



LODI POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Main, Chief of Police

215 West Elm Street
Lodi, CA 95240
209-333-6727 (Dispatch)
209-333-5515 (Fax)
www.lodi.gov/police

Chief's Update, Nov. 10, 2009

An update on Lodi Police Department activities from Chief David Main:

Traffic: Traffic officers report that the three most common Primary Collision Factors (causes of collisions) are speed violations, following too closely, and right of way violations such as turning in front of oncoming traffic. Our enforcement efforts concentrate on those specific violations. We place the radar trailers in different locations to track speeds on roadways to see if additional enforcement is needed, and to remind citizens to stay within the speed limit.

We actively enforce seatbelt violations and have received another "Click It or Ticket" grant from the Office of Traffic Safety to help fund enforcement efforts.

A DUI grant for the upcoming year, "Avoid the 10," will fund DUI enforcement activities. We are participating in a countywide DUI program and the grant will pay for officers to work DUI checkpoints, DUI concentration patrols and serve DUI warrants.

Partners: On Oct. 13, the Lodi Police Department hosted the 10th annual Law Enforcement Volunteers of California conference at Hutchins Street Square. More than 500 police volunteers and law enforcement staff from more than 50 California police agencies attended. Our police volunteer program, Partners, provides an average of 550 volunteer hours each week to the police department and the citizens of Lodi.

Community Improvement: A new software program will be fully functional by the first of the year that will allow community improvement staff to handle the majority of their cases in the field, reducing their time in the office by approximately 50 percent. Community improvement officers will be able to track activities, complete reports and share information in "real time" with all departmental staff. The new software will also allow citizens to send in community improvement concerns online.

Crime Prevention: Providing information to citizens through crime prevention programs and Neighborhood Watch is a major component in our effort to reduce crime. Although the crime prevention position is currently not filled, police officers and staff continue to volunteer to conduct these important presentations.

If you would like to request a speaker or information about the Neighborhood Watch meeting, please contact Jeanie Biskup at 333-6864 or via e-mail at jbiskup@pd.lodi.gov.

Persons with information on this or any criminal case or activity are encouraged to call Lodi Area Crimestoppers at 209-333-6771. You may remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward.

We are also providing Neighborhood Watch block captains with "Be on the Lookout" alerts for outstanding vehicles and/or persons wanted in connection with cases. If you are a block captain who would like to sign up for these alerts, contact Jeanie Biskup.

Staffing: You are probably already aware that the city of Lodi recently received a federal grant to hire four police officers (to fill existing openings). We have begun recruiting and hope to have them onboard sometime in December. We expect them to be fully trained (if all goes well) and hitting the streets in the spring of 2010.

MADD Awards: Officers Eric Versteeg and Matt Latino were recognized recently for their hard work and diligence enforcing DUI laws. Both officers were among the highest producers in our area.

Method of Operation Residential Burglaries: A common pattern we are seeing in residential burglary cases are suspects knocking on the front door; if no one answers, they enter the backyard, then kick in a door or break a window. This is a common method of operation (MO) among local gang members who are involved in burglarizing homes in our area.

Protect your property by enhancing preventive measures. From Sept. 20 through Oct. 21, 2009, there were 27 residential burglaries reported in Lodi and all of them occurred during the daytime. You can find tips on our Web site; visit www.lodi.gov/police and select Crime Prevention.

Special Investigations Unit/Gangs: Since January 2009 our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has been involved in a number of special enforcement operations resulting in numerous arrests of known gang members. Arrests have been for a variety of violations ranging from outstanding warrants to violating probation and parole conditions. Our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) work closely with county probation officers (we have two assigned to our city on a full time basis) as well as state parole officers. SIU detectives and probation officers conduct compliance checks on juvenile and adult gang members. A recent gang enforcement operation resulted in eight arrests in one evening. SIU members also worked the Grape Festival assisting uniformed officers in handling known gang members.

Animal Shelter: We are in the process of transitioning the office management function of the shelter to the nonprofit organization PALS. It is our hope that this change will lead to more animal adoptions by increasing office hours. PALS will handle the adoptions, which will allow animal services officers to remain in the field to concentrate on enforcement-related activities and calls for service.

Lodi Area Crime Stoppers: Lodi Area Crime Stoppers was introduced in the early 1980s by then-Lodi police Capt. John Martin. Capt. Martin was the organization's first law enforcement coordinator and Mr. Bo Katzakian was president of the board of directors. The program has provided invaluable tips over the years resulting in nearly 800 arrests, clearing of over 500 cases, and locating \$180,000 worth of narcotics and \$1.28

million worth of stolen property.

Crime Stoppers relies entirely on donations and has paid \$41,000 in rewards. Thanks to a very dedicated board of directors, comprised of passionate and caring citizens, the program continues to develop. Marketing efforts have been stepped up recently and new technology, such as the ability to send crime tips by text messaging, has been added.

Youth Outreach: In an attempt to reach out to at-risk youths, a group of officers have been developing a new program similar to Police Activities League. Some of the activities discussed thus far have been both sporting and non-sporting events and a chance for officers and youths to establish rapport. The Lodi Police Foundation (nonprofit) will be assisting financially, sponsoring various events designed to bring police officers and at-risk youths closer.

Speaking of kids, the police department is a member of "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids." This nonprofit group conducts research relative to juvenile-related crime, and identifies what programs or activities can have an impact on this issue. Check out their Web site at www.fightcrime.org. The police department, along with support from our police foundation, is committed to finding ways we can better invest in kids.

###