



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

December 20, 2013

News from the Chief



Consistent with our goal of continually improving on the service we provide to Nashville's families and visitors, many of our assignments are part of a rotation plan. As assignments change, individuals have the opportunity to encounter and address new challenges that aid in their overall professional development. New personnel coming into an assignment have the opportunity to see things in a different light. Often, new ideas are spawned that create improvements in our service. In looking back over the last 13 years, I have had six different assignments. I know how valuable experiences from each have been for me.

Drawing on this concept, I have asked Deputy Chiefs Todd Henry and Damian Huggins to change assignments. They have been in their present positions since October 16, 2010. Implementing the change on January 16, 2014, will allow sufficient time for the rebid process to take place and ensure a smooth, seamless transition. Because of Deputy Chief Huggins' close work in the development of the new crime laboratory and the hiring of its staff, it is in the department's best interest for him to continue in that role. In addition, placing the crime lab under the direction of the Administrative Services Bureau serves to insure its independence and autonomy. Accordingly, the Identification Division on January 16 will be transferred from the Investigative Services Bureau to the Administrative Services Bureau.

Both Deputy Chiefs Henry and Huggins have done an excellent job in commanding their respective bureaus. Both are looking forward to the change and the opportunity to continue making improvements in the services we provide. I know that both will continue to excel in their new assignments.

As we approach the holidays and the closing out of another year, I want to express my appreciation for the work you do. To every employee of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, your work has made this a very successful year for Nashville's citizens.

Our projections indicate that we will close 2013 with approximately 32,000 Part I Crimes reported. (The FBI classifies Part I Crimes as Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Auto Theft and Arson). While we will always work toward a goal of having zero crimes, we have to accept the fact that we must take our successes in smaller measures. For 2013, our success is that there will be approximately 2,000 fewer Part I crimes reported than last year's 34,062, and approximately 5,000 less than the 37,288 reported in 2009. In fact, to find a year in Nashville where the Part I index was lower, you have to go back to 1985. That year there were 31,864 Part I crimes reported, 82 of those homicides. Nashville's population has steadily grown since 1985, from approximately 494,000 to approximately 620,000.

Going hand-in-hand with this year's decrease in Part I crimes is a decrease in the number of murders. As this is being written, Nashville, to date, has experienced 40 murders this year. Over the 50 years the Metropolitan Government has been in existence, Nashville has averaged approximately 77.6 homicides per year. The highest years were 112 in 1997, 105 in 1995 and 100 in 1987. The lowest was 45 in 1963. Because of the work each of you does, it is possible that we may finish the year with a lower number of homicides than in 1963 when Nashville's population was approximately 400,000.

Certainly, even a single homicide is one too many, and by any standard, 40 persons who died at the hands of another in our city is hard to comprehend. These are 40 lives lost. Family members and friends of the 40 victims suffered through these tragedies. And so often, especially where young men and women are involved, there are two lives lost to a single homicide, considering the heartache instilled in the loved ones of the perpetrator.

While it is difficult to measure what is prevented, it is certain that there are many more of these tragedies that did not occur because of your hard work. There are many factors at play, and it is difficult to even estimate the number of homicides that were somehow interdicted. Nevertheless, a comparison to previous years in Nashville tells us that there are many persons alive today--persons who would have died at the hands of another--because of your commitment. A comparison of the number of homicides Nashville experiences with those in other major cities across the United States is a further testament to your dedication to our goals.

Likewise, there are hundreds of other serious offenses that were not committed because of your dedication to the job you do.

Obviously, when we think about the work of a police department, the first thought tends to be about the men and women who are on the front lines facing these challenges every day. That is what the TV shows are about. We need to understand, however, that these television depictions do not take into account the hundreds of employees in every police department who proudly work to support those men and women on the street. Without that support, no police department can be successful.

So, whether you are a patrol officer, a computer technician, a member of the SWAT Team, work in the Records Division, or do any of the hundreds of other tasks necessary to make this a successful police department, you own an equal share of Nashville's success. Whatever and wherever your assignment may be, your contribution is critically important to our mission. If you were not important, your position would not exist. You are absolutely necessary to this success.

As we so often state, our goal, every year, is to provide a better service to the public than in each year before. Incredibly, year after year, you keep setting the bar higher and higher. And, as each new year approaches, I wonder how it will be possible to improve on last year's successes. Somehow though, you always find a way to do the impossible.

Your dedication and devotion to duty has made this another great year for Nashville. Thank you. Knowing that my contribution to this effort from the third floor of the Justice Center is much less than any other individual employee, I am even more appreciative of your work. Please enjoy the holidays with your family and friends and I look forward to another successful year in 2014.

Happenings

Christmas Basket Program

Men, women and children comprising more than 230 needy Nashville families will receive gifts of food and toys from Metro police officers Christmas Eve morning as the police department's annual Christmas Basket Program celebrates its 52nd anniversary.

In its inception, the program served two families. Over the years, requests for assistance and those actually helped by the program have steadily grown. Families are chosen at the recommendation of police officers who come into contact with them during the year.

Contributions from police department personnel, both sworn and civilian, and the Nashville community fund the program. The Music City and Rivergate Chapters of the Harley Owners Group have partnered with the program for a number of years and are significant contributors of their time and resources.

"Former Chief Joe Casey, who began this program in 1961, knew that the police department's mission was to make a positive difference in the lives of Nashville's families, especially the disadvantaged," Chief Anderson said. "That sentiment has not changed and, in fact, has continued every year since. I am very proud of our employees and community partners for their commitment to this tradition of caring."

Hermitage Precinct Commander Michele Donegan is the police department's volunteer coordinator and "Chief Elf" of the Christmas Basket Program.

Christmas Basket Committee



Merry Christmas
2013

Below are just a few of the many community groups and sponsors who have made this year's Christmas Basket Program possible!



BOOKS-A-MILLION have collected more than \$19,000 dollars worth of toys and books for the Christmas Basket Program at their five area locations and they are still collecting!



The Mounted Patrol Division collected donated toys & bikes on Dec. 14 and 15 at Nashville Zoo for the Christmas Basket Program. Also pictured above are toys donated by St. Henry Catholic School.



School Resource Officer Lynette Frazier organized a friendly holiday competition between the four Academies at Hillwood High school and promised to personally donate one dollar per toy. Officer Frazier presented the Christmas Basket Program with toys and a check for \$1,000!



Lt. Matt Pylkas thanks second graders at Harding Academy for the household chores/tasks they performed at home to earn money to buy a gift for a child in need



Donations from Purity Dairies for the Christmas Basket Program



Ben Freeland, owner of Freeland Chevrolet, and his staff donated dozens of gifts to the Christmas Basket Program



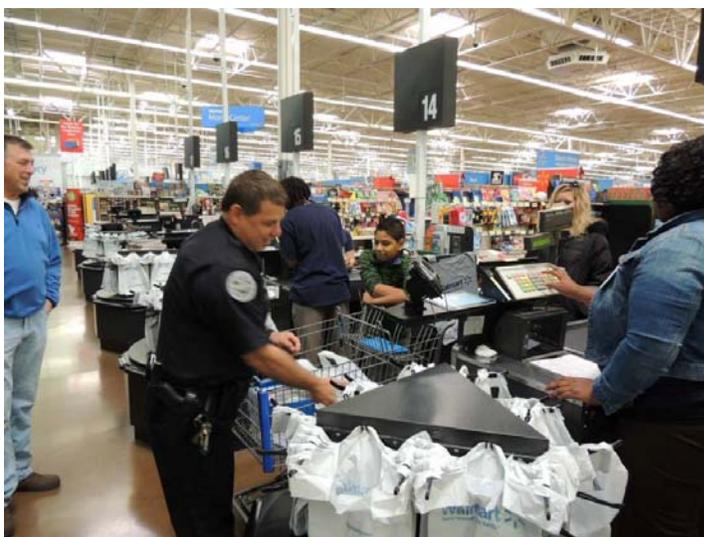
Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation employees donated toys and \$400 cash to the Christmas Basket Program.

Shop With A Cop

Nearly 50 children were able to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves and family members through the Andrew Jackson Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police Shop with a Cop program.

The Children were treated to a morning of shopping at the Wal-Mart on Nolensville Pike. The children and the police “elves” then wrapped presents during a luncheon at the FOP Lodge.

The Shop with a Cop program is an extension of Lodge 5’s Youth Camp Service Project that reaches out to boys and girls who officers meet through the course of their work. The program is funded through tax deductible donations made by citizens and businesses throughout Nashville.







Season to Remember Memorial Service

Families of homicide victims gathered last Thursday evening at the Children's Garden in Centennial Park for the 19th annual Season to Remember memorial service, sponsored by the police department's Victim Intervention Program, the District Attorney's Office, You Have the Power...Know How to Use It, Inc., and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

During the service, relatives and friends of the victims placed Christmas ornaments on a tree in the Children's Garden in remembrance of their loved ones. There was also a lighting of the Menorah to commemorate Hanukkah, and the Kinara to commemorate Kwanzaa.

Since 1995, families and friends who have lost someone to homicide have come together to place Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa remembrance decorations/ornaments in memory of their loved ones on a special evergreen tree.



Chief Anderson placed an ornament in remembrance of all Nashville police officers killed in the line of duty.

DNA Crime Laboratory & New Madison Precinct Tour

Mayor Karl Dean Monday got a preview tour of the police department's first ever full-service DNA crime laboratory which is scheduled to officially open next month at 400 Myatt Drive in Madison. The 82,500 square foot building will also be the new home for the Madison Precinct.

“Having our own crime lab is a game changer for public safety in our city,” Mayor Dean said. “This state-of-the-art facility will greatly enhance our investigative capabilities. We’ll be able to test DNA for not only violent crimes, which we do through the state now, but also property crimes. We’ll also be able to process DNA quicker, which means getting serial offenders off the street before they have a chance to commit more crimes. Our police force has worked hard to bring crime rates down, and, now, with the crime lab soon to open, Nashville will become an even safer city.”

Leading Monday's tour were Chief Anderson, Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin and Laboratory Quality Assurance Manager Ann Talbot.

“There is no doubt that this facility and the talented scientists who we have hired will significantly enhance Nashville's public safety for decades to come,” Chief Anderson said. “Additionally, I know that the men and women of the Madison Precinct are extremely excited about their new work place, as are the citizens of Madison who will be able to use the new and very impressive precinct community room for neighborhood meetings.”

The total cost of the lab and precinct project, including design, construction, furniture and equipment, is \$40 million.



Mayor Dean and Chief Anderson are accompanied on the laboratory tour by Identification Division Captain Karl Roller and Lab Quality Assurance Manager Ann Talbot.



Chief Anderson and Commander Sebastian Gourdin brief Mayor Dean during a tour of the Madison Precinct portion of the building.

Session 72 Graduation

Twenty-three new Metro police officers graduated from five months of rigorous physical and classroom training on November 26th during a ceremony at Harpeth Heights Baptist Church. Mayor Dean administered the oath of service to the new officers before joining Chief Anderson in presenting each with their badge.

The 23 graduates will spend the next five to six months rotating among the seven precincts with Field Training Officers before patrolling Nashville's neighborhoods on their own.



Session 72 Class Awards

Academic Excellence Award
Officer Charles Kaster

Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award
Officer Bryan Birdwell

Physical fitness Award
Officer Ricky Stewart

Leadership Award
Officer Ricky Stewart

Law Award
Officer Charles Kaster

Class President
Officer Ricky Stewart

Prior to graduation, the Police Advocacy and Support Services (PASS) counseling section hosted Family Day at the South Precinct for the relatives/spouses of Session 72 recruits.

Behavioral Health Services Manager Dr. Carol Harp introduced PASS supervisor David Kennington and PASS Counselors Don Summers, Christine Webb, and Adrienne Ewing-Roush to the attendees.

Chief Anderson, Training Division Captain Harmon Hunsicker, Training Academy Officer Chad Huffstutler, Fraternal Order of Police representative Sergeant Robert Weaver, MNPD Chaplain Officer James Duke and Domestic Violence Division Sergeant Morgan Ford spoke about a variety of issues during the six-hour orientation.



Chief Anderson



MNPD Chaplain James Duke



Captain Harmon Hunsicker

Officer trainees from Sessions 72 & 73 participated in the third annual Mayor's Challenge 5K Walk/Run and Kids' Fun Run on Sunday, November 24th in Downtown Nashville.



Session 73 participated in the Rudolph Red Nose 5K.

Governors Highway Safety Office Recognizes Officer Russell Wade

DUI Unit Officer Russell Wade was recognized by the Governors Highway Safety Office on December 13th for his dedication to DUI enforcement. During a 12-month period Officer Wade made 304 DUI arrests, more than any other MNPD officer.



Officer Russell Wade recognized for DUI enforcement efforts.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Hermitage Precinct undercover detectives arrested three persons, including two convicted felons, and seized four weapons, 93 grams of marijuana and 4.2 grams of cocaine during a sting operation aimed at street level drug sales.

A police operative approached Alisa Grant, 43, at the corner of Lewis and Trimble Streets and asked to purchase crack cocaine. Grant and the operative drove to an apartment on Claiborne Street where she then purchased crack cocaine from Maurice Lawrence, 33. Seized during a subsequent search of the apartment were four weapons, including an assault rifle and three handguns. Lawrence is charged with a crooks with guns law violation, cocaine and marijuana possession in a drug-free school zone, theft (one of the handguns was reported stolen), felon in possession of a handgun and tampering with evidence. At the time of his arrest, Lawrence was free on \$30,000 bond for his August arrest on cocaine possession charges. Lawrence has previous convictions for cocaine possession and felon in possession of a handgun. Grant is charged with cocaine possession in a drug-free school zone.

A police operative also purchased crack cocaine from Darren Randolph, 24, on Robertson Street near Fairfield Avenue. Randolph, of 1st Avenue South, is charged with cocaine

possession in a drug-free school zone. He has previous convictions for burglary of a motor vehicle and drug possession.

A citizen's tip coupled with outstanding police work led to the arrest of a 17-year-old burglary suspect.

A citizen last week provided the description of a suspect vehicle, a blue Honda Civic, believed to be involved in several residential burglaries. After learning of similar break-in attempts on Tuesday, Hermitage Precinct Officer Gerry Hutcheson re-aired the suspect car description from last week's burglaries. The suspect Honda Civic was stopped a short time later on Hickory Hollow Parkway at Mt. View Road by South Precinct Officer Steven Snitzer. The 17-year-old was taken into custody and admitted to the following burglaries:

- November 24th on Calais Circle
- November 24th on Septo Court
- November 24th on Highlander Drive
- November 21st on Edmondson Pike
- November 20th on Rocky Mountain Parkway
- November 20th on Winton Drive

Property taken during the burglaries was recovered from inside the Honda Civic which had been reported stolen on November 13th. The teen also admitted to taking the car, which had been left unlocked with the keys inside. The teen is charged in Juvenile Court with six counts each of aggravated burglary and theft of property. He is also charged with vehicle theft.

An investigation by Hermitage Precinct detectives into narcotics activity at 206 Belding Drive led to the unusual seizure of 42 small boxes of marijuana-laced food from California. Also located inside the home were 134 grams of marijuana hash, 13 jars of THC oil, three bags of hallucinogenic mushrooms and five vials of steroids.

The resident, Lowell Riihimaa, 24, is charged with five felony drug possession offenses and a misdemeanor count of possessing drug paraphernalia. He is jailed in lieu of \$76,000 bond.



Seized marijuana-laced food

South

Accused South Nashville McDonalds robber Daron M. Garrett surrendered at police headquarters following media reports that he was wanted.

Garrett, 20, of Stewarts Ferry Pike, is charged with aggravated robbery for the November 17th hold-up at the 4041 Nolensville Pike McDonalds.

Garrett was arrested in June 2011 for aggravated burglary, for which he received a three-year sentence. He was also convicted of a reduced misdemeanor marijuana charge in March of this year.

A citizen's complaint regarding suspected illegal drug activity at 138 Shadow Glen Drive resulted in the seizure of approximately eleven pounds of high-grade marijuana and \$4,750 cash.



Seized high-grade marijuana

Information provided by a citizen and follow-up investigation by South Precinct detectives led to the arrest of three teens, one 15-year-old girl and two 16-year-old boys, who together or separately are suspected in a rash of burglaries, including the following three apartment break-ins that all occurred on December 3rd:

- The 5300 block of Cane Ridge Road
- The 300 block of Mountainhigh Drive
- The 200 block of Chimneytop Drive

Electronics and cell phones were taken during two of the break-ins. All three are charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated burglary and vandalism.

The investigation continues into the teens' suspected involvement in other South Nashville burglaries.

East

Quick police response led to the apprehension of four teens involved in an attempted home invasion robbery in the 200 block of Old Trinity Lane.

Nickhales Franklin, 18, and Thaddous Baskette, 19, admitted that they put on masks and entered the home where they attempted to rob a man and woman. Two accomplices, ages 17 and 13, were also identified as participating in the break-in. After the male victim was punched by one of the suspects, the female victim ran from the home. The suspects then fled in a Ford Explorer with a broken window.

East Precinct officers later spotted the getaway vehicle parked on Duke Street. The four suspects were taken into custody a short time later. Franklin and Baskette are each charged with two counts of attempted aggravated robbery. The other two teens are each charged in Juvenile Court with two counts of attempted aggravated robbery.

Field Training Officer Nicholas Truan and his partner Officer Matthew White conducted a vehicle stop on Lischey Avenue. The driver, Devonte Hawkins, 18, bailed from the car. Officer White apprehended Hawkins on Meridian Street after a foot pursuit.

Hawkins initially gave a false name but was later positively identified. An outstanding felony capias warrant had been issued for Hawkins in September after he fled the court house during his trial for attempted first degree murder.

North

Proactive police work led to the arrest of a woman wanted in connection with a March robbery involving an 83-year-old victim who was forced to write a check for \$10,000 to the suspects.

Officers conducted a Terry Stop on an individual near Hampton Street and Avondale Circle which resulted in a cocaine possession arrest. The officers then developed information that the cocaine had been purchased from a person at a nearby motel. Three persons, including Sara Russell, were located at the motel and charged with felony cocaine possession. An arrest warrant charging Russell with robbery for her involvement in the March hold-up of the elderly man had been issued in April. She was taken into custody and charged with robbery and felony cocaine possession.

Madison

Alert police work by Madison Precinct Officers Richard Gilbert and Jere Clark has landed convicted burglar Robert Armstrong, 43, back behind bars.

Officer Gilbert recognized a black Dodge pickup that Armstrong was driving as a suspect vehicle believed to be involved in area burglaries. During an investigative stop, the officers recovered items taken during recent break-ins.

Armstrong, 43, is presently charged with burglarizing a home on Dalemere Drive on September 19th and breaking into a Liberty Lane residence on September 14th. Items taken in both burglaries included jewelry and prescription medication.

He is charged with two counts of aggravated burglary, possession of burglary tools, drug possession, driving on a revoked license and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is being held in lieu of \$109,000 bond.

Armstrong is a suspect in multiple additional break-ins in Davidson and surrounding counties.

He has six previous aggravated burglary convictions in Davidson County. He has been convicted of aggravated robbery, aggravated assault and burglary in Sumner County.

Madison Precinct Sergeant John Henry was recognized by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for his support of the police officers under his supervision who serve in the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves.

Sergeant Henry has served in the Marine Corps and as a member of the Tennessee Air National Guard.



Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Curry presented Sgt. Henry with the Patriotic Employer Award.

Home Depot employees volunteered their time to decorate the Madison Precinct for the holidays.



Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin pictured with Home Depot representatives.

West

West Precinct detectives charged 19-year-old Matthew McDowell with criminal homicide for the November 22nd fatal shooting of Moises Cedeno, 32, outside Lee's Market at 310 17th Avenue North during an apparent robbery attempt.

Witnesses reported that the gunman fled in a purple PT Cruiser. Detective Jeff Weaver was leaving the scene of the shooting when he spotted the suspect vehicle at 16th Avenue North and Charlotte Avenue. Further investigation led detectives to McDowell's 32nd Avenue North residence where he was taken into custody Friday night. A revolver was located in the pocket of a hooded jacket recovered from McDowell's residence. During an interview, McDowell implicated himself in the shooting.

At the time of his arrest, McDowell was free on \$15,000 bond for his November 11th arrest for marijuana possession and evading arrest.

Investigation of a Crime Stoppers tip regarding possible drug and gang activity at a Buena Vista Pike apartment led to the arrest of ex-convict and accused serial robber Keith J. Watkins.

Gang Unit detectives went to the apartment that was the subject of the complaint in the Cumberland Pointe complex and knocked on the door. Watkins answered, claimed to be someone else, and let the officers inside. During a protective sweep of the apartment, detectives

found Watkins' real identification as well as a small amount of cocaine. Watkins was taken into custody on three outstanding warrants charging him with the armed robberies of:

- Bellagio Pizza, 114 29th Avenue North, on August 16th;
- Subway, 601 Old Hickory Boulevard, on November 14th; and
- Delta Express, 4211 Charlotte Avenue, on November 14th.

After being interviewed at the West Precinct, two additional warrants were sworn out charging Watkins with the robberies of:

- Daily's Shell, 4601 Alabama Avenue, on August 25th; and
- Delta Express, 611 51st Avenue North, on August 25th.

Investigation by South Precinct detectives led to Watkins being charged with a sixth robbery:

- Daily's Shell, 312 Harding Place, on November 17th.

Watkins, 40, is being held in the Metro Jail in lieu of \$305,000 bond. He is a convicted robber and car burglar.

Central

Convicted rapist and ex-convict Antonio L. Sweatt is once again incarcerated, this time for allegedly using a brick to rob a woman in a downtown parking garage.

Sweatt, 50, was located at a Jefferson Street apartment by Central Precinct officers. He was taken into custody without incident and is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond.

Investigation by Detective Deniz Ismailovic led to the development of Sweatt as a suspect. The 25-year-old victim subsequently picked him out of a photo lineup.

The victim had just gotten off work and was walking to her car at 3:15 a.m. when she encountered Sweatt in a parking garage elevator at 5th Avenue North & Commerce Street. When the elevator got to the fifth floor, the victim exited and Sweatt followed. She said Sweatt then demanded money, struck her in the head with a brick and took her purse. The victim fled down several levels of the parking garage and hid under a stairwell for a few minutes before going outside and calling police from a passerby's phone. She was treated and released at a local hospital. The brick was recovered from the parking garage.

The victim's description of the robber led Central Precinct Officer Michael Willis to recall that he had dealt with a man (Sweatt) matching those same characteristics earlier in the night during a disturbance at a motel. Willis' information, combined with Detective Ismailovic's follow up work, led to the issuance of an arrest warrant charging Sweatt with especially aggravated robbery.

Sweatt was convicted on two counts of aggravated rape in 1990 and served 17 years in prison. Most recently, he was convicted of violating the provisions of Tennessee's sex offender registry in March 2013. He received a one-year sentence, all of which was suspended except 90 days. Sweatt was also convicted of misdemeanor assault in 2012, domestic assault and misdemeanor theft in 2011, and trespassing in 2010.

Specialized Investigations Division

The operators of a West Nashville convenience market padlocked Monday by the police department now admit the store was indeed being run as a public nuisance by repeatedly selling beer to high school students and other underage persons.

During an appearance before Criminal Court Judge Steve Dozier, Amen Naguib and Wael Timothawes, operators of Stop & Shop Tobacco & Beer Market at 73 White Bridge Road, agreed to the forfeiture and destruction of more than \$10,000 worth of beer seized from the store yesterday, as well as all signage pertaining to beer sales. The market is also prohibited from selling beer for the next three months. Judge Dozier issued a permanent injunction prohibiting Naguib and Timothawes from maintaining a public nuisance anywhere in Davidson County. The market can reopen after the two pay court costs.

“Markets throughout the city, not just this one, should be on notice that the police department and District Attorney’s Office are very serious about taking action against those who engage in alcohol sales to underage persons,” Chief Anderson said. “This was the first time we have used the state’s nuisance law to take action against a market for underage beer sales, and we will not hesitate to do so again as circumstances warrant,” Anderson said.

Criminal charges against Naguib and Timothawes for underage sales are pending.

In an unrelated matter, Osama Hezkyal, operator of Nashville Discount Tobacco & Beer at 2323 Dickerson Pike, and Kwik Stop Super Mercado at 2821 Smith Springs Road, admitted that he was running those businesses as public nuisances by using them to distribute synthetic marijuana.

Hezkyal forfeited \$19,324 seized from the Dickerson Pike market Monday. In addition, Hezkyal is prohibited from being on the property of either market for the next six months and is now the subject of a permanent injunction prohibiting him or his wife from maintaining a public nuisance anywhere in Davidson County and from engaging in the sale of synthetic controlled substances. The markets are being allowed to reopen under the management of Hezkyal’s wife, Souze Beshara, who, the investigation showed, was not involved with the illicit substances.

Hezkyal remains jailed on drug charges. Specialized Investigations Division detectives on Monday found 82 hydrocodone pills hidden inside an empty toilet tank at the Dickerson Pike market and more than 200 additional painkillers at Hezkyal’s residence.



Chief Anderson and District Attorney General Torry Johnson told media representatives that the sale of beer to high school students and other underage persons will not be tolerated.



Stop & Shop Market's entire stock of beer and signage related to beer sales was seized pursuant to a court order.



These two markets were padlocked in relation to the distribution of synthetic marijuana.

SID narcotic detectives recently attended the fall Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Conference in Chattanooga. During the annual awards banquet the following officers were recognized for their outstanding narcotic work across the State of Tennessee:

- SID Detectives Jason Wilkerson and Kevin Guyton, both assigned to the 20th Judicial Drug Task Force, and Bobby Young were recognized for their outstanding work on several cases this year.
- SID Detectives Scott Cothran and Steven Jenkins received the award for the largest mushroom seizure in the State of Tennessee.
- SID Detective Scott Cothran, along with two DEA agents, was recognized for the largest cocaine seizure in the State of Tennessee (20 kilograms). Detective Cothran was also named the Middle District Narcotic Officer of the Year. He received a plaque and a semi-automatic handgun.

During the business meeting for the Tennessee Narcotic Officers' Association, SID Detective Joe Simonik was elected 2nd Vice President.

SID Narcotics Sergeant T. Gene Donegan was re-elected as the president of the association for his fourth term.

Sergeant Donegan was also recently appointed as the Southeast Regional Director of the National Narcotic Officers' Coalition representing narcotic officers in seven southeastern states.

The NNOAC is currently comprised of 40 individual state narcotic associations, the six Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS), and Puerto Rico representing more than 55,000 law enforcement officers. The NNOAC serves as an umbrella organization, coordinating the efforts of these associations in our nation's capital.

An ongoing investigation into the trafficking of cocaine from Texas to Nashville led to the December 13th seizure of 18 cocaine bundles weighing nearly 24 pounds with an estimated street value of \$375,000. This is a case being handled by the police department's Specialized Investigations Division, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

The cocaine was discovered in a Ford F-150 pickup truck being driven by Mayen E. Flores-Garcia, 27, of Rice Road in Antioch. He was stopped and arrested by Metro detectives at the intersection of S. Gallatin Pike and E. Old Hickory Boulevard. Investigators believe Flores-Garcia planned to soon distribute the cocaine to others in the Nashville area.

The investigation also revealed that Juan Mendez-Cabrera, 31, of Blazer Avenue in Smyrna, was involved in this conspiracy and was allegedly scheduled to receive kilogram amounts of cocaine. He was also arrested on December 13th.

Subsequent search warrants served in Davidson and Rutherford Counties resulted in the seizure of 200 additional grams of cocaine, three pistols, \$50,000 cash and four vehicles.

Flores-Garcia and Mendez-Cabrera are charged with engaging in a cocaine conspiracy. They are being held in the Metro Jail in lieu of \$150,000 bond.



Seized cocaine, money and guns

On December 3rd Canine Officer Bill Morgan gave a canine presentation for 60 third grade students at Charlotte Park Elementary School. The children had been reading the book “Officer Mike and K-9 Aaron”.



Background & Recruitment

Sergeant Connie Tripp and Officer Michelle Hammond were filmed by France 24, a global news network covering veteran employment opportunities at Fort Campbell. The story will air later this month.



Sgt. Tripp & Officer Hammond at a Ft. Campbell job fair

The following officers have been chosen Field Operations Police, Patrol, Investigator, and Special Operations officers of the month for October 2013.

Patrol

Hermitage Precinct Officer James Kelly

Police

South Precinct Officer Joshua Hargrave

Investigator

South Precinct Detective Lindsey Farnow

Special Operations

Special Response Team Officers Joshua Black, Marcel Chalou and Brian Gottschall

The following officers have been chosen Field Operations Police, Patrol, Investigator, and Special Operations officers of the month for November 2013.

Patrol

East Precinct Officer Steven Wiser

Police

South Precinct Officer Samuel Tetterton

Investigator

South Precinct Detectives Corey Wall & Joseph High

Special Operations

SRT Officers John Downs & Shaun Hardin

Retirement Celebrations

South Precinct Detective Bill Stewart celebrated of 22 years of service



South Precinct Detective Mark Webb celebrated 27 years of service



From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

A Davidson County Criminal Court jury found Kelvin Pickett guilty of kidnapping his estranged girlfriend, Shiwanda Bonds, on Christmas Day 2011.

The two had been separated for some time when Pickett dragged her to a car and kept her captive until a citizen witness saw what was happening and contacted police.

Pickett still faces additional charges including a shooting incident involving Bonds.

Jontay Johns pled guilty to second degree murder for the strangulation death of his girlfriend, Jennifer Fitts, inside her Lynnmeade Court home during a domestic dispute.

Johns received a 25-year sentence at 100%. He also received a five-year sentence for aggravated assault which will be served consecutive to the 25-year sentence.

Congratulations:

Officer Larry Williams, Hermitage Precinct, and his wife, Tamika, welcomed their daughter, Londyn Carter Williams, on November 27th.

Officer Garrett Kidd, Madison Precinct, and his wife, Sara, welcomed their son, Spencer Jacob Kidd, on December 6th.

Detective Michael Buchanan, Specialized Investigations Division, and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their daughter, Robin Maxine Buchanan, on December 11th.

Officer Marcel Chalou, Special Operations Division, and his wife, Christy, welcomed their daughter, Evageline Grace, on December 10th.

Sergeant Ryan Perkins, West Precinct, and his wife welcomed their son on December 19th.



Condolences:

Retired School Crossing Guard Field Supervisor Shirley Smith passed away. She began her career in 1970 before retiring in March after 43 years of distinguished service.

Carrie Genette Johnson, the grandmother of Dorothy Murphy, Court Appearance Section, passed away on November 19th.

Leslie Becraft, the mother of Canine Officer Dale BeCraft, passed away on November 21st.

The mother of retired Officer Melvin Curtis passed away on November 21st.

Mary Stupka, the grandmother of Fraud Unit Detective Casey Stupka, passed away on November 28th.

Lavergne Monaghan, the grandmother of Officer William Waters, Traffic Section, passed away on December 6th.

Josephine Estes, the grandmother of Officer Billy Estes, Madison Precinct, passed away on December 9th.

James Massey, the grandfather of Officer Stephen Massey, Hermitage Precinct, passed away.

Retired Officer Charles E. Osborne Sr. passed away on December 11th. Officer Osborne retired in 1991 after 22 years of service.

Dr. Phillip Baron Eenkema, the father-in-law of Detective Dennis Shepherd, South Precinct, passed away on December 13th.

Doug Graves, the son of retired civilian employee Doris Cranford and stepson of Walter Cranford, Safety and Inspections, passed away on December 18th.

Marie Lawrence, the grandmother of Jason Lawrence, Records Division, and Shenika Lawrence, Chief of Police office, passed away.

Retired Sergeant Joe Connell passed away on December 15th. Sergeant Connell retired in 2002 after 36 years of service.

Retired civilian employee William Claybrooks passed away on December 17th. Mr. Claybrooks retired in 2011 after 29 years of service.

George Williams, the son of retired civilian employee Peggy Williams, passed away on December 20th.