



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

April 24, 2014

News from the Chief



Tomorrow, we will say farewell to Officer Andrew Nash. Our police department family and the citizens of Nashville suffered a great loss with his untimely passing last week. Andrew, at age 30, died of apparent natural causes at his home.

As I arrived at Andrew's home shortly after hearing of his death, I found myself searching for words to explain the unexplainable. Andrew and I had spoken just days earlier, on April 7th, at the newly renovated Jerry Atnip Lodge Hall, the home of Andrew Jackson Lodge 5 of the Fraternal Order of Police. As the FOP member who oversaw the project, Andrew was deeply proud of the transformation. He was excited about the facility's hosting of monthly FOP meetings & functions, as well as other law enforcement groups. He talked about utilizing the Lodge Hall as a training center, bringing in experts to teach police practices and procedures. Again, nothing in it for himself, it was all about giving FOP members an opportunity to improve their skills and become better police officers.

I had heard about Andrew Nash for years, as I from time to time spoke with his father, retired East Precinct Commander Bob Nash. I recall the worry of a father when Andrew was deployed to places of danger during his military service. I also recall the pride in Bob's eyes and voice when he spoke of Andrew's acceptance into the MNPD Academy. Andrew chose this police department after serving our country in the United States Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007. He excelled in Session 57 and finished second in his class. For much of his police department tenure, Andrew policed in South Nashville, an area he knew well from his childhood, where his parents still live and where he chose to make his home. Andrew was a fine patrol officer and carried on in his father's tradition. He was also an excellent FTO and endeavored to instill in young officers the special gifts and talents that he possessed.

I am today as I was on April 14th, unable to find words to explain the unexplainable. While we do not know or understand why he was taken, we do know that he packed a lot of life into the short time he was with us--service to his country in the United States Marines, service

as a Field Training Officer on the B Detail at the South Precinct, a recent graduate of Lipscomb University and member of the Metro SWAT Team. We do know this: Officer Andrew Nash is deeply missed by his family, his South Precinct colleagues and this police department. I also know that Nashville is a better place because of Andrew's dedication and commitment to law enforcement. Andrew was quiet in manner but his dedication and work ethic spoke loudly.

I also know that our Fraternal Order of Police is a better organization because of Andrew's dedication and service. He faithfully attended each of our monthly meetings with the FOP Board and the Police Department Staff where we discussed issues. He faithfully attended the monthly FOP membership meetings. When there was work to be done for the FOP, Andrew was there.

Andrew's funeral service will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at St. Edward Catholic Church, 188 Thompson Lane. Seating at the church is limited to approximately 500 persons. Parking on the church property, where St. Edward School is also located, will be limited to less than 200 spaces. Please carpool to the church if at all possible. A reception with the family will be held at noon at the FOP Lodge, 440 Welshwood Drive.

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The Director of the 20th Judicial District Drug Task Force, retired MNPD Sergeant Jim McWright, has informed District Attorney Torry Johnson and me that he will be retiring later this year. Jim has devoted 43 years of his life to the safety of Nashville's neighborhoods. He was selected as the supervising police officer for the Drug Task Force when it was first formed in 1988. When he retired from the MNPD after nearly 33 years of service in 2004, Jim was appointed Director. I cannot say enough about his leadership. In his letter to me, Jim pointed out that the 20th JDDTF is regarded by every federal, state and local law enforcement agency in Tennessee as highly professional and effective. I agree, and believe that the task force has set THE example for others in the state to follow. Jim further points out that the operation has grown in its mission and budget each year, while never failing to pass an audit. I, personally, and this community are grateful to Jim McWright for his outstanding service. No doubt he could write a compelling book about the evolution of Nashville's drug trade. Jim has agreed to remain in his position until a new Director is chosen, and has agreed to stay with the Task Force for a period of time to ensure a smooth transition.

The past two weeks have been difficult for many of us due to the passing of Officer Nash. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment to this city.

This edition's memorable quote:

“God gave us the gift of life. It is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well.” Voltaire

Happenings

While emphasizing that there is no known threat to Nashville or Saturday's St. Jude Country Music Marathon, Chief Steve Anderson Wednesday afternoon announced that the safety and security plan for the event involves the deployment of hundreds of law enforcement personnel from the local, state and federal levels, as well as private security staff.

"I want to be very clear that we will not tolerate any pranks or mischievous behavior that attempts to disrupt the marathon or cause fear to runners or spectators," Chief Anderson said. "We and our partners are united in saying that there will be absolutely no allowance for pranks. Officers along the route and those in specialized units will be prepared to make arrests in such situations."

Chief Anderson said that "No Bag Zones" will be implemented along the start area on Broadway from 1st Avenue to 12th Avenue, Demonbreun Street from 1st Avenue to 8th Avenue, around Music City Center, and at LP Field. Backpacks, duffel bags, travel bags, etc., regardless of whether they are being carried by race participants or spectators, will not be permitted in those areas. The exception is the clear plastic bags that will be issued to runners by race organizers.

Officers will be working late Friday night into the early morning hours of Saturday to secure the 26.2 mile course. Citizens are strongly urged to mind the bagged parking meters and other no parking signs. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed beginning at 12 a.m. Saturday.

The start area along lower Broadway will close to vehicular traffic at 3 a.m. Saturday. Persons coming downtown for the start of the race who intend to park in the Music City Center garage or in the Pinnacle Bank garage should be in those facilities by 6 a.m. The final securing of the route will prevent traffic flow into those facilities after 6 a.m.

Although this year's marathon course includes the one block section of 6th Avenue South that runs under the Music City Center, that area will be off-limits to spectators as an added security measure.

Police officers and security workers will be very visible from the starting point on Broadway, across the 26.2 mile route, and at the LP Field finish line. Regardless of where a runner or spectator is along the route, the police department encourages citizens to adopt the "see something, say something" motto. If you see something suspicious or concerning, say something to the nearest officer, or call our event hotline at 615-880-1515.

"On behalf of Mayor Dean, I want to reiterate the absolute commitment of the Nashville Police Department and all of our law enforcement partners for a safe and fun marathon that all of Nashville and our visitors can fully enjoy," Chief Anderson said. "We expect nothing less."

Joining Chief Anderson at a news conference on marathon safety and security were District Attorney General Torry Johnson, United States Attorney David Rivera, FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Keith Moses, ATF Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jack Webb, Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Tracy Trott and Davidson County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy John Ford.



For the 20th consecutive year, Nashville's police chief has assumed "ownership" of West End Synagogue's leavened products for the eight days of the Jewish Passover holiday.

During a meeting with Rabbi Joshua Kullock, Chief Steve Anderson formally purchased the leavened products, known as "chametz," from the West End Synagogue congregation. Jews are prohibited from owning leavened products such as bread, cereals, and even beer, during the holiday. In many instances, Jewish families place canned or packaged leavened foods in a closet or cupboard that will stay closed for the duration of the eight days. A rabbi is given power of attorney to sell all of the products to a non-Jew until Passover has ended.

After the holiday ended, Rabbi Kullock on April 23rd bought back the leavened products from Chief Anderson and made a donation to the Nashville Police Department Support Fund, a component of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee.



Chief Anderson and Rabbi Joshua Kullock of the West End Synagogue met at police headquarters.

News Channel 5 reporter Jennifer Reyes was a guest speaker during the Media Relations class for Recruit Session 75 on April 17th. Jennifer discussed how a television news organization operates and answered a number of questions from the trainees.



The Precinct News

East

Gang Unit detectives Tuesday evening arrested homicide suspect and ex-con DeMichael Moore, 34, at his Pennington Avenue residence on felony indictments charging him with especially aggravated robbery and premeditated murder for his alleged involvement in the September 2013 shooting death of Spencer Beasley, 22, during a dice game in the 1600 block of Chase Street.

Moore's brother, Derrick Darnell Moore, 31, was charged last month with criminal homicide and aggravated robbery for his alleged involvement in Beasley's murder.

The investigation into the September 27, 2013 shooting shows that Beasley was allegedly shot in retaliation for a previous incident. His money and cell phone were taken.

DeMichael Moore has previous convictions for felony drug possession, aggravated assault, vehicle theft and evading arrest. He is being held without bond.

North

A citizen's tip led to the arrest of convicted felon **Martez Parham**, 22, who was wanted for being an accessory after the fact for the October 30, 2013 shooting death of Mario McKnight.

Acting on information provided by a citizen, North Precinct officers stopped the driver of a red Dodge Charger on Charlotte Avenue near I-40. Parham, a front seat passenger, was taken into custody without incident. He was interviewed by West Precinct detectives prior to being booked into the Metro Jail.

A second man, convicted felon **Rodrecus Smith**, is still being sought for Mario McKnight's murder. Smith, 25, is under indictment for the shooting death of McKnight in the vicinity of 12th Avenue South & Argyle Avenue. McKnight, 35, was killed while riding in the rear of a dry cleaning van. It is believed that he and the van's driver were trying to flee a street robbery related to a nearby dice game.

Investigation by Detective Shane Stokes led to the identification of Smith and Parham as suspects.

In addition to the murder and robbery counts associated with the McKnight case, Smith is also wanted for felony probation violation, domestic assault, vandalism and failure to appear in court on charges of gun possession by a convicted felon, drug possession and resisting arrest. The probation violation stems from Smith's convictions in 2012 on two counts of aggravated assault, one count of reckless endangerment and one count of vehicle theft. He received three six-year sentences and one two-year sentence, most of which were probated. Smith, who is last known to have lived on Stockell Street, is considered to be dangerous and potentially armed.

Anyone seeing Smith is urged to contact Crime Stoppers at 74-CRIME. Citizens can also send an electronic tip to Crime Stoppers by texting the word "CASH" along with their message to 274637 (CRIMES) or online at www.nashvillecrimestoppers.com. Persons who contact Crime Stoppers by phone, text or Internet can remain anonymous and qualify for a cash reward.

Madison

Commander Sebastian Gourdin throws out the ceremonial first pitch on April 12th for the kick-off to the Madison Little League season.



On April 6th, Madison Precinct hosted a Hispanic festival featuring activities for the entire family.



Madison Precinct sponsored teacher of the year at the Madison-Rivergate Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The school was Bellshire Elementary Design and the teacher was Christina Haines.



Pictured (l-r) are Teacher of the Year Christina Haines, Commander Gourdin, and Bellshire Elementary School teacher Shantrell Pirtle.

West

Citizen assistance led to the identification and arrest of Adarius D. Frazier, 18, who is accused of shooting a man outside the victim's residence in the Edgehill public housing development and wounding two others, including a four-year-old boy.

The 53-year-old victim reported that he came out of his apartment and told Frazier, who does not live in Edgehill, to leave. Frazier and the victim argued. Frazier fired shots at the victim who was struck twice. The victim's four-year-old son was struck in the foot and a 19-year-old man walking in the area was struck in the leg. None of the injuries were life-threatening. The four-year-old was treated and released.

West Precinct officers took Frazier into custody without incident at his Highway 70 South apartment. He is charged with attempted criminal homicide and three counts of aggravated assault.

Central

Mounted Patrol officers were in Centennial Park when LifeFlight landed for a promotional event.



Fraud Unit

A citizen's tip coupled with outstanding police work led to the arrest of four persons who traveled to Nashville to purchase gift cards using counterfeit credit cards at two Wal-Mart locations, 4040 Nolensville Pike and 5531 Edmondson Pike.

Fraud Unit detectives responded to the Red Roof Inn, 4271 Sidco Drive after receiving a tip that four persons at the hotel were engaging in illegal activity. They saw Olakunle Ijiti, 32, Samuel Cole, 25, Dorishatu Turay, 24, and Olayinka Bangura, 26, get into a white BMW and drive to both Wal-Mart locations where they used counterfeit credit/debit cards encoded with stolen numbers to purchase \$2,800 worth of gift cards.

Fraud detectives stopped them for investigation. Seized in a subsequent search of the BMW and their hotel rooms were more than 100 gift cards, two computers, a device used to encode credit cards, more than \$32,000 in blank money orders and numerous transaction receipts.

Cole and Ijiti apparently traveled to Nashville from Maryland while Turay and Bangura arrived from Miami. They are each charged with one count of criminal simulation and are free on \$5,000 bond. Additional charges are likely.

Specialized Investigations Division

Six persons are in custody and multiple additional arrests are anticipated in connection with a large-scale Nashville heroin and cocaine trafficking organization.

The alleged local leader, Adrian A. Gott, 30, of 4301 Graycroft Avenue, and his co-conspirators are believed to have been responsible for importing as much as 66 pounds of cocaine and 22 pounds of heroin into this area per month for street distribution. As a result of evidence obtained during a three-month investigation by Metro police narcotics detectives, DEA & TBI agents, and Lavergne police investigators, multiple search warrants were executed. Seized were nearly nine pounds of heroin, nearly 18 pounds of cocaine, \$170,000 cash, five vehicles and six guns.

The cocaine was seized just after it entered Davidson County concealed inside a 1998 Ford Mustang traveling on I-40. The driver, Pedro Maldonado Elizondo, 46 of Houston, Texas, was arrested on two felony cocaine counts.

The heroin and cash were seized from Gott's residence. Gott is facing felony heroin and cocaine charges.

Other persons charged in this case are:

- Billandrus Caruthers, 38, of 4057 Yoest Drive, Nashville. He is facing felony cocaine and evading arrest charges;
- Michael A. Davis, 34, of Pewitt Road, Nashville. He is facing one felony cocaine charge.
- James H. Manning, 32, of Micheles Way, Lavergne. He is facing one felony cocaine count;
- Alan P. Martinez, 27, of Houston Texas, who is facing two felony cocaine counts.

The police departments continued efforts to interdict heroin and cocaine trafficking are intended to help save lives. The Medical Examiner's Office reports that heroin played a role in 20 overdose death cases since last year.

Additionally, a dog fighting raid on Pewitt Road in North Nashville, an outgrowth of the cocaine/heroin trafficking case, resulted in the removal and rescue of 38 dogs, most of them pit bulls. The dogs, some of them scarred and some with open wounds, are now being cared for by Metro Animal Control.

The primary suspect in the dog fighting investigation is one of the above defendants, Michael A. Davis of 3526 Pewitt Road. Davis remains jailed in lieu of \$250,000 bond on a felony cocaine charge.



Seized cocaine, heroin and cash.

Interdiction Unit Officer Bill Morgan talks to participants in the Vanderbilt Behavioral Health 5K walk on Saturday, April 12th.



Retirement Celebration

Sergeant Anna-Maria Williams celebrated 28 years of service



Chief Anderson presented Sergeant Williams with a commemorative plaque recognizing her outstanding service.

The following officers have been chosen Police, Patrol, Investigator, and Special Operation officers of the month for March 2014.

Police

West Precinct Officer Anthony Venable

Patrol

Hermitage Precinct Officer Jared Ester

Investigator

East Precinct Detective Curtis Hafley

Special Operations

Special Response Team Officer John Downs

Condolences:

Juan Fernandez, the father of Rafael Fernandez, South Precinct, passed away on April 12th.