



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

August 28, 2009

News from the Chief

The General Services Department recently provided an update on several projects involving police department facilities. I want to share that information with you in this forum.

- Metropolitan Government is close to selecting a property that will ideally house a new West Precinct building as well as a new crime laboratory. The General Services and Finance Departments, in consultation with the police department, must find property that meets at least two objectives: (1) adequate size to accommodate our business needs AND the required parking; and (2) provides economical and advantageous purchase/acquisition terms. I want to again thank the men and women at the West Precinct, our oldest, for their patience while we move through the process to provide a larger facility. While we all want things to move much quicker, the good news is that relief is in sight.
- Work is continuing at the Hermitage Precinct, where moisture has been detected inside walls. The assessment is continuing as to the proper interior repair, as well as the repair of a portion of brick wall on the exterior of the building.
- Work should begin shortly on the interior refurbishment at the South Precinct, which will involve new carpet and paint.
- Space is being readied at Metro Southeast to house SWAT and the Hazardous Devices Unit. The move by those two components should take place by early fall.

Recruit Session 61 continues with 29 police officer trainees. Graduation is set for October 29th. I anticipate that Session 62 will begin on November 1st and will include the 50 police officer positions funded for the first three years by the federal COPS stimulus grant the department received.

Thank you for your outstanding and continuing service to Nashville's families & visitors and to each other.

Session 61



Final physical training test.



Firearms training.

Happenings

The Metro Council at its August 18th meeting presented copies of a resolution to members of the MNPD's Drill & Ceremony Team congratulating them for being judged the best in the nation during the annual Honor Guard Competition in Washington, D.C. Councilman Parker Toler introduced the legislation, which was co-sponsored by all other council members.



Councilman Parker Toler pictured with members of the MNPD's Drill & Ceremony Team.



MNPD's Drill & Ceremony Team

Ollie Otter Visits Compstat

Created by Tennessee Tech University in 2007, the Ollie Otter program promotes seatbelt and booster seat safety. Ollie has visited all 95 Tennessee counties including 2,284 classrooms.

Ollie says, "Under 4'9", it's booster time!" Ollie Otter is proudly sponsored by the Tennessee Transportation Development Foundation and the Tennessee Road Builders Association.



El Protector Officer Rafael Fernandez introduces Ollie Otter at Compstat.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Convicted robber, drug dealer and parolee Antwain Green is now behind bars in connection with a shooting on University Court that wounded two people, including a staff member of the public defender's office.

The police department's Gang Unit and members of the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force took Green into custody at 809 Elissa Drive. A semi-automatic pistol and a large amount of cash were recovered from the scene.

Green, 26, is charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault for shooting Anthony Fizer, 22, several times as Fizer rode his bike. A stray bullet struck public defender staff member Carrie Gleaves in the arm. She and another member of the public defender's office were in the area conducting client interviews.

The State of Tennessee has filed a parole violation warrant against Green. He is being held without bond.

South

Flex officers working to deter auto burglaries in the Lenox Village complex off Nolensville Pike recovered 102 pounds of marijuana from the trunk of a Chevrolet Impala.

The driver of the car, Cesar Vaca-Vargas, 23, also known as Aurelio Aguilar, is charged with possession of marijuana for resale in a drug free school zone (within 1,000 feet of Oliver Middle School and Shane Elementary School), driving without a license and criminal impersonation.

Officers were monitoring the Lenox Village parking areas when they saw the Impala and another vehicle pull into the gazebo area and then leave. Officer Brent Bauer stopped the Impala at Nolensville Pike and Barnes Road because the temporary tag in the back window was positioned in such a way that it was not readily visible. Vaca-Vargas, who claimed to be Aurelio Aguilar, did not have a driver license or any other form of identification and was placed under arrest. Based on a marijuana odor coming from the car, a probable cause search was conducted. Inside the trunk were four shrink-wrapped packages of marijuana. It is not clear where Vaca-Vargas received the marijuana or where he was taking it.

A federal immigration hold has been placed against Vaca-Vargas because he is suspected of reentering the United States illegally from Mexico after having been deported in the past.

Coordinated police work between several department components led to the arrest of two men, one of whom is accused of assaulting a woman as he fled the apartment both admitted burglarizing.

Convicted felon Antoine Fowler, 21, and Jeremy Eugene White, 20, were confronted inside the Hickory Hollow Terrace apartment by the manager. Fowler pushed her into a door as he and White ran to their getaway car, a black Ford Taurus, at 11:30 a.m.

Identification Division Officer Bill Kirby spotted the suspect car, driven by White, exit Bell Road onto Interstate 24 westbound. Officers continued to follow the suspect vehicle but backed off when helicopter pilot Sergeant James Johnson made visual contact. White ran a red light on Bell Road at Nashboro Village and struck a pickup truck at 11:50 a.m. White and Fowler fled on foot. Hermitage and South Precinct Flex officers captured both suspects a short time later in the 2100 block of Fairway Pointe Drive. Officers recovered a PlayStation game system Fowler dropped as he ran from police.

During interviews with South Precinct detectives, both Fowler and White admitted to the burglary. The resident of the apartment identified the PlayStation as her property.

Fowler, a convicted felon for attempted aggravated burglary, is charged with aggravated burglary, evading arrest, tampering with evidence, assault and evading arrest. He also has previous convictions for theft and evading arrest.

White is charged with aggravated robbery, evidence tampering, marijuana possession, driving on a suspended license and leaving the scene of an accident.

Detectives have arrested convicted felon James Thomas Puckett, Jr., for pulling a gun on a woman in the parking lot of Pagoda Apartments on Welch Road and taking her belongings.

The 26-year-old victim reported that she was driving through the parking lot in the early morning hours of August 17th when a gunman, subsequently identified as Puckett, stopped her. She said that three persons with Puckett ransacked her car, taking her wallet, keys and cell phone. Meticulous processing of evidence led to the development of Puckett as a suspect. The victim then picked him out of a photo lineup.

Detectives arrested Puckett on Grandview Avenue. A woman with him, Teresa Moran, matched the description of one of the other suspects. She was interviewed and admitted to being involved in the robbery.

Puckett, 31, and Moran, 24, are both charged with aggravated robbery. Efforts are continuing to identify the other two suspects.

Records reflect that Puckett has convictions for robbery in Davidson County and multiple burglaries in Williamson and Giles Counties. He is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bail. Moran's bail is set at \$50,000.

East

Officers proactively patrolling the area around 1500 Porter Road stopped to investigate a suspicious vehicle parked outside an apartment complex. The man seated inside the car was in possession of crack cocaine and marijuana. He was charged with possession in a drug free school zone.

North

Outstanding investigative work by Detective Russ Thompson led to a grand jury indictment of two men in connection with the March 28, 2008 murder of Anton S. Irvin, 23, in Hadley Park.

Convicted felons Cameo Biggs, 22, and Jermichael Burgy, 23, are already incarcerated on unrelated robbery charges. Surveillance video showed Irvin, in his van, follow an older model Chevrolet Lumina into the park the morning of the murder. Witnesses who heard gunshots called police. Officers found Irvin outside his van with multiple gunshot wounds.

Biggs, a convicted felon for aggravated burglary, is charged with first degree murder. Burgy, a convicted felon for aggravated assault, is charged with facilitation of first - degree murder.

Metro officers and Tennessee Highway Patrol troopers apprehended four robbery suspects after a pursuit ended in a parking lot at 5301 Bell Road.

Convicted felons Lawrence Baker, 24, and Ronterrese Armstrong, 22, along with John Bryant, 22, and Ronnell Glass, 19, are accused of robbing a man inside his Denson Avenue

home at 1:30 a.m. The suspects fired shots inside the residence before they fled with several stolen guns in a gray Chevrolet Impala driven by Baker.

North Precinct officers quickly responded and dispatched the getaway car and suspect descriptions. THP Trooper Michael Parker alertly spotted the Impala a short time later on Due West Avenue. State troopers pursued the getaway vehicle for approximately 20 minutes before Hermitage Precinct officers successfully deployed spike strips on Bell Road which flattened both front tires of the suspect car. Baker struck Trooper Parker's police car before he pulled into a Bell Road parking lot and fled on foot. North Precinct Flex officers captured Baker and Glass after a brief chase. Armstrong, of Creekwood Drive, and Bryant, of Porter Road, remained in the car and were taken into custody by THP troopers.

During the pursuit the suspects threw several weapons and other stolen items out of the car. Hermitage and North Precinct officers recovered the property.

All four suspects are charged with aggravated robbery. Armstrong, a convicted felon for cocaine possession, is also charged with a Crooks with Guns law violation. He is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond. Baker, of Cheyenne Boulevard, has previous convictions for felony aggravated assault. He is also charged with felon in possession of a weapon, reckless endangerment and evading arrest. Baker's bond is set at \$150,000. At the time of his arrest, Baker was free on \$2,000 bond for a March domestic assault.

Glass, of Cheatham Place, is also charged with tampering with evidence. He remains jailed on \$50,000 bond. Additionally, Bryant is charged with evading arrest. He is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

West

Investigation by Crime Suppression Unit detectives led to the discovery of a major marijuana grow operation in Cannon County.

Marilyn Greene, 59, was arrested in Nashville outside a bar on Elliston Place for possession of a quarter pound of high grade marijuana. TBI agents and Canon County Sheriff's deputies later seized 273 marijuana plants and five guns from her home in Liberty, Tennessee. Greene's husband was also charged with manufacturing marijuana for resale.

Two persons are in custody in connection with an elaborate marijuana grow operation inside a home at 8449 Indian Hills Drive in West Nashville.

Crime Suppression Unit detectives received information from a confidential informant about the grow house. A review of a recent electricity bill for 8449 Indian Hills Drive showed a charge in excess of \$400 per month, about three times more than neighboring homes, indicative of the electricity used by the special lights required for the marijuana plants to mature indoors. During the execution of a search warrant, detectives found that three rooms of the home were being used to cultivate marijuana. Seized were 82 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, more than six pounds of processed marijuana, special grow lights, air filters, fans, a humidifier and fertilizers.

Harold G. Johnson, Jr., 38, and Kimberly Sullivan, 41, are charged with manufacturing marijuana for resale.

Detective Mary Goins was investigating a previous theft complaint at the Daily's Shell at 301 White Bridge Road when an unrelated suspect attempted to walk out of the store with three 18-packs of beer. Needless to say, he didn't get very far.

Detective Goins identified herself as a police officer and took convicted felon Robert Trice into custody. He is charged with theft.

Trice, 43, has previous convictions for reckless endangerment, theft, public intoxication and cocaine possession.

Central

Officers responded to reports that a person had fallen into the Cumberland River from the Shelby Street pedestrian bridge at 2 a.m. Officer Chuck Embry quickly arrived and heard a woman calling for help. He located her shivering and clinging to a floating dock. Officers formed a human chain and pulled the woman to safety. She was extremely disoriented and transported to a nearby hospital for evaluation.

A Crime Stoppers tip led to this week's arrest of the man suspected of vandalizing the Federal Courthouse at 801 Broadway by throwing objects through two glass doors earlier this month.

Wilson County Sheriff's deputies took Connell Beasley, 31, into custody without incident at his mother's Mt. Juliet home. Beasley is charged federally with willful destruction of federal property.

Beasley has previous convictions for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and vandalism.

Gang Unit

Officers arrested convicted cocaine dealer Walter Butler, 20, who was wanted for three outstanding felony probation violations and for failure to appear. Butler had been on the East Precinct's Top Ten Most Wanted List. Butler, a known gang member, also has a previous unlawful weapon possession conviction.

Congratulations:



South Precinct Officer “Bo” Smith is the proud grandfather of Audrey Claire born August 18.

West Precinct Officer Kevin Guyton and his wife, Marlene, are the proud parents of Colin Andrew Guyton born August 25.

Chris Hedge, Chief of Police Office, and his wife, Rachel, are the proud parents of Charlie Snow Hedge born August 28.

Condolences:

June Armstrong, recently retired from the District Attorney’s Office, passed away August 24.

Thressa Atwater, mother of North Precinct Officer Ronda Atwater, passed away August 21.

FYI:

All first responders are invited to attend the Tennessee State Fair free-of-charge on opening night, Friday, September 11, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Please show your badge for FREE admission for up to a family of four.

All Metro Nashville employees will also be admitted for free from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on opening night!

Opening ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. and will pay tribute to first responders.