

# NEWS



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 2, 2012**  
**Release # 04 01 12**

## **SUSPECT ARRESTED, CHARGED IN ATTEMPTED MURDER**

### **Suspect struck two victims in car, then fled scene**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety (DPS) investigators have arrested the driver of a car that struck two pedestrians as they started to cross Hollenbeck Avenue at Danforth Drive and charged him with two counts of attempted murder and four counts of battery on a police officer.

San Jose resident Brian Rathjen (aka Rathgen), was booked into the Santa Clara County main jail following a bizarre string of incidents.

At 12:21 p.m. Saturday (March 31), DPS units responded to a call of two pedestrians down in the street at Hollenbeck and Danforth. According to witnesses and evidence, the victims had just begun to cross Hollenbeck in a marked crosswalk when Rathjen's car, which was traveling southbound, veered across the northbound lanes of traffic to strike a 59-year-old man and 64-year-old woman. The woman was carried some distance before falling off Rathjen's car. Both victims were taken to a trauma center with critical injuries.

After causing the accident, Rathjen fled the scene in his car and DPS broadcast a lookout request to neighboring law enforcement agencies. Shortly before 1 p.m., Los

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Altos Police dispatchers began receiving multiple phone reports of a wrong-way driver on Foothill Boulevard. A few minutes later, Los Altos Police responded to a report the wrong-way driver had been involved in an accident at Foothill Boulevard and Main Street. One victim was transported to the hospital with minor injuries while Rathjen, whose 1991 Accura became disabled in the accident, fled on foot. At 1:05 p.m., Rathjen contacted Los Alto Police dispatchers by dialing 9-1-1, letting them know that he was the person they were looking for and giving them his location. Los Altos Police arrived on the scene and detained Rathjen until Sunnyvale officers could arrive and place him under arrest for the original incident.

The male victim of Rathjen's original Sunnyvale accident was taken off life support this (Monday, April 2) morning and was pronounced dead at 10:15 a.m. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to call DPS investigators at (408) 730-7100.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** If you are receiving the news release electronically, the booking photo of suspect Brian Rathjen (aka Rathgen) is attached. Editors who need the photo emailed separately, should contact the Sunnyvale Communications Office at (408) 730-7535.

## **Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety**



**Suspect: Brian Rathjen (aka Rathgen)**  
**45 years old; San Jose resident**  
**Booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail**  
**2 counts attempted murder**  
**4 counts battery on a police officer**