

Sept 2011

Inside

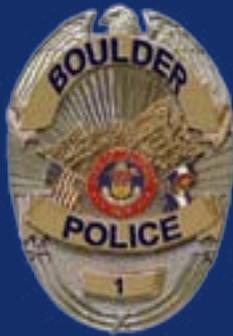
Records Renovation, page 1

Officer of the Year Joel Burick, page 2

“Did You Know...,” page 2

Profile: Renee McCoy, BPD’s sketch artist, page 3

Most Wanted, page 4



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](http://www.boulder-police.com)  
303-441-3310

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

# The Spotlight

A Publication of the Boulder Police Department

## Major Renovation in Records Department

No more government-issue gray walls -- the Records Department underwent a total renovation recently, which included a completely redesigned work space and some decorative touches that are much-appreciated by staff. This is the first renovation in the department in 20 years. All the high cubicles were removed and replaced with work stations which had lower walls, and

the offices surrounding the room were updated. Manager Rebecca Kilpatrick says the new digs allow for better efficiency and a lighter, quieter work space. “We put the office equipment in a separate room and now we can close the door to cut down on noise,” says Kilpatrick. Also, the shorter cubicles open up the room and Kilpatrick says that’s really helped with internal

See front page story, page 4



The first renovation in the Records Department in two decades!

# DID YOU KNOW?

That Officer Ralph Smith's family is so large he has 57 first cousins...

That Detective Jack Gardner used to play basketball for a team called the Denver Rockets? They competed against a minor league team for the Harlem Globetrotters called the Harlem Clowns, and played several games in Hong Kong and Korea. The Rockets lost every single game!

That Records Specialist Renee McCoy almost worked for Hallmark? It was her first job offer out of art school, but she turned it down because she wanted to stay in her hometown of Boulder, where she became the first female drafts-person in the city.

Have a fun fact you don't mind sharing? Email Kim Kobel at [kobelk@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:kobelk@bouldercolorado.gov).

## Burglary safety tips

Keep your home safe while you're away by doing these simple things:

1. Lock your doors, and don't forget to lock your windows, too. If you have an attached garage, make sure to lock that door as well.
2. Use timers on lights, TVs and radios to give the appearance that you're home.
3. Use a metal or wooden rod in the tracks of sliding glass doors to secure them.
4. Make sure the exterior of your home is well-lit, and consider motion-sensor lights or timers.
5. Get to know your neighbors and ask them to pick up mail and newspapers, and even to park their car in your driveway periodically.
6. Trim shrubs that surround your home. Large hedges are good hiding places for burglars.
7. Take an inventory and photos of your valuables, and store the info on a jump drive that's kept somewhere safe, away from home.

## Renee McCoy

### Boulder Police Department Sketch Artist

Records Information Specialist Renee McCoy may be an expert at maneuvering through criminal databases and police reports all day long, but she possesses an artistic bent that needs to be satisfied. Renee is the Boulder Police Department's resident sketch artist, and her "artwork" helps identify the bad guys so the good guys can put them where they belong: in jail.

Years ago, police departments used automated computer programs to generate suspect sketches. The programs were not very accurate and didn't do much in the way of providing suspect identification. In 2002, Renee became a certified composite artist after Detective Commander Joe Pelle (now Boulder County Sheriff) suggested that the best artist would be an actual person who could listen to witnesses describe suspect, and then pull that information together in a drawing that could be shared with the public and the media.

It takes her a half-hour or less to come up with likenesses that are often uncanny in their resemblance to the actual suspect. "They have to grade my work on a scale of 0 - 10, 10 being an exact likeness. I'm usually a seven, eight or nine. Nine is almost too good to be true, and it makes me nervous," says Renee.

She's completed about 440 composites since she started, and has also worked with other local law enforcement agencies when



Left - Renee McCoy, BPD's sketch artist. Right - Renee's sketches alongside actual booking photos.

they need assistance. It helps that Renee studied art in college, but she says you don't have to be artistic to become a sketch artist. "Most of the artists are detectives and undercover narcs. What you need to be good at is listening and paying attention to what people are telling you. There should be a flow to how they track the incident and describe the suspect. I'm not only listening to what they're saying, but I'm also looking at their body language as they talk," Renee explains.

Detective Commander Kim Stewart has come to depend on Renee's composite expertise. "Renee is a wonderful resource for the detective section. She is an extremely talented artist and we all value what she brings to the table because she works fast and is very accurate," says Commander Stewart.

While there may be some "art" involved in drawing suspects, there is also a kind of science. Renee uses what's called a "facial facts book." In it are hundreds of drawings showing head, mouth, eye and nose shapes. She begins with the shape of the head and face, and once that's agreed upon, she focuses on the eyes and other features. She draws lightly in pencil, in case she needs to erase or make adjustments as she works with victims and witnesses. "But I won't make them sit through "hair!" That can take a long time to get it just right," Renee laughed.

"When I complete it, I am just anxious to get it into the hands of officers and investigators. We need to get the picture out to the public when it's fresh," Renee says.

## BEHIND THE BADGE

### 2010 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

NAME: JOEL BURICK

ASSIGNMENT: WATCH II

YEARS ON THE FORCE: EIGHT

Officer Joel Burick has been in public service most of his life. He grew up in Erie, PA and worked as an EMT and lifeguard, but he was interested in something more. Initially he considered joining the military but after 9/11, his parents weren't comfortable with that. The natural progression was law enforcement.

Joel has been with the Boulder Police Department since 2003. Right now, his focus is with the Target Crimes Unit, but he's worked all three Watches and spent some time with the University Hill team.

His favorite shift is "whenever it gets dark outside." "It brings out more character in people when the sun goes down. You feel like something could happen

at any time," he says. Actually, most days feel like that for Joel. "No day is going to be exactly the same, especially when you work the streets or are undercover. The tone could go off at any time, and that's exciting for me."

Joel receives high praise from both his coworkers and his bosses for his proactive police work. Sergeant Dave Seper says Joel always performs at a high level, and is "consistently dependable." "He's beyond his years in work productivity, his interviewing skills and his intuition," says Sgt. Seper. He adds that Joel is always the first to volunteer for anything that needs to be handled, like extra patrols and even paperwork. "Joel is the first to put his hand up. He's the kind of officer we want on duty 24/7," says Sgt. Seper.

Joel enjoys the challenge of law enforcement. "The aspect I really enjoy is catching the bad guy. I like doing it not just by being dispatched to a call; I like investigating cases, getting out on the street and talking to people."

# WANTED!



Lynn Katoa  
Date of Birth 05/16/1989  
6'2" tall  
220 pounds

Wanted for two counts of Second Degree Assault, two counts of Third Degree Assault, Criminal Mischief and one County of False Reporting to Authorities. These charges stem from a January 2011 incident at Broadway and 20th in which a rock was thrown through a window of an apartment. Residents fought with the suspect, Lynn Katoa. Call Detective Brannon Winn, 303.441.4477.

## Front page story continued

Continued from page 1

customers. "Now we can actually see people coming into the room, so instead of going to the scheduling board, people can see who's here. It's really helped officers and detectives."

Modifications were necessary in order to keep up with the changing pace of electronic records systems. In 2008, the Boulder Police Department went live with a new records management system called Tiburon. Records also transitioned from a hard-copy paperwork process to a more automated, electronic system which allows employees to provide faster service.



Records Manager, Rebecca Kilpatrick

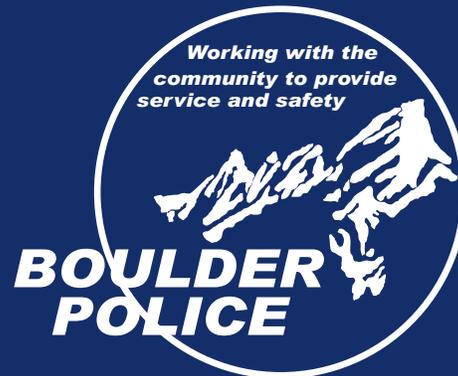
### Additional contact information:

#### 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  
Pridemark Paramedics —  
Dispatch 303-984-1911  
Administration 303-939-8111  
Police Records 303-441-3300  
Professional Standards 303-441-3312  
Public Works 303-441-3249



#### 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.