



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

August 14, 2009

News from the Chief

Sergeant Mark Chesnut continues to show strong improvement from the gunshot wounds he received on June 25th. Mark is receiving out-patient physical therapy and is steadily regaining his strength. He has received hundreds of cards from MNPD members and friends, as well as citizens he has never met. I know that Mark is extremely grateful for your continuing support.

Thanks to your outstanding work, overall major crime this year is down 9% through August 6. All six precincts are reflecting decreases, while burglary is the one crime that is up in each precinct. Strategies are in place across the precincts to attack the burglary issue, and arrests are being made on a daily basis.

I was recently asked by a member of our department why capital project money, such as that to be used for a new West Precinct, a crime laboratory, and the planning for two additional precincts, could not be used instead to fund employee pay improvements. The simple answer is that the source of money used to plan for and construct buildings is different than the source of money that funds the government and the pay plan. Capital projects are funded through the sale of bonds, which are ultimately paid off by the city over a period of many years. General government and employee salaries come from the city's operating budget, which is funded primarily by property and sales tax collections. A certain percentage of the city's annual budget is dedicated to bond debt service for capital projects. Metropolitan Nashville government lives within an annual balanced budget and does not "borrow" money from the sale of bonds to fund general government (non-capital) expenditures. On the issue of the pay plan, I continue to maintain that police department employees deserve the best pay and benefits package that this government can afford. We are all hopeful that the economy is turning around and that the financial resources of the city will improve to the extent that pay and benefits can be addressed.

Thank you all for your continued exemplary work over the summer. I am grateful for your dedication and all that you do for Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings

On Tuesday, August 4, Nashville celebrated its 15th year of participating in the National Night Out Against Crime.

Nashville's Night Out Against Crime was a tremendous success with community gatherings across the city.



The Nashville Chapter of the National Black Police Association (NBPA), in conjunction with Metro Social Services, hosted the third annual Fresh Start Program for needy school children August 8th.

Officers were on hand to give backpacks and basic school supplies to children, while Amerigroup Community Care offered free health screenings.

MNPD Police Explorers won three first place trophies during a statewide competition at the Training Academy last month. The team took top honors in Domestic Disturbance, Felony Traffic Stop and Unknown Call categories. Explorers placed third in two other contests, Team Firearms and DUI Stop.



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Angelo Iezzi, Yeraldin Chavez, Chief Ronal Serpas, Amanda Shemwell, Nic Burn, Lindsey Johnson, and Officer Brad Nave.

Behavioral Health Services Director Dr. Lorraine Greene was honored for her dedicated service to the Division 18 Police and Public Safety Section of the American Psychological Association (APA) during their annual meeting held this week in Toronto.

Dr. Greene received special recognition for serving as Chair of Division 18 Police and Public Safety Section from 2007-2009. She was recently elected Division 18 Psychologist and will represent all members who work in public service including those who work for police departments, the Veteran's Administration, community mental health facilities, and prisons.

Dr. Greene also received the Exemplary Service Award for her outstanding work for Division 18. She was presented a commemorative plaque by the Deputy Director of the

National Institute of Justice, Dr. Ellen Scrivner, and the Canadian Minister of Homeland Security, the Honorable Peter Van Loan.



Pictured (l-r) are Rochester, NY. Police Psychologist Dr. Jay Supnick, Dr. Greene, and NIJ Deputy Director Dr. Ellen Scrivner.

North Precinct Officer Earl Smith celebrated his retirement after 29 years of dedicated service.



Pictured (l-r) are North Precinct Commander Anthony Carter and retired Officer Earl Smith.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Hermitage Precinct detectives and SWAT officers assigned to the Special Response Team arrested murder suspect Michael L. Webster, who is charged with the July 30th shooting death of Nickalus Jones on University Court in the Tony Sudekum public housing development.

Central Precinct Officer Cedric Connolly received information that Webster was inside an apartment at 126 Charles E. Davis Boulevard. While detectives watched the apartment, Special Response Team officers developed and then executed an arrest plan. Webster was found inside the apartment with several other persons. The pistol believed to be used to kill Jones was recovered from a bedroom closet.

Webster, 25, was interviewed by Detectives Kurt Knapp and Johnny Crumby and confessed that he was the gunman in Jones' murder. Witnesses reported that Jones, 28, was killed during a heated argument.

Webster is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail pending a hearing.

South

Convicted cocaine dealer and car thief James Edward Jones is back behind bars after leading South Precinct Flex officers on a pursuit in a stolen Chevrolet Malibu.

Officer Kenneth Stephens spotted the Malibu, which was stolen from Lewis Street, on Nolensville Pike near the Nashville Zoo. Stephens and Officer Jason Mayo pursued Jones through South Nashville and onto Murfreesboro Pike. He ultimately crashed the Malibu into a van at the intersection of Lafayette and Claiborne Streets as he attempted to turn into the J.C. Napier public housing development. Jones fled on foot. He was apprehended moments later sitting on the front porch of one of the apartments. A nine millimeter semi-automatic pistol was recovered from the floorboard of the Malibu.

Jones, 35, who has been charged with 138 offenses by Metro police since 1991, has been convicted of a number of felonies in the past, including selling cocaine, aggravated assault, reckless aggravated assault and auto theft. He was on probation at the time of his arrest. He is now charged with unlawful gun possession by a convicted felon, auto theft, evading arrest, leaving the scene of an accident, criminal impersonation, driving on a suspended license, and false imprisonment. A woman in the car with Jones, Chency Birnbaum, 26, said that she yelled for him to stop and let her out during the pursuit, but that Jones refused. Birnbaum was issued a state misdemeanor citation for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Alert police work by Officer Zachary Grunow led to the arrest of convicted felon Jonathan Martin Hickman for shooting at a man on Amalie Court.

While traveling on McMurray Drive to the shots fired call, Officer Grunow spotted a Chevrolet Tahoe that matched the description of the shooter's vehicle. Grunow stopped the vehicle at 1:40 a.m. and ordered the driver and Hickman, the passenger, from the Tahoe. A

subsequent search of the SUV, with the driver's permission, revealed a .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol under the front passenger seat. Hickman's clothing matched the description given by the victim, and the driver acknowledged Hickman fired at a man with whom he had argued earlier at a local bar.

Hickman, 27, is prohibited from handling or possessing firearms as the result of his 2007 conviction for facilitation of aggravated robbery and his 2005 conviction for felony reckless endangerment.

Hickman is now charged with felony aggravated assault, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and marijuana possession.

Three burglary suspects are in custody after an alert citizen saw a strange car at her neighbor's Darlington Drive home and quickly called police.

Officers Dennis Shepherd and Robert Deberry immediately responded at 11:30 a.m. They found the suspects standing near a Chevrolet Caprice parked near the back door of the home.

Jamal Harris, 21, consented to a search of his car. Two TVs, a hunting rifle and a handgun were located in the trunk. Harris, Kevin Partee, 19, and a 16-year-old, were all taken into custody without incident. During interviews with detectives, all three admitted to burglarizing the home.

Harris, of Karen Drive, and Partee, of Greenland Road, are both charged with aggravated burglary.

The 16-year-old is charged with aggravated burglary in Juvenile Court.

East

Convicted robber Charles Grant, 34, of Seymour Avenue, is back behind bars, accused of robbing Jenna's Toy Box at 2531 Dickerson Pike. Grant indicated he had a weapon and demanded cash from the register. The clerk complied. Grant fled in a maroon Chevrolet Lumina. East Precinct Officer Ian Herlein alertly spotted the suspect vehicle in the 1100 block of Litton Avenue. Grant was taken into custody without incident. He is charged with aggravated robbery and is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Grant was sentenced to 15 years in 1994 for two attempted aggravated robbery and two aggravated robbery convictions. He was released in 2007.

East Precinct detectives have now charged Grant with **three** additional commercial robberies.

The two 20-year-olds believed responsible for the July 27th murder of Lucky Auto Imports owner Sadegh Maleki are both in custody.

William Mozell Coley and Markreo Springer were both arrested by Putnam County sheriff's deputies at separate residences in Cookeville. Authorities in Cookeville began looking for the two after East Precinct detectives received word that they could be in that area. Both have been returned to Nashville.

Coley and Springer are accused of fatally shooting Maleki, 69, during an apparent attempted robbery inside his auto business at 2817 Dickerson Pike.

North

North Precinct day-shift Flex officers arrested a 16-year-old for carjacking the driver of a gold Chevrolet Impala.

The teen, who lives in Madison, is believed to be one of three suspects who approached the victims as they were getting out of their car on Creekwood Drive, robbed them at gunpoint, and drove off in the Impala.

Officers located the stolen car parked on Westchester Drive near Gallatin Pike. When the suspect and a 15-year-old drove off in the vehicle, officers stopped them and took them into custody. Recovered from the vehicle were 16.1 grams of marijuana. Flex officers also located the weapon believed to have been used in the robbery. It had been stolen during a residential burglary in Nashville.

The 16-year-old is charged in Juvenile Court with robbery, theft, and unlawful marijuana and weapon possession. The other teen is charged in Juvenile Court with theft and unlawful marijuana and weapon possession.

West

A citizen called to report a suspected burglar on Traceside Drive. Officer Percell Jackson quickly responded and located parolee Joel Martin, 42, carrying an armload of stolen items including electronics and collectibles. Martin is suspected of several home and vehicle break-ins. He has past convictions for aggravated robbery, burglary, theft, and larceny.

An ex-convict is back behind bars charged with robbing a clerk outside Mapco at 800 Jefferson Street. David Dowell, 45, is accused of grabbing the victim while she attempted to take the trash out. Dowell forced her back inside the store where he demanded cash from the register. The clerk managed to run from the store. Dowell also fled on foot.

Officer Shane Shetler spotted Dowell a short time later and took him into custody. The clerk positively identified Dowell as the man who robbed the store.

Dowell is a registered ex-convict for forgery.

Central

Central Precinct Officer Claude Mann developed information which led to the identification of Richard Bowens, 25, as the man who repeatedly struck and sexually assaulted a woman during a robbery June 22nd in the 1400 block of 10th Avenue North. Flex officers took Bowens into custody August 3rd outside his 9th Avenue North residence. Bowens is charged with aggravated robbery and sexual battery.

Bowens was sentenced to seven years in 2002 for robbery and evading arrest. He was released in March.

Investigation by detectives led to the arrest of a convicted robber accused of setting up an early morning hold up in a downtown alley. Marris Wynne met the victim at a bar and allegedly lured him to the robbery location where two other men approached the victim, assaulted him, and stole his money and cell phone.

Wynne received four years probation for a 2000 aggravated robbery conviction.

Specialized Investigations Division

Specialized Investigations Division Narcotics and Gang Unit detectives conducted “buy-bust” operations across Nashville Saturday, August 8, which resulted in 26 arrests involving 29 felonies, 13 misdemeanors and the service of four outstanding warrants.

Undercover officers bought dope from street dealers in locations known for criminal activity and immediately arrested them. Seized were 3.9 grams of cocaine, 98.5 grams of marijuana and \$1,624 cash.

Areas targeted include the 1700 block of 4th Avenue North, the 1600 block of Rosa L. Parks Boulevard, the 1500 block of 9th Avenue North, 16th Avenue North at Buchanan Street, 14th Avenue North at Ireland Street, 26th and 40th Avenues North at Clifton Avenue, Lischey Avenue at Douglas Avenue, 12th Avenue South at Wedgewood Avenue, 5th and 6th Avenues South at Peabody Street, 6th Avenue South at Mulberry Street, the 1000 block of 2nd Avenue South, Charles E. Davis Boulevard at Green Street, and Claiborne Street at Perkins Street.

The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for July 2009

Patrol Officer of the Month

North Precinct Officer Wesley Terry

Police Officer of the Month

South Precinct Officer Ryan Hampton

Investigator of the Month

Central Precinct Detective Rick Mavity

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Crash Investigations Officer Donald Davidson

Congratulations:

Marshall Carter, Central Records, welcomed her 19th grandchild, John Laprinza Carter, born August 4.

Officer Jake Patterson, Aviation Unit pilot, and his wife, Amy, are the proud parents of Mary Ansley, born August 5.



Condolences:

Zella Mae Walker, mother of retired Officer William “Porter” Walker, passed away.

Sylvester Hunter, mother of North Precinct Detective Lawrence Brown, passed away August 2.

Cindy Jo Vogal-Sonnenschein, the sister of Hermitage Precinct Detective Clinton Vogel, passed away August 3.

Randall Wayne Watson, son of retired Officer Earl Watson, passed away August 3.

Retired Sergeant Wheeler Merryman passed away. Sergeant Merryman retired from Information and Security in 1990. His son, Officer Billy Merryman, retired from the Identification Division in 2008.

W. T. Lewis, grandfather of Officer Johnny Wheeler and Sergeant Jimmy Wheeler, passed away August 11.