

NEWS ON THE INSIDE

Features

Finding solutions to public safety	TOP STORY	1
Promotions & Graduations		2 & 3
Biggest loser	WINNERS	4
Flashback to events		5
Chess teaches consequences		7
Five questions for Sheriff Morgan		8



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

Volume 5

No. 3

July-Sept, 2011

Newport News Sheriff's Office Looks in Different Directions When Finding Solutions to Public Safety:

Encouraging Good Stewardship in Young Americans

Young people ranging in age from 14 to 20 recently participated in a weeklong Law Enforcement Exploring Program with the Newport News Sheriff's Office. Exploring is based off the Leadership for Life concept. Corporations sponsor young people interested in pursuing a variety of career fields. For us, that meant those interested in law enforcement.



[Explorers learn about court ordered papers from Civil Enforcement Deputy C. Daniels.](#)

The schedule included ride alongs with our civil enforcement deputies and the narcotics interdiction team.

It also included a courtroom visit with the Honorable R. C. Kerns, Chief Judge, General District Court.

(continued Exploring p.6)

Life After Lockup--Finding Strategies

It is common to imagine *handcuffs* when thinking of crime prevention. But what happens after the arrest and after the conviction? The person fulfilling his/her sentence gets released -- most often back into the community where their original crime took place. Then what? Public safety cannot stop there. It is the mission of the Newport News Re-entry Council to develop strategies to aid in that person's *successful* transition back into society in order to reduce the chance that he/she will recommit crimes and create more victims.

The Council, in collaboration with the Mayor's Task Force on Teenage and Young Adult Violence Reduction and other stakeholders, will work in partnership on the local level to improve public safety and strengthen the community through use of effective re-entry strategies. The Newport News Sheriff's Office is a proud member of the Re-entry Council.

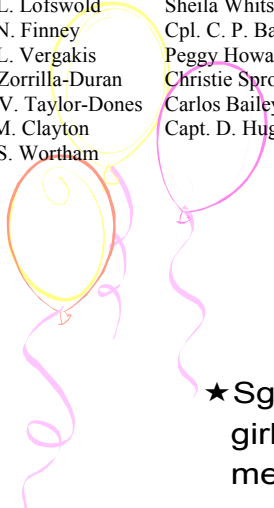
The Re-Entry Council's first town hall meeting was held Monday, September 19, 2011 at American Legion in the Beechmont section of the City.

(continued Re-entry p.6)

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

Dep. M. Washington	Dep. P. Shivers
MDep. A. Aikins	Dep. T. L. Jackson
Sgt. R. Daniels	Lt. M. A. Moore
Dep. R. B. Allen	Dep. C. A. Johnson
Dep. T. L. Lofswold	Sheila Whitson
Dep. S. N. Finney	Cpl. C. P. Bannon
Capt. J. L. Vergakis	Peggy Howard
Dep. R. Zorrilla-Duran	Christie Sproles
Dep. G. V. Taylor-Dones	Carlos Bailey
Cpl. R. M. Clayton	Capt. D. Hughes
Dep. T. S. Wortham	

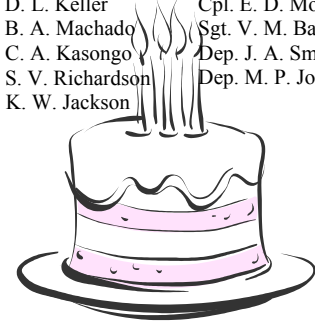


NOVEMBER

Cpl. T. A. Grey	Dep. N. D. O'Garro
Sgt. R. J. Summerford	Dep. A. I. Sherman
Dep. C. L. Durham	Dep. D. M. Oneal-Brooks
Dep. M. D. Hardy	Sgt. R. V. Elias
Dep. K. M. Gregor	Sgt. L. Saunders
Vernessa Graves	Gloria Johnson
Dep. D. M. Tolson	Dep. W. R. Sarian
Dep. S. Ireland	Dep. C. C. Green
Dep. Q. Abdullah	

DECEMBER

Cpl. J. G. Phillips	Dep. A. V. Ledet
Dep. S. N. Brinkley	Dep. V. N. Harris
Dep. D. T. Hopkins	Dep. O. S. Ashley
Dep. D. L. Keller	Cpl. E. D. Morales
Dep. B. A. Machado	Sgt. V. M. Barfield-Allen
Dep. C. A. Kasongo	Dep. J. A. Smith
Dep. S. V. Richardson	Dep. M. P. Johnson
Cpl. K. W. Jackson	



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth: ★ Sgt. R. Summerford and his wife welcomed their first child. The baby girl was born July 25, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs and 7 oz and measured 21 inches in length.

Anniversary:

- 35 year:** Cpl. D. Wright 7/1976
- 15 year:** Dep. D. Hopkins 9/1996
- 5 year:** Sgt. D. Blanch 8/06; Dep. M. Henry 8/06; Dep. D. Keller 8/06; Dep. V. Kelly 8/06; Dep. S. Richardson 8/06; Brenda Charity 8/06

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Wanda Sigler, **Civil Admin. Specialist**, NNSO "Employee of the Quarter," 2nd Qtr.
- Dep. D. Velez (formerly Swinney), **Admin. Support**, NNSO "Employee of the Quarter," 3rd Qtr.

PROMOTION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Hubbard, F. L.	Lieutenant	August 15, 2011
Chapman, P. A.	Sergeant	August 15, 2011
Jackson, K. W.	Corporal	July 1, 2011
Pinkney, A. L.	Master Deputy	July 1, 2011
Summerford, S. J.	Master Deputy	July 1, 2011



WELCOME OUR LATEST CLASS OF DEPUTIES



Class 11-2 graduated from the Corrections Academy on August 23rd. Pictured from left to right: B. R. Munji, S. Rocchio, Sheriff Morgan, N. D. Smith, R. D. Love, V. N.Harris, T. V.Session, M. D. Bolden, and G. Harman. Dep. Rocchio was selected by her peers to speak on their behalf as the class representative.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES

Lt. L. Mebane, Sgt. V. Barfield-Allen, and Sgt. J. Robbins attended and earned certificates from the Leadership Institute sponsored by Christopher Newport University and the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Academy. The course was held over the course of two sessions: May 9-12 and August 1-4.

Congratulations!

"The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are..."

"... to where they have not been."

- Henry Kissinger

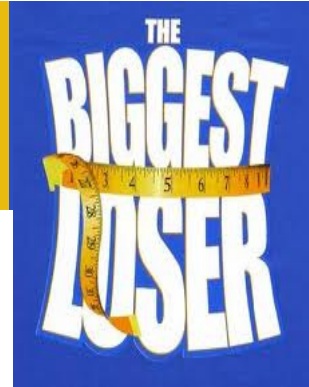


In last quarter's issue of "On the Inside," we told you about the "The Biggest Loser

Challenge." This weight loss challenge was designed to encourage personnel at the Newport News Sheriff's Office to adopt healthy habits.

The results are in!

WINNERS Announced in Sheriff's Office Weight Loss Challenge



own lifestyle changes. "I will strive on towards my never ending weight loss," she said in good humor.

A total of forty-employees enrolled in the Biggest Loser contest.

PLACE	WINNER	BODY PERCENTAGE LOSS	POUNDS LOST	PRIZE WON
1st	Sgt. L. Saunders	14.5%	25.4	\$ 900.00
2nd	Sgt. R. Daniels	14.4%	38.2	\$ 500.00
3rd	Capt. R. S. Coleman	11.3%	27.6	\$ 250.00
4th	Dep. C. A. Peake	9.1%	20.0	\$ 100.00
5th	Lt. M. L. Daniels	6.8%	12.4	\$ 50.00
6th	Dep. D. L. Jones	6.6%	20.6	Gift Card

encouragement and said, "Congratulations to everyone who participated! Although winning a cash prize is nice, everyone who participated is a winner from a personal health point of view. Great job to all in involved!"

Proper diet and exercise can help protect against diabetes, heart disease, and cancer -- all among the leading causes of death in this country. 🌟

Sergeant Janet Robbins organized the challenge, first as a personal effort to lose weight, but more importantly for the wellbeing of fellow deputies. She said, "Part of what makes a good deputy is good physical fitness. I feel proud to have played a role in helping some of deputies with their weight loss and wellbeing." Even though Robbins was not in the top six finishers, she hasn't given up on her

The contest began April 8 with the final weigh-in on July 29.

The cash prizes were developed as part of the rules. Each participant put-up \$20 to enroll; they paid a \$1 fee every time they weighed-in; and if they gained weight, they paid a \$1 penalty for every pound gained.

Sheriff Morgan was so supportive of the idea that he nearly matched the fund. He offered words of



Winner Sgt. L. Saunders

ON THE INSIDE

The Newport News Sheriff's Office quarterly newsletter

is written and produced by Lt. Kathleen Carey, PIO.

E-mail comments and suggestions to: kcarey@nngov.com

FLASHBACK



Photo captions:

1-3 The 16th Annual Fishing Clinic sponsored by the Rotary Club is a popular event among kids and Newport News Sheriff's Office volunteers. The James River Pier was lined with happy, smiling faces.

4 Sergeants M. McGee and R. Summerford led the Hilton/Brandon Heights parades on their motor units. They also were invited to appear at the Knights of Columbus 4th of July Celebration (pictured).

5 Thank you to Children's Corner for their generous donation to Project Lifesaver. The child care/day care center presented the Newport News Sheriff's Office with a \$1,000 check for its search and rescue program. Pictured are CRO Vicki Gaffney and Angele Newman.

6-7 Norfolk Sheriff's Office conducted a Project Lifesaver recertification class on July 22nd at their training headquarters. Paul Ballance and Capt. Steve Duke, both with the NSO, (not pictured) worked with Sergeant R. Daniels and Deputy T. Brown using various search and rescue scenarios. (photos courtesy: Paula Miller, Norfolk Sheriff's Office)

8-9 The Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO) partnered with Stealth Shredding for its bi-annual Shred Day. The event was held August 18 at the Home Depot. Over 500 people came to the event, and Stealth Shredding estimates over 13,400 lbs of paper was shred that day. Shred Day is becoming one of the NNSO's most popular signature events. Citizens are looking for ways to protect themselves from identity theft. Shredding their documents -- FREE of charge -- is greatly appreciated. Tristan Butler, son of Lt. A. Maule, volunteered at the event. (photos courtesy: Norma Facenda, Stealth Shredding. (www.StealthShredding.com)

EXPLORING (contin. from page 1)

Lt. S. Whitfield gives the Explorers a tour of the courthouse and courtrooms before introducing them to Judge R. C. Kerns.

meeting deputies. I'm meeting other people I wouldn't have known if it wasn't in a program like this."

Anita Grubbs is also an 'Explorer.' She was surprised to meet a judge, "We think of them (judges) as being so serious. It was nice to know they're a human being like everybody else." ❀

Kyle Bandy is a student at An Achievable Dream. He wants to become a parole officer, preferably for one of the military branches. He said, "I am getting to meet Sheriff's. I'm

EDUCATION COMPONENT to RE-ENTRY

Eight inmates graduated with a GED on July 14th. All of them were fast tracked, meaning a pre-GED test determined they were ready for the real exam. In doing this, the Newport News Sheriff's Office reaches inmates before they are transferred or released. At a separate ceremony on September 14, another ten inmates earned their GED. Local jails are short term correctional facilities and must find creative ways to effectively offer rehabilitative programs. The GED program is appreciated by the inmates and families of the inmates.

For example, the sister of one of our former inmates wrote us a thank you letter. She is a soldier in the U.S. Army so we are protecting her identity and that of her brother for privacy purposes. Here is an excerpt from her letter. "This e-mail is to let you know to keep doing what you are doing. I want to give you a little update on my brother. You will be pleased to know he graduated valedictorian of his welding class. I wanted to say to God be the glory and all our hard work has paid off. He took what was presented to him and did something positive rather than the same old stuff and being in and out of jail. Thank you again for your help and concern for him and for being a positive role model in other people's lives." ❀

RE-ENTRY (contin. from page 1)

10,000 to 12,000 people are released from Virginia's correctional facilities and returned to communities each year. An even greater number re-enter communities from local jails and federal correctional centers. The process of leaving prison and returning to society has become a significant challenge to the state and the nation. Persons released often have few resources and difficulty finding jobs, housing or help. National studies show that approximately two-thirds will be arrested again within three years of release. (Source: Va Department of Social Services)

Governor Bob McDonnell has made prisoner re-entry a priority of his administration. On June 21, 2011, he signed seven pieces of legislation that strengthen re-entry policies in the Commonwealth. "The foremost priority of government is public safety," Governor McDonnell said.

"As a prosecutor, state delegate, attorney general and as governor, I have worked to make Virginia's

communities safer places to live, work and raise a family. One critical component to this is making sure Virginia has an effective prisoner re-entry strategy that includes strong, successful programs. An effective prisoner re-entry plan is good government. It improves public safety, reduces recidivism and victimization and improves the outcome for offenders returning to our communities. Everyone deserves a second chance. When a crime is committed, the individual responsible must be punished to the fullest extent. If you do the crime in Virginia you will do the time. But when that prison sentence is completed, and the price to society has been paid, we need to take the additional steps necessary to ensure that our prison system is not a revolving door. Currently, two-thirds of those who come out of prison are re-arrested within three years. That means new victims, and more costs to taxpayers. This is simply not acceptable." (Source: Governor Bob McDonnell news release issued June 21, 2011) ❀



Chess Helps Inmates See the Consequences of Their Actions

The Newport News Sheriff's Office holds a Live Chess Tournament

Chess has long been regarded as a game that can have beneficial effects on learning and development. Chess players must call upon decision-making skills that can be transferred to real life. They analyze actions and consequences of their moves and visualize future possibilities. Chess teaches discipline. "It

teaches you to have a plan and to plan ahead. If you do that, you'll be rewarded; if you break the rules, you will get punished in life and in chess," said Susan Polgar, 4 time World Champion.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is always looking to create constructive activities for inmates of the Newport News City Jail/Jail Annex.



Leading the way is Lt. Kandyce Patrick. She says chess is a healthy way for inmates to use their brains. She added a twist to a 'regular' chess tournament. "Let's make it LIVE," said Lt. Patrick. Real people played the chess pieces and were moved at the direction of two players. The two players were finalists from a tournament the day before. "We started with 42 players. Through single elimination, we narrowed it down to two," explained Patrick.

Attention was first given to safety and security. Deputies reviewed the inmate request forms. They made sure no one who signed up was on anybody's enemy list. The tournament was held in the recreation yard, secured by high walls, razor wire, video cameras, and no exit doors.

This tournament was beyond entertaining -- though it was. Events like these keep tensions down on the jail floor with leads to deputy safety. Constructive activities are used as leverage in the jail. The promise of something different to do than stare at the walls... well, it is a reward for good behavior.

On the day of the Live Chess Tournament, there was absolute silence in the recreation yard. The quiet concentration by the players and the respect for the game by the 'chess pieces' was demonstrated by the hush of the yard.

Party Station, a retailer on Jefferson Avenue, donated the king and queen crowns. Lt. Patrick paid for any other materials herself and created the wearable sandwich boards on her days off. ♣

SHERIFF'S Last Word

Permission granted by the Daily Press to re-print its Five Questions feature that originally appeared in the September 15, 2011 Newport News Town Square section of the newspaper.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan advocates alternative sentencing

By Joe Lawlor, Daily Press

Gabe Morgan has been the Newport News sheriff since 2006, and since then he has worked on alternative sentencing programs, improvements to the jail and alleviating the city's gang problem.

Morgan, 56, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native, was also an officer in the U.S. Army for 24 years, working with systems engineering and counter terrorism. He also served in Desert Storm in 1990-91.

Morgan sat down with the Daily Press last week (week of Sept. 5) for a wide-ranging interview on a number of topics that make up this week's Five Questions.

Q: How would you describe your philosophy on alternative sentencing programs for non-violent offenders?

A: I'm a big advocate of alternative sentencing and/or jail diversions. For instance, what happens if you're arrested for failing to pay child support? If we put you in jail, you lose your job, and then you still can't pay child support. What good is that doing? You get so far in debt, you can't dig your way out. If we confine you in your home, you're paying the bill, not the

taxpayers.

We simply can't afford to incarcerate as many people as we've been incarcerating. Since the early 1980s, we've quadrupled the number of people we've incarcerated. But when I ask people if they feel any safer since then, they say, 'no.'

Q: How do you go about increasing the alternative sentencing so it's used more?

A: I am a co-chair for the mayor's task force (Mayor McKinley Price started a task force to address the gang problem). This will be part of the recommendations of the task force. We will be making requests of the judges, and I believe our judges will be open to it.

Q: How do you go about changing the culture to make it less appealing for people to join a gang?: That's one of the things overall we're struggling with is the culture. We need to listen to the youth while steering them in the right direction. We need to allow for freedom of expression as long as it doesn't lead to criminality.

A lot of great things are happening with reducing gangs in Newport News. The police have made a lot of arrests and many of them have been prosecuted.

Q: What improvements need to be made to the city jail?

A: We need to have a larger booking area so that more than one person can be booked at a time, so that there are not these long lineups. I would also like to see a holding cell and booking area in the middle or northern part of the city.

Q: Has the housing crisis led to the sheriff's department doing more evictions?

A: Unfortunately, the foreclosures have increased the workload to where we are handling more evictions of houses and the overall economy has led to us doing more evictions from apartments. If someone is renting a house that's going into foreclosure, and they weren't notified that they needed to get out, we've been working with the courts to give them more time.

Copyright © 2011, [Newport News, Va., Daily Press](http://www.newportnews.com)