

# The Spotlight

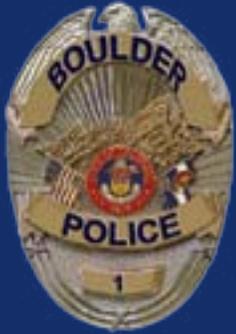


## Inside

Neighborhood Impact Team, page 1

Good Deeds, page 2

Filing an online police report, page 3



The Spotlight is published by the Boulder Police Department  
Mark R. Beckner  
Chief of Police  
1805 33rd St.  
Boulder, CO 80301

www.boulder-police.com  
303-441-3310

Kim Kobel  
Editor  
303-441-3370  
Laurie Ogden  
Co-Editor  
303-441-3310

A Publication of the Boulder Police Department

## Neighborhood Impact Team:

### New Police Team Created to Patrol Uni Hill & Mall Areas

In an effort to increase police effectiveness and foster community relationships, the Boulder Police Department has created a new Neighborhood Impact Team that has been patrolling the Hill, downtown Mall and municipal campus areas since January.

The Impact Team consists of 12 officers and one sergeant who are on duty during peak call times between the hours of 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the school year. Police coverage during the summer changes a bit when four of the 12 officers will rotate to work on Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

during the 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. shift. They'll be on foot, in patrol cars and on bikes when the weather permits.

Previously, two different teams – the Hill Team and the Mall Team – patrolled these areas. The Neighborhood Impact Team replaces the Hill Team and the nighttime Mall Team, though the daytime Mall team remains in place.

The University Hill and downtown Mall areas bring with them a unique set of problems that come with high-density and high-traffic areas. Some of the issues these neighborhoods face include public intoxicat

See Impact, page 3



Neighborhood Impact Team members, from left to right: Officers John Smyly, Ben Graff, Ron Perea, Ryan Scheevel, Ashly Flynn, Chris Burke, Erin Starks, Sgt. Jim MacPherson & Mike Marquez.

# Good Deeds: Officers Go Above & Beyond

Officer Ross Maynard

It was a very cold night in January when Officer Ross Maynard heard a criminal mischief call over the dispatch radio. He headed to Talisman Court to find out what had happened.

The ex-boyfriend of the complainant had pitched a 30-pound rock through her front window. It had been thrown with some force; the rock landed 15 feet inside the living room. There was shattered glass everywhere. There was also a 4-year-old girl, and her mom, inside the apartment.

The incident began when the 19-year-old victim broke up with her boyfriend over his alcohol issues. She thought it was better if he wasn't in her life, and told him she didn't want to see him anymore. When he left, the woman saw a shadow cross the window and that's when the rock went flying through her window. She had been standing just inside that window, and was hit by some of the glass shards.

Officer Ross Maynard says the glass covered the entire living room. It was on chairs, on the little girls' toys and created an unsafe situation for the family. The family didn't own a vacuum and wouldn't be able to clean up the glass.

"Our mission is working with the community to provide service and safety. I couldn't leave them with glass all over their living room, so I went back to the police department, got a vacuum and took it back to their house and helped them vacuum their living room, said Officer Maynard. "It was the end of January – the temperatures were below freezing that night – and I also brought back some plastic and taped up their window to keep the cold out. By the time I was finished, they were just happy to be able to go to sleep without a big, gaping hole in the side of their house."

Although officers tried to locate the ex-boyfriend when they responded to the call, he had already fled the area. Later that night, though, sheriff's deputies picked him up as he was hitchhiking and found that he had a warrant for his arrest. The ex-boyfriend did end up in custody that night, facing additional charges for the criminal mischief incident.

Officer Ed Burke

Officer Ed Burke and Boulder County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff George had a close call at a house fire on Feb. 9, 2013 as they rescued an elderly resident from her home in the 5400 block of Jay Road.

Something inside the home had already exploded and when Officer Burke arrived, he knew he had to move fast. He could see the deputy's vehicle, but not the deputy. There was smoke inside the house, and it was also coming out of the roof.

"When I got there, I started running toward the house to see if I could help. Deputy George was inside, trying to get the 83-year-old resident out of the home. The deputy was doubled over coughing from the smoke," says Officer

See Good Deeds, page 4

## BEHIND THE BADGE

NAME: MEL RHAMEY

ASSIGNMENT: CRIME ANALYST

YEARS ON THE FORCE: 32



Crime Analyst Mel Rhamey began her career at the Boulder Police Department as an intern in 1981, gathering information about traffic response times for the Planning & Research Department. When her internship ended, she continued to volunteer her time on the project because it wasn't yet completed.

Mel originally came to Colorado (she grew up in Connecticut) because she wanted to become a forest ranger, but those plans changed when the Department's former crime analyst was arrested for criminal extortion and lost his job, creating an unexpected opening which Mel was ultimately chosen to fill.

"I didn't think I had a chance at the job because I had no experience," says Mel. "So, to prepare for the interviews, I read a book about crime analysis to learn the basics." Mel impressed the interview panel, was offered the job and has been with the Department for three decades.

Crime Analysts identify patterns and trends, identify suspects, identify possible future crime targets and track changes in crime trends. Although Mel works quietly behind

the scenes, the information she provides directly impacts many police investigations, assisting detectives in identifying suspects and suggesting possible times and locations of future crimes like burglaries, vandalism, thefts and criminal mischief incidents.

"It's very rewarding to come up with a theory, match it up with a potential suspect and present that information to investigators. In the early years, they pretended the information didn't come from me, but that's changed over time and they're supportive and appreciative of my work now," says Mel.

Community members also contact Mel when they're curious about neighborhoods they may be interested in moving to. Many parents of students attending CU also call, to find out about safety in Boulder.

Although Mel's plans to become a forest ranger took an unexpected turn, she still spends a lot of her free time outdoors hiking, fishing, biking and traveling. She toured wilderness lodges on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska last summer.

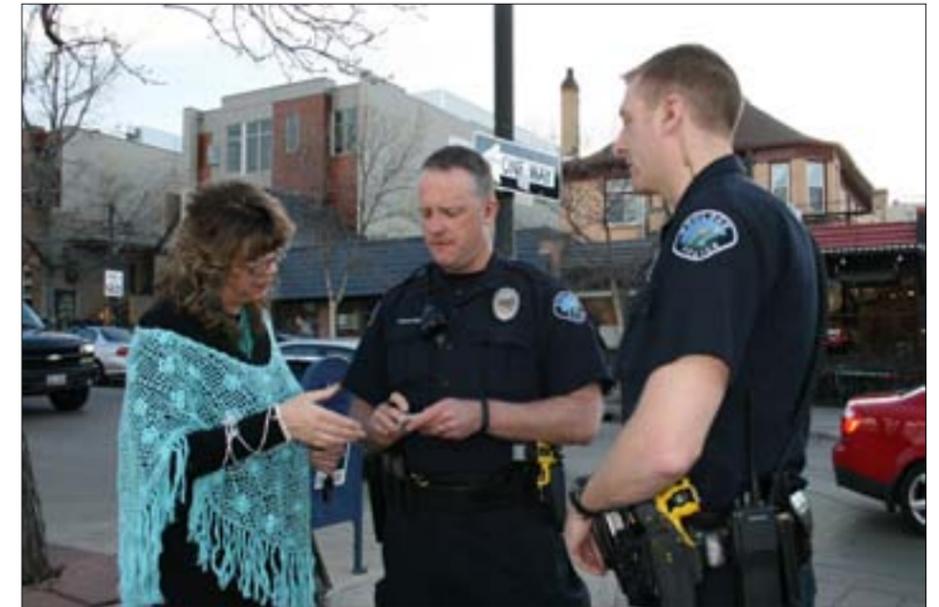
Impact, cont'd from page 1

Some of the issues these neighborhoods face include medical calls for intoxicated people, quality of life crimes such as urinating in public, brawling, graffiti, DUI issues and noise complaints.

Boulder Police Chief Mark Beckner says the Neighborhood Impact Team will emphasize community policing strategies to deal with these issues, in which the goal is for officers to become fixtures in the communities they patrol.

This allows residents and business people a chance to get to know officers, and vice versa. "We want to help people solve problems as they arise, and if they have a relationship with the officers who patrol their areas, the hope is that they'll feel more comfortable asking for help and sharing information about what's going on in their community," says Chief Beckner.

Sgt. Jim Byfield heads up the Neighborhood Impact Team, and he says the officers who volunteered for the new assignment are "people persons." "These officers know what they're going to be dealing with and understand this team is geared toward engaging with the public we serve," says Sgt. Byfield.



Officer Chris Burke and Officer Ben Graff on University Hill, helping a resident who stopped to ask for the police department's non-emergency contact number.

## Filing an online police report is easy, convenient

For various reasons, you might find it difficult to call police to file a report about something minor. You may even think about ignoring an incident where someone damaged your car or residence (vandalism), lost your wallet or had a fender bender. In these cases, you may want to consider filing a police report online. Boulder Police Department Records Manager Patty Raab says "In an effort to provide the community with a quick and convenient method of filing a police report, the Boulder Police Department has implemented the Community Online Reporting System. Filing a report has never been easier. Once a short script of questions is completed, citizens are able print their report for free."

In 2011, 1,610 reports were filed online. This number increased to 1,627 in 2012. Here is a list of the types of crimes or incidents that can be filed as long they occurred in the City of Boulder:

- Theft under \$1,000 (not identity or Vehicle Theft)
- Vandalism/Criminal Mischief
- Phone Harassment
- Bike Theft
- Graffiti/Defacing Property
- Lost Property
- Supplement/Follow-up Request (must have original case number)
- Non-Injury Traffic Accidents, including Hit and Run

Once a report is filed, you will receive a temporary case number and be able to print the report. If it is incomplete or if additional information is required, a representative of the police department may contact you. If not, the report is approved and forwarded to our Records division. It is then reviewed and entered into our Records Management System.

To file online, go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/onlinereport](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/onlinereport). If you have questions or need additional information, you may call 303-441-3300.

# WANTED!



## Jose Antonio Mendoza

Mendoza is wanted for a case involving Sexual Assault on a Child.

Mendoza's DOB is 7/30/1955. He is Hispanic male and may have fled to Mexico after the assault was reported to police.

Anyone with information regarding Mendoza's whereabouts is asked to contact Detective Carey Lutz at 303-441-4374.

Burke. Neighbors had also come over to help, but they were in danger of being injured by being so close to the home. Burke got the neighbors out of the doorway, but that still left the deputy and the elderly resident, who wasn't listening to directions."She was in her pajamas – she didn't have any shoes on – and she appeared to be in shock. We picked her up and began running toward a fire department vehicle that had just arrived."

Thirty seconds after they carried the woman from the home, the house exploded a second time. Burke was worried about a secondary explosion when he pulled up to the house, but there wasn't time to give it a lot of thought because his focus was making sure the elderly woman and the deputy were safe.

"I think as police officers we inherit that risk every day, knowing we might encounter a dangerous situation. But running up to that house, I was trying not to think about the first explosion or that there could be a second explosion. I know that's a possibility so my job is to move as fast as possible and render aid if necessary."

Officer Burke and Deputy George saved the woman's life, and despite two explosions inside the home, no one was seriously injured.

### Additional contact information:

#### Emergency Assistance — 24 hours

- Police 911
- Fire 911
- Medical 911
- Mental Health 303-447-1665
- Rocky Mountain Poison Center  
1-800-222-1222
- Xcel Energy/Electrical outage  
1-800-895-1999
- Xcel Energy /Gas leak or odor  
1-800-895-2999

#### Non-Emergency Assistance

- Police 303-441-3333
- Fire 303-441-3333
- Medical 303-441-3333
- Police Records 303-441-3300
- Professional Standards  
303-441-3312
- Public Works 303-441-3249
- Paramedics

#### Community Police Center

303-413-7324  
Located on 16th Street, just south of Pearl St.  
Staffed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

