

N N S O

Features

Project Lifesaver Receives Grant	TOP STORY	1
NNSO & U.S. Army Join Forces	TOP STORY	1
Keep Mentally Ill Out of Jail		2
Quick Thinking Saves Life		4
General Announcements		4
Thermal Imaging Cameras		7



ON THE INSIDE

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

Volume 2 No. 3

July — Sept, 2008

PROJECT LIFESAVER EXPANDS, THANKS TO \$IZEABLE DONATION

Thanks to the generosity of the Riverside Health System Foundation, the Newport News Sheriff's Office will now be able to add more clientele to its Project Lifesaver program. Riverside recently donated \$36,000 to the non-profit search and rescue program.



Debbie Atkinson, Riverside Health System Foundation Executive Director, presents Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Lieutenant Maria Moore with a \$36,000 check for Project Lifesaver.

This money will be used to buy more equipment. At any given time, the Sheriff's Office has 25 to 30 people on Project Lifesaver.

(continued Riverside p. 6)

SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND U.S. ARMY JOIN FORCES

The U.S. Army has enlisted the help of the Newport News Sheriff's Office for its recruitment initiative called PaYS, or Partnership for Youth Success. The Sheriff's Office has signed as a corporate partner. In doing so, it has agreed to give qualified soldiers leaving Army service priority consideration in the employment process. Ultimately, the NNSO reserves the right to determine whether to hire the PaYS soldier.

"This is definitely a part of our multi-faceted approach to recruitment. Veterans present some of the best qualities that make them well suited for our type of work. It makes sense that we'd try and recruit as many as we can from that group," said Sheriff Gabe Morgan.



Sheriff Gabe Morgan and Major David Jones, Executive Officer U.S. Army Beckley Battalion, at official PaYS program signing ceremony held August 13, 2008.

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

Dep. H. Tran	Cpl. R. Hay
Dep. V. Townes	Dep. J. Jenkins
Sgt. R. Daniels	Dep. J. Jones
Dep. K. Mitchell	Lt. M. Moore
Cpl. W. Robinson	Dep. T. Jackson
Dep. R. Allen	Dep. C. Johnson
Capt. J. Vergakis	Dep. C. Bannon
Dep. S. White	Sgt. R. Touchstone
Dep. E. Hunt	
Cpl. G. Sonnier	
Dep. G. Taylor-Dones	
MDep. R. Clayton	
Dep. T. Wortham	



NOVEMBER

Dep. C. Durham	Dep. N. O'Garro
Dep. M. Hardy	Sgt. L. Saunders
Dep. R. Summerford	Sgt. R. Elias
Dep. E. Tucker	G. Johnson-Civil Clerk
Sgt. C. Sellers	Dep. W. Sarian
V. Graves-Inmate	Dep. C. Green
Programs Coord.	Dep. C. Hill
Nurse S. Leonard	Dep. L. Washington
Dep. S. Ireland	Dep. S. Clarke
Dep. T. Nichols	Nurse M. Thomas
Dep. A. Sherman	Dep. T. Breaux
Dep. D. Oneal-Brooks	

DECEMBER

MDep. J. Phillips	Dep. A. Ledet
Dep. D. Hopkins	Sgt. S. Humphrey
Dep. D. Keller	Sgt. V. Allen
Dep. S. Richardson	Dep. J. Smith
MDep. J. Thompson	Sgt. F. Broadwater
Dep. K. Jackson	Dep. M. Johnson



SHERIFF'S OFFICE COLLABORATES WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO KEEP MENTALLY ILL OUT OF JAIL

A family at their wits end calls authorities. They don't know where else to turn. A mentally ill loved one is out of control threatening to hurt himself and others.

That is a common situation plaguing numerous families. Now on the Peninsula, authorities have a new method to respond to such a crisis. First responders to a scene involving a mentally ill person will be members of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The team is made up of deputy sheriffs, police officers and juvenile services personnel.

Several Newport News deputies have recently completed CIT training. Congratulations to Sgt. F. Broadwater,

Master Deputy J. Thompson, Deputies D. Jones, J. Hostetler and H. Delgado. They joined members of the Newport News Police Department, Juvenile Services, Hampton Police Department and Hampton Sheriff's Office in a 40-hour training course conducted by CSB.

Among the instructors were our own Sgt. J. Smith and Deputy S. Boothe-Brooks. Earlier this year, they received training certification in Memphis, TN. That city designed the CIT principles in the 1980's following the tragic shooting death of a mentally ill individual.

Members of the Crisis Intervention Team will respond to a scene in an effort to bring resolution to the situation – resolution short of having to make an arrest. Far too often, mentally ill consumers are hauled off to jail when what they really need is treatment. This CIT program is part of a holistic approach to the plight of the mentally ill.

(continued Crisis Training p. 6)

FLASH BACK



To EVENTS



COMPANY PICNIC

held on June 21st brought us all together with the Karaoke machine taking center stage.



THE HIT PARADES



Season of parades and festivals kicked-off on July 4th in Historic Hilton Village and Brandon Heights (above)

Festivities continued with the Annual Southeast Community Day (below) and Denbigh Day in September



Protect Against Identity Theft

A steady stream of citizens lined up to have documents shredded at the August 14th Shred It event organized by Vickie Gaffney.

September 11th Joint Commemoration Fire, Police, and Sheriff's Office



QUICK THINKING SAVES LIFE ON COMMERCIAL JETLINER

What should have been a mundane trip to a training exercise turned into an act of heroism on the part of Sergeant Chanelle Zanders.

It was August 19th, when in mid-air, a woman on the Delta flight screamed for help. Her friend was unconscious and choking on his own vomit.

Zanders, two rows ahead of the man, bolted from her seat and rushed to his aid.

John Lillard of Corpus Christi, Texas is 6'2", 190 lbs. Zanders did not let her petite 4'10" frame stop her from taking control of the situation.

Immediately she began

back blows and abdominal thrusts—also known as the Heimlich maneuver. Lillard started coughing and regained



Sgt. C. Zanders saved a life on a commercial jetliner.

consciousness.

He said later, "I have no

doubt that Chanelle saved my life. I would have died had she not been on that plane. It was more than a blessing. It was planned somehow that Chanelle was there."

The Texan can joke now that he survived and continued by saying, "I even made my connecting flight from Atlanta to Texas."

His traveling companion, Connie Scott, said, "The City of Newport News and especially the Sheriff's Department is indeed fortunate to have someone with the caliber of competence, character and quality Sgt. Zanders exhibited."

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birth: ★Lt. S. Whitfield and her husband are proud parents of a 6 lb 5 oz baby girl born July 2nd.
★Deputy Anby and wife welcomed a baby girl on August 19. Their little bundle of joy weighed 7 lb 13 oz.
- Engaged: Deputy D. Jones
Master Deputy T. Crites
- Retirement: • Corporal Dwayne Brown retired July 31st.
• Corporal Rebecca Morgan retired September 30
• Major Cindy Porter — effective November 1, 2008

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Deputy S. White, **Work Release Coordinator**, NNSO Employee of the 3rd Quarter
— Deputy L. Smith, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, June
— Deputy F. Rogers, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, July
— Deputy J. Barham, **A Rotation** Deputy of the Month, August
— Deputy N. Agosto-Gerena, **B Rotation** Deputy of the Month, August
— Deputy R. McMurtrie, **C Rotation**, Hard Charger for the month of June
— Deputy L. Washington, **C Rotation**, Hard Charger for the month of July
— Deputy M. McGee, **C Rotation**, Hard Charger for the month of August
— Sgt. Carl Wilberg was presented the Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings!!

May this newsletter find you enjoying a healthy and prosperous life. Some of you may ask: How can I live a prosperous life with the way the economy is, in this country, and around the world, for that matter?

Simple. The Lord God said in Joshua 1:8 – Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Clearly, to be prosperous and successful, we have to take heed of the word of God! If you are not doing so, it's not too late. Isaiah 55:6 says: Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call on Him while He is near. You can have a blessed and prosperous life. It is up to you!!

Blessings,

Omayra Pinos
Chaplain

PROMOTIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lynette Chandler	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Clay Chapman	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Wayne Hill	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Phillip Powers	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Jamie Reisinger	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Gary Sonnier	Corporal	July 1, 2008
Jennifer Brenzel	Master Deputy	July 1, 2008
Terry Grey	Master Deputy	July 1, 2008
Domingo Perez	Master Deputy	July 1, 2008
Jeffrey Phillips	Master Deputy	July 1, 2008

RIVERSIDE

(continued from page 1)

“This ongoing partnership will allow us to better serve our current clients and reach out to additional families.”

Sheriff Gabe Morgan

The Riverside grant will help expand that number to sixty (60).

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program that offers peace of mind to the caregiver of people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, autism, Down syndrome and other mentally related disorders.

Lives are at stake when a mentally incapacitated person wanders. Research shows that with Project Lifesaver, an average search time is 30-minutes compared to nine (9) hours without it.

The Newport News Sheriff’s Office is one of only a few agencies in the Hampton Roads area to offer this program FREE of charge to clients. Program costs are met through donations.



Mentally related disorders do not discriminate by age. Project Lifesaver clients are young and old. Pictured are clients Kelsey Musick, left, and Edward Tharpe, right.

PROJECT LIFESAVER
RECERTIFICATION USING UPGRADED
EQUIPMENT

The Sheriff’s Office recently emerged from a Project Lifesaver Conference in Lynchburg, VA with upgraded equipment.

Deputies certified and recertified on a sunny day in July. Corporal W. MacBrohn, pictured below, found the smaller device to be less cumbersome and much easier to operate.



CRISIS TRAINING

(continued from page 2)

Cities in our region hope to accomplish the same successes that Memphis has enjoyed since it began deploying the CIT. They have had fewer nuisance calls, therefore less arrests. Officers are reporting fewer injuries. Family members of someone in a psychiatric crisis appear confident in calling a crisis intervention team. The goal is to get the mentally ill individual into the hands of someone who can help and divert him or her away from jail.

Dean Barker, Hampton-Newport News CIT Coordinator, said of the training, “The week (of training) has been both full and fulfilling. This group’s graduation not only shows a shift in policy and law enforcement practice in the community but one of each officer personally. I truly feel they are looking to make a difference in our community even more than before. It is refreshing to see folks suddenly understand new possibilities.”

New View Inside Jail

Improves Life & Safety

The human eye cannot see through smoke. Neither can a traditional camera lens. Even infrared cameras are ineffective in a smoke filled environment.

So imagine the horror *if* there was ever a fire at the City Jail.

With the help of the Newport News Fire Department, lifesaving tools have been installed on several floors. Thermal imaging cameras are strategically mounted along emergency evacuation routes.

The technology works off heat, not light.

Without the thermal imaging cameras, the control room deputy would be rendered useless in trying to direct a rescue effort, as evidenced by the photos below.

The photos were taken during a drill conducted jointly with Fire Chief

Kenneth Jones, Fire Marshall Lee Ware and the equipment

manufacturer.

Smoke was introduced onto the floor with personnel positioned down the hall.

The two cameras were recorded simultaneously. The image on the left is what a regular lens sees. Compare that to the image on the right.

The installation of the thermal imaging cameras is Phase I of life and safety improvements at the aging city jail.

Next, attention will be placed on adding more sprinklers throughout the facility and also on adding stairs that will lead directly from the top floors to the outside, walled-in recreation yard.

As it is now, the evacuation route winds throughout the jail. The stairwells on the secured side

of the facility do not flow uninterrupted

from top to bottom.

In the event of a real emergency, deputies would have to guide inmates back into the building; walk them across the floor to another set of stairs; head down as far as that stairwell goes; guide them back into the building; and so on until they can exit.

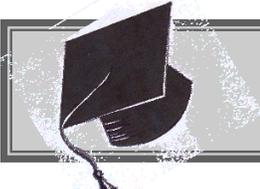
It doesn't take an active imagination to realize this would quickly become a recovery effort and not a rescue effort.

Bodies would be retrieved instead of people saved.

That is not the scenario the Sheriff's Office wants, nor is it the scenario wanted by the Fire Department.

The two agencies are working closely to make life and safety improvements for employees,

inmates, and outside visitors like attorneys and volunteers.



Congrats Grad!!

Deputy S. Sheridan graduated from BLE on June 30th. Job well done!

Upcoming Graduations

- Oct. 16th, 4 p.m. Tabb High School—Basic Jail Officers School
- Oct. 27th, 4 p.m. Tabb High School—Basic Law Enforcement

SHERIFF'S Last Word

There is a change in the air with the arrival of autumn. Soon the change of season will be visible with the arrival of fall colors.

That, however, is not the only change in the air for the Newport News Sheriff's Office. Most importantly for our agency is the progress we are making toward our Commitment to Making a Difference.

Come November, the sheriff's office will open its jail annex. This is a major step in easing the dangerously overcrowded conditions at the downtown city jail. The annex, formerly the Juvenile Detention Center on 25th Street, will have 105 beds. This will be our inmate programs' jail. The men and women housed here will be enrolled in rehabilitative courses. Unlike the city jail, the annex is architecturally designed as a low to medium risk facility.

The worst of the worst will still be held at the maximum security city jail. That is a seven story building without windows and constructed of cinder block and rebar. But for those who pose less of a risk to the general population, the annex provides an alternative housing option.

I didn't want our solution to overcrowding to be solely about beds. I wanted to look at the sheriff's office role in solving crime issues in Newport News. The main reasons behind criminal activity are: 1) under education 2) under employment and 3) substance abuse.

At the Newport News Sheriff's Office, we are offering inmate programs that address each of those problems. We are graduating more people with GEDs than ever before. Other academic classes include Adult Basic, and Basic

Computers. We now have a work release program whereby Deputy Stacie White, Work Release Coordinator, found employers willing to give low risk offenders a second chance. Because of their ability to see our vision, nearly \$15,000 in court costs and fines have been paid down; \$9,000 in delinquent child support payments have been made; \$26,000 in home expenses have been met; and \$33,000 have been saved. We also have several programs that address alcohol and drug use.

By offering programs to our inmates, we are helping them gain the tools and skills they need to be productive citizens upon their release. Unless a person is sentenced to die, sentenced to life without parole, or dies while incarcerated, they are coming home. That means 95% of inmates and prisoners are eventually going to be your neighbor. The question becomes: Do you want them to be a good neighbor or a better criminal?

You see, we know there is a direct link between the rehabilitation of prisoners and public safety. That is why I have placed an emphasis on inmate programs. It is not about being soft on crime. Instead, it is about reducing future crime.

Criminals and accused criminals are still being kept safely

behind bars and away from the good citizens of Newport News. As Sheriff, I will continue to perform that role of housing those awaiting trial and those sentenced to crimes. But I also feel an obligation to put corrective action back into the

corrections industry. And it will be law abiding citizens who benefit.

It is not just the jail annex that will help us gain elbow room. In addition, we are in the process of an ongoing renovation project at the city jail itself. It was in March of this year that the administrative offices moved out of the jail and into the former CSB building, now known as the Justice Center. More recently, our Transportation Division and Civil

Enforcement deputies joined us.

The vacated space at the jail will be put to good use. We will expand our records and classifications department and expand our medical clinic; and we will have room for more inmate beds.

All of this takes time. But the air is truly changing at the Newport News Sheriff's Office. I wish to thank my staff for their continued efforts and their professionalism. I wish to thank the community for its continued support.

Together we can make Newport News a safer city, one which we are proud to call home.



What's that bright light hitting Cpl. D. Wright's face? Why, that's sunshine coming through the window of their new offices. Civil Enforcement moved to the Justice Center on August 18th.