



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 4, 2012

News from the Chief



In his budget recommendation to the Metro Council this week, Mayor Dean once again showed his commitment to public safety by recommending a \$6.3 million increase for the police department. The mayor's proposed budget allows us to continue building on our successes while confidently addressing crime fighting issues and challenges in the second half of 2012 into 2013.

Police department increases in the mayor's budget allow us to:

- Cover the costs of the 50 officers hired and paid through a federal COPS grant that expires this year;
- Provide for the hiring of additional scientists for next year's anticipated opening of our new crime laboratory;
- Continue the recruitment and hiring of police officer trainees as part of the commitment the mayor and I share to keep pace with attrition and maintain full staffing;
- Provide for more overtime funding to handle the increasing number of special events in our city.

The mayor's budget recommends an across the board pay increase for all employees. Most (captains and below) would receive a 4% raise. Those in senior management positions would receive a 2% raise. The mayor's recommendation provides for the funding of longevity pay, but not increments, in the next fiscal year.

As you know, Mayor Dean has proposed a property tax increase to fund next fiscal year's budget plan. The additional money recommended for the police department will keep us on the right track. Even a status quo budget with the same funding as the present fiscal year would be detrimental to our operations and would likely result in the loss of positions.

The Metro Council will be considering the mayor's budget proposal over the next several weeks. The police department's budget hearing before the Budget & Finance Committee is

scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, at 4 p.m. in the David Scobey Council Chamber. Council members know of your hard work and solid partnerships throughout the Nashville community. I look forward to speaking with them more about our plans for the next fiscal year on May 23.

Thank you all for your commitment to the enhanced safety of Nashville's families and visitors. I sincerely appreciate your dedicated efforts.

Happenings

A three-week investigation into the trafficking of large amounts of marijuana into Tennessee and Alabama culminated in last month's seizure of 200 pounds of marijuana, \$1.3 million cash and 22 firearms. A total of eight persons have been arrested.

This was a complex investigation that involved federal, state and local drug teams in Nashville, Maury County and Smyrna, as well as agents based out of Birmingham, Alabama.

Law enforcement learned that a load of marijuana was on its way from Alabama to Nashville. Airborne drug agents followed two vehicles to Nashville. A vehicle stop was conducted by the THP on I-65 in Davidson County. Recovered was marijuana weighing a total of 120 pounds. Three persons in the vehicles were arrested and charged with engaging in a marijuana distribution conspiracy.

Search warrants were then conducted in the mid-state area as a result of information learned during the investigation. At 4571 Dugger Road in Culleoka (Maury County), officers and agents seized eight pounds of marijuana, 21 guns and \$1.2 million cash (\$100,000 was located in a trailer; \$1.1 million in \$100 bills was found inside a military ammunition can concealed in the trunk of an abandoned vehicle on the property). Two persons were arrested.

At 1126 Remuda Circle in Smyrna, officers and agents recovered 80 pounds of marijuana, one pistol-grip shotgun and \$125,000 cash. Two persons were arrested. A third arrest occurred after officers recovered a small amount of marijuana and \$12,000 cash from an Old Franklin Road apartment

Agencies involved in this continuing investigation are:

- Metro Nashville Police Department
- Nashville District Attorney's Office
- 20th Judicial District Drug Task Force
- United States Drug Enforcement Administration
- Maury County Sheriff's Office
- Tennessee Highway Patrol
- Smyrna Police Department
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.



Chief Steve Anderson speaks at a news conference announcing the seizure of \$1.3 million cash and 200 pounds of marijuana. “Law Enforcement in Middle Tennessee, federal, state and local, is committed to protecting our citizens across county lines. This is a clear example of a strong investigative partnership,” Chief Anderson said. Joining Chief Anderson during today’s announcement were (l-r) Smyrna Police Chief Kevin Arnold, TBI Assistant Director William Benson, Tennessee Department of Safety Assistant Commissioner Larry Godwin, Maury County Sheriff Enoch George, Tennessee Highway Patrol Colonel Tracy Trott, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Mike Stanfill and Nashville District Attorney Torry Johnson.



Seized marijuana, cash and guns.

Crime Victims' Rights Week

Local crime victims were remembered during Crime Victims' Rights Week that concluded on April 23rd with a special ceremony.

Former First Lady Andrea Conte read the names of child homicide victims who were added to the Children's Garden this year.



Chief Anderson addresses ceremony honoring crime victims.

El Protector Program Children's Day

Several MNPD components including Mounted Patrol and Special Operations Division personnel participated in Children's Day April 29th at Premier Indoor Sports on Old Hickory Boulevard.



El Protector Children's Day

MNPD Hockey Team Wins League Championship

Lieutenant Lee Dupie, Sergeant Taylor Schmitz and Officer Matt King organized a hockey team six years ago whose members are primarily Metro police officers.

This year, the team won their division and in the league final they swept the best of three series two games to none to earn the championship cup. Congratulations to the following players:

Lt. Lee Dupie
Sgt. Taylor Schmitz
Officer Matt King

Officer Matt Grindstaff
Officer Erin Riley
Officer Dan Kordie
Julian Sampedro
Officer Ryan Hartley
Officer Marc Lemcke
Officer Henry Particelli
Officer Paul Goebel
Officer Rory O'Farrell
Craig Calvecca
Detective Jack Stanley
Detective Mike Adkins
Detective Josh Combs
Retired NFD Chief Jim Holzemer



Championship hockey team

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Hermitage Precinct detectives have determined that a domestic dispute led to January's strangulation death of 32-year-old Jennifer Fitts inside her 1900 Lynmeade Court home.

As a result of the investigation by Detectives Andrew Vallee and Andy Injaychock, Fitts' boyfriend, 29-year-old Jontay D. Johns, has now been indicted by the Davidson County Grand Jury on a charge of first-degree murder. Detectives did not have to go in search of Johns, as he has been confined to the Metro Jail since March 12th on two counts of aggravated rape, one count of aggravated kidnapping and one count of aggravated assault for attacks during March on his 23-year-old girlfriend.

Jennifer Fitts was found dead on January 13th by her aunt who went to the home after not hearing from her niece for several days.

South

Two teens are charged with reckless endangerment after they fired an air powered replica handgun and rifle at a Metro school bus.

Seth Cook, 19, and his 15-year-old friend admitted that they shot at the bus as it traveled on Celebration Way in the Bridal Downs subdivision off Nolensville Pike just after 2:30 p.m. The bus driver saw both teens standing in a nearby wood line carrying the very realistic looking guns and called police.

South Precinct Officer Jason Spencer quickly responded and found several footprints in the wooded area that led him to a Winfield Court residence where Cook and the 15-year-old were taken into custody.

Cook is also charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Additional charges against both teens are possible.

Convicted burglar James Crook is back behind bars after a citizen's tip led to his arrest for allegedly breaking into an Elberta Street house.

A neighbor called to report that a man was taking electronics from the residence at 11:30 a.m. South Precinct Sergeant Todd Frye quickly responded and spotted Crook exiting the back door. Crook, 41, was taken into custody. Items from the home were found on the front porch and a large flat screen TV was located nearby. The homeowner reported that the property had been taken from her house.

Crook is charged with aggravated burglary, theft and vandalism. He has previous convictions for aggravated burglary, aggravated assault, assault, drug possession and forgery. Crook, who also resides on Elberta Street, is being held in lieu of \$60,000 bond.

South Precinct Officers attended the Academy of Nashville's International Fair at Hickory Hollow Mall.



El Protector Officer Gilbert Ramirez

West

West Precinct Officer Chris Bowden and members of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force arrested William R. Green for the April 27th attempted robbery of First State Bank's 1720 West End Avenue branch.

Green, 58, was taken into custody without incident at 20th Avenue North and Hayes Street a short time after the 9:15 a.m. hold-up.

Green, of Sigler Street, is charged federally for this incident and two other April bank robberies. Green has previous convictions for drug possession and assault.

Central

A citizen's tip coupled with a quick police response led to the arrest of a man who broke into a Church Street apartment.

A witness reported that the burglar fled on foot toward Printers Alley. Officer Carlos Angulo spotted the suspect walking on 3rd Avenue North and took him into custody. He is charged with aggravated burglary.

Canine Unit

Convicted armed robber Adrain Talley has admitted to his involvement in the robbery of the Dollar General Store at 415 W. Trinity Lane and is back behind bars thanks to the fast on-scene response by North Precinct officers and the tracking skills of Canine Officer Brad Bracey and his partner, Dax.

Talley, 42, of Boyd Drive, is alleged to have been armed with a semi-automatic pistol when he walked into the store just before 9 p.m. and demanded money. He was accompanied by two other individuals. The suspects took cash from the business and one of the customers just as officers arrived on the property. The robbers fled through a side door and headed into a nearby wood line. Officer Bracey and Dax tracked the suspects in and out of the woods. As they got to the 2300 block of Monticello Drive, Dax apprehended Talley, who was concealing himself in thick brush. Talley had a pistol in his right hand and was ordered by Officer Bracey at gunpoint to drop his weapon. Talley complied.

During an interview with Detective Stanley Truitt, Talley confessed to taking part in the hold-up. He is jailed on two counts of aggravated robbery and one count of unlawful weapon possession by a convicted felon. A judicial commissioner set Talley's bond at \$12,500.

Records reflect Talley was convicted of aggravated robbery and assault with intent to murder in 1989, and aggravated robbery in 1997.

Detectives are continuing in their efforts to identify Talley's accomplices.

From the District Attorney's Office

Director of Communications Susan Niland

48-year-old ex-convict and registered sex offender Lane Edwards entered a guilty plea to murder and attempted rape.

The 23-year-old victim in the sexual attack was walking across the Woodland Street Bridge after work last October and passed Edwards who asked her for a light for his cigarette. When she stopped, he pushed her down, stabbed her, and attempted to rape her. She was able to escape and call police.

While being interviewed in the attempted rape case, he confessed to killing Robert Johnson in September at a homeless camp under the Jefferson Street Bridge. Edwards admitted that he repeatedly struck Johnson in the head with a rock because he thought Johnson had taken money from him.

As part of Edwards' plea, he will serve life in prison for the murder charge and ten years on the attempted aggravated rape charge. Both sentences are to be served consecutively.

Congratulations:



Officer Chris Holden and his wife are the proud new parents of Sophie Ella Holden born on April 29th.

Officer Robert Davenport and his wife, Sherrie, are the proud grandparents of their seventh grandchild, Eden Grace Sanders.

Condolences:

The mother of Carol Bolden, Records Division, passed away on April 21st.

Edwin Parman, the father of Officer Michael Parman, North Precinct, passed away on April 21st.

Charles Cato, the father of Leonard Cato, South Precinct, passed away on April 23rd.