



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

June 12, 2013

News from the Chief



Many police department employees will see pay increases of about three percent in the fiscal year as the result of the Metro Council and Civil Service Commission agreeing with Mayor Dean's recommendation to fund salary increments beginning July 1. Increment dates vary by employee and will be realized on those dates. Metropolitan Government's Human Resources Office is continuing to work with individual departments, including ours, to address any issues related to increment advancements.

Individual departments will be absorbing much of the increment cost during the upcoming fiscal year. We will institute savings measures to ensure the availability of funds, most notably through attrition.

As of today, eleven officers have submitted applications for education reimbursement from The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee's Nashville Police Support Fund (applications and instructions were included as part of the May 29th Employee Newsletter). We will continue accepting applications for spring semester/quarter reimbursement through 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 28. Remember that each applicant must hand-deliver his/her paperwork to Ms. Rachel Vance in Don Aaron's office on the 3rd floor of police headquarters. Ms. Vance will check the documentation to ensure completeness and will issue a receipt to each officer.

Congratulations to the 80 new police officers from Session 70 who arrived in precincts Tuesday following Monday night's graduation. This was the largest graduating class since 1971.

The 30 members of Session 71 were in attendance Monday night. Their graduation is set for September 26.

With the heat of the year beginning, I want to thank each of you for your hard work and added measure of diligence in working to help and protect Nashville's families and visitors. I sincerely appreciate all that you do.



Mayor Karl Dean administers the oath of service to the 80 new police officers.

Session 70 Class Awards

Academic Excellence Award

Andrew Mrosła

Officer Christy Dedman Spirit Award

Todd Barbee

Physical Fitness Award

John Jeanbaptiste

Leadership Award

Douglas Smith

Law Award

Andrew Mrosła

Firearms Award

Curtis Fisher

Top Cop Award

Andrew Mrosła

Class President

Officer Douglas Smith

Prior to graduation, a family orientation was held on June 1st at the South Precinct. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Manager Dr. Carol Harp introduced Police Chaplain Officer James Duke and Police Advocacy Support Services (PASS) Supervisor David Kennington. Families received an overview of the services provided by BHS and PASS.

Family members of trainees also took part in a panel discussion featuring Chief Anderson, Deputy Chief Todd Henry, Training Academy Sergeant Virginia Carrigan, Training Academy Officer Brandon Frith and Fraternal Order of Police President Sergeant Robert Weaver.



Chief Anderson addresses Session 70 family members.

Happenings

Gift Cards for Guns Exchange

The Gift Cards for Guns event on June 8th was strongly successful as citizens exchanged a total of 62 guns (27 pistols and 35 rifles & shotguns) for MAPCO gift cards, Tennessee Titans hats and Nashville Predators tickets. Among the weapons were a sawed-off rifle and a sawed-off shotgun.

The gun turn-in was held for four hours, 8 a.m.-12 noon, at St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church, 135 Lewis Street. Sponsored by MAPCO, Metro Police, St. Luke Pastor Frank Stevenson and his congregation, other Nashville clergy, Crime Stoppers and the Davidson County Sheriff's Office, the program provides an avenue for parents, grandparents and other citizens to safely turn over unwanted firearms to police, no questions asked. The Titans & Predators joined in the effort by providing hats and tickets.

“This program is all about enhancing the safety of families,” Chief Steve Anderson said. “The guns surrendered are now not at risk of falling into the hands of a child or someone with criminal intentions.”

A total of 399 guns have been surrendered as a result of the four Gift Cards for Guns initiatives held today, in November 2012, June 2012 and December 2011.



Mayor Karl Dean examines a sawed-off rifle. Joining him (l-r) are Chief Steve Anderson, Pastor Frank Stevenson, Maurice Fitzgerald and Crime Stoppers Board President Dwayne Duhon.



Pastor Frank Stevenson tells reporters that programs such as Gift Cards for Guns play an important role in the safety of neighborhoods.



Mayor Dean and Chief Anderson joined Pastor Stevenson on an impromptu walk through the J.C. Napier community.

Strengthening Families Program Graduation

Chief Anderson and Youth Services Captain Gordon Howey attended the 13th graduation ceremony of the Strengthening Families Program, a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family program that provides training to both reduce problem behaviors and delinquency while improving school performance.



Sister Cities of Nashville

Sister Cities of Nashville hosted a delegation of elected officials and civic leaders from Tamworth, Australia during CMA Music Fest week. The Mayor of Tamworth, Col Murray, and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean signed a treaty officially recognizing our cities as sister cities. Tamworth is the country music capital of Australia and the home to the largest country music festival in the southern hemisphere. It's a 2 ½ week festival that literally triples the size of the city. Central Precinct Commander Jason Reinbold and Special Events Coordinator Lieutenant David Corman met with Mayor Murray and the other Australian delegates to discuss issues surrounding the festival.



Commander Reinbold and Lt. Corman meet with civic leaders from Tamworth, Australia.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

A Hermitage man under federal indictment in a Mt. Juliet (Wilson County) arson case is now named in Metro arrest warrants charging him with manufacturing marijuana and possession of marijuana for resale after a grow operation was discovered at his Crosswoods Drive residence Thursday evening.

Hermitage Precinct Flex and Crime Suppression Unit officers detected a strong odor of marijuana while assisting Mt. Juliet police in arresting 34-year-old John Fisher. After Fisher was taken into custody, detectives discovered a marijuana grow operation in his garage containing 103 plants, some of which were six feet tall, and a quantity of processed marijuana. Discovered in his backyard greenhouse were an additional 55 plants. Fisher admitted responsibility for the grow operation.



South

One of two men who attacked an employee of the Smoke Token Smoke Shop on Harding Place last month is now jailed on charges of aggravated assault and felony vandalism.

Jarrett Alphonso Boone, 28, was developed as a suspect based on fingerprints lifted at the scene. Store employees subsequently picked him out of a photo lineup. Boone was taken into custody at his Neese Drive residence.

Boone and another man are accused of attacking a male employee in the store on the night of May 16th during a dispute over a glass pipe. He and the accomplice stopped the assault and fled after another employee retrieved a gun. Efforts continue to identify the second suspect.

East

East Precinct detective Nicholas McCluskey's fast response to a woman's distressed 911 call led to the apprehension of accused burglar Keandre Burkley as he was trying to force his way into the victim's home.

Burkley, 23, who was convicted of attempted armed robbery in 2010, is now jailed in lieu of \$24,000 bond on charges of burglary, assault and resisting arrest.

At 8 p.m. June 5th, the 41-year-old Meridian Street homeowner saw Burkley through her window trying to get into her garage. The victim walked into her backyard after Burkley entered the garage and told him to leave her property. The woman said Burkley grabbed her by the hair and pushed her head down before she fearfully ran back into her home. She managed to slam the door and dial 911 as Burkley began ramming the door with his shoulder. Officer McCluskey, who was working on an unrelated investigation nearby, heard the call go out. He quickly responded to the backyard and encountered Burkley, who refused to comply with commands to surrender. Officer Oscar Pacheco heard the commotion as he arrived, jumped the backyard fence and assisted in taking Burkley into custody.

The assault charge relates to Burkley grabbing the victim by the hair. She was not injured.

Convicted felon Christopher Clark, 30, is charged with criminal homicide for the June 2nd fatal stabbing of Samuel Martin, 29, at 2538 Allenwood Drive.

East Precinct detectives took Clark into custody at his W. Hamilton Road residence. Clark and Martin, of 29th Avenue North, reportedly had an ongoing argument that resulted in the stabbing.

Clark has previous convictions for aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, domestic assault and felony marijuana possession.

North

Off-duty Central Precinct Officer Johnny Cantrell was in the right place at the right time to apprehend accused police impersonator Brent James Elliot. Elliot, 22, was traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of Clarksville Pike in a white 1997 Chevrolet Silverado pickup with an activated light bar when he nearly struck Officer Cantrell head on at an estimated speed of 80 mph.

Officer Cantrell, who was in his personal vehicle, quickly called for a marked police car to assist in stopping the pickup just after 9 a.m. Officer Cantrell maintained visual contact until North Precinct Officer Christopher Stafford stopped Elliot on I-40 East near Fesslers Lane. Officers Cantrell and Stafford detected an odor of marijuana as they approached the pickup which was equipped with a roof mount light bar, windshield mounted lights, a siren box and a speed radar device mounted on the dash.

Recovered from Elliot's truck were a loaded .40 caliber pistol, a BB gun rifle, several containers of ammunition, two grams of marijuana and a badge holder.

Elliot, of Bear Hollow Road in Joelton, works at a private Nashville business where he installs lights on emergency vehicles. He is charged with criminal impersonation of a law enforcement officer, reckless endangerment with a motor vehicle, marijuana possession, unlawful possession of a handgun and reckless driving.

North Precinct officers early Monday morning arrested a group of suspected vandals who spray painted multiple vehicles and two residences.

Responding to citizen complaints just after 12:30 a.m., Officer Kyle Williams located Vonshae King, 26, and four juveniles, two boys, ages 16 and 14, and two girls, ages 14 and 13, in the 3800 block of Augusta Drive where a house had been spray painted. Officer Williams recovered six cans of spray paint that the suspects had dropped as he approached them. The colors matched those used to vandalize eight vehicles and a garage in the 3800 block of Dunbar Drive and on Revels Drive.

The juveniles admitted their involvement in the vandalism. They are charged in Juvenile Court with eight counts of felony vandalism and two counts of misdemeanor vandalism each. The teens also reported that King participated in the spray painting. King, of Rowan Drive, is charged with eight counts of felony vandalism and two counts of misdemeanor vandalism.

Additionally, a 12-year-old was charged with a curfew violation.

Madison

Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin and Deputy Chief Brian Johnson attended the King's Daughters' School ground breaking ceremony on May 23rd. The school will provide day care for low income families in the Madison Precinct.



Pictured (l-r) are Retired Homicide Detective Metro Councilman Bill Pridemore, Deputy Chief Brian Johnson, Commander Sebastian Gourdin and Officer Billy Estes.

Central

Fourteen-year-old robbery suspect Malik Jones surrendered himself at the Juvenile Justice Center.

A Juvenile Court petition charging aggravated robbery had been issued after Jones was identified as one of two gunmen who robbed Phase 1 Cutz Barber Shop at 1101 Jefferson Street.

Investigation by Central Precinct Detective Brent Fisher led to the identification and arrest of the second suspect, Lewis McDougal, 17, of Garfield Street.

Jones, of 10th Avenue North, and McDougal allegedly walked into the shop and sat down as if they were going to get a haircut before demanding cash from the barber and a customer at gunpoint. When another customer opened the door to enter the barber shop, the suspects fired a shot toward the door. No one was struck. The suspects fled on foot with cash.

McDougal and Jones are both charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated robbery.

Specialized Investigations Division

Acting on information that a convicted felon was in possession of firearms, Gang Unit detectives stopped Jessie Morrison, 41, for driving on a suspended license.

During a subsequent interview, Morrison gave consent to search his Saturn Drive residence. Two loaded handguns were recovered from the house. Morrison, who admitted the weapons were his, was charged with felon in possession of a handgun.

Morrison has previous convictions for aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

A second man has been convicted in the 2007 murder of 21-year-old Corey Sanders. A jury this week found 25-year-old Deandra Smith guilty of shooting Sanders to death while robbing him of drugs and cash in front of his Highland Avenue home. Smith was out on bond for another violent crime at the time of Sanders' murder. Smith's conviction on the felony murder carries an automatic life sentence of at least 51 years. He will be sentenced on the especially aggravated robbery charge in July.

Devonta Cunningham was convicted of felony murder last year for his involvement in the shooting. Cunningham is serving a life sentence. Kudos to Detective Curtis Hafley for his work on this case.

Congratulations:

Officer, Tony Reeves, South Precinct, and his wife, Jessica, welcomed Gracelyn Abigail Reeves, born on May 21st.

Detective Ryan Fink, West Precinct, and his wife, Kari, welcomed Henry Hawkins Fink, born on June 2nd.



Condolences:

Patricia Schager, the mother of retired Sergeant Danny Schager, passed away on May 29th.

Stevie Joe Deckard, the step-father of Officer Michael Watkins, East Precinct, passed away on May 31st.

Bernice Fosbinder, the mother of Laura Fosbinder, Background & Recruitment, passed away on June 5th.

George Fleming, the husband of retired Identification Division employee Laurie Fleming, passed away.