

NEWS ON THE INSIDE

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ON THE INSIDE

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

Volume 4

No. 3

July—Sept, 2010

VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION COMES TO NEWPORT NEWS



L-R: Mayor McKinley Price, Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

The 77th Annual Virginia Sheriffs' Association Conference was a tremendous success. The Newport News Sheriff's Office welcomed over 400 people at the Marriott City Center. Those attending included sheriffs from across the Commonwealth, deputy sheriffs and exhibitors and Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

(continued VSA p. 4)

What's on your "I Love Me Wall"?



Also known as a "me wall" or a "brag wall," these are areas where

you can post things that remind you of accomplishments. Awards, certificates, plaques and photographs are often displayed on walls or bulletin boards.

At the Newport News City Jail, staff took the concept a step further and painted murals that reflect the personality of each rotation.

(continued Mural p. 3 with more photos)

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

Dep. H. Tran
 Dep. M. Washington
 Sgt. R. Daniels
 Dep. R. Allen
 Capt. J. Vergakis
 Dep. S. Finney
 Dep. R. Zorrilla-Duran
 Cpl. G. Sonnier
 Dep. G. Taylor-Dones

Cpl. R. Clayton
 Dep. T. Wortham
 Dep. P. Shivers
 Lt. M. Moore
 Dep. C. Johnson
 Recept. Sheila Whitson
 MDep. C. Bannon
 Dep. D. Blakemore



NOVEMBER

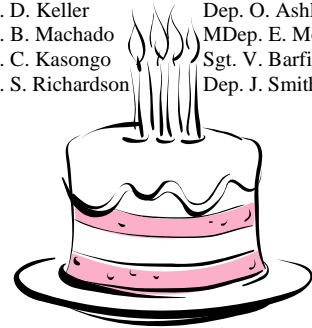
Dep. C. Durham
 Sgt. R. Summerford
 MDep. T. Grey
 Dep. K. Gregory
 Nurse N. Barnes
 Vernessa Graves
 Dep. D. Tolson
 Nurse S. Leonard
 Dep. C. Davis
 Dep. S. Ireland

Dep. A. Sherman
 Dep. D. O’Nseal-Brooks
 Dep. N O’Garro
 Dep. Q. Abdullah
 Sgt. L. Saunders
 Sgt. R. Elias
 Clerk Gloria Johnson
 Dep. W. Sarian
 Dep. C. Green
 Nurse L. Hurst

DECEMBER

Cpl. J. Phillips
 Dep. S. Brinkley
 Dep. D. Hopkins
 Dep. D. Keller
 Dep. B. Machado
 Dep. C. Kasongo
 Dep. S. Richardson

MDep. K. Jackson
 Dep. A. Ledet
 Dep. V. Harris
 Dep. O. Ashley
 MDep. E. Morales
 Sgt. V. Barfield-Allen
 Dep. J. Smith



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth:

- ★ Dep. C. Serrette gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on August 18. She weighed 6 lbs and 12 oz.
- ★ ARAMARK’s A. W. West and his wife are the delighted parents of a baby girl born on September 27, 2100.
- ★ Nurse D. J. Greggs became the proud grandmother of a little girl born September 27.

Retirement:

- Dep. L. Bethea retired effective August 1st. Bethea began his career with the Newport News Sheriff’s Office in the Year 2000.

Anniversary:

- 5 year:** MDep. S. Sheridan 8/ 2005; Dep. R. Garrison 8/2005; Dep. L. Smith 8/2005
- 15 year:** Lt. M. Daniels 9/1995; Sgt. F. Hubbard 9/1995

PROMOTION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
J.M. Robbins	Sergeant	August 1, 2010



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

— Dep. L. L. Walker, **Rotation D**, NNSO “Employee of the Quarter,”
 3rd Qtr. 2010

Pencil Drive



A Back to School Pencil Drive was another good morale builder. Employees of the Newport News Sheriff's Office donated 2,260 pencils. Our friends at Pearson Toyota gave us an additional 400 pencils to turn over to various organizations or events. Some went to the C. Waldo Scott Center for H.O.P.E. to help with their after school program. Others went into book bags handed out at the areas three Field of Friends events. And the remainder were given to the City of Newport News Employee Pride Task Force "Annual School Tools Drive."

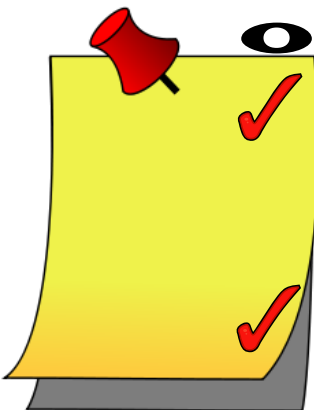
MURAL *(continued from page 1)*

Lt. G. Grogan, "C" Rotation Shift Commander, came up with the idea as a morale booster.. "B" Rotation and "A" Rotation were quick to follow. This was something everyone could be a part of and proud of.

Deputies used a projector to throw the image onto the wall. Then they traced and painted the image.



OF NOTE:



Shred Day, organized by Community Resource Officer Vickie Gaffney, was held on Thursday, August 19th at The Home Depot parking lot. Shredding personal documents is a way to protect against identity theft. The event was FREE and open to the public. Stealth Shredding, Inc. donated their time and services. THANK YOU!

The Denbigh Kiwanis Club donated \$250 to Project Lifesaver. THANK YOU! Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program that provides peace of mind to the caregivers of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Autism, Down Syndrome and other cognitive conditions.

VSA (continued from page 1)

John W. Jones, Executive Director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association says, "Sheriff Gabe Morgan, the sheriff's office professional staff, the Marriott Property and the many local quality attractions made Newport News the clear choice as the destination for this year's annual conference."

"I received nothing but positive comments. To all those involved, I say thank you," smiled Sheriff Gabe Morgan.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli spoke Monday, September 20 following opening remarks from Newport News Mayor McKinley Price.

Cuccinelli's remarks centered on what the Attorney General's Office is doing to stem gang activity across the state. As reported in the Daily Press, one strategy would be to expand the use of multijurisdictional grand juries. "We are using them in some areas of Virginia already, and they have allowed us to solve some crimes that would otherwise have gone unsolved," said Cuccinelli.

Other speakers included Senator Mamie Locke (D) 2nd Senatorial District, City of Newport News; Director Garth

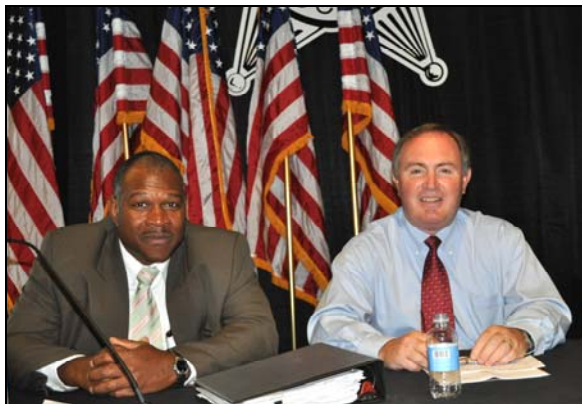


Sen. Mamie Locke

Wheeler with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety.

Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle were co-presenters on the subject of cost cutting measures in local jails.

Another highlight from the event came with a speech from someone outside law enforcement.



NN Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Virginia Beach Sheriff Ken Stolle

Ian Frazier is a Special Olympics athlete. As the Global Messenger for Special Olympics Virginia, he makes a personal appeal to support Special Olympics which provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Frazier finished his remarks with a formal presentation of Torch Run

Recognition Awards, of which Sheriff Morgan was one of seven recipients.



Special Olympics Messenger Ian Frazier and VSA 2009 President Sheriff Charles Jett, Stafford County

FLASHBACK



To EVENTS



Court Security held a fundraiser for one of their own. A carwash raised over \$600 to help MDep. T. Grey offset expenses while he continues a brave battle against cancer. Grey was feeling well enough to stop by (pictured back row with the hat).

Photo Courtesy: Regina Carson

Denbigh Day gets a helping hand from Sheriff's Deputies

Pictured clockwise from top left: The Color Guard marches at the head of the parade; Sgt. L. Saunders prepares the parade route with safety cones; Sgt. P. Preyer and Lt. M. Moore assist with traffic control; MDep. J. Brenzel keeps radio communication flowing; and Deputies D. Fitten, O. Ashley and T. Brown patrol the festival grounds.





Captain Janie Vergakis, Jail Administrator, completed a weeklong training academy at the end of June, 2010. The National Jail Leadership Command Academy was held at Sam

Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. It was sponsored by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas and the American Jail Association. Captain Vergakis was joined by jail administrators from fourteen states across the country.

With the knowledge gained from the academy, Vergakis hopes to put in place an effective plan in helping ex-offenders reenter society as productive citizens. First will come a needs assessment. This will include identifying education levels and current jobs skills.

Other areas of study included effective communication in the workplace. The challenge for many facilities is motivating employees who are from multiple generations. There is an opportunity to assist people in attaining their personal goals through better understanding of individual needs. This can only lead to a more effective organization. The end result will be a department working cohesively toward its overarching mission.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Deputy M. T. McGee for graduating August 12, 2010 from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLE). He completed 17 weeks of intense classroom and practical training for police officers and deputy sheriffs who perform police functions. BLE is a continuation of the Corrections Academy. By completing BLE, Deputy McGee has demonstrated his professional development.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As autumn approaches, we find ourselves putting away all the summer items, getting ready for a new season. As the seasons change, we also enter into changes of seasons in our lives.

Do you know that as we reach a new year in our lives, we enter into a new season as well?

Some enter graciously and

encounter a higher level of maturity. In every aspect, they are wiser.

Others don't even know that they have entered long ago into a new season, and are trying for dear life, to hold unto their youth. They do not want to get old. (I mean, they do not want to enter into a new season in their lives).

Psalm 103:5 says: "Who

satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's".

That's my constant prayer – I want to be renewed like the eagle!

Have a great season of change!

*Your Chaplain,
Omayra Pinos*

INMATES EARNING GED ARE REWARDED

Family Visits a Big Motivator!



People were anxious to enter the Newport News Adult Detention facility, otherwise known as the Jail Annex on August 11. It was another GED Graduation Day.

This ceremony is outside the norm because it is held inside a jail.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan celebrates with every inmate who earns his/her GED and he opens up the celebration to family. Graduation is a cultural tradition that marks one stage of a person's life to another. The ritual's meaning is not different for those behind bars. Completing a basic education can be the first step toward a second chance at life.

This graduation held special importance for inmates Benjamin Murphy and Michael Mazzarello. Both of these men were able to hug and kiss their babies for the first time.

Prior to the ceremony, they had only met their little girls through the Plexiglas of visitation.

The reward for earning a GED through the Newport News Sheriff's Office goes beyond the chance to mingle with family. Morgan invites notable commencement speakers.

At the June 8th Graduation Ceremony, the commencement speaker was the Honorable Jerrauld C. Jones, currently a Norfolk Circuit Court judge. His resume includes being the former Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1988 to 2002.

So far this year, 24 men and women have earned their GED at the Newport News City Jail. The program was revamped in 2006 and efficiencies gained. Since those efforts were made, 155 inmates have left jail with their GED.



SHERIFF'S Last Word

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is gaining statewide and national attention. In fact, the City of Newport News shone bright in September when it played host to the Virginia Sheriffs' Association 77th Annual Conference.

You have already read about the conference in the "top story" of this newsletter. However, I want to add my personal comments about the annual event.

Many of my counterparts, sheriff's from across the state, approached me and said how much they enjoyed what Newport News has to offer. The conference was held at the Marriott at City Center. Restaurants and retail were at their fingertips when they weren't attending the well organized conference seminars and exhibits.

I want to extend a special thanks to VSA Executive Director John W. Jones and his staff. Not only do I appreciate that John selected Newport News for this annual event, but he also secured many worthwhile speakers who were happy to share their skills,

knowledge and experience. Well done!

On the national front, we continue to be highlighted by the

prevention, reducing gang activity, mental illness, and rehabilitation. I believe this cross country attention is a testament to what we are doing in our organization.

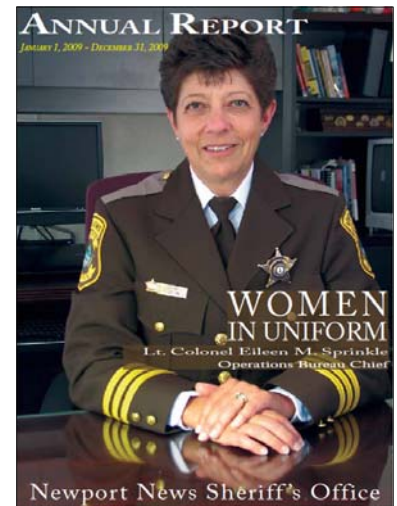
If you would like to learn more about the Sheriff's Office, I invite you to read our Annual Reports. A pdf version of our reports from 2006 until present can be accessed from our website: www.nnsheff.org.



National Sheriffs' Association in their bi-monthly magazine called "Sheriff."

In the July/August issue, they published a feature article about our commitment to fighting identity theft. We have teamed with Stealth Shredding, Inc. and The Home Depot to hold shred events in different parts of the city. Citizens can have their confidential documents destroyed free of charge. This simple action can help protect them from being victims of fraud.

This is the ninth time the Newport News Sheriff's Office has been published in this national magazine since 2007. Articles have pertained to court security, crime



Thank you for the opportunity to bring you updates from the Newport News Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely,

Your Sheriff
Gabriel A. Morgan