

*THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – July 2, 2009*  
*Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society*

**HISTORY OF THE ALPINE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Before we had a Sheriff's Station in Alpine, the deputies worked out of the Santee Station. When Alpine's population grew to 3,500 people, it was necessary to have a substation in Alpine. On March 10, 1984, Alpine's first Sheriff's Substation opened in the Alpine Creek Shopping Center on Tavern Road next to the Bread Basket Restaurant. As Alpine grew the substation grew. Every few years they would make renovations and expand their space. Finally, after 23 years, there was no more room to expand. They began looking for another building that could accommodate their needs. After checking out several buildings they finally found one that was perfect.

The Alpine Sheriff's Station has an emergency generator, a secure parking lot, a stand alone community room, and a dedicated work area for senior volunteers.

The new Alpine Sheriff's Station held their grand opening on May 30, 2008. They purchased a two-story building on Alpine Boulevard from Michael James. It was built by Augustine Construction Company. It has 14,188 square feet and cost \$7 million dollars. The "Indian Gaming Local Community Benefit Committee" donated \$750,000 to the Alpine Station project. The Barona, Sycuan and Viejas Tribes contributed to this fund.

Sheriff Bill Kolender was there along with Supervisor, Dianne Jacob, for the ribbon cutting. Also present were Capt. Roy Heringer, Lt. Tony Salazar, the Chamber of Commerce, Miss Alpine, Junior Miss Alpine, and Little Miss Alpine.

The grand flagpole that is located in front of the building is there due to the efforts of Michael Stange. He is an Eagle Scout with Troop 105. This was one of his projects. Michael did fundraising and made arrangements for and helped with the installation of the flagpole. He asked Congressman Duncan Hunter if he would donate a flag. Mr. Hunter donated a very special flag—a time you drive past the new Sheriff's Station take a good look at their flag.

The Sheriff's Department has a Dixieland Band. Joe O'Connor started the band in 1978. All the members are or have been deputies. They play at all kinds of events throughout San Diego County.

The Senior Volunteer Patrol was started in July 1996 by Gerry Hamann and Deputy Don Parker. Today, Bill Gunther is the administrator who coordinates the volunteers. The duties of the volunteers are to do vacation checks on homes, contact elderly citizens for the YANA program (You Are Not Alone), perform traffic control for the parades and provide residential and commercial security patrols in the community. They are the deputies' helpers. As of May 2008 there were 17 active senior volunteers who patrol the Alpine area.

By Carlette Anderson

