



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

October 30, 2009

News from the Chief

Thursday night's graduation of 28 new Nashville police officers once again reminds the entire Nashville community that the people of this police department, all 1,861 (including the professional support staff and school crossing guards), are the backbone of our tremendous and numerous public safety successes over the past six years. I am very fortunate and grateful to lead an organization with such dedicated men and women.

The strong reputation that our police department enjoys, not only in Middle Tennessee, but throughout the nation, has made our agency a strongly sought after place to work. Between January 1, 2007, and October 22 of this year, 10,195 persons have applied to be Nashville officers. Thanks to an aggressive hiring program that has been supported by two mayoral administrations and the Metro Council, we are continuing to recruit, conduct background investigations, and ultimately hire the best persons possible.

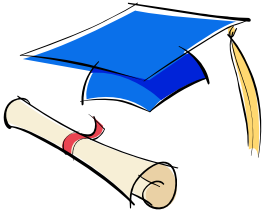
I had occasion on Wednesday evening to have a talk with one of our Field Training Officers who remarked that the overall potential and talent of rookies graduating from the academy are extremely high. That tells me that our aggressive hiring program is working for the benefit of the police department and Nashville as a whole.

There will be some who believe that having 10,195 applicants over three years is related to an economic downturn. While that may be partly true, the economy had not really tanked in 2007, a year in which we saw 3,042 persons apply to be officers here.

I am sure that many of you have received questions from applicants or potential applicants asking about the time it takes from the civil service test to a hiring decision. With the volume of applications, it does take time to properly review each candidate. The overwhelming interest in this department, however, is a positive that reflects very strongly on the work done by each of you every day.

Thank you for your commitment and all that you do to enhance the safety of Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings



The Metro police department's officer ranks grew by 28 Thursday as the city's newest police officers graduated from five months of training, received their badges, and took the oath of office.

The 28 members of the graduating class began training on June 1. The new officers will spend the next five to six months with precinct field training officers before patrolling the streets by themselves.

Session 62 begins training Monday, November 2nd.



Mayor Karl Dean administers the oath of office to Session 61.

Class Awards

Law Award: Officer Danny Warren

Presented to the trainee who achieved the highest academic average on the law testing and/or evaluation.

Academic Excellence Award: Officer Danny Warren

The Academic Award is presented to the trainee who achieved the highest combined academic average. This includes the combined average of the law testing.

"Christy J. Dedman" Spirit Award: Officer Terry Denton

The Spirit Award is presented to the trainee who demonstrates a high level of class spirit, leadership, teamwork, and constantly strives to contribute to the class as a whole, often with individual sacrifice. Class members vote for the recipient with Trainee Ops staff casting tie breaking votes if needed. The Spirit Award shall be named and presented in the name of the most recent officer who was killed in the line of duty.

Top Gun Award: Officer Danny Warren

The Top-Gun Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on the firearms training topics.

Physical Training Award: Conrad Straub

The Physical Training Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on the physical training tests. Tests measure performance in the topics of 1.5 mile run, 300 meter sprint, maximum effort pushups and sit-ups, and a vertical jump.

Top Cop Award: Danny Warren

The Top-Cop Award is presented to the trainee who achieves the highest average on all subject matter topics offered where a test and/or evaluation was offered.

Leadership Award: Officer Robert Shelton

The Leadership Award is presented to the trainee who demonstrates a pattern of leadership traits or behavior during the training session. Class members vote for the recipient with Trainee Ops staff casting tie breaking votes if needed.

Promotions

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas presided over a ceremony to congratulate two new lieutenants and seven new sergeants whose promotions were effective on October 16th.

The nine have a combined 82 years of law enforcement service to Nashville's families and visitors.



Pictured (l-r) are Mayor Dean, Sgt. Johnnie Melzoni (South Precinct), Sgt. Ada Thaxter (South Precinct), Sgt. Daniel Walz (Hermitage Precinct), Lt. John Batty (South Precinct), Sgt. Jeremy Moseley (Hermitage Precinct), Lt. Tommy Widener (South Precinct), Sgt. James Dunaway (Central Precinct), Sgt. Chris Gilder (West Precinct), Sgt. Pete Dusche (East Precinct), and Chief Ronal Serpas.

Chief Serpas Appointed to IACP Executive Committee

Chief Ronal Serpas has been offered, and has accepted, an appointment to the Executive Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the policy making body of the organization.

The 33-member Executive Committee is responsible for the overall governance of the IACP and developing the means by which the association provides leadership in the world of law enforcement.

“For more than 100 years, the IACP, through its programs and networking opportunities, has greatly assisted law enforcement leaders internationally to be innovative and progressive,” Chief Serpas said. “I am honored by this appointment, which, I believe, reflects the successes and professionalism of our police department, its dedicated officers and staff.”

In his position on the Executive Committee, which runs through the year 2011, Chief Serpas will represent law enforcement leaders in the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Founded in 1893, the IACP is the world’s oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives, with more than 20,000 members in more than 100 countries.

Retirement Celebration

Central Precinct Commander Damian Huggins presents Sergeant Bill York with a plaque commemorating his 35 years of service to the department.



Pictured (l-r) are Central Precinct Commander Damian Huggins and Sgt. Bill York.

Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

West Precinct Sergeant Connie Tripp's "Sharp Shooters" chili won a Kroger contest to raise money for the Breast Cancer Awareness Fund.



Sgt. Tripp wins chili cook-off contest.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Outstanding police work led to the arrests of two teenagers who admitted breaking into several vehicles and homes. A citizen reported seeing the 15 and 17-year-old park a Chevrolet Trailblazer in an apartment complex lot in the 2100 block of Elm Hill Pike, get out of the SUV, and break into another parked vehicle.

Sergeants Keith Stephens and Joshua Blaisdell arrived three minutes later and took the teens into custody without incident. Lieutenant Duane Williamson coordinated efforts with Detective Shannon Hamm to interview the teens. During interviews they implicated themselves in burglaries throughout Davidson County.

South

Flex officers alertly spotted a stolen Nissan Maxima on Smith Springs Road. The driver, John Griffin, 38, stopped in a driveway and fled on foot. He was captured after a brief chase.

Quick response to a reported vehicle break-in in the 5200 block of Edmondson Pike led to the arrest of Horacio Ceron, 24.

Officers located Ceron nearby. He admitted his involvement. The victim's laptop computer and two LCD monitors were recovered and returned to her.

East

Convicted carjacker Ronald Gibson is back behind bars charged with a Goodlettsville Waffle House robbery after he was spotted by Detective Brian Brown just three hours after the hold-up.

A description of the suspect getaway Chevrolet Blazer had been dispatched after the robbery. Detective Brown spotted the SUV parked outside an Exxon on Dickerson Pike. As Gibson walked toward the Blazer, he was taken into custody.

A handgun was located inside the SUV. During interviews with Goodlettsville detectives, Gibson admitted to the Waffle House robbery.

A traffic stop for a window tint violation led to the arrests of two teens charged in Juvenile Court with theft, unlawful weapon possession and loitering during school hours.

Officer Joshua Robertson stopped the car on Douglas Avenue near North 6th Street. He detected an odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were four shotguns, one gram of marijuana, a flat screen TV and a computer. Further investigation revealed the guns, TV, and computer had been stolen during a home burglary in North Precinct.

The 15 and 16-year-old are each charged with four counts of unlawful weapon possession, theft, and loitering during school hours.

North

A traffic stop for a broken brake light led to the arrest of a convicted felon in possession of a loaded shotgun.

Officer Timothy Edwards stopped Shannon Wilson, 28, on Neelys Bend Road. Officer Wilson spotted a marijuana cigarette in plain view on the driver's seat. A loaded shotgun was located in the trunk.

Wilson is charged with felon in possession of a weapon, marijuana possession, and driving on a suspended license. His prior convictions include aggravated robbery in 2001 and felon in possession of a weapon and cocaine possession in 1999.

West

Proactive police work by Flex officers led to the arrest of a theft suspect spotted walking in the 1500 block of Charlotte Avenue carrying an electric power drill. Officers conducted a Terry Stop and learned the drill had been stolen from a nearby pawn shop.

Donny Pearce, 38, who is homeless, is charged with theft. The drill was returned to the business.

Crime Suppression Unit detectives seized an SKS rifle, a handgun, two ounces of cocaine, and drug paraphernalia used for processing crack cocaine during the execution of a search warrant at a Heiman Street residence.

Two persons were charged with a Crooks with Guns law violation and possession in a drug free school zone.

Detectives developed information on two possible suspects involved in a Greeley Drive home invasion. During interviews, both men admitted their involvement and are each charged with aggravated robbery and aggravated kidnapping.

Central

Convicted felon Kevin Butler, 39, is charged with aggravated robbery and assault after allegedly stealing a cash register from Metro News Adult Book Store at 822 5th Avenue South.

Butler, who is homeless, entered the business at 12:30 a.m. He grabbed a clerk, held him at knifepoint, and demanded cash. He fled on foot with a cash register.

Officer Tiffany Hoadley quickly dispatched Butler's description and his direction of flight. Moments later, Officer Tony Heil spotted Butler at 4th Avenue South at Oak Street where he was taken into custody. The clerk positively identified Butler as the robber. The

stolen cash register was located behind the business. A knife was recovered inside Metro News.

Butler is charged with aggravated robbery, two counts of aggravated assault and resisting arrest. He was also served with an outstanding warrant for attempted burglary. Butler has previous convictions for aggravated assault, aggravated burglary, theft, domestic assault and vandalism. He is currently being held in lieu of \$360,000 bond.

Congratulations:

West Precinct Officer Jack Crouch and his wife, Ansley, are the proud parents of Kayley Leann Crouch, born October 18.

West Precinct Officer Matt Howlett and his wife are the proud parents of Caroline Tatum Howlett born October 25.



Condolences:

Lieutenant Glenn Yates passed away October 21.

Bill Parsons, husband of Libby Parsons, retired Fraternal Order of Police secretary, passed away October 14.

Gordy Wilson, the father of Specialized Investigations Division Officer Corey Wilson, passed away October 20.

Robert L. Frazier, father of West Precinct Officer Lynette Frazier, passed away.

Thelma Windsor, grandmother of East Precinct Detective Mike Windsor, passed away October 24.

Victoria Durham, mother of Lt. Tim Durham, Warrants Division, passed away October 27.

Dessie Ramsey, grandmother of Officer Trainee Michieal Ramsey, passed away October 27.

Charles Huddleston, father-in-law of Officer Johnnie Hansel, Aviation Unit, passed away October 27.

FYI:

There will be **NO** Environmental Court held on December 16th and December 23rd.