



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 7, 2020

## News from the Chief



For decades, our police department has led the way among law enforcement organizations in providing counseling services and emotional support for MNPD employees and families. Each year, requests for services from our Behavioral Health Division have increased. During 2019, the Division, headed by Dr. Carol Harp, served more officers and family members than ever before. Our counselors and peer supporters helped our employees manage stress, address marital/relationship problems and provided quality therapy for issues like anxiety and depression. The peer support program has been outstanding, and last year provided more than 400 interventions. The number of counseling sessions in 2019 totaled 3,497, a record high. Also during 2019, the U.S. Justice Department recognized us as having one of the model officer wellness programs in the nation.

Our police department is committed to the well-being of its employees, and changes recently made to the Behavioral Health Division will help ensure the overall outreach will be even more robust this year. The Division has been restructured to have a Professional Wellness Section, managed by David Kennington, containing two components, the Counseling Unit and the Wellness Unit. The Counseling Unit, formerly known as PASS, will continue to be supervised by Adrienne Ewing-Roush. Sergeant Michael Gooch, a 20-year MNPD veteran, is now assigned to Behavioral Health and is overseeing the newly created Wellness Unit. Sgt. Gooch will supervise five key programs to promote officer wellness: Chaplain Program, Peer Support Program, Family Support Program, Training & Development, and Wellness Outreach. Sgt. Gooch's immediate focus will be strengthening the department's Peer Support Program, developing new programs for police families (he has just created a support group for families with children with disabilities), assisting employees and their families with personal and professional issues, and helping surrounding agencies build their own peer support programs.

I am very pleased that our counseling and peer support programs have earned the confidence of countless MNPD employees. The Behavioral Health Division exists to be of service to you and your families. Please reach out to staff there with any questions or to request assistance.

We are on track for the first deployment of body-worn and in-car camera systems to the Traffic Unit at the first of March. We have received the initial shipment of camera equipment. All officers receiving body-worn and in-car camera equipment will also receive a department-issued smartphone with which video will be categorized and indexed. WatchGuard will perform the initial test installation of in-car cameras on four Traffic Unit vehicles during the first few days of March. We anticipate the completion of installation on remaining Traffic Unit vehicles by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Metro ITS has been of great assistance in getting wireless upload zones operational outside the Traffic Office at Metro Southeast. If the camera systems and related equipment deployed to the Traffic Unit function as expected, we anticipate the additional deployment to 24 precinct officers during the first of May. As you know, Blaine Whited was promoted to captain effective at the first of this month and will oversee management and deployment of the camera systems. Captain Whited has been very busy preparing the training protocol for officers, which will be both video-based and hands-on. The initial videos will be available soon.

Congratulations to the 42 new police officers from Session 88 who graduated last night. It was great to see all of the family members and friends of the graduates. Our new officers are very eager to begin the field training process. I am looking forward to welcoming the police officer trainees who will be part of Session 89 next week. Please keep in mind that we are always hiring and each of us are our best recruiters.

Thank you all for all that you do and will do to keep Nashville's families safe during 2020.



**Mayor John Cooper administers the oath of office.**

### **Session 88 Class Awards**

Academic Excellence  
Officer Gary Anderson

Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award  
Officer Jordan Shaffer

Officer Michael Petrina Leadership Award  
Officer Tyler Heckaman

Law Award  
Officer Justen Ogle

Firearms Award  
Officer Shawn Kaelin

Top Cop Award  
Officer Gary Anderson

Officer Eric Mumaw Bethel University Scholarship  
Officer Tyler Heckaman

## **MNPD Honors 2019 Employees of the Year**

Chief Steve Anderson on January 17<sup>th</sup> honored the MNPD's 2019 Employees of the Year, whose outstanding work made Nashville a safer place.

This year's honorees are:

### ***Community Services Bureau Police Officer of the Year for 2019 Officer Brett Johns from the Hermitage Precinct***

Concerned about a large number of vehicle burglaries at hotels and motels in the area of Elm Hill Pike and Briley Parkway, Officer Johns' excellent work on the overnight shift during 2019 led to several arrests and the recoveries of guns.

In one case, Officer Johns saw two men suspiciously sitting inside a Honda Accord in the parking lot of Embassy Suites on Century Boulevard. When Officer Johns approached, the driver threw a plastic baggy onto the dash and fled on foot. After a brief chase, the driver was taken into custody. The baggy contained 56 grams of crystal meth. The Honda was stolen. Inside it was a loaded 9 millimeter pistol.



### ***Community Services Bureau Patrol Officer of the Year for 2019 Officer Gordon Stovall from the East Precinct***

On the night of November 20<sup>th</sup>, Officer Stovall was on his way home from work, but decided to grab some ice cream from his local grocer on Old Hickory Boulevard in Hermitage. While driving through the parking lot in uniform and in his marked police car,

Officer Stovall saw a woman in distress. He then saw a man holding the woman's son at gunpoint. Officer Stovall exited his police car and gave orders for the man to release the child. He ultimately did so, stole the woman's car, and fled the parking lot. Officer Stovall gave chase and, after a short pursuit, the gunman was apprehended.



***Community Services Bureau Investigator of the Year for 2019  
West Precinct Detective Patrick Cuthbertson***

Investigation by Detective Cuthbertson led to the identification of a Connecticut man, Peter Alexander Bohning, as the person who on June 21<sup>st</sup> randomly attacked and stabbed Donald and Leigh Ann Zirkle at their Cherokee Road home. Mr. Zirkle died. His wife continues to recover.

Bohning died in Gaines County, Texas after being shot during a confrontation with a deputy sheriff four days after the murder.



***Investigative Services Bureau Investigators of the Year for 2019  
Detectives David Boone and Bryan Toney from Sex Crimes***

Outstanding investigative work by Detectives Boone and Toney led to the identification of serial rapist Willie Williams Jr., who victimized seven women, several of them escorts,

during 2019. In some of the cases, Williams pulled a gun on the victims. In one of them, he threatened the victim with a large hunting knife. Williams fled Nashville after learning that he was wanted. He was subsequently apprehended in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and returned here in August to face an indictment charging him with multiple counts of aggravated rape and aggravated robbery.



***Support Services Bureau Special Operations Officers of the Year for 2019  
Officers Brian Gregory and Jason Rader from the Special Response Team***

In late November, the Special Response Team was requested to assist in locating Montez Brown, who had an outstanding arrest warrant for especially aggravated robbery, and who was a suspect in more than 40 home invasion robberies. For several days leading up to the issuance of the arrest warrant, Officers Gregory and Rader spent an extensive amount of time conducting research on Brown and identifying possible addresses where he could be hiding in Nashville, Gallatin and Clarksville.

After performing reconnaissance at several locations, Brown was located in Clarksville. These officers developed a plan with Clarksville Police to successfully take Brown into custody without incident, despite him being armed with a pistol. During subsequent interviews, Brown admitted to dozens of robberies in our area.



***Professional Support Employee of the Year for 2019***

***Ms. Mickie Sherrell from the Facilities Management Division, Vehicle Impound***

Mickie Sherrell is a 30-year Metro Police veteran who serves as our liaison and monitor at the Vehicle Impound Lot, which is operated by a private company. When investigators or administrators need immediate information about an impounded vehicle, Ms. Sherrell cheerfully provides timely and helpful details. Beyond her work at Vehicle Impound, Ms. Sherrell assists Human Resources in conducting computerized employee background checks. Ms. Sherrell is known for her excellent work ethic, willingness to help others under any circumstance, and her kind and gracious personality.



**Officer Eric Mumaw Memorial**

We remembered Officer Eric Mumaw, an 18-year MNPD veteran, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the third anniversary of the day that he drowned while trying to save a suicidal woman on a boat ramp in Madison's Peeler Park. A lasting memorial to Eric was dedicated during a ceremony.





## Christmas Basket Program





Fundraising efforts by the Nashville Harley Owners Group chapters & Boswell's Harley Davidson resulted in this year's donation of \$18,000 to the Christmas Basket Program. Retired Chief Joe Casey, who began the program in 1961, was on hand for the check presentation.





Chief Anderson recently surprised retired Chief Casey at MNPD headquarters with a special display of photos, both past and present, from the Christmas Basket Program.



Pictured (l-r) are Chief Anderson, retired Chief Joe Casey, and "Chief Elf" Captain Harmon Hunsicker.

### Shop with a Cop

Eighty-five children gathered at a South Nashville Wal-Mart before Christmas for the FOP's Shop with a Cop program. Each child had \$225 to spend on gifts for their loved ones.





## Blueline Buddies

We are grateful to the Nashville Predators for continuing to host our officers and deserving youth from the community for the Blueline Buddies Program. Officers and the young people get to meet players at the locker room, have dinner in the Patron Club, and watch a Preds game from great seats. There are a number of home games later this month. Officers whose names have been drawn for those games will be contacted early next week.



## Special Olympics Tennessee

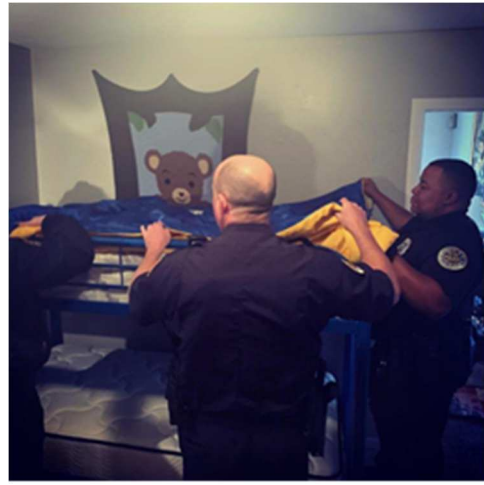
Amy Parker with Tennessee Special Olympics and athlete Kevin Donaldson stopped by the weekly CompStat meeting to recognize the South Precinct for raising the most money at Pulling with Purpose which benefitted Special Olympics. They also discussed the upcoming Polar Plunge on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Nissan Stadium.



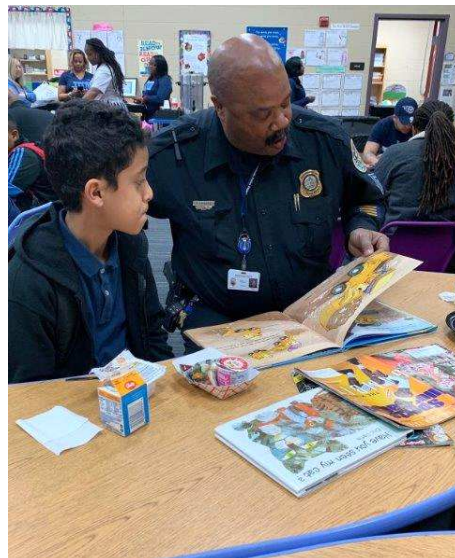
## *Precinct News*

### West

After West Precinct Community Engagement officers realized that these boys were in need of different sleeping arrangements, they stepped up to help and made it happen. Using the Caring Police Respond gift card, provided by the Fraternal Order of Police officers purchased and assembled new bunk beds and bedding for these young men.



Sergeant James Freeman participating in Fatherhood Friday at Buena Vista Elementary School.



Community Engagement officers got a great workout and enjoyed a spirited soccer match with new friends.



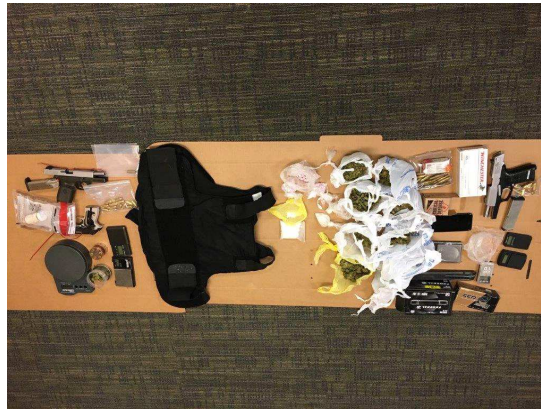
## Madison

A two month investigation by Madison Precinct undercover detectives into illegal drug sales led to the arrest of George Wade III, 25, and the seizure of 15 grams of methamphetamine, four grams of cocaine, 289 ecstasy pills, 241 Xanax pills, one bullet proof vest, and three handguns.

Two search warrants were executed at 116 A McKinley Street and 118 A Welworth Street. Wade was located outside the McKinley Street residence where he was taken into custody. He is charged with possession with intent to sell meth, cocaine, marijuana, and Schedule IV & I drugs and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony. Wade is being held in lieu of \$86,000 bond.

At the time of his arrest, Wade was free on \$15,000 bond for shooting a 15-year-old who was driving Wade's girlfriend's stolen car on Rainwood Drive. Wade fired several shots into the driver side window, striking the teen in the shoulder.

The drug investigation was ongoing prior to, and is unrelated to, Wade's arrest on Monday.



Officers enjoyed spending their lunch hour with students at Amqui Elementary School.



Sergeant Henry Particelli was presented with the Board of Directors Award at the annual Madison Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce banquet for his work in the Madison community.



## Hermitage

Congratulations to Hermitage Precinct Field Training Officer Dontaveous Eubanks, a 5-year MNPD veteran, who on December 17<sup>th</sup> was named the Donelson-Hermitage Exchange Club's Officer of the Year. The award recognizes Officer Eubanks' dedicated police work and devoted community service.



## Central

Central Precinct Officer Cindy Huffines was recently inducted into the 2020 Hall of Fame Class at Logan County High school in Russellville, Kentucky. Huffines had a single season scoring record 563 points for the Lady Cougars, 1,152 career points, and 594 career rebounds.



**Officer Huffines is pictured third from left.**

## Midtown Hills

### **Community Engagement**







## South

South Precinct officers hosted a fun and well-attended Coffee with a Cop at the IHOP on Target Drive.



A fun day was had by all during a visit with students at Paragon Mills Elementary School!



### **Domestic Violence Division**

MNPD police pre-hires spent time at the Family Safety Center prior to beginning training at the academy this month.



The MNPD Family Intervention Program's Leidy Carvajal and Katherine Garcia with recent graduates of their class aimed at preventing victimization.



### **Juvenile Crime Task Force**

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers have begun 2020 where they left off in 2019.

The team on January 1<sup>st</sup> arrested two teenagers on aggravated robbery charges after spotting the carjacked Chrysler Sebring in which they were traveling on Whites Creek Pike near Knight Drive in North Nashville (the vehicle also matched the description of the getaway car used in a Lebanon Pike robbery earlier that night). The driver refused to stop, prompting a pursuit. At one point, officers saw one of the teens show a pistol through a window.

The Sebring ultimately stopped on Thompson Lane near Eugenia Avenue in South Nashville. The two teens, Miques Crutcher, 16, and Nathaniel Webb, 19, tried to run, but were quickly apprehended. As officers retraced the pursuit route, they discovered a loaded 9 millimeter pistol on the side of I-24.

In the Lebanon Pike robbery case, a 31-year-old woman reported that she had just pulled into her condominium complex when she was confronted by a gunman (Webb) who demanded her wallet and cell phone. After she complied, he fled to the Sebring, which was taken at gunpoint from a 24-year-old woman on Bakertown Road on New Year's Eve night.

Besides aggravated robbery, Crutcher and Webb are charged with unlawful gun possession, evading arrest, felony theft and aggravated assault.

During calendar year 2019, the Juvenile Crime Task Force recovered 258 stolen or carjacked vehicles and seized 186 firearms. The team arrested 224 juveniles on 335 felonies and 274 misdemeanors.

The Task Force last year also charged 216 adults on 252 felonies and 463 misdemeanors.

## Retirement Celebration

Officer Jeff Massey celebrated 32 years of service



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Massey and Deputy Chief John Drake

### Congratulations:



Detective Darien Spann, Central Precinct, and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their daughter, Maren Spann, on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Detective Ben Fisher, Youth Services Division, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Katherine Hope Fisher, on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Austin Bass, Special Operations Division, and his wife, Abigail, welcomed their daughter, Norvelle Jean, on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Jonathan Phipps and his wife, Kiersten, welcomed their daughter, Ruby Grace Phipps, on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Officer Marvis Malone, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife, Amber, welcomed their daughter, Amelia Brooke, on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Condolences:**

Retired Detective Sergeant Walter Keeler Sr., the father of retired officers Leonard Keeler and Walter Keeler, and the grandfather of Officer Derek Keeler, passed away on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Former MNPD Officer Bob Pollard, the father of Officer Kevin Pollard, Hazardous Devices Unit, passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>. He served with MNPD from 1970-1975. He then served 39 years with the US Army. Once retired from the military, he went on to serve as the Assistant Director of the State of Tennessee Fire Marshall Service, overseeing the Bomb and Arson Section. Pollard also served as a District Chief of the Memphis Fire Department.

Retired Officer Phil Pardue, who served from 1971-1991, passed away.

Dollie Blanche Alcorn, the grandmother of Annelise and Aubrey Fonseca, Records Division, passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Wakeman, the grandfather of Julie Wakeman, Domestic Violence Family Intervention Program, passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Nathan David West, the brother of Officer Jacob West, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nashville Fire Department Captain Mike Wilkerson, an indispensable founder and member of the joint NFD/MNPD Clandestine Lab (Meth Lab) Responders Course, passed away.

Retired employee Felix Hills, who served with the MNPD from 1993-2016, passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Retired Captain Tommy Hibbs, who served from 1965-2002, passed away on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Lavon Harrison, the grandmother of Officer Harrison Nearn, Narcotics Section, passed away.

James "Jimmy" Moore, the brother of Alma Brady, passed away on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.