



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

October 24, 2013

News from the Chief



As Nashville engages to make a real difference in the occurrence of domestic violence, we on the front lines are being looked upon to set the example. Last Saturday morning, in the cool and rainy environment of the Shelby Pedestrian Bridge, the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its supporters gathered to remember victims as well as honor those whose dedicated and compassionate efforts to serve others stood out over the past year.

I am pleased that three of our colleagues received well-deserved recognition:

South Precinct Officer Quinn White received the Christy Dedman Award for Outstanding Patrol Officer (this award is named for Officer Christy Dedman who died in the line of duty on June 19, 2004—Christy’s mother was on hand to present the award to Officer White). Officer White was quoted as saying, “I love being a police officer and I am very thankful to work for a great police department. I enjoy responding to domestic violence calls because in every DV call, I have the opportunity to truly help someone.” In speaking about Officer White, a courts representative said, “I have heard from victims that Officer White is a standout officer with his kind and humble demeanor. One victim, whose 13-year-old child witnessed the violence, was so thankful that Officer White was the responding officer on the case because he made the most traumatic situation so much better (for victim) and child. This officer’s kind and caring nature did not go unnoticed, and the child was talking about the officer for days after the incident because of how kind he had been.”



Officer Quinn White speaks at the podium after receiving his award from Vera Dedman.

Investigator Nate Ellsworth received the award for Outstanding Domestic Violence Detective. Detective Ellsworth has become an expert in elder abuse and has trained hundreds of persons in this area. One of his colleagues was quoted as saying, “He is exceptional at what he does. He is able to create rapport with victims and exemplifies what a detective should do. He is a sharp investigator who is highly personable, animated and can put a victim at ease. He has picked up victims on his day off from work to take them to court. He encourages victims and truly gives of himself.”



Detective Nate Ellsworth

Domestic Violence Division Captain Kay Lokey received the award for Outstanding Local Government Official. Captain Lokey’s colleagues were quoted as saying, “She leads in a manner that encourages innovative development (of programs) such as high risk assessment teams, improving coordination with the District Attorney’s Office and increasing outreach.

Captain Lokey is available to her DV colleagues and always provides calm, thoughtful, intuitive advice on how to handle specific situations.”



Captain Kay Lokey

The solid reputation and work ethic of these three persons obviously extends beyond the police department and into the community. I am grateful to them and all of you for giving of your talents each day to make life better for Nashville’s families and visitors. Thank you all, again, for your dedication and commitment to this police department and our city.

Happenings

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Steve Anderson on October 10th welcomed the 42 police officer recruits who began 22 weeks of rigorous classroom and physical training on October 1st. This class is scheduled to graduate on March 6, 2014.





NewsChannel 5 reporter Jennifer Reyes was a guest speaker during the Media Relations class for Recruit Session 73 on October 18th. Jennifer discussed the coverage of breaking news and explained how a television newsroom operates. She also answered a number of questions from the trainees.



New Madison Police Precinct & Crime Lab

The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) last month inspected the lab campus building and lab unit's planned security systems to determine if the lab met all requirements necessary to be issued licenses to analyze illegal drugs. The DEA

team was led through the five security levels and they were impressed with both the security systems and the building components. The MNPd Crime Lab successfully passed the inspections and have now been issued licenses.

Council Members Bill Pridemore and Doug Pardue on October 16th organized a Kiwanis Club tour of the new Madison Precinct and Crime Lab.



Madison Precinct Community Coordinator Sergeant James Vivrette conducts a tour of the new Madison Precinct and Crime Lab.

New Crossing Guards Receive Badges

During a ceremony on September 25th, the following 18 new School Crossing Guards were presented with their badges; Doris Spearrin, Willy Talley, Rosalyn Upton, Janice Johnson, Tonika McClain, Connie Moore, Vernetta Odom, Cheryle Gaines, Charles Childs, Chauncey Mayes, Connie Caruthers, Brenda Linton, Judy Ford, Topeka Carpenter, Robin Davenport, Janae' Fleming, Delores Williams, and Althea Starks.



New School Crossing Guards pictured with police support staff and supervisors

G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training Graduation

Thirty-two officers, including School Resource Officer Julian Pirtle, on October 9th graduated from the G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training hosted by the Southeast Regional Training Center.

Deputy Chief Brian Johnson and Juvenile Court Judge Sophia Crawford addressed the graduates who traveled to Nashville from seven different states.

Also in attendance were Captain Keith Stephens, Juvenile Court Chief Probation Officer Wendy Buchanan, Juvenile Court Administrator Tim Adgent, Lieutenant Charles Beasley, Sergeant David Windus, Sergeant Jonathan Marklein and Officer Steve Slater.

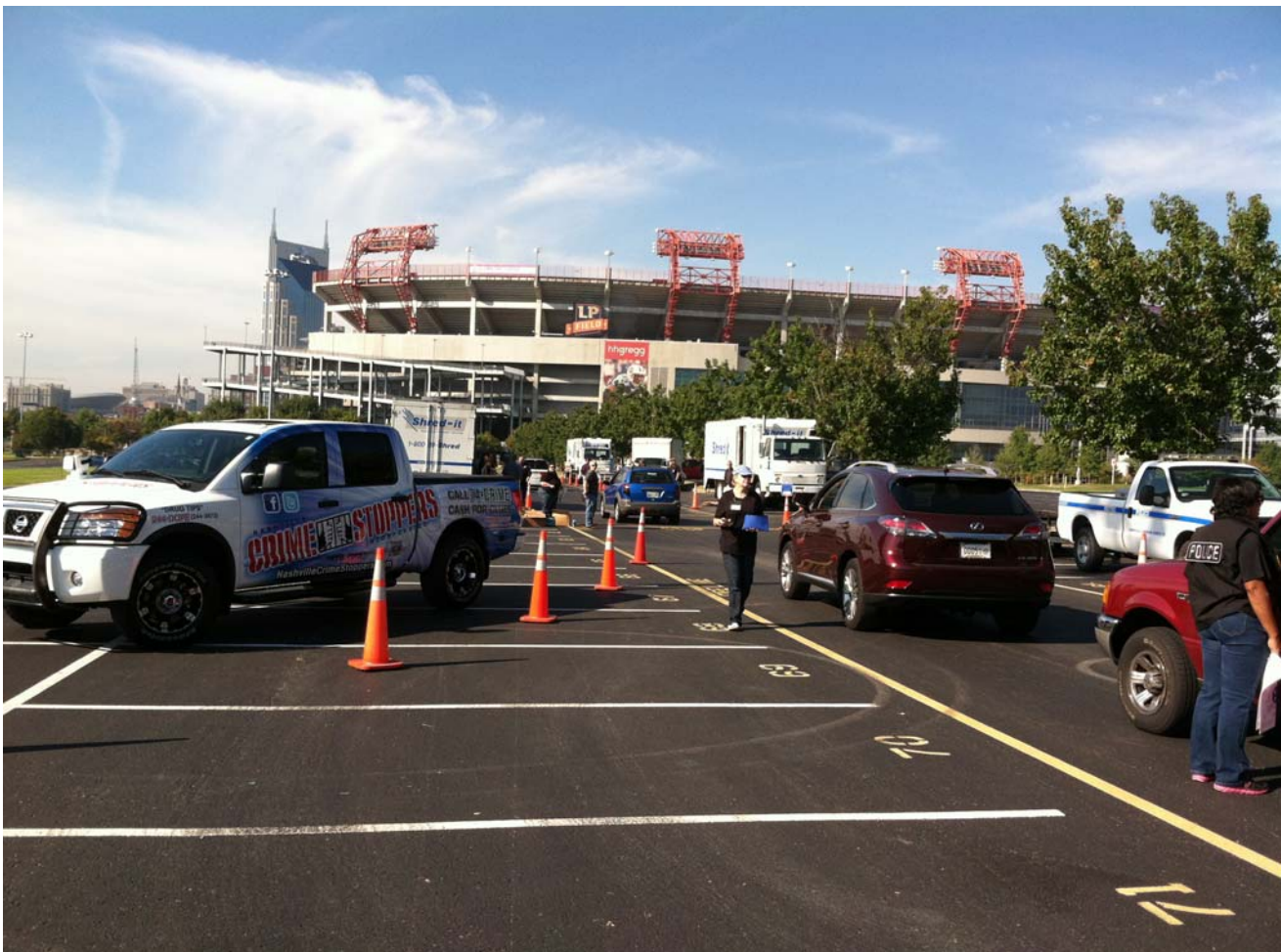


Community Shred Day

Community Shred Day at LP Field Saturday provided the Crime Stoppers reward fund with an important \$3,715 financial boost.

A steady stream of citizens came by between the event hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to drop off their unwanted personal papers, discard outdated medication and/or have their windshields etched with small identification numbers to combat auto theft. The only cost was a recommended \$5 minimum donation per banker box of records to the Crime Stoppers reward fund. All of the paperwork was destroyed on the spot by mobile high-speed cross shredders provided by Shred-it, a Securit Company, the world's leading on-site document destruction firm.

In addition to the 27,000 pounds of paper that went through the shredders, citizens discarded 101 pounds of medication in a special on-site drop box. Seven drivers took advantage of the windshield etching service.



Heart Walk

Metro Nashville Police Department participants in this year's Heart Walk raised nearly \$7,000 to benefit the Heart Association!



Pictured (l-r) are Derek Butler (Records), Deputy Chief Todd Henry, Lieutenant Mitch Fuhrer, Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin, Kyle Fuhrer, Sergeant Rob Brandish, Lieutenant John Drake, Lieutenant Curtis Watkins, Sergeant Taylor Schmitz and daughter, and Officer Garrett Blunier and his wife, Whitney.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Acting on a citizen's tip regarding a drug odor coming from 105 Glen Cove Trail, Hermitage Precinct officers and detectives executed a search warrant at the home and seized more than one pound of marijuana packaged in several baggies along with a pan of brownies with marijuana baked inside. Also seized were \$843 cash, two large digital scales and a drug ledger.

The resident, Cindy Gressler, 29, admitted to officers that the items were hers. She was arrested on charges of marijuana possession for resale and possession of drug paraphernalia. Gressler was released from jail after posting a \$3,500 bond.



South

Acting on a citizen's tip, members of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force and Metro police officers arrested ex-convict Terry Lee Newsome on charges that he robbed two Nashville banks and a local convenience store.

Newsome, 47, a convicted robber who registered with the Nashville police department as an ex-con on August 27th, was located at a home on Green Street. He was taken into custody after a brief struggle.

Newsome is charged federally with robbing US Bank's 1125 Murfreesboro Pike branch on Monday and the 747 Fesslers Lane branch on Tuesday. South Precinct detectives have also accused him of robbing the Mapco convenience store at 1191 Murfreesboro Pike at knifepoint on September 25th.

Alert police work by South Precinct Flex Officer Josh Hargrave led to the identification of two men suspected of taking part in a home invasion robbery on Humphreys Street.

Jacquese Allen, 20, and Tyis Crutcher, 21, are accused of kicking in the door of a Humphreys Street apartment. Two female residents in their early 20s who had recently moved in were held for about 30 minutes at gunpoint while the suspects searched the residence for drugs (the women speculated the suspects were looking for the prior occupants). The suspects

wound up taking a flat screen television and laptop computer before fleeing. One of the victims went outside as the suspects left and saw them drive away in a dark colored Nissan sedan.

Minutes later, Officer Hargrave spotted a car matching the description of the getaway vehicle pull behind the Dollar General Store at 78 Lafayette Street. Officer Hargrave initiated a stop. As he did, two passengers (one of whom is alleged to have been Crutcher) bailed from the vehicle. Allen, who was driving, stayed put. Allen confessed to his involvement in the crime during an interview with Detective Rick Heiman. Recovered from the Nissan were the victims' television and computer as well as two pistols, one of which was reported stolen during a car burglary in June. Crutcher was later apprehended by Detective Daniel Turner from the MNPD Fugitive Unit.

Coordinated work between South Precinct officers and the Berry Hill Police Department led to the apprehension of two men for robbing individuals at a Thompson Lane apartment complex.

Maurice Murphy, 20, of S. 4th Street, and Anterrio Holt, 19, of S. 6th Street, are each charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and resisting a police stop. During questioning by South Detective Jeff Polk, Murphy and Holt admitted to robbing two men at Covenant Crossing Apartments shortly before midnight.

A traffic violation initially drew police attention to the suspects. Berry Hill Officer Michael Lewis stopped their Chevrolet Impala at 12:05 a.m. on Thompson Lane at Powell Avenue for traveling without headlights. Murphy and Holt bailed out of the vehicle along with two females. Lewis quickly caught up with Holt. South Precinct Officer William Mathis apprehended Murphy on W. Iris Drive after Murphy tripped over his baggy pants and fell down.

During an inventory of the car, two BB pistols were found along with two wallets not belonging to either suspect. Officers contacted the individuals whose identifications were in the wallets. They told officers that they had been robbed at gunpoint minutes earlier.

A citizen's tip coupled with quick police response led to the arrest of two men who are charged with breaking into several vehicles on Woodycrest Avenue and Hutton Drive.

An alert citizen spotted Clifford Hensley, 19, and John W. Foster, 20, breaking into vehicles on Woodycrest Avenue at 1:30 a.m. He chased the suspects who dropped items taken during the vehicle burglaries and fled on foot into a wooded area. South Precinct officers quickly responded and within 20 minutes, Hensley and Foster were both in custody.

Hensley, of Winford Avenue, admitted his involvement in the break-ins. Hensley and Foster are each charged with four counts of burglary of a motor vehicle and two counts of attempted burglary of a motor vehicle. Foster, of Morton Avenue, has a previous theft conviction.

East

A 16-year-old serial burglar has been remanded to the custody of the Department of Children's Services following his arrest for allegedly breaking into a Shelby Avenue residence.

An alert citizen reported seeing two suspicious persons looking into windows of homes in the 1500 block of Fatherland Street. A short time later, a second citizen reported seeing the pair take a package from the front porch of a home in the 200 block of South 13th Street. East Precinct Officer Jordan Donegan located two persons who matched the suspect description, the 16-year-old and Charles Newsom, 18, at the Shell convenience store, 1001 Shelby Avenue.

While Officer Donegan was detaining the teens, he received a report of a residential burglary in the 1200 block of Shelby Avenue. The victims reported that they were missing electronics, including a silver iPod. A silver iPod with the victim's name on the screen was located in Charles Newsom's pocket.

The 16-year-old pled guilty in Juvenile Court to aggravated burglary and theft. He is presently confined at the Middle Tennessee Juvenile Detention Center.

Charles Newsom, of South 7th Street, is charged with aggravated burglary and theft. Newsom's photo is being withheld pending lineups in similar cases.

Madison

Madison Precinct undercover detectives Wednesday night charged 12 persons during a reverse prostitution sting.

Detectives responded to advertisements posted on an Internet site and made arrangements to meet the women at a Goodlettsville apartment where they allegedly agreed to deals for sex. The following four men and one woman are accused of driving the women to the apartment and are charged with promoting prostitution:

- Steven Crutchfield, 23, of Nashville (also charged with marijuana possession and arrested on an outstanding warrant in Cheatham County)
- Ernest L. Reed, 23, of Nashville (also charged with marijuana possession)
- Michael C. Sillaway, 25, of Nashville (also charged with marijuana possession)
- James Eric Tapp, 23, of Smyrna (also charged with cocaine possession)
- Jennifer L. Stewart, 32, of Nashville (also charged with marijuana possession)

The following four women are charged with prostitution:

- Leah Groom, 21, of Old Hickory (also charged with possession of Xanax without a prescription)
- Mary Louise Johnson, 39, of Nashville (also charged with failure to appear)
- Alicia Gonzales, 25, of Murfreesboro (also charged with cocaine possession)
- Stevi A. Williams, 23, of Lavergne (also charged with cocaine possession)

Three women who were issued state misdemeanor citations are identified as:

- Luana Nicole McGowan, 25, of Mt. Juliet (prostitution)
- Mollie Pasquini, 23, of Nashville (unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia---accompanied McGowan)
- Cheryl R. Huffman, 48, of Nashville (unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia---accompanied McGowan)

A citizen's tip led to the arrest of two convicted felons who are charged with burglarizing Hair World at 411 Gallatin Pike in Madison.

The citizen reported seeing Brian Wiseman, 29, and Acel Pope Jr., 31, break into Hair World through a back door just after midnight. Madison Precinct Detective Robert Swisher quickly arrived and spotted one of the suspects attempting to flee the business with a bag of merchandise. He ignored Detective Swisher's order to stop and ran back inside. Both suspects refused to exit the building. Canine Sergeant James Jones and his partner Zeke, and Officer John Hutcheson and his partner Ringo, apprehended Wiseman and Pope.

Wiseman, of Madison, and Pope, who is homeless, are each charged with burglary. Wiseman was convicted of robbery in 2011 and sentenced to six years. He also has prior convictions for forgery, theft and domestic assault.

Additionally, Wiseman is charged with criminal impersonation for giving officers a false name. Wiseman remains jailed in lieu of \$45,000 bond. Pope, who has a previous drug possession conviction, is jailed on \$25,000 bond.

Community Coordinator Sergeant James Vivrette reads to Amqui Elementary School students.



Central

A man who caught the eye of Central Precinct officers for trespassing at a business on Broadway turned out to be an alleged bank robber from Illinois.

Derrick W. Holmes, 23, a transient who was sitting in a window at 300 Broadway with a guitar, was approached by Officers Audrey Fellingham and Tyler Hutton and reminded that a no trespassing sign is posted at the building. The officers did a routine computer check of Holmes' name, resulting in notification that he was wanted by the FBI for an armed bank robbery on September 26th in Freeport, Illinois. Holmes was arrested on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He is now in federal custody.

Homicide-Cold Case Unit

A South Nashville couple who allegedly traveled to Maryland and murdered a woman is now in the Metro Jail awaiting extradition.

Coordinated work by Metro Homicide-Cold Case detectives and investigators from the Montgomery County (Maryland) Police Department led to the arrest of Baldeo Taneja, 62, and his wife, Raminder Kaur, 63, of 425 Brooksboro Terrace. Both are charged in Maryland with first-degree murder. They are each being held in Nashville in lieu of \$500,000 bond as fugitives from justice.

Preeta Gabba, 49, Taneja's ex-wife, was fatally wounded in Montgomery County.

Detectives Mike Roland, James Arendall and Kevin Akin, along with SWAT officers assigned to the police department's Special Response Team, coordinated the Nashville part of the investigation. Metro crime scene specialist Lynn Mace collected potential evidence from the suspects' apartment.

Specialized Investigations Division

A several week investigation into the lucrative distribution of high-grade marijuana in Davidson and Rutherford Counties led to the October 9th arrest of five persons, one in Nashville and four in Murfreesboro, and the subsequent seizure of more than \$43,000 cash. Also seized were 16 pounds of high grade marijuana with a street value in excess of \$70,000.

Over the past few months, Metro Narcotics Unit detectives received information that Nashvillian Vilaykone Phommavongsa, 34, of 1414 Timber Valley Drive, was involved in distributing large amounts of high-grade marijuana. Surveillance indicated that one of Phommavongsa's alleged marijuana sources was located in Murfreesboro, resulting in a joint MNPD-Murfreesboro Police Department drug investigation.

Undercover Metro detectives followed Phommavongsa as he drove his BMW to 1629 Antebellum Drive in Murfreesboro. Officers ultimately saw him leave carrying a package. Phommavongsa was stopped for a traffic violation as he crossed back into Davidson County.

The package in the BMW was found to contain five pounds of high- grade marijuana. Phommavongsa was arrested on a charge of marijuana possession for resale.

Surveillance continued on Antebellum Drive. A man identified as Felix Wong, 29, of California, arrived, stayed a short time and then drove away. He was stopped by police and was found to be carrying \$21,800 cash. Wong was already known to law enforcement in regard to a separate case. Earlier this year, he was stopped at Nashville International Airport by DEA Task Force agents carrying more than \$117,000 cash. Wong was not arrested that day, but the money was seized.

Following the vehicle stop of Wong, Murfreesboro Police executed a search warrant at 1629 Antebellum Drive. Recovered were eleven pounds of high grade marijuana and \$8,500 cash. An additional \$13,000 was seized from bank accounts on Wednesday.

Wong and three other persons inside the Antebellum Drive residence were arrested by Murfreesboro Police and are charged in Rutherford County with marijuana possession with intent to distribute. The remaining defendants are identified as Khamsy Thammavong, 42, David Tran, 30, and Nick Mouthouta, 23, all of Murfreesboro.



Seized high-grade marijuana



Seized cash

A joint marijuana investigation involving Specialized Investigations Division detectives and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service led to the arrest of four men on felony marijuana charges.

William Tommy Guerrero, 34, is alleged to have accepted a postal service parcel at his business (Nail & Spa at 319-A Harding Place) containing what detectives would later find to be eight pounds of marijuana. Guerrero put the parcel in his car and headed toward his Bakertown Road home. He was stopped by officers and the marijuana was seized.

Detectives then went to the 220 Bakertown Road residence and knocked on the door. Guerrero's roommate, Kotsada Phommachack, 35, was taken into custody after he was found clutching pieces of what detectives believe to have been pieces of a drug ledger that had just been torn. Investigators then used Phommachack's phone to text alleged marijuana customers and alert them that product was available. Talan Noman, 25, and Samson Bitda, 30, subsequently arrived to allegedly buy marijuana.

Guerrero and Phommachack are charged with possessing marijuana for resale. Phommachack is additionally charged with evidence tampering. Noman and Bitda are charged with engaging in a marijuana conspiracy.

More than \$2,200 cash and a gun were also seized during this investigation.



Specialized Investigations Division detectives have disrupted a lucrative heroin distribution organization.

On Monday, **Michael Anderson**, 39, of McGavock Pike, **Matthew Tidwell**, 30, of Derby Trace, and **Jennifer Dillon**, 36, of Dyer Lane in Brentwood, were arrested during an undercover takedown operation in a parking lot at Highway 70 and Old Hickory Boulevard in Bellevue after Anderson arrived to allegedly sell Tidwell and Dillon 52 grams of heroin. All were charged with felony drug offenses. Bonds for Anderson and Tidwell were set at \$40,000 each. Dillon's bond was set at \$55,000.

During the investigation, detectives learned that **Jose Ramon Garcia**, 43, who arrived in Nashville from Mexico less than a month ago, had set up a heroin distribution operation in a room at the Madison Motel on N. Gallatin Pike and had supplied Anderson with the heroin seized in Bellevue. A search of Garcia's room led to the seizure of an additional 85 grams of heroin, \$31,870 cash and digital scales. Detectives learned that Garcia was also staying part-time at 442 Henley Drive in the Hermitage area. Seized from there were heroin packaging material and a Santa Muerte shrine drug dealers set up to protect them from police. Garcia is charged with two heroin felonies and is being held in lieu of \$300,000 bond.



Seized heroin & cash

Fraud Unit

A several month investigation into C.J. Discount Market's alleged dealings with stolen merchandise resulted in the police department raid on the business and the seizure of its entire stock of non-perishable goods.

In response to a citizen's tip, Fraud Unit detectives began investigating the market, located at 3700 Buena Vista Pike, in May. Between May 30th and October 21st, staff at the market purchased a total of 195 cartons of cigarettes and 10 quarts of motor oil on 12 separate occasions from an undercover police operative who clearly represented the items as being stolen. Staff at the store paid the operative about half of what the cigarettes and oil were actually worth.

One of the market's operators, Hani F. Alkaifi, 24, is charged with three counts of theft, two felonies and one misdemeanor. Charges are anticipated against at least one other staff member.

"Businesses that regularly deal in stolen merchandise provide fast cash to shoplifters and other thieves," Chief Steve Anderson said. "Investigations such as this are important to the overall marketplace in that losses suffered by legitimate businesses due to criminal activity often translate into higher prices for innocent families."

The non-perishable stock of the store was seized under the premise that it was purchased with the proceeds from the sale of stolen merchandise.



The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Investigator, Patrol, Police and Special Operations Officer of the Month for September 2013

Patrol Officer of the Month

North Precinct Officer Carl Godlewski

Police Officer of the Month

Hermitage Precinct Officers Andrew Pedrotty, Marcus Miracle, Brandon Whitaker,
and Daniel Herndon

Investigator of the Month

East Precinct Detectives Frederick Nelson, Jason Wong, and Chris Alsup

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Canine Officer John Hutcheson

Retirement Celebration

Sergeant Gary Falcon celebrated 25 years of dedicated service



Deputy Chief Brian Johnson (right) presented Sgt. Falcon with a commemorative plaque.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

A jury found 30-year old Michael Richard Miller guilty of a 2010 Hermitage home invasion. Miller was convicted of three counts of especially aggravated kidnapping, two counts of aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and employment of a firearm in the commission of a dangerous felony.

Miller and his co-defendant Jeremy Barrow were charged with breaking into a house on Bonnavent Drive. The victims, a man and woman, awoke to find the two men standing beside their bed, wearing masks and armed with handguns. The intruders demanded money and drugs and when the victims couldn't comply, the gunmen duct-taped them together. The victims' young child came into the room during this time and was escorted back to his bedroom by the defendants. During the robbery, one of the weapons discharged and struck Barrow in the leg.

Miller drove Barrow to the hospital and detectives took Miller into custody. Barrow was arrested after being discharged from the hospital.

Miller's sentencing hearing is set for November 25th. Barrow pled guilty the morning of the trial to three counts of especially aggravated kidnapping, two counts of aggravated robbery and one count of aggravated burglary. He is scheduled to be sentenced on November 14th.

A jury deliberated about five hours before finding two Nashville men guilty of a 2009 murder. DeAndre Rucker and Quincy Sharpe were convicted of the indicted charge of first degree pre-meditated murder. The conviction carries an automatic life sentence. Neither will be eligible for parole before serving at least 51 years in prison.

27-year old Demetrius Riley was shot to death while walking to his mother's home on Richmond Hill Drive. Quincy Sharpe ran up behind Riley and shot him. After Riley fell to the ground, Sharpe stood over him and continued firing.

Testimony at trial indicated that Sharpe carried out the shooting to gain status within a gang, and that he did so at Rucker's direction.

Congratulations:

Detective Steven Bowers, West Precinct, and his wife, Annjecole, welcomed their son, Darnell Steven Bowers, born on October 10th.

Officer Justin Pachciarz, West Precinct, and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their son, Cadden Pachciarz, on October 15th.

Officer Larry Benz, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife welcomed their son, Caleb Neil Benz, on October 21st.

Officer Tyler Hutton, Central Precinct, and his wife, Dana, welcomed their son, Colton Hutton, on October 22nd.

Chris Hedge, Chief Anderson's Office, and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their daughter Sophie Belle Hedge on October 24th.



Condolences:

Teresa Stafford, Records Division, passed away on October 23rd.

Elaine (Stanton) Whittimore, the mother of retired Officer Marshall Stanton, passed away on October 24th.