



EPISODE TRANSCRIPT

EPISODE INFORMATION

Episode Title: San Mateo Police

Episode # & Date: Episode #8 – December 12, 2019

Episode Description: Judy contacted the San Mateo Police Department to ask about how safe San Mateo is, what to do about car break-ins, how the homeless are doing, and more.

Episode Web Page: <https://sanmateofocus.com/san-mateo-police/>

TRANSCRIPT

I'm Judy Gordon, and *this* is San Mateo Focus. San Mateo Focus is a weekly podcast that gives you a shot of San Mateo information.

If you're lucky, when you live in San Mateo, the only time you have to think about the Police Department is if you get a traffic ticket. And at that point, most of us aren't too happy to meet an Officer. But, if you've had a traffic accident, or something stolen from your car or home, you might begin to understand the level of protection that must exist to keep people safe in San Mateo. We asked the San Mateo Police Department Public Information Office to answer some questions about the police and their relationship with the community [see below]. We got some very detailed answers to our questions, and they're posted on our website at sanmateofocus.com if you're interested.

The San Mateo Police Department's mission is "Safety on the streets, security in the schools and in your homes, success of local businesses, and service to the members of the community." San Mateo is considered a safe City for its size, but if you want real details about crime here, links to the Crime Data Explorer and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting websites are also posted on sanmateofocus.com.

According to the police, the top 3 ways that you can stay safe in San Mateo are through education, awareness, and being a good witness. As part of education, you can participate in your Neighborhood Watch Program. It's a program for residents that has the primary purpose of personal and property protection for you and your neighbors. If you haven't already, subscribe to [Nixle.com](https://www.nixle.com) and [Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) for emergency alerts. You'll receive them via email or on your phone. If you want to take safety further, you can sign up for [Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT) classes, where you'll be trained to take care of yourself and others after a disaster. Or, if you want to really understand how the City works, take part in [City Services Academy](#), where you'll have exposure to all aspects of San Mateo city operations.

Staying aware of our surroundings is a bit more challenging these days, since many of us are walking around overly fixated on our cell phones. The police say to be alert and trust your instincts. If you sense danger, move away from it and call 911. Travel with others—walk friends to their cars, or ask a



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friend to walk you to your car. The big thing these days is keeping valuables out of sight—that includes in our cars and in our homes. Don't leave ANYTHING in your car. Thieves are now breaking into cars just to search consoles and glove compartments even if they don't see electronics or personal bags in plain view. This is a hard habit to break, since most of us spend a lot of time in our cars. It's a terrible experience having a car broken into, so making a habit of keeping a clean car can save you time and money replacing broken glass and lost items.

The police say that the best way to be a good witness is to call 911, report to the operator, and stay on the line. Don't chase a suspect, and always think about your own safety while you watch what is happening. Don't touch anything a criminal might have touched. As soon as you can, write down descriptions of suspects and details of the crime, including the make, model, color, and license plate of any car involved. More and more cases are solved by video and cameras, so take a picture if you can. For everyone's safety, it's better not to confront or get into a conflict with a suspect.

Before you run out to take everything out of your car, here's some good news: San Mateo is a safe city, especially given the density and the amount of traffic that flows through here daily. Two of our major intersections, Hillsdale Boulevard at Saratoga and East 4th at Humboldt, get a lot of cars - 10 million and 8 million per year respectively. In 2018, San Mateo Police took over 600 collision reports. 240 of those were hit and runs, and most of those occurred in private parking lots. Downtown has the highest concentration of pedestrians, so motorists and bicyclists need to be extra vigilant and remain alert. Distracted driving has become the leading cause of collisions and injuries. Also, if you drive for a rideshare company, don't block the road when picking up or dropping off. Park in a safe location and avoid a ticket.

San Mateo is a leader of cities in the area, working with the Homeless. Downtown has a team dedicated to helping people called the Homeless Outreach Team. The Downtown Unit works closely with [LifeMoves](#), an organization dedicated to helping the homeless. SMPD has a dedicated LifeMoves worker in San Mateo, responding to homeless calls and doing case management for homeless clients to ensure no person "falls through the cracks."

SMPD's Homeless Outreach Team has many success stories. Several of the residents at the Vendome on 2nd and Claremont were formerly homeless and referred there by SMPD's Downtown Unit. The Vendome is an old hotel the city of San Mateo bought over 10 years ago and converted into an apartment building. It was created for people who have been homeless for a decade or more—some causing problems downtown. Residents who live at the Vendome frequently live there for years.

We're nearly out of time, and I haven't had the opportunity to talk about PAL, the Police Activities League. So, **HERE'S THE DEAL:** go to sanmateofocus.com, and spend some time reading the questions we asked the police, and their responses. You might be so impressed you decide to start a



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Neighborhood Watch Program. To do that, just do an online search for “San Mateo neighborhood watch”, and you’ll go straight to [that page](#) on the City of San Mateo website.

Now it's my turn to give you some advice about holiday safety...the gift-giving kind. For years, my husband had a hard time finding gifts for me and other family members that he called “safe” – meaning, ones they wouldn’t return. I told him about an almost-hidden jewelry store in San Mateo that I discovered: [Christensen & Rafferty](#). Tucked away upstairs in Suite 607 of 100 South Ellsworth at First Avenue, you’ll find ‘on-trend’ fine jewelry that is always a safe gift at Christensen & Rafferty. I called Colleen Rafferty to ask about their holiday hours and they are open Tuesday through Sunday, and even 10 to 3 on Christmas Eve! She offered an extra special stocking stuffer for our podcast listeners if you mention that “Judy from San Mateo Focus” sent you. That's all the time we have for this episode. Happy Holidays! If you’d like more information about Christensen & Rafferty or the topics in today’s episode, go to sanmateofocus.com.

— end of episode - podcast overview on next page —

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PODCAST OVERVIEW

Podcast Name: San Mateo Focus

Logo:



Description: Whether you're new to San Mateo, California, or a long time resident, the San Mateo Focus Podcast is the place to learn about local history, good eats, and things to do.

Website: <http://www.sanmateofocus.com>

Email: info@sanmateofocus.com

Host & Founder: Judy Gordon

Producer/Co-host: Peter Radsliff

Where to listen: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Stitcher Podcasts](#) | [TuneIn Podcasts](#)

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