



Community Policing From Police Chief Thomas Finn

As Boulder City's Chief of Police, I am very proud to announce a new program that took effect March 24. We began a residential community policing program. The City was divided into 12 geographic districts with one patrol officer assigned responsibility for each district. The new program is another example of the police department's unwavering commitment to community policing. The residential community policing program is an extension of the police department's recently launched commercial district community policing initiative.

The program's purpose is twofold. Officers assigned to a district will be directly responsible for the condition of their part of the community. They will be expected to be acutely aware of, and held directly responsible for "quality of life" issues such as loitering and vandalism problems in city parks, the protection of abandoned homes and businesses, damaged, missing and faded street signs and pavement markings, burned out street lights, hazardous conditions that contribute to traffic crashes, and other factors that create an environment conducive to criminal activity. They will patrol their assigned districts frequently during their tour of duty, and they will be the primary "point of contact" for their district residents. Although they will be expected to be particularly responsive to the residents in their districts, they will also be attentive and responsive to the needs of every resident of Boulder City.

The second purpose of the new program is to provide our "customers," the residents of Boulder City, with their personal "cop on the beat." Residents will be provided with the phone number of "their officer" and will be able to call them whenever they have a non-emergency problem they want to discuss. Personalized service is something that a small police department can provide, and the Boulder City Police Department is willing and able to engage in community policing in its most basic form.

City maps that depict the patrol districts and each district's assigned officer will

be displayed in the lobby of police headquarters, at city hall, the library and on the city's website. Residents are encouraged to find out who their officer is and contact them to arrange for an introductory meeting. Please bear in mind that Boulder City officers work 12-hour shifts; either the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shift, or the 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift. There will be times when your officer will be off duty, so please be patient as you wait for a return call from him or her. If you have an emergency, please call 911 immediately.

Remember, the Boulder City Police Department is "your" police department. We work for you and share in your desire for a safe and secure community. Please do not hesitate to contact your officer if you want to make a suggestion, report an unsafe condition, or perhaps just to chat. If you want to contact me directly, please call 994-9355. I work for you and I'm always willing to speak with you if you have a concern. A strong partnership between the community and the police department will dramatically increase the department's effectiveness in controlling crime and reducing your chances of becoming a victim. Let's all work together to make Boulder City the safest community in Nevada!

Women's Intro 2

Flyfishing

In honor of Mother's Day, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, along with the Parks & Recreation Department is hosting an instruction to Fly Fishing Class. Class is held Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The morning session is at ABC Park Gymnasium Classroom where students learn about the equipment, terminology, knot tying, etc. The afternoon session is held at Veterans' Fishing Pond for a lesson on casting skills. Fee is \$5. This class is designed for ages 10 to adult; however, a Nevada fishing license is required for students 12+. Please register prior to class at the Recreation Center Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 486-5127 Ext. 3503 Monday-Friday or contact 293-9256.

Babysitting 101

A Babysitting Class will be held at the Boulder City Youth Center in ABC Park on Saturday, April 26. The class runs from 9:30-11a.m. There is a \$15 registration fee.

This class is designed for youngsters ages eight and up and teaches the essentials of babysitting. Instructor Debbie Barth will have student create their own babysitting kit.

Please register prior to class at the Recreation Center Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 293-9256.

Cheerleading and Performance Team

A Cheerleading class is held on a continuous basis at the Recreation Center. This class is offered to youngsters ages six and older and meets on Saturdays from 3:30-4:40 p.m. There is a monthly fee based on \$8.00 per class. Instructor Sandi Wachtel teaches the importance of a team, along with skills for tryouts and key competition. Also being offered is a Parade Performance session beginning May 25th with classes held Wednesdays from 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Additional practices will be scheduled during the two weeks prior to the 4th of July parade performance. Please register prior to class at the Recreation Center Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 293-9256.

New Signage in the Historic/Business District



Just recently, the last of 22 signs was posted in the downtown/historic area of the City advising skateboarders and bicyclists of the law. The exact wording of the prohibitions on bikes and skateboards appears in Sections 10-7-1 and 10-7-2 of the City Code, and the law is clear. No riding of bikes and skateboards within a business district or upon private property within the City limits without the consent of the owner.

These signs were put in place because it is a safety hazard and it is against the law. The City regularly receives complaints from business owners and the general public regarding dangerous skateboarding and bike activities on the sidewalks of the business community. Hopefully, installation of the signs will help deter this illegal behavior and help the Police Department with their enforcement efforts.

The signs were placed in areas identified as being the locations most likely to have

bicycle or skateboard traffic pass by. All street intersections and pedestrian access points were included. Some sites were not included because there was not sufficient pedestrian activity.

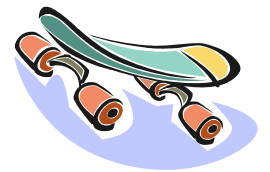
So what options do police officers have when they encounter the misuse of skateboards and/or bikes in the business district or on city property? The option they select is fact-specific and discretion is applied in almost every situation.

They can issue a verbal warning and send them on their way. The incident is entered into the Police Department's computer-aided dispatch computer (CAD) for future reference in case there is another violation.

Police Chief Finn actually approached two young men recently when he received a report that two skateboarders were on the gazebo behind city hall. They were polite sixth graders, and the Chief felt they would not be back at the gazebo since he gave them a "talking to."

Officers may also confiscate a skateboard and hold it until the parents come to the station to pick it up. Typically, the parents are informed about the regulations and asked to do their best to ensure that their youngster obey the law in the future.

A third option is to confiscate the skateboard and issue a citation for juvenile court. That is rarely used unless the juvenile damages city property or there is some other aggravating circumstance that warrants such a hard line approach.



If you have questions regarding the Police Department's role in the enforcement of skateboard and bicycle issues, please call Sgt. Jim Reed at 293-9224 extension 272.