



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 6, 2014

## *News from the Chief*



Earlier this week I was asked to represent you at the inaugural graduation ceremony of Judge Melissa Blackburn's Veteran's Court. I receive invitations to events like this because the citizens of Nashville are proud of this police department and proud of the work you do. It is always an honor to represent you, and there are always a large number of persons waiting to recount some occasion or event wherein a police officer in this city has provided some service or assistance with which they are pleased.

This event also gave me an opportunity to reflect on the success of the Drug Court operated by Judge Seth Norman. The purpose of the Drug Court is to give non-violent persons who are addicted to substance abuse a meaningful and structured second chance through rehabilitation and supervised reentry into society.

We heard from one of the first graduates of the Veterans Court. He talked about his service in Iraq, his return to Nashville, how he got off track, his arrest, his participation in the Veterans Court and where he is in his life today. Looking at me, he said that while he didn't want to get arrested, it was probably the best thing that ever happened to him. It was the start of a series of events that put him back on the right track, now a graduate of the Veteran's Court and starting a new life.

Somewhere and sometime back, one of you cared enough about this gentleman to arrest him and allow for the involvement of Veterans Court. I know that there are many times you find it necessary to make arrests that you do not want to make. Veterans Court is another example illustrating that those who will accept help, can get help.

Below, are the remarks I delivered at the inaugural graduation of Judge Melissa Blackburn's Veteran's Court:

*There but for the grace of God, go I.*

*We have all heard that phrase but maybe never applied it to a particular circumstance. I searched for the origin of that phrase this morning. It is widely attributed to John Bradford, an Englishman and activist of his day in the 1500s, but no one knows for sure. But whoever said it first, and whatever circumstance they were describing, it has no greater meaning than what we are gathered for here today.*

*This city made a statement when Judge Seth Norman was given the resources to create a Drug Court. Over the past 18 years, 760 persons have graduated from Drug Court. Judge Norman has created a national model and his work has spread across the United States. Like the Drug Court, I know that the graduates of Veteran's Court will have an opportunity for a life that did not previously exist for them.*

*The Veteran's Court, like the Drug Court, has great meaning to me and to all of our police officers. When all else has been unsuccessful, and no other means are available, it often becomes the responsibility of the police to take an individual into custody and bring that person before the courts.*

*It is comforting to know that when we deliver this person, there will be understanding, compassion and great thought given to the needs of that individual.*

*To know that there will be resources and alternatives in place to assist that person in getting back where they need to be...where they want to be...and where we are, as we stand here today.*

*If we pause a moment to think, this program is Nashville's way of saying, there but for the grace of God, go I.*

*Today's graduation of three persons from Judge Melissa Blackburn's Veteran's Court marks the beginning of a new and needed emphasis on veterans in trouble. I know that today's three graduates served our country during the Iraq war. I thank them for their service. I thank them for having the commitment and determination to complete Judge Blackburn's program.*

*Personally, and on behalf of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, thank you to all involved for moving this initiative forward.*

*Judge Blackburn, thank you for inviting me to be here today, and for your vision in making this program a success.*

Thank you all for everything you do to help Nashville's families and visitors through enhanced public safety and quality of life. I sincerely appreciate your hard work.

**This edition's memorable quote:** *Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken.* Oscar Wilde

## **Happenings**

Chief Anderson, precinct commanders and others attending this morning's Compstat meeting took the opportunity to applaud and thank three community leaders who graciously arranged for the deliveries of lunch to each of the MNPD's eight precincts during December.

Robert Swope, Peter Marcum and Jane Marcum expressed their pride in the MNPD and said it was their pleasure to serve the officers by providing lunch.



**Pictured (l-r) are Robert Swope, Chief Anderson, Jane Marcum, and Peter Marcum.**

## **Precinct News**

Investigation by East Precinct detectives led to the identification and arrest of Nesean Darvin, 18, for his involvement in a shooting last September during an apparent drug deal.

Two men reported that they arranged to meet Darvin behind a school at 1901 Lischey Avenue at 10:45 p.m. to purchase marijuana. Darvin and two other men allegedly robbed the victims of their cash and cell phones. During the robbery, one victim was shot in the arm.

Darvin is charged with two counts of aggravated robbery. He is being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Eighteen-year-old Anthony Tyrone Woods admitted to taking part in at least three robberies and one burglary since last November.

Woods, of Old Brick Church Pike, is jailed in lieu of \$150,000 bond after confessing his involvement in the armed robbery of the Dollar General Store at 3852 Dickerson Pike last November 17<sup>th</sup>, and the armed robbery of the Save A Lot store at 1134 S. Gallatin Pike last December 1<sup>st</sup>. Woods also acknowledged to taking part in a January 15<sup>th</sup> home burglary on Colony Trace Court as well as a business robbery in Millersville.

Woods, who was under investigation for his potential involvement in robberies, was spotted by Madison Precinct Flex Sergeant Jim Reed near the intersection of Sussex Drive & Bellshire Drive. While speaking with Reed, Woods consented to meet with detectives at the Madison Precinct. During the subsequent interview, Woods admitted to crimes in both Davidson County and Millersville.

The investigation into the involvement of others is continuing.

Midtown Hills Precinct officers visited the Rochelle center which offers supports for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Midtown Hills Precinct officers visit Franklin Road Academy



Midtown Hills Precinct Sergeant Raymond Jones reads to students at Julia Green Elementary School.



South Precinct detectives and SWAT officers assigned to the Special Response team arrested Chris Antonio Thompson for the robbery of the BP Express Market at 3500 Nolensville Pike.

Thompson, 30, was taken into custody at a home in the 300 block of Harrison Street. He is being held in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Information provided by the store clerk and one of Thompson's relatives led to his identification as the masked gunman who walked into the store and took several used winning lottery tickets that were on display. Because the tickets had already been cashed, they were worthless.

### **Specialized Investigations Division**

Brice N. Marchbanks a/k/a Bear, 32, of Nashville, was sentenced to more than 20 years in federal prison for his role as the leader of a long-running, violent crime and drug distribution conspiracy, announced David Rivera, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee. Marchbanks was convicted of all charges against him, including drug conspiracy, maintaining a drug house, possessing firearms in furtherance of drug crimes, and distributing drugs to a 14 year-old, after a week-long jury trial in September 2014. Senior Judge John T. Nixon sentenced Marchbanks to the maximum allowed under the federal sentencing guideline range, to reflect the seriousness of the crimes and to protect the public.

Marchbanks' drug operation was uncovered as part of an investigation initiated by the Metro Police Department's Gang Unit into various Rollin' 60 Crips gang members who were committing armed robberies of suspected drug dealers, under the belief that the crimes would not be investigated fully and that the targeted victims would not cooperate with law enforcement.

According to the proof at trial, Marchbanks was the target of such a robbery by other gang members and was in fact shot during that robbery. When questioned by police, Marchbanks falsely claimed that the robbery was not drug-related. The investigation, however, showed that Marchbanks was running a drug house in the Creekwood Drive area of North Nashville and was using armed minors to guard the house.

The trial also included proof that Marchbanks wrongly suspected another Rollin' 60 Crips gang member of having participated in that robbery, and solicited the murder of that person. A 15 year-old and a person who is still unidentified then shot the gang member whom they suspected. The wounded gang member survived and the investigation determined that he was not involved in the robbery of Marchbanks.

Marchbanks is the final defendant to be tried in the case, which began in 2009 and resulted in more than 30 defendants being charged with drug crimes, firearms and other offenses. All of the defendants in this case have now been convicted, including more than five

gang members who held the status of “OG” (“Original Gangsta”), the highest rank available in Tennessee.

The investigation was conducted by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, the FBI, and ATF. Assistant United States Attorneys Sunny A.M. Koshy and Louis Crisostomo prosecuted the case.

### **Congratulations:**

Officer Brandon Tennant and his wife welcomed their son, Franklin James Tennant, on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Officer Billy Price, Central Precinct, and his wife welcomed their twin daughters on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### **Condolences:**

Barbara Weaver, the mother of Detective Tim Weaver, West Precinct, and mother-in-law of Detective Jill Weaver, passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Everyl Elaine Franco, the grandmother of Detective Dionte Doris, East Precinct, passed away on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

The mother of retired Officer John (Brady) Warner passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Annie Kate James, the grandmother of Tim James, IT, passed away.

David Alsup, the father of Officer Christopher Alsup, East Precinct, passed away.

Idabell Watson, the sister of Matthew Jobe, School Crossing Guard section, passed away.