



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 11, 2018

## News from the Chief



National Police Week begins Sunday and will be highlighted by a number of activities in Washington, D.C., to honor the men and women of law enforcement who have given their lives in service to communities across America. Eric Mumaw and his selfless dedication to our city will be recognized in Washington this year. His name is being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Twenty members of our Drill and Ceremony Team and eight members of the Andrew Jackson Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police are representing Nashville in Washington and will accompany Eric's mother, Esther Connell. Our Drill and Ceremony Team will also be competing against other teams from across the country. Please keep Mrs. Connell and our colleagues in your thoughts during the upcoming week.

In recognition of the upcoming National Police Week, the Andrew Jackson Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police Thursday afternoon held the annual memorial service that honored the 45 law enforcement professionals who have died in service to this city since 1875. It is, in my view, the most important event involving our police department each year. I want to take this opportunity to share with you my remarks from Thursday's service.

**Thank you President Smallwood, and all members of the Fraternal Order of Police, for inviting me to be with you today. Thank you to Senior Pastor, Dr. Frank Lewis, Executive Pastor Tom Crow, and the entire congregation of the First Baptist Church for being such a gracious host. We are indebted to you. My thanks to each of you who have paused your life to gather here in remembrance of these men and women who gave their lives for us. I personally pause to remember the twelve men and women, some of them my personal friends, who lost their lives during my time of service.**

- Curtis Jordan
- George Hall

- **Steve Pinkelton**
- **Edward Tarkington**
- **John Smith**
- **Billy Bowlin**
- **Ronnie Woodard**
- **Paul Scurry**
- **Candace Ripp**
- **Christy Dedman**
- **Michael Petrina—who left us 4 years ago this morning, and**
- **Eric Mumaw.**

**I want to start today with a public reading of a poem—something that I have never done. Actually, it's been many years since I have read, or even looked at, a poem. I think those required poetry readings in high school and college English Literature classes exceeded my life's quota.**

**But, this is a special poem that I have read and reread.**

**I hope you will follow along with me and take these words to heart.**

**This poem is titled, “The Dash”, written by Linda Ellis**

**I read of a man who stood to speak  
at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
from the beginning . . . to the end.  
He noted that first came the date of his birth  
and spoke the following date with tears,  
but he said what mattered most of all  
was the dash between those years.**

**For that dash represents all the time  
that he spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved him  
know what that little line is worth.**

**For it matters not, how much we own,  
the cars . . . the house . . . the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
and how we spend our dash.**

**This poem was sent to us by Mrs. Esther Connell, mother of Officer Eric Mumaw. It is postmarked May 31, 2017. Shortly after our Memorial Service last year.**

**She added a note:**

*I am grateful for such wonderful people  
in Eric's life, and now in mine.*

*Your thoughtfulness has brought great comfort to our family.*

**Now, if there was ever a thought that our gathering here every year did not have purpose and meaning, I think that those words from Eric's mother makes it clear that this is a special occasion for all of us. I would like to go back to the poem and talk about those words that caused me to stop and reflect.**

**Remember the line**

*"... what mattered most of all was the dash between those years."*

**I had never thought of that.**

**The first date is the date we arrived on this earth. As we sit here today, we all know what our own date is—the date we arrived on this earth. And, on some day in the future, for each of us, there will be the date we leave this earth. And, between those two dates there will be a 'dash'.**

**Now the dictionary tells us that a 'dash' is a punctuation mark. A 'dash' is often used to indicate a span of years.**

**But, we know that the word 'dash' has other meanings. It also means to move with haste or to rush. And, isn't that what our lives are—a dash from start to finish, often in haste or in a rush.**

**Our time here on earth is very short. That little 'dash' between should serve to remind us of that.**

**It is up to each of us to make the most of that dash, in the short time we have here.**

**I know that Eric Mumaw did. In fact, if we were to take into account all that Eric did, and all the people that he touched, that little horizontal line between 1972 and 2017 would be about three miles long. Eric packed a lot of life on that little short line.**

**Let's go back to the words in the poem:**

*For that dash represents all the time  
that he spent alive on earth.*

*And now only those who loved him*

*know what that little line is worth.*

**I know that Eric's family knows what that little line is worth. I know that Eric's friends, Robert, Danny, Jeff, and so many others, know what that little line is worth.**

**I think that all of Nashville knows what that little line is worth.**

**Thank you Eric for showing us how life should be lived and how we can, and should, make the most of our dash.**

**Thank you Officer Michael Petrina for showing us what our lives can be. It was almost like you packed two full lifetimes onto that dash representing the 25 years between those dates.**

**And thank you to Officer Paul Scurry, who lived life to the fullest--every day.**

**And Sergeant John Smith. Big John, we called him. I remember, almost like it was yesterday, riding in a patrol car with him. The "Command Module" he called it. Big John was a big man. But he was also bigger than life. There were several lifetimes stacked onto his dash.**

**And thank you to all the men and women whose pictures are here before you for making the most of your dash. I know that each of you lived life to the fullest--right up to the time you sacrificed that life for us.**

**I have kept this poem on my desk for almost a year—to read, from time to time. It is now time to have it framed and displayed in our lobby for all to see.**

**Let's all leave here today with the thought that we will all--all of us-- gather here again next year--with no new names and no new pictures to be added.**

**Let us continue to celebrate the lives of each of these men and women. But let us also celebrate our own lives—and make the most of our own dash.**

**Do we not owe that to the men and women who sacrificed their own lives for us?**



**Esther Connell, Officer Eric Mumaw's mother, places a rose as a tribute to her son. Officer Mumaw drowned in the Cumberland River on February 2, 2017, while trying to assist a distraught woman in a car on a boat ramp.**





This police department's response to the Waffle House and Opry Mills Mall shooting incidents has underscored to Nashville and the entire nation the dedication and professionalism of this police department. These signs appeared on Lamar Advertising's electronic billboards and are intended for all you. **THANK YOU** for all that you do on behalf of Nashville's families and visitors.



## Happenings

### Shoney's 5K

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Shoney's 5K Family Run and Festival on May 5<sup>th</sup> raised \$16,080 for officer scholarships.

All proceeds from this event help defray the cost of college tuition for officers continuing their higher education. Shoney's CEO David Davoudpour personally matches every dollar raised. Since 2009, the Shoney's run has resulted in a contribution of more than \$177,000. Seventy higher education grants totaling \$90,750 have been awarded from the fund over the past five years.

THANK YOU Shoney's CEO David Davoudpour and all who participated.





**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Anderson, race winner Scott Wietecha (Four-time Rock 'n' Roll Nashville Marathon winner), and Titans punter Brett Kern.**



**Great job by these police officer trainees who ran in the Shoney's 5K. This class graduates from the MNPD Academy next month.**



Great crowd despite the rain for the Shoney's 5K benefiting officer scholarships.





## Bike Class

MNPD officers from several precincts completed the week-long International Police Mountain Bike Association Basic Cyclist class.

During the certification course, they also took time to visit students at Charlotte Park Elementary School.



## *Precinct News*

Members of the U.S. Marshals Task Force on May 9<sup>th</sup> arrested fugitive murder suspect and convicted felon Kevin Newson, 33, in Elgin, Texas.

Newson was wanted for the fatal shooting of Jacqueline Johnson after an altercation at Firehouse Discount Liquor store, 3049 Dickerson Pike, led to gunfire in the parking lot.

Arrest warrants charging Newson with criminal homicide and aggravated assault were issued on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Newson has previous convictions for robbery, aggravated burglary, cocaine possession, and unlawful weapon possession.

East Precinct detectives charged Keinesa Lillard, 23, with the April 25<sup>th</sup> shooting of a man while trying to rob him on W. Eastland Avenue near McFerrin Avenue. The victim, James Counter, 57, was critically wounded and is recovering at a local hospital.

Counter had just parked his car when a gray four-door Dodge Avenger pulled up. A woman, alleged to have been Lillard, got out and demanded Counter's belongings at gunpoint. During the ensuing altercation, he was shot in the chest.

Hermitage Precinct undercover officers spotted the Avenger the evening of the shooting and worked with an MNPD helicopter crew to follow the car. When it stopped on Felicia Street, officers moved in and took Lillard into custody. A nine millimeter pistol was recovered from her purse. Lillard was charged that night with evading arrest, drug possession and unlawful gun possession. The continuing investigation led to the issuance of the especially aggravated robbery warrant.

The continuing investigation into the February 20<sup>th</sup> fatal shooting of Shamar Lewis behind an apartment building on Ben Allen Road has led to the indictment of Jemario Askew on a charge of first-degree murder. Askew, 30, of Dyne Court, who was free on bond on a myriad of charges when the murder occurred, was arrested on April 17<sup>th</sup> for failure to appear in court. He was booked on the murder indictment Saturday while still in jail. He is being held without bond.

The investigation, being led by East Precinct Detective Jesse Holt, shows that Askew and Lewis, 34, knew each other when they met at Cobblestone Corners Apartments on the night of February 20<sup>th</sup>. The motive for the murder appears to have been robbery.

Askew was arrested on charges of felony cocaine possession and unlawfully having guns in August 2016 and bonded out of jail. He was arrested on a felony cocaine charge in February 2017 and bonded out of jail. He was arrested on charges of unlawful gun possession, DUI, and theft in April 2017 and bonded out of jail. He was arrested on two counts of felony aggravated assault and one count of simple assault in December 2017 and again bonded out of jail.

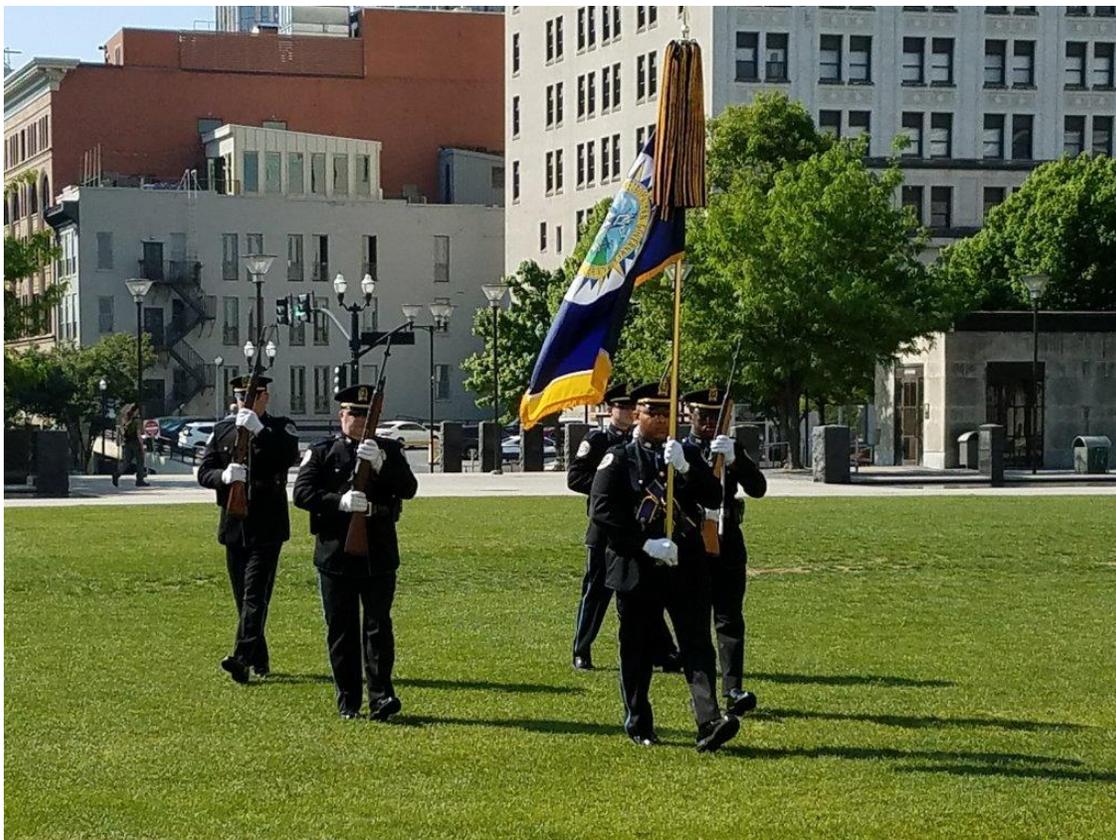
An investigation into illegal drug sales by West Precinct's Crime Suppression Unit, TBI agents, and members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Drug Task Force led to the April 25<sup>th</sup> discovery of items used in a meth lab and the arrests of two persons at 3053 Hillsboro Pike.

During the execution of a search warrant, detectives seized 46.9 grams of methamphetamine, 29.9 grams of cocaine, 42 Xanax pills, one gram of heroin, two loaded handguns, two vehicles, and \$2,473 cash. The makings for a meth lab (chemicals, cook plates, glass cookware with residue indicative of red phosphorus, and generators) were located in a storage unit which had been assigned to the condominium of convicted felon Michael Todd and Jaclyn Mullin, both 33. They were taken into custody.

Todd is charged with felon in possession of a handgun, three counts of felony drug possession in a drug-free school zone, initiating the process to make meth, and conspiracy to distribute meth. Todd has a previous conviction for manufacturing meth.

Mullin is charged with three counts of drug possession in a drug-free school zone and conspiracy to distribute meth.

Members of the MNPD's Drill and Ceremony Team on May 2<sup>nd</sup> conducted a dress rehearsal of their competition routine in Public Square Park. The team will be competing in Washington, D.C. on May 14<sup>th</sup> during National Police Week.



Sergeant Will Amundson talked about saving the life of a suicidal man Monday. Forty-two MNPD officers received lifesaving awards at the department's annual awards ceremony last month.



### **Juvenile Crime Task Force**

More guns and another stolen car have been recovered by the Juvenile Crime Task Force, this time in East Nashville.

Task Force officers on April 26<sup>th</sup> were checking the area of James Cayce public housing for stolen vehicles when they spotted a Chevrolet Lumina that had been taken during the night of April 23<sup>rd</sup> from the 800 block of S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The Lumina sped away before a stop could be initiated.

A short time later, officers found the car unoccupied in the 700 block of S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Information was received that the occupants ran to a nearby apartment. Officers went there and found four persons inside, along with the strong smell of marijuana. Two of the four, a 17-year-old and Ke'Sean Smith, 18, admitted they had been riding in the stolen car. During the execution of a search warrant at the apartment, officers recovered a stolen nine millimeter pistol loaded with 14 rounds (this gun was taken from a vehicle in the 900 block of Highland Circle on the night of March 18<sup>th</sup>), another nine millimeter pistol loaded with 31 rounds, a third

nine millimeter pistol loaded with 28 rounds, and an unloaded .22 caliber rifle. Also found were 5.7 grams of crack cocaine, 9 grams of marijuana, 2 digital scales and a marijuana grinder.

The 17-year-old, who claimed the guns, is charged with three counts of unlawful gun possession, theft of the gun, and auto theft. Smith is charged with auto theft.

The two other persons, Jamarius Frazier, 28, and Christopher Mason, 32, are charged with drug possession for resale.



The Juvenile Crime Task Force teamed with an MNPD helicopter crew and East Precinct officers on April 25<sup>th</sup> to recover a stolen Dodge Charger that had been taken earlier in the day from La Vergne. Three teenagers, a 17-year-old and two 18-year-olds, were arrested. A stolen .45 caliber pistol being carried by the 17-year-old was seized.

Task Force officers spotted the Charger on Ed Temple Boulevard in North Nashville and attempted to stop it. The driver, Charlie Easley, 18, sped away. Officers did not pursue the car given the speed and heavy traffic. A police helicopter crew flew into the area, spotted the Charger and followed it from the air into East Nashville, where Easley and his two passengers bailed out in an alley between Stainback and Lischey Avenues. East Precinct officers established a perimeter. An MNPD canine team assisted in apprehending the three.

The 17-year-old is charged at juvenile detention with evading arrest, unlawful gun possession, auto theft, theft of the gun, and an outstanding charge of escape. Easley is charged with evading arrest, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, cocaine possession, auto theft, and outstanding warrants for aggravated assault. The other 18-year-old, Briasia Hyde, is

charged with evading arrest, joyriding, vandalism, resisting arrest, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

## **Specialized Investigations Division**

More than \$1 million worth of heroin, concealed in a fire extinguisher and destined for the streets of Nashville, has been intercepted thanks, in part, to the keen nose of MNPD narcotics dog Boston.

A continuing investigation by the police department's Major Case Task Force, DEA and TBI into heroin and opioid trafficking led to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> stop of a Dodge Charger on I-40 at Charlotte Pike by Interdiction Officer Joe Simonik. Officer Simonik's partner, Boston, sniffed the outside of the Charger and indicated that a drug odor was coming from the trunk. Inside a bag belonging to Roberto Hernandez, 25, of Arkansas, a passenger in the car, was a red fire extinguisher that appeared to have been tampered with. Upon dismantling the fire extinguisher, detectives discovered a package containing 16.8 pounds of heroin. Hernandez claims that he was approached by an unknown person in Arkansas and asked to bring the fire extinguisher to Nashville in exchange for a job. He is charged with possession of heroin for resale and is being held in lieu of \$250,000 bond.



## **Canine Unit**

Officer Mark Sydenstricker recently accepted a plaque from the Murfreesboro Police Department in appreciation for the MNPD's assistance in the formation of their Canine Unit in 2004 and continued participation in ongoing training and recertification during the ensuing years.

Due to the growing size of the Murfreesboro Police Department's canine unit, a new vendor was hired which will replace MNPD involvement.



Murfreesboro police officers (l-r) Blake Troutman, Ryan Holobaugh and Trey Mansfield present Officer Mark Sydenstricker with a plaque recognizing the Metro Police Department's Canine Unit.

### Domestic Violence Division

Domestic Violence Division personnel on May 4<sup>th</sup> participated in the YWCA's Stand Against Racism event at Public Square Park.



The Family Intervention Program recently delivered home furnishings to a family.



**Janisca Williams (far left) and Lieutenant Blaisdell and his son (far right) helped deliver home furnishings to a family in need. Special thanks to Christie Simpson (not pictured) for her donations.**

### **Retirement Celebration**

School Resource Officer Jeff Thomas celebrated 25 years of service.



**Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. Chris Upchurch, Officer Thomas, and Commander Sebastian Gourdin.**

## **Congratulations:**



Central Precinct Detective Joshua Hollins and his wife, Kayla, welcomed their daughter, Ellison Mae Hollins, born on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Officer John Frazier, Madison Precinct, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Chloe Frazier, born on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Lieutenant Robert Russell, West Precinct, and his wife, Danielle, welcomed their son, Levi Knox Russell, born on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## **Condolences:**

Emma Lee Shoffner Tyree, the grandmother of Officer John Tyree, Midtown Hills Precinct, passed away on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The father-in-law of Officer Elizabeth Okert, East Precinct, passed away on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The father of Officer Bryon Boelter, East Precinct, passed away on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dianna Lynn Thornton, the mother of Officer James Thornton, Central Precinct, passed away.

Delma Webster, the grandmother of Officer Ron Bright, passed away on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Retired Officer Michael Wright passed away on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He retired in 1995 after 22 years of service.

Donna Black, the grandmother of Officer Josh Black, Special Operations Division, passed away on May 4<sup>th</sup>.