



TWO DECADES OF PROTECTING & SERVING AT 6,000FT

On September 1, 2001, the Truckee Police Department took its first watch over the town of Truckee. We want to use the twentieth anniversary as an opportunity to be reflect and celebrate on our history, evolution, and achievements,

Truckee was established in 1863 and was originally patrolled by Nevada County law enforcers. Truckee's historic jail was built in 1875 and is one of the few remaining original buildings in Truckee. Jacob Teeter was Truckee's most famous sheriff and constable who was known for enforcing the law with a pick handle instead of a gun. Teeter was killed in a violent gunfight with another constable, James Reed, in 1891 at Hurd's Saloon.

Although Nevada County Sheriff's Office maintained reasonable services throughout the decades of their service, the Truckee Town Council were interested in a new police force that could put more emphasis on community policing and support the unique challenges and lifestyle of our mountain town- the Truckee Way. The council voted 4-0, with councilman Bob Drake abstaining, to pursue plans for Truckee to get its own police department.

We still work very closely with Nevada County Sheriff's Office, as well as California Highway Patrol. These days the Truckee jail has become a museum and the modern jail facilities continue to be run by Nevada County.



HONORING PAST POLICE CHIEFS



CHIEF DAN BOON
2001 - 2003

On July 13, 2000, a tentative outline was presented to the Town Council which described a 21-month process leading to full operation of the Truckee Police Department by September 2001. The first order of business was selecting a Chief of Police.

A lengthy hiring process took place with the selection ultimately being made by Town Manager, Steve Wright, who saw value in Chief Boon's vision and entrepreneurial capacities. He was selected just eight months before the expected operational start date, was handed a budget and support from Town staff, and began hiring patrol officers, securing jail facilities, creating a communications center and a computer system.

Before he came to Truckee, Chief Boon was Chief of Police in Pismo Beach and served in the Auburn Police Department for 16 years. He retired from the department at the end of 2003 and we are grateful for the foundations he put in place for the department we have today.

Scott Berry was originally recruited by Chief Boon as the department's commander to help build the Truckee Police Department in 2001. He took leadership in establishing policies, as well as creating a training program which would integrate the initial 22 officers from 16 different agencies into one cohesive, community-focused team.

After an extensive hiring process with approximately 20 candidates, Berry was chosen to replace Chief Boon in late 2003 as Truckee's second Chief of Police. He gained a reputation for his collaboration with the community and surrounding law enforcement agencies, including involvement in the Truckee Sunrise Rotary, Truckee Safe Schools, Tahoe Women's Services, United Way and the Coalition for a Drug-free Nevada County.

Chief Berry retired in 2008 after dedicating 34 years to law enforcement. His community based principles continue in our department today.



CHIEF SCOTT BERRY
2003 - 2008

Chief Nicholas Sensley joined Truckee Police Department in 2008. During his time with the department he succeeded in promoting and developing relationships among our special districts and regional partners. Specifically, he was recognized for building a healthy rapport

with officials at the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District and seeing the community value in a School Resource Officer.

When Town Manager Tony Lashbrook hired Chief Sensley the Truckee PD not only got a Chief of Police, but also one of the nation's top experts in human trafficking. Many task forces have been created throughout the United States and globally to combat human trafficking under the model framework that Chief Sensley originated. His expertise was ultimately pursued by Humanity United, a global peace building organization based in Washington, D.C., and he resigned from his position as Chief. He is now the Founder and CEO of the Institute for American Police Reform (IAPR), a non-partisan organization providing guidance on policing laws and policies.

On Chief Sensley's last day serving the Town of Truckee, he found a final way to connect and serve the community in a unique way. He showed off his New Orleans roots while whipping up Mardi-Gras style culinary creations in the Dragonfly kitchen as guest chef.



CHIEF NICHOLAS SENSLEY
2008 - 2012

Chief Adam McGill joined Truckee Police Department in 2012 after the resignation of Chief Sensley. He came with over twenty years of police experience and interviewed for the position from Iraq, where he was employed as a police adviser to Iraqi and U.S. embassy officials at the time.

Chief McGill wanted to further develop and implement transparent policing practices in our department. In 2013 we moved away from our fixed in car cameras to the AXON on-officer system. We were one of the first police departments in California to do so.

During his leadership he embraced our unique community and found new ways to police the "Truckee Way." An example is the development of the Adventure, Recreation and Community (ARC) Team which included officers on mountain bikes and paddle boards who took on more educational and community engagement roles. He was also responsible for hiring our first K9 team member, Trax, and the integration of Animal Services to our department.

Chief McGill left the Truckee Police Department in 2017 to take on the leadership of Novato Police and later Novato City Management. Today you will find him running for Marin County Sheriff for 2022, another challenge in his fruitful career.



CHIEF ADAM MCGILL
2012 - 2017

After Chief McGill made the decision to take the Novato Police Chief position, his second in command, Robert Leftwich, was promoted to Police Chief. They had worked closely together over Chief McGill's five-year tenure and Leftwich's commitment to the safety of and service to the Truckee community was clear.

Chief Leftwich was instrumental in the development of our Emergency Operations division. His own family was impacted by the devastating fires in Paradise, CA. and he was acutely aware of the challenges in managing the risk in Truckee. Many small efforts were created, including the distribution of AM radios to some of our homeless population at an annual support

BBQ to ensure they had access to information if a disaster took place. He further grew the relationship with Truckee Fire Protection District and was an advocate for further education and collaboration with regional and county partners.

He recognized that our department had grown to contain many different divisions and levels of management. He created the Chiefs Advisory Board- an internal group of representatives from different divisions who meet with the Police Chief regularly to keep all divisions connected and to give staff an additional opportunity to communicate directly with leadership.

Chief Leftwich was committed to his staff and growing a department that all personnel wanted to be apart of, for a community they were proud to serve. He made significant contributions in his years of service to our town.

In 2020 Chief Leftwich retired and his second in command, Randall Billingsley, was promoted to Police Chief. Chief Billingsley went through an extensive hiring process which ultimately led newly appointed Town Manager, Jennifer Callaway, to determine that he was the best candidate for our future. Chief Billingsley continues to command our department and was crucial in the Town of Truckee's collaboration with regional, county, and federal partners for the management of the pandemic.



CHIEF ROB LEFTWICH
2017 - 2020



“Embraced by Our Community, Esteemed by Our Profession”

This is our purpose statement and it is accomplished by our staff by providing premier and innovative police services in support of our town values, philosophies, and goals.

In the last twenty years our department has grown to include many different divisions. Our operational staff includes patrol officers, a traffic unit, detectives, a school resource officer, reserves, sergeants and lieutenants. Our non-sworn support services staff includes a parking aide, record assistants, community service officers, including one that manages property and evidence, and additional administrative staff that help our department run. There is also an Emergency Operations division that focuses on issues such as wildfire preparedness, and Animal Services which was incorporated into the police department in the last ten years.

Every person in our police department has an important role that helps us to serve our community to the best of our ability. We are grateful for all of the Truckee PD staff that have served our community over the last 20 years.

CREATING CULTURE

The retirement of two of our original police officers has coincided with our twentieth anniversary. Sergeant Russ Walsh and Officer Bill Mardison are the last original personnel to retire from the department after twenty years of services, other than Bob Womack who has returned in a non-sworn role as our Emergency Operations Manager. Their longstanding commitment to this organization is a reflection of not only their successful careers, but also the culture that we work so hard to maintain.

A large portion of our current staff have been with the organization for over a decade, and lateral officers that have transferred in, attest to the positive work environment that has been created. Part of the recipe for creating positive culture is hiring for fit. It has been a point of passion for a number of our Police Chiefs to ensure that the staff that are brought into our organization will fuse with the current personnel, fill any skill set we are missing, and have an interest in the lifestyle that our community embodies. It is important for our staff to be invested in the Truckee Way and the Truckee community, as it promotes a deeper level of commitment and better retention.

For the last 20 years, Sgt. Walsh has been a pivotal member of our team. He has also shown his diverse expertise and been assigned to numerous additional responsibilities to include Search and Rescue Coordinator, Boat Officer, Dive Team Commander, Firearms Instructor, Field Training Officer, Officer in Charge (OIC), and team leader for the Adventure, Recreation and Community (ARC) Team.

Officer Mardison started working as a deputy for the Sheriff's Office in 1994 at the Truckee office. In 2001 he transferred to become a Truckee police officer as part of our first watch. Since then, he has earned a reputation as being personable and genuine in his interactions with our community, and worked many different assignments in his career, including Boat Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, and OIC.

We are grateful for Sergeant Walsh and Officer Mardison's commitment to our organization and our community over the last twenty years, and we strive to continue to build a workplace that other personnel can be proud to be a part of over the next twenty.





VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES

Through the twenty years of Truckee Police Department, the Volunteers in Police Services, VIPS as we call them, have been a critical part in our culture and operations.

The Volunteers are an essential part of the Truckee Police Department. They are at all community events that require a police presence and assist with traffic and crowd control. They have a wide range of duties that include: emergency call-out, traffic surveys, handicap parking enforcement, radar/CMS trailer deployment, assist with boat patrol on Donner Lake, and vacation checks. The VIPS also participate in special events, such as, Truckee Thursdays, 4th of July festivities, bicycle rodeos, and others.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing is the collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. Our department was built on this philosophy and this objective was one of the reasons the Truckee Town Council wanted their own police force who was specifically committed to our special mountain town.

Part of community policing is immersing our officers in town events so that they get real face time with our community and visitors. In the last two decades our staff have been apart of so many annual events such as Truckee Thursdays, Big Truck Day and Safe Street during Halloween. They never miss an opportunity for a pancake breakfast, coffee with a cop, scout meeting, a visit to a lemonade stand, or a school, educational, or fundraising opportunity. We look forward to many more chances to connect with our growing community in years to come and more and town more events!

To date, the dedicated men and women of our VIPS program have contributed over 38,115 hours since the program was created in 2003 and total of over 1,400 hours in 2019. The estimated cost saving to the Town of Truckee in 2019 is over \$46,400. During the pandemic a number of our VIPS took on a new role of connecting with a number of senior community members to make sure they were aware of available services and changing information. Our VIPS come in a minutes notice to assist our Department in times of emergency. They often call in when they hear of an emergency and ask how they can help.

The Truckee Police Department is extremely proud of the VIPS program, and if you would like more information, please contact our Department and see how you can become a Truckee Police Volunteer.

To promote the quality of life in Truckee through a partnership between the community and the Police Department.



Our community make our service over the last twenty years worth it. Thank you to our residents, second homeowners, and visitors for all that you do to make Truckee the beautiful town that we love to be a part of.



TRAINING

We place high value on the training of our sworn officers and civilian employees to maintain a superior level of competency in serving the residents of the Town of Truckee. To sustain an officer's skill level and prepare them for the unpredictable environment in which he/she works, a commissioned officer attends training annually.

Since 2002, all peace officers within California must attend ongoing training for particular perishable skills including ACT, Range, EVOC, Tac-Com and Driver Training. Officers at our department also have the opportunity to attend various other trainings to develop their skills for specialized disciplines and assignments. Trainings range from Officer Involved Shooting, Child Abduction Prevention, Robbery Investigation, DUI Detection, and even Wildland Arson Investigation training. Many of our officers are also trained to instruct in skills such as De-Tac, Baton, and Range.

We are proud that our department gives our employees opportunities to develop skills in specialized disciplines and unique services so that they can serve our town in a more diverse manner.



SERVING AT 6,000FT-RAIN, SNOW OR SHINE!

Through the two decades our officers have served the Truckee community in so many unique ways. You could find them at an event up on the ski hill, or under the water as part of our Dive Team. Our officers have patrolled on mountain bikes and paddle boards, and you might still find them on the electric UTV, motorcycle, or boat on Donner Lake.

Truckee has an average of 204.3 inches of snow annually. Weather can change rapidly and our officers are ready to respond snow, rain or shine! Even when roads are deemed too dangerous for most, our officers are out there and equipped with jumper cables, a tow rope, shovel, and flares in the event the vehicle gets stuck. Living in Truckee with all seasons, we are always prepared.

In 2003 the Truckee Police Department bought a boat! We previously patrolled Donner Lake with two personal watercrafts on a law enforcement loan program from Anytime Power Sports. After Donner Lake residents requested an increase in police presence, our Department increased man-hours dedicated to monitoring the waters and purchased a 21-foot patrol boat through a grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways. That same year was when our Dive Team was established, which is still an important facet of our department which works closely with Truckee Fire Protection District.

Since the addition of a boat, our officers have spent many summer hours on the water interacting with our community members and visitors.

Although our regular units may be the ones you see the most, we are proud to have served our active community in many different ways which promote the adventure lifestyle we all love about living in our region.





TRAX

Our first K9 recruit!

In 2013 our department hired our first K9 team member, Trax.

Trax was named by Ryann Mitchell, a fifth-grade student at Forest Charter School who won the community competition to help name him. There were more than 800 name submissions with Trax being the winner because it encompassed Truckee's foundation- the railroad with its train tracks- as well as highlighting one of his duties- to track drugs.

On his very first night on the job, Trax found methamphetamine in someone's car, getting his first arrest under his collar. He went on to have a successful career, even winning the Top Narcotics Competitor of the Year Award at the Western States Police Canine Association competition in 2016.

Trax was brought on to be teamed up with Officer Andrew Holbrook and took part in many community events and educational opportunities. He retired in 2017 and remains a happy household member with Officer Holbrook and his family. We know he was a highlight for many in the last twenty years.

ANIMAL SERVICES

Another furry feature of our department is our Animal Services division. It was first managed by Dan Olsen, an original staff member from the Town of Truckee's establishment, and was incorporated into our police department during Chief McGills command.

In September 2013, Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe (HSTT) and The Town of Truckee solidified our long-standing partnership by opening our first public animal shelter...together. This facility maximizes efficiency and effectiveness by housing the public and private entities under the same roof.

Working together, we are saving 100% of our community's adoptable homeless pets. In addition we rescue animals from overcrowded shelters whenever space in our facility allows.

To promote the compassionate, respectful, and humane treatment of animals and people through partnership, sheltering, services, and education.

-Animal Services Mission Statement



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Our newest division

An important accomplishment was the establishment of our Emergency Operations Division. This vital division involves disaster preparedness and collaboration with regional, state, and federal partners in planning and preparing for natural disasters and weather events, evacuations, power outages, and other emergency events that would require safety support and the provision of resources, such as a global pandemic.

The Emergency Operations Center has been activated multiple times and includes several sectors that become operative depending on the situation and need, including planning, operations, logistics, finance, and administration.

At the forefront of our division is Robert Womack, our Emergency Operations Manager, more commonly known to staff as “Bob”. He was one of our first Watch Police Officers in 2001 and had a passion for emergency management from the very beginning. During his time as an officer and later sergeant, he worked with Truckee Fire Protection District and other local first responders in a variety of roles, including as an Incident Commander and on the hazmat team. His role has changed and varied over the years, but we are pleased that he has now taken on the Town’s Emergency Management in a full-time capacity. Bob Womack has been integral in the management of the pandemic, as well as many efforts for wildfire preparedness and evacuation planning. Most of the tireless work that he completes is unseen by the public but vital for our town.

CONNECTING WITH YOUTH

A School Resource Officer, or SRO as we refer to it, is a police officer who works in elementary, middle and high schools. They are responsible for working with school administrators, security staff, and faculty on developing comprehensive safety plans to ensure schools are safe places for students to learn. SRO's must have a number of professional and personal traits that allow them to integrate successfully into a school environment. In addition to the services they provide, school resource officers also model moral and ethical police behavior for students to help promote better relationships between the public and law enforcement officers.

The Truckee Police Department SRO program is a partnership with Tahoe Truckee Unified School District where our SRO is primarily stationed at Truckee High School. Officer Holbrook is our current SRO, but many officers have had the opportunity to undertake this special assignment. Each and every one of them has not only provides direct law enforcement services and support during school days to approximately 2,700 students and staff, but also builds strong relationships with our youth.

In the last two decades our police department has had the opportunity to engage with our local students in many different ways. Every second year our department takes part in the Every 15 Minutes- a two-day program focusing on high school juniors and seniors, which challenges them to think about driving while drunk, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions. They have also had the opportunity to compete against high school students in basketball, done educational presentations on bike safety and the importance of helmets, participated in career fairs, and given students tours and ride-a-longs in our cars.

Recently we have been working on a program to recognize students who are going above and beyond in effort and heart in our community. This desire has motivated the creation of the Community Inspiration Award for Students. So far we have had awards presented at Truckee High School, Alder Creek Middle School, and Truckee Elementary.

Building positive relationships with our young community members is pivotal for our future and our community connection.





CHIEF BILLINGSLEY

a glance at our future...

Chief Billingsley has had an extensive career in law enforcement. After graduating from Cal State Eastbay in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice he went to work for Oakland Police Department in 1994. He served there for two years before moving to the San Mateo Police Department in 1996. During that time, he earned several Chief's Commendations. He served as a detective for three years specializing in the investigation of crimes against persons, sexual assault investigations, and homicide investigations. He was also a member of the SWAT team for over 5 years, specializing as a sniper.

Chief Billingsley changed career paths when San Mateo County District Attorney's Office selected him to be an Inspector in 2003. In 2010 he was then chosen as the Chief Investigator of the Nevada County District Attorney's Office. During his tenure at the District Attorney's Office he has transformed their agency into one of the premier detective bureaus in our region. Chief Billingsley has been the Truckee Police Department's Police Captain since July 2019.

"The reflection of the last two decades of our Truckee Police Department has been an opportunity to honor all of our staff, sworn and non-sworn, who have made our department what it is today. Although it is important to highlighted the previous Police Chiefs who were integral to our policies and philosophies, the personnel who are on our streets, behind our counters, and face to face with our community and visitors, are the ones who ultimately represent the standards and values that we value. The men and women of our department are the fabric of its foundation, character, and continued evolution. Each evolution, with many more to come, is intended to serve our community effectively.

In the last two decades I have had the privilege of working with Truckee personnel as one of their leaders, as well as in my previous position with the county. It has always been evident that Truckee staff are passionate about their community and its safety, while also demonstrating proficiency and cooperation with other agencies. As their leader, I sometimes feel like a father, always vigilant and praying for a safe end to each shift; knowing that they have made it home to their families.

I am proud to reflect on the development of this organization, I am excited for our future, and hope that this newsletter has given our community a small insight into our department and its culture."

-Chief Billingsley

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The men and women of our department are the fabric of its foundation, character, and continued evolution.

Since his promotion to Police Chief we have restructured and increased command personnel, created a community advisory board, managed the Covid-19 pandemic, and increased educational opportunities and community dialog about wildfire season and power outages.

