



Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

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Spring 2004

LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

By Jill Strong

The tenth annual Law Enforcement Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Friday, May 14, 2004 in front of the Law Enforcement Center. The weather was chilly but it didn't rain us out.

The Stillwater Senior High School Varsity Band opened the ceremony with a song and then Sheriff Frank greeted everyone who attended and introduced Chaplain Nicklay for the opening prayer. The Guest Speaker was Retired Minnesota Department of Corrections Commissioner, Orville Pung.

Wreaths, in memory of fallen correctional officers and law enforcement officers, were presented by Christopher Thoma, Chisago County Sheriff's Office, Chris Kopel, Stillwater Police Department, Dan Rein and Keith Land of Washington County Sheriff's Office. The names of the fallen officers were read by personnel from Washington County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement departments. Deputy Jerry Lannon read the Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer, Correctional Officer Julia Lowe read the Correctional Officer Memorial Prayer and Deputy Mike Bonn played Taps.

We would like to thank the Guest Speaker Orville Pung, Chaplain Nicklay, the Stillwater Senior High School Varsity Band and their director, Dennis Lindsay, and Klaus Hinrichsen who provided the bagpipes again this year. We would especially like to thank Pauline Samb and her staff from Aramark for providing the refreshments, cakes and cookies. Thank you to the Washington County Honor Guard, Reserves, Explorers and the Mounted Patrol for their help and participation in this year's event.

Thank you to all the staff that set up the ceremony, the participants and those who attended this day of remembrance.



Washington County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard



Sheriff Frank opening the ceremony



Chaplain Nicklay gave the opening prayer



Guest speaker Orville Pung



Deputy Jerry Lannon read the Law Enforcement Memorial Prayer



Correctional Officer Julia Lowe read the Correctional Officer Memorial Prayer



Carol Anderson was the bell ringer during the reading of the fallen officers in 2003



Washington County Sheriff's Office
Mounted Patrol



Washington County Sheriff's Office employees

If You Have Your Health You Have Everything

By Sheriff Frank

I can remember as a child hearing my dad make the statement to other adults, "if you have your health, you have everything". It really didn't make much sense to me at that time. It does now.

Over the last year or two we have had a number of our fellow employees struck with some pretty heavy health issues. They have been engaged in long term battles that have not only been a struggle for them personally, but for their families as well. They balance on each treatment or visit to the doctor.

I would invite each of us to spend a little time reflecting on those who are struggling with health issues. What can we do to lighten their burden? We may grumble about the challenges we face at work, but how would we face the challenge of not being able to work? How difficult it must be to be the provider and not be able to provide.

Employee's names and their health issues can't be published, but most of us know who they are. We may not know them personally because of work schedules or assignments, but the word does get out.

Summer is a time of activities and enjoyment in the sun. Please remember those whose summer isn't looking so bright and help lighten the load if you can. If you have your health, you have everything that money can't buy.

Front Lobby Desk

By Michelle Ritzer

In an effort to improve customer service to the public, a desk has been set up in the front lobby. Kim Shelafoe is assigned to this location and is our first point of contact for the public. She is accessible and able to provide personalized service to the public and customers. The image and service our office provides is reflected to the public upon first contact with Kim. She has done an excellent job by being polite, courteous, professional and efficient.



Kim Shelafoe in the front lobby

SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

By Dan Luke

On April 27, 2004, Sheriff Frank hosted the annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet. This year, the banquet was held at Camp Lakamaga in New Scandia Township. Although the location challenged the navigational skills of some of the guests and staff, (one staff reported spotting Sasquatch); once everyone arrived, the volunteers enjoyed the outdoor setting, resort style lodge and huge fireplace. The atmosphere was casual, relaxed and conducive to conversation and mingling. The 83 volunteers from the jail and patrol, along with 12 Sheriff's Office employees were treated to an excellent dinner.

The after dinner program featured the individual volunteer groups, i.e. jail chaplains, mounted patrol etc. giving a short description of what they do, how they do it and whom they serve. Sgt. Cheri Dexter and Jail Program Coordinator Dan Luke thanked the volunteers for their continued work and dedication to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Washington County. The evening culminated with Sheriff Frank awarding The President's Points of Light Award to many of the Sheriff's Office volunteers and units. The Sheriff thanked the volunteers, their spouses and families for their service and sacrifice.



Sheriff's office volunteers make a difference; please show your appreciation by thanking them throughout the year.

Sheriff Frank and Sgt Cheri Dexter presenting Explorer Nick Loperfido with an award.

Investigation Division

By Commander Scott Malinosky

As I write this article for the Stars & Bars, we are rapidly approaching the anniversary date of the car-jacking assault on Julie Bever. Julie and her husband sat down with the news media last month and conducted interviews about the incident which were carried on television and in the newspapers. The case is one of the most egregious criminal acts committed against one of our citizens in recent times. As such, it has consumed a great deal of our time and resources as we have attempted to find justice for Ms. Bever. For now, we continue to follow leads wherever they take us.

The school year is rapidly drawing to a close and with it comes the DARE culminations. Danelle Erickson, Sara Johnston, Cory Reedy and Miguel Tellez have done excellent work with the students from the various schools still participating in the program. With the ever-increasing menace of methamphetamine, it is as important as ever to equip young people with good decision making and coping skills. Sgt. Pat Olson of the Narcotics Unit is among a group of County employees who directly contend with the problems posed by methamphetamine and who recently did a fine job presenting a workshop for the County Board regarding the increasing "meth" problem in Washington County.

Sheriff's Office Home Detention Upgrade and Expansion

By Commander Chuck Yetter

The Washington County Home Detention Program began supervising low-risk sentenced inmates in July of 1990. Through the end of 2003, over 3,000 individuals have served home detention sentences totaling almost 112,000 supervised days with user fees generating close to \$1,364,000 dollars of revenue. Besides the additional savings by not filling jail beds with low risk offenders, a number of the inmates that serve their sentences on home detention have special circumstances such as serious pre-existing medical conditions, which Washington County would be financially responsible for if these individuals served their sentences in the jail.

The two staff primarily assigned to the Home Detention Program supervise 35 to 40 sentenced inmates. Sergeants in the jail are available after hours, seven days a week to respond to any violations. The Sheriff's Office Home Detention Program has 45 field-monitors and transmitters. In January, the Sheriff's Office completed the third upgrade of equipment since the program began, which included a new host computer and 23 Sobrietor units to assure compliance with "abstain from any use of alcohol" conditions. The upgrade was completed at a cost of \$69,000 and user fees will pay for the new equipment in approximately three and a half months.

In the Spring of 2003, Sheriff Frank and Community Corrections Director Tom Adkins began the process of exploring the feasibility of expanding the Sheriff's Office Home Detention Program to include more Community Corrections clients. The desired outcome was a centralization of services with less dependence on outside vendors. This has begun with Sheriff's Office staff now providing monitoring services for conditional release defendants that reside in the seven county metropolitan area. Future plans include expanding monitoring services for intensive supervision clients and possibly working together to provide for combined drug testing for both Sheriff's Office home detention and work release inmates and Community Corrections clients.

Court Security Unit Enhances Security Measures

By Commander Bernie Morency

The Court Security Unit has recently added a metal detection checkpoint at the corridor entrance to the court area. This is one of the final steps being taken to ensure the safety of employees and citizens who are conducting business with the courts. Earlier steps included securing the east stairwell access by erecting a door which requires a keycard to open it, tazer training for all Court Security Staff, and daily, early morning, sweeps of the court rooms and other public areas to locate and remove any prohibited items and/or contraband.

The metal detection checkpoint operation has been a remarkable success in restricting the number of weapons entering the court area. Many more people than I imagined are carrying some form of edged weapon today. The weapons that are legal are being held for the owner until they are ready to leave the area. To date, we have had no one try to conceal a weapon when entering the court area. Most citizens and employees are being very cooperative.

In addition to the weapons being found, several persons have been arrested for possession of some form of illegal drugs. These are being found when persons entering the area submit to a voluntary search.

The Court Security Unit is being assisted in this project by a number of Correctional Officers. We are grateful for their experience in this type of operation and are learning from them.

Future enhancements to security will include the assignment of more sworn staff to the Court Security Unit. A bag scanner, similar to those used at airports, will soon be added to compliment the use of the walk through metal detector.

Explorers Attend State Competition

By Sgt Cheri Dexter



The "Don Cup"

The Washington County Explorer Post competed in the 29th Annual State Competition at Breezy Point on April 22-23, 2004. Two teams from Washington County competed, with each team drawing four events. The explorers have been practicing regularly and were ready to compete in any of the 13 events. This year, each team had what was called a roll call start. The team arrived 15 minutes prior to their event and was dispatched to their call (event).

Washington County co-hosted the burglary competition with Coon Rapids Police Department. Washington County Explorer Nick Loperfido was also co-chair of the first annual career fair put on at Breezy Point.

Our Explorers placed 4th in White Collar Crime and 3rd in Interview and Interrogation. Interview and Interrogation was a new event. The Explorers had to interview two suspected terrorists, then put together the information and relay to the judge what follow up investigations and search warrants were needed.

The explores also won the "Don Cup" award. This award is a traveling trophy given to a post that shows teamwork, dedication, quality and service in exploring. Our post was nominated by the Dakota County Explorer Post. ”

Congratulations to the post. They again have represented our department with pride, leadership, and dedication.



Front Row: Breanna Dexter, Amber Lammon. Middle Row: Sgt. Cheri Dexter, Sara Peulen, Brad Asplund, Nick Loperfido, Randy Helms, Asa Engstrum, Mark Jara. Back Row: Justin Keading, Matt Wieland.

Patrol News

By Commander Tim Tuthill

The Patrol Division is getting into full swing as the summer time activities and public travels increase. Patrol units will be engaged in special seat belt and Safe & Sober enforcement initiatives once again and encourage everyone to take special care in preparing themselves and passengers for safe transportation. Traffic accidents, alcohol consumption and a lack of seat belt use still accounts for a disproportionate number of avoidable injuries and fatalities among residents of Washington County. The Patrol Division is tasked with changing these behaviors and outcomes and would appreciate everyone's help and cooperation for the benefit of all.

Crimes of opportunity are also due to rise with unattended motor vehicles being left with valuables inside. Please secure any valuables your traveling with inside of your trunk and out of sight prior to your arrival.

The Water, Parks and Trails Unit has started to deploy water patrol units as well as park patrols with the anticipation of another busy season. Representatives from the Sheriff's Office, bordering jurisdictions and DNR had an opportunity to operate an information booth at the St. Paul Boat Show recently, in hopes to ensure the boating public has a safe and enjoyable boating experience this season. Please inspect your watercrafts for operability and safety considerations before venturing out onto our lakes and river ways. It's always a good idea to review the boating regulations each season to catch any changes and to reinforce the fundamentals.

The Patrol Division is in the process of training eight new deputies to fill various vacancies within the Sheriff's Office. All newly hired deputies begin their training and indoctrination into the Sheriff's Office within the Patrol Division, where we build upon their skills and expose them to the various duties associated with their role and function as a Patrol Deputy. Once graduating from field training, deputies will have an opportunity to explore other assignments if they wish, which may include working in the courts, investigations, narcotics, civil process etc.... to further their professional interests and to expose them to other areas of responsibility for the Sheriff's Office.

The Patrol Division and all sworn personnel of the Sheriff's Office have recently transitioned from carrying Smith & Wesson .40 caliber semi-automatic side arms to the Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic. The change occurred due to a number of considerations which included potential supply problems reference replacement parts for the existing Smith & Wesson model, which has been in service for approximately 10 years. The Glock has a history of reliability and appears to be a fiscally sound investment for the Office.

The Patrol Division has recently completed a search and entry training exercise for all sworn personnel, utilizing special safety equipment and team tactics to ensure that deputies can execute their duties in the safest and most effective manner. We've also provided all sworn personnel with training in Weapons of Mass Destruction, which was provided by the Army's 55th Civil Support Team, to better prepare our deputies for the ever-changing threat levels we face as a nation. The Patrol Division remains vigilant in our desire to stay at the forefront of preparedness and response to the ever changing needs of the citizens we serve.

We're looking forward to the change of season and the opportunity it presents for us to engage the public. The Patrol Division has the best interests of the public in mind and would appreciate everyone's help in following roadway laws while being courteous to others and to provide us with information when suspicious or unlawful acts occur. Enjoy the summer and be safe!!

Canine Teams Graduate Academy

By Sgt. Doug Anschutz

On May 27, 2004, the two newest additions to the Sheriff's Office Canine unit graduated from the St Paul Police Canine Academy. Canine Dozer who is handled by Deputy Jason Dahms and K-9 Paetro who is handled by Deputy Kyle Schenck successfully completed the academy and will soon start patrolling Washington County together as canine teams.

Dozer and Paetro are both approximately a 1 ½ years old and were imported from Europe. They began their careers with WCSO on February 25th when they were teamed up with their handlers. Paetro was described as a "Prankster" which seemed fitting that he be teamed up with Deputy Schenck. Dozer was described as "High Spirited" and he showed how rambunctious he could be by jumping non-stop until he was put in his kennel.

After a week of getting to know one another the academy began. Over the next 12 weeks the handlers and dogs learned to work together as a team. The skills that the teams learned and will use on the street include basic obedience, agility, tracking, area searches, article/evidence recovery, building searches and suspect apprehension.

The graduation ceremony was held at the Timothy J. Jones Canine Training Facility in St Paul. The graduating canine teams gave a demonstration of the skills they learned during their training. The graduation was attended by many family, friends and co-workers.

Congratulations to Deputy Dahms and Schenck and their new partners Dozer and Paetro.



Deputy Jason Dahms and K-9 Dozer
Kyle Schenck and K-9 Paetro



Deputy



Crime Prevention



Theft from Automobiles

Theft from vehicle has increased dramatically over the past few years. As the economy changes so do crime trends. One of the reasons for the increase appears to be the ease at which the crime can be committed and the stolen items exchanged for cash. The popularity of items such as cell phones, radar detectors, audio systems/CD, expensive speakers, checkbooks, wallets, credit cards, cameras and garage door openers to name a few, encourage car prowlers.

What makes YOUR car a TARGET

- ⊙ Visible cellular phone and or attachments like exterior antennas
- ⊙ Visible personal property, such as a brief case or laptop computer case, purse/wallet or any other valuable left in sight.
- ⊙ Vehicle left running and unattended
- ⊙ Parked in a poorly lit and or secluded area
- ⊙ No security system
- ⊙ Unlocked vehicle

How YOU can make YOUR car less of a TARGET

- ★ Remove valuables or at least place them out of sight in the trunk. When you place your valuables out of sight are sure you are out of sight while moving them. Don't drive to a parking area, move your valuables to the trunk, then lock the doors and leave. All a thief needs to do then is break a window, pull/push the interior trunk release and what was yours is now theirs. All you did was gather the valuables for the thief. If you are going to a walking trail area, park, etc. only take what you need, leave the other items at home.
- ★ Most thieves use opportunity as a motivator. An unlocked vehicle is a theft just waiting to happen. While it is true, no lock will stop a highly motivated thief. It will stop those which are less interested in forced entry, which makes noise. An unlocked vehicle is also more vulnerable to parts thieves, those who would enter your vehicle and remove parts or use the hood release to gain access to the engine compartment so they can take the battery. (This is more likely in late fall and winter)
- ★ A few examples of suspicious activity are: the sound of glass breaking, seeing someone looking into cars or hiding near them, a person tampering with a car, a person carrying tools or property that doesn't fit the setting in the area, activity that "just doesn't look or feel right" If you get this feeling, something usually isn't right.

A theft can happen at any time of the day or night. If you see suspicious activity, try to obtain a description of the people, their location, if they are in a vehicle or on foot, etc, **DO NOT TRY TO CONFRONT THEM**, observe and report the information only. **Contact the Sheriffs Office Communications Center at 651-439-9381 to report vandalism or a theft. Dial 9-1-1 if the crime is in progress or a person is in danger.** The Communications Center is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and relays information to the appropriate law enforcement agency, regardless of where the situation is occurring.

Reserve Graduation

By Gary Glaser

The Washington County Sheriff's Office held a graduation ceremony for the 2004 Reserve Deputy Sheriff Academy on May 19, 2004. Sheriff Frank appointed 19 new members to the reserve program.

The reserve deputy academy is 18 weeks long and is conducted each year to train concerned citizens who volunteer their time to promote safety on the rivers, lakes, trails and in the parks within Washington County. Reserve deputies may also be called upon to assist in controlling access to and protecting assets at the scenes of natural disasters, preserving crime scenes, helping search for lost persons and providing staffing for special assignments.

The 19 additional members will bring the total number of reserves in the unit up to forty. The Washington County Sheriff's Reserve Unit was Minnesota's first Sheriff's Reserve Unit to be accredited by the United States Department of Justice for inclusion in the President Bush's Volunteers in Police Service Program and was recently awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award in gold for their service. To date, members of the Sheriff's Reserve Unit have volunteered over 32,000 hours.

The new members are: Bradley Asplund, Patrick Bigelow, Peter Bjurstrom, Matthew Dryden, Laura Eastman, Chad Greeder, Jay Kuechenmeister, Nicholas Loperfido, Jason Lorfing, Michael Marsh, Susan May, Jacob Sather, Mark Spafford, Kal Stokes, James Thienes, Dennis Vicha, Stacey Webb, Judy Wetterstrom and Jordan Ziebarth.

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