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ON THE INSIDE

Newport News Sheriff's Office — *Committed to Making a Difference*

Volume 2

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BUILDING SERVICES HELPS INJURED DEPUTY

Next time you see someone with the City's Building Services department, please say "Thank you!" With a lunchtime barbeque in May, they raised \$1,000 for Corporal Brian Dodge who was sent to the hospital earlier that month by an enraged jail inmate.

Dan Beier is one of eighteen Building Services staff members who helped organize the fundraiser. He said, "Our crew works at the jail. We're scheduled there every week. We run into Dodge all the time in lockup and working the jail floors." Beier learned from the television news that a deputy was injured in the line of duty. He knew immediately he wanted to do something to help.



Cpl. Brian Dodge smiles over tray of cash raised by city Building Services.

The event raised more than money. It raised spirits. Corporal Dodge himself was able to attend. Dodge was one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. It was obvious that the generous outpouring

of concern meant a great deal to him. The barbeque was a healthy distraction from the gravity of his injury.

On May 6, a mentally ill inmate landed one solid punch, shattering the left side of Dodge's face. It took six hours of emergency surgery and five titanium plates to reconstruct his eye socket.

Recovery is slow and uncertain. "If I cover my good eye, my world is pitch black," described Dodge.

Currently, the 16-year veteran is back to work in a light duty capacity. Our hopes and prayers are that Cpl. Dodge recovers completely and that he will be cleared for full duty. The Sheriff's Office needs him!

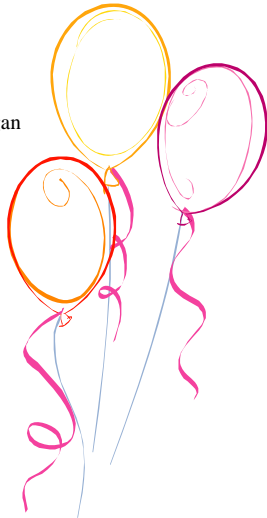


Pictured from left to right: George Thomas, Al Mortimer, Dan Beier, Cpl. Brian Dodge, and Barbara Mathis.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

Dep. T. Brown
 Dep. R. Garrison
 Dep. T. Crites
 Dep. S. Harrell (recruit)
 Cpl. J. Cason
 Cpl. W. MacBrohn
 Sgt. C. Zanders
 Dep. S. Woodruff (recruit)
 Dep. J. Robbins
 MDep. W. Hill
 Deborah Mizelle
 Dep. S. Sheridan
 Sheriff Gabe Morgan
 Lt. G. Grogan
 Sgt. K. Patrick
 Dep. D. Jones
 Dep. S. Marler

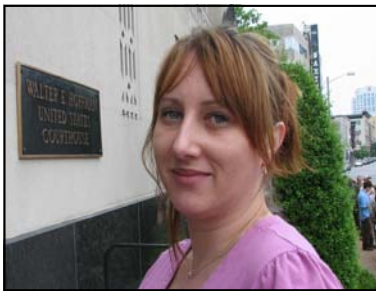


AUGUST

Dep. A. Martin
 Dep. C. Toliver
 Sgt. F. Broadwater
 Dep. T. Dubois
 Dep. R. Miller III (recruit)
 Sgt. C. Wilberg
 Dep. L. Bethea
 Nurse V. Batson
 Dep. P. Chapman
 Sgt. C. Jones
 Dep. V. Woodson
 Dep. L. Smith
 Dep. R. Johnson

SEPTEMBER

Sgt. B. Murray
 Dep. R. Holland
 Dep. N. Jones (recruit)
 Dep. F. Garland
 Nurse C. Ferguson



Ania Muriel entering the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse.

I Pledge Allegiance

Ania Muriel, the sheriff's office procurement manager, was among the 141 people who gathered May 8th at the Federal Building in Norfolk to be sworn-in as United States citizens. A total of 51 countries were represented at the Naturalization Oath Ceremony. Muriel spent her early years growing up in Poland. She moved to the United States at the age of eleven.

Could you pass the Naturalization Exam? Here are a few sample questions:

1. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
2. When was the Constitution written?
3. How many U.S. Senators are there? And how many years do we elect them to serve?
4. Who was President during World War I?

Answers:
 1. 27
 2. 1787 (if you answered 1776: The Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, 1776)
 3. 100, six
 4. Woodrow Wilson

FLASH BACK



To EVENTS



Brown & Jones take a breather at Bowl for Kids' Sake.



Prankster Sgt. Murray works the barbeque grill following the Special Olympics Torch Run.



Color Guard opened Denhigh Youth Baseball League.



Next year's JP Memory Golf Tourney is April 24, 2009. Save the date. See Capt. Vergakis for details.

Angling for a BIG FISH Story

MDEP J. Reisinger and buddy D. Sheets caught a 1st Place tournament finish. They reeled-in five bass for total weight of 14.5 pounds for their first win!



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birth: ★Deputy I. Santiago gave birth to a 7 lbs 9 oz baby girl on April 11.
 ★Deputy S. McGee's son entered this world the size of a toddler! 😊
 He and his wife had a 10 lb 7 oz baby boy in April.
 ★Deputy E. Morales and LT. A. Morales are the proud parents of a
 5 lb 7 oz baby boy born May 25.
- Marriage: Master Deputy W. Hill exchanged wedding vows with longtime girlfriend.
- Anniversary: **10 year:** Dep. R. Allen 7/98; MDEP.A. Baxter 7/98; MDEP B. Eadie
 7/98; MDEP P. Powers 7/98
15 year: Sgt. R. Daniels 8/93
20 year: Lt. K. Langford 9/88; Cpl. W. MacBrohn 8/88; Sgt. H. McCoy
 9/88; Lt. Col. E. Sprinkle 9/88
- Retirement: Sgt. C. Towns officially retired April 30
- Promotion: Deputy C. Jones, Jr. was promoted to Sergeant, effective May 1

WHAT's HOT

'A' Rotation has a newly
 designed Shift Coin that
SIZZLES!



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Sergeant C. Zanders, **Recruitment & Retention Mgr.**, Employee of the 2nd Quarter
- Deputy T. Wortham, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, March
- Deputy J. Hostetler, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, April
- Deputy W. Sarian, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, May
- Deputy E. Rocha, **C Rotation** Hard Charger Award, March
- Deputy S. Marler, **C Rotation** Hard Charger Award, April
- Deputy S. Pirtle, **C Rotation** Hard Charger Award, May
- Deputy D. Hopkins was recognized as Deputy of the year, 2007, at the Knights of Columbus annual Appreciation Dinner held May 31st. The Knights made a donation to the charity of Hopkins' choice.
- Al Bridges, Inner Reflections counselor, earned a Master's Degree from Liberty University in Human Services with specialization in Business Management.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Mid year already!

As we look around, we may ask ourselves where has this year gone?

or we may ponder on all those projects that need to be done,

possibly the little we have accomplished so far, in comparison with all our goals.

Maybe we stand out like those few disciplined people who meet each milestone.

No matter where we are standing right now, let's stop.

Meditate a minute plus, grab your Bible; talk to God.

You are able to succeed if only on Him you trust!

He is waiting. Don't delay.

If you act now, the reward will be awesome great.

For He is the Lord of all; time belongs to Him,

and we are safe under His mighty wings!!!

Have a Safe and Blessed Summer!!!

Your Chaplain

CONVENIENT WAY TO PAY

It might look like an ATM, but caution. This machine does not dispense money. It accepts



payments. The new Touch Pay kiosk, in the lobby of the city jail, accepts inmate canteen deposits. Effective September 1st, this facility will no longer accept money orders to deposit into inmate accounts for A R A M A R K commissary or to fund a bond. There will be three ways to do so. Use the Touch Pay systems machine. Call the

Touch Pay toll free number at 1-866-232-1899. Or go online to www.TouchPayDirect.com/Newport.

REAL EVACUATION SERVES AS TRAINING

On March 13, the smell of gas forced the evacuation of several downtown office buildings. The Newport News City Jail was among them.

Jail Administrator Captain Janie Vergakis called for the evacuation of the 7th floor soon after the odor was detected. It took only ten (10) minutes to evacuate nearly 100 female inmates from the top floor to fresh air of the recreation yard. No one was hurt and no one reported feeling ill from the gaseous smell.

Gratefully, the gas leak did not become a crisis. No other floors were cleared. The inmates were returned to their cellblocks.

(continued EVACUATION p. 7)

E15M



Every 15 minutes, someone dies in an alcohol related traffic accident. From that alarming statistic, the Every 15 Minutes program derived its name.

This is a nationwide program developed to raise the awareness of student drivers about the dangers of getting behind the wheel drunk or high.

The carefully orchestrated dramatization was held just prior to prom and graduation season.

Locally, the Every 15 Minutes Task Force is chaired by Jack

Fitzpatrick, Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office Victim Services Unit.

The morning began with the Grim Reaper going from class to class announcing names of students “killed in drunken driving accidents.” Deputies read their obituaries. Each participating student played the role of the “living dead” for the remainder of the day.

Next came a head-on collision staged outside a designated high school. This year it was held at Woodside.

The scenario consisted of a confirmed fatality at the scene. Another “victim” was air lifted by Life Evac to Riverside Regional Medical Center and later pronounced “dead” at the hospital.

Back at the accident scene, a teenager failed a sobriety field test and was arrested.

The dramatization eventually lead the students to the Newport News City Jail. The “suspect” was fingerprinted and photographed, and taken before the magistrate.

Ultimately, a mock trial was played out, complete with a prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, witnesses and the judge.

The Honorable Bryant Sugg has participated in the program from its inception. With the slam of his gavel, he sentenced the “suspect” to 21-years in prison on one count of DUI and two counts of involuntary manslaughter.

The entire day was videotaped by Newport News Public School Channel 47. The edited version was played the following morning to the entire student body, making sure that every student got the message.

CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES.



Grim Reaper and deputy stand over “victim” while firefighters work to rescue others from a staged two car accident.



Life Evac helicopter arrives on scene.



“Suspect” goes before the Honorable Bryant Sugg.

...DRAMATIZATION UNFOLDS FROM START TO FINISH...

E15M...

FEELING ILLUMINATED BY A ROOM WITH A VIEW

A glass window is the new luxury at the Newport News Sheriff's Office. March 24th was moving day for the administrative offices. Several offices relocated to the Justice Center (formerly the CSB building).

Perhaps no one appreciated a window more than Major Cindy Porter. She has been with the Sheriff's Office for 32 years and has always worked out of the seven story, windowless jail.



If you wondered how you were getting caught without your hat? Now you know.

INMATE LABOR SAVES \$\$

Jail trustees put finishing touches on Justice Center lobby. Civil and Transportation deputies and civilian staff will soon locate to the first floor of the downtown office building.



RENOVATION PLANS INCLUDE...

The jail's medical clinic will be enlarged, as will the classification and records department. And if there is even the smallest corner of space left over... you can bet it will be converted into much needed inmate bed space.

EVACUATION *(continued from page 5)*

The evacuation was precautionary and never mandated by the fire marshal.

Even still, it served a vital purpose.

It allowed the Sheriff's Office to work its emergency evacuation plan. "You can have a plan on paper, or you can practice fire drills. But until you actually move inmates and work that plan, you don't really know how it's going to go," said Sheriff Gabe Morgan.

"We learned things from the mock fire drill a couple of years ago, and we learned from this real life evacuation. Most things we did really well. Some things we could do better.

But overall, I am very pleased with the deputies. They handled this incident professionally.

They executed their mission to safeguard the inmates, and civilian and non-essential personnel.

The evacuation was orderly and timely," Morgan concluded.



Ensuring all inmates were accounted for, Deputy Smith, foreground, crossed referenced names. Deputy Chapman, background, hollered out names for roll call.

SHERIFF'S Last Word

Dear Citizen:

Finding a legislative solution to address the needs of the mentally ill is imperative for the wellbeing of the general public and for corrections deputies. As a state, we learned that the hard way with the Virginia Tech massacre. As an agency, we learned the hard way with the inmate attack on Corporal Brian Dodge.

Dodge continues to face the prognosis of losing vision in his left eye with bravery. I commend him and assure him that we are going to take care of him regardless of the outcome of his recovery.

I am honored to sit on the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia Commission on Mental Health Law Reform and to Chair the Emergency Detention Order and Temporary Detention Order Subcommittee. We are working aggressively to find treatment options for the mentally ill and to find regulations to protect the public.

Across the country, jails have become asylums for the mentally disturbed. The Los Angeles County Jail, Chicago's Cook County Jail and New York City's Riker's Island each hold more people with mental illness on any given day than any psychiatric facility in the United States.

The cost of handling the mentally ill is staggering. The LA County Jail holds 20,000 inmates and spends about \$10-million per year on psychiatric medication.

The Newport News City Jail houses an average of 685 inmates. Nearly 36% of them have mental health issues ranging from mild depression and bipolar disorder to major depression and schizophrenia. A third of the jail's pharmacy budget is spent on psychotropic drugs.

By 2010, Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, will lose 90 beds on top of the 43 that were cut in 2002. Eastern State, is the only state-run mental hospital in the region.

U.S. Department of Justice data suggests that at any given time 218,000 individuals suffering from mental illness are incarcerated. That is the equivalent population of numerous cities, including Richmond, Virginia.

Newport News is trying to find a solution. We plan to copy the Memphis Model, a program established in 1988 after the shooting death of a seriously mentally

ill man in Memphis, Tennessee. It works using a crisis intervention team that responds to the initial scene. Team members receive training to recognize mental illness. The goal is to get the mentally ill suspect into the hands of someone who can help and divert him or her away from jail.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is working collaboratively with the city police department, juvenile detention and CSB. In February, Newport News received a \$124,000 federal grant for the program.

In addition, I am asking that the city approve the salary of a full-time mental health professional for the jail.

On a lighter note, we have a new recruitment tool. It's a 2008 Dodge Charger that will be unveiled as the lead car in the Annual Hilton Village 4th of July Parade.



Finally, I invite you to read our 2007 Annual report. It is posted online. And for those without a computer, it is available at all city libraries. Go to www.nnsheiff.org.

We publish an annual report to provide the citizens of Newport News with an overview of our Office.

Regards,

