



St. Louis County Police Department INFORMATION DIGEST

April 2, 2008

Vol. 23 No. 7

IN MEMORIAM

During the month of April, please take a moment to remember three of our comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of St. Louis County. Detective **Wayne B. McClelland**, April 17, 1975; Officer **James R. Reifschneider**, April 30, 1977; and Detective **Lawrence J. McCormack**, April 14, 1989. May they never be forgotten.

DEPARTMENT FAMILY



Police Officer **Paul Walker**, North County Precinct, and his wife, Heather, had a baby girl, Lily Grace, born Tuesday, February 16, 2008.

Police Officer **Craig Higginbotham**, Tactical Operations Unit, and his wife, Bobbie, had a baby boy, Alex Ray, born Thursday, February 21, 2008.

Public Safety Dispatcher **Sean Murphy**, Bureau of Communications, and his wife, Jenna, had a baby boy, Sean Edward, born Monday, February 25, 2008.

WELCOME ABOARD

On Thursday, March 13, 2008, **John M. McCarthy Jr.** started as a police recruit at the St. Louis County and Municipal Police Academy.

On Monday, March 17, 2008, **Linda L. Judge** started as a public safety dispatcher in the Bureau of Communications.

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008, **Alexander E. Jenne**, **Darko Omeragic**, **Derrick J. Aherns** and **Nicholas D. Payne** started as probationary police officers in the Division of Patrol.

On Monday, March 31, 2008, **Jherissa S. Carver** started as a public safety dispatcher in the Bureau of Communications.

WELL DONE

On Saturday, March 1, 2008, Officer **Christopher Ruder**, Central County Precinct, was on patrol when he saw a parked vehicle with an open door in an area where there had been reports of numerous vehicle thefts. As he approached the vehicle, a subject got out of the back seat and tossed a bag into a wooded area before talking with Officer Ruder. An investigation into the contents of the bag resulted in the discovery of a large amount of marijuana and over \$1,000 in cash. The subject was currently on probation for burglary and other crimes.

On Monday, March 3, 2008, Officers **Ryan Blay** and **Goran Katic**, South County Precinct, and Detective **Sean Haefli**, DCI, responded to a call of an auto theft in progress involving a red pickup truck. While en route they saw the truck traveling south on Lemay Ferry Road and pulled it over. The driver of the truck was able to show that the truck was his grandfather's but could not explain why there were numerous vehicle CD players on the front seat. A quick check at the location where the car was reported stolen revealed multiple vehicles with missing CD players from their dashboards.



On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, Officers **Seth Everett** and **Alim Poindexter**, North County Precinct, responded to a call for a tampering in progress with a motor vehicle. While en route to the incident, the officers saw the stolen vehicle traveling southbound on Dunn Road. The officers followed the vehicle for a short distance and attempted to stop the car. The driver did not immediately pull over but instead drove the car into an alleyway before exiting the vehicle and running on foot. Officer Poindexter apprehended the juvenile who was also an escapee from the Missouri Boys' Home.

On Monday, March 3, 2008, Officer **Joseph Percich**, North County Precinct, was responding to a robbery that had just occurred and saw the two suspects running from the scene. Officer Percich initiated a foot pursuit of the two suspects that ended at a nearby motel. Officer **James Grace** also responded and saw the suspects run into a room and shut the door. Officers **Derrick Fort**, **Mike Fumagalli**, **Crystal Patterson**, **Robert Dean** and **Canine Lass** also responded and as they approached the door, a female came out of the room and said no one else was in the room with her. She gave permission for the officers to search the room. The first suspect was hiding in the shower and would not come out. Lass went in and engaged the suspect. The suspect fought back and was eventually tased and taken into custody. The officers found the second suspect under a bed. That suspect also refused to surrender and Lass was instructed to apprehend. The second suspect quickly changed his mind and was apprehended. A weapon was recovered in the room as well as the money taken in the robbery.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

The Department's Meritorious Service Citation was presented by Colonel Patrick Twardowski at the March 25, 2008 Police Board meeting to Police Officers **James Karase** and **Edward Fingers**, Central County Precinct, for rescuing a small child from a burning building.

COMMENDATIONS

Commendations were presented by Chief Lee at the March 25, 2008 Police Board meeting to Police Officers **Patrick Hokamp**, North County Precinct and **Robert Dean**, Police Canine Unit.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Public Safety Dispatcher II **Veronica Clayborn** and Officer **Mark Berry**, City of Fenton Precinct, for recently receiving the Department's Award of Excellence for their outstanding performance of duty.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Probationary Police Officer **Andrew Whelehon**, South County Precinct, received the Best Overall Recruit Award and the Highest Academic Award at the graduation ceremony for Class #164 on Thursday, March 27, 2008. Probationary Police Officer **Mark West**, North County Precinct, received the Physical Fitness Training Award and Probationary Police Officer **Daniel Bradley**, South County Precinct, received the Defensive Tactics Award.

ACADEMY GRADUATION

On Thursday, March 27, 2008, 17 police recruits graduated from Basic Recruit Class #164 and were assigned to the Division of Patrol. They are Probationary Police Officers **Sherman Jackson** and **Mark West**, North County Precinct; **Sean Burbach**, **Ryan Ledbetter**, **Dominick Misuraca** and **John Wolf**, Central County Precinct; **Justin Behlmann**, **David Graf**, **Gwenda Lindley** and **Douglas Reiner**, Affton Southwest Precinct; **Daniel Bradley**, **Kathryn Styer** and **Andrew Whelehon**, South County Precinct; **David Doerhoff**, **Andy Hatley**, **Andrew Huskey** and **Melody Quinn**, West County Precinct. Recruit Class #165 is still in session and Recruit Class #166 starts April 7, 2008.

SERVICE BAR AWARDS

The following individuals have reached milestones in their careers and received awards for years of service: 35 years - **Gary Kroeger** and **Mary Wickenhauser**; 30 years - **John Tiernan**, **Robert Bayes** and **Deborah Houghton**; 25 years - **Teresa Singler**, **Timothy Fitch**, **George Cavanaugh** and **Tom Murley**; 20 years - **Edward Roediger**, **Michael Dierkes**, **Walter Davis**, **Robert Hirtz**, **Marc Hillen**, **Daniel Davis** and **Linda Flores**; 15 years - **William Roche**, **Gillien McCarl**, **William Biesiada**, **Eric Walley**, **James Quentin**, **Dawn Trentham**, **Judy Fithian**, **Sherry Brackins** and **Roy Lucia**; 10 years - **Brian McCauley**, **Anthony Harding**, **Robert Morley**, **Jeffrey Hunnius** and **Deborah Schmidt**; 5 years - **Fareid Yaakub**, **Michael Kaemmerer**, **Patrick Nigh**, **Justin Holtz**, **Mark Berry**, **Gregory Sanders**, **Josiah Merritt**, **Christopher Gilyon**, **John Wilson**, **Brian Schellman**, **Ezra White**, **Edward Crenshaw**, **Andrew Warren** and **Rodney Woodall**.