



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

July 27, 2007

News from the Chief

Computer lines have been installed, volunteers have been trained, and everything appears ready for next week's Fugitive Safe Surrender initiative. The police department is a full partner in this program, which affords an opportunity for persons wanted on outstanding warrants to safely surrender themselves and receive favorable consideration from prosecutors and the courts. The surrender site is Galilee Baptist Church at 2021 Herman Street.

Officers, court clerks, prosecutors, public defenders and judges will be at the church ready to receive fugitives between Wednesday, August 1, and Saturday, August 4, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As amazing as it sounds, the program really works. Hundreds of persons surrendered in each of the four cities that have already hosted the program (Cleveland, Phoenix, Indianapolis, and Akron).

This program is important for everyone in that wanted persons who clear up their warrants through Fugitive Safe Surrender stop placing themselves, family members, and officers at risk by being on the run.

Fugitive Safe Surrender is sponsored by and funded by the United States Marshals Service. Partners in Nashville include the District Attorney's Office, Davidson County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Court and General Sessions Court judges, Public Defender's Office, Tennessee Board of Probation & Parole, Comcast, Joslin & Son Signs, and Lamar Outdoor Advertising.

I am very appreciative to Lt. Jim Stephens from Strategic Development, Richy Vaughn from Information Technology, Capt. Karl Roller from Warrants, and the many other police department employees who have dedicated themselves to making Fugitive Safe Surrender a success in Nashville.

On the crime front, overall major crime in Nashville has now dropped slightly below the level of this time last year. DUI arrests are up. Fatal and injury crashes are down. Thank you all very much for your hard work and professionalism. I am very proud of your efforts.

Happenings

East Nashville residents and the police officers who serve them came together Tuesday to celebrate the opening of the brand new, state-of-the-art East Precinct station located at 936 East Trinity Lane.

Mayor Bill Purcell, Chief Ronal Serpas, and community leader Bob Acuff spoke at the grand opening ceremony.

The 20,000 square foot building, which has been under construction for the past ten months, is now home to more than 130 officers, detectives, and administrative staff. It is six times larger than the extremely cramped East Precinct building on Dr. Richard G. Adams Boulevard, which opened in 1988.

“For years to come, the safety of East Nashville will begin at 936 East Trinity Lane,” Mayor Purcell said. “Nashville deserves this new precinct building. The officers deserve it. The public deserves it.”

“This new facility provides much needed room for East Precinct officers and detectives to advance investigations and help build on the safety of this area,” Chief Serpas said. “It also offers a unique space for citizens to hold neighborhood meetings. We want the entire East Nashville community to feel welcome here.”

The new East Precinct was designed by Architectural Affiliates, PLLC, and constructed by Knestrick Contractor, Inc., at a total cost of just more than \$4 million.



East Precinct Commander Bob Nash celebrates the opening of the brand new East Precinct station.

Congratulations to Aviation Unit Sergeant James H. Johnson who was awarded the Airborne Law Enforcement Association Captain “Gus” Crawford Aircrew of the Year Award at the 37th annual ALEA conference for his outstanding efforts in helping to apprehend the gunman who shot Officer Danita Marsh.

The award identifies a pilot or aircrew whose flying efforts and professionalism epitomize what the ALEA stands for, “To serve and protect from the air.”

On the morning Officer Marsh was shot, police Sergeant Johnson loaded Officer Joe Shelton and police dog Memphis into the back of a helicopter and took off in a driving rain storm. They flew to Benton County and, from the air, saw the gunman trying to speed away from pursuing officers. The suspect crashed and fled on foot toward a nearby pond. Sergeant Johnson maneuvered the helicopter between power lines and, although he couldn’t land on the hilly terrain, placed one skid on the ground. That allowed Officer Shelton and Memphis to deploy from the helicopter. The gunman swam to the middle of the pond. Officer Shelton and Memphis also entered the water and took the suspect into custody.



Sergeant James H. Johnson

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Hermitage Precinct Officer Derrick Hutchinson's nose for crime detection led to a 25 pound marijuana seizure.

Hutchinson, along with officer-in-training Daryl Howard, had just wrapped up a domestic violence investigation at a condo on Massman Drive when Hutchinson detected a continuous and strong odor of marijuana. The smell led Hutchinson to Narketta Patterson's home next door. Patterson, 26, answered Hutchinson's knock and told him the odor was coming from incense she was burning. Hutchinson told Patterson that he knew the smell was marijuana. Patterson acknowledged that she had been smoking marijuana earlier and showed Hutchinson a shoebox that contained two plastic bags of pot. She consented to the officers checking the remainder of the condo. Inside her clothes dryer, Hutchinson found two compressed bricks of marijuana weighing ten pounds each.

"Officer Hutchinson's actions in this case demonstrate why he is a field training officer," Chief Ronal Serpas said. "He alertly followed his instincts and prevented a significant amount of marijuana from hitting our city's streets."

Patterson is charged with possession of marijuana for resale and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Officers Thomas Spence and David Hacker seized three grams of cocaine, five grams of marijuana, and a handgun from a suspect sitting in a vehicle at a known drug location.

South

Excellent teamwork led to the arrest of a man wanted on three outstanding warrants. Officers arrived at a residence where a woman had been physically assaulted during a party. The suspect fled in his pickup truck later found abandoned on Radnor Street.

A K9 officer arrived and located the suspect hiding in some brush near a creek. He was charged with two counts of aggravated assault and DUI. He had two outstanding warrants for domestic assault and one for failure to be booked on a suspended driver license.

Coordinated efforts by several officers led to the arrest of a suspect who is charged with robbing a pizza delivery man at gunpoint before driving off in the victim's red Honda Accord. Flex officers spotted the car. The driver tried to elude police before abandoning the Accord outside a fast food restaurant. The suspect entered the restaurant where he tried to dispose of the weapon and property stolen in the robbery.

Alert officers caught up with the suspect and arrested him outside the restaurant. He is charged with aggravated robbery.

East

Outstanding police work by East Precinct Officer Melissa Schultz led to burglary charges against a convicted felon and a man with numerous theft convictions.

Dalton Nevils, 45, and Russell Frohmuth, 42, both homeless, are accused of gaining access to a business at 1201 Porter Road by cutting a hole in the roof.

Officer Schultz responded to an alarm at the business. She noticed suspicious debris on the floor which drew her attention to a hole in the roof.

Nevils appeared outside the business shortly after police arrived. Officer Schultz noticed he had debris on his arms and shirt consistent with materials found on the floor of the business. He gave officers several explanations as to where the debris came from including a brick, fish batter, and bread.

Officers spotted Frohmuth fleeing from the business on foot. He was quickly taken into custody. He also had debris consistent with ceiling material on his clothing.

Nevils, a convicted felon, is charged with burglary. His arrest history includes aggravated assault, assault, and DUI convictions.

Frohmuth, charged with burglary and evading arrest, has numerous theft and burglary convictions.

Flex officers responded to a call concerning a man selling drugs in the 1200 block of Joseph Avenue. They saw the suspect, a convicted felon, quickly walk away and put what turned out to be a handgun under a log. He had several outstanding warrants for his arrest. He told officers he knew he was going to jail, but did not want a weapons charge. He was charged with felon in possession of a weapon.

North

Outstanding teamwork between North Precinct detectives and patrol officers led to the arrest of two sisters accused of driving three young men during a series of robberies that targeted Hispanic victims in the Madison area.

The events began to unfold Tuesday night when officers stopped the driver of a green Ford Explorer who matched the suspect description in recent robberies.

Minutes later, officers learned of a robbery and attempted kidnapping on Cheyenne Boulevard. A Hispanic man was selling popsicles when he was approached by two men who got out of an Explorer driven by a woman. The men beat the victim and attempted to force him into the SUV. His cell phone and cigarettes were stolen during the struggle with the suspects. The victim got away and was able to positively identify all three occupants of the Explorer. His cell phone and cigarettes were found inside the SUV.

The driver, Tiffany Williams, 30, of Goodlettsville, Johnathon Pressley, 21, of Alpine Avenue, and a 17-year-old passenger are charged with robbery and attempted kidnapping in that case.

Further investigation connected Williams to her sister, Melissa Grayson, 21, of Goodlettsville, who also drove a green Ford Explorer, and to Grayson's boyfriend, Montonio Shelton, 19, of Dinwiddie Drive.

Crime Suppression Unit detectives stopped Grayson in her Explorer. A handgun and baseball bat were found inside the SUV.

Grayson, Shelton, and Pressley are charged with the aggravated robbery and aggravated kidnapping of a Hispanic man July 19. After robbing the victim of his wallet at gunpoint, the suspects made him take off his clothes before they forced him into the trunk of his own car.

The five suspects have admitted their involvement in several similar robberies. Pressley is being held in lieu of \$1,081,000 dollars bond. Shelton and Williams are being held in lieu of \$310,000 dollars bond, and Grayson is being held in lieu of \$300,000 dollars bond.

Officer Ken O' Neal responded to a call concerning teens drinking and selling drugs in the 1600 block of Buchanan Street. The two suspects got into a vehicle to leave when Officer O'Neal arrived. He received consent to search the vehicle and seized a loaded handgun, 4.2 grams of cocaine, and ammunition. Two 15-year-olds were arrested.

West

Excellent investigative work by West Precinct detectives led to the arrest of a 13-year-old who is suspected in an armed robbery Friday evening outside Swetts Restaurant at 2725 Clifton Avenue.

The restaurant owner was standing behind his business when he was confronted by the 13-year-old and Christopher Malone, 15, of Torbett Street at 5:45 p.m. The 13-year-old demanded the victim's money and cell phone at gunpoint. The victim complied and the suspects fled on foot.

Both are charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated robbery.

Central

Undercover officers continue to successfully carry out the downtown quality of life initiative aimed at aggressive panhandlers. The Downtown Nashville Partnership is also involved. They are urging people to donate to charities that support the homeless rather than give money to panhandlers.

Officers are also focusing on public drunkenness, trespassing, and individuals who sell alcohol to already inebriated individuals.

Warrants Division

Warrants Division Officers Jeff Mitchell and Chuck Hagar, while in search of a probation violator at a Charlotte Pike apartment complex, wound up seizing 4.5 pounds of marijuana, 17 Valium pills, and \$3,500 cash.

Mitchell and Hagar had information that the fugitive was staying in unit 1508 of the Hillwood Pointe complex. They knocked on the door and waited several minutes for the three persons inside to respond. The officers were told that the fugitive wasn't there and were invited to check the apartment. When Officer Mitchell looked underneath a bed, he saw bags of marijuana on the floor. Additional marijuana was found in a closet and a bathroom cabinet. The money was in a pillow case. The pills were found in a nightstand.

The three men home at the time, Kejuan Bryant and Walter Joseph Miller, both 21, and Brandon Bass, 22, are charged with possession of marijuana and Valium for resale. Bryant also had two outstanding probation violation warrants, but was not the man the officers were originally looking for.

The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for February 2007:

Patrol Officer of the Month

South Precinct Officer John Harrell

Police Officer of the Month

Hermitage Precinct Officer Ronnie Brock

Investigator of the Month

North Precinct Detective Mike Roland

Congratulations:

Joshua Baker, Trainee, and his wife Amanda, are the proud parents of Makenzee Lea born July 17. Retired East Precinct Commander Danny Baker is the proud grandfather.



Condolences:

Retired Assistant Chief Charles Campbell passed away July 13.

Mr. E.L. Franks, Jr., father of retired Officer Mike Franks, Hermitage Precinct, passed away July 13.

Mr. Charles Thompson, Uncle of Officer Gerald McShepard, Background & Recruitment, passed away July 14.

Emma Jean York, mother of Nancy Walker, Credit Union, and mother-in-law of retired Officer Porter Walker, passed away July 17.

Mrs. Edith Huffines, grandmother of Officer Cindy Huffines, Hermitage Precinct, passed away July 18.

Mrs. Jonnie Ruth Wilson Young, mother-in-law of retired Captain John T. Williams, passed away July 22.

Mr. Paul Preston Jones, grandfather of Officer Anthony Brooks, North Precinct, passed away July 22.

Patricia White, daughter of Peggy Williams, retired Fleet Management, and Sergeant George Williams, deceased, passed away July 23.

Mr. Tom Hartley, uncle of Police Security Guard David Hartley, passed away July 25.

FYI:

As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.