



Chief Concerns

**Somerset
Borough
Police
Department**

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SPD 2006



During a recent Departmental meeting, the members of the Somerset Borough Police Department were gathered for a Departmental Portrait. From left to right, Officer Aaron Folton, OIC Steve Borosky, CI Ruth Beckner, Officers Chad Snyder, Mike Gray and A.M. Novak, OIC Rich Appel, Officer Brian Harbart & K9 Army, Police Secretary Becky St. Clair, Mayor William Meyer, Chief Randy Cox, Police Secretary Marsha Herman, OIC Phil Staib, Officer Charlie Santa, Officer Scott Foglesong, CI Angelo Cancelliere, Officers David Deist, Franco Sanna and Joseph Levay. Officer Ken Michel was not present for the photograph.

Officers to Receive Commendation

Somerset could have suffered a grotesque tragedy on October 8th had it not been for the calm, collected and effective reaction of three Somerset Borough Police Officers. A mentally unbalanced individual had climbed out onto the window ledge of an Uptown building that was four floors above the street, threatening to end his life by jumping. Patrons from a near-by bar called 911 to report the incident. Upon their arrival, Officers A.M. Novak and David Deist could see the man on the ledge and were (cont. on Page 2)

*Left to right,
OIC Borosky &
Officers Novak
& Deist*



School Resource Officer Program

Council has already received a memo detailing the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program that will hopefully be implemented in the near future. I won't take the time to detail it here since I believe the memo does an adequate job.

However, I just want to share with you that this is one of the most important steps that we will have the opportunity to take. We have the right officer in Charlie Santa to fill the post and the timing is also right. If you are in doubt about that, just scan the national and regional headlines of late. The need for greater school/police cooperation is plainly stated.

This is certainly not a new initiative. In fact, we've been working on it for over two years, but could never locate or obtain the funding necessary. Now, with the funding coming from the school district, there is really nothing to stop us from implementing this valuable program. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Commendations

(continued from Page 1)

informed by a woman that the man was requesting to speak to Officer Deist or CI Ruth Beckner and would only speak those two. Officer Deist recognized the man and was aware that he had made serious suicide attempts in the past.

About this time OIC Borosky was at home and off-duty, but heard the radio transmissions on his scanner. He immediately went to the scene and offered his assistance. The officers very quickly developed a plan and set it in motion. They already knew that there were no rescue devices like a firemen's net or a jump bag close enough to them to be of any real assistance.

While Officer Deist kept the subject talking and distracted, OIC Borosky and Officer Novak gained entry into the building and made their way up to the floor where the man was perched. As Deist kept the man talking and occupied, Borosky and Novak slipped behind the man and in a coordinated, fluid movement reached out onto the ledge, grabbed the man by his arms and snatched him to safety inside the building.

The man was immediately handcuffed and transported to Somerset Hospital where he awaited transport back to Torrance State Hospital where he is a patient. He was on a weekend pass to Somerset.

It is a pleasure and an honor for the Department to convey the Departmental Commendation to these officers. The commendation reads in part, "*This commendation is presented in recognition and gratitude for service that has displayed a dedication to duty, [the officer's] profession and the community*".

The commendations will be presented to the officers during the October 30th Somerset Borough Council meeting at 7:30 pm.

The *Daily American* Citizen's Guide to the Somerset Borough Police Department

The Somerset *Daily American* has published their annual *Citizen's Guide to the Somerset Borough Police Department*. The Department wants to take this opportunity to thank the *Daily American* for undertaking this effort. The *Citizen's Guide* is a wonderful opportunity to show case the Department and it is not something that we could produce on our own.

Special thanks go to *Daily American* reporter Michelle Ganassi, the sales team at the *Daily American* and to all the businesses and organizations that place ads in the publication.

We are grateful and say, "Thank you."

The End of Volume I

Whether you noticed or not, this is the last issue of *Chief Concerns*... at least the last issue of Volume I. It has been a year since the Volume I, Issue 1 first appeared. Although I haven't been able to keep to my original goal of publishing once a month, I hope that the nine issues you have received have been entertaining and informative and have given you a better handle on where the Department has been and where we want to go to better serve the Somerset Borough community.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to let me know. And, thank you. Everything the Department is able to achieve is done only with your support.

Employee Highlight



Officer

Tony

Novak

Tony is a Latrobe native and comes to Somerset after serving in a number of other police departments including Cumberland Township in Adams County and a number of Westmoreland County departments. Tony began his affiliation with Somerset Borough Police Department in 1993 and became a full time officer in 2006. Tony has been a police officer since 1986, after graduating from the WCCC Police Academy. Tony also holds an Associates of Science degree from WCCC. Tony organized the first Somerset National Night Out events in 1996 and 1997 and last year organized the SPD Katrina Water Relief Drive.

More recently, Tony has been handling the media relations duties for the Department and will be receiving a Departmental Commendation on October 30th for his part in preventing a suicide.