

Register Pajaronian

100 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076 • Ph: 831-761-7300 • 831-722-8386

Current E-Editi



E-EDITION LAST UPDATED: Friday, October 03, 2008 5:39:17 AM

- News
- Search
- ContactUs
- TalkBack
- SignUp
- Settings
- E-Edition
- News
- Community
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Crime/Fires
- Opinion
- Business
- Food
- C

News



Watsonville police go green

Posted: Thursday, Oct 2nd, 2008

BY: ERIC ANDERSON

Manny Solano whipped around the Watsonville Police Department's parking lot Wednesday, driving the department's new vehicle as fast as it could go.

Solano, the department's deputy chief, wasn't doing anything wrong, he was giving a demonstration of the department's new T3 battery-operated personal mobility vehicle, which has a top speed of more than 20 miles per hour.

The 300-pound vehicle, produced by Costa Mesa-based T3 Motion, is somewhat reminiscent of a three-wheeled Segway. The law enforcement version retails for \$8,988, but with add-ons, Watsonville's T3, which Solano picked up this past weekend, has a total price of about \$10,000, he said.



Watsonville Police Deputy Chief Manny Solano talks about a new T3 Motion personal mobility vehicle that the department recently purchased.

Select Page
Within: 1 M
Keyword:



The energy-saving vehicle is used by more than 400 agencies, from law enforcement



to airports to the Pentagon, and has a daily operating cost of 10 cents per day, according to T3 Motion. Equipped with lights and a police siren, the vehicle, which has a range of 25 miles per charge, is extremely agile – and gives officers the ability to make quick 180-degree turns. Officers stand on a nine-inch platform while operating it, which allows them to get a good vantage point when in a crowd, Sgt. Mike Ridgway said.

“It’s actually very easy to operate,” Ridgway said. “It’s very intuitive.”

The department plans to use the vehicle for many daily functions, including policing of the downtown business district and patrolling city parking lots, alleyways, slough trails and parks, according to a press release. It also could be used at community events such as the Monterey Bay Strawberry Festival.

“Whenever we have a large group of people, we’ll use it,” said Solano, who estimated that the downtown walking beat “will be able to cover three to four times more area per day.”

The police department has frozen several positions as a result of a tight budget. The purchase of the T3 was funded as part of a budget adjustment, according to the press release.

“It gives us a little more versatility, a little more efficiency with fewer people,” said Watsonville Police Chief Terry Medina before hopping on the vehicle and slaloming through some cones set up in the parking lot.

Officers have to pass a brief course to use the vehicle, which Solano said should pay for itself within two years.

“T3 Motion is very honored to be partnering with the Watsonville Police Department,” said Brian Buccella, vice president of sales and marketing for T3 Motion. “Our zero-gas-emission T3 Series personal mobility vehicle is designed for a broad range of law enforcement applications and is extremely cost-effective for patrols. As a California-based company, we are extremely proud to be working with progressive agencies like Watsonville P.D.”

Medina said that one day he hoped the city could purchase another T3 just for use on the slough trails.

.....

Photos by Tarmo Hannula

(Published in 10/2/08 edition)



[Santa Cruz Eve](#)
Find family even
County, CA.
www.santacruzco.gov

[Free Police Rec](#)
Lookup Free Pol
®
[PoliceRecords.Go](#)

[Search Police R](#)
Instant Police rec
database.
[Police.GovtRegistr](#)

[Be a Police Offi](#)
With a criminal ju
to start
www.everestunive

V V