



# St. Louis County Police Department INFORMATION DIGEST

December 10, 2008

Vol. 23 No. 25

## FROM THE CHIEF AND BOARD CHAIRMAN

We are now in the holiday season and it is time for families and friends to come together to celebrate and reflect on the past year. We wish to commend each and every one of you for an outstanding job during 2008. Many of the goals we set through our strategic planning have been met or exceeded. Your diligence and professionalism on a daily basis is what makes this Department respected throughout the St. Louis area and State of Missouri. The professions of law enforcement and fire fighting saw a huge loss this year with many of our comrades making the ultimate sacrifice and tragically losing their lives in the line of duty. The action taken by members of our Department to assist those communities and families in remembrance and honor of those heroes speaks volumes about our employees. Let us all continue to work together to ensure everyone's safety every single day and let us remember our comrades who are no longer with us. We, along with the entire Board of Police Commissioners, wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year.

Colonel Patrick A. Twardowski      Colonel Jerry Lee

## DEPARTMENT FAMILY

Public Safety Dispatcher **Jill Reitzner**, Bureau of Communications, and her husband, Andre, had a baby girl, Kerri Ann, born Saturday, November 29, 2008.



Police Officers **Christine Romo**, Crime Scene Unit, and her husband, **Jeremy Romo**,

Tactical Operations Unit, had a baby boy, Alexander Brayden, born Saturday, November 29, 2008.

## WELL DONE

On Tuesday, November 11, 2008, Officer **Randy Vaughn** and Lieutenant **Scott Melies**, City of Valley Park, conducted a follow-up burglary investigation regarding items taken from the bedroom of an 18 year old victim the week prior. While talking to an acquaintance of the victim, information was obtained that led them to a subject in possession of items similar to those taken in the burglary. They responded to the subject's home to question him as he was leaving the driveway. After stopping the car they saw some of the items lying on the backseat and the driver said he was on the way to the pawnshop. The rest of the items were found in the suspect's bedroom and returned to the victim.

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, Officer **Jeffrey Brenizer**, North County Precinct, responded to a robbery on the parking lot of Jamestown Mall. The victim stated that three young males tried to take her purse and keys but only got the keys before she started to run and scream for help. The victim stated the suspects ran to a different entrance of the mall and went inside. Officer Brenizer checked with the mall's security tapes and saw where they ran. Officer **John Conrardy** responded and saw the suspects on the parking lot near the bus stop and detained them until the victim identified them. The juveniles advised that they took the keys because they needed a ride but ran when she screamed for help.

On Monday, November 24, 2008, Officer **Matthew Levy**, **Michael Wood** and **Richard Sand**, North County Precinct, responded to a burglary in progress. When the officers arrived, the three residents stated that a subject broke into their home but they fought him off and he fled. One of the victims stated that he recognized the suspect from the neighborhood and knew where he stays. The officers contacted the homeowner who stated that the suspect sometimes stays with him because he is afraid to tell him no. The officers saw the suspect in another room and attempted to take him into custody but he resisted while yelling that he was a federal agent trying to get drug money from the victims. He was not an agent and consequently he was charged with five felonies.

On Saturday, November 29, 2008, Officer **Robert Carr**, South County Precinct, responded to a burglary in progress at a residence in Lemay. Three males and two females stated that four other males broke into the home, assaulted them and robbed them of money, cell phones and other items. One of the female victims stated that one of the suspects was her child's father. She also stated that although they ran when the police arrived, she believed they had to arrive in a vehicle. Officer **Jonathan Armbrister** saw one of the suspects trying to get back to the car they left at the scene and took him into custody. The victims responded and identified the suspect at which time he fell on his back and started yelling, "Get a camera, they're beating me." After a three second burst of pepper spray he stood up and cooperated with identifying the other suspects.

### AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Officers **Derrick Fort**, MetroLink Unit, **Stephen Benko**, **Dean O'Hara**, **John Conrardy**, **Bret Lively**, **Michael Smith**, **Bill Curry**, **Scott Gerard**, **Lewis Bouwman**, Lieutenant **Steve Sack** and Sergeant **Brian Flanagan**, North County Precinct, for recently receiving the Department's Award of Excellence for their outstanding performance of duty.



### CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Our Department is again joining the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. in supporting a nationwide campaign called "Project Blue Light", December 1, 2008 through January 2, 2009. The Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. (COPS) is a national grief support organization comprised of nearly 8,000 surviving families of a law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. During the holiday season, a blue light and a plaque are currently being displayed to show support for the program and to honor our fallen officers who gave their lives in the line of duty for the citizens they have served.

### WELCOME ABOARD

On Monday, November 24, 2008, **Keith D. Mosby**, started as a Mobile Technology Specialist in the Bureau of Computer Services.

On Tuesday, December 2, 2008, **Mathias J. Backer**, **Robert V. Johnson**, **Justin L. Jones** and **Christopher J. Heffron** started as probationary police officers in the Division of Patrol. **Karen B. Hauser** started as a police records clerk in the Bureau of Central Police Records.

### EMPLOYEE REMINDER

Employees are reminded to notify the Benefits Office at 615-8111 within 30 days of a family or employment status change, such as the birth of a child or marriage, to coordinate insurance coverage details.

### MISCELLANEOUS

As we all know, MoDOT will be opening I-40 between I-270 and I-170 on December 15, 2008, and will be closing I-40 from I-170 to Kingshighway for the second phase of construction. Many other roads in the vicinity will be affected by the construction and will also be experiencing lane closures. MoDOT has set up an informational 24-hour voice response line to assist travelers in their commute. Dial 511 in St. Louis, Jefferson or Franklin counties or dial 1-877-478-5511 if you are outside the area or have difficulty dialing 511. For a current list of available routes, visit: [www.traffic.com/St-Louis-Traffic/St-Louis-Traffic-roads.html](http://www.traffic.com/St-Louis-Traffic/St-Louis-Traffic-roads.html). For specific questions regarding the project, call 314-524-9191.

### FROM THE CHAPLAINS

Good luck is a lazy man's estimate of a worker's success.

### BUY\*\*\*SELL\*\*\*SWAP

No items were submitted this issue.