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**Citrus Heights News**

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## Smile – red-light cameras on duty for real

By David Richie  
drichie@sacbee.com  
Published: Thursday, Jun. 12, 2008 | Page 1G

Citrus Heights police warn that a 30-day grace period has ended for drivers caught running red lights at two major intersections.

Cameras have been operating for the past month on Greenback Lane at San Juan Avenue and at Fountain Square Drive. Drivers observed running red lights have been getting warning letters. Starting Friday, they'll receive tickets carrying a \$381 fine, officials said.

Turning right on a red light without stopping first is also a violation that will result in a fine.

Traffic officers said they were amazed by some of the driving behavior caught on film during the first two weeks of the grace period. They observed hundreds of violations that would have warranted a citation.

The two intersections were selected because they are considered two of the city's "highest risk" locations. Officials have not tried to conceal the locations now under video surveillance.

"Photo enforcement has a greater deterrent effect if drivers are aware it's out there," said Sgt. Eric Mattke, police traffic unit supervisor.

### Help needed in shooting

Citrus Heights police again are asking the public for information regarding a shooting about 1:50 a.m. May 26 on Greenback Lane.

The incident occurred when two men eastbound on Greenback in a Pontiac Trans Am argued with the occupants of another vehicle described as a dark maroon or black Ford Crown Victoria or similar sedan. Multiple shots were fired into the Trans Am between San Juan Avenue and Mariposa Avenue. The driver was seriously injured, and his passenger was hit by what officials describe as a potentially life-threatening shot to the head.

Updated information released Friday describes one suspect as an African American man with a shaved head and a gold earring in his left ear. Two other suspects are described only as black men. Their car was last seen heading east on Greenback Lane past Sunrise Boulevard.

People who may have seen the suspects' vehicle or know something about the shooting are asked to call Citrus Heights police at (916) 727-5500.

### Drug, parole arrests net 2

# CITRUS HEIGHTS

Thursday, September 18, 2008 | The Sacramento Bee | [sacbee.com/orangevale](http://sacbee.com/orangevale)

## Red-light runners, say 'cheese'

By DAVID RICHIE  
[dreichie@sacbee.com](mailto:dreichie@sacbee.com)

Citrus Heights police are increasing their use of cameras to ticket red-light runners on regional thoroughfares used by thousands of drivers each day.

Cameras started monitoring traffic in both directions on Sunrise Boulevard at Oak Avenue on Sept. 11.

At the same time, police started the clock on a 30-day "grace period" for drivers running red lights at that intersection. Those drivers will receive warning letters until Oct. 11.

After that, drivers caught by the cameras will get tickets in the mail that will cost them \$381 for each offense.

Sunrise Boulevard and Oak Avenue is the third intersection to get the cameras. In late May, cameras were activated on Greenback Lane at San Juan Avenue and at Fountain Square Drive. Some of the driving behavior captured at those

CAMERAS | Page F5

## Cameras: Antelope Road is next hot spot for installation

FROM PAGE F1

locations had veteran traffic enforcement officers shaking their heads.

"We are still writing about 300 tickets a month at those two locations," said Sgt. Eric Mattke, program manager for the red-light camera program. "Very few, if any, are being successfully disputed."

City police have authorization to mount cameras at 20 intersections. Each location costs \$6,350 a month. The city is contracting with Reflex Traffic Systems to implement the program.

Each location is being selected based on various factors, including the history of traffic tickets and the number of traffic accidents recorded at the site.

Some jurisdictions try to keep quiet about the exact locations of their red-light cameras. Citrus Heights officials go the other way and do their best to publicize the locations.

"Photo enforcement is a greater deterrent if drivers are aware it's out there," Mattke said.

Camera installation also is expected to

be finished soon at another major traffic hot spot - Antelope Road at Gardengate Drive, just east of Interstate 80.

"We hope to start the warning phase at that location in the next day or so," Mattke said.

Officials also plan to place cameras at the intersection of Auburn Boulevard and Antelope Road.

Call The Bee's David Richie,  
(916) 608-7455.



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## Folsom - Rancho Cordova News

Our Towns - Folsom - Rancho Cordova News

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# Run red light in Citrus Heights? Say 'cheese'

By David Richie

[drichie@sacbee.com](mailto:drichie@sacbee.com)

Published: Thursday, Sep. 25, 2008 | Page 5G

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"We are still writing about 300 tickets a month at those two locations," said Sgt. Eric Mattke, program manager for the red-light camera program. "Very few, if any, are being successfully disputed."

City police have authorization to mount cameras at 20 intersections. Each location costs \$6,350 a month. The city is contracting with Redflex Traffic Systems to implement the program.

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Officials also plan to place cameras at the intersection of Auburn Boulevard and Antelope Road.

Cop

	<p><b>MEDIA CONTACT:</b> Sergeant Eric Mattke Tel: (916) 727-5500</p> <p><b>DATELINE:</b> 10/10/08</p>
<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	

### **RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM STARTS Citations Begin for Citrus Heights Motorists**

In an effort to reduce collisions and make City streets safer, Citrus Heights will begin to issue citations for red light photo enforcement program violations at Sunrise & Oak, October 11, 2008, 12:01am. Cameras and violation sensors have been monitoring both northbound and southbound traffic at this intersection since September 11, 2008.

The program is seen by City officials as an important step to improve the safety and flow of local traffic. However, the City was giving drivers who live, work, or travel through Citrus Heights a 30-day grace period before actual citations were issued.

"Photo enforcement has a greater deterrent effect if drivers are aware it's out there," said Sergeant Mattke, Program Manager for the new safety initiative. "It is important to us that all Citrus Heights drivers know we're using photo enforcement and that they have time to learn about this new safety program."

We started using the red light cameras at Sunrise & Oak on September 11, 2008, but for the first thirty days, we issued only Warning Notices. The Notices explained that beginning October 11, 2008, actual Citations would be sent to violators, who will then be responsible for paying the \$381 fine listed on the Citation." It should be noted right turns on a red light, without stopping, is also a violation. One must come to a **complete stop behind** the limit line to make sure the intersection is clear of traffic and pedestrians, before continuing with the right turn.

A person can view their violation, by going to the coming to the police department or viewing it on the Redflex website listed on the citation.

For information you may contact Sergeant Mattke, program manager at (916) 727-5500.



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**Our Region**

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## Regional Digest

Published: Tuesday, Sep. 16, 2008 | Page 2B

### CITRUS HEIGHTS

Red-light cameras installed at third city intersection

The city has added a third intersection to its red-light photo-enforcement program – Antelope Road at Garden Gate Drive/Van Maren Lane.

The cameras, pointed at east- and westbound Antelope Road, will be switched on today, but there will be a 30-day grace period before citations will be issued, according to a Police Department press release.

The intersections have been chosen based on the frequency of accidents and red-light violations, the release said.

The release said that photos will be reviewed by Redflex Traffic Systems Inc., which maintains and administers the program, and then forwarded to the Police Department. Violators will be able to see digital photos and videos of the infraction at the Police Department or on a secure Redflex Web site, according to the release.

Sacramento County courts assess a minimum fine of \$381 for running a red light.

– Bee Metro Staff

### YUBA CITY

Driver is killed after drifting onto shoulder, overcorrecting

A 42-year-old Yuba City man was killed in a crash about 5:45 p.m. Sunday.

He was northbound in his 2000 Mitsubishi on George Washington Boulevard near Obanion Road when his vehicle drifted onto the shoulder, according to a California Highway Patrol report.

The driver, whose identity has not been released, overcorrected and the vehicle slid through the intersection and off the road, the report states. The driver's side hit a utility pole. He died instantly.

– Niesha Lofing

### GRIDLEY

Crash kills Chico man when trailer hits power pole

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**Sacto 9-1-1**



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**October 13, 2008**

Citrus Heights to ticket at another red-light camera site

From Bill Lindelof:

Red light violations caught on camera will earn a ticket starting Thursday at one busy Citrus Heights intersection where for the past month only warnings were issued.

Run the red westbound on **Antelope Road at Garden Gate Drive** beginning at one minute after midnight Thursday and violators will be responsible for paying a \$381 fine.

"We want people to think about it and stop at these red lights," said Citrus Heights Police Sgt. Eric Mattke.

**Beginning Sept. 16**, the Citrus Heights Police Department issued only **warning notices at the intersection for the first 30 days**. This week, the 30-day grace period is over.

The city began its red-light camera program earlier this year. Citrus Heights is contracting with Redflex Traffic Systems and has authorization to post cameras at 20 intersections.

Redflex provides the equipment and monitoring, including still photographs and six seconds of video recorded on each side of the intersection whenever a red light violation is recorded.

The images are then sent to the Police Department where an officer decides whether to issue a traffic ticket.

Cameras were switched on at Greenback Lane and San Juan Avenue and at Greenback Lane and Fountain Square Drive June 6 to catch drivers. The numbers show hundreds have been given tickets.

Citrus Heights Police issued 705 notices of violation for Greenback Lane and Fountain Square Drive since June 6. At San Greenback and San Juan 426 have been written since June 6.

Cameras were also installed at Sunrise Boulevard and Oak Avenue and officers began issuing tickets Saturday. Last week, during the warning period, one motorist was clocked going through the intersection at more than 104 mph.

"That's the what we are trying to prevent," said Mattke. "That's the kind of thing that is going to seriously injure or kill somebody."

Mattke reminded motorists that right turns on a red light without stopping are also a violation. A driver must come to a complete stop behind the limit line to make sure the intersection is clear of traffic and pedestrians before completing the right turn.



Anyone who gets a ticket can view the image of the suspected violation by visiting the police department or viewing it on the Redflex website listed on the citation.

The number of people caught on camera running red lights has surprised Mattke. And he thinks that some people are inattentive because they are also violating another law


"What's amazing is how many people running through red lights who still have their phones to their ear," said Mattke. "Put those phones away."


**Categories:** Red-light camera enforcement

Posted by **Bill Enfield**

11:25 AM | Comments (0) |  SHARE  PRINT


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## Citrus Heights expands red-light crackdown

By Bill Lindelof  
blindelof@sacbee.com  
Published: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008 | Page 1B

Red-light violations caught on camera will earn a ticket starting Thursday at another busy Citrus Heights intersection, the fourth city crossroads where the cameras are used to catch traffic violators.

As many as 20 city intersections could eventually have the cameras.

Run the red westbound light on **Antelope Road at Garden Gate Drive** beginning at one minute after midnight Thursday, and you'll be responsible for paying a \$381 fine.

"We want people to think about it and stop at these red lights," said Citrus Heights Police Sgt. Eric Mattke.

**Beginning Sept. 16, the Citrus Heights Police Department issued only warning notices at the intersection for the first 30 days.** This week, the 30-day grace period is over.

The city began its red-light camera program earlier this year. It is contracting with Redflex Traffic Systems and has authorization to post cameras at 20 intersections.

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Hundreds of motorists have been given tickets.

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Cameras were also installed at Sunrise Boulevard and Oak Avenue, and officers began issuing tickets Saturday. Last week, during the warning period, one motorist was clocked going through the intersection at more than 104 mph.

"That's what we are trying to prevent," said Mattke.

He reminded motorists that right turns on a red light without stopping are also a violation. A driver must come to a complete stop behind the limit line to make sure the intersection is clear of traffic and



pedestrians.

Anyone who gets a ticket can view the image of the suspected violation by visiting the police department or viewing it on the Redflex Web site listed on the citation.

The number of people caught on camera running red lights has surprised Mattke. He thinks that some people are inattentive because they are also violating another law.

"What's amazing is how many people running through red lights ... still have their phones to their ear," said Mattke. "Put those phones away."

*Call The Bee's Bill Lindelof, (916) 321-1079.*

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Comments:  3 Showing: Newest first

highwayrobberyvictim wrote on 11/12/2008 02:29:50 AM:

this is profiteering straight up. mattke is pissing on our leg & telling us its raining. how many of those 1131 violations the first month were collisions? I wonder what the rear end collisions stats are with these lights in place.  
1131x\$381 = \$43091 first month...not bad.. safety first!

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 29, 2008

**Contact:**

Sgt. Eric Mattke  
(916) 727-5500

### City adds red light camera program

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, Calif.** – The northbound approaches for Auburn Blvd at the Antelope Road intersection is another addition to the city's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program.

The cameras will be switched on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 0001 hours. There will be a 30 day grace period from the time of activation to the time citations will be issued. This will occur for each intersection that is activated with Red Flex cameras. After the 30 day warning period, citations will be issued. Citations will be issued for this location beginning on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at 0001 hours

Intersections are selected based on the frequency of traffic accidents and red light running. Red light cameras at high-activity intersection have had a positive effect. Once drivers know the cameras are at an intersection, they exercise more caution. As with all photo-enforced intersections, signs will be posted.

Citrus Heights has experienced a fatal collision due to someone running a red light in each of the two years since the police department has been in operation.

"The red signal is red for a reason. Like the 'Wrong Way' and 'Stop' signs, the lights' red color is intended to be a strong warning to motorists of the deadly hazard in disobeying these signs. Also, a major violation is making a right turn on a Red without stopping behind the limit line first. Unless there is a "Yield" sign posted, one must stop behind the limit line to see if the intersection is clear of traffic and pedestrians, before continuing with the right turn.

Violations are first reviewed by Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., the company which maintains and administers the program. They are then viewed by the Citrus Heights Police Department before a citation is issued. Violators will be able to see digital photos and videos of the infraction in person at the Police department or on a secure Redflex Web site.

The Sacramento County courts assess a minimum fine of \$381 for running a red light.



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**The Sacramento Bee's Crime blog is a comprehensive report of crime news, trends and information for your community and beyond.**

**October 1, 2008**

Citrus Heights adds intersection to red-light photo program

From Niesha Lofing:

Citrus Heights police have added another intersection to the city's red-light photo program.

The cameras at Auburn Boulevard and Antelope Road were activated Tuesday, a police news release states.

A 30-day grace period is in effect, during which time no citations will be issued.

Citations will be issued for red-light runners at the location beginning Oct. 30.

The fine for running a red light in Sacramento County is \$381 per violation.

Intersections are chosen for the program based on the number of traffic accidents and red light running, the release states.

The city implemented its red-light enforcement program in May 2008. The intersections of Greenback Lane at San Juan Avenue, Greenback Lane at Fountain Square Drive and Garden Gate Drive at Van Maren Lane are included in the program.

According to U.S. Department of Transportation studies, red-light camera programs can decrease red light violations up to 60 percent, the city's Web site states.

Signs indicating the red light cameras are posted at participating intersections.

In addition to running a red light, another major violation motorists commit are making a right turn on a red light without stopping behind the limit line, the release states.

Unless there is a "yield" sign posted, a motorist must stop behind the limit line to see if the intersection is clear of traffic and pedestrians before making the right turn, the release states.

Violations are reviewed by Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. and then viewed by Citrus Heights police before citations are issued.

Violators can see digital photos and videos of their actions in person at the police department or on a secure Redflex Web site.