennedy, Officer Jonathan Least, Officer

Mark Monrad, City of Rochester Director of the Office of Public Integrity David Moore, Officer Bing Reaves, Jr., Officer Moses Robinson, Officer Stephen Scott, Chief James Shepherd, Sgt. LaRon Singletary, Officer Kathleen Springer, Capt. Lorraine Strem, Officer Steven Swetman, Sgt. Geoff Wiater, Officer Christine Wilson, and from the RPD Victim Assistance Unit: Margaret Atkinson, Belinda Colon, Denise Cosme-Reyes, Carol DeMace, Deborah Felton, Christie Hillenbrand, Kristen Lukas, Jennifer Nicolay, Ada Santiago, and Patricia Huntington-Sigel.



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Thirteen officers have died in the line of duty over the 194-year-history of the Rochester Police Department. In upcoming issues of RPD News, we will honor their memory by sharing their stories with members of our department and the community. Our thanks to Capt. Johnston for researching and providing the information.

OFFICER RONALD J. SIVER
APPOINTED – JANUARY 12, 1981
10/24/ 1954 - 8/19/1984
BADGE #300

On Sunday, August 19, 1984, Officer Ronald J. Siver drowned during a water recovery in Irondequoit Bay.

The Rochester Police Department Scuba Squad had been called in to assist the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in its search for John Carlson of Irondequoit, who had been missing since a boating collision Thursday August 15, 1984 just before midnight.

Officer Siver had been in the murky waters of Irondequoit Bay only about 15 minutes when he began signaling his diving partner that he was having trouble. Divers had been using sleds equipped with lights to comb the bottom of the bay, about 70 feet below the surface.

Officer Siver and his partner were completing the hook-up of the sled to its ropes along the bottom when he began using hand signals that he was having breathing problems. Officer Siver's partner began to assist him in the ascent by attempting to "buddy breathe" by sharing his apparatus with him.

A safety team of Officers Johnathan Northrup and George Riess Jr. (Siver's brother-in-law), received a signal at the water's surface and entered the water.

Officer Siver was brought unconscious to the surface by the three divers and began receiving CPR from the moment he came up. Officer Siver was rushed to shore by relay boat and to Rochester General Hospital by Point Pleasant Ambulance. Officer Siver never regained consciousness.

Officer Siver was awarded the Rochester Police Department Medal of Valor and it was presented to his wife, Elizabeth. He was buried at White Haven Memorial Park Cemetery, Pittsford, on August 23, 1984. Officer Siver's name appears on Panel 59-E-7 on the National Law Enforcement Memorial located in Washington, D.C.