



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

March 21, 2008

News from the Chief

As many of you know, first time convicted armed robbers in Tennessee are eligible for parole after serving as little as 18 months in prison after factoring in time off for good behavior. I, along with members of Tennessee's Public Safety Coalition, believe the current parole eligibility guidelines for first time armed robbers translate into danger for our neighborhoods and police officers. That's why police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors are making a concerted effort to convince the general assembly that first time armed robbers should serve at least 85% of their sentences before achieving release eligibility. We simply do not believe that 18 to 24 months is enough time to rehabilitate a dangerous gunman who, absent a slight trigger pull, would have left a victim dead on a sidewalk.

During calendar year 2005, 142 persons were convicted of first offense armed robbery in Nashville. All but eight of them received sentences with 30% parole eligibility. Of those convicted of first offense armed robbery in 2005, one third has already been rearrested for many crimes, to include violent and dangerous offenses; 21% of those persons have already been convicted of another criminal offense. To make our communities truly safe, we must address the issue of repeat violent offenders. This proposed 85% legislation does that in a very specific targeted approach.

A state analyst has estimated that the cost of making first time armed robbers serve 85% of their sentences would total about \$74 million. We in the Public Safety Coalition believe the number is grossly inflated and expressed that in meetings with the House and Senate leadership a few days ago.

Governor Bredesen, Speaker Naifeh and Lieutenant Governor Ramsey were instrumental in the enactment of the Crooks with Guns law last legislative session. As you will recall, it mandates 85% sentences for convicted repeat armed robbers. Through this week, more than 50 persons have been charged with Crooks with Guns since the law took effect January 1. The 85% designation for first time armed robbers is the next very important step in strengthening Tennessee's laws that deal with violent criminals. If you have an opportunity, please express your support of this proposal to your state legislators.

A promotion ceremony will be held next Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the North Precinct to officially congratulate 12 officers who will become sergeants on April 1. The 12 are Brian Anderson, Robert Bandish, Cary Briley, Edward Coleman, Terrance Demarest, Dwayne Greene, Danny Haley, Billy Morris, Melissa Schultz, Donald Scott, Doug Thibodeaux and Curtis Watkins. All are welcome to attend the ceremony.

Thank you all for your dedication and outstanding work!

Happenings

The annual Arbor Day Celebration in Centennial Park March 14 included a tree dedication to Officer Danita Marsh.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Reed Trickett, Officer Danita Marsh, Michael Gooch, Deputy Chief Bishop, Officer Bryan Agoston, Commander Kelton, Lt. Dupie, Officer Steven Jenkins, and Lt. Phillips

An East Nashville trailer park that for months was a major public nuisance due to prostitution and drug activity is literally no more. Heavy equipment crews from PSC Metals joined East Precinct Commander Bob Nash and other officers March 8 to clear the land at 121 Lucile Street. Trailers and other debris were hauled away. The lot clearing came about after the property owner at 121 Lucile evicted those living there. He took the action after police presented him with evidence of the illegal activity taking place.



Pictured (l-r) East Precinct Commander Bob Nash, PSC Metals employee Kevin Berta, and Lt. Danny Drisell

Chief Ronal Serpas and Deputy Chief Steve Anderson present Bomb Squad Sergeant Chip Hooper with a plaque in honor of his 30 years of service with the Metropolitan Police Department. Hooper, who served in a variety of police department components during his career, retired last week. His son, Joe, is a member of the West Precinct's B-shift Flex team.



Pictured (l-r) are Deputy Chief Steve Anderson, Sgt. Chip Hooper, and Chief Ronal Serpas

Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett presented Officer J.R. Malone and Sergeant Gail Reed with plaques in honor of their 27 years of service.



Pictured (l-r) Officer J.R. Malone and Sgt. Gail Reed

The Specialized Investigations Division will celebrate the careers of three retirees on March 26 from 2-4 p.m. in the bay area of the SID building.

- Sergeant Richard Hamilton retired January 31 after 31 years of service
- Detective Ed Rigsby retired January 31 after 33 years of service.
- Detective Ernie Denson will retire March 31 after 30 years of service.

Session 57



Members of Session 57 receive law instruction from Officer Gilder



Members of Session 57 engage in physical training.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Acting on a tip from Martin, Tennessee police, Metro detectives arrested three persons in connection with the March 7 robbery of Martin's Regions bank branch.

Detective Robert Shotwell & East Precinct Detective Mickey Yentes located the suspects' car at the Deluxe Inn, 1902 Dickerson Pike, and, while arranging for SWAT officers to respond, saw Edward Lynn Tharpe, 48, and Latonya Wilson, 22, come to the vehicle. Shotwell and other officers moved in and took them into custody without incident. Several thousand dollars and a pistol were found in the car. Arrested in a motel room was Latonya Wilson's mother, Pamela Wilson, 44. All three were returned to their hometown of Martin to face bank robbery charges.

Members of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force also identified Tharpe as the man who robbed the SunTrust Bank's 2814 West End Avenue branch January 14. Tharpe admitted he entered the SunTrust bank armed with a handgun and demanded money from a teller. The teller complied.

Tharpe is jailed in his hometown where he is charged in both bank robberies.

South

Weeks of investigative work by South Precinct detectives, Flex officers, and the Technical Surveillance Unit led to the arrests of six young men charged in connection with five separate armed robberies involving victims in apartment complex parking lots.

On March 8 the driver of a blue Chevrolet Suburban, Shaunteze Vaughn, 18, of McMurray Drive, was stopped by officers moments after a 63-year-old woman was robbed at gunpoint by two men outside her Tusculum Square Drive apartment at 9 p.m.

The SUV matched the description of the getaway vehicle used in other robberies in the area. The woman's purse was found inside the Suburban. Vaughn, who was armed with a pistol, and five passengers were taken into custody. During interviews, Vaughn, and Terry McKissack, 17, of Algonquin Trail, admitted they robbed the woman. Vaughn and McKissack along with Akeem Hemphill, 18, of Harper Court, also admitted to committing other similar robberies. The other three passengers, Treon Harvell, 15, of Brenda Court, Timothy Ewing, 19, of Muskogean Court, and Duane Wynn, 18, of Hooper Court, were each charged with one count of aggravated robbery.

Vaughn and Hemphill are each charged with six counts of aggravated robbery. McKissack is charged in Juvenile Court with five counts of aggravated robbery. All three are charged in the March 8 robbery and in the March 4 robbery of a woman outside her McMurray Drive apartment. On March 2 they are accused of robbing a man outside his Paragon Mills Road apartment at 10:45 p.m. and ten minutes later robbing two men outside their Linbar Drive

apartment. Vaughn and Hemphill are also charged in the February 4 robbery of a man outside his Apache Trail apartment at 5:30 p.m.

Additional robbery charges in other cases are possible.

Outstanding investigative work by South Precinct detectives and Flex officers led to the arrest of two 17-year-old robbery suspects last week.

Justin Doshawn Williams, of Laurent Street, and Andrew Byrd, of Stainback Avenue, are accused of robbing the Wing Stop restaurant at 847 Hamilton Crossing just before midnight March 13. Both were wearing masks and armed with handguns. The doors to the business were locked and the suspects ran away. Ten minutes later, police responded to a robbery in the 5800 block of Crossing Boulevard where a 36-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot outside his apartment.

Moments later, Flex officers spotted the suspect getaway car on Hickory Hollow Terrace. The driver and two passengers bailed from the Buick sedan. Byrd was captured a short time later. The victims' wallet and a handgun were recovered. Byrd admitted his involvement in the Wing Stop robbery. Williams was later identified as a suspect in the second robbery. Both are charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated robbery.

Arrest warrants charging a third 17-year-old with aggravated robbery have been issued. Detectives are working to locate him.

East

East Precinct officers, with the assistance of ATF agents and deputy U.S. marshals, arrested 18 persons March 12 as part of a year-long investigation targeting street-level crack cocaine dealers. All of the suspects charged sold crack to undercover police operatives in the 800 block of North 2nd Street. The transactions were videotaped.

The seven-member East Precinct Crime Suppression Unit headed by Sergeant Chuck Rutzky conducted this investigation on various days and times over the past year. Their outstanding work led to the indictments and arrest warrants.

Five additional persons have also been identified as taking part in cocaine sales. However, through a unique program known as the East Nashville Intervention Project (ENIP), charges against those six will not be placed at present to give them an opportunity to turn away from criminal behavior.

ENIP is modeled after a similar initiative in High Point, North Carolina, in which law enforcement and social service agencies partner together to intervene in the lives of suspects, such as the five in Nashville, who do not have lengthy arrest histories or prior crimes of violence. In addition to providing a second chance, ENIP is aimed at deterring crime associated with the illegal drug trade, including aggravated assaults, robberies and property crimes.

Officers arrested a copper thief after he was caught removing the metal from an air conditioning unit on 3rd Avenue South. He admitted to detectives that he had stolen copper from units on Humphrey and Hagen Streets as well. He is charged with theft and vandalism.

North

North Precinct detectives charged Ezra Shelton, 20, of Fawnwood Place, and James Evans, 19, of Lyndale Drive, with criminal homicide for the January 6 shooting death of Mario Mayes, 19, during a party at 3117 Wilmoth Road.

Mayes, who had argued with several men earlier in the evening, was standing outside when the suspects drove by and opened fire at 1 a.m. He was transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he died.

West

A violent ex-convict is in police custody after going on a crime spree in West Nashville March 12.

James Michael Ross, 38, who was sent to prison ten years ago for three Nashville robbery convictions, is the man believed responsible for a carjacking at Twin Street & Eastboro Drive, the stabbing of an elderly man in Charlotte Park, and the robbery of a woman at 53rd Avenue North & Elkins Avenue.

Just before 10:30 a.m., Ross, at knifepoint, carjacked Kerlen Rivera, 27, of his Nissan Pathfinder and robbed Eduar Carias, 22, the passenger, of \$50. A short time later, Ross is suspected of attacking Sylvester Henkel, 76, in Charlotte Park. Henkel, who was in the park for a morning walk, suffered multiple stab wounds. He managed to get to his car and drive home, from where he called for help. At 1p.m. Ross rammed Jan Andrews' van at 53rd Avenue North and Elkins Avenue. Ross approached Andrews, put a knife to her throat, and demanded her purse. Andrews, 43, complied and Ross fled to his home at 519 Stevenson Street.

West patrol and Flex officers developed information that Ross had likely committed the crime spree. Officers saw him inside the Stevenson Street home and attempted to take him into custody. Ross resisted officers and broke out a second story window in a failed attempt to escape.

Ross is charged with several offenses, including aggravated and especially aggravated robbery.

Central

A business check of after-hours clubs was conducted by Commander Garrett, Directed Mission One, Flex officers, and Codes to see if these establishments were in compliance with

an ordinance requiring them to have an approved security plan and permit. Ten clubs were open and only one, Club Faded, had complied. The other nine clubs were cited.

Officers will continue to check on these clubs and cite those who are not in compliance.

Interdiction Unit

A car hauler's failure to display the required license plate on the front of his truck led to the seizure of eleven bales of marijuana stashed inside one of seven vehicles being transported from Arizona to the Northeast.

Interstate Interdiction Unit officers stopped the tractor-trailer rig for the plate violation on I-40 east near Bellevue. The driver, Jose Eduardo Islas, 35, and his passenger, Eric Moreno Carpena, 26, both of Tucson, consented to the officers checking the truck and the seven used cars on the trailer for contraband. Inside the trunk of a Mercury Grand Marquis, which is registered to Carpena, were 265 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated \$250,000.

Islas and Carpena are both charged with trafficking marijuana for resale and are being held in lieu of \$950,000 bond each.

The other six vehicles on the trailer appear to belong to innocent owners who had paid for their automobiles to be hauled to them.

Field Operation Bureau Officers of the Month for February 2008

Patrol Officer of the Month

East Precinct Officer Rachael Black

Police Officer of the Month

West Precinct Officer Chad Barth

Investigator of the Month

East Precinct Detectives Gary Clements and Paul Harris

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Canine Unit Officer Kerry Fowler

Congratulations:

Sharon Robertson, Auto theft, is the proud grandmother of Brady Patterson, born March 11.

Officer Warren Fleak, Identification, and his wife, Teresa, are the proud parents of Ty Shylo Fleak, born March 21.



Condolences:

Conley McGuire, father of Investigator Gordon McGuire, Background & Recruitment, passed away March 10.

The grandfather of Officer Bart Rader, SWAT/SRT, passed away on March 10.

The grandmother of Officer Michael Moultry, Canine Unit, passed away March 10.

Sadie Spain, mother of retired Officer Dale Spain, grandmother of Tiffany Hansen, CID, and Tara Spain, Fugitives, and grandmother-in-law of Sergeant Larry Hansen, East Precinct, passed away March 11.

Mavis Lowrance, mother of retired Captain Anita Lowrance, passed away March 11.

Mary Eatherly, mother of Detective Randy Eatherly, Auto Theft, passed away March 13.

Frances White, mother of Elaine Browning, Central Records, passed away March 19.

FYI:

***MNPD Wellness Tip-off
Tip-off for the week***

Eat Heart Smart: Choose dark salad greens. Romaine lettuce, for instance, not only has six times as much vitamin C and eight times as much beta carotene as iceberg lettuce, but also has more than twice as much folate, a B vitamin that is especially important for women of child-bearing age. Spinach, watercress, arugula, and chicory are other nutritious salad greens.

Choose to Move: If you play golf, you can reap fitness rewards by walking instead of riding a cart. (Try to avoid courses where carts are required.) And if you carry your bag, you'll get an even more strenuous workout. Playing an 18-hole course you cover about five miles and burn an estimated 500 calories.

Source: UC Berkeley Wellness Made Easy, 365 Tips for Better Health, 2005.

NFD/MNPD Wellness Initiative

Tara Beever, MS and Sarah Vaughn, RD

For more information, please call (615)-340-0466

Recruitment Open House

Men and Woman interested in becoming Metropolitan Nashville Police Officers are cordially invited to attend an Open House on April 22, 2008 from 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. at the department's training academy at 2715 Tucker Road.

Attendees will receive information on the requirements and process of becoming a police officer trainee; pay and benefits; life in the police academy; and have an opportunity to participate in a test run of the physical ability course. There will also be an opportunity to interact with officers from various specialized units such as the bomb squad, swat, K-9, aviation, motorcycles, mounted patrol and more!

*Rain out date: April 29, 2008 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.

100 Club Benefit

Zanies Comedy Club presents

BILLY GARDELL

Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20

All proceeds benefit the 100 Club of Nashville