



St. Louis County Police Department INFORMATION DIGEST

February 18, 2009

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THANK YOU

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Chief Lee, the Bureau of Communications and the entire Department for all the thoughts and prayers at the time of my father's death. I especially want to thank Reverend Robert Chisenhall for attending the funeral and for his support and helping me get through this hard time.

Jan Bucher, Bureau of Communications

WELL DONE

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, Officer **Austin Medlin**, North County Precinct, responded to a report of a robbery where a taxi driver stated that his female passenger put a weapon to his neck and took his money. After the passenger got out of the taxi and ran to a nearby house, the driver called police. The suspect was still at the house when Officer Medlin arrived. The suspect was taken into custody and the weapon was found as well as the money. A record check on the suspect revealed 14 active warrants from five different police agencies.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2009, Officer **Patrick Nigh**, City of Fenton Precinct, conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle with no front license plate. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the vehicle the suspect was driving and the rear license plate attached to it had been reported stolen. The suspect was arrested for Tampering and Possession of Stolen Property, along with active warrants for Robbery and other charges.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Department's Distinguished Service Citation was presented by Colonel Gregory Sansone at the February 11, 2009 Police Board meeting to Police Officer **Kurt Hauser**, DCI, for disarming an armed individual who was robbing him and threatening his family and the neighborhood.

PROMOTIONS

Effective Sunday, February 8, 2009, Detective **David Kopfensteiner**, DCI, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Effective Monday, February 9, 2009, Detective **James McWilliams**, Bureau of Professional Responsibility, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Effective Tuesday, February 10, 2009, Police Officer **Ray Rice**, North County Precinct, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Effective Wednesday, February 11, 2009, Police Officer **Tracy Panus**, Municipal Services Unit, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

COMMENDATIONS

Commendations were presented by Chief Lee at the February 11, 2009 Police Board meeting to Police Officers **Shawn Jackson** and **Jason Steinmetz**, Central County Precinct; **Christopher Gilyon**, Affton Southwest Precinct; **Seth Everett** and **Kevin Martin**, Community Action Team; **Edwin Menzenwerth** and **Keith Coleman**, West County Precinct; Detectives **John Bradley**, **Ray Absolon** and Sergeant **Dave Kopfensteiner**, DCI and Sergeant **John Wilson**, North County Precinct.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Police Officers **Melissa Rotellini**, **Patrick Nigh**, **Chad Hinds** and **Kyle Jahns**, City of Fenton Precinct; **Chris Grimm**, **Darko Omeragic** and **Justin Jones**, South County Precinct; **Gary Robertson**, **John Williams**, **Jason Kapayou**, **Richard Sand** and Sergeant **Brian Flanagan**, North County Precinct; Officers **Michael Castellano** and **Robert Dean**, Police Canine Unit; Detective **Keith Wildhaber**, Computer Financial Fraud Unit and Reserve Officer **Tom Favre** for recently receiving the Department's Award of Excellence for their outstanding performance of duty.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ten Lindbergh School District residents and staff members were selected to receive a 2009 "Lindbergh Leader" award at the 25th annual awards banquet on Friday, February 6, 2009. Included in the recipients was School Resource Officer **Mike Kaufman**, Affton Southwest Precinct, Sperrong Middle School. Candidates were nominated for going above and beyond and for their dedication to helping others. Nominees are being honored for their leadership and service to Lindbergh School District and the community.

Detective **Clay Peeler**, Crime Scene Unit, followed the efforts of Detectives **Dalen Schmoll** and **Rob Hirtz** and successfully completed all the tests and qualifications required by the International Association for Identification (IAI) to be proclaimed a qualified Certified Crime Scene Investigator. IAI Certification has long been the standard for all Latent Fingerprint Examiners and demonstrates the Department's continuing commitment to professionalism.

WELCOME ABOARD



On Monday, February 2, 2009, **Douglas G. Zaiz** started as a facility systems manager at the Affton Southwest Precinct.

BENCH PRESS COMPETITION

The Affton Southwest Precinct will be hosting the 2nd Annual Bench Press Competition to be held on March 8, 2009 at the Tactical Operations hangar. We will get started around noon and end whenever the big guys and gals are done. This competition is open to everyone who is associated with the police department. There will be trophies for the top person in his/her weight class and an overall winner. This event is fun for all, so come and see what you can bench. We will have food provided and shirts. The cost to participate is \$10 and everything is included. If you think you can bench and you want to see what you can do then we will see you March 8th. Contact Lieutenant **Mike Busalaki** or Sergeant **Rick Hayes** at the Affton Southwest Precinct.



VACATION GIVEAWAY

The Welfare Association will draw the names of two employees who will each win a one week stay at a condominium in Jensen Beach, Florida for either the week of December 6-13 or 13-20, 2009. To participate in the drawing, employees must print and then sign their name on a white 3x5 index card and forward it to **Judy Sampson**, Office Services Unit, by March 31, 2009. The two winners, using their accrued time, are guaranteed the time away from duty.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

The Polar Bear Plunge for the Missouri Special Olympics will be held on February 27th and 28th at the Lake of the Ozarks. Come support **Thom Taylor** and Special Olympics as he plunges into the icy waters on the hour for 24 hours starting Friday at 1:00 PM. On Saturday, **Dave Sebek** will be taking the plunge around 1:00 PM. Anyone else who would like to show their support by taking the plunge may sign up on Saturday. Contact Sergeant **Rick Hayes**, **Thom Taylor** or **Valerie Yanko** for more information.

TRIVIA NIGHT

The St. Louis Area Women's Police Soccer Team is hosting a trivia night on Friday, March 13, 2009. Doors open at 6:00 PM and questions start at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$20 per person (includes drinks and set-ups) and teams/tables can consist of 8-10 people. The event is being held at the Chaminade High School Cafeteria located at 425 South Lindbergh Boulevard. Contact **Tracy Panus** at 615-4282 for more information.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Anyone interested in participating in the First Annual St. Louis County Police Officers "Open Golf Tournament" to be held at the Emerald Green Golf Course, Friday, May 22, 2009, please contact **Robert Rinck** or **Justin Adams**, North County Precinct, via Department email. The event is open to St. Louis County police officers only. The format will be a three-man scramble and is tentatively scheduled to start at 1:00 PM, however, the time may be adjusted to accommodate a large number of teams anticipated to register for the event. The cost of the event will be \$35.00 per golfer, or \$105.00 per team. Pre-registration for the event must be completed by March 1, 2009.