



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

September 26, 2008

News from the Chief

The eyes of the world will be on Nashville and Belmont University October 7 for the town hall-style debate between presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama. Months of planning have gone into ensuring the safety and security of the candidates and the thousands of citizens, media representatives and campaign staffers attending the debate. Several hundred of you will be involved at one point or another with securing motorcade routes, hotels, and the neighborhoods around Belmont. I am grateful to, among others, Captain Anthony Carter, Lieutenant Floyd Hyde, Lieutenant Donald Hawkins, Lieutenant David Corman, and Lieutenant Matt Pylkas for their leadership in the planning and coordination process. I also thank in advance all of those who have a debate assignment for demonstrating the professionalism and outstanding work of the Metropolitan Police Department.

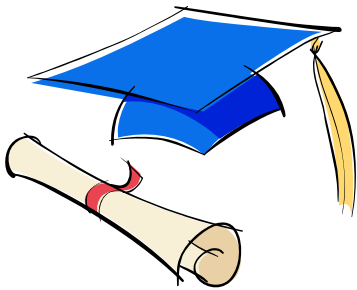
Last Monday, I had the privilege of being the guest speaker at the annual Conquerors Fundraising Luncheon that supports Nashville Inner City Ministry. The leadership of Inner City Ministry is working hard to make a difference in some of our city's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. We in the police department know that a juvenile prone to dangerous behavior is most likely to become involved in a serious criminal event between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. Families, churches, and social organizations, not just the police, need to take serious note of that and work hard to develop structured events that keep our most vulnerable kids away from the influences of gangs and violence. It was clear on Monday afternoon that the several hundred business and community leaders at the Conquerors Luncheon are deeply appreciative of your work.

Thank you to all MNPD employees for your dedication and service to Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings



**Members of Session 58 practice driving skills during
Emergency Vehicle Operator Course training.**



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

The MNPD softball team was honored at North Precinct September 19 for winning the large division and the all-around championship in last month's Metro tournament.



Pictured (l-r) are Daniel Walz, Mickey Yentes, Deputy Chief Joseph Bishop, Jeff Biggerstaff, Harmon Hunsicker, Don Long, Ryan Perkins, David Boone, Michael Payne, Robert Young, Mike Evans, Tina Smith, Jeff Sanders, Crystal Smith, and Chief Ronal Serpas. (Not pictured are Eula Daniels, Scott Fienstein, and Greg Pemberton)

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Officers Michael Thomas and Steven Jenkins observed a robbery in progress on Lewis Street at Cannon Street. The suspect fled on foot, but was captured after a brief chase. He is charged with robbery.

Flex officers gathered information that led to the location and arrest of a man wanted on five outstanding warrants in connection to a police pursuit. The suspect bailed from a car and fled on foot. Officers recovered a hacksaw and catalytic converters from the vehicle.

The suspect was taken into custody without incident at a Castlegate Drive residence.

South

South Precinct detectives have identified the suspected gunman in last Friday morning's murder of Vinod Shah inside his Discount Beer Market at 15116 Old Hickory Boulevard.

Edgar Rodriguez, 19, is named in an arrest warrant issued this afternoon charging criminal homicide. Rodriguez is believed to have fled the United States to Mexico. South Precinct detectives have been in touch with the FBI regarding the possible issuance of a federal unlawful flight warrant.

Meticulous processing of the crime scene by Identification Officers Bill Kirby, Johnny Lawrence and Sergeant Brad Johns led to the discovery of a fingerprint potentially left by the gunman. Identification Division Latent Fingerprint Examiner Larry Farnow confirmed that the print belonged to Rodriguez, who was physically arrested by Metro police for driving without a license on August 20, 2007. That arrest came after Rodriguez was twice stopped and issued misdemeanor citations for driving without a license earlier in 2007 (on May 4 and February 9). South Precinct Detective Derry Baltimore today located local family members of Rodriguez, who reported that he abruptly said he was traveling to Mexico last Friday evening. Those family members, after viewing the surveillance video from the market, identified Rodriguez as the suspected gunman.

Rodriguez's physical arrest on the driver license charge last August 20 subjected him to the 287(g) immigration program operated by the Davidson County Sheriff's Office. Records reflect that Rodriguez was found to be an illegal alien and was ordered removed by a United States Immigration Judge. He was deported to Mexico on October 30, 2007. It is not known where or when Rodriguez illegally reentered the United States.

"Despite the Sheriff's 287(g) work in this case, the federal government still can't secure our nation's borders," Chief Ronal Serpas said. "Unfortunately, the cold blooded murder of a Nashville market owner is intertwined with the federal government's inability to deal with a broken immigration system and border security."

Attempted robbery is considered to be a likely motive for Shah's murder. South Precinct detectives continue in their efforts to identify the second man who entered the market with the gunman.

East

Excellent police work by East Patrol Officers Leon Taylor and Michael Abbott led to the apprehension of two suspects involved in several robberies over the last week.

While responding to a suspicious vehicle call Officers Taylor and Abbott attempted to stop James Junior and L.T. Snipes. Junior bailed from the car and fled on foot but was apprehended moments later.

Junior and Snipes were questioned by Detective Paul Harris. Junior implicated himself in robberies on Lamont Drive, Overby Road, North 12th Street, and Alhambra Circle.

Junior is from Arkansas and Snipes is from Mississippi. They have been in Nashville since July.

The investigation continues with additional arrests likely.

Officers Josh Black and Brian Theriac conducted a Terry Stop on a man standing outside the Litton Apartments. Seized in a subsequent consent search were eight grams of marijuana and a loaded handgun. He is charged with unlawful drug and weapon possession.

A quick response by Officer Kevin Allen led to the arrest of a man charged with robbing a man in an alley near Straighway Avenue. Officer Allen interviewed the victim. A short time later he spotted the suspect who was taken into custody without incident. The victim positively identified him as the man who stole his wallet at knifepoint. He was charged with aggravated robbery.

North

Alert police work led to the arrest of four men in connection with the robbery of a man in a Gallatin Pike Taco Bell parking lot and a home invasion robbery on Ireland Street.

North Precinct Patrol Officer James Davis and Detective Robert Swisher spotted a suspect getting into a Toyota Corolla parked across the street from the Taco Bell at 2:45 a.m. All four robbery suspects were inside the car and taken into custody without incident.

Tremayne Harding, 27, of Buena Vista Pike, Xavier Harding, 18, of Cleveland Street, Marion Hunt, Jr., 19, of Fairmeade Drive, and Dangelo Keeling, 18, of Heritage Court, are each charged with aggravated robbery in this case. During interviews all four admitted their involvement. The victim's wallet and a handgun were recovered.

Xavier Harding, Hunt, and Keeling are also charged with a home invasion robbery in the 1400 block of Ireland Street.

West

A registered ex-con on parole until 2011 is charged in three armed robberies in West Nashville and is a suspect in at least two others in South Nashville.

Outstanding police work led to the arrest of Ray Neil Thompson, 38, who admitted his involvement in the following robberies:

- Smoothie King, 4546 Harding Pike, on September 12
- 21 Up Video, 284 White Bridge Road, on September 14
- Baskin Robbins, 850 Hillwood Boulevard, on September 16

A witness to the Baskin Robbins robbery provided police with a partial tag number of the getaway car which led to Thompson's identification by West Precinct Sergeant Twana Chick and Detective Diana McCoy. A BOLO was issued for Thompson at 10 p.m. A few minutes later East Precinct Officer Sunjun Park located Thompson sitting in the suspect car, a 1983 Oldsmobile Delta, in the 900 block of Chickasaw Avenue. Thompson fled on foot, but was captured a short time later.

Thompson is charged with three counts of aggravated robbery and evading arrest. He is being held on \$305,000 bond. Thompson has past convictions for aggravated robbery, theft, forgery, and domestic assault.

West Precinct detectives have charged three teenagers in connection with a series of apartment burglaries on Premier Drive.

A 17-year-old was arrested after a latent fingerprint match from a September 11 apartment burglary in the 6400 block of Charlotte Pike. He admitted to the break-in.

Investigation by West Precinct Detectives Freddie Stromatt and Mike Moss led to the subsequent arrests of Amar Al Hares, 18, of Cabot Drive, and a 16-year-old after they pawned items stolen from the Charlotte Pike break-in and from a September 15 apartment burglary in the 6500 block of Premier Drive.

The 17-year-old is charged with aggravated burglary. Al Hares and the 16-year-old are each charged with theft of property.

The investigation continues into at least eight other Premier Drive apartment burglaries committed since early August.

Crime Suppression Unit Detective Steve Parks arrested Derek Watson in February after he picked up a package containing ten pounds of marijuana. When Officer Parks was preparing to present the case to the Grand Jury, he noticed the lab report stated that, in addition to the marijuana, there was also a large amount of cocaine present in the package.

The TBI reported they located a kilo of cocaine hidden inside the bale of marijuana. In addition to the felony marijuana possession charge, Watson is now also charged with felony cocaine possession in a drug free school zone.

Central

Detectives charged 47 persons with mostly drug and prostitution offenses as the result of undercover investigations. Seized were 29 grams of marijuana and 50 grams of cocaine.

Condolences:

Penny Jacobs, DEA Task Force, passed away September 19.

Annelle T. Wills, mother of Sergeant Terry Wills, Domestic Violence, passed away September 19.

Jimmie Tarkington, uncle of Officer Kenneth Wolfe, West Precinct, passed away.

Major Samuel Sloss, retired in 2004 after 35 years of service, passed away September 21.

FYI:

The 2nd annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase October 14 will be held at B.B. Kings Blue's Club at 152 2nd Avenue North. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to our own MNPD family of talent, Grand Ole Opry regulars the Tennessee Mafia Bluegrass Band will be special musical guests. Plenty of door prizes will be given away between each act. The silent auction will feature many items including round trip tickets for two from Southwest Airlines, overnight stays at some of Nashville's finest hotels, autographed guitars, gift certificates, and \$1,200 worth of Bridgestone tires. Tickets are \$15. All proceeds equally benefit the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Nashville Children's Alliance.

**Please stop by and celebrate Cold Case Unit Detective Bill Pridemore's
33 years of dedicated service with the Metro Police Department.**

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Noon - 2 p.m.

**CID conference room
(1st Floor, Criminal Justice Center)**