



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 16, 2008

## News from the Chief

Mayor Karl Dean has again demonstrated his strong support of this police department and commitment to public safety by recommending in this year's capital budget full funding for a renovated crime laboratory with a DNA component. A lab with DNA testing, if approved by the Metro Council, will be the most exciting technological advancement for us this generation and will keep this department on the cutting edge of law enforcement science. I strongly believe that routine in-house DNA testing will be a "force multiplier" that will result in the quicker identification and arrest of criminals, particularly those recidivists whose DNA profiles were taken during a previous prison stay.

It is presently the intention to locate an expanded crime lab in the recently vacated Metro Fire Headquarters building on 2nd Avenue. This department will be committed to identifying and hiring the best scientists possible.

Some have asked why this police department is asking for a DNA lab when the TBI is already conducting DNA testing. While TBI Director Mark Gwynn and his staff have been, and continue to be, tremendous partners of the Metro police department, the TBI also handles DNA and other lab testing for more than 400 state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies in Tennessee. The sheer volume of DNA requests from across the state means the TBI cannot do it all. For example, because of the volume, the TBI does not routinely conduct DNA testing in cases where a suspect is unknown. An MNPD DNA component would routinely conduct DNA testing in cases where the suspect is unknown. We want to test the sweatband of a ball cap left at a robbery or burglary scene. We want to test other evidence on which a criminal may have left DNA.

The bottom line is this: A DNA lab operated by the Metro police department would give Nashville cases top priority. More criminal suspects would be identified and arrested, lessening the risk they pose to Nashville's families.

## Crooks with Guns Update

Through May 14, 116 persons have been charged under the Crooks with Guns law that took effect January 1. Also through May 14, Metro officers have placed 338 charges relating to

Drug Free Zones. These laws provide for enhanced prison time and better protect Nashvillians and our neighborhoods.

### FOP Memorial Service

Wednesday's memorial service in honor of Nashville's law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to our city reminds us all of the humanness of this job and the ultimate sacrifice those brave men and women and their families made for the sake of law and order. I am grateful to Sgt. Danny Hale, Officer Johnny Wheeler, Sergeant Anna Maria Williams, and other members of this department who, once again this year, planned and/or participated in what was a very moving ceremony.

Thank you all for your dedication and outstanding work!

### Happenings

Staff and volunteers at Morning Star Sanctuary on Tuesday dedicated a special room at the domestic violence shelter to Officer Danita Marsh, who suffered life-altering injuries on October 27, 2006, while assisting a domestic violence victim. Morning Star Sanctuary provides a confidential shelter in a home-like environment to women and their children who have fled from domestic violence and abusive relationships. Proceeds from this year's July 10 Morning Star Sanctuary Golf Classic at Hermitage Golf Course will once again benefit both the shelter and Officer Marsh



**Pictured (l-r) are Officer Danita Marsh, Morning Star Sanctuary Volunteer Linda Johnson, Chief Ronal Serpas and Morning Star Sanctuary Chairman of the Board Philip D. Irwin**



**Pictured (l-r) are North Precinct Commander Louise Kelton, Officer Danita Marsh, and Chief Ronal Serpas**

A retirement reception was held May 14 for South Precinct Officer Billy Ray Scarberry who was honored for his 27 years of service.



**Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. Pat Bianconi, Officer Scarberry, and Lt. Gary Goodwin**



Session 57 finishing second week on gun range.

## *The Precinct News*

### Hermitage

During a traffic stop on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South, Officer Jeb Johnston discovered the driver had two outstanding warrants for failure to be booked. Seized in a search incident to arrest were 6.6 grams of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and a handgun. He was charged with felony drug possession and a Crooks with Guns law violation.

Off-duty Officer Jacob Pilarski spotted a pistol on the dashboard of a car in a parking lot at Elm Hill and Donelson Pike. Officer Pilarski followed the 17-year-old driver until officers arrived in marked units. The teen fled on foot in the 3100 block of Lakeland Drive, but was quickly captured. He is charged with evading arrest and unlawful weapon possession. He was charged with robbery and assault last month and aggravated burglary in March.

Police alertly spotted two suspects moments after they burglarized a neighbor's home in the 300 block of Bonnavale Drive. A concerned citizen reported the men were taking tools from the residence and described their blue Honda Civic getaway car. Officer Angelo Iezzi stopped the Honda moments later. Randy Bethune, 20, of Bonnavent Drive and Justin Allen Vaughn, 27, of Bonnalake Drive, were taken into custody without incident. Both men are charged with aggravated burglary and theft of property. Both men admitted their involvement in the burglary. The stolen power tools were returned to the homeowner.

## South

A burglary in progress was reported at a home on Vaden Drive at 11:30 a.m. A description of the suspects was quickly aired and a short time later Flex Unit officers spotted one of the suspects enter a home on Hewlett Drive. Stolen items were located in a car parked in the driveway.

A 44-year-old man, his 24-year-old son, and a 22-year-old woman were arrested and charged with aggravated burglary. The father was also charged with felony cocaine possession. Both men have extensive arrest histories each with theft and burglary convictions.

A man was robbed at knifepoint on Chestnut Street near 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South at 8 p.m. Officer Gerry Gann quickly responded and spotted the teen suspect. When Officer Gann called the victim's stolen cell phone, it rang, and was located in the 14-year-old suspect's shirt pocket. The teen is charged with aggravated robbery and being a runaway.

Outstanding police work by South Precinct Flex officers led to Monday night's apprehension of a gorilla-masked and gun-carrying robber who, with his accomplice standing by, attacked a 62-year-old woman in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

The 62-year-old victim was getting into her car at the 3035 Hamilton Church Road Wal-Mart at 10:15 p.m. when the masked gunman appeared. He pulled the car door open and tried to wrestle away the victim's purse. She fought to keep her belongings and kicked the robber. He and the accomplice then retreated to a maroon Pontiac SUV and fled.

Less than one hour later, two 27-year-old men were walking back to their apartment from a Bell Road convenience market when a Pontiac SUV pulled up and a gunman wearing a gorilla mask got out of the passenger seat. The gunman demanded money and the black cargo pants being worn by one of the victims. They complied and the gunman got back into the Pontiac and fled.

South Precinct Flex officers familiarized themselves with the likely getaway vehicle, a Pontiac Aztec, and saturated the area in search of the vehicle. At midnight, Officer Shaun Hardin spotted a maroon Aztec and stopped it on Haywood Lane near Faulkner Drive. The driver, Adrian Cornelius Alexander, 23, of Highland Ridge Drive in Lavergne, did not have a valid license and was taken into custody. A search of the Aztec in conjunction with Alexander's arrest led to the discovery of a gorilla mask, several pairs of latex gloves, black cargo pants belonging to one of the Bell Road robbery victims, bandanas, and two bullets.

The victims identified Alexander as the robber. Alexander and the passenger in the Aztec, Marcus Antwan Haynes, 18, also of Lavergne, are both charged with two counts of aggravated robbery for holding up the two men on Bell Road.

## **East**

The driver of a Pontiac Grand Am was parked in the 700 block of Gallatin Pike. A concerned citizen reported he had a gun. Officer Brian Theriac stopped to talk to the suspect and discovered his license was suspended. Andrew Hunter, 19, of Litton Avenue, consented to a search. Seized from his pant's pocket were 2.9 grams of crack cocaine. Hunter then admitted to having a loaded semi-automatic handgun in the car which was located in the front seat.

Hunter was charged with possession of a controlled substance for resale and a Crooks with Guns law violation.

A routine traffic stop by Officer Marty Reed led to an investigation at the driver's residence.

Flex officers conducted a Knock and Talk in the 1200 block of McGavock Pike. Officers saw drug paraphernalia in plain view. Seized in a subsequent search were approximately one pound of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and nine weapons. The three residents were each charged with a Crooks with Guns law violation and felony drug possession.

East Precinct Patrol Officer Sungjun Park spotted a car on Ellington Parkway near Trinity Lane that had been reported stolen in April.

The driver of the 1999 Ford Taurus, Steven Kimbro, 20, of Rosehill Drive, refused to stop. He led police on a brief pursuit before he bailed from the car and fled on foot in the 2600 block of Brickdale Lane. He dropped a loaded pistol on the ground as he ran from officers.

Kimbro was captured a short time later behind an apartment building in the 3300 block of Creekwood Drive. He is charged with evading arrest, vehicle theft, unlawful weapon possession, and driving on a suspended license. Kimbro has past convictions for drug possession and unlawful weapon possession.

## **North**

Alert police work by Officer Thomas Smith resulted in the arrest of an ex-convict suspected of using a van to smash his way into the front of Dollar General Store's 3852 Dickerson Pike location.

The van crashed into the front glass of the store at 11:30 p.m. A man was seen tossing merchandise into the back of the vehicle before fleeing the area, but not before the van and its license tag were captured by the store's video surveillance system.

At 3:45 a.m., Officer Smith saw a white van with rear bumper damage traveling on Trinity Lane near Brick Church Pike. He followed the van, which had the same tag number as the one from the burglary, and stopped it on Youngs Lane. The driver, Charles M. Lockridge, III, closely matched the description of the burglar recorded by the surveillance system. Lockridge, an ex-con who has convictions for cocaine distribution, theft, criminal impersonation, and escape, was arrested by Officer Smith on charges of burglary and driving on a suspended license.

Officer Timothy Reid pieced together important clues that led to the arrest of two 15-year-old runaways and their boyfriends.

Officer Reid spotted two young men behaving suspiciously near a residence in the 5500 block of Clarksville Pike. The pair fled on foot. Officer Reid knocked on the door of the home and the resident noticed several gas cans on his property had been tampered with.

A short time later, Officer Reid stopped to investigate a car with an Indiana license plate parked nearby. Two 15-year-old girls were asleep inside the 1994 Chevrolet Lumina. They told Officer Reid that they were on their way to Florida with their boyfriends who had gone to get gas. Both teens had been reported missing in Indiana.

Officer Reid soon located the boyfriends, Johnny Jones, 20, and a 17-year-old, who are suspected of attempting to steal gas earlier from outside the home. All four are from Terre Haute, Indiana.

Jones is charged with attempted theft and three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

The 17-year-old is charged in Juvenile Court with attempted theft and violating curfew. The girls were each charged with being runaways and violating curfew.

Police responded quickly to a shots fired call at an apartment complex on East Nocturne Drive. Officers were flagged down by a concerned citizen who told them a suspect was hiding in the back seat of a car.

The car was stopped as the driver tried to leave the complex. Varquez Sails, 18, was lying down in the back seat. He was in possession of two large zip-lock bags that contained approximately two pounds of marijuana and a loaded .45 caliber pistol. Further investigation revealed that Sails was wanted on two outstanding aggravated robbery warrants. In addition to the aggravated robbery charges, Sails is charged with felony marijuana possession and a violation of the Crooks with Guns law violation.

## **West**

Officer Kenneth Powers stopped the driver of a Ford Explorer on West End Avenue for a registration violation and for not wearing his seat belt. Mustafa Muhammad, 26, of La Vergne, admitted he had a gun in the SUV. Seized were four ecstasy pills, approximately 10 grams of marijuana, and a semi-automatic pistol.

Muhammad is charged with marijuana possession, felony ecstasy possession, and a Crooks with Guns law violation.

A 16-year-old burglar is in Juvenile Detention after an alert citizen saw a strange car at her neighbor's River Rouge Drive home and quickly called police.

Sergeant Mike Swoner was in the area at 10:30 a.m. addressing traffic issues when he heard the call go out and immediately responded. He found the car with the trunk open backed up to the back door of the home. As Swoner approached the car with gun drawn, the 16-year-

old came out of the residence carrying a 32-inch flat screen television. Swoner asked the teenager what he was doing. He replied, "Stealing." The suspect is in state custody and was living in a Portland, Tennessee, foster home.

South Precinct detectives are investigating his likely involvement in as many as six home burglaries earlier in the week.

Thus far, the teen is charged with aggravated burglary, marijuana possession, and felony theft as a result of today's arrest. His prior charges include domestic assault, assault, resisting police, evading arrest, and disorderly conduct.

## **Central**

Officers responded to a business on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North where a man was refusing to leave. He was charged with trespassing. Further investigation by Officer Cedrick Connolly revealed the man was a convicted sex offender and that a warrant for his arrest had just been issued by a Sex Crimes detective. He was taken into custody.

## **Gang Unit**

Middle Tennessee's self-professed highest ranking member of the Rollin 40's Crip street gang is back behind bars following his arrest by the police department's Gang Unit Tuesday for parole violation.

Terrance D. Crutcher, 28, who was released from prison last July after serving four years of a ten year cocaine sentence, is being held without bond. His latest arrest is part of a Gang Unit initiative to monitor the activities of known gang leaders and to arrest them for outstanding warrants and law violations as quickly as possible.

The parole violation warrant was issued as the result of Crutcher's April 15 arrest on charges of felony cocaine possession within 1,000 feet of Buena Vista School, unlawful gun possession by a convicted felon, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Officers encountered Crutcher in the 1500 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. He was carrying the keys to a Chevrolet Tahoe that contained a loaded nine millimeter pistol in plain view. Also found in the Tahoe were 28 grams of cocaine and a digital scale with cocaine residue on it. Crutcher posted a \$36,000 bond on those charges and was released.

Crutcher was arrested Tuesday on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North after surveillance by the Gang Unit confirmed that he was living with a girlfriend in that area.

Crutcher told detectives that he has been associated with gang activity since age 14 or 15. Crutcher's record reflects convictions for cocaine, robbery and weapons offenses. He has been charged with 33 offenses by Metro officers since July 1997.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, Investigator, and Special Operations Officers of the Month for April**

**Patrol Officer of the Month**

North Precinct Officers Greg Jones and William Estes

**Police Officer of the Month**

East Precinct Officer Derek Keeler

**Investigator of the Month**

Hermitage Precinct Detective Johnny Crumby

**Special Operations Officer of the Month**

Special Response Team Officer Nathan Lester

**Congratulations:**

Officer Steve Jenkins, Central Precinct, and his wife, Sarah, are the proud new parents of Carson Matthew.

Officer Erika Snow Bowden, South Precinct, and her husband, Officer Chris Bowden, South Precinct, are the proud new parents of Kate Madalyn born May 13.

Sergeant Joe Winter, East Precinct, and his wife Ruth are the proud new parents of Jonas Manuel, born May 13.



## **Condolences:**

Former Vice Mayor David Scobey, who was a charter member of the Metro Council and served as Metro's Vice Mayor from 1971 until 1995, passed away May 11.

Doris Pennington, grandmother of Officer Joe Pennington, North Precinct, passed away.

Lilly Harris, mother of Sgt. Marita Granberry, Office of Professional Accountability, passed away May 15.

Emmon Cannon, son of Officer D' mitri Cannon, South Precinct, passed away.

## **FYI:**

### **Retirement Celebration**

Officer Ed Lawrence will be honored for his 18 years of service on Thursday, May 29 at the Police Training Academy at 1 p.m. During Officer Lawrence's 12 years with Training, there were 27 classes with 815 officers graduating.

### **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](http://www.givelife.org).

Also, please bring your gently worn shoes to the blood drive for the Soles4Souls program.

# Retirement Party



**FOR**

## **Commander Andy Garrett**

Come join us to celebrate Andy's retirement after 25 years of service.

Monday, June 23, 2008

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**

108 7<sup>th</sup> Ave South

(next door to Central Precinct)

Parking on Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Av S. and rear parking lot of the Church

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

**Eat Heart Smart: When reading menus,** watch out for these terms, which are giveaways to high-calorie, fatty foods: creamed, crispy, breaded, à la king, croquettes, carbonara, parmigiana, meunière, tempura, fritters, fritto, Alfredo, au gratin, aubeurre, batter-dipped, béarnaise, béchamel, and hollandaise.

**Choose to Move: For a better treadmill workout, swing your arms.** That way your movement is similar to cross-country skiing, one of the best calorie burners around. One study found that treadmill walkers, by adding vigorous arm motion, could boost their caloric expenditures by about 50%—from 10 calories per minute up to 15. This will also improve upper-body strength.

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*