



RANCHO SIMI RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District Park Ranger Program

At the December 19th meeting of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, the Board received an update regarding the District's Park Ranger Program including several enhancements that have been made over the last year to benefit the communities of Simi Valley and Oak Park.

Chief Ranger Jim Rosales reported that Ranger staffing had been supplemented with the addition of four new Rangers; new software has been implemented allowing real time security monitoring, streamlining of communications, and advanced reporting features; development of focused patrol areas to address specific park safety challenges; increased patrol of remote and open space areas with off road vehicles; increased involvement within the community, the Homeless Task Force, and the Simi Valley Police Department; and hiring trained Homeless Liaison Officers. Chief Rosales introduced Park Ranger Courtney Kanagi who is specially trained to address homeless issues and has spent the last six years working with the homeless through non-profit organizations.

District Board Members commended the Rangers for their dedication and continued commitment to implementing the enhancements to the program to benefit the District's residents and visitors.

In addition to serving as liaisons to park patrons, Rangers patrol and monitor conditions within the community to protect residents, wildlife and natural resources. The Rangers assist in preventing vandalism, graffiti, smoking, and drug / alcohol use in parks, among other safety related issues. They also provide services during emergencies, and are among the first responders to fire, wind and rain events, assisting other emergency services to help mitigate damage.

For more information on the Park Ranger Program, contact Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District at 805-584-4400 or visit them online at www.rsrrpd.org.

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