



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

March 26, 2013

News from the Chief



Due to circumstances beyond the Metropolitan Government's control, including a delay in the ultimate acquisition of land, the opening of the Midtown Hills Precinct at 12th Avenue South and Wade Avenue has been pushed back from January to July of next year. The government now owns the land, which has been cleared and fenced. The General Services Department is working on securing the development team.

Even with Midtown Hills being delayed by a few months, next January will still be a busy time for the police department as more than a year of construction will come to an end and we move into the permanent quarters for the Madison Precinct and our first-ever DNA Crime Laboratory. The crime lab was a core component of our budget hearing this morning with Mayor Dean. The police department is asking for a net budget increase of \$4 million for fiscal year 2013-14. The largest line item within that request is for the lab (\$850,000 for chemicals, supplies and equipment maintenance; \$384,000 for the full staffing of scientists). As we discussed with the mayor, our lab expects to have as its goals a two-week turnaround time for blood alcohol testing (compared to approximately 9 weeks presently from the TBI), and a four-week turnaround time for DNA/Serology work (compared to approximately 19 weeks from the TBI). The TBI laboratory does outstanding work, but its volume is significant given that it provides services to law enforcement agencies in Tennessee's 95 counties.

Some of our other budget improvement requests include:

- \$830,000 to bridge the gap in funding for the 50 officers who were previously funded by a three-year federal COPS grant and are not being funded locally;
- \$190,000 to fund the part-time former officers who perform background investigations on applicants to the police department;
- \$663,000 in increased funding for our Special Events Initiative. This money is used to staff the numerous special events held across the city each year with extra-duty officers being paid overtime so that our service to the community is not disrupted;
- \$211,000 to cover the cost of required helicopter engine overhaul and maintenance;

- \$384,000 to cover the increased cost of computer software licensing and maintenance.

In his remarks this morning, Mayor Dean was exceptionally complimentary of the work being done by members of the police department throughout the city. I, too, am proud of all that you do on behalf of Nashville's families and visitors. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.



Mayor Karl Dean was joined by Deputy Mayor Greg Hinote and Finance Director Rich Riebeling for today's police department budget hearing. Seated with Chief Anderson were MNPD Finance Manager Samir Mehic and Crime Laboratory DNA Supervisor Tabitha Bandy.



Construction is continuing on the building that will permanently house the Madison Precinct and the DNA Crime Laboratory. Move in is expected in January.

Happenings

Chief Steve Anderson and members of the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition on March 19th joined together in the state senate chamber to announce their strong support of a legislative agenda of bills pending before the general assembly that will help make Tennessee a safer place to live, work and raise a family.

The legislation includes regulation of pill mills, increases the minimum sentences to be served by those convicted of aggravated child neglect or endangerment, helps restrict the transfer of firearms to persons involuntarily committed to a mental institution or who come under felony indictment, and strengthens prosecution efforts by adding assistant district attorneys statewide. The coalition is also supporting the creation of the Child Protection Act that deals with the continuous abuse of a child or children by the same offender, and a bill that establishes a criminal offense for computer system sabotage.

“Tennessee’s police chiefs, sheriffs and district attorneys general are advocating a common sense legislative package for 2013 that we believe will enhance the safety and quality of life for families and visitors across our state,” Anderson said.



Among those joining Chief Steve Anderson at the Public Safety Coalition news conference in the senate chamber were (l-r) Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch, Williamson County Sheriff Jeff Long and District Attorney General Jimmy Dunn from Sevierville. Chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors from across Tennessee, including Nashville District Attorney General Torry Johnson, joined in unified support of the coalition’s legislative package.

Aaron's Employees & Executives Makeover FOP Youth Camp

More than 150 corporate employees and executives from Aaron's and NASCAR drivers Mark Martin and Brian Vickers descended on the Fraternal Order of Police Youth Camp this afternoon for a complete and very much needed makeover of the facility. Aaron's associates donated and assembled new bunk beds with safety rails, and delivered new mattresses, pillows and blankets. The company also donated new flat screen televisions, Blu-ray players and furniture.

The Andrew Jackson Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police hosts several week-long camps for at-risk youth during the summer. There are separate sessions for boys and girls. The camps are totally without cost to participants. The camp counselors are police officers.



Pictured standing (l-r) are Aaron's Senior Vice President of Risk Management Rick Cates, Vice President of Operational Support Scott Harvey, NASCAR driver Mark Martin, Chief Operating Officer Ken Butler, Retired Officer and FOP First Vice President Allen Herald, and Chief Steve Anderson.

Nashville's 100 Club to Benefit from MNPd's Assistance to West End Synagogue

Chief Steve Anderson and Cantor Marcia Lane of the West End Synagogue on March 25th signed an agreement giving Chief Anderson "ownership" of the congregation's leavened products during the eight days of Passover.

Jews are prohibited from owning leavened products, known as “chametz,” such as bread, cereals, and even beer, during the holiday. In many instances, Jewish families place canned or packaged leavened foods in a closet or cupboard that will stay closed for the duration of the eight days. A synagogue official is given power of attorney to sell all of the products to a non-Jew until Passover has ended. After the holiday, Cantor Lane will buy back the leavened products from Chief Anderson and will make a donation to the 100 Club of Nashville in appreciation of his assistance.

The 100 Club was found in 1979 by the late Bill Trickett and the late John T. Johnson to aid the families of Nashville’s police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, as well as officers and firefighters who receive serious, traumatic and disabling injuries while working to protect our community.

This is the 19th year the police department has partnered with the West End Synagogue in the Passover tradition.



Chief Steve Anderson joined Cantor Marcia Lane from the West End Synagogue to sign paperwork granting Chief Anderson “ownership” of the congregation’s leavened products during the eight days of Passover.

The Precinct News

South

Proactive, alert police work by South Precinct Field Training Officer Todd Watson and his partner David Willover led to the arrest of admitted serial robber Clemente Bell, 41, during a vehicle stop on I-440 West near Nolensville Pike.

Officers Watson and Willover were proactively patrolling the area looking for cars that matched the description of Bell's getaway vehicle, a green four door sedan when they stopped Bell, who matched the description of the robber, driving a 2003 green Pontiac Bonneville at 7:30 a.m. The officers located a gun in the car and cash taken during the 6 a.m. hold-up of Shipley Donuts at 2540 Lebanon Pike.

During interviews with South and Hermitage Precinct detectives, Bell admitted to the following robberies: (including two earlier the same day; Shipley Donuts followed by the 7:10 a.m. **attempted** robbery of Courtesy Cleaning Center at 4533 Nolensville Pike)

- Monday, March 18, 3 a.m., Mapco at 4677 Trousdale Lane---(**attempted**);
- Monday, March 18, 7:10 a.m., Krispy Kreme at 408 Thompson Lane---(**attempted**);
- Sunday, March 17, 7:30 a.m., Phillips 66 at 801 Briley Parkway;
- Sunday, March 17, 9:40 a.m., Tre's Discount Wine & Spirits at 2181 Nolensville Pike;
- Wednesday, March 13, 2:15 a.m., Circle K at 2200 Nolensville Pike.

Bell, of Murfreesboro Pike, is charged with four counts of aggravated robbery and three counts of attempted aggravated robbery. He is also under investigation for similar robberies in Murfreesboro and Cheatham County.

South Precinct officers arrested shooting suspect Noel Hernandez-Vasquez, 18, and charged him with shooting another teen Friday night in the parking lot of 200 Paragon Mills Road, the apartment complex where Hernandez-Vasquez lives.

The victim, Gustavo Valencia-Gonzalez, 18, of Cimarron Way, was walking through the apartment complex at 9:30 p.m. Friday when Hernandez-Vasquez, an acquaintance, allegedly exited a black SUV armed with a handgun and told the victim, "I heard you're looking for me," before he fired at him, striking Valencia-Gonzalez in the arm, leg and foot. Valencia-Gonzalez was transported to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he was treated and released.

Hernandez-Vasquez is charged with aggravated assault and is being held in lieu of \$150,000 bond.

The stop of a Ford Focus for a minor traffic violation just before 2 a.m. led to the recovery of more than \$5,000 worth of equipment stolen during an overnight burglary of a Murfreesboro Pike business.

South Precinct Field Training Officer Leonard Cato and his partner, Officer Nicholas Smith, stopped the car after seeing it run a flashing red light on Haywood Lane. During the stop, they noticed a generator and several boxes of window tint in the back seat. A BB pistol that resembled a real semi-automatic gun was also found.

During a talk with the three occupants of the car, detectives learned they had just burglarized Precision Window Tinting at 1286 Murfreesboro Pike. A full inventory of the car then revealed another generator, car stereos and a flat screen television in the trunk.

Gilberto Ramirez and Ricardo Najera-Castillo, both 18 and of Packard Drive, were arrested on charges of burglary and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Ramirez was

also charged with running the red light and driving without a license. A 15-year-old in the car, who is believed to have served as the lookout during the burglary, was booked into juvenile detention on charges of burglary, theft and curfew violation.

South Precinct detectives charged 18-year-old Luis Alviso with aggravated burglary after a quick response by Officer Arthur Hummell led to Alviso's apprehension just outside the victim's apartment in the Prestige Pointe complex on Paragon Mills Road.

The victim called police after she saw three individuals on her balcony as she drove into the apartment complex. Officer Hummell saw one individual fleeing the area as he arrived. As he made his way up the steps toward the victim's apartment, he heard a door slam and Alviso standing outside near the door. The victim subsequently identified him as one of the persons she saw on the balcony.

The victim believes cash was taken from her apartment, although a television was left on the living room floor.

Alviso is jailed in lieu of \$35,000 bond.

East

A convicted felon's choice to spend his Saturday morning robbing people in Cedar Hill and Shelby Parks landed him in jail on multiple armed robbery counts.

Officer Sunny Park and his colleagues from the East and Madison Precincts converged on David Allen Smith, Jr., 24, as he drove his red Ford F-150 pickup truck on Gallatin Pike near Briley Parkway. Recovered from the truck were a revolver and ski mask. Smith later admitted to the crime spree during questioning by Detectives Carney White and Rex Davenport.

Smith, of Fern Avenue, began by driving through Cedar Hill Park at 9:25 a.m. He pulled up beside a woman walking in the park, pointed the gun at her while wearing a black mask and demanded, "Give me everything you got!" The victim replied that she was not carrying a wallet or money. Smith drove on and did the same thing moments later to a husband and wife walking in the park. The man surrendered his wallet. His wife gave up her cell phone. Smith headed toward Shelby Park.

At 10 a.m., a man was fishing in Shelby Park when Smith pulled up in his pickup truck wearing the black mask. He demanded the fisherman's wallet and cell phone. The victim ran away and Smith fled.

At 10:10 a.m., two men were walking on Riverside Drive near Brittany Drive when Smith drove up to them. He demanded their wallets at gunpoint. One victim threw his wallet into the truck. The other said he didn't have any money. Smith drove away and was headed back toward Madison when Officer Park spotted his vehicle and called for other officers to assist in stopping it.

Smith is jailed on three counts of aggravated robbery and three counts of attempted aggravated robbery.

At the time of his arrest, Smith was free on \$39,000 bond stemming from his arrest in February on charges of burglary, theft and drug possession. Smith was convicted of burglary and felony theft in 2009 and received three-year sentences.

North

An investigation by North Precinct undercover detectives into marijuana activity on Myrtle Street led to the execution of two separate search warrants on Thursday and the discovery of a marijuana grow operation.

Christopher Todd Harlan, 50, remains jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bond after investigators found hydroponic grow setups in two rooms of his 417 Myrtle Street home. More than 60 marijuana plants were seized, along with water pumps, heaters, lamps, timers and other equipment. Harlan is charged with manufacturing marijuana in a drug-free zone and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.

A few houses up from Harlan's, at 623 Myrtle Street, detectives seized 1.2 pounds of processed marijuana, about half of which was packaged for resale. Also recovered from the home were a loaded .38 caliber pistol, digital scales and other drug paraphernalia. The resident, Reva Gross, 40, is charged with felony marijuana possession, gun possession in the commission of a dangerous felony and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia. She was released from jail after posting a \$6,000 bond.



Madison

Madison Precinct officers and their families on March 16th participated in the Madison-Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Community Cleanup day, exemplifying the commitment of the men and women of the Madison Precinct to the citizens of Nashville.



Deputy Chief Brian Johnson joins Madison Precinct officers and their families in the annual Madison-Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce community clean up day.

West



West Precinct Community Coordinator Sergeant Twana Chick visited the pre-kindergarten class at First Presbyterian Early Preschool where she provided safety tips for the children and answered lots of questions regarding her police work and uniform.



Youth Services Division

Strengthening Families Program

The Strengthening Families Program, a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk and regular families, began under the leadership of Commander Marlene Pardue in January 2011.

The program provides training to both reduce problem behaviors and delinquency and to improve social skills and school performance. The classes are taught by case managers Consuelo Claybon, Kathy Harper and Saundra Laird-Phillips.

On March 4th, the Youth Services Division celebrated the 12th graduation of families that completed the program, bringing the total number of graduating families to 84.

The next class begins in April 2013 at Metro Southeast, 1417 Murfreesboro Pike in Nashville. If you know a family that would benefit from this program, please have them contact Youth Services at 615-862-7417.



Child Identification Kits

Youth Services Sergeant Toney Turner and Detective Purcell Jackson held a child safety event on February 23rd at Wal-Mart, 7044 Charlotte Pike, where they fingerprinted more than 40 children for Child Identification Kits.



Sex Crimes Unit

The child pornography case involving a Nashville homeless man has resulted in the arrest of a South Carolina assistant school principal.

Darin Pearson, 32, was taken into custody by Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina police (Pearson actually lives in North Carolina) and is charged with five counts of sexual exploitation of a minor. His arrest followed the execution of a search warrant at his residence.

Metro police alerted North Carolina authorities that Pearson's name had surfaced in an investigation here involving Earl W. Arnold, 34. Officers conducted a consensual interview with Arnold on February 25th after the Hume Fogg High School community became concerned about him recording students on his iPhone outside the downtown campus. Arnold permitted detectives to look at his phone, during which child pornography was discovered. Arnold was charged on February 25th with two counts of sexual exploitation of a minor.

Further forensic examination of Arnold's phone by Detectives Mike Adkins and Chad Gish revealed child porn images had been sent to/traded with other individuals. Pearson's name was developed as a result of the phone analysis. The investigation is continuing in regard to identifying others with whom Arnold may have exchanged images of child pornography. Arnold is being held in the Metro Jail in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

Training Division

Session 70, Week 11



Sgt. Bob Allen demonstrates how to properly disassemble and reassemble the Remington 870 shotgun.



Session 70 receives classroom training on their department issued pistols.

Human Resources
Civilian Leadership Development Training Seminar



The following officers in the Field Operation Bureau were chosen Investigator, Patrol, Police and Special Operations Officer of the Month for February 2013

Patrol Officer of the Month

East Precinct Officers Howard Martin & Joshua Carter

Police Officer of the Month

Hermitage Precinct Officer Joshua Spurlock

Investigator of the Month

North Precinct Detective Melody Saxon

Special Operations Officer of the Month

Canine Officer Michael Mendenhall

Congratulations:

Officer Eric Funk, Madison Precinct, and his wife, Amanda Funk, welcomed their son, Warren McCoy Funk, born on March 19th.

Officer Stephen Soule, West Precinct, and his wife welcomed their daughter, Jocelyn Rose Soule, on March 22nd.



Condolences:

The father of Detective Gabriel Acevedo, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on March 14th.

Delores Fuller, the grandmother of Officer Matt Norris, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on March 19th.

Betty Jo Vinson, the mother of Lieutenant Doug Vinson, East Precinct, passed away on March 21st.

FYI:

For the fourth consecutive year, the Metropolitan Police Department and Crime Stoppers are sponsoring two Community Shred Days in 2013 to help prevent families and businesses from becoming the victims of identity theft.

This year's first event, which is being co-sponsored by the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs, will be held Saturday, April 6th, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the main parking lot of LP Field.

Middle Tennesseans are encouraged to bring all of their sensitive documents they no longer want or need to the stadium on April 6th. The paper will be destroyed on the spot by mobile high-speed cross shredder equipment provided by Shred-it, a Securit Company, the world's leading on-site document destruction firm. The only cost is a \$5 tax deductible donation to Crime Stoppers per banker box of records. All proceeds will go to Crime Stoppers' reward fund, which is used to help solve serious felony crimes in the Nashville community.

Detectives from the police department's Fraud Unit will be on hand to pass out tips on identify theft prevention and to answer any questions from citizens.

Also included on the same site will be Crime Stoppers' Pharma Trash Disposal. Metro police officers will collect prescription medications that are outdated and/or no longer needed and dispose of them in an environmentally safe manner. It has been estimated that up to 89% of consumers dispose of their medications improperly by putting them in household trash or flushing them down a toilet.

Additionally, detectives from the police department's Auto Theft Unit will offer VIN etching during next month's LP Field event. Etchings will be performed free with a suggested \$10 donation to Crime Stoppers. VIN etching involves the use of acid to etch a small vehicle identification number into every window of the automobile as a theft deterrent. It not only provides law enforcement with easy access to the VIN in the unlikely event the car is stolen, it also provides identification of the vehicle should parts be removed and sold.

For more than 30 years, Nashville Crime Stoppers has provided an avenue for persons to anonymously report information on crimes and criminal suspects to the police department. Literally thousands of tips have been received, resulting in more than 9,600 cases being solved. They include 208 homicides, 738 robberies, 309 burglaries and 1,842 narcotics cases. Crime

Stoppers' reward payout since 1983 stands at \$545,850 and increases every month. The funds come from donations made by area businesses and individuals as well as special events like Community Shred Day. No tax dollars are ever used.

