



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 7, 2014

News from the Chief



Thanks to your hard work and commitment to the safety of Nashville's families and visitors, overall major crime (UCR Part 1 offenses) declined approximately 6.3% when compared to 2012 according to the latest projection from the Strategic Development Division. Part 1 violent crime (the sum of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault offenses) is projected to have decreased by approximately 9%. Those percentage points translate into thousands of fewer victims and an overall safer Nashville that, as we all know, continues to grow in population and economic development. A key report that I look for annually is the number of Neighborhood Watch and community groups we support. At the end of 2013, the number of groups totaled 619, the most ever and an 8% increase over 2012. The men and women of this police department attended 1,941 community meetings last year, an average of more than 5 meetings a day, every day of the year. With the continued growth in community and neighborhood support, and with your hard work and dedication, I have no doubt that we will be able to successfully meet the challenges of 2014. Thank you all very much for everything you do on behalf of Nashville, its citizens and guests.

This edition's memorable quote:

"The Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Training Academy: A building of four walls with tomorrow inside."

Happenings

Chief Steve Anderson led a ceremony at the North Precinct's Bodenhamer Building congratulating the Nashville Police Department's 2013 officers and investigators of the year.

"The varied scenarios that led to these awards are representative of the conscientious and dedicated work being performed every day throughout this police department," Chief Anderson said. "Because of that, selection decisions are never easy."

The officers and investigators of the year are:

Field Operations Bureau Patrol Officers of the Year: Todd Watson & David Willover

Officers Watson and Willover alertly spotted the getaway car of an admitted serial robber. During an investigative stop of the vehicle, a pistol and cash taken during a robbery were recovered. The suspect was charged with multiple counts of armed robbery.



Field Operations Bureau Police Officers of the Year: Joel Rogers & Stephen Weir

Quick action by Officers Rogers and Weir led to the apprehension of three robbery suspects. Rogers witnessed the hold-up and, after checking on the victim, quickly relayed the suspect information and direction of flight. Weir apprehended the suspects, including two who were hiding in a building.



Field Operations Bureau Investigators of the Year: Detectives Corey Wall & Chad High

While investigating the suicide of a man inside an Ilawood Drive home, Detectives Wall and High looked well beyond the obvious in an effort to find out what happened to the man's girlfriend, who had not been seen in several days. During their investigation, they saw evidence of construction in the basement, including a makeshift wall which appeared to have been recently installed. Removal of the wall revealed a 96-gallon wheeled trash can. The girlfriend's body was discovered inside. The investigation concluded that the woman's boyfriend killed her and hid the body behind the wall prior to taking his own life.



Field Operations Bureau Special Operations Division Officers of the Year: Hazardous Devices Unit Officers Gerry Gann & Kevin Pollard

Officers Gann and Pollard saw what appeared to be a struggle inside a pickup truck leaving a Stewarts Ferry Pike convenience store. They activated their emergency equipment and got behind the vehicle. The driver tossed a gun from the window of the truck before stopping. He was taken into custody. The officers' suspicions proved accurate as the two passengers in the truck related that they had been carjacked by the driver, a stranger, who asked them for money before pulling a gun and driving off with them.



Investigative Services Bureau Investigators of the Year: Youth Services Detectives Selene Julia & John Grubbs

Difficult investigation by Detectives Grubbs and Julia into the death of a three-year-old boy led to the conclusion that he was severely abused by his mother and her boyfriend. Elijah Hunter died at Vanderbilt shortly after arriving on April 26th. Hospital staff observed numerous injuries, including bruising to his abdomen, chest, back, legs, arms, face and head. Donald Harris, the mother's boyfriend, was arrested May 15th for aggravated child abuse. After the autopsy report was finalized, Harris and the child's mother, Shantonio Hunter, were indicted on charges of 1st degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated child neglect.



Professional Support Employee of the Year: Ms. Debbie Savage, Executive Assistant to Chief Anderson

Ms. Savage is a 28-year Metro Police Department veteran who has faithfully served in the offices of Chiefs Joe Casey, Robert Kirchner, Emmett Turner, Ronal Serpas and Steve Anderson. In addition to being Chief Anderson's executive assistant and coordinating his schedule, Ms. Savage oversees a staff of seven persons who ensure that the Chief's Office operates seamlessly and efficiently. That includes maintaining certain departmental databases. Ms. Savage also assists commanders and other police department leaders with their travel arrangements and other administrative concerns.



Professional support employees of the month for October, November & December 2013 were also recognized:

October

Supply Clerk Phillip Hayes

November

Criminal Warrants Division Administrative Assistant Jamie Thompson

December & Employee of the Year

Chief of Police Executive Assistant Debbie Savage

And in a separate ceremony, Jessica Burton was named Facilities Security guard of the quarter for October through December.

New Recruit Class

Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Steve Anderson welcomed Nashville's newest class of police officer trainees. The 25 men and women began the rigorous classroom and physical training program on January 2nd. Their graduation is slated for June 10th.

This is the 19th academy class to begin during Mayor Dean's six-year tenure. He and Chief Anderson share a strong commitment to ensure that the Nashville police department keeps pace with attrition and remains fully staffed.





Chief Steve Anderson introduces FOP President & Sergeant Robert Weaver to the members of Session 74.



5 Tons of Unwanted Medication Disposed of in MNPD Collection Boxes

The police department's continuing and highly successful drug take-back initiative for unwanted/outdated prescription and over-the-counter medications has now exceeded 10,000 pounds in collections.

Specially designed containers in the lobbies of all seven police precincts and at headquarters provide a convenient way for citizens to safely dispose of medicines in an environmentally friendly way. Clearing out medicine cabinets promotes public safety by reducing the risk of outdated medication falling into the hands of children or potential thieves looking to support drug habits. The collection boxes were first unveiled in April 2011 as Nashville launched the state's first comprehensive county-wide medication take-back program.

Collection totals by year are:

2014 to date: 292 pounds

2013: 4,188 pounds

2012: 3,539 pounds

2011: 2,175 pounds

Citizens are invited to bring medications to the permanent collection boxes in the lobbies of these police buildings:

- North Precinct, 2231 26th Avenue North
- South Precinct, 5101 Harding Place
- East Precinct, 936 E. Trinity Lane
- West Precinct, 5500 Charlotte Pike
- Hermitage Precinct, 3701 James Kay Lane
- Central Precinct, 501 Broadway
- Madison Precinct, 400 Myatt Drive
- Police Headquarters, 200 James Robertson Parkway

The contents of the boxes are collected at regular intervals and responsibly destroyed.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Quick police response coupled with coordinated police work led to the arrest of a 17-year-old burglary suspect after the teen crashed a stolen car in the 3900 block of Bell Road.

Hermitage Precinct officers responded to a burglary at the Lakeside Apartments, 3940 Bell Road. The teen, who was spotted inside an apartment, fled. He later crashed a Honda car, reported stolen earlier this month, near the apartment complex entrance.

Officers in the area took the teen into custody after a foot chase. He is charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated burglary, two counts of attempted aggravated burglary, leaving the scene of an accident, evading arrest, vehicle theft and theft of property.

Lieutenant Robert Durbin was recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for his support of the police officers he supervises who serve in the National Guard and Reserves.

Retired Command Sergeant Major Joseph Riggins presented the Patriotic Employer Award to Lieutenant Durbin.



Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. John Henry, Retired Command Sergeant Major Joseph Riggins and Lt. Durbin

South

The stop of a red Pontiac Grand Am for having a blown headlight led to the arrest of an admitted convenience market robber who turned out to be a convicted felon on probation in a robbery case.

Keith Dairus Boone, 22, is jailed in lieu of \$130,000 bond on charges that he robbed Buy and Save Market, 201 Glenrose Avenue, and that he unlawfully possessed a semi-automatic pistol.

South Precinct Officer John Jeanbaptiste proactively stopped the Pontiac on Harding Place at 2:54 a.m. due to the headlight violation. Boone was wearing a gray and black Oakland Raiders cap. Officer Jeanbaptiste recalled that a man matching Boone's description and wearing a similar hat was involved in the prior evening's robbery. Detectives responded to the scene and, during a subsequent search of the car, recovered a nine millimeter semi-automatic pistol under the driver's seat. Boone acknowledged that he robbed the store and that the cash on his person was part of the take.

Boone was convicted of facilitating aggravated robbery in January 2013 and received a three-year probated sentence.

South Precinct officers on special assignment due to a recent rash of burglaries in the Chesnut Hills area were in the right place at the right time to arrest serial burglary suspect Montez Webster, 22.

A citizen notified police that he saw Webster peering into windows on Pillow Street near Hamilton Avenue. Approximately ten minutes later, Detective William Traugher spotted

Webster walking on Martin Street near Hamilton Avenue. Webster was carrying a bag containing a MacBook laptop, an iPad, a Kindle and an Android tablet. Two victims' names appeared on the computer and Kindle screens. Both victims were located and identified the stolen property. The back door to the victims' shared Moore Avenue residence had been kicked in.

Webster, of Archer Street, refused to speak to detectives. He is charged with aggravated burglary and theft. Webster has previous convictions for unlawful weapon and drug possession.

Madison

Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin was presented with the Madison-Rivergate Chamber of Commerce 2013 Distinguished Service Award at the chamber's Annual Membership Banquet.

The award is in appreciation of dedicated efforts to protect the businesses and residents of Madison. In accepting the award, Commander Gourdin thanked his officers and staff who work every day for the betterment of the community.



Madison-Rivergate Chamber of Commerce President Debbie Massey presents Commander Gourdin with the Distinguished Service Award.

The Madison/Goodlettsville Rotary Club partnered with Wal-Mart to teach youngsters bicycle safety and encourage good citizenship.

Sergeant James Vivrette shared important bike safety information, including the importance of always wearing your helmet. He also presented a demonstration with his police bicycle and helmet.

Additionally, four Neeley's Bend Elementary School students received bicycles donated by Wal-Mart for good citizenship.



Pictured back row (l-r) are Sergeant James Viverette, Rotary Club President Jeff Lancaster, and Neely's Bend Elementary school guidance counselor Richard Jones. Pictured front row (l-r) are K-first grade outstanding citizenship winners Adrian Lopez and Carlos Ramirez



Pictured back row (l-r) are Sergeant James Vivrette, school guidance counselor Richard Jones and Rotary Club President Jeff Lancaster. Pictured front row (l-r) are second, third, and fourth grade winners Seany Adame, Xandria Knife, and Yasmin Lozano Nava.

Central

Officer Brian Harris was patrolling the area near Church Street Park when he saw a suspect who matched the description of a man wanted on five outstanding warrants, including assaulting a police officer. The suspect fled on foot. Officer Harris followed him while airing the suspect description and direction of flight. Officers quickly responded and took the suspect into custody. He was charged with indecent exposure, assault of an officer, criminal trespass, and resisting arrest.

Specialized Investigations Division

Specialized Investigations Division detectives on January 22nd shutdown and padlocked two Hermitage convenience markets for peddling a synthetic liquid substance designed to give users of electronic cigarettes a marijuana-type “high.”

First Discount Tobacco & Beer at 3916 Lebanon Pike, and Dolphin Market Discount Tobacco & Beer at 4808 Lebanon Pike, have been declared public nuisances and padlocked on orders issued by Criminal Court Judge Steve Dozier. The owners of the markets (Said Ebrahim Fahim & Maged Youssef Milkhal from First Discount Tobacco & Beer, and Alaa Keliney from Dolphin Market are charged.

Fahim and Milkhal were already under a permanent injunction issued by Judge Dozier in July 2012 prohibiting them from operating their market as a public nuisance. In that matter, they admitted to selling synthetic marijuana in packets labeled as “7H KUSH” and “PURPLE DIESEL.”

“Synthetic marijuana and similar substances, made and packaged who knows where, pose a significant danger to not only the health of those who use them, but to our community’s overall safety and well-being,” Chief Steve Anderson said. “Markets are on notice that the sale of this stuff will not be tolerated by our police department or the District Attorney’s Office.”

The investigation into the sale of synthetic liquid marijuana began last December after the police department received a complaint from a female customer of Dolphin Market. The citizen reported that the clerk noticed she was wearing an electronic cigarette and offered to sell her a liquid substance that would get her “high.” The price was \$40 per bottle. Acting on that information, undercover detectives made buys of bottles labeled as “Relax” and “Maui Maui,” which were kept in a cabinet behind the front counter. The TBI Crime Laboratory found that both tested positive for synthetic marijuana.

During the investigation of Dolphin Market, the police department heard from a parent who reported that her juvenile son and his 18-year-old friend became sick after using “Relax” that the 18-year-old had purchased in the store.

In the case of First Discount Tobacco & Beer, a police operative working with Hermitage Precinct detectives purchased bottles of “Relax” and “Maui Maui” on January 20th and 21st. The liquids field tested positive for synthetic marijuana.

Under an agreed order, the Dolphin Market will remain closed until late this month. First Discount Tobacco & Beer will remain shut down until late April.

This investigation also led to the arrest of Mohammad Amer after the execution of a search warrant at his business, Rum Wholesale at 1305 Dickerson Pike, led to the discovery of 129 small bottles of the substance. Also found on the property were approximately 15,000 pieces of counterfeit merchandise with various NFL team logos.

Amer, 40, is charged with delivery/distribution of counterfeit controlled substances and criminal simulation.



Chief Steve Anderson (left) and Specialized Investigations Division Captain Mike Alexander meet with reporters to discuss the harm synthetic controlled substances pose to users and the community as a whole.



A bottle of "Maui Maui" (right) was purchased from First Discount Tobacco by an undercover officer just prior to the raid.

A lengthy investigation that intensified over the past eight months into the trafficking of hundreds of pounds of marijuana from California to Nashville has resulted in the arrests of nine persons charged with engaging in a drug conspiracy.

Nashvillians **John Mason Houghland**, 39, of 312 Harpeth View Circle, and **Brian Bailey**, 40, of 6809 Bridgewater Drive, are alleged to have been the local principals who received numerous shipments of high-grade West Coast marijuana and then distributed it in small quantities to Middle Tennessee street dealers. It was a lucrative business, as Houghland and Bailey are alleged to have paid between \$3,000 and \$3,600 per pound. The marijuana would arrive in Nashville by couriers and, more recently, concealed in shipping containers transported by commercial carriers.

One of the nine persons arrested, **George Auzans**, 64, of Sebastopol, California, is alleged to have been a major supplier to Houghland and Bailey. Auzans was taken into custody Thursday at a local motel. Detectives believe that Auzans intended on leaving Nashville with a large cash payment.

Bailey and Auzans are jailed in lieu of \$500,000 bond each. Houghland is jailed in lieu of \$250,000 bond.

Other defendants are identified as:

- **Cheryl Brashears**, 46, of Dickson, who is alleged to have been a courier who transported marijuana across the country. Brashears was actually stopped in Utah while transporting 127 pounds of marijuana which authorities believe was destined for Tennessee. She is jailed in lieu of \$150,000 bond.
- **Charwan Houghland**, 39, John Mason Houghland's wife, who is alleged to have, from time to time, received payment for marijuana fronted to street dealers. She is jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bond.
- **Amy Bailey**, 37, Brian Bailey's wife, who is alleged to have received payment for marijuana fronted to street dealers. She is jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bond.
- **Trimeco Martin**, 38, of 124 Fergus Road, who is alleged to have distributed/resold marijuana supplied to him by Brian Bailey. He is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond.
- **Andrew Moore**, 34, of 7676 Charlotte Pike, who is alleged to have allowed his home to be used as a drop place/stash house for marijuana shipments and cash.
- **Ronald Rowlette**, 43, of 917 Wemberton Drive, who is alleged to have moved and hidden marijuana in an effort to avoid law enforcement detection. He is also alleged to have received marijuana for resale on multiple occasions from Brian Bailey.

On January 24, 48 pounds of marijuana were seized from a stash house at 407 Hunt Club Road near Percy Warner Park. Thus far, more than \$300,000 cash has been seized, as well as the assets of the alleged co-conspirators. Several guns, including a .50-caliber rifle, were seized from John Mason Houghland's home during his arrest.

Another man alleged to be connected to this case is **Conor Guckian**, 33, of Carmichael California, who was arrested at Nashville International Airport on January 13th while trying to charter a private jet for a trip to California. Guckian was carrying \$153,334 cash, which is now alleged to have been marijuana proceeds. Guckian was charged with money laundering.



48 pounds of seized marijuana



\$68,000 cash seizure



Hougland rifle

Investigation by narcotics detectives into cocaine selling based out of a home on Lynn Drive in South Nashville has resulted in the arrests of two convicted felons and the seizure of more than 3 pounds of cocaine, most of which was stashed in plastic bags inside a container of “Muscle Milk” protein powder.

Dantwan Crump, 22, and Kevin Howard, II, 33, are jailed on multiple felony charges including possession of cocaine for resale in a drug free school zone and gun possession in the commission of a serious drug offense. Their Lynn Drive residence is within 1,000 feet of Croft Middle School.

Also seized during the execution of a search warrant at the home were more than \$7,000 cash thought to be cocaine proceeds, numerous items of drug paraphernalia and a loaded “Mac-10” style pistol with extended magazines.

Crump, who received an 8-year probated sentence last September for a felony cocaine conviction, is presently being held in lieu of \$165,000 bond. The state is expected to file a

probation violation warrant against him soon. Howard, who has multiple robbery convictions in his past, is being held in lieu of \$176,000 bond.



Seized gun, cash & cocaine

Retirement Celebration

Wanda Norward celebrated 38 years of dedicated service



Wanda Norwood (seated) was presented with three commemorative plaques. Picture standing (l-r) are Deputy Chief Damian Huggins, Records Division Assistant Manager Jason Lawrence, and Records Division Manager Captain Michelle Richter.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

Defendant Phillip Morton, 50, was found guilty of 1st degree premeditated murder for the shooting death of Keith Gaston, 29, at the Hard Times Bar and Grill on August 23rd, 2012. Testimony at trial indicated that the victim and the defendant had both dated the same woman.

The first degree murder conviction carries a life sentence. Morton will have to serve at least 51 years in prison before being eligible for parole.

Condolences:

Retired Captain Larry Fagan Sr. passed away on February 2nd. He retired in 1989 after 31 years of service.

Retired Captain John Cobbs Jr. III passed away on January 15th. He retired in 2000 after 27 years of service.

Mark Wagon, the brother-in-law of Mark Patterson, Facilities Security, passed away.

Jim Wilson, the step-father of Detective Kevin Akin, Cold Case Section, passed away on January 21st.

Jerry David Brooks, the father-in-law of Sergeant Jim Hickman, West Precinct, passed away on January 22nd.

Richard Mayer, the step-father of Officer Michelle Steidl, North Precinct, passed away on January 23rd.

Al Batson Jr., the brother-in-law of Steve Dixon, Inventory Management, passed away.

Wendell Jones, the father of Sergeant Raymond Jones, Madison Precinct, passed away on January 22nd.

Loretta Robinson, the mother-in-law of Detective Leonard Peck, Central Precinct, passed away on February 2nd.

Lee George Grant Sr., the grandfather of Officer Joshua Lippert, Hermitage Precinct, passed away.