



C.O.P.P.S. Newsletter

Community Outreach from Police & Parking Services



Volume 2, Issue 1, November 2007

(707) 664 - 2143

Tyson Hill, Editor



The Chief's Corner

Welcome back everyone! As we continue to improve services as one of your best mission support centers on campus, we will assess all department policies and procedures to ensure that they are congruent to the University Strategic Plan, the Administration and Finance Strategic Initiatives and community needs. As part of these measures and in support of campus wide efforts, we hope to initiate a number of department initiatives to include, but not limited to the following:

- As part of the Division's on-going assessment of services, initiate an assessment of the Police and Parking cluster by an accredited assessment organization to ensure that this unit is following best law enforcement practices.
- As we draw near to the opening of the Green Music Center and the construction of Tuscany Housing, additional training needs for officers and events staffing will be addressed and offered as deemed appropriate.
- Campus safety continues to be a primary concern of parents and community members. This year, we re-institute the department safety program for staff, continue to address traffic safety related deficiencies, campus lighting, and conduct a campus-wide disaster exercise.

I believe this year will be both challenging and exciting. As we progress through this semester, we be calling some of you to assist in a variety of ways: to sit on hiring review panels for new officer/staff candidates; assist with campus drills; to participate in alternative transportation efforts; and a host of others.

Crime against persons remains low (new crime data is posted on our website www.sonoma.edu/ps, and violent crime is still virtually non-existent. I give credit to the Police and Parking staff for their crime prevention efforts, and those community members who get involved by calling in suspicious activities. We thank you for your trust in our efforts to keep you safe!

In my closing remarks in the spring 2007 edition of COPPS, I noted the importance of treating one another with respect, dignity and civility. I would like to note it again now in hopes that we can move forward this school year in a positive and collaborative fashion—the SSU Way! See you all around campus

Best regards,

Nate Johnson, Ed.D.
Chief of Police and CSU Police
Coordinator

Crime Prevention and Safety Tips of the Month

~ **Theft** is a very common crime on college campuses, mostly due to opportunity. Here are some tips to help prevent you from becoming a victim:

- Make sure to lock doors and windows in residence halls and your vehicles.
- In your vehicle, never leave any valuables in clear sight.
- Be aware of your surroundings in parking lots, including people, landscaping and potential hazards and dangers.
- Park under or near street lights at night, and report any street lights that are out to Police and Parking Services.
- At night, walk with others if possible. Walk in well lighted areas and paths. Don't take short cuts! If alone, police are always willing to provide escorts.
- Lock up bicycles by their tires and frames when not in use. Get your bicycle registered free at Police and Parking Services.
- Copy down serial numbers of valuable items. If items are stolen, identification of serial numbers helps police track stolen goods.
- Prevent fires by not leaving ovens unattended, and don't light candles in rooms or offices.
- When on campus, program mobile phones to call Police dispatch (707) 664-2143. All campus phones will go directly to SSU dispatch when dialing 911.

Safety Services @ SSU

- Safety Escorts
- Disabled Motorist Assistance
- Bicycle Registration and Property ID
- Resource & Safety Information Pamphlets
- Fingerprinting
- Defensive Driving Classes

Information on Sexual Assaults

~ Sonoma State University will not tolerate sexual assault of any kind. Where there is probable cause to believe that a student, faculty, or staff member has violated the University's Sexual Assault Policy, all complaints will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. Even if the victim or criminal justice authorities choose not to prosecute, the University can pursue disciplinary action. Incidents involving non-members of the University community will be processed according to local and state laws. The Sexual Assault policy can be found on the web at www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/assaultpolicy.htm

Procedures for Reporting a Sexual Assault:

- ~ Persons who believe that they are victims of sexual assault, including witnesses, may report and discuss the matter with any of the following University employees:
 - A counselor in Counseling and Psychological Services at x42153
 - The Residential Life Coordinator (for on-campus residents) at x44033
 - Student Health Center professional staff (a doctor or nurse) at x42921
 - Any police officer at x42143 or 9-1-1

~ *In compliance with the Clery Act, Sonoma State University publishes an annual report disclosing campus security policies and the last three years of certain crime statistics. To view the most recent Clery statistics, go to <http://www.sonoma.edu/ps/>*

Party Ordinance of Rohnert Park

~ Sonoma State students should know that Rohnert Park passed an ordinance to crack down on noisy parties. The City Council unanimous vote came shortly after the start of the 2006 fall semester. The ordinance allows for an initial warning, but provides for a \$500 penalty if police have to show up twice within two months at the same address. Penalties escalate to \$750 for a third response and \$1,000 for a fourth. Landlords also are liable unless they show diligence in evicting unmanageable tenants. "We feel this is a fair approach that will also protect the community," Councilman Tim Smith said. A few students spoke against the ordinance, saying it would spoil their fun. But council member Vickie Vidak-Martinez replied that "no one should have fun at someone else's expense. We're trying to make the city safe and comfortable for all to live in."

Bicycle Safety Tips

- ~ Be predictable – use good biking sense!
- ~ Signal for all turns and stops.
- ~ Obey all traffic signs and signals. Yield the right of way to pedestrians and ride at a reasonable speed.
- ~ Ride single file with the flow of traffic and as far to the right side of the road as possible. Use bike lanes when provided.
- ~ Ride only the number of people for which the bike was made. Approval
- ~ Keep your bike in good condition.
- ~ Keep well back from moving cars; they may stop suddenly. Also, look out for doors of parked cars which may open on the street side.
- ~ At night – be visible!
- ~ Have a good headlight and a red tail-light or reflector. Be visible at least 300 feet from both the front and sides.
- ~ When crossing busy intersections, walk your bike.
- ~ While riding your bike, never hold on to a moving vehicle. The driver may not know you are holding on and may make a sudden stop of turn.

Rules of the Road

*Remember that under the California Vehicle Code, every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway or any paved shoulder has all the rights and is subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle. You can also be ticketed for any violation of the law!

Traffic Safety

We are pleased to have been selected as one of the winners in the California Law Enforcement Challenge (CLEC) Award <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/altvehicle.htm> traffic safety. In the September 14 awards ceremony in San Diego, CA, Sonoma State University was presented with the second place award for its efforts in traffic safety programs in the University section. Remarkably, CSU campuses occupied all three positions on the winners list (SJSU won 1st place, and SLO won 3rd). The annual award is presented to law enforcement agencies who demonstrate increased activities with positive outcomes in traffic related programs such as the Seat Belt Campaign, DUI checkpoints and related activities, policy implementation and integration. This state-wide recognition program is tri-sponsored by CHP, Alcohol Beverage & Control and the Office of Traffic Safety. Our award will on display soon in the Police Building's lobby. Note: Santa Rosa PD and Petaluma PD are the only other Sonoma County law enforcement agencies who received CLEC awards (municipal division).

This CLEC award follows a recent award by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) for the department's DUI enforcement activities; MADD also presented an individual award to Sergeant Logan Lidster for his leading efforts in this area.

Police and Parking Services would also like to thank the several students and employees, whose concerns and comments prompted the Parking Services' review and assessment of the South Sequoia and Redwood Drive crosswalk. Thanks to all those who participated in the review and renovation of this area.

