

THE COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION OF MORGAN HILL



Public Support
for Public Safety

Fall 2011
Volume 1, Issue 1



Chairman's Chat

CLEF, the Community Law Enforcement Foundation, is a true grassroots organization. Back several years, as 2005 drew to a close, eight people committed to making Morgan Hill the best community possible, came together over coffee. That fall, most of our group had completed their year in Leadership Morgan Hill and we all shared a desire to give back to our city. In our discussion, the dominant topic was the needs of our police department and how many of the tools and technologies they sought were beyond the scope of the city budget. Then police chief Bruce Cumming was a strong advocate of community involvement with the police and conversely, police involvement with the community. So we began the legal work to organize CLEF, met with police officers and department management to determine their needs and priorities. (continued page 2)

Upcoming Events

April 27, 2012 – Cops & Robbers Ball – Guglielmo Winery, 5:30 - 9:30, hosted reception, dinner, silent auction, dancing to the sounds of The Usual Suspects and more. Tickets \$95 each. Contact us at CLEFnewsletter@morganhillclef.org for information or to purchase tickets now.

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David Swing, Chief of Police
Detective Carlos Guerrero

Chief's Corner



On behalf of the men and women of the Morgan Hill Police Department, I am pleased to welcome you to the CLEF newsletter.

The department knows that its most important task is keeping our community a great place to live, work and raise our families. We are there when you need us. Your police department is on patrol 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days each year.

As the city's police chief, I join with the rank and file of the Morgan Hill Police Department in taking great pride by providing professional police services through community partnerships. We know that a successful law enforcement organization is one that proactively seeks the community's help to prevent and solve crime.

The mission of the Morgan Hill Police Department is "Your Morgan Hill Police Department is committed to deliver intelligence based police services by partnering with the community to reduce crime, apprehend offenders, and improve quality of life with integrity, professionalism and respect." We are able to provide quality service because of the high standards of integrity, honesty and compassion among our (continued pg 2)

NEWS FLASH: If you are interested in learning more about the Morgan Hill Police Department, please subscribe to their e-newsletter [HERE](#).

New Sponsorship Program

September 2011 brought the launch of The Community Law Enforcement Foundation's new sponsorship program. The program gives Morgan Hill residents and businesses the opportunity to invest in public safety in our community by making a tax deductible donation to CLEF. Based on the level of sponsorship selected, donors will be invited to attend special events such as a donor-only BBQ with our officers, breakfast with the Command Staff or a private lunch for two with the Chief of Police. There will be a quarterly raffle for such prizes as a demo day on the range with MHPD or a ride along with our K-9 officer Pax. Business owners will be provided the opportunity to showcase their local business in this newsletter and share with the community how they help us to secure the safety of our community. For more information on the program or to become a sponsor, please see our website.

Note: Please consult your tax preparer for individual tax deduction eligibility.

Chairman's Chat (Cont.)

The department's first priority was to restore the police canine unit, which had been eliminated in a cost saving measure several years before. Police dogs aren't cheap and the city wanted our assurance that all of the costs and expenses associated with the dog would be borne by the foundation. We agreed and began to raise the money. The community response to CLEF has been great. Without your help, we would never have raised the funds to purchase and provide for Pax, our police dog who has been patrolling now for more than two years. While Pax is our proudest accomplishment, we continue our mission to provide the best tools and technology for the men and women of our police department and you will be reading about them in this and future editions of this newsletter or on our website.

CLEF is the result of the hard work of our board members through the years and our liaisons within the MHPD. Our board members give of their time, their energy and their money to help CLEF meet it's goals and to maintain the CLEF promise that no part of your donations is spent on administrative expenses. Please join us as a CLEF sponsor and help make the Morgan Hill Police Department be the best organization it can be.

Thank you.
David Cohen
Chairman of the Board
Community Law Enforcement Foundation of
Morgan Hill

CLEF Achievements

July 2008, Reinstatement of the K-9 unit with the purchase of Pax - \$19,240 with a commitment to the City of \$75k over the life of the dog

January 2010, Generator purchase for the CSI unit - \$4200

October 2010, Purchase of new training equipment for Pax - \$275

December 2010, Purchase of a NOPTIC thermal imaging camera - \$4500

December 2010, Parent Project sponsorship for 2010/2011 school year - \$3500

April 2011, Purchase of new HD video camera for CSI unit - \$750

April 2011, Purchase of 3 e-Cite devices - \$3000

May 2011, Purchase of Kevlar vest for Pax (in partnership with the Morgan Hill Downtown Association) - \$2500

May 2011, Purchase of two ballistics shields - \$4000

July 2011, Distributed funds for the purchase of a License Plate Recognition System - \$22,000



National Night Out

August 2, 2011 was a beautiful evening and another successful National Night Out event. The Fastlane Band performed while hundreds of Morgan Hill residents enjoyed free ice cream from BookSmart, perused various police vehicles and spoke with MHPD officers. Kids enjoyed various games, had an opportunity to meet MHPD's K-9 Pax and have their picture taken onboard a real police motorcycle.

A special appearance was made by Assemblyman Bill Monning who commended the Foundation for its partnership with the MHPD and its efforts in promoting public safety within the community.

Chief's Corner (cont'd.)

employees and volunteers, as well as a positive working relationship with all segments of the community.

We work with individuals, with civic groups and The Community Law Enforcement Foundation or CLEF. CLEF is an active partner in raising funds to help us do our jobs in a more productive and more efficient manner. As you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, CLEF has provided the department with Pax, our police dog; funding for community outreach programs; and, many technological tools that help our officers keep Morgan Hill safe. I hope you will join with CLEF in their efforts, which, by benefitting the police department, greatly help our community.

My vision for our organization is for us to provide productive, professional, and purpose based police services. We are currently developing an outcome based strategic plan that will guide the Police Department's priorities for the next three to five years. We have held two community meetings to date, but welcome your continued input.

I would encourage you to learn more about the Morgan Hill Police Department. Feel free to speak with any of our officers when you see them or drop me a line. I am always happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

David Swing
Chief of Police
Morgan Hill Police Department

July 4th Parade



National Night Out



Inside the MHPD...

Have you ever been driving along minding your own business when you look in the rear view mirror and see those red lights flashing at you? For many, this is the only encounter they ever have with a police officer, and most will tell you it's not on their top 10 list to try again. Believe it or not, you are the lucky ones. Yep, that's right. It means that you have never been in a severe car accident, it means you have never been the victim of a crime, it means you have never found yourself in a situation where you have needed to call 911 looking for the help of a police officer.

In each newsletter we will introduce you to several individuals with the Morgan Hill Police Department. We will include those interfacing with the public, such as patrol officers, detectives and SWAT team members as well as those that work behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly such as dispatchers and records personnel. Next time you see one of our local law enforcement professionals remember that they are out there keeping our community safe and give a wave or say hello.

Sergeant Rick Rodriguez has been with the MHPD for the majority of his 33 year law enforcement career. In the 4th grade, he realized that being a police officer was what he wanted to do. He fulfilled that dream in the late 70's when he started as a reserve officer with San Juan Bautista PD. He was hired by MHPD shortly thereafter and has been in Morgan Hill ever since. Working his way up through the ranks, Sgt. Rodriguez is currently a line supervisor managing a Patrol team during the night shift.

Sgt. Rodriguez' best achievement was his promotion to Sergeant. He loves that he is in a position to interact with the public on a daily basis while still having the opportunity to help mold the careers of any officer willing to seek his advice. (cont.)

Inside the MHPD... (cont.)

During his off hours, Sgt. Rodriguez enjoys spending time with his wife and two cats. His hobbies include running, hiking and bike riding and of course spending time with his kids and grandkids whenever possible.

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for the youth of our community, Sgt. Rodriguez' response was "Respect. Treat everyone with respect, no matter the circumstances." This is something he learned early in his career from a most unlikely source...a parolee. Good words to live by.

After 33 years of dedication, Sergeant Rodriguez will be retiring at the end of 2011. We wish him all the best .

Sarah Mosunic is a 911 dispatcher with MHPD and has been with the department since 2003. Prior to coming to Morgan Hill she worked for County Communications in Monterey County where she was responsible for processing 911 calls for almost all of Monterey County. She currently lives in Hollister with her husband and three boys. Her off duty hours revolve around her kids and all of their sports activities.

As a 911 dispatcher, Sarah's position is a vital link between a caller and an officer. She is responsible for assessing the severity of a call and providing as much information to responding officers as possible. Sarah loves being behind the scenes yet performing such an important and integral part of the overall emergency response process. The best part of the job is not knowing what will happen next. On any given day they may laugh, cry, scream, yell beg, plead and counsel depending on the calls they receive and the type of assistance required.

With a family full of Public Safety personnel (3 police officers and 3 firefighters/paramedics), it's no wonder that Sarah had an interest in a Public Safety career. Knowing that being a police officer wasn't for her, she found that being a 911 dispatcher was just perfect.

When asked about one of her most memorable moments as a dispatcher, she was reminded of a particular 911 call about a prowler. The caller lived next door to her grandparents and apparently forgot to tell Sarah's grandfather that she was home. He was in her backyard feeding her pet rabbits as requested. Good thing the responding officer was Sarah's husband who was with MHPD at that time!

Sarah's Words of Wisdom: "911 is for EMERGENCIES. Please take the time to look up your local police department's non-emergency number (Morgan Hill's non-emergency number is 779-2101) for simple inquiries or non-emergency situations." Also, if you call 911 by accident it's important that you notify the dispatcher that it was an error. MHPD officers must respond to hang-ups as if they were an emergency since there is no way for sure to know if the call was intentional or not.

Corporal Carlos Guerrero is one of the newest additions to the MHPD having been with the department for the last two years; however he is not new to police work having spent the 14 years prior to coming to MHPD with the Campbell Police Department. He was recently promoted to the rank of Corporal and until then worked as a Detective in the Special Operations unit. He is now back on patrol so if you see him around town make sure to say hi.

During his career, Corporal Guerrero has also received an Officer of the Year award and earlier this year received the Blue and Gold Award honoring law enforcement and emergency officials. The later award is sponsored by The Gilroy Exchange Club.

One of Corporal Guerrero's most memorable events with MHPD was working on the recent child abduction and resulting Amber Alert. The incident ended well with the baby being returned hours after being abducted and with one of the suspects being arrested soon thereafter. When asked about his favorite part of the job, Corporal Guerrero said he likes that every day is different and that you never know what will happen. Interestingly enough, his original aspiration was to become an attorney. The opportunity to go on a ride along changed that goal as soon as he saw he could achieve his interest in the law in another way.

During his off hours, Corporal Guerrero enjoys spending time on the field coaching his kids' sports. He and his wife live in Morgan Hill and have raised their kids here. Knowing what a great place Morgan Hill is, when the position opened at MHPD he jumped at the opportunity to serve and protect his own community.

Corporal Guerrero's words of wisdom – "Judge yourself by whether you do the right thing when no one is looking." Great words to live by, Corporal Guerrero! (cont.)

Inside the MHPD... (cont.)

Jennifer Ponce came to MHPD three years ago as the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Coordinator. Her overall job responsibility is citywide emergency management which includes prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. She manages the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), is currently developing and implementing the new Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program and performs secretarial duties for the Emergency Management Association (EMA). On any given day, Jennifer may respond to inquiries from the public or from city employees, assist with MHPD training programs or attend various emergency management meetings throughout the county.

One of her most memorable events with MHPD was April 9, 2009 when the city experienced a vast communication outage that not only affected home and cell phone service, but also disrupted the 911 system for Morgan Hill, Gilroy and parts of South San Jose. Since phone service was down, officers were dispatched to the homes of the emergency operations staff to notify them of the issue and thus activate the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). When it was apparent that service could not be restored in the short term, Cisco Systems supplied their Network Emergency Response (NERV) Vehicle which allowed the MHPD to temporarily bring up the 911 system and provide internet access for the EOC. In Jennifer's words, "The community of Morgan Hill responded in a coordinated manner with information going out with help from our school district bus drivers and many volunteers ensuring people knew what was going on and where to go to get help if needed. Those responsible for this intentional act have never been caught. However, our city learned firsthand what it was like to work together to solve what could have been a much bigger emergency."

In 2009, the City of Morgan Hill was recognized as the Most Prepared City in Santa Clara County during the American Red Cross Heroes Celebration due much in part to Jennifer's work creating and refining the emergency procedures put in place for Morgan Hill. She also received a high performance award for 2010-2011.

Jennifer lives in Morgan Hill with her husband and son. During her free time she loves to swim, rollerblade, cook, visit the beach, cook, play soccer with family members and cook – and did we say cook? Jennifer's words of inspiration for our community – "Volunteer, get involved."

Public Safety Day



2012 Community Sponsorship Application

The Community Law Enforcement Foundation of Morgan Hill

Please select one of the following sponsorship levels:

Rookie \$25 (<18 years)

- Membership certificate
- Decal
- Newsletter

Individual \$100

- Membership Certificate
- Decal
- Newsletter
- Lapel pin

Family \$250

- All of the preceding benefits, plus:
- Mug

Officer \$500

- All the preceding benefits, plus:
- Hat

Corporal \$1,000

- All of the preceding benefits, plus:
- Wall Plaque

Sergeant \$2,500

- All of the preceding benefits, plus:
- 2 tickets to annual Cops & Robbers event

Captain \$5,000

- All of the preceding benefits, plus:
- Breakfast with Command Staff

Chief's Circle - \$10,000

- All the preceding benefits, plus:
- Additional 2 tickets to annual Cops & Robbers event
- Private lunch for 2 with the Chief (in place of Breakfast)

Benefits may be subject to substitution of equal or greater value.

Family level sponsorship and up will be entered in a quarterly drawing for additional benefits. See website for details

Please mail your sponsorship application and payment to:

The Community Law Enforcement Foundation of Morgan Hill (CLEF)
305 Vineyard Town Center, PMB 216
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Due to the nature of this organization, further screening may be required to participate in certain CLEF events at the sole discretion of the Community Law Enforcement Foundation Board of Directors.

The Community Law Enforcement Foundation of Morgan Hill is a 501(c)3 non-profit, Tax ID 20-4774304. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

www.morganhillclef.org

www.facebook.com/MHCLEF

Contact Info (PLEASE PRINT):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please REMOVE my name from sponsorship acknowledgments on the website etc.

Please DO NOT send incentives of any value so 100% of my donation may be eligible for a tax deduction.