



C.O.P.P.S. Newsletter

Community Outreach from Police & Parking Services



Volume 3, Issue 1, September 2008

(707) 664 - 2143

Tyson Hill, Editor



The Chief's Corner

SSU Community:

Welcome back from what I hope to have been a restful and fun-filled summer vacation. We're excited to have you back and to share a number of projects that we believe will enhance your experience at Sonoma State University.

During the past couple of months, we renovated the R-3 parking lot to make your residential parking experience much easier and began a major upgrade of the parking software program, which will eventually allow for online decal sales. In addition, you will soon hear more about our new Blackboard-Connect mass emergency notification program. This new program will have the ability to send messages concerning critical incidents to your mobile phones, land phones, and email accounts. Look for more information on this program soon.

We are very proud to announce that SSU Police and Parking Services is undergoing an assessment and accreditation by a nationally recognized agency. Similar to the principles governed by WASC, the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) will oversee this 2 year process, which will examine how well SSU Police and Parking Services is operating in manner and providing services conducive to those recognized as law enforcement best practices.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the editor of this Newsletter, Mr. Tyson Hill, for his completion of his MPA studies and new appointment as Director of Emergency Services and Disaster Planning at SSU.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and for being great community partners.

Sincerely yours,

Nate Johnson, Ed.D.
Chief of Police and CSU
System-wide 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
- Mass Emergency Alert System (see Page 2)

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 664-2153
- The Residential Life Coordinator (for on-campus residents) at 664-4033
- Student Health Center professional staff (a doctor or nurse) at 664-2921
- Any police officer at 664-2143 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 of incidents that occur on campus, in residence halls, in off campus (University-owned) property, and on adjacent streets. To view the most recent Clery statistics, go to <http://www.sonoma.edu/ps/> This information is updated annually by October 1.*

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.
- ~ 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. This is extremely dangerous and could result in fatal injuries.

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!

Emergency Preparedness

If you live in California, you will experience an earthquake. In fact, several small quakes occur each day throughout the state. But, what if "The Big One" strikes. Are you prepared?

Preparation is the key to surviving a major disaster. One thing that we can do to be better prepared is to create an emergency kit for both our home and work. The kit should include items such as food, water, medical supplies, flashlights and batteries.

A second key to living through the chaos that can be created by a severe earthquake is a family communications plan. Have a designated place to meet family and friends, and an out-of-state telephone number as a common point of contact.

SSU Purchases a Mass Notification Emergency Alert System

SSU has purchased Blackboard-Connect to serve as its campus mass notification system. Once fully implemented the Police Services and Public Affairs will be able to send you messages via, email, text and voice, concerning active critical incidents. Please keep your contact data up to date in PeopleSoft so that this system can extract most recent contact information from one source and allow this process to be seamless to you and keep you informed.

