



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

April 4, 2008

News from the Chief

The results of our crime fighting initiatives and enforcement activities during the first quarter of 2008 are very impressive. The tremendous work of men and women throughout the police department is responsible for a 14% decrease in violent crime, a 9% decrease in property crime, and an overall crime decrease of 10% when compared to the first quarter of 2007.

Six of the seven major crime reporting categories reflected decreases during the first quarter:

- Auto Theft -36%
- Robbery -20%
- Aggravated Assault -13%
- Burglary -10%
- Larceny - 4%
- Rape - 4%

Homicide is the only category reflecting an increase. It is up by six cases year to date (22 this year vs. 16 at this time in 2007).

As you know, Mayor Dean has submitted his proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2008-09 to the Metro Council. Mayor Dean has made public safety a very high priority in the budget making process. I am deeply appreciative of his strong support for you and all that you do to keep this city safe. The administration's capital improvement budget will be filed in the coming weeks. The police department's top capital priority remains the construction of a new West Precinct facility.

Thank you very much for your hard work and commitment to this police department and our great city.

Happenings

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas participated March 28 in a promotion ceremony for 12 Metro police officers who will become sergeants effective April 1.

“These 12 officers have excelled in their law enforcement duties over the past several years and excelled in the testing process for the rank of sergeant,” Chief Serpas said. “I have every confidence they will make the police department and Nashville’s citizens proud as supervisors.”

Those being promoted are:

- Brian Anderson, a six-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the Hermitage Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the West Precinct’s afternoon shift.
- Robert Bandish, a 12-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the Hermitage Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the East Precinct’s midnight shift.
- Cary Briley, a seven-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the Hermitage Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the South Precinct’s afternoon shift.
- Edward Coleman, a six-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the Hermitage Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the East Precinct’s afternoon shift.
- Dwayne Greene, a seven-year police department veteran, who most recently served in the Emergency Contingency Section of the Special Operations Division. He will now be a supervisor on the North Precinct’s afternoon shift.
- Danny Haley, a ten-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the North Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the West Precinct’s midnight shift.
- Billy Morris, an eight-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a detective with South Precinct Investigations. He will now be a supervisor on the North Precinct’s afternoon shift.
- Melissa Schultz, a nine-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the East Precinct. She will now be a supervisor on the Central Precinct’s midnight shift.
- Donald Scott, a 12-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the Central Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the South Precinct’s midnight shift.

- Doug Thibodeaux, a five-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the South Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the Hermitage Precinct's midnight shift.
- Curtis Watkins, a ten-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a Crime Suppression Unit officer at the West Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the Hermitage Precinct's midnight shift.
- Terrance Demarest, a six-year police department veteran, who most recently served as a patrol officer at the East Precinct. He will now be a supervisor on the Hermitage Precinct's midnight shift.



Pictured (l-r) are Doug Thibodeaux, Dwayne Greene, Brian Anderson, Robert Bandish, Donald Scott, Chief Ronal Serpas, Mayor Karl Dean, Danny Haley, Edward Coleman, Billy Morris, Melissa Schultz, Curtis Watkins, Cary Briley, and Deputy Chief Joseph Bishop. New Sergeant Terrance Demarest is not pictured.

The Specialized Investigations Division celebrated the careers of three retirees March 26. Sergeant Richard Hamilton retired January 31 after 31 years of service, Detective Ed Rigsby retired January 31 after 33 years of service, and Detective Ernie Denson retired March 31 after 30 years of service.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Detective Ernie Denson, Detective Ed Rigsby, Sergeant Richard Hamilton, and Captain Todd Henry.

Pastor Maury Davis of the Cornerstone Church, 726 West Old Hickory Boulevard in Madison, presented Mayor Karl Dean with a donation check for \$25,000 to support the Metro Police and Fire Departments. Pastor Davis explained that the donation represents the deep appreciation of his congregation for the men and women who dedicate their lives to public safety in Nashville. The \$25,000 will be evenly split between the police and fire departments.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Ronal Serpas, Pastor Davis, Mayor Dean, and Fire Chief Stephen Halford.

Session 57



Officer Chris Gilder teaches Block Four Law.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Off-duty Officer Thomas Spence administered life-saving measures March 22 to a man lying motionless in the parking lot of the Nashville Super Speedway. After attending the race, Officer Spence and his family were walking toward their car when they noticed a crowd gathered around the man. It was later learned he had suffered a massive heart attack.

Officer Spence administered CPR for 15 minutes until an ambulance arrived. He went to the hospital where, amazingly, he was able to visit the man who was awake and on the mend.

The grateful family and emergency personnel all credit Officer Spence with saving the man's life.

Two men were in the process of stealing catalytic converters from vehicles at a business on Bridgeway Drive when the owner, who had been working late, confronted them. They fled on foot. Officer Bridget Griepentrog arrived and as she was writing the report, one of the

suspects drove by in a Mercury Cougar. She immediately put out the car's description. Officer Spencer Harris stopped the Mercury a short time later. Both suspects are in custody.

South

Investigation by Officer Monica Blake led to the arrest of a woman driving a stolen Jeep Cherokee. Officer Blake was on a call in the 1100 block of Murfreesboro Road when she was approached by a Military Police Officer who pointed out the SUV in a fast food restaurant drive thru line. She ran the tag and confirmed the Jeep was stolen. The driver is charged with theft of a vehicle, unlawful use of drug paraphernalia, and evading arrest.

Teamwork between Flex, Patrol, and Robbery Initiative officers, led to the arrest of a man who fled on foot into a nearby neighborhood after a traffic stop. He threw nearly a half pound of marijuana on the ground as he ran from officers. He was charged with marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession, evading arrest, resisting arrest, and driving on suspended license.

East

The teen driver of a stolen Buick was pulled over by Officer Derek Keeler on Gallatin Pike at Litton Avenue. As Officer Keeler exited his patrol car, the driver sped off. A pursuit ended after the suspect crashed the car on McGavock Pike at Maxey Lane. The 16-year-old was captured after a brief foot chase. Since March 2005, the teen has been arrested nine times on charges including aggravated robbery in 2006, assault, and theft.

North

A citizen's tip led to the arrest of a suspected car thief. Officers performed a Knock and Talk in the 900 block of Marilyn Drive and detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized were three grams of marijuana, one pistol, stereo equipment, and two stolen vehicles.

James Dubois, 25, is charged with two counts of auto theft, marijuana possession, and felon in possession of a handgun. He has previous convictions for motor vehicle burglary, theft, and drug possession.

Officer Paul Shipley stopped a driver for a window tint violation. He detected a strong odor of marijuana inside the car. Officer Shipley requested a canine unit. The police dog alerted to the presence of narcotics. Inside the trunk, officers recovered a backpack with \$6,330 cash. Inside the car, officers recovered loose marijuana and packaging materials commonly used in street level drug sales.

The driver, Omega Harris, 30, was charged with money laundering, felon in possession of a handgun, and marijuana possession. His arrest history reflects a conviction for felony cocaine possession.

West

Flex officers arrested a suspect March 27 shortly after he robbed a man at gunpoint in the 1300 block of 14th Avenue South.

Officers Lloyd Sharp and Randall Moore spotted Curtis Majors Gordon, 20, of South 6th Street, running from the area. He is charged with aggravated robbery and evading arrest. The victim positively identified Gordon as the man who robbed him.

Gordon has been arrested eleven times since July 2006 with convictions for cocaine possession and domestic assault.

A man was seen attempting to break into a restaurant on Highway 70 at 5 a.m. Officers responded and quickly took Anthony Malone, 45, into custody. Malone's arrest history reflects convictions for aggravated assault, unlawful weapon possession, and felony cocaine possession.

Officer Michael Mendenhall stopped a car for a seat belt violation. The driver, Victor Davis, 46, had a suspended license and was arrested. A loaded pistol was found under the driver's seat. Davis was charged with felon in possession of a handgun. He has been arrested nearly 50 times on mostly theft, burglary, and drug charges.

Central

Officer Will McKay was on routine patrol when he alertly spotted a man wanted on aggravated robbery warrants. He took him into custody. The man was also charged with felony cocaine possession.

Officer Carlos Angulo served two juvenile petitions for aggravated robbery and unlawful weapon possession.

Officer Debbie Miller arrested a man wanted on two outstanding felony warrants for aggravated burglary and forgery.

Congratulations:

Officer Chad High, Central Precinct, and his wife, Meghan, are the proud parents of Joseph Hayden, born March 24.

Officer Will McKay, Central Precinct, and his wife, Ginger, are the proud parents of Rachel Lee, born March 29.



Condolences:

Hortense P. Johnson, aunt of Mark Bennett, North Precinct, passed away March 22.

Nathan Smith, father of Officer Earl Smith, North Precinct, passed away March 28.

Johnson L. Holt, Jr., father of Jerry Holt, Evidence Storage, passed away March 30.

Brady and Ben Butler, infant sons of Officer Michael Butler, West Precinct, and his wife, Kayce, passed away. Brady passed away March 29 after a long and brave fight. He joins his triplet brother, Ben, who was stillborn. The third boy, Braxton, is doing well and is at home with his parents.

Loren Johnson, brother of Officer Ron Longino, Traffic Section, passed away recently.

FYI:

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

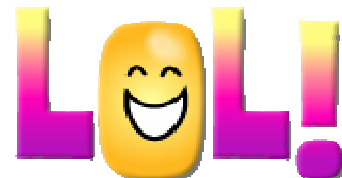
Zanies Comedy Club presents

BILLY GARDELL

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

Tickets: \$20

All proceeds benefit the 100 Club of Nashville



“Victims’ Rights: Justice for Victims. Justice for All.”
National Crime Victims’ Rights Week: April 13-19, 2008

Voices for Victims invites you, your family and friends to attend the commemorative ceremony to honor and remember all people whose lives have been touched by violent crime.*

Monday, April 14, 2008

*5:45 PM, Adventure Science Center- Jack
Wood Hall,
800 Fort Negley Blvd. Nashville
(Directions on the back)*

Keynote: Mr. Dave Brown

*Weather Director for WMC-TV, Memphis.
Father of Stefanie Brown Kuehl and grandfather of
Zadie-6 months & Thomas-unborn who were killed by a
drunk driver.*

Music: Mr. Luke Bulla

*Musician, Singer, & Songwriter
Brother of Jed Bulla-age 17, killed by a drunk driver*



Families of Homicide Victims: Please bring a picture of your loved one no larger than 2 ½ inches for the button maker. (Size of Voices for Victims’ logo above)

The **Homicide Photographs** will be displayed at the Downtown Library-Friday, April 11th through Sunday, April 20th on the third floor of The Downtown Public Library, 615 Church Street. Hours open are Monday–Thursday 9-8, Friday 9-6, Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 2-5. **One hour free parking in the parking garage directly behind the library: have your ticket stamped at the Library information desk.**

***Voices for Victims**

A collaboration of individuals affected by violent crime and governmental /non-profit agencies who provide services to crime victims who work together annually to acknowledge National Crime Victim’s Rights Week in the Nashville Community.

Agencies participating in 2008:

Catholic Charities, Tennessee Department of Correction, Kids on the Block, Legal Aid Society, MADD, Metro. Nashville Police Dept.- Domestic Violence Division & Victim Intervention Program, Nashville Children’s Alliance, Oasis Center, Office of the Attorney General, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, Senior Citizens, Inc., Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Tennessee District Attorney’s General Conference, United States Attorney’s Office-Middle District of Tennessee, Vanderbilt Police Dept.- Office of Victim Services, Victim Witness Services, Davidson County District Attorney’s Office, You Have the Power...Know How to Use It.

For additional information please e-mail vforv@hotmail.com or call Amy Griffith (MPD/VIP) at 862-7887 or Teresa Shearon (DA’s Office) at 862-5500 ext. 401.



For ADA accommodations contact
Lt. Lyons @ 862-7770

MNPD Wellness Tip-off Tip-off for the week

Eat Heart Smart: Remove the skin from chicken: this can cut the fat content by three-quarters and the calories by half. Choose the breast instead of the thigh: skinless dark meat has twice as much fat as skinless light meat.

Choose to Move: Work out in the garden. Use an old-fashioned lawn mower and you'll burn 420 to 480 calories an hour—as much as you would playing tennis. Spading, lifting, tilling, and raking can improve muscle tone and strength. Even the less strenuous forms of garden upkeep—weeding, trimming, raking—can burn about 300 calories an hour, if you work energetically at a constant pace.

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

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The Metro Police Department is hosting a blood drive on Friday, May 30, from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Training Academy at 2715 Tucker Road.

The Red Cross is offering appointments through their online scheduling system at www.givelife.org.