

# NON SO

## Features

Honored for Saving Man's Life	1
Chaplain's Corner	3
A G-Rated Kiss for a GED	2
Jail Annex Progressing	2
Smoke Screen	1
Graduates	5



# ON THE INSIDE

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

Volume 1

No. 5

Oct—Dec, 2007

## HONORED FOR SAVING MAN'S LIFE

It is a scene that haunted Hope Hasan for days in her dreams. "I think it is going to be vivid the rest of my life. You don't really think you're going walk up on something like that," she said of an inmate hanging from the top bars of his jail cell. "That's TV stuff, you know? It was terrible." The nightmares have since stopped, but what happened that January night is still troubling to someone who is trained to nurse people back to health, not watch them die.

The inmate did *not* die. He survived thanks to the quick action of Hasan, the Newport News Sheriff's Office Health Administrator and three deputy sheriffs: Deputy Robert Clayton, Sergeant Carl Wilberg, and Deputy Steve Sheridan. Each of the four was honored with a Virginia Lifesaving Medal at a ceremony held in November.

The Sheriff's Offices implements the following criteria for extending the honor:

*The Lifesaving Medal is awarded to any employee for saving a human life or for endeavoring to save a human life. There is no greater act of heroism than to undertake lifesaving measures to rescue another person.*

*(continued MEDAL p. 4)*

## SMOKE SCREEN

On November 7, we had the fire chief, fire marshal and fire inspector all behind bars. However, they weren't here for criminal activity. Instead they were here to assist with an exercise testing the infrared cameras installed on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

Smoke was introduced onto the floor in order to observe what the cameras can see.

*(continued CAMERA p. 5)*

## FAMILY AFFAIR

Pursuing a career in law enforcement can be a family tradition. And for the Newport News Sheriff's Office, that couldn't be truer. Captain R. McGee of the Hampton Sheriff's Office has two sons who have followed in his footsteps. November 29 at the HRCJTA's graduation the captain celebrated by handing son M. McGee his certificate of completion. Deputy M. McGee joins his brother Deputy S. McGee at the Newport News Sheriff's Office.

*(continued GRADUATION p. 5)*



### JAIL ANNEX PROGRESSING

Work is underway on the new jail annex. Renovations began once the old juvenile detention facility on 25<sup>th</sup> Street was completely vacated. The work is expected to be finished and ready for move-in Fall of 2008. The annex will house 100 inmates.

### VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR COMPASSION

The Newport News Sheriff's Office recognized its 130 volunteers at its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held October 18 at the Marriott Hotel.

There are 30 programs offered at the Newport News City Jail. Classes range from GED to brick masonry; from basic computer to substance abuse counseling; from ministry to parenting. The Sheriff's Office relies on the compassionate work of volunteers to keep many of the programs alive.



### A 'G-RATED' KISS FOR A GED

September saw our largest graduating GED class to date. Even the second floor training room was too small for the ceremony. It was moved to Council Chambers at City Hall. Commonwealth's Attorney Howard Gwynn was the keynote speaker. Reverend Jerome Barber added words of encouragement, as did GED instructor Vennie Lulofs. With deputies standing guard, ten inmates were joined by their families. The contact visits are a definite bonus for inmates. The added incentive and other revamps to the GED program have lead to a significant increase in numbers. So far this year, 33 inmates have earned their GED. That's up from 24 last year and seven the year before.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



It has been a great year, and a privilege and honor for me being your Chaplain. Thanks for your acceptance and support.

The word of God says in Matthew 6:33: ***“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”***

What does this means? To honor God first in everything, to make Him your source, and when you dare to do that, surely blessings will follow you! I want to encourage you to diligently seek Him. You can not live a life of Love, Peace & Joy without Him. If you need help in this area, please do not hesitate to contact me. Jesus loves you, and wants the best for you! Finally, I want to wish you and your family a Blessed and Prosperous New Year.

In Christ love,

Omayra Pinos,  
Your Chaplain

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- Valencia White
- Sgt. P. Preyer
- Col. L. Johnson
- Dep. S. Bailey
- Dep. C. Holmes
- Dep. T. Appleby
- Dep. A. Greene
- Med. Asst. S. Holloman
- Brenda Charity
- Dep. S. Summerford
- Dep. S. McGee
- Dep. M. Barr
- Dep. A. Fuller

FEBRUARY

- Dep. M. Smith
- Dep. M. Henry
- Dep. K. Berends
- Dep. T. Washington
- Dep. J. Hostetler
- Dep. J. Barham
- MDep. P. Powers
- Lt. R. Coleman
- Cpt. D. Wright

MARCH

- Cpl. D. Clinard
- MDep. S. Chapman
- Dep. E. Rocha
- Sgt. A. Morales
- Lt. K. Langford
- Dep. D. West
- Dep. L. Brown
- Dep. C. Dancy
- MDep. J. Reisinger
- LPN T. Neely
- Dep. T. Davis
- Cindylou Young
- Dep. S. Pirtle
- Sgt. F. Hubbard
- Dep. V. Kelly

- Dep. W. Churchill
- Capt. T. Moore
- Dep. M. Bryant
- LPN T. Schrader
- Dep. H. Delgado
- Lt. M. Daniels



**MEDAL** *(continued from page 1)*

The attempted suicide took place January 30, 2007. Hasan was handing out medications and was the first to come across the man. Deputy Clayton heard her cry for help. “His arm was shaking and a stream of blood (from his mouth) was going down to the floor,” described Clayton. The gate opened and Clayton and Deputy Sheridan lifted up the man to take his body weight off his neck. Hasan stood on a milk crate, and using an letter opener, cut him down.

His body was quickly, but carefully, placed on the ground. As a team, Clayton and Sergeant Wilberg went to work performing CPR – Wilberg with the chest compression, Clayton delivering the breaths. The man, who at first had no pulse and was not breathing, began coughing and sucking-in air on his own.

“I didn’t have time to think about being scared,” Hasan recalled. “You don’t want to see anyone die. So what he’s an inmate. He’s a person. We’re not here to judge them. We’re here to take care of them while they’re going through the legal process of being judged.”



**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS  
GRACE YEAR END CEREMONY**

Delegate Phil Hamilton and Mayor Joe Frank were the guest speakers at the November 15 Promotion and Commendation Ceremony.

**RECOGNIZED  
FOR DECADES OF GIVING**



For 22-years, Chaplain James Robinson has volunteered at the Newport News City Jail. As Senior Chaplain with Set Free Ministry, Robinson advocates for those people who the rest of society would just a soon forget. He believes in redemption. He believes in second chances. For his dedication, Robinson was giving the Citizen Service Medal.

PROMOTIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Leroy Johnson, Jr.	Colonel	November 17, 2007
Betty Thomas	Major	November 17, 2007
Marlinda L. Daniels	Lieutenant	May 15, 2007
Leslye R. Mebane	Sergeant	November 1, 2007
James M. Rankins	Sergeant	November 1, 2007
Richard L. Touchstone	Sergeant	November 1, 2007
Deborah K. Mizelle	Special Assistant	June 15, 2007
Hope M. Hasan	Health Administrator	June 15, 2007

AWARDS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Awards</u>
Sergeant Carl A. Wilberg	Livesaving Medal
Deputy Robert M. Clayton	Livesaving Medal
Deputy Steven M. Sheridan	Livesaving Medal
Health Administrator Hope M. Hasan	Livesaving Medal
Chaplain James Robinson	Citizen Service Medal
Sergeant Carl A. Wilberg	Deputy of the Year, 2006
Sergeant Tom Zeitler (NNPD retired)	Canine Trainer

### CAMERA *(continued from page 1)*

The result?

They saw a lot of smoke but couldn't distinguish the people on the floor. Not the outcome they were hoping for. The fire officials brought out a portable thermal imaging camera. With the support of Fire Chief Kenneth Jones, the Sheriff's Office is looking at vendors for thermal imaging cameras that can be installed. Chief Jones has long been an advocate of making structural improvements to the jail.



### GRADUATION *(continued from page 1)*

On the same evening, there was some sisterly love between a deputy and jail officer. Newport News Sheriff's Deputy K. Berends had the honor of watching her older sister become a jail officer with the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail in James City County.



The Newport News Sheriff's Office celebrated the graduation of new deputies November 29 from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Pictured left to right – T. Appleby, D. Turner, R. McMurtrie, M. McGee, and C. Dancy.

### BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Halloween night wasn't so spooky for Master Deputies Brian Eadie and Phillip Powers. In fact, they got quite a treat. Congratulations for graduating from BLE October 31. You both made the NNSO proud.



*I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent upon me as a Deputy Sheriff for the City of Newport News according to the best of my ability, so help me God.*

## KHAKIS GETTING 'HANDS-ON' TIME



The luxury of time is a rarity at the NNSO. That's why the Professional Standards Bureau is using it wisely. Recruits (or Khakis) are already onboard but won't start the academy until January. As part of their orientation, they are getting some valuable hands-on opportunities. Pictured is Recruit Carolyn Daniels learning how to conduct an eviction from Corporal James Cason, Civil Enforcement Division. Ride-alongs were just part of the expanded orientation process. And Class 08-1 is proving to be one of largest classes in recent history. We are expecting 15 recruits to enter the academy... and to finish!

## TESTING THEIR METAL



Applicants for deputy are put through the paces. First, they must run a gamut of exercised with an agility test. If their physical conditioning measures up, they undergo a background check and polygraph. The most highly qualified 'veteran deputy' starts with the most highly qualified applicant.



Santa's helpers were recruited to serve 350 senior citizens at the Annual Yule Tide Luncheon held at Knights of Columbus and sponsored by Parks & Recreation Mature Adults and the Peninsula Agency on Aging.

## SENIORS TREATED TO A SPECIAL DAY

The Annual Senior Safety Summit was held October 11 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. More than 200 senior citizens were treated to lunch, entertainment and



door prizes. The SALT Council is responsible for organizing this annual event. The council is comprised of several public safety agencies across the Peninsula. SALT stands for Seniors

And Law enforcement Together. A number of agencies were represented in the joint honor guard.

### Look for ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Publication Date TBA

Last year, the Sheriff's Office started a tradition of publishing an annual report providing the citizens of Newport News with an overview of our department. That 2006 report is available on our website: [www.nnsheiff.org](http://www.nnsheiff.org)

Look for the 2007 report to be posted early in 2008.



Annual Report 2006

### UPCOMING ISSUE OF 'ON THE INSIDE'...



The NNSO Christmas Party was held off site for the very first time EVER!! It was held December 21 at the Marriot City Center. FUN PHOTOS will appear in next newsletter.



# SHERIFF'S Last Word

---

As the year comes to a close, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. What a remarkable year 2007 was for the NNSO. A lot was accomplished. My sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for making things happen. We were able to deliver on a number of promises.

If you haven't had a chance to take a look at the jail annex under construction, you will be pleased. It is coming along and will be completed in the Fall of 2008. Not only will it provide inmate housing and program space, there is something in it just for you. If all goes according to plan, there will be a gym and workout space for deputies and civilian staff.

There's also hammering going on over at the CSB building. Administrative offices will relocate across from the main courthouse. That will open up space at the jail. Medical will eventually move to the second floor. We will also have an inmate dorm on the second floor.

Each of these renovations – the annex and CSB – is in direct response to the overcrowding issue. I know the conditions are difficult to work in. A day doesn't go by that I don't tell folks about the City's "boldest." The fire department might have the "bravest" and the police department the "finest." But we

have the BOLDEST. Not everyone is cut out to deal 24/7 with criminals or accused criminals. You do it with professionalism and dignity. To the other departments – courts, civil, transportation – my appreciation extends to you, as well.

The hours are long. The responsibilities are great. Because you are doing things right, citizens often don't see you. It's difficult being invisible. It may feel like no one is paying any attention. They are.

2007 saw our partnership with Newport News Public Schools strengthen. We are teaching Class Action to middle schoolers. And Life Skills kicked off in the classroom at the end of this year. Class Action teaches gang resistance and Virginia law. Life Skills teaches self esteem and healthy habits. I truly believe the best way to attack violence is through prevention. Children are a priority for this Office. If you want to be a part of that, I ask that you step forward and volunteer to teach these curriculums. Lt. Maria Moore in Civil Enforcement is in charge. She'll hook you up.

Your needs are my priority. Improving employee compensation and morale is something that we continue to tackle head-on. Progress was made in 2007. The starting salary

for deputies inched very close to where it should be. The city continues with its job audit. My goal for the audit is to better assess how our functions fit into the big picture and ultimately help with in-grade increases.

And wait until you see what Brenda Charity and Wanda Sigler have in store for you at the Christmas party. They have worked very hard to create something special. Anyone who's been at the Sheriff's Office for any length of time knows that the Office has never held a holiday event off-site. It's about time. The Marriot and City Center will be the backdrop for a grand time.

Again, these are just a few thoughts to sum up the year. By no means does it cover everything. But if there's one thing I want you to walk away with having read my words is – YOU are the GREATEST ASSET this Office has. Thank you for a job well done. I predict 2008 will be another stellar year.

With Warmest Regards,



Your Sheriff