



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

July 2, 2008

News from the Chief

I had the opportunity last Wednesday to address Tennessee's parole board about law enforcement's increasing concern over repeat offenders, those persons who shun rehabilitation and have chosen to continue a life of crime. As I told the board, studies reflect that the problem is getting worse, not better.

The United States Justice Department recently reported that in 2004, 46% of felony defendants had a prior felony conviction. In Nashville in 2004, that figure stood at 36%, but the more recent trend is very troubling. Although national data for 2007 is not yet available, we do know that the number of Nashville felony defendants with a prior felony conviction increased to 42% last year.

The Justice department further reports that in 2004, 62% of felony defendants had a prior conviction (felony or misdemeanor). In Nashville that year, the figure stood at 70%. In 2007, the number of Nashville felony defendants with a prior conviction advanced to 75%. The robbery category is particularly disturbing. In 2004 robbery defendants nationally had a prior conviction rate of 54%. In Nashville that year the rate was 68%. In 2007, it jumped to 71%. The numbers are going in the wrong direction. And while Nashville is presently in its fifth consecutive year of overall crime reduction, the victimization caused by convicted repeat offenders should cause all of us serious concern.

I visited the parole board at the invitation of Chairman Charles Traugher. I sincerely believe they understand the problem, and will keep the concerns of law enforcement in mind as they carry out their duties. Beyond the parole board, much greater truth in sentencing will further reduce crime in Nashville and make our neighborhoods safer. Tennessee's current law allows for parole consideration after defendants serve as little as 30% of their terms. I strongly believe longer incarceration, more closely matching the number of years actually given by our judges, will afford greater safety and protection to us all and much more opportunity for rehabilitation programs to sink in. Our state lawmakers are becoming more aware of these issues, and I know of several who are convinced sentencing statutes need strengthening. The Crooks with Guns law enacted last year was a start, but we must continue to find legislative ways to deal more effectively with these dangerous criminals who continue to victimize the innocent.

Happenings

Fifty-three Nashvillians graduated Tuesday from the 21st session of the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizen Police Academy. Mayor Dean and Chief Serpas congratulated the graduates who attended 2½-hour classes one night a week for eleven weeks to gain a much better understanding of how their police department operates. They heard presentations on a variety of topics, including gang enforcement, community policing, vice/drugs/prostitution, domestic violence, the judicial process, officer survival, and criminal investigations. Class members also visited the Emergency Communications Center and the police department's gun range.

Including this class, 931 citizens from throughout Nashville have completed the Citizen Police Academy since its inception in September 1995.



Michelle Crowder, Mayor Karl Dean, and Chief Ronal Serpas present graduates with certificates.

Metro police Canine Sergeant Kerry Fowler and his partner Izzy have been named the U.S. Police Canine Association's national drug detection team for the first quarter of 2008.

On the night of January 29, Fowler and Izzy were called to the Metro airport to check a twin-engine Cessna airplane that had exhibited suspicious travel patterns before landing in Nashville. Izzy inspected the exterior of the plane and alerted to the positive presence of drug odor coming from inside. The three persons who traveled in the aircraft were brought back to the airport from a local motel. The owner of the plane gave officers permission to search it. Three suitcases were removed. Izzy inspected them and alerted to the presence of drug odor coming from each one. The suitcases were subsequently opened pursuant to a search warrant and were found to contain more than 150 pounds of cocaine.

As national winners for the first quarter, Fowler and Izzy will be considered for the U.S. Police Canine Association's drug detection team of the year.



Sgt. Fowler and partner Izzy

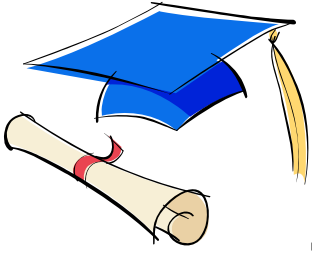
Several Metro police canine teams brought home trophies from the U.S. Police Canine Association's Region 13 competition held in Waverly on June 11th and 12th.

Officer Joe Shelton and his partner Memphis took 1st place overall honors and received the "Jimmy D" Award (named in memory of veteran Metro Canine Sergeant Jimmy D. Anderson) for having the best combined score in the obedience and apprehension categories. Shelton and Memphis also won first place in the apprehension category.

Officer James Jones and his partner Kilo finished second in the agility category.

Officer Mike Moultry and his partner Johnny finished third place in the agility category.

Officer Mike Hackney and his partner Ziro finished third in the apprehension category.



Session 57 graduation ceremonies are scheduled for July 17 at Tusculum Hills Baptist Church at 6 p.m.



Session 57 NCIC certification

The May 30 blood drive at the Training Academy was a big success with 70 people donating the gift of life.

Also, over 6,000 pairs of shoes were collected by the department during the Souls for Soles shoe drive. Thanks to all who participated!



The MNPD collect over 6,000 pairs of shoes for Souls for Soles

The MNPD participated in the May 24 Flatrock Music and Arts Festival



Pictured (l-r) are Gerald McShepard, Captain Todd Henry, Mable Osemwegie, Sgt. Suzanne Stephens, and Juan Borges



Officer David Mizrany and his partner Henry

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Officers responded to a citizen's complaint that a passenger in a small red car was armed with a handgun at Lewis and Lafayette Streets. Timothy Lamont Davis, a convicted felon, admitted he had a weapon. Officers seized a .44 caliber revolver. Davis has convictions for felony escape, vehicle theft, and grand larceny. He was charged with felon in possession of a handgun.

South

Alert police work by South Precinct Officer Trenton Baker led to the overnight arrest of two adults and a juvenile for the attempted robbery of a man in the parking lot of Twin Oaks Apartments on Antioch Pike.

The 20-year-old victim was walking through the parking lot when he was approached by two individuals, one of whom pointed a pistol at him. The suspects pulled bandanas over their faces and told the victim to stop. Instead, the victim ran and the two suspects gave chase, but were not able to keep up. When the suspects fled the apartment complex, the victim paid careful attention to the getaway vehicle, a gray Ford Taurus, and its license plate. He called police, and a short time later Officer Baker spotted the Taurus on Antioch Pike. Officer Baker stopped the car at 3815 Nolensville Pike. A search revealed two bandannas in the front seat and a pistol concealed under the hood.

Christopher Oye, 18, of Moss Spring Drive, and Darius Lamont Collins, 18, of North 5th Street, are each charged with attempted aggravated robbery and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. A 17-year-old girl in the car with them is also charged with attempted aggravated robbery.

Oye and Collins are under investigation for their potential involvement in other Nashville robbery cases.

East

Two teenagers were arrested shortly after they robbed a man early Tuesday morning in the 900 block of Woodland Street.

Andrew Ridge, 19, of Glendale Lane, and Jerome Holt, 18, of South 5th Street, approached the 20-year-old victim who was walking on Woodland Street at 12:30 a.m. The men hit him, broke his eye glasses, and stole his MP3 player before they fled on foot.

A short time later, East Precinct Officer William Waters spotted Ridge and Holt walking on Woodland Street near North 14th Street. Both men were taken into custody. Holt admitted to hitting the victim. Holt was carrying the stolen MP3 player. Both men are charged with robbery. Ridge is being held in lieu of \$60,000 bond.

Additionally, Holt was charged with burglarizing a car last month. A warrant for his arrest was issued June 24 after a latent print match. He is being held in lieu of \$70,000 dollars bond.

North

Sergeant David Mundt observed a teenager parked outside a closed business on Baptist World Center Drive. He approached the 18-year-old and detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were a .22 caliber pistol, 1.8 grams of marijuana, six ecstasy pills, and drug paraphernalia. She was charged with unlawful weapon and marijuana possession and contributing to the delinquency of her juvenile passenger.

West

West Precinct Patrol Officer Howard Martin noticed two men in a parked car on Wade Avenue at 14th Avenue South. Both men appeared nervous. Officer Martin ran the tag and discovered the 1997 Toyota Camry had been reported stolen.

When Officer Martin approached the car, the driver, Wendell Mayes, 42, of 12th Avenue South, fled on foot into a wooded area just before 8 p.m.

West Precinct officers quickly established a perimeter around the area. Aviation and Canine also responded. Canine Officer John Hutcheson and his partner Hogan located Mayes who quickly surrendered at the sight of the police dog.

Mayes is charged with theft of a vehicle, evading arrest, and driving on a suspended license. Mayes, a convicted felon, has been arrested 16 times with convictions for drug possession, domestic assault, identify theft, burglary, theft of property, evading arrest, and vehicle theft.

Central

Officers arrested 44-year-old Wesley Davis during an investigative traffic stop at Jefferson Street and 10th Avenue North. Davis is suspected in numerous car burglaries in the Goodlettsville area. Two stolen credit cards were recovered from the vehicle. Davis was transported to Goodlettsville and charged with burglary of a motor vehicle.

Congratulations:

Officer Trainee Brian Lamb, Session 58, and his wife, Beth, are the proud parents of Alessandra Beth, born June 19.

Sergeant Robert Weaver, East Precinct, and his wife, Stefanija, are the proud parents of John Paul, born June 27.

Detective Robert Allen, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife, Heather, are the proud parents of Blake Henry, born June 28.

Officer Steve Haines, Central Precinct, is a proud new grandfather. His daughter Jessica had a little girl June 28.

Officer Trainee Sattar Mehmet, Session 57, and his wife, Jian, are the proud parents of Mina, born June 29.

Stacey Duncan, Youth Services, and her husband, Jason, are the proud parents of Sophie London, born July 1.



Condolences:

Martha Watkins, grandmother of Bobby Watkins, East Precinct, passed away June 11.

Algenon Dandy, father of Officer Eric Dandy, Hermitage Precinct, passed away recently.

Lovie D. Micheaux, School Crossing Guard, passed away June 25.

Elaine Beeche, grandmother of Tiffany Durbin, wife of Sergeant Robert Durbin, Central Precinct, passed away June 22.

Glennice Stafford, grandmother of Officer Christopher Stafford, Central Precinct, passed away June 22.

Thomas L. Reddick, father of Sergeant Kurt Reddick, Warrants Section, passed away June 15.

FYI:

Golf Tournament

Captain Louise Kelton

The Annual Morningstar Golf Classic **THURSDAY JULY 10, 2008** is a fundraiser that benefits two great causes- **Morningstar Domestic Violence Shelter** and **Officer Danita Marsh**. Last year we raised \$40,000, (\$20,000.00 went to each). This year we're trying to double that.

Individuals, Teams, Corporate Sponsors- all are welcome! Cost includes Lunch by **Chic-Fil-A** and Dinner by **Outback**, and **75% of entry fees are deductible**, (100% deductible for donations/ listed sponsorship packages/ and advertising). What a deal!!!

If you don't play golf, join us for the Twilight Walk around the golf course after the tournament. \$25.00 entry fee includes a souvenir T-shirt and refreshments by **Purity Dairies**. Anyone who raises at least \$200 in sponsorship for this event will be entered into a drawing for a Wii Game System to be given away after the walk.

Persons wanting more information about the golf classic can contact tournament chairman Mike Eller at 847-4001 or Linda Johnston at 579-5004.

Talent Showcase

Captain Marlene Pardue

We are in the planning stages of the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase. Last year's event was very successful, and everyone enjoyed it!! We raised several thousand dollars for a great cause!! We plan to have a silent auction again and plenty of door prizes. This year, the event will be held at BB Kings on Tuesday, October 14. If you would be interested in being in the show this year please contact me through email or phone. (862-7501, 507-9202, 586-1646) At least one participant in the "act" must be a sworn or civilian employee of MNPD.

The money raised at the event will be split between the Nashville Coalition against Domestic Violence and the Nashville Children's Alliance. If you are not familiar with the Nashville Children's Alliance, it is the non-profit organization that does forensic interviews of children who are victims of child physical and sexual abuse. They also work with and counsel the victims and their families.

The Hermitage/Dupont tower site became fully operational June 19. Areas have been checked that were known to have coverage problems, and they have been eliminated. In-building coverage should now be greatly improved on the eastern edges of the county for our public safety responders.

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

Eat Heart Smart: Choose Canadian bacon instead of regular bacon to save on calories and fat. Grilled Canadian bacon, which is more like ham, has about 50 calories and 2 grams of fat per ounce (one thick slice). Regular bacon has about 165 calories and 14 grams of fat per ounce (four slices). They are equally high in sodium, however, with about 450 milligrams per ounce.

Choose to Move: When exercising, use the “talk test” to make sure you aren’t working out too strenuously. If you can just respond to conversation, your exercise intensity is just about right. If you can’t talk, slow down. This test can be as accurate as heart rate monitors in gauging exercise intensity.

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

The second cohort of Trevecca Nazarene University’s Criminal Justice Degree-Completion program will begin classes in early September. The 15-month program meets on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to 12 noon for a total of 36 credit hours. The following are the requirements for entry into the program:

- 60 credit hours (applicants with fewer than 60 hours will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
- 2.0 GPA
- Pass a writing and math test

Anyone who has graduated from a police academy will be granted 24 credit hours upon enrollment into the criminal justice program. The first cohort, which started in February 2008, has 7 Metro officers, who are scheduled to graduate with their Bachelor of Science degrees in Criminal Justice in May 2009.