

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2020
YEAR END REPORT

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT - 2020

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SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE
STEVE WALPOLE

4/21/2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Scotts Valley
1 Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

RE: 2020 Scotts Valley Police Department Activity Report

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

It is my privilege to present our 2020 Scotts Valley Police Department Activity Report. This document contains a comprehensive analysis of our activity last year. As always, I would like to thank the men and women of our department for their dedication and hard work this past year.

In 2020 we continued to keep our community the safest place to live in Santa Cruz County and we were ranked as one of the safest cities in the State of California. We were able to maintain the public's safety despite a number of unprecedented challenges to our organization, our city, and our way of life.

In March, the first pandemic in nearly 100 years struck the United States in the form of COVID-19. A state-wide lockdown was ordered from the governor, which kept people home for all but essential services, and the wearing of face masks became mandatory. These new rules forced our department personnel to become the de-facto enforcement arm of the County Health Department as reports of the health order violations came in from the general public. The pandemic also meant officers and dispatchers needed to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times while at work. The thought at the time was this would be a short-lived event, but little did we know in March that these new rules would become the norm for the rest of the calendar year and beyond.

In the midst of the pandemic, a second unrepresented emergency occurred in the form of the largest fire in Santa Cruz County history. The CZU Fire started in August in multiple locations of northern portions of the county after a significant lightning storm event hit California. The fire quickly grew and eventually burned 86,509 thousand acres and destroyed 1,490 buildings. The fire threatened to overtake our city, which prompted CAL Fire to order the evacuation of Scotts Valley. This was the first time the city had to be evacuated and it took all of our officers, working through the night, to go door-to-door to reach each resident of our city. We eventually completed the evacuation and then every officer worked the entire week without days off to keep potential looters from entering our city. We were all so glad when the fire was contained and the city was able to open back up without any reported damage.

Another external challenge this past year, other than fires and pandemics, came from the national conversation regarding the role of police in society and the use of force when making arrests. The

catalyst for this discussion was started halfway around the country with the death of an in-custody black male who was arrested for a relatively minor crime. The incident gained world-wide attention as the event was caught on video. It reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement and those concerned about racial inequity in the justice system. The result was our city had its very first protest march by the residents of Scotts Valley. The march started at Siltanen Park and ended at our City Hall. The peaceful protest prompted our department to reexamine our own policies and procedures around the use of force. We ended up making improvements to the way we do business and it provided the opportunity for temperance here at SVPD. We ultimately presented those changes for approval to city council.

If all that was not enough in 2020, our law enforcement community suffered a loss among our ranks on June 6th when Santa Cruz Sheriff Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller was killed in the line of duty. Sergeant Gutzwiller was investigating a report of a suspicious vehicle when he was ambushed by a suspect armed with a rifle. The suspect was ultimately arrested and linked to a domestic terror group responsible for the shooting of a federal law enforcement officer in Oakland earlier in the year. We will all miss Sergeant Gutzwiller's presence here in Santa Cruz County.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the men and women of the Scotts Valley Police Department displayed professionalism, resiliency, and dedication to the city they serve. It has been an honor to serve with them during this past year and I look forward to working with them in 2021 as I have seen they can thrive in even the most difficult of circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Walpole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Walpole
Chief of Police



Chief Walpole adhering to COVID-19 protocol as did the entire police department.

SCOTTS VALLEY CRIME STATISTICS YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON 2016 TO 2020

DESCRIPTION	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% OF CHANGE FROM 2019-2020
PART 1 CRIMES						
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	4	7	6	2	7	250%
ROBBERY	1	4	2	1	7	600%
ASSAULT	60	65	62	66	48	-27%
BURGLARY	85	40	42	31	60	94%
LARCENY	161	166	137	105	104	-1%
AUTO THEFT	10	20	12	8	21	163%
ARSON	2	0	3	2	1	-50%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	323	302	264	215	248	13%
ALL OTHER CRIMES	648	550	675	542	407	-25%
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,339	6,679	6,433	6,477	6,439	-1%
TOTAL OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITY	11,403	8,785	13,130	14,530	12,192	-16%
TOTAL CITATIONS	1,096	1,105	1,594	966	579	-40%
NUMBER OF ARRESTS	550	491	703	486	374	-23%
INJURY ACCIDENT	16	30	22	12	6	-50%
NON INJURY ACCIDENT	109	144	133	149	107	-28%
FATALITY	0	0	0	0	1	100%
HIT & RUN	24	41	31	32	22	-31%
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	125*	174*	155*	161*	*114	-29%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	24	23	37	25	19	-24%
VANDALISM/GRAFFITI	103	78	56	77	53	-31%
DRUG VIOLATIONS	123	123	162	95	90	-5%

* Does not include Hit & Run collisions

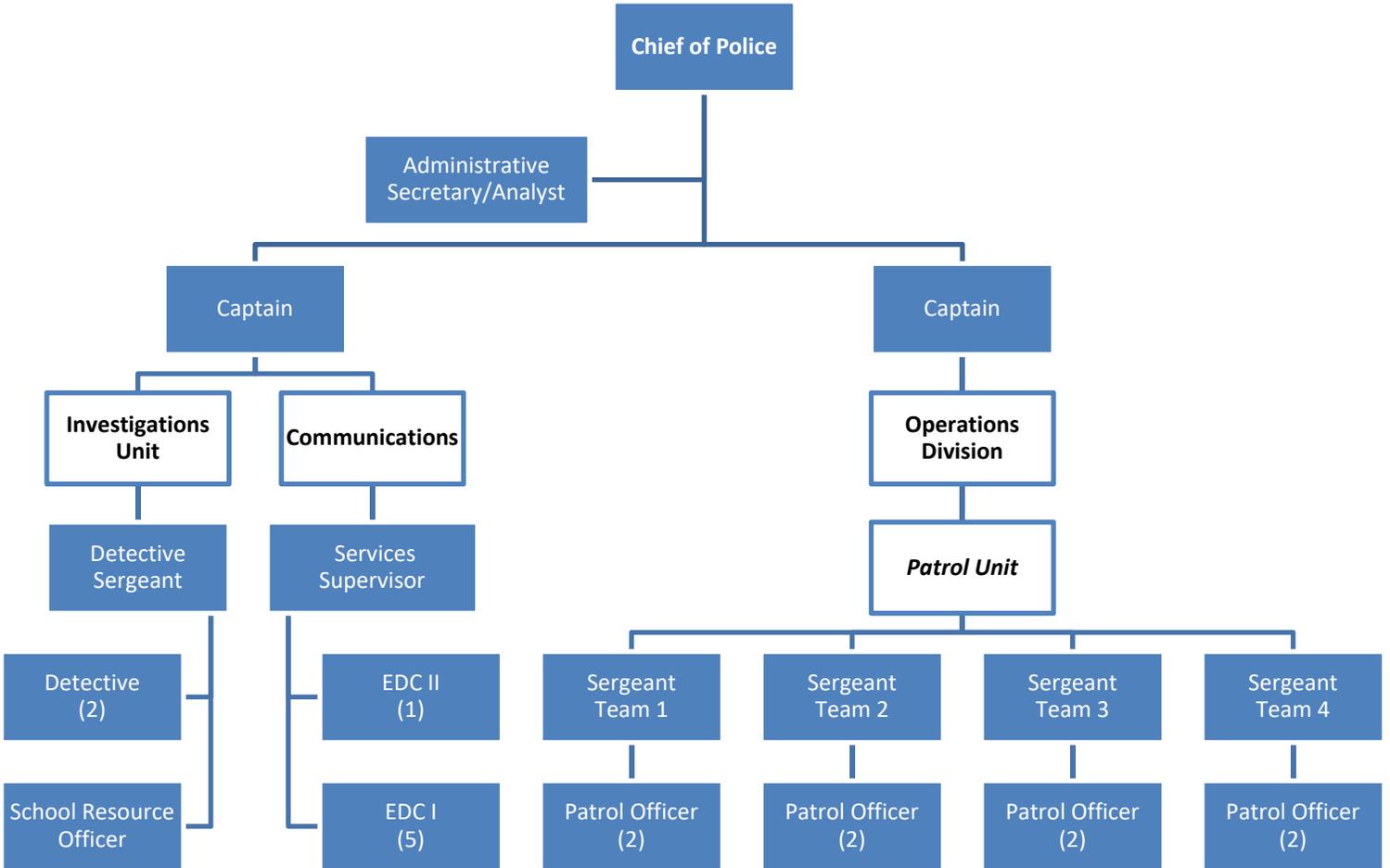
SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT DATA DEMOGRAPHICS 2020

	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Male	Female
In Custody Arrest	127	5 (4%)	85 (67%)	28 (22%)	2 (1%)	7 (6%)	85	42
Notice to Appear	87	1 (1%)	54 (62%)	23 (27%)	2 (2%)	7 (8%)	65	22
Written Notice to Correct Violation	85	3 (4%)	59 (69%)	18 (21%)	2 (2%)	3 (4%)	67	18
Verbal Warning	1,214	31 (3%)	901 (74%)	210 (17%)	36 (3%)	36 (3%)	776	438
Public/Motorist Service	13	2 (15%)	8 (62%)	3 (23%)	0	0	9	4
Total:	1,526	42 (3%)	1,107 (72%)	282 (19%)	42 (3%)	53 (3%)	N/A	N/A
% of City Population (2010 Census)	11, 580	101 (1%)	9,958 (86%)	1,158 (10%)	590 (5%)	931 (8%)	N/A	N/A
% of County Population (2010 Census)	262,382	2,766 (1%)	190,208 (72%)	84,092 (32%)	11,112 (4%)	58, 296 (22%)	N/A	N/A

What Are Data Demographics?

Data demographics are compiled by the Scotts Valley Police Department during the course of a routine traffic stop. Upon the conclusion of the stop, information obtained from the Officer as well as the Driver's License is saved and used to track characteristics such as age, race, and gender. This information has been collected for many years for internal use, however this year we have included it for public review as some questions arose regarding who we were stopping. We will continue to provide this type of information in subsequent Annual Reports for greater transparency to the public.

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The Scotts Valley Police Department Administration is responsible for the overall leadership, vision and management of the police department. Police Administration manages the Department's 4.5 million budget, as well as grant funds, equipment acquisitions and overall training needs.

Police Administration directs the hiring of new personnel, ensures that professional standards are met, and monitors compliance with all state and federal regulatory requirements. Police administrators participate in numerous city/county events, boards and meetings. They also work closely with elected officials, the city manager, local schools and community groups to ensure a positive and open line of communication.



Captain Mike Dean

Chief Steve Walpole

OPERATIONS DIVISION

This past year brought a lot of challenges for law enforcement, both locally and nationwide. We experienced the Covid-19 pandemic, the CZU Lightning Fire Complex, the murder of a local sheriff deputy, and a number of protest marches questioning the role of law enforcement in our society. Law enforcement nationwide is facing a complex of issues and a daily changing landscape. Police leaders are called upon to provide management and leadership, to rebuild trust in our communities and within our agency.

Captain Mike Dean took over Patrol Operations following Captain Wilson's retirement in June of 2020. This past year the police department experienced sever staffing issues due to retirements, officers leaving law enforcement all together, and others transferring to other local agencies. Under normal conditions Captain Dean would manage four patrol sergeants and eight patrol officers. These numbers fluctuated due to our current staffing constraints.

The Operations Division also includes the Training Unit, K9 Unit, Traffic Unit, and the Reserve Unit. In any given moment, officers perform an array of duties from responding to emergency calls for service, vehicle accidents, domestic violence calls, to talking to our youth about drugs and alcohol prevention. In addition to officers' normal patrol duties, they are also required to attend regular training courses and make court appearances. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals working for the Scotts Valley Police Department.



Patrol Supervisors:

Sergeant Jayson Rutherford

Sergeant Jayson Rutherford has served with the department since 1998. In addition to being a patrol supervisor, he oversees all in-service training and advanced Officer training classes. He is one of the departments perishable skills instructors, teaching classes in firearms, taser, arrest control tactics and baton. Sergeant Rutherford also acted as the department's Property and Evidence clerk because of staffing issues.



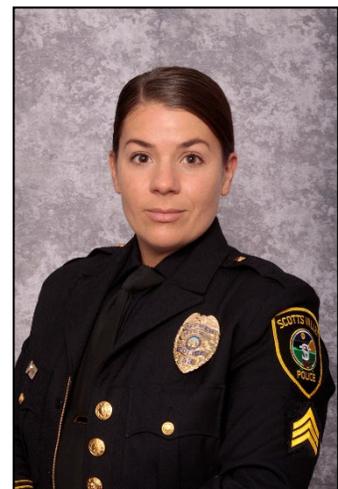
Sergeant Brandon Polito

Sergeant Brandon Polito has served with the department since 2009, In 2014 he became the handler of our police K9 "Atlas." This past year we lost K9 Atlas due to ongoing medical issues associated with his advanced age. Sergeant Polito continues to manage our K9 program, overseeing K9 Odin and his handler. Sergeant Polito is a perishable skills instructor and manages our Field Training Program.



Sergeant Meredith Roberts

Sergeant Meredith Roberts has served with the department since 2017. She was promoted to the rank of sergeant in September 2020. During her tenure with the Scotts Valley Police Department, she has served as a patrol officer, a Field Training Officer, and a DARE instructor.



TRAINING UNIT

The training unit was initially supervised by Captain John Wilson (Ret.), but reassigned to Sergeant Rutherford toward the second half of the year. The Training Manager oversees the Department's in-house training for all full-time officers, reserve officers and police dispatchers. They are responsible for making sure the department's training conforms to State and Federal guidelines, as well as POST audits.



The State of California mandates that officers receive training in the following categories every two years: firearms, arrest control techniques, vehicle operations/pursuit driving, tactical communications, and CPR/First Aid. Generally, our department exceeds the State's minimum standards by training several times each year in each category to ensure everyone is using the best practices available.

This past year brought about new state requirements for de-escalation training and additional state mandates regarding the Use of Force. State Assembly Bill 392 changed the language of several Penal Codes, in relation to officers exercising different force options, while providing more latitude when making the decision to use force. We incorporated the de-escalation training into our arrest and control training, roll-call training, and POST certified online courses.



In addition to state mandated training, officers are also required to conduct monthly in-house roll-call training. In-house training topics include sexual harassment, dispatch center operation, the use of the spike strip, emergency vehicle operation, blood borne pathogens, hazardous materials, domestic violence investigation, critical incident management, and disaster preparation. Officers are also tested monthly on department manual policies and procedures.

Officers are also sent off-site to receive more specialized training. These courses are taught by approved content experts in topics such as sexual assault, robbery, burglary, accident, evidence collection, interviewing, impaired driving, leadership, emerging trends, and many other contemporary subjects. Our department prides itself on preparing our officers to be ever mindful and professional in any given incident.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The Field Training Program provides the new Academy Graduate Trainee with a structured, intensive, and comprehensive mentorship and training process under the tutelage and direct supervision of skilled and experienced Officers. The Field Training Officers (FTO) purpose is to guide, educate and develop the trainee into a knowledgeable, safe, and competent solo patrol Officer. In 2020, the Field Training Program welcomed two new FTO's to the program with the selection of Officer Patrick Ahrens and K9 Officer Jared Johnson. They joined our current FTO team of Officer Aaron Roberts, Officer Elliott Terrell, and Sergeant Pascale Wowak, who will be supervising the FTO Program in 2021. SVPD is grateful for their FTO's and their much-needed contribution to this department. We look forward to seeing their hard work and effort showcased in the quality of the officers who will join the department in the coming years.



Officer Terrell



Officer Roberts



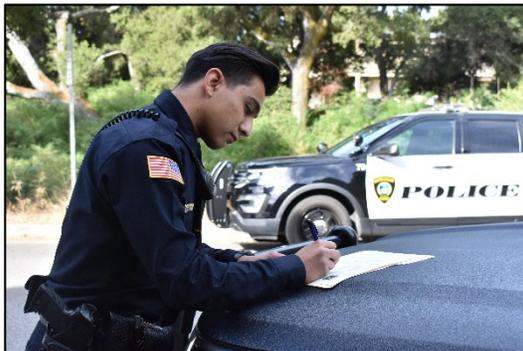
Officer Ahrens



Sergeant Wowak

The New Faces of 2020: Officers Nick Lipari and Eric Perez

The Scotts Valley Police Department continued to recruit extensively and hired two new Officers to join our ranks. Officer Lipari was hired in February 2020 and Officer Perez joined us in June 2020. They both successfully completed their respective FTO programs and are now functioning as solo officers. We are thrilled to have them on board helping us keep Scotts Valley safe!



Officer Eric Perez



Officer Nick Lipari

TRAFFIC UNIT

As part of the Scotts Valley Police Department's Operations Division, the Traffic Unit's mission is to reduce vehicular accidents and injuries, and to facilitate the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic by encouraging the public's voluntary compliance with traffic regulations.

Our officers stopped a total of 1,513 vehicles in 2020 which resulted in 295 traffic citations. The total number of traffic accidents declined, going from 161 in 2019 to 114 in 2020, which is a 29% reduction. All of these numbers are dramatically lower than our historical norms due to significantly lower vehicular traffic in our city this past year. During the early months of the pandemic, a large percentage of the population stopped commuting to work and school. Many people opted to work from home via videoconferencing and school remained closed for the last nine months of the year.



This meant 2020 had significantly less traffic congestion and the roadways were much safer to travel as a result.



The reduction of vehicular traffic, combined with our staffing shortages, caused us to leave the dedicated Motor Officer position vacant while we worked on higher priority issues in our city. It was the first time in the past twenty years SVPD did not have a motor officer out on patrol. We are anticipating higher traffic volumes and patrol staffing levels in 2021, so we look forward to filling this very important position in the next year.

RESERVE OFFICER UNIT

The Scotts Valley Police Department is very fortunate to be one of the few agencies remaining in the State that has a well-staffed and well-trained reserve police officer program. Our staff currently consists of Reserve Officers John Hohmann, Dave Bergman, Don Murray, Michael Cummings, and Carly Cross. In 2020, our reserve unit logged over 800 volunteer hours in their efforts to support the department.

Many of these hours were worked assisting with evacuations during the CZU Lightning Complex Fire evacuation. The Reserves Officers showed up, with very little notice, the night the evacuation order went out and walked door to door notifying residents they had to leave their homes. When the evacuation had been completed the Reserve Officers were the ones stationed at checkpoints around the city to prevent potential looters from entering the evacuation zone.



Reserve Officer Murray working the checkpoint at Highway 17 and Scotts Valley Drive during the CZU Fire evacuation.

In 2020, there were many staffing changes which often left patrol short-handed. The reserve unit stepped in to help out and assist our full-time officers with patrol coverage. They proved to be invaluable in helping us maintain the high level of service our residents expect during the most difficult year of our department's history.



Reserve Officer Hohmann assisted residents with retrieving items and pets left behind in their homes during the CZU Fire evacuation.



Reserve Officers Cummings, Bergman, and Hohmann out on patrol together.

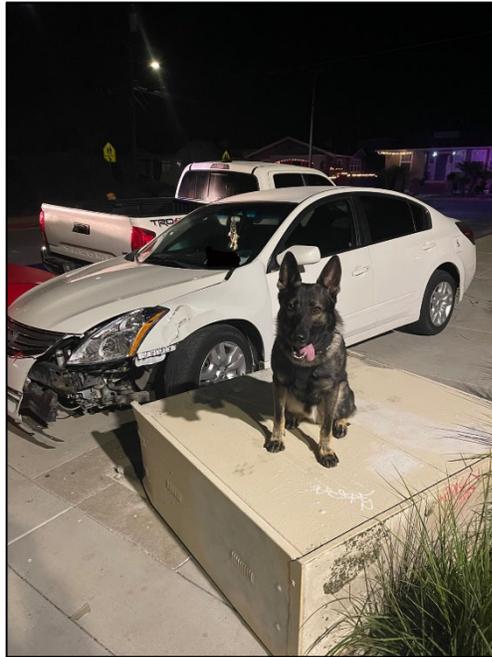
CANINE (K9) PROGRAM



K9 Officer Johnson and his partner Odin pose in front of the Scott House at Mac Dorsa Park.

The department's Canine (K9) Program consisted of Sergeant Brandon Polito with K9 "Atlas" and Officer Jared Johnson with K9 "Odin."

In 2020, the K9 team conducted a combined total of 36 vehicle searches resulting in 28 arrests, 8 tracks, 6 building searches, and had 7 suspect surrenders.



K9 Odin celebrating a job well done after successfully tracking down a shooting suspect hiding in the City of Watsonville.



Sergeant Polito and Atlas take a photo before one of their last patrol shifts together.

K9 Atlas started his career with the department in October 2014 and was the first police dog for SVPD in over 30 years. Atlas had a proactive and fun time working with Sergeant Polito over the past six years. In the beginning of 2020, Atlas began to have serious medical problems. The constant inhalation of smoke this past summer due to the CZU Fires exasperated the issue, and unfortunately, K9 Atlas passed away in August. Rest in Peace, K9 Atlas. Thank you for your service to our community.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division is comprised of two units: Investigations and Communications. Detective Sergeant Wayne Bellville supervises the Investigations Unit while Services Supervisor Amanda Robbins heads the Communications Unit.



The Scotts Valley Police Department's Investigation Unit is normally comprised of two detectives, a school resource officer, and a detective sergeant. The detectives work weekdays, but are on call and available when a major incident unfolds. Detectives have specialized training in major crimes and follow up on complex cases. They also conduct proactive operations such as tobacco and alcohol stings and are responsible for our narcotic and sex registrant program.

The Scotts Valley Police Department is the only municipality which maintains its own 911 dispatch center. Our police dispatchers perform a wide variety of duties including answering emergency and business calls for service, dispatching officers on patrol, police report review and records management, producing our media bulletin, assisting with property and evidence, and helping members of the public who arrive in our lobby 24 hours a day.



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit has three areas of focus: Criminal Investigations, Personnel Recruitment, and Community Outreach for the department.



Sergeant Wayne Bellville was the sole person who worked full time in the Investigations Unit this past year as the other assigned detectives were reassigned to patrol due to staffing issues. Normally the Investigations Unit would also include a detective assigned to adult crime, a detective assigned to juvenile crime, and a School Resource Officer who would work at our local schools. We thank Sergeant Bellville for taking on these many roles during the course of the past year.

The Investigations Unit is responsible for the recruitment, hiring, and background investigations for new officers, dispatchers, and volunteers. Due to staffing changes, recruitment and hiring became an urgent priority for the Investigations Unit this past year. We appreciate the many members of our department who helped fill in to

ensure the 100+ applications we received in 2020 were properly vetted so we could continue to hire the best qualified people to serve here at the City of Scotts Valley.

The Investigations Unit also normally conducts several community outreach programs during the year, but with the pandemic many of these events were cancelled. The one program which did survive, through the use of online instruction, was our very popular Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) to the local fifth grade schoolchildren. It was the first time we ever taught the students outside the classroom. We appreciate Sergeant Meredith Roberts for being flexible with her teaching methods and adapting the class to an online only environment. Sergeant Roberts even held a drive-thru style graduation at the school campuses to hand out certificates and ice cream to the students!



COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDS UNIT



The Scotts Valley Police Department is proud to serve the community of Scotts Valley by offering citizens access to services 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Not only is Scotts Valley one of three dispatch centers in the county, it is the only department to offer 24-hour access to the lobby for citizens to come in and speak with an officer or dispatcher. Dispatchers handle all 911 emergency calls for service as well as non-emergency calls for service, and are a great source of information when answering questions from the public.

The Communications/Records Unit is made up of Services Supervisor Amanda Robbins, Emergency Dispatch Clerk II Chloe Gordon, Emergency Dispatch Clerk II Hannah Carney, and four Emergency Dispatch Clerk I's. The primary duty of the center is dispatching with police records remaining a large part of day-to-day activity. Services Supervisor Robbins also acts as the Custodian of Records, and EDC's assist in records distribution and are trained to release certain records to the public upon request.

In 2020, our dispatch center handled 4,157 emergency calls and 18,244 business line calls, which resulted in 6,439 calls for police service. Our average response time to emergency calls has consistently been under 3 minutes.



In January 2020, former Services Supervisor Tamera Melrose retired from the department after nearly twenty years of service. This left a huge vacancy in the unit. A several month open recruitment took place to find the best candidate to fill the role. At the end of the testing period, it was decided the best candidate was our very own dispatcher, Amanda Robbins, who showed she was the person for the job. EDCII Robbins was promoted to Services Supervisor in May. She later promoted EDCI Gordon and EDCI Carney to Emergency Dispatch Clerk II's in July to help her lead this young, but very capable, dispatch team.



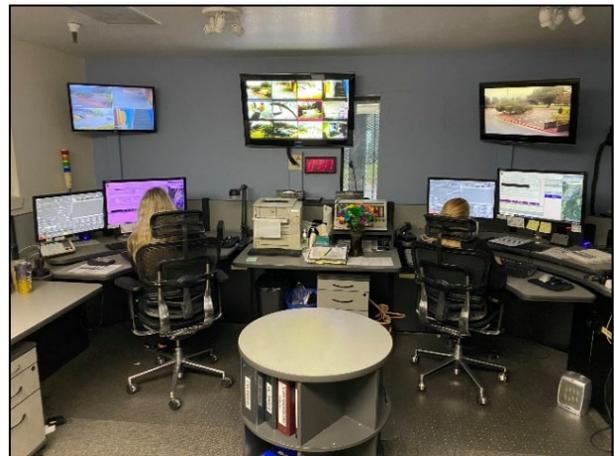
Retired Services Supervisor Tamera Melrose with Chief Walpole (left), Retired Chief Lind (center), and Retired Chief Weiss (right).



EDCI Anna-Kate Brajkovich

In January, the department hired a new dispatcher, Anna-Kate Brajkovich, and she successfully completed the training program. She assumed her first solo shift in August 2020 and was quickly put to the test as it was only a few short days before she was dispatching during the first ever evacuation of the City due to the CZU Fire. The calls for service during that week soared 400%, but EDCI Brajkovich showed she was up to the challenge during that unprecedented crisis.

This year proved difficult for not only the dispatch center but the community as a whole. From short staffing, a global pandemic, and a fire which ultimately evacuated most of the City, the Dispatchers were committed to serving the community. Aside from their normal duties, the Dispatch Unit assisted at the County Emergency Operations Center for the CZU Fire, and later in the year, participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run.



The SVPD Dispatch Center during city evacuations was a busy place!

VOLUNTEER UNIT

The Scotts Valley Police Department relies heavily on the support and assistance offered by our group of civilian volunteers, a unit that has been active since 1991. Our dedicated volunteers perform court deliveries, help with vehicle maintenance, clerical work, records reviews, training logistics, set up the speed awareness trailers, work in the armory, and support special events.



Police Chaplain Fred Wilson played an important role at our department in 2020. Chaplain Wilson regularly checked in with police personnel, offering a listening ear and/or spiritual guidance. We were extremely grateful to have him around during the ambush shooting of Santa Cruz Sheriff Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller. Chaplain Wilson is always ready to lend support in difficult situations, such as death notifications, by responding to emotional and often chaotic scenes with a calming presence.

The police department welcomed our newest volunteer, Joe Bac, in 2020. Joe hit the ground running, quickly learning how to set-up and take down the Speed Awareness Trailers. Together, both he and Volunteer Konrad Baumert, are responsible for moving the speed trailers around our city. Joe also took on other projects around the department to help out during the many emergencies of 2020. We appreciate his volunteering spirit during these trying times.



Police Explorer Program



The Scotts Valley Police Explorer Program Post 831 was supervised by Detective Elliott Terrell with the assistance of several officers as advisers. The Police Explorer Program began in 2014 and offers youths between the ages of 14 and 20 years of age the opportunity to experience what a career in law enforcement would be like. Explorers learn the basics of law enforcement: radio communication, traffic control, report writing, and even officer safety skills. They normally volunteer to help out with city sponsored public events, but this past year many of these activities were cancelled.

POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION

The Scotts Valley Police Officer Association (SVPOA) is committed to engaging with our community and helping to raise funds for local charities and youth programs. Sergeant Meredith Roberts is currently serving as President with Officer Aaron Roberts serving as Vice President.

Special Olympics

The SVPOA has long supported Special Olympics. Every year Reserve Officer John Hohmann and members of the SVPOA coordinate public relation events that raise funds for Special Olympics. These events include the popular Police in Pursuit car races at the Ocean Speedway, the Polar Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run, and related Special Olympics Events. The Special Olympics events are supported by our members because we believe that it is important to celebrate the heart and spirit of Special Olympics athletes and their families.



In early November, the SVPOA participated in a socially distanced Special Olympics Torch run in Scotts Valley to help raise funds for Special Olympics.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2020 was an unprecedented year for the Scotts Valley Police Department. COVID-19 fundamentally changed our daily lives and changed the way we conduct law enforcement. The CZU Fire and subsequent citywide evacuations added to the devastation and hardships the year bore. Nevertheless, our department met those challenges with courage, professionalism, and a commitment to our community.

We handled 6,439 calls for service and 12,192 Officer Initiated Activity events in 2020. In addition to calls related to COVID and the wildfires, we continued to respond to in-progress crimes, thefts and burglaries, domestic disputes, traffic collisions, DUIs, and major criminal investigations. Our department also provided calls for service involving suspicious vehicles and people, residential and commercial alarms, various municipal code violations, and other quality of life issues. Some of the more notable incidents are summarized below:

WINTER



Officers are always patrolling our streets looking for things that seem out of the ordinary. In one case, officers saw a vehicle driving through neighborhoods in the early morning hours. They found that the registered owner had a suspended license and decided to stop the vehicle. K9 Atlas was used to sniff the vehicle and alerted to the odor of narcotics. When officers searched the vehicle, they located methamphetamine, multiple fictitious identifications, and various stolen items from Santa Cruz. The driver was arrested and booked at jail for multiple charges.

At the beginning of the year, we were fortunate enough to have two K9s for patrol, Atlas and Odin. K9 Odin didn't want Atlas to have all the excitement, so when officers stopped a vehicle on his shift, he was used to sniff and alerted to the presence of narcotics. Officers searched the vehicle and located methamphetamine and an illegal stun gun. But Odin's night was not over just yet. Officers stopped another vehicle later the same evening and Odin again alerted to the odor of narcotics. This time, officers located an even larger quantity of methamphetamine, illegal prescription medications, and narcotic paraphernalia.

Not only do officers keep a close eye on our neighborhoods and concentrate on traffic enforcement, we also do our best to patrol business complexes and shopping centers. On one such occasion, officers located a vehicle with a female inside trying to hide from them. They searched the vehicle and located a large amount of methamphetamine, as well as



evidence of drug transportation and sales. The suspect was arrested and booked at jail on several felony charges.

SPRING

The COVID-19 pandemic was in full effect during this time. Shelter in Place orders, suspension of in-person instruction at schools, and a multitude of universal precautions and procedures changed our day-to-day department functions, both inside and outside the building. All the while following County Mandated Protocols, officers still went on patrol and remained proactive.



On one such occasion, officers stopped a vehicle and both occupants were on probation. Officers searched the vehicle and located methamphetamine, heroin, narcotic sales material, stolen credit cards, and fictitious personal identifications. Both occupants were arrested and booked on numerous felony charges and their probation was revoked.

COVID was a monumental adjustment for everyone's daily lives. We responded to many County Order COVID violation calls for service. In this case, a man forced open the locked front door of a business and became aggressive toward employees. He screamed at them because he did not agree with their closure as a result of county guidelines. He also reportedly brandished a knife at employees when they told him to leave. Officers contacted the man, who physically resisted attempts to detain him. He was ultimately placed under arrest and taken to jail.

Officers were on a routine patrol of a shopping center when they observed a vehicle that had expired registration. When they checked the DMV records, officers discovered that the vehicle was stolen. Officers attempted to contact two people inside the vehicle and they fled on foot. We were able to catch one of the occupants, who had a long history of stolen vehicles and narcotics related offences. He was booked at the county jail.

We are able to keep our community safe only with the help of our vigilant citizens. A great example of this occurred when a resident witnessed two females break into a parked car and steal items. The suspects fled the area in their vehicle and witnesses followed them while calling our department. Officers were able to stop the vehicle and recover the stolen property. Both suspects were arrested.



SUMMER

The Summer of 2020 was consumed with nationwide Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests, the murder of Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller, the CZU Lightning Complex Fires and corresponding evacuation of the City, as well as PG&E power outages.

Our city and police department have always prided itself on inclusion of all people, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. As police officers, we are sworn to protect the public without prejudice. We exemplified that spirit by providing BLM demonstrators with safety and security during their planned march across the city and their peaceful protest at Mac Dorsa Park.





Due to the civil unrest in other jurisdictions, several of our officers were called to assist other agencies in the Bay Area due to a number of riot situations. This included the City of Oakland where a Federal Police Officer was shot and killed. This incident was the first time in the history of the Scotts Valley Police Department that our Officers responded to a mutual aid situation outside the County of Santa Cruz.

On June 6th Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller was killed in the line of duty. Sergeant Gutzwiller was responding to assist other deputies that were investigating a report of a suspicious vehicle which contained bomb making material. Sergeant Gutzwiller was shot and killed outside the residence of the suspect in the Ben Lomond area. Our entire on-duty patrol staff immediately responded to the scene to assist in trying to locate and capture the suspect. Additional officers volunteered to come in on their day off to respond to the scene perimeter, while other officers were utilized to cover calls for service in the city. When an officer is killed in the line of duty, the entire law enforcement community feels the effects and mourns the loss.



In August, the CZU Lightning Complex Fires burned more than 86,000 acres and destroyed nearly 1,500 structures. The fire spread so rapidly that fire fighters were unable to contain it and mass evacuations were ordered in the Santa Cruz mountains. The Cal Fire Base Camp was set up at Skypark and took over the entire park.



As the fire continued to spread aggressively, the evacuation order was given for Scotts Valley. This was the first time the city had been ordered to be evacuated in its 50+ year history. The entire police department was called in to make the evacuation notifications.

Officers worked all night going door-to-door contacting each resident and informing them to leave the city. After the evacuation was completed, officers worked long hours with no days off to provide security for the now deserted city. It was truly an unprecedented natural disaster.

Luckily, Cal Fire, with the help of thousands of mutual aid responders, was able to get a handle on the situation after about a week and prevented it from making it into our city. We were all happy to reopen our city with no structures lost to the fire.



The smoke was so bad it turned the day into night. Exterior lights came on at City Hall in the early afternoons because it was so dark.



After the evacuation, the fire could be seen from Scotts Valley making its way to our city.

FALL

With the evacuations lifted and the wildfires extinguished, our officers were once again able to concentrate on traffic enforcement and high visibility patrols. During this time, the entire county was experiencing a dramatic spike in mail thefts and Scotts Valley was no exception.



Officers stopped a vehicle and K9 Odin alerted to the presence of drugs. Officers searched the vehicle and located narcotics, a large amount of stolen mail, and burglary tools used to pry open locked mailboxes. In all, there were over thirty victims from Scotts Valley alone. Both occupants in the vehicle were arrested.

If 2020 couldn't get any stranger, someone stole a statue of Big Foot from the front of the Big Foot Discovery Museum in Felton. The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office put out a "Be on the Lookout" for Bigfoot. The next day our officers located the statue off of Green Hills Road. The theft and recovery of Big Foot made national news! It was a funny ending to what was a very difficult year for everyone at SVPD.



Finally, we are always happy to lend a hand, or paw, to our allied agencies. Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office was investigating a gang involved drive-by shooting which resulted in a high-speed vehicle pursuit. When the suspect vehicle crashed, the two occupants fled on foot. K9 Odin was requested to track the scent of the suspects. Odin and his handler started the track at the vehicle and Odin led officers to one of the suspects who was hiding in the bed of a nearby pick-up truck. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

STAFF RECOGNITION

The outstanding investigations, arrests, dispatching and community involvement of our staff does not go unnoticed.

JANUARY

Officer Aaron Roberts

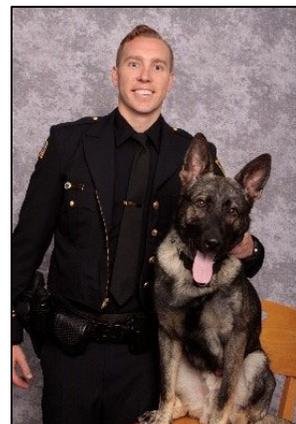
Officer Roberts was selected for his unmatched productivity working night shift on patrol. Officer Roberts conducted forty-eight traffic stops which led to many great self-initiated narcotics arrests and got a number of dangerous drunk drivers off of our city streets.



FEBRUARY

Officer Jared Johnson

Officer Johnson showed a very strong commitment to this agency and the K9 unit by volunteering his own time to conduct additional K9 training hours over and above what was required. In February, Officer Johnson and his partner Odin had thirteen K9 deployments which led to seven arrests. Officer Johnson was also busy outside his normal K9 handler duties by handling 130 incidents and writing twelve reports during this month.



MARCH

Services Supervisor Amanda Robbins

Then EDCII Robbins became the interim Dispatch Supervisor in January after the departure of Tamera Melrose. In doing so, she learned new systems and took on new responsibilities. If learning a new position wasn't enough, Serv. Sup. Robbins was given two dispatchers to train at the same time. She coordinated their new training schedules and quickly plugged them into the dispatch training program. She demonstrated a strong work ethic and a commitment to her fellow dispatchers that should stand as a model to others.



APRIL

Captain Mike Dean

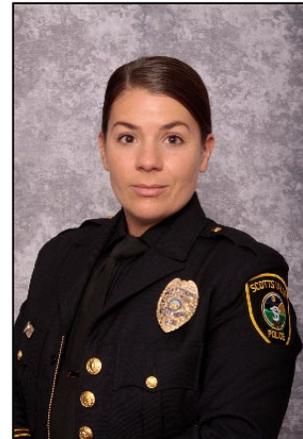
Captain Dean has always had a great reputation for being someone who gets things done here at the department. This past April, Captain Dean went into overdrive as he had to deal with our response to the pandemic, a vacant Investigations Unit, and an unexpected power outage at the police station which he had to fix in the middle of the night.



MAY

Officer Meredith Roberts

This was Officer Robert's first year as our DARE Officer for Scotts Valley schools. The DARE program has always been greatly appreciated by the students and community of Scotts Valley. Over the years, we have made it a priority to put on this very important youth outreach program despite the constant fluctuation of staffing at our small police department. This year was especially challenging with many vacancies in patrol, a non-existent detective unit, and a global pandemic but Officer Roberts was still able to make a modified curriculum happen for our local schoolchildren.



JUNE

Sergeant Wayne Bellville

Sergeant Bellville was tasked, on short notice, to plan for Scotts Valley's first protest march in the history of our city. The event was billed as a peaceful event, but numerous other protests nationally had ended up in violence. All of his preparation paid off and the event went off without an issue. The department received many thanks from the attendees, the organizers who sponsored the event, and our city council who appreciated our efforts to keep everyone safe.



JULY

Reserve Officer Don Murray

When the call went out that we needed to evacuate the city, our dedicated group of Police Reserves sprang into action to help out. Officer Murray worked into the early morning hours knocking on doors of residents telling them they needed to leave their homes due to the approaching fire.

After the evacuation process was complete, police resources in the region were stretched thin. Officer Murray volunteered to man the checkpoint at Granite Creek Road and Scotts Valley Drive so our full-time officers could maintain their patrol duties. Officer Murray held that position, twelve hours a day, during the entire week of the event.



AUGUST

Reserve Officer John Hohmann

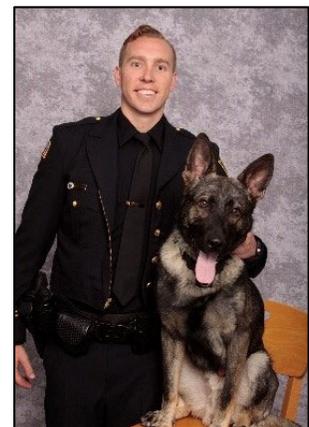
Due to the quick nature of the fire evacuation, a significant number of community members realized that they left behind medication, important papers, and/or pets in their homes. Officer Hohmann volunteered to be the sole point of contact for the residents who needed to be temporarily let back into the evacuation zone. He escorted hundreds of people back home to obtain their essential items and pets. Officer Hohmann took on this task every day of the evacuation and volunteered at least 80 hours during this event.



SEPTEMBER

Officer Jared Johnson

In addition to Officer Johnson's normal patrol duties, he spent the first two weeks of September planning a memorial for K9 Atlas. He located an outdoor venue so people who wished to join could do so in compliance with our local COVID-19 protocol. He provided the photos, music, and organized the speakers for the event. Officer Johnson's attention to detail and organization helped ensure the day of the memorial went smoothly.



OCTOBER

Officer Aaron Roberts

Officer Roberts received this award due to his proactivity while on patrol, personal initiative, and his life saving efforts. On October 21st, Officers Roberts responded to a medical call of a man who was unconscious and not breathing. He took charge of the scene and started performing CPR chest compressions on the man while directing his partner to get the Automated External Defibrillator. Fire and medical personnel arrived shortly thereafter and continued the life saving measures started by Officer Roberts. Paramedics were able to get a pulse and the man was transported to the hospital. Officer Roberts was calm under pressure, and due to his quick actions, was able to help save a life.



NOVEMBER

Officer Eric Perez

Officer Perez was very busy responding to calls for service, yet remained highly proactive throughout the month. Officer Perez responded to the highest number of calls for service, wrote the most reports, and conducted the highest number of traffic stops in the Department. That level of activity led to several notable arrests, including one after an extended foot pursuit of a suspect threatening people with a baseball bat.



DECEMBER

Dispatcher Hannah Carney

EDCII Carney was a great asset to the Dispatch Center and stepped up to assist in various capacities after being promoted to her new role as Emergency Dispatcher Clerk II. EDCII Carney volunteered to help out with numerous records related projects, and has made herself available to learning new tasks as needed to assist Services Supervisor Robbins and the department. EDCII Carney went above and beyond to make sure that everything ran smoothly in the Dispatch Center during the month of December.



SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Captain John Wilson



Captain John Wilson retired at the end of 2020 after a twenty-eight-year career here at the Scotts Valley Police Department. He was hired by the Scotts Valley Police Department as a patrol officer in 1992 and worked his way through the ranks, serving as a Field Training Officer, Juvenile Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and finally, Captain in 2019.

While at the Scotts Valley Police Department, Captain Wilson received numerous Employee of the Month Awards, Commendations and positive letters from the community. He was the recipient of the Officer of the Year award for 1997 and 2007.

Captain Wilson worked within the community both in a professional and a personal way. He served as the chairperson for the Santa Cruz County Police Commander's Association, was a past president of the Scotts Valley Police Officer's Association, a board member of the "Cops N' Rodders" charity foundation, volunteered for the Fallen Officer Foundation, and was a past president and board member for the Scotts Valley Exchange Club.

Everyone at the police department, and the citizens of Scotts Valley, thank you for your dedicated service to our community. You will be missed here at SVPD, but we wish you the best in your retirement after a long and successful career.

2020 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



2020 EXCHANGE CLUB OF SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The “Employee of the Year” is an annual award that has been given out at the Scotts Valley Police Department every year since 1970. During the past 50 years, the award recipient has always been a single employee who went above and beyond the call of duty in the service of the department and our greater community. However, this past year was unlike any other our agency has ever faced. A number of major events occurred which affected our way of life both locally and nationally, but nothing had a greater impact to our organization than the CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

The day after an unusual lightning storm hit Northern California in August, the air began to turn brown from smoke. We were notified some spot fires had started in the northern part of the county, but nothing seemed out of the ordinary. The winds then shifted south and within 48 hours, CAL Fire advised the spot fires had merged and were headed in the direction of Scotts Valley. CAL Fire told officials that the entire City of Scotts Valley, west of Highway 17, would need to be evacuated.

Every single employee at the Scotts Valley Police Department was called in and given the unprecedented task of going door-to-door of all our residents to tell them to leave their homes. The evacuation notice took most of the night and a vast majority of citizens were gone by the next day.

The members of the Scotts Valley Police Department were then told we would need to patrol the evacuated areas of the city in an effort to combat the looting that was occurring in other evacuated areas of the county. Due to our low staffing levels, most of our patrol and dispatch staff worked twelve-hour shifts, for ten days straight, to keep our city safe. What made this even more difficult was that most of our employees’ homes were in the evacuation area, so many could not go home at the end of their shift.

We were all grateful when the evacuation order was lifted a week after it started and the fire ended up being extinguished before it reached the city limits. The successful conclusion to the first-ever evacuation of the city could not have been possible without a concerted team effort. It would be futile to try singling out an individual person in our organization who did more during this critical incident, which is why *everyone* who worked the CZU Lightning Complex Fire should be commended for a job well done!

