



Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

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Fall 2004

Message from the Sheriff:

By Sheriff Jim Frank

The Holiday Season brings a time of excitement and reflection. The excitement is enhanced for many of us by young children filled with hopes and dreams of presents under the tree. Reflection is often a mixed bag. We think of what was, what could have been, and what is. Each "what" carries with it a host of emotions.

Our "customers" are dealing with the same things we are during this season. When emotions reach an unreasonable level on either end of the spectrum we often become involved in their lives. It can be very challenging for us while they are working through their issues.

My hopes and prayers for you and your families is that the Holiday Season brings much happiness and joy. I hope your reflections are abundant with good memories and filled with promises of a bright tomorrow.

I ask you to keep in mind those who are less fortunate and struggle during this time. We have opportunities to help them in many ways the least of which by being a bit more understanding and patient.

Explorers Attend Conference

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

The Washington County Explorers participated in the 9th Annual Law Enforcement Explorer Conference and Competition in Duluth Oct 22-24th, 2004. Nineteen agencies sent a total of 155 explorers to compete in nine different events. Explorers also had classroom sessions on gang investigation and K-9 units. Washington County sent three teams to the conference and placed in the following events:

- 1st Place Traffic Accident Investigation
- 1st Place First Aid
- 2nd Place Traffic Stops
- 2nd place Hostage Negotiation
- 2nd Place Crime Scene Investigations

Our explorers continue to represent our county as leaders in exploring. Our youth are noted for their professionalism, ethics, teamwork and leadership

Congratulations!



Front row: Kal Stokes, Amber Lammon, Breanna Dexter.

Back row: Mark Jara, Steve Bell, Asa Engstrum, Randy Helms, Nick Loperfido and Nick Wronski

K-9 Storm Retires:

By Sgt Doug Anschutz



It was a cool fall evening and his night began like so many others. I let him out around 9:00 pm and by 9:30 I could hear him jumping on the garage door. He knew it was time to go to work, and as always, he was ready. Once the service door opened, he was like a black streak past me to our car. There he sat waiting for me to open up his door so he could jump in. Another night like so many others, but tonight was different, K-9 Storm was going to be working his last shift, but he didn't know it, I hadn't told him yet. My wife came out to say good-bye and wish us a good last night. Of course he barked at her, he was in the car now and on duty, so he let her know he was 10-8. Oh how he loves to bark.

Our last night together caused me to reflect on our last six and a half years together as a team and the things I'd miss about having Storm as a partner. This depressed me, so I started to think about those things I might not miss so much.

They include the hair, which is everywhere, the barking in my ear and the stolen food from the front seat. Over the years Storm has managed to snatch a number of candy bars, bubble gum, chips, he even once ate my KFC dinner while I was out on a traffic stop. I surely won't miss that!

If you were to ask Storm and if he could reply, I have a feeling he'd say he was going to miss all of it. The training days, being around his fellow K-9's, barking at someone when they walked by his car, the tracking after a suspect in a field or searching a dark building, even the countless vehicle searches for narcotics. No, I think Storm would tell you he was going to miss it all, and truth be told I have to agree with him.

So at 0730 the next morning, Storm's last shift ended and he joined a long distinguished list of fellow K-9's who had served and retired. Dogs like Trooper, Zeus, Max, Jake, Puzzle and Frasier; and like his fellow K-9's, Storm has begun to get used to the idea of being retired. I'm pretty certain he wouldn't have traded his time as a K-9 with Washington County Sheriff's Office for anything and I surely wouldn't have traded the chance to be his handler.

Storm now enjoys the rewards of his years of service and gets lots of attention from his family. He even gets to enjoy time inside the house. In fact, at the time I was writing this, he managed to steal a cookie from the counter, so he has already started to enjoy his retirement.

Thanks Storm for years of service and for being an awesome partner.



Observations on the Mostly-Invisible Communication Center

Sgt Ryan Meverden

Did you ever wonder what it's like to pick up a 9-1-1 line and hear someone scream at you that his child is not breathing, expecting you to fix it? Did you ever wonder how the 9-1-1 information makes it to our Communication Center? Did you ever wonder how your voice travels on radio waves? Probably not. Most people don't. That's because so much of the important work that happens in the Communication Center every day is invisible.

When I worked in Patrol and Investigations, I didn't think about those things either. But the radio systems and computer systems we routinely take for granted don't "magically" maintain themselves. Mike Zehowski (AKA "Motorola Mike") works hard to make sure our radio infrastructure, 911 systems, and radios are all working up to specs. In addition, Mike also takes care of a myriad of other mechanical, electrical, and fleet needs. He's really a "Mike-of-all-trades." He's very conscientious about his work, and he's very good at it. But the only time we notice is when there's a problem.

John Israel and Dave Deal make sure the variety of computer systems we use are working properly to meet our needs. I recently saw a list of all the different systems and applications that people require here at the Sheriff's Office. Wow! I don't know how many there are, but I can assure you that the list is longer than you would guess. In addition to dealing with all of our daily computer-related dilemmas, John and Dave help set the course for our future technology needs. Working out planned replacement schedules, integrating more and more of our systems, developing new programs, and increasing the functionality of our existing technologies are just a few examples of the responsibilities they bear. Most of us sit down at a computer, do our work, and get up and walk away without a thought about how all that stuff just happened. It happens because John and Dave make it happen. But the only time we notice is when there's a problem.

Then there's the Communication Center staff. They are the critical first link in both the public safety and criminal justice chains. They represent the physical connection between the community and our police/fire/EMS services. While so much of what occurs in and around the Sheriff's Office every day is skillfully and responsibly started in the Communication Center, there tends to be little appreciation for the people who work there. The only time we notice is when there's a problem.

I've been impressed with the way our call takers, dispatchers, and supervisors tend to accept a general lack of respect as the nature of the job. They grasp the critical nature of what they do and simply remain focused on the important differences they make in people's lives. Everything else becomes secondary. Wow.

One quickly gains a new respect for the people who work in the Communication Center, just by spending time in their environment. I've been staggered by the way they can handle anything that is thrown at them. Incoming calls run the gamut from hysterical to horrific, goofy to gut-wrenching, blood-curdling to bone-chilling. While the physical dangers are absent, the emotional and mental drag can be even greater than out on the street because the Communication Center is the first point of contact, where every story has only a beginning and middle, but never an end. Unfortunately, there's no way people outside the Communication Center can understand that.

When your worst nightmare comes true, all you have to do is dial 9-1-1 and someone will be there to help. It works that way because of the pride, commitment, and dedication that the radio techs, computer specialists, and dispatch staff put into their work. But the only time we notice is when there's a problem. Take a moment to reflect on that sometime, even though it's all mostly-invisible.

Patrol Division

By Commander Tim Tuthill

The Patrol Division continues to professionally develop with the graduation of seven field training candidates to solo patrol and the recent promotion of Sgt. Brian Mueller as a new street supervisor. Sgt. Mueller has previous work experience as a patrol deputy and narcotics officer. Two additional recruits, Deputy Charles Aldean and Deputy Kurt Kowarsch, have recently entered the Field Training Program within patrol and are anticipated to be on solo patrol by years end.

The Sheriff's Office continues to act proactively in our efforts. Our most recent special enforcement efforts have addressed loud exhaust complaints and have resulted in a number of special enforcement details to help address this concern. Noise pollution has become an area of concern for both citizens and the Sheriff's Office over the course of this past summer. Motorcycles without proper mufflers have become the primary source of the complaints and would encourage motorcycle owners to ensure their motorcycles have legal exhaust systems in place. The Sheriff's Office was assisted in our special enforcement efforts by the Minnesota State Patrol and Stillwater Police Department. We will continue to address this concern and would anticipate an increase in this type of enforcement in the future.

The Patrol Division was recently awarded a new Lidar Laser radar gun as a result of our participation in special enforcement details over this past summer. The Lidar is a hand held speed reading device which can be pointed and activated with very little notice to potential violators and retails for approximately \$3500.00. The Sheriff's Office now utilizes two of these devices as a part of our specialized enforcement equipment.

Over the course of this past summer, we experienced a rash of mail thefts in primarily the south area of the county but eventually apprehended four suspects in the Afton area on October 15, 2004, after receiving a citizen complaint of suspicious activity. Following the arrest of these suspects, mail theft complaints dramatically decreased. Once again, I appreciate and encourage our citizens to remain invested in their neighbors and neighborhoods and to share information among yourselves and that of the Sheriff's Office to retain the quality of life we strive for and work so hard to maintain. This was a great example of people helping people.

Mike Bonn Selected for LEMA

By Commander Tim Tuthill



Congratulations to Deputy Mike Bonn who has been selected to join the Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA). The Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring Deputy Bonn's participation and appreciates his efforts and commitment to such an organization and purpose!

L.E.M.A. is a state wide organization of 40 licensed officers who participate in helping families of fallen officers. They assist in helping to provide services during the funeral such as casket detail, flag folding, color guard, rifle salute and bugle playing. These duties formally recognize the contributions of the fallen officer and also bring a heightened sense of honor to the loss. Mike will assist in such ceremonies and will most likely be participating in other duties as needed. Mike was selected after going through an oral interview; skills based evaluation and attending a week long training session at Camp Ripley. Mike will train monthly with other members of L.E.M.A.

Thanks again Mike, I'm sure you'll do very well in representing the Law Enforcement Community when your services are needed and have hope they will be limited in number.

Sheriff's Office Transportation Unit

By Sgt. Garret Kleinendorst, Sgt Roger Heinen and John Haugen

The transportation of inmates from one institution to another has been going on since the Sheriff's Office was created. At one time, deputies did all of the transports, however after the new Law Enforcement Center opened, a Sheriff's Office Transport Unit was created. This unit is managed by a jail sergeant who is assigned to the Jail Transport/Juvenile Unit position. The Transport Sergeant has the daily task of coordinating all transports to and from the jail. These transports include writs for court, commitments to prison, civil commitments, transports to and from shelters, receiving centers (detox), hospitals and many others.

Transport officers are also asked to guard inmates for medical appointments, civil commitment hearings as well as being an occasional delivery person. The Transport Unit is made up of retired law enforcement officers. Many transports are also completed by correctional officers and court security staff which is invaluable in helping to ease the load on the regular transport officers. The number of transports that are performed continues to increase. It is anticipated that the Transport Unit will have completed nearly 2,500 transports in 2004.

The Transport Unit has five squad cars available for use, each designed to hold a maximum of two inmates. Inmates are not allowed in the front seat and juveniles cannot be transported with adults and males cannot be transported with females unless each half of the back seat is separated by some type of barrier. All individuals being transported are placed in full restraints consisting of leg irons, handcuffs and a waist belt.

Because of the increasing number of transports, and the limitations in the number of inmates who can be moved at one time using transport cars, a study was conducted to see if a transport van would be more efficient and cost effective. The study showed that there were often repeated trips made during the same day, to the same agency or to agencies that were close to each other, because of the inability to transport more than two people at one time. Because of the study results, it was decided to go ahead with plans to purchase a transport van. The van will permit stops at multiple agencies to pick-up and deliver inmates during the same trip which will result in better use of transport officer's time.

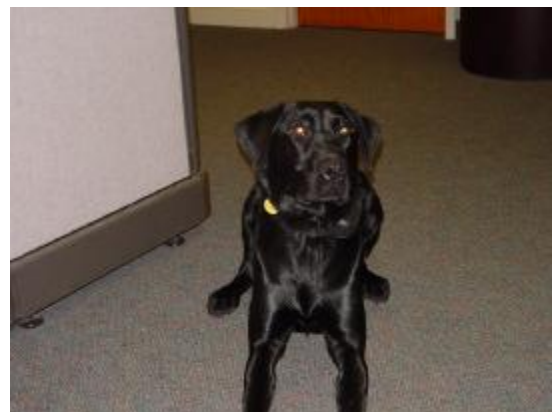
New K-9

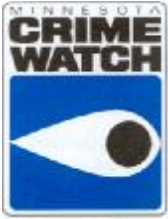
By Keith Anderson



Presentation of a check by 3M and South Washington County School officials to the Sheriff's Office.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has received a new drug K-9 which will be assigned to the Narcotic's Unit. South Washington County Schools in partnership with 3M have purchased a black lab whose name is Simon. Officials from 3M and the South Washington Schools were here on October 8, 2004, and presented a check to the Sheriff's Office to fund the purchase of the new K-9. He is a welcome addition to the Narcotic's Unit.





DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM



Several people exchange gifts each year about this time as part of a holiday tradition. Unfortunately each year, about this time, Deputies respond to an increased number of burglaries, thefts and other related crimes. To better detour crime we must first understand what crime is and take an active roll in prevention.

Desire + Ability + Opportunity = CRIME

Here are a few suggestions the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit would like to help you with.

- ✓ Join Operation Identification. It is easy, confidential and it's FREE. This program consists of contacting the Sheriff's Records Unit in person or by telephone at 430-7600. You will receive a packet of information and if requested a pen engraver to use. Inside the packet will be an Identification number assigned to you, which will be similar to MN 082XXXX. This is a tracking number that will allow law enforcement anywhere in the nation to track the property back to the owner because the number is assigned only to you. MN signifies Minnesota, 82 signifies Washington County and the rest of the numbers are similar to a personalized serial number. You will also receive a log sheet to record your property information on. This log sheet is filed with the Records Unit in a secure location and only accessible to the owner of the property and the Records Unit staff to verify ownership. Operation I.D. stickers are included and are in a variety of sizes. These can be placed on your property, your homes doors and or windows to warn would be burglars that your property is traceable.
- ✓ Insurance discounts may be available for participation in Operation Identification. Ask your Insurance agent.
- ✓ If you have a garage for your vehicle, use it. Lock your vehicles and don't leave valuables in plain sight. Out of sight out of mind will help make your property less of an opportunity.
- ✓ Report suspicious persons, vehicles and events when you are seeing them. If it isn't an emergency, call the non-emergency number at 651/439-9381. Emergencies are reported by dialing 9-1-1. If the matter turns out to be a neighbor with a new car or a person out for a walk, no harm is done. If it is a person looking over yours or your neighbors property and planning their next crime, a visit from a Sheriff's Deputy may make them realize the opportunity isn't there and can greatly diminish their desire. You are NEVER bothering law enforcement when reporting matters that make you suspicious. We are here to help, please report suspicious events. Your call may be the missing piece to the puzzle that allows a Deputy to solve a crime.
- ✓ When disposing of bank statements, checks, credit card statements, or any other paperwork with your account numbers or personal information on them, shred them prior to placing them in your trash.
- ✓ Mail offers such as those "Your Pre-Approved for a credit line of \$15,000.00" offers we receive in the mail, usually about a month prior to the holidays. Did you ever wonder how you had been approved with out even applying? Companies buy the credit applications and several other kinds of data you send in everyday. They compile a history on you and sell it to companies hoping to get you to use their credit card so they can make a profit off the interest charged to you. If the offer is discarded without being destroyed or stolen from your mail. The criminal simply applies to the credit card for you, completes a change of address card for your address, and has your mail diverted just prior to the cards being mailed. They have the card before you know what has happened. Then it's too late. Destroy these offers if you're not interested in accepting the offer.

- ✓ Don't place outgoing mail in your mail box. The red flag that is raised to signify there is mail to be picked up is just that, a red flag for criminals. Out going mail is usually a bill with credit card numbers or checks. It's almost as good as online shopping with someone else's credit card.
- ✓ Consider a locking mail box to help protect your incoming mail and mailing out going mail to the post office or any standard mail collection box will greatly reduce the opportunity of your account numbers or even your identity becoming someone else's. Information is available at your local post office on mail security.
- ✓ Have only the required information on your checks and do not sign the backs of your credit cards. Instead of signing, print "Require Identification". This will prompt most businesses to require identification. While this maybe viewed as an inconvenience, it is really a benefit. Most stolen checks and credit cards are used within the first few hours after they are stolen. The hope is that the owner has not yet reported them stolen. The odds of the criminal having an I.D. that matches your personal information and photograph are very low.
- ✓ If you have a home alarm, use it. It won't work if you don't arm it. Alarm signs are a great deterrent, however anyone can now purchase alarm signs in a variety of stores. Criminals are well aware of the means that are used to catch them. Keep in mind that an alarm can be defeated and is only another means to help make your property less of a target.
- ✓ When disposing of packaging from holiday gifts or any purchase, especially and expensive one. Don't advertise by placing the box at curbside for the recycling truck. Turning the box inside out or even cutting the packaging up and bundling it will help reduce the chance of criminals setting their sights on your new property.
- ✓ Have a home security survey done by a Deputy Sheriff. This survey will help to point out some areas your home or business maybe unnecessarily vulnerable to criminals. Matters such as lighting, landscaping and line of sight are covered and you will receive a written evaluation to use as a guide in making your property less of a target for criminals. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 651/430-7889 to schedule an appointment. The survey is a service provided at no cost.



Investigations Division News

By Commander Scott Malinosky

Over the summer, the Investigations Division was involved in the investigation of a number of violent crimes. Most notably, in Scandia a 20 year old female who had been home alone was stabbed multiple times by a 14 year old neighbor boy. Fortunately, the victim survived the attack in spite of a significant amount of blood loss. The circumstances of the crime left us with basically two crime scenes, as the suspect fled to his nearby home.

In a second case, the Narcotics Unit assisted the Polk County, Wisconsin Sheriff's Department with the investigation of a September 4th homicide in their jurisdiction. The victim, a former Stillwater resident, was stabbed to death outside his rural Polk County home. The partnership between members of our Narcotics Unit and Polk County Sheriff's Investigators led to the identification and arrest of the perpetrators and accomplices.

We welcome two new members to the Investigations Division, Deputies Mike Benson and Marc Lombardi. At the same time, we congratulate Brian Mueller on his promotion to the rank of sergeant and wish him well in his new assignment in the Patrol Division.



Washington County Sheriff's Office
15015 62nd Street North
P.O. Box 3801
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-3801