



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

August 29, 2008

## *News from the Chief*

Over the past several weeks, I have received inquiries from officers about the possibility of revisiting the concept of a 4-day, 10-hour work week for the Patrol Division. I am not opposed to taking another vote on this issue, but sufficient interest must be represented to me by patrol detail officers, perhaps through the FOP.

As to the general concept of 4-10's, you will recall that we put this issue to a vote of patrol detail personnel only in May 2007. The result was 50.3% in favor, and 49.7% opposed. A full analysis of the vote was reported in our May 18, 2007 Newsletter.

In putting this matter to a vote last year, we recognized in our analysis that the 4-10 shift had many advantages, including having additional personnel available during peak times of calls for service and crime control (e.g., on many days of the week, after ALL patrol zones were accounted for, there was a predictable number of officers available for proactive duties), and more time off in the work week for our employees – but we also recognized there were issues that needed to be assessed (e.g., start and end times, etc.). Here is an excerpt from our Newsletter of May 4, 2007:

## *News from the Chief*

*“I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers who have posted questions and comments regarding the proposal to shift patrol zone officers to a 4-day, 10-hour work week. Much of the talk in the department over the past week concerns the specific hours of the three shifts. If the department is to go to a 4-10 system, the shifts must balance our duty to the citizens of Nashville along with, what I am told, is a more desirable and advantageous schedule for officers. This afternoon, the deputy chiefs and I met with the presidents of the department's three sworn labor organizations (Teamsters, FOP and NBPA). After discussion and review, all in attendance agreed that the shift hours below are the best the department can do when balancing our public duty with better schedules and improved personal time away from the job. After carefully considering the posted suggestions, below is a workable alternative to the proposed shift hours posted with my memo last week. The alternative hours, which are now the official proposal to the department, are:*

*A Detail – 0630 to 1700 (originally recommended 0545 – 1615)*

*B Detail – 1630 to 0300 (originally recommended 1545 – 0215)*

*C Detail – 2030 to 0700 (originally recommended 1945 – 0615)*

*The alternative shifts allow for a 30 minute overlap on A & B shifts, which accommodate the B-shift roll call. They also allow for a 30 minute overlap between the C & A details to accommodate the A-shift roll call. The 30 minute overlap exists in our current shift configuration. The proposed 4-10 shift overlap between the B & C shifts (2030 to 0300) provides for a large complement of officers to answer calls for service and conduct proactive policing activities when demand for our services is greatest.*

*The shifts above are not subject to further change in advance of the vote on the 4-10 proposal. Voting will begin at 7 a.m. on May 14 and end at 5 p.m. on May 16.”*

It was made clear to the department that we wanted to experiment with 4-day, 10-hour shifts to provide an enhanced schedule for our employees and the ability to provide an enhanced response to calls for service and crime control.

We also made it clear that patrol officers would be the first to decide on 4-10s, and that if other components within the department wanted to experiment with a 4-10 or a 3-12 configuration, we would consider those requests on a case by case basis. In a general sense, we would require the following three conditions be met by any MNPD unit (sworn or professional support staff) that wanted to experiment with a 4-10 or a 3-12 work shift:

- 1) At least 2/3rds (66%) of employees in the unit are in favor of the schedule;
- 2) At a minimum, the proposed 4-10 schedule would meet the current coverage requirements of personnel to duties required;
- 3) In a best case scenario, the 4-10 would actually enhance service delivery.

Recently the Canine Unit of the Special Operations Division made a proposal to experiment with a 4-10 schedule. The proposal was voted on internally, and all but one officer wanted to try the schedule. SOD and FOB command approved the request and forwarded it to me for final approval.

The Canine Unit's proposal easily met the above three requirements, and I approved their shift experiment to begin in July 2008 with a review for a permanent shift change to be conducted in January 2009.

We will continue to evaluate any unit, on a case by case basis, that may want to submit a proposal such as the Canine Unit has recently done.

Again, I am not opposed to revisiting this for the Patrol Division and putting the matter to another vote. I would, however, need to hear from the FOP that there is active and significant interest among patrol officers.

Thank you all for your dedication and for making a difference in Nashville's safety. I sincerely appreciate your outstanding work.

## Happenings

The Metro Police softball team won the large division and the all-around championship in the Metro tournament August 21. They defeated the Davidson County Sheriff's Office in the large division and the Tax Assessors Office in the all-around Championship.



**Pictured kneeling in the front row (l-r) are: Crystal Smith, Eula Daniels, and Tina Smith. Standing from (l-r) are Robert Young, Mickey Yentes, Greg Pemberton, Harmon Hunsicker, Mike Evans, Don Long, Scott Feirstein, Jeff Sanders. Not pictured are Micheal Payne, Daniel Walz, David Boone, Jeff Biggerstaff, and Ryan Perkins.**

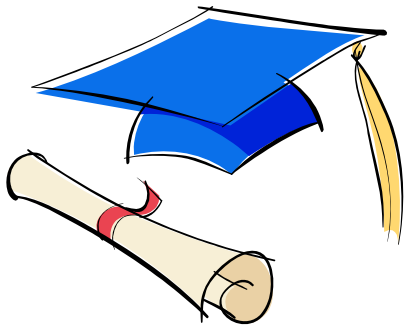
The child safety seat fair July 12 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Nolensville Pike was well attended. Citizens were provided free seat inspections to ensure that children receive maximum protection while riding in vehicles. El Protector Program Officers Juan Borges and Rafael Fernandez organized the event with the assistance of Traffic Officers Michelle Steidl, Don Davidson, and Carey Steel.



**Pictured (l-r) are Officer Rafael Fernandez, Father Fernando, Father Breen, and Officer Juan Borges**



**Technicians Amber Yampolsky and Feli Propes inspect a child car seat.**



Please join us for Session 58 graduation ceremonies  
November 3 at 6 p.m.  
Christ Church Nashville  
15354 Old Hickory Boulevard



**Session 58 Firearms Training.**

## **The Precinct News**

### **Hermitage**

Hermitage Flex officers conducted a truancy sweep of McGavock High School Thursday. Officers charged eight McGavock students with loitering during school hours for attempting to leave the campus while school was in session.

The truancy operation is the latest in an on-going effort between the police department, Juvenile Court, and school officials to see that students are in school and remain there until dismissal.

### **South**

A citizen reported two men burglarized an apartment at 5119 Briarwood Drive and drove off in an SUV.

Less than one hour later South Precinct Flex Officer Michael Straube stopped the suspect Jeep Cherokee on Harding Place near Linbar Drive just before noon. The driver, Maurice Blackmun, got out. His passenger, Brian Evans, drove off. Officer Straube immediately put out a description of the SUV. Blackmun was taken into custody without incident.

South Precinct Sergeant Chris Hendry quickly spotted the getaway Jeep. After a brief pursuit, Evans bailed from the Cherokee at 4601 Packard Drive. The SUV was still in gear and crashed into the Hunters Pointe apartment complex information office. No one was injured. Evans was taken into custody after a brief foot pursuit. He dropped a bag containing jewelry taken in the burglary. Stolen electronics were also located in the Jeep.

Evans, 29, of Norway Terrace, is charged with aggravated burglary, vandalism, and evading arrest. He is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bond. Evans has past convictions for unlawful weapon possession and assault.

Blackmun, 23, of Franklin, Tennessee, is charged with aggravated burglary and driving on a suspended license. He is being held in lieu of \$30,000 bond.

### **East**

Outstanding investigative work by East Precinct detectives led to the arrest of an ex-con charged with stealing thousands of dollars worth of recording equipment during a home burglary on Brittany Drive.

Jennifer Szostecki, 26, of McClurkan Avenue, posted the items for sale on Craig's List. The burglary victim spotted his electronics on the Internet site and contacted police.

Detectives posing as buyers called Szostecki to purchase the stolen items. All of the equipment, valued at over \$9,000, was recovered and returned to the owner.

Szostecki is charged with theft of property. She is being held in lieu of \$15,000 bond. Szostecki is on parole for aggravated robbery and aggravated arson until 2014.

## **North**

Officer Adam Shipley detected a strong odor of marijuana during a traffic stop on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Seized in a subsequent search were 12 grams of marijuana and a handgun.

During a separate traffic stop on Delaware Avenue, Officer Adam Read recovered a handgun from the vehicle after the driver fled on foot. Moments later, the man reported his car had been stolen. Officer Read met with him and identified him as the suspect. He was charged with a Crooks with Guns law violation and felony evading.

## **West**

Just one day after Ivy Gibbons was found guilty of misdemeanor ecstasy possession she was arrested again for allegedly dealing the drug near Baxter Alternative Learning Center on Gallatin Pike.

Gibbons, 23, of Kirkland Avenue, was scheduled to begin house arrest the next day. West Precinct Crime Suppression Unit detectives charged her with felony ecstasy possession within a drug free school zone and evading arrest. Gibbons attempted to drive off when detectives approached her car after a drug transaction in the 3400 block of Gallatin Pike at 1:30 p.m. Seized were 548 ecstasy pills with an estimated street value of \$14,000.

## **Central**

In response to business complaints about prostitution in the North 1<sup>st</sup> Street area Central Precinct undercover detectives conducted a reverse sting at a hotel. The men agreed to pay for sex acts with a woman who advertised on Craigslist.

James O'Kelley, 34, of Bethpage, Tennessee, Josh Johnson, 27, of Union City, Tennessee, and James Bruce, 45, of Waverly, Tennessee, each received State Citations for patronizing prostitution.

Detectives also conducted a street level operation which netted four arrests.

Rachael Roath, 35, of Plus Park Boulevard, Donna Carter, 46, of Joelton, Brandy Pratt, 31, of Lebanon, and Brenda Peterman, 38, of Spring Street, were all charged with prostitution.

## **Team Work**

Outstanding teamwork between citizens and officers from the Central and Hermitage Precincts led to the arrest of the man accused of robbing a Minnesota woman at 2 a.m. downtown.

The 48-year-old victim was on foot near the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Commerce Street when a gold Ford sedan suddenly pulled up and stopped. A gunman jumped out from the front passenger seat and demanded the victim's purse. She complied and the suspect sped away.

Witnesses near the victim quickly wrote down the car's license plate number and gave it to responding Central Precinct officers, who determined that the owner of the car lived just south of downtown. Hermitage Precinct Officer Richard Feinstein found the vehicle in a parking lot off Charles E. Davis Boulevard. Sergeants Keith Stephens and Daniel Newbern then spotted a man walking in the area who closely matched the robber's description. That man, Victor Maurice Powell, was carrying the victim's cell phone. Powell subsequently admitted to his involvement in the robbery and showed detectives where the victim's purse was tossed.

Powell, who has convictions for drug possession and driving on a suspended license, is charged with aggravated robbery.

**The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol,  
Police, and Investigator of the Month for July 2008**

**Patrol Officer of the Month**

South Precinct Officers Kenneth Stephens and Ryan Hartley

**Police Officer of the Month**

Hermitage Precinct Officer Edward Holliday

**Investigator of the Month**

Hermitage Precinct Detective Joshua Waters

**Special Operations Officer of the Month**

Traffic Section Officer Kevin Coleman

**From the District Attorney's Office**

A Davidson County Criminal Court jury deliberated about 6 hours before returning a guilty verdict August 21 against Brandy Birdwell.

Birdwell was convicted of 1st degree felony murder and especially aggravated robbery in the November 6, 2007 shooting death of Jarrod Collins at the Last Chance convenience store on Dickerson Road.

The victim was shot in the back as he tried to flee the robbers in the store parking lot. Birdwell will be sentenced September 17.

Her two co-defendants, Darryl Thompson and Reginald Adkins, will be tried at a later date.

Susan Niland  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Davidson County District Attorney General

**Condolences:**

Randall Beavers, Jr., the nephew of Sergeant Tony Turner, passed away August 17.

The mother of retired Sergeant Richard Hamilton, who is now with the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Task Force, passed away August 27

The mother of retired Captain Lorenzo Hayden passed away August 28.

**FYI:**

**American Red Cross and Metro Nashville  
Police Department  
Blood Drive**

September 17th, 2008  
Hermitage Precinct Community Room  
3701 James Kay Lane  
10 am to 3 pm

Please contact Sgt. Todd Leach to schedule a donation time  
by September 9 at 880-1855.

Walk-ins also welcome!

Renovations at the Specialized Investigations Division building are underway! Due to the stellar supervision of Captain Todd Henry the anticipated completion date has been extended until 2012.



**Captain Todd Henry**