



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

February 24, 2012

News from the Chief



Effective March 1 at 6:30 a.m., pursuant to a contract with Metropolitan Government, United Road Towing (URT) will officially take over operation of the Metro Impound Lot at 1201 Freightliner Drive. MNPD employees presently assigned to Vehicle Impound, along with their skills and talents, will transition to the Records Division. Ms. Mickie Sherrell will maintain her work station at the impound lot as the police department's designated liaison with United Road Towing.

MNPD Property Guards who presently provide security at the impound lot will transition to other duty areas effective March 1. URT is responsible for security on the property, as well as employees to staff the impound operation.

I am extremely grateful to Ms. Sherrell and the dedicated impound lot staff, including property guards, for their commitment and hard work, particularly in the weeks leading up to the March 1 transition. I want to emphasize that Ms. Sherrell will continue to be at the impound lot March 1 and beyond and will help address any issues that may arise.

URT is maintaining the same impound lot public telephone number, 862-7800, as well as the existing line designated for police officer calls.

Two important emails have been issued this week, one on February 23 from Police – MDC Support, the other this afternoon from Captain Rita Baker, that give specific guidance on querying information on vehicles at the impound lot and the process for emailing and faxing hold forms, release forms, etc. Please familiarize yourselves with these procedures.

Thank you to all police department employees for everything you do to enhance the safety of Nashville's families and visitors.

Happenings

Employees of the Year

Chief Steve Anderson on February 10 congratulated six individuals for being named the Metropolitan Police Department's Employees of the Year for 2011.

Officer Blaine Whited from the Hermitage Precinct received Field Operations Bureau Police Officer of the Year honors. Officer Whited responded to a citizen complaint about a gunman standing in the 600 block of Charles E. Davis Boulevard. Officer Whited approached the suspect who quickly crouched behind a utility box and retrieved a pistol. Officer Whited was forced to fire in self-defense. The gunman was hit in the arm and captured after a brief chase.



Officer Blaine Whited is congratulated by Chief Steve Anderson for being selected Field Operations Bureau Police Officer of the Year for 2011.

Officer Adam Parker from the West Precinct received Field Operations Bureau Patrol Officer of the Year honors. Officer Parker spotted two men who had used a stolen box truck to smash their way into a convenience store. After a brief pursuit, both suspects were taken into custody.



Officer Adam Parker is congratulated by Chief Steve Anderson for being selected Field Operations Bureau Patrol Officer of the Year for 2011.

Detective Steven Jolley from the North Precinct received Field Operations Bureau Investigator of the Year honors. Investigation by Detective Jolley led to the identification of Kenneth Offutt as the man who fatally shot Tevin Suggs. Jolley painstakingly tracked down leads including locating the getaway vehicle. During the execution of a search warrant on the car, Jolley found distinctive paint from a mailbox that was struck the night of the murder under the Impala.



Detective Steven Jolley received Field Operations Bureau Investigator of the Year honors and Investigator of the Month for last October.

Officer Johnny Hansel from the Aviation Unit received Field Operations Bureau Special Operations Officer of the Year honors. The keen eye of Police Helicopter Pilot Hansel spotted burglary suspects driving a stolen car on Gallatin Pike. Officers stopped the vehicle and took three men into custody. Stolen property including six guns, five GPS devices and two laptop computers was recovered.



Police Helicopter Pilot Officer Johnny Hansel was named the Field Operations Bureau Special Operations Division Officer of the Year and Special Operations Officer of the Month for last October.

Mr. Mark Fielden from the Safety and Inspections Division received Professional Support Employee of the Year honors. Retired Officer Fielden, a 30-year veteran, processed and maintained a multitude of forms associated with the Safety and Inspections division. His knowledge of policy and procedure is reflected in the case files where outstanding documentation is required.



Mr. Mark Fielden received Professional Support Employee of the Year honors.

Detective Scott Cothran from the Gang Unit received Investigative Services Bureau Investigator of the Year honors. Detective Cothran was the police department's point man in a joint investigation with the ATF of the 98 Mafia Crips Gang. As a result of his work, eight persons were indicted by a federal grand jury on a variety of drug and firearm offenses. (Detective Cothran is not pictured due to his undercover assignment)

“The tremendous work of these individuals is representative of the dedication displayed every day by the 1,800 men and women of the Nashville police department,” Chief Steve Anderson said. “I am very proud of the award winners and their commitment to Nashville’s families and visitors.”

Youth Intervention Team

Chief Steve Anderson on February 10th presented special khaki vests to four volunteer chaplains who formed a special Youth Intervention Team to help reduce violence among teenagers and young adults.

Over the past 20 months, this four member core group of ministers has responded to a number of incidents in several areas of Nashville to offer counseling and mentorship to parties involved in teenage violence in a proactive effort to prevent disputes from escalating.

“These pastors are true leaders in their individual churches and the Nashville community,” Chief Steve Anderson said. “We in the police department are deeply grateful for their continued strong support and partnership.”



Pictured (l-r) are Bishop Hal Robinson from Mt. Moriah Community Baptist Church, Bishop George Price from Bethesda Original Church of God, Reverend Michael Joyner from Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend William Harris from Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and Chief Steve Anderson.

Read Me Month

Chief Steve Anderson read Officer Buckle and Gloria to 2nd and 3rd graders at Julia Green Elementary School as part of the Book 'em literacy program aimed at encouraging children to read. The students also received Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) t-shirts.



Chief Steve Anderson visits students at Julia Green Elementary School.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Accused serial robber Bobby Reece Putman's luck finally ran out after he held up a Waffle House restaurant on McGavock Pike near the Opryland Hotel.

Putman, 58, has admitted to being the Waffle House robber and to being responsible for a series of business robberies in the East and Madison Precincts since last November.

Putman entered the Waffle House at 2727 McGavock Pike wearing a hood, dark ski mask and gloves. In his sleeve was what witnesses thought to be a short barrel shotgun. Putman demanded cash. When an employee couldn't get the drawer open, Putman took the entire cash register and fled the premises in a Honda Accord.

Minutes later, a Metro Parks officer reported that he had just seen the Honda in the area of McGavock and Lebanon Pikes. Hermitage Precinct officers began searching neighborhoods in the immediate area. Sergeant Noah Smith drove onto Crestline Drive and spotted the Honda on the side of the road near Bermuda Drive. Putman was taken into custody without incident.

During an interview at the Hermitage Precinct, Putman confessed to the Waffle House robbery as well as robberies of the Subway restaurant at 3860 Dickerson Pike on February 8th and February 13th. Based on Putman's admissions, East Precinct detectives charged him with robbing Value Vet at 4602 Gallatin Pike on January 16th and Madison Inglewood Market at 4702 Gallatin Pike on December 13th.

In addition, Putman admitted to the robberies of a number of primarily East Nashville businesses, including:

- Portland Brew, 1921 Eastland Avenue, on November 18th
- Portland Brew, 1921 Eastland Avenue, on December 19th
- Castrillo's Pizza, 1405 McGavock Pike, on November 29th
- Sara Lee Bakery, 4801 Gallatin Pike, on December 22nd
- Variedades Latino Market, 4120 Gallatin Pike, January 19th
- Deals store, 3409 Gallatin Pike, January 24th
- Hair World, 500 Gallatin Avenue, January 30th
- H.G. Hill store, 1001 Riverside Drive, February 6th
- Turnip Truck, 970 Woodland Street, February 10th

The weapon Putman used in the robberies is believed to have been a piece of metal pipe that resembled the barrel of a gun.

Putman, who lived at 1453 McGavock Pike in East Nashville, is now jailed in lieu of \$225,000 bond.

Coordinated police work led to the arrest of Joshua Nipper, 27, after he broke into the Mapco at 1425 Robinson Road.

Nipper used a hammer to break a window and then reached inside and took cigarettes just after 2 a.m. Officer Brian Gant saw Nipper running from the store. Additional officers arrived and quickly created a perimeter. Canine Officer Jerry Denton and his partner Roscoe located Nipper hiding in the crawl space of an unoccupied house on Fuller Street where he was taken into custody.

Nipper, of Madison, is charged with burglary, evading arrest and resisting arrest. He is being held in lieu of \$32,000 bond.

South

South Precinct Flex officers arrested two men on Church Street downtown moments after they watched the pair rob a 16-year-old autistic boy of his sub sandwich.

Officers Jason Spencer and Brandon Frith were at the corner of Capitol Boulevard and Church Street at 2 p.m. when they saw the teenager exit the downtown library with the sandwich in his hands. Almost immediately, two men, subsequently identified as Rodney Sanders, 34, and Marcus White, 22, approached and grabbed the visibly frightened teen's shirt collar. The officers saw Sanders back the victim up against a column in front of the library and take his sandwich. The men then walked east on Church Street, laughing and eating the sandwich.

Officers Spencer and Frith swiftly went to the teenager, made sure he was ok and asked if he knew the two men. The 16-year-old said they were complete strangers and that they demanded his sandwich. The officers then pursued Sanders and White on foot and arrested them without incident. Both are charged with robbery.

Sanders has prior convictions for multiple public intoxication offenses, assault, theft, drug possession and criminal trespassing.

East

East Precinct officers, with the assistance of a police helicopter, apprehended two teenagers minutes after they tried to rob a 58-year-old man on Lemont Drive.

The teens were on an MTA bus with the victim. He said they followed him as he walked on Lemont Drive before attacking and punching him in the face at 1:30 p.m. The victim fought the teens off while a passerby called 911. Police helicopter pilot Johnny Hansel was in the air, heard the call dispatched, and spotted the running teens. Officer Cole Womack apprehended a 17-year-old. The 19-year-old suspect, Christopher Malone, Jr., ran into the Maplewood High School gym and tried to blend in with students. Maplewood School Resource Officers James Freeman and Michael Passaro quickly took Malone into custody.

The 17-year-old, who was convicted of aggravated robbery in Juvenile Court last year, is now charged with attempted robbery. Malone is also charged with attempted robbery.

A total of four persons have now been arrested on charges of first-degree murder and especially aggravated robbery for last September's shooting death of Terrance Ross on Thomas Avenue.

Members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force arrested two of the defendants, Sara Kuzminski, 25, who was taken into custody in Gallatin, and her boyfriend, Richard Hudson, 33, who was found in a North Nashville apartment.

Arrested in the case earlier this month were Antwan Cartwright, 26, and Quinteze Miller, 21.

Terrance Ross, 33, was fatally wounded outside a duplex on Thomas Avenue last September 29th. The investigation, led by East Precinct Detective Curtis Hafley, alleges that the suspects conspired to lure Ross to Thomas Avenue to rob him. He was shot in the process.

A fifth indicted defendant, Angelo Jetton, 19, remains at large. Anyone knowing Jetton's whereabouts is urged to call Crime Stoppers at 74-CRIME.

North

Flex Officers Clifton Huffmaster and Waylon Proffitt stopped the driver of a Nissan Pathfinder for a window tint violation on 21st Avenue North at Jefferson Street. They detected a strong odor of marijuana inside the vehicle. Seized in a subsequent search were eleven ounces of marijuana and digital scales.

Timothy Harris, 21, is charged with felony marijuana possession in a drug-free school zone. His Pathfinder was also seized.

Central

Central Precinct Flex officers arrested Geraldo Rivas in the rear parking lot of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on Rosa L. Parks Boulevard.

Rivas, 57, is charged with attempted murder after allegedly stabbing and critically injuring his 53-year-old girlfriend inside his Cleveland Street residence. He was taken into

custody without incident after the police department received information that he was seated inside a Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

Proactive police work by Central Precinct undercover detectives led to the arrest of three persons from Florida believed to be involved in a counterfeit check writing scheme.

The detectives performed a Knock and Talk at the Knights Inn at 99 Spring Street. The woman who answered the door, Lauren Peluso, 31, gave consent for the officers to search her room. Seized were 12 fake IDs, various checks and other bank-related paperwork such as deposit and withdrawal slips, and over \$11,000 cash.

Peluso, who was driving a rental car, had a plane ticket to fly from Nashville to Raleigh, North Carolina. It appears her sole purpose for being in Nashville was to cash the fraudulent checks.

Peluso and two men in the room, Scott Conklin, 51, and Lane Schau, 25, are all charged with identity theft.

Investigation by Metro Fraud Unit detectives and Secret Service agents continues. Peluso is now in Federal custody on outstanding indictments in North Carolina. Conklin and Schau remain jailed in lieu of \$35,000 bond each.

Cold Case Unit

Thirty-three years after she was strangled to death inside her Hermitage area home, Cold Case detectives have now made an arrest for the murder of Ethel Hethcote.

Hethcote, 72, was found dead by her daughter inside their home at 928 Radford Drive on the afternoon of January 29, 1979. Certain items were missing from the residence, leading investigators at the time to conclude that robbery was a likely motive.

Recent investigation by Cold Case Unit Sergeant Pat Postiglione and Detective Danny Satterfield, which included numerous interviews and the development of other evidence, led to last Friday's indictment of Freddie Lee Johnson on a charge of first-degree murder. Johnson, 60, of Seymour Avenue, was served with the indictment on February 13th.

Johnson is a registered sex offender as the result of a 1979 rape conviction out of Mississippi. He has been charged with more than 50 offenses in Nashville, and has multiple convictions for crimes including robbery, theft (multiple counts), burglary, criminal trespassing, unlawful weapon possession and motor vehicle burglary.

Johnson is being held in lieu of \$500,000 bond.

Auto Theft Unit

Two men who decided to steal and then dismantle an abandoned car on I-40 got much more than they bargained for when they were suddenly surrounded by officers and learned that the vehicle they had just taken was actually a Metro police bait car.

As part of a continuing investigation to identify persons who are stealing vehicles for salvage, the bait car, equipped with special electronic equipment, was placed on the shoulder of I-40 in West Nashville. Auto Theft detectives and West Precinct officers were alerted just after

12:30 p.m. that the car was in motion. Officers subsequently located the bait car in the parking lot of the Waffle House at Charlotte Pike and Cabot Drive, where it had been pushed by the suspects' vehicle. When police arrived at the Waffle House, Richard Samuel Wilder, 31, of Dickson, and Hank Lewis Newsome, 47, of Nashville, were underneath the bait car attempting to remove the gas tank.

Both Wilder, a convicted burglar, and Newsome, a convicted thief, are now jailed on charges of auto theft and felony vandalism.

Background & Recruitment

Officer Gerald McShepard and MNPD Intern Coordinator Kayla Long attended the 2012 Nashville Area College-to-Career Fair where they spoke to 30 qualified applicants about a career with the MNPD.



Pictured from (l-r) are MNPD Intern Coordinator Kayla Long, 2012 Nashville Area College-to-Career Fair Chairman Donald (Don) E. Foster and North Precinct Patrol Officer Gerald McShepard.

Officers Angela Booker and Gerald McShepard attended the Florida A&M University Career Fair, in Tallahassee Florida, where they spoke to 66 qualified applicants about a career with the MNPD.



Pictured from (l-r) are North Precinct CAP Officer Angela Booker and North Precinct Patrol Officer Gerald McShepard.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

A Davidson County jury deliberated about an hour and a half before finding Coy Cotham guilty of the 2010 murder of Veronica Bozza. Cotham was convicted of first degree premeditated murder and especially aggravated robbery. Bozza, 39, was chased through her home and shot to death on August 29, just after arriving home from church. Cotham was a friend and business partner of Veronica Bozza's estranged husband, Timothy Bozza. He testified that after he lost a custody battle over the couples' son, he discussed having Cotham murder his wife for \$10,000.

Cotham was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Timothy Bozza is also charged with first degree murder. His trial date has not yet been set.

Special kudos go out to Detectives Andrew Injaychock, Johnny Crumby, Andrew Vallee and Chad Gish for their critical work on this case.

A Nashville jury convicted Demeko Duckworth of two counts of first degree premeditated murder and one count of attempted first degree murder.

Duckworth fatally stabbed his girlfriend, Asia Wade, a mother of 6, inside the bedroom of her home in July 2010. He then drove to Hillside Avenue where he shot and killed her cousin, Clarence Goins, before he shot another man in the leg. After the murders, Duckworth

drove to Arkansas and then Georgia where he later surrendered to U. S. Marshals.

Each first degree murder conviction carries a sentence of at least 51 years in prison.

A man who is already serving a 37-year sentence for stabbing a woman during a robbery attempt has been convicted of additional hold-ups.

Timothy Kelly was convicted last year of stabbing a woman outside of the White Bridge Road Target while trying to steal her purse. A Nashville jury has now found him guilty of three counts of especially aggravated robbery and one count of assault, for crimes he committed at 100 Oaks Mall and a Thompson Lane apartment complex. Kelly will be sentenced next month.

Congratulations:

Session 67 Trainee Eric Uruski and his wife welcomed their first child, Michaelina Jolee Uruski, on February 20th.

Youth Services Detective Jeff Gibson and his wife welcomed their daughter, Kathryn Claire Gibson, on February 21st.



Condolences:

Retired civilian employee Barbara Winn passed away on February 8th.

Elnora Howlett, the grandmother of Sgt. Matthew Howlett, North Precinct, passed away on February 7th.

Charles Wolfe, father of Officer Neil Wolfe, South Precinct, passed away on February 11th.

Willie Ferrell, grandfather of Officer Matt Hinshaw, Madison Precinct, passed away on February 11th.

Linus Johnson, the step-father of Vivian Stockman, Identification Division, passed away on February 14th.

Billie Ferrell, grandmother of Officer Matt Hinshaw, Madison Precinct, passed away on February 16th.

Rose Pinkard, grandmother of Officer Ronald Longino, Hermitage Precinct, passed away.

Retired Lieutenant Russ Hackett passed away on February 21st.