

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2021
YEAR END REPORT

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT - 2021

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SCOTT'S VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

ONE CIVIC CENTER DRIVE • SCOTT'S VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 95066 • PHONE (831) 440-5670

CHIEF OF POLICE
STEVE WALPOLE

May 9, 2022

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

RE: 2021 Scotts Valley Police Department Activity Report

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

It is my pleasure to present to each of you, the City Manager, and the citizens of Scotts Valley our Annual Activity Report for 2021. The many accomplishments contained in this report would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our officers, dispatchers, support staff and dedicated volunteers.

Despite the challenges of a lingering pandemic, an uncertain economy, and a national spike in violent crime, the City of Scotts Valley continued to be one of the safest places to live in the State of California. Almost all serious crimes reported in our city decreased dramatically from the previous year and returned to their pre-COVID-19 norms. The police department received 6,033 calls for service and our officers self-initiated 12,965 events for a total of 18,998 police related incidents in 2021. Despite serious staffing issues at the beginning of the year, our average response time to all emergency calls remained under three minutes.

This past year will be remembered as a year of change for our department as we welcomed many new faces to the organization. In 2021, the department hired four new police officers, a police sergeant, and two new dispatchers. The increased hiring put a strain on our training staff as the number of new employees sometimes exceeded the number of trainers we had available in the department. I am proud to report our staff were able to successfully get every one of our new employees to perform up to the high standards we have come to expect from the members of the Scotts Valley Police Department.

There were many successes in 2021 for the Scotts Valley Police Department thanks to the hard work and dedication of our professional staff as well as the support from our City Council. My goals for 2022 include the continued hiring of police officers to fill existing vacancies and to fully return to our pre-pandemic life by hosting both our Junior Police Academy and our National Night Out this summer after a two-year hiatus.

In closing, I would like to once again thank my staff for their dedicated service, as well as the supportive community that we are privileged to serve and protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Walpole".

Steve Walpole
Chief of Police

SCOTTS VALLEY CRIME STATISTICS YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON 2017 TO 2021

DESCRIPTION	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% OF CHANGE FROM 2020-2021
PART 1 CRIMES						
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
RAPE	7	6	2	7	6	-14%
ROBBERY	4	2	1	7	2	-71%
ASSAULT	65	62	66	48	57	19%
BURGLARY	40	42	31	60	37	-38%
LARCENY	166	137	105	104	106	2%
AUTO THEFT	20	12	8	21	11	-48%
ARSON	0	3	2	1	2	100%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	302	264	215	248	221	-11%
ALL OTHER CRIMES	550	675	542	407	503	24%
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,679	6,433	6,477	6,439	6,033	-6%
TOTAL OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITY	8,785	13,130	14,530	12,192	12,965	6%
TOTAL CITATIONS	1,105	1,594	966	579	958	65%
NUMBER OF ARRESTS	491	703	486	374	425	14%
INJURY ACCIDENT	30	22	12	6	19	217%
NON INJURY ACCIDENT	144	133	149	107	137	28%
FATALITY	0	0	0	1	0	-100%
HIT & RUN	41	31	32	22	21	-5%
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	174*	155*	161*	*114	156*	37%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	23	37	25	19	22	16%
VANDALISM/GRAFFITI	78	56	77	53	67	26%
DRUG VIOLATIONS	123	162	95	90	79	-12%

* Does not include Hit & Run collisions

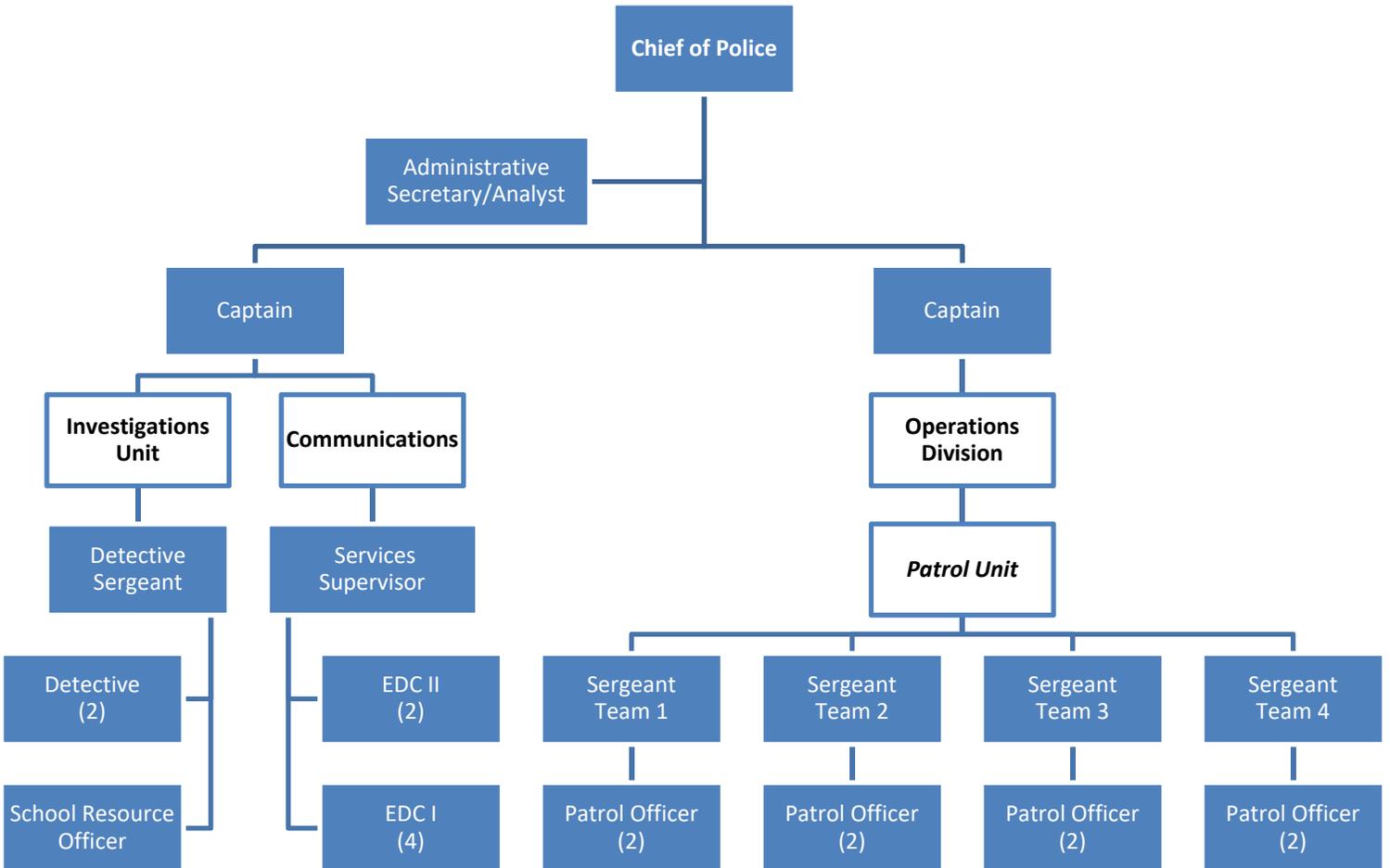
SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT DATA DEMOGRAPHICS 2021

	Total	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Male	Female
In Custody Arrest	112	5 (4%)	74 (66%)	29 (26%)	0	4 (4%)	80	32
Notice to Appear	133	3 (2%)	87 (65%)	35 (27%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	85	48
Written Notice to Correct Violation	179	5 (3%)	122 (68%)	48 (27%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	126	53
Verbal Warning	2,010	66 (3%)	1,425 (71%)	382 (19%)	72 (4%)	65 (3%)	1,309	701
Public/Motorist Service	9	0	6 (67%)	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	0	9	0
Total:	2,443	79 (3%)	1,714 (70%)	496 (21%)	79 (3%)	75 (3%)	1,609	834
% of City Population (2020 Census)	11,863	71 (1%)	9,251 (78%)	1,253 (11%)	854 (7%)	434 (3%)	5,880	5,983
% of County Population (2020 Census)	273,123	2,230 (1%)	154,075 (56%)	92,921 (34%)	13,699 (5%)	10,198 (4%)	135,168	137,955

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 5.3 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 Jayson Rutherford

Chief Steve Walpole

Captain Mike Dean

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Each year, law enforcement faces new challenges that redefine the profession. The term “business as usual” is never applicable in policing, as the landscape can change in an instant. Last year law enforcement saw protests and public cries to defund the police. The public wanted more police transparency, stricter hiring practices, police accountability and changes to use of force policies with more emphasis on de-escalation tactics. Police leaders today are called upon to not only provide leadership, but to build trust in our community and within our own agency. Those in a supervisory role must model ethical behavior both on and off duty, mentor and develop our newer officers, and guide internal change, all while handling countless other responsibilities.

Captain Mike Dean is in charge of the day to day operations of the police department. This position requires the management of four sergeants and eight patrol officers. Our patrol staff work twelve hour shifts on a three or four-day rotation. These shifts are normally covered by one patrol sergeant and two patrol officers with our daily minimum staffing for any particular shift being two officers. This past year brought staffing challenges to our department.

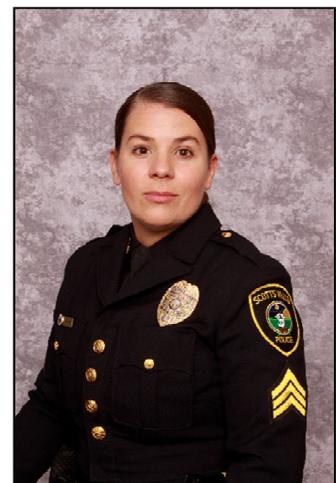
The Operations Division includes the Patrol Unit, Training Unit, K9 Unit, Traffic Unit, and the Reserve Unit. The Traffic Unit is comprised of officers who operate marked police vehicles and handle the bulk of the day-to-day calls for service. In any given moment, officers perform an array of duties from responding to emergency calls for service involving vehicle accidents 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. These men and women also volunteer their own time in the community with Police Officer Association fundraisers. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals working for the Scotts Valley Police Department.

Patrol Supervisors:

Sergeant Meredith Roberts

Sergeant Meredith Roberts has served with the department since 2016. Beside managing a patrol shift, she also oversees our Reserve Officer Program, worked in our investigation’s unit, and is one of our Peer Support team members. Sergeant Roberts is in charge of maintaining department equipment and is working on starting up a bicycle patrol team.



Sergeant Pascale Drozek

Sergeant Pascale Drozek has served with the department since 2018. Besides managing a patrol shift, she supervises our Field Training Program for new officers. She coordinates with our department's field training officers to ensure that newly hired officers receive the best training possible. In addition, Sergeant Drozek is one of our department's firearms and defensive tactics instructors.



Sergeant Aaron Roberts

Sergeant Aaron Roberts has served with the department since 2016. Besides managing a patrol shift, he is also one of our field training officers. He is in charge of our department's armory and is the administrator of our department's gas mask program. This program requires periodic fit tests with each officer to ensure that our agency is in compliance with Cal OSHA standards.



Sergeant Scott Garner

Sergeant Scott Garner was hired by the Scotts Valley Police Department in September 2021. Besides managing a patrol shift, he also oversees the department's Traffic Unit. He is in charge of our vehicle abatement program, roadway traffic counts, speed surveys, and the placement of our speed awareness units. He maintains our fleet of BMW motorcycles, two Zero electric motorcycles, and one all-terrain vehicle. Sergeant Garner is also one of the department's firearms and Taser instructors.



TRAINING UNIT

The training unit is supervised by Captain Jayson Rutherford who oversees the Department's in-house training for all full-time officers, reserve officers and police dispatchers. He is responsible for ensuring the department's training conforms to State and Federal guidelines. The State of California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) mandates that officers receive training in the following categories every two years: firearms, arrest control techniques, vehicle operations and pursuit driving, tactical communications, CPR/First Aid, and Active Shooter. Our department exceeds the State's minimum standards by training several times each year in each category, a standard that we set for ourselves and believe our citizens and community demand.

In addition to state mandated training, officers are also required to conduct monthly roll-call training. Roll-call training topics include: Sexual harassment, dispatch center operation, Use of Force and Pursuit policy review, blood borne pathogens, de-escalation strategies, bias and racial profiling, and Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO). Officers are also tested monthly on department policies and procedures through Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs).

Officers are often 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. Modern municipal police work requires unique individuals who can blend law enforcement with social work.



Our officers must be able to deal with an array of people in a wide variety of different situations. One moment officers may have to show empathy to someone who is a victim of a crime, and the next moment an officer might be dealing with a suicidal subject or someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Officers are often thrust into the complex web of societal issues surrounding race, class and poverty. For these reasons and more, training is a vital part of this department's professional development.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The Field Training Program is the functional launching point of every police officer's career. It serves the critically important purpose of guiding and shaping the new police academy recruit into a safe, competent, knowledgeable, and effective solo patrol officer. The Field Training Officer (FTO) serves many roles, including that of teacher, role model, and quintessential leader. The FTO must not only be extremely well versed in the Department's policies, procedures, and values, but also be able to quickly understand each individual trainee's learning styles and be able to find the most effective way of imparting this knowledge and experience to that trainee.

The role of the FTO extends far beyond the mere sharing of information. The FTO helps the trainee understand the "why" behind the "how." The FTO also guides the trainee in truly understanding department policy and procedure, while providing a strong emphasis on utilizing sound judgment in their decision making and problem solving. The FTO understands the importance of helping the trainee develop their own style and approach, all within the expectations and vision set forth by the Chief of Police, and in accordance with the highest of standards. FTO's inspire, encourage, and lead by example. They are selected for their competence, core character, and commitment to the task at hand.

The FTO Program is managed by Sergeant Pascale Drozek, who was responsible for overseeing, scheduling, and training the most recruits ever in a single year at SVPD. The Scotts Valley Police Department had six trainees enter the FTO program in 2021, four of whom successfully completed the program and became solo beat Officers. This kept our hard-working FTO team exceptionally busy. Due to staffing shortages, and the historic number of new recruits, the FTO Program was supplemented by Captain Rutherford, Sergeant Meredith Roberts, and Sergeant Aaron Roberts who participated in training our new recruits. Our regularly assigned field training officers, consisting of Officer Ahrens, Officer Renn, and Officer Lipari, appreciated their assistance.



Sergeant Drozek



SRO Ahrens



FTO Renn



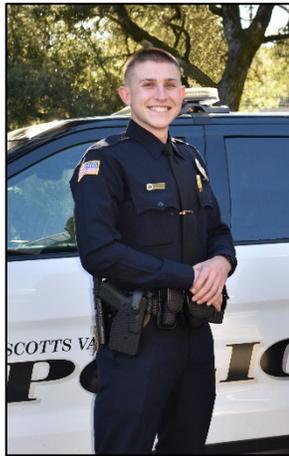
FTO Lipari

The Scotts Valley Police Department is incredibly grateful for the dedication of all of our staff who helped with training during what was an undeniably challenging year. Their commitment to the training program contributed greatly to the success of our newest Officers.

The Scotts Valley Police Department commends our four newest Officers who put in the time, effort and commitment towards successfully completing our rigorous FTO program. As such, we proudly welcomed Officer Edgar Larios, Officer Ben Standen, Officer Trevor Hutchison and Officer Forrest Brown to the SVPD family this year. Congratulations!



Officer Larios



Officer Standen



Officer Hutchison



Officer Brown



FTO Lipari showing Officer Larios and Officer Brown the ropes at Active Shooter Training.

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 2,557 vehicles in 2021 which resulted in 958 traffic citations. Despite the increase in educational stops and enforcement, the number of injury traffic accidents increased 33% year-over-year compared to 2020. We have identified the top injury collision locations and primary collision factors (Vehicle code violations) and are conducting targeted enforcement at these locations for these specific violations. Based on the Crime Statistics Year-to-Year Comparison it does not appear there is a pattern. This targeted enforcement will be the priority while maintaining a high visibility presence throughout the city.

The Traffic Supervisor will collaborate with the city engineers to discuss any geographical or structural opportunities for improvement.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Scotts Valley Police Department participates in multiple traffic safety campaigns to include:

- National Distracted Driving Awareness
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- National Bicycle Safety Month
- Click it or Ticket Seatbelt Campaign
- Child Passenger Safety Week
- Pedestrian Safety Month
- National Drunk & Drug-impaired Driving Month
- Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over

BADGES TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAIL

For the past 20 plus years, members of our traffic unit have participated in the countywide joint



traffic enforcement program, "BADGES" (Before Aggressive Driving Gets Everyone Stopped). Once a month, traffic officers from each Santa Cruz County Agency collaborate to target high collision areas, school zones, and other violations in selected jurisdictions around our county. This saturated traffic enforcement's main purpose is to bring educational awareness to the motoring public, combat road rage by targeting aggressive driving violations such as speeding, stop sign violations, red light violations, tailgating, and unsafe lane changes.

ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

In 2021, the Scotts Valley Police Department saw an increase in the number of large RV's and motorhomes parked or abandoned throughout the city. The Traffic Division kept busy during the year, issuing 113 vehicle storage citations, 47 abatement notices as well as hundreds of courtesy citations (written warnings) to violators. A total of 13 vehicles were towed for being left abandoned on our roadways. Officers also made regular contact with vehicle owners in order to prevent future violations.



NEW BEGINNINGS



The Department hired Sgt. Scott Garner from the Santa Cruz Police Department in September of this year. Sgt. Garner has over 24 years of experience with 20 of those years specifically in traffic management with the Santa Cruz Police Department. Sgt. Garner is eager to restart the SVPD traffic program and has already begun working to prepare officers for both the eighty-hour motorcycle enforcement school and with collision investigations.

Sgt. Garner started working with officers and analysts to determine the top collision locations within the city and identify the primary collision factors causing those collisions. The traffic team will conduct focused enforcement campaigns at the identified locations for the specific violations. Sgt. Garner is working with city staff to identify environmental changes and engineering opportunities to reduce collisions and violations as well. It is our responsibility to educate and conduct enforcement to reduce all collisions with an emphasis on injury collision locations.



TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS & FOLLOW UP

Our agency received 57 traffic complaints from concerned community members during the 2021 calendar year. These were mostly residential area concerns, school zone violations, and commute related complaints. Patrol officers are assigned to follow up on these complaints by working these areas during specific times and tracking their results. As a result of these 57 complaints, SVPD officers dedicated well over 150 hours of targeted enforcement campaigns resulting in hundreds of educational stops and dozens of citations. Most efforts resulted in an immediate reduction of violations and officers were mostly greeted with appreciation from the neighborhoods they were working.

SPEED TRAILER PROGRAM:

SVPD Volunteers Konrad Baumert and Joe Bac are the backbone of the department speed trailer program. Konrad and Joe donate their personal time to move the speed trailer weekly to new locations to ensure it is being utilized throughout the city. The trailer is placed at a predetermined location and programmed to reflect the posted and surveyed safe speed of that section of roadway. Once a vehicle triggers the radar and is at or above the certified safe speed, the sign begins to flash red and displays, "SLOW DOWN".

The sign is specifically utilized at target locations during special events such as the 4th of July week. The sign is placed on Mt. Hermon Road and Scotts Valley Drive to educate visitors entering our city to enjoy our events. The sign is also used in residential neighborhoods such as The Vineyards, Skypark, and Granite Creek areas during Halloween.

The sign is a desired resource for our community and Volunteers Konrad and Joe fully support and run this program. Rain or shine, they deploy the sign. We would be unable to keep up with the demand without their due diligence and efforts.



RESERVE OFFICER UNIT

The Scotts Valley Police Department is fortunate to be the only law enforcement agency in Santa Cruz County with an active Reserve Program. We have four very involved and committed Reserve Officers who logged in over 630 volunteer hours to help keep our city safe. Our staff consists of Reserve Officers Don Murray, Dave Bergman, John Hohmann and Michael Cummings. Reserve Officers Don Murray and Dave Bergman were awarded with congratulatory plaques for completing 25 years of service with the Scotts Valley Police Department!



Chief Walpole awards Reserve Officer Don Murray and Reserve Officer Dave Bergman.

The Reserves go out and patrol when our staffing is low, assist with park checks, commercial checks, traffic control, community events and transporting in-custody arrestees to County Jail. Reserve Officer Hohmann assists with vehicle abatement, DARE and Special Olympics fundraising events and Reserve Officer Cummings helps organize the Armory as well as service our patrol rifles. The Reserves' dedication to this Department and community is apparent in their day to day contacts with community members and local programs. Our Department runs more efficiently due to their continued assistance year after year.



Reserve Officer Hohmann



Reserve Officer Cummings

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division is overseen by Captain Jayson Rutherford and is comprised of two units: Investigations and Communications. Detective Sergeant Meredith Roberts supervised the Investigations Unit in 2021, while Services Supervisor Amanda Robbins continues to manage 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.



For the first few months of 2021, the department had no personnel available to staff our investigations unit. Toward the summer, however, Sergeant Meredith Roberts was reassigned from her role as a patrol sergeant to that of detective sergeant. This assignment included teaching DARE online to Brook Knoll Elementary 5th grade students, while Reserve Officer John Hohmann taught DARE in person to Vine Hill Elementary and Baymonte Christian School thus continuing our long tradition of teaching DARE to all of the fifth-grade classes.

Recently retired from the Los Gatos Police Department, Detective Kevin Elliott was hired and brought his years of experience to our department. He immediately started working cases, some of which were very complex and time consuming. Detective Elliott has been instrumental in making the unit run smoothly and getting prosecutable cases to the District Attorney.



In addition to Detective Elliott, we were very fortunate to secure the services of another long-time law enforcement professional, Retired Santa Cruz Sheriff's Lieutenant Shea Johnson, who joined our department as a part time Senior Management Analyst. She assists with many different administrative projects, hiring and recruitment, as well as some investigative case follow up. Having Analyst Johnson in the unit has been extremely helpful with completing vital department tasks.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)



The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program is taught to all 5th grade students at Vine Hill Elementary, Brook Knoll Elementary and Baymonte Christian School.



Reserve Officer John Hohmann volunteered to teach DARE in person this year. Even though the students were required to wear masks, they were extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn amongst their peers.

The D.A.R.E. program consists of an evidence-based curriculum that teaches students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives. The D.A.R.E. vision is defined as a “world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors.”



Special Olympics

The Scotts Valley Police Department has long supported the Special Olympics of Northern California. Reserve Officer John Hohmann coordinated public relation events that raise funds for Special Olympics of Northern California including the popular Police in Pursuit car races at Ocean Speedway, the Polar Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Tip-A-Cop and other related Special Olympics events.



In July 2021, the official “Flame of Hope” torch of the Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games was carried with a large contingent of runners through Scotts Valley.

Special Olympic events are supported by our agency because we believe in the importance of celebrating the heart and spirit of Special Olympic athletes and their families.

At the 2021 California Police Chiefs’ Association Annual Conference, Chief Walpole received the 2021 Special Olympics Northern California Award of Excellence for his continued support for Special Olympics events and fund raising.

The Special Olympics rely solely on fund raising and donations to operate and Chief Walpole’s support of this cause is worthy of recognition.



COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDS UNIT



The Scotts Valley Police Department is one of three communications centers in the County of Santa Cruz and is proud to serve the residents of Scotts Valley. Scotts Valley Police Department is unique in that our lobby and dispatch center are open 24/7, allowing citizens and other customers to come in and speak face to face with someone at any time. Dispatchers answer 911 calls as well as business line calls and are a great source of information for the public.

The Communications/Records Unit is made up of Services Supervisor/Custodian of Records Amanda Robbins, Emergency Dispatcher Clerk II Chloe Gordon, Emergency Dispatcher Clerk II Hannah Carney, as well as four Emergency Dispatcher Clerk I's. While a large portion of the day involves call taking, the unit also handles all records in the department. These records include but are not limited to records requests, subpoenas, background checks, and report distribution.

In 2021, our dispatch center handled 4,293 emergency calls and 14,344 business line calls, which resulted in 6,033 calls for police service. Our average response time to emergency calls for service was 2.4 minutes.



Throughout the year, the records unit was busy attending trainings leading up to major changes in our crime reporting that was mandated by the Department of Justice and FBI. In addition to these changes, Services Supervisor Robbins successfully completed three routine triennial audits administered by the Department of Justice. It was a busy year for the Communications Unit while overcoming the departure of one of the Emergency Dispatcher Clerk I's after an out-of-state relocation.

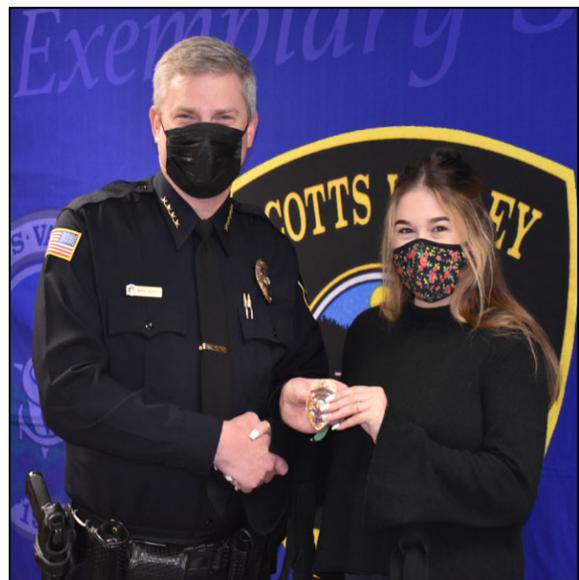
While we were down two positions during 2021, we were happy to close out the year as a fully staffed unit after a great deal of the year was spent on recruitment efforts. Having received over 40 applications and conducting nearly 20 oral board interviews, we found two well-qualified candidates to join our team.



Chief Walpole and EDCI Taylor Raymond

In August of 2021, the department hired Taylor Raymond. EDCI Raymond completed the four-month communications training program and assumed her first solo shift in December, just prior to the holidays. EDCI Raymond was born and raised in Scotts Valley and is eager to serve the community.

Taylor Froling started with the department in December of 2021 and was previously working as a 911 dispatcher. EDCI Froling is currently in the communications training program and is on track to assume a solo shift in March of 2022. EDCI Froling is a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz County and we are happy to welcome her to the department.



Chief Walpole and EDCI Taylor Froling

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 scheduling vehicle maintenance, clerical work, records reviews, training logistics, set up the speed awareness trailers, work in the armory, and support special events. Our group of volunteers have that “can-do attitude” of no task is too small or too big. Even though our department was in COVID lockdown for part of the year, our volunteers still managed to work a total of 161 hours in 2021.

In October of 2021, the members of our department honored all of our active volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner. It was the first time we were able to hold the event over the past two years due to COVID. Pictured left to right: Chief Walpole, Joe Bac, Gillian McGlaze, Captain Dean, Jim Kiehl, Terri Ritchie, Captain Rutherford and Konrad Baumert.



The police department welcomed newest volunteer Terri Ritchie in 2021. Terri and her family have been a fixture in our community for many years. Having a strong interest in law enforcement, she decided being a volunteer was the way to go. She hit the ground running, quickly learning how to do weekly court and distribution runs to various agencies around the county. Terri also has assisted Administration with various time-consuming tasks. Keep up the good work, Terri!

After more than 20 years of service with SVPD, our longest serving volunteer, Harvey Bustichi, decided to retire from the department. Chief Walpole and Captain Dean bestowed an honorary shadow box to Harvey to show our gratitude for the countless hours he donated to the department over the years. Harvey promised to keep busy as he still volunteers for his local church and the service clubs in our community.



POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION

The Scotts Valley Police Officer Association (SVPOA) is committed to engaging with our residents and helping to raise funds for local charities and youth programs. Officer Timothy Renn (President) and Emergency Dispatch Clerk II Chloe Gordon (Vice President) were elected to run the association in June of 2021 and continue our long tradition of giving back to our community.



The SVPOA has sponsored the Northern California Special Olympics Torch Run every year in our city since 1998. In June of 2021, we were proud to run the torch through Scotts Valley with our fellow community members who also donated their time and treasure to this worthy cause.

Police in Pursuit is another fundraising event to raise money and awareness for the athletes of Special Olympics of Northern California. Law Enforcement Officers raise money to race their "hot-rod" patrol vehicles around the track at Ocean Speedway. In 2021, SVPOA sponsored a car which was driven by our association members.



The SVPOA, in partnership with the City of Scotts Valley, the Scotts Valley Exchange Club, Valley Churches United, Kiwanis Club, and many more community sponsors, created a magical Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Community Center. Officers joined in the festive event and collected donations for Valley Churches United, passed out stickers, and took photos with a lot of families. It was an amazing turn out and a great event. It was an honor for the SVPOA to participate in such a family-oriented community event.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

We handled 6,033 calls for service and 12,965 Officer Initiated Activity events in 2021. We responded to in-progress crimes, thefts and burglaries, domestic disputes, traffic collisions, DUIs, and major criminal investigations, in addition to calls related to ongoing COVID concerns. 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

During the winter holidays, driving under the influence arrests (DUI) tend to trend upward. Our department focuses on DUI enforcement year round, but specific attention is given to driver safety during this time of year.

This particular motorist was traveling at a high rate of speed on Bean Creek Road, with a Blood Alcohol Content of over three times the legal limit. The driver lost control of the vehicle and ended up crashing into a tree and a house!



At the beginning of every shift, officers patrol their “beat” to see if anything stands out as unusual or suspicious. This is known as “setting your beat.” By doing this at the beginning of our shift, we know what vehicles or people have been in a certain location for long periods of time. In this incident, officers set their beat and noticed a van parked at a gas pump that appeared unusual and the owner of the vehicle had a suspended license.

Officers returned to the area an hour later and the vehicle was still parked at the pump. We contacted the driver and passenger of the vehicle. The driver had an arrest warrant and was taken into custody. The passenger was on probation and when we searched her, officers located a loaded handgun in her jacket. Both subjects were booked into the county jail.



SPRING

There are very few things in our profession that give us more joy than helping someone get their stolen property back. This year we had several cases of large amounts of stolen property being recovered by our officers which led to the arrest of multiple suspects.

In early Spring, a local business owner informed us that a suspect entered their patio area and stole their outside space heaters. Fortunately, the business had surveillance video and we were able to quickly put the suspect's images on social media. Less than a week later, the vehicle was located abandoned in Felton. Our officers were able to recover the stolen heaters and return them to the business. The vehicle also contained numerous brand-new high value power tools, which also appeared stolen. Detectives got right on the case and located additional victim businesses, many of whom were unaware they had been victimized, and were able to return their stolen property.



Only a week later, officers found a suspicious vehicle parked outside a storage facility. When officers contacted the driver, they found he was on probation for theft related convictions. We searched his vehicle and located multiple items that had recently been stolen from several storage lockers that very day. Officers were able to arrest the driver, identify some of the property, and return the items to the rightful owners.

In one of the most **buzzzz-arre** cases, a man located an enormous bee hive which contained a large amount of honey comb inside an oak tree on city property. The suspect wanted to remove the bees for his own personal use and steal the honey comb. The suspect lit a small fire inside the tree in order to smoke the bees out of the hive. Unfortunately for him, the tree caught fire and SVFD had to respond to put it out. Officers quickly determined the identity of the suspect and arrested him shortly later for reckless arson and theft.



SUMMER

Staff at a local hotel requested officers assist them with evicting several occupants of a room after they refused to leave. When officers arrived, they located several people still in the hotel room, which had piles of property strewn about. Two of the occupants were on probation and one had an active arrest warrant. When officers searched the messy room, they found methamphetamine, heroin, and a large amount of drug paraphernalia. Officers also discovered two stolen motorcycles parked next to the bed, multiple stolen credit cards, counterfeit personal identification, and a replica handgun. All three suspects were arrested for multiple criminal violations and booked at jail.



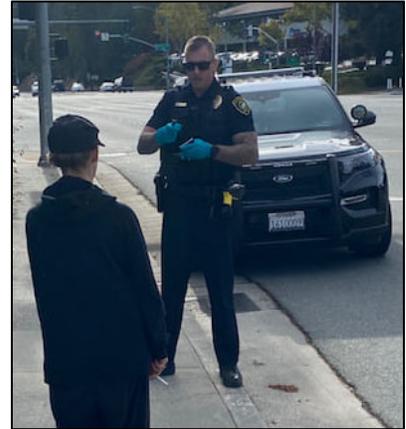
Detectives got a tip that there was a large amount of stolen property being held inside a storage locker in town. After hours of follow-up, detectives obtained a search warrant and entered the locker. They located literally truckloads of stolen property. Detectives then had the difficult task of identifying and locating all the victims. Ultimately, the majority of the property was returned to the grateful owners!

A juvenile suspect from out of the area attempted to rob a Scotts Valley High School student during the Homecoming Football game. The suspect brandished a knife and demanded the victim hand over items he had in his possession. The student refused and immediately notified school staff. Officers, who were already on scene to provide security at the game, immediately located and arrested the suspect. This incident highlighted the excellent working relationship we have with our school staff and our mutual goals of keeping kids safe.



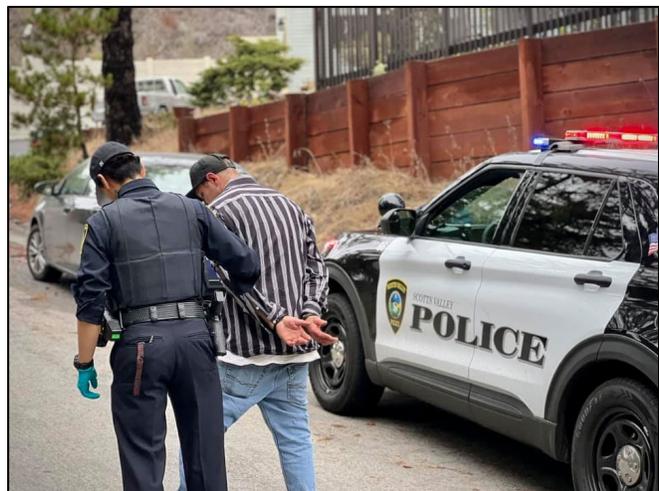
FALL

Community members called 9-1-1 to report an attempted kidnapping. A grandfather was leaving a local business with his young granddaughter when an adult female approached him and tried to take the child from him. She claimed the child was hers and she was trying to rescue her. Officers responded and located the female that was clearly having mental health issues and delusions, as well as being under the influence of controlled substances. The female was convinced the child was hers, even after officers explained at length that she was not. The female was arrested for several different charges.



Officers responded to a report of an adult male and juvenile female involved in a physical domestic violence incident. Witnesses said the female was screaming for help and was being dragged into a vehicle by a male. The male had fled the scene prior to our arrival. The female suffered substantial injuries as a result of the altercation. When officers interviewed her, she admitted that her boyfriend had gotten angry at her and tried to prevent her from getting help. She also admitted that she had been raped by the male the previous night. The male was already facing attempted murder charges from an arrest in Watsonville. Detectives obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect and he was ultimately located and arrested in Capitola.

In October, our Officers responded to a report of an in-progress residential burglary where the suspect was being detained by the homeowner. Officers arrived on scene to find the resident, and a good Samaritan neighbor, had physically detained the suspect outside the house. The suspect had already stolen the resident's car from his garage and had returned to the house to take more items from inside when he was caught. Officers were able to safely take the suspect into custody and book him into jail for auto theft, residential burglary, and drug possession.



STAFF RECOGNITION

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

JANUARY

Captain Jayson Rutherford

Captain Rutherford, still a sergeant at the beginning of 2021, was selected for his willingness to take on new assignments as our sworn staffing began to diminish. He took on the role of both the Training Manager and the Traffic Manager duties. Both assignments are critical to the continuing operations of the department. He was able to manage both of these new responsibilities and continue in his primary role as a patrol supervisor. His demonstrated project management skills played a big part in his promotion to Captain later in the year.



FEBRUARY

Sergeant Pascale Drozek

Sergeant Drozek, who recently volunteered to be the FTO Supervisor, had the difficult task of managing four new police trainees. This was our largest group of officers to start the FTO program at the same time. This issue was compounded by a lack of current staff members who were available to mentor with the new trainees. Sergeant Drozek had to change the FTO schedule multiple times during the month to accommodate changes in department personnel.



MARCH

Officer Patrick Ahrens

Officer Ahrens participated in a life-saving on March 15th when he was dispatched to a medical call on a report of a juvenile who was not conscious and not breathing. He began CPR and deployed the AED. Within a couple minutes, the subject regained a pulse, and after an administration of Narcan, he regained consciousness. The subject was transported to Dominican Hospital where he survived his deadly overdose.



APRIL

Officer Eric Perez

Officer Perez responded to a report of a subject who was threatening to shoot customers at Casa Nostra Restaurant. Officer Perez quickly arrived on scene and saw the suspect, who immediately decided to leave the area on foot. Officer Perez assessed the situation and managed to gain control of the suspect without incident. Officer Perez remained calm and composed afterward, detaining the suspect despite the suspect's open hostility towards law enforcement. Officer Perez showed solid judgment, common sense, and quick action during this volatile incident.



MAY

Officer Tim Renn

Officer Renn participated in a life-saving event when he responded to a report of a female who was unresponsive at a local self-storage facility. Officer Renn was the first to arrive on scene and quickly determined she was not breathing. Officer Renn relayed the proper information to police dispatch and began performing CPR. Scotts Valley Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter and continued performing life-saving measures, including administering Narcan. The female ultimately regained consciousness and was transported to Dominican Hospital.



JUNE

Reserve Michael Cummings

Reserve Cummings volunteered his time cleaning up, organizing, restocking, and setting up all the equipment in our Armory. He completed this impressive and time-consuming undertaking over the course of several months.

Reserve Cummings also spent a significant amount of time assisting with Active Shooter training, volunteering his time, his hard work ethic, and his skillset during this necessary and comprehensive training. The members of the UCSC Police Department who put on the event were impressed by the level of support they received by Reserve Cummings to make the training a success for all involved.



JULY

Officer Edgar Larios

Officer Larios was on routine patrol on July 25th when he noticed a suspicious looking person sitting in his car next to a self-storage area. Officer Larios made a consensual contact and found the male subject was on probation for possession of stolen property. Officer Larios conducted a search of the vehicle and located stolen property inside. The suspect was arrested after it was determined the property had been recently stolen from a self-storage facility in the City of Santa Cruz. The rightful owner of the property responded to SVPD and was very happy to have their items recovered.



AUGUST

Services Supervisor Amanda Robbins

Services Supervisor Robbins manages our 911 center, where she schedules dispatch shifts, processes record requests, completes record reviews, and assists the public who come to our lobby. In addition to these regular duties, Services Supervisor Robbins completed three extensive audits for CJIS, CLETS, and DOJ in August. These audits were no easy task and required numerous hours of data research to ensure compliance with new mandated state and federal auditing requirements geared towards better protection of individuals' privacy by increasing safeguards on the data collected.



SEPTEMBER

Officer Nick Lipari

Officer Lipari is known for his proactive patrols late at night. The highlight of his proactivity occurred in October when he conducted a stop for a simple mechanical violation. He contacted the occupants who were both on probation and had suspended driver's licenses. A search of the vehicle located multiple catalytic converters which had been cut off using a Sawzall, which also happened to be found in the vehicle as well. The suspects claimed to have been gifted the items from an unknown friend, however, Officer Lipari wisely decided to keep the catalytic converters for safekeeping to determine the questionable authenticity of their story.



OCTOBER

Officer Ben Standen

Officer Standen has been instrumental in cleaning up the abandoned Recreational Vehicles which have been increasingly piling up in our city. Officer Standen took on this assignment with fervor and worked hard to help alleviate the issue, especially in and around the El Pueblo Road area. Officer Standen wrote seventeen abatement citations on these unmoving parked eyesores and added another thirteen parking citations for other mechanical violations he witnessed on these dilapidated vehicles. His efforts resulted in a clear roadway on El Pueblo and a grateful citizenry whose businesses are located in that area.



NOVEMBER

School Resource Officer Patrick Ahrens

Officer Patrick Ahrens, who was reassigned to School Resource Officer (SRO) as staffing improved in the department, responded to six separate potential school threats incidents in November, which all involved separate unrelated students on campus. All the “threats” were investigated and each case was time consuming. SRO Ahrens’ assessment of each incident put teachers and students at ease when it was determined none of the people making the “threats” were deemed to be credible.



DECEMBER

Officer Trevor Hutchison

Officer Hutchison investigated a case where the victim alleged the suspect was continually harassing her and made violent threats against the victim with a handgun. Officer Hutchison completed multiple follow-up interviews and discovered the suspect was prohibited from possessing a firearm. He obtained enough evidence to seek a search warrant for the suspect’s place of business, which also doubled as his residence. Officer Hutchison completed a detailed Operation Order and served the search warrant with the help of most of our department’s sworn staff. During a search of the business, cocaine, methamphetamine, and narcotic paraphernalia were seized and the suspect was arrested.



2021 EXCHANGE CLUB OF SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



School Resource Officer Patrick Ahrens was selected as the 2021 Exchange Club's Police Employee of the Year at their Annual Blue & Gold Dinner celebration. Officer Ahrens' was commended for his strong work ethic and positive attitude which distinguished him in his role as a Field Training Officer where he was responsible for training three new officers, resulting in several significant arrests and calls for service. One call in particular, if not for Officer Ahrens' life saving efforts, would likely have resulted in the death of a teenager. Officer Ahrens' willingness to take on the additional assignment as the School Resource Officer/Juvenile Detective has distinguished him as the sole full-time detective in the unit, taking on a major case involving a juvenile communicating with a sex registrant, and six separate potential school threat incidents which all involved separate unrelated students on campus, fortunately deemed not to be credible. Officer Ahrens' professionalism, positive attitude, dedication to our community and schools, and his many accomplishments make him more than deserving of the Exchange Club's Police Employee of the Year for 2021.