

# N S O

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# ON THE INSIDE

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

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## STANDING OVATION FOR NNSO

The Newport News Sheriff's Office was given a standing ovation during the March 13th City Council meeting. Several members of VLEPSC (Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission) made a special trip to officially present us with a Certificate of Accreditation. They chose the date specifically to capture an audience.

In addition to having citizens in attendance, Council meetings are videotaped by Newport News City Channel 48 and aired "live" as well as repeated several times throughout the week.

*(continued page 3 VLEPSC)*

## THIRD PARTY LOOK AT CROWDING

Tensions run high in overcrowded jail conditions. Inmates get into scuffles and fights. Inmate on inmate. Inmate on deputy. Overcrowded conditions compromise the safety of Newport News Sheriff's Office staff. On average, four deputies go out on workman's compensation every month.

Jail crowding is not a unique problem. Facilities across Hampton Roads are suffering some of the same symptoms as the Newport News City Jail. Jail crowding is not a new problem at the NNCJ.

It is the critical nature of the problem, however, that demands a solution. The inmate population peaked at the Newport News City Jail with more than 710 inmates in December, 2006. The rated capacity is 248.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan invited the U.S. Department of Justice to assess the situation. The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) conducted a thorough exam of the entire criminal justice system. Robert Aguirre and Tom Weber released their findings at a public forum on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Aguirre told members of the media who attended the forum that, "It's a ticking time bomb."

Individuals and groups that have an impact on the criminal justice system were interviewed over a three day period. From judges to citizen activists; pre-trial services to probation; educators, police officers, magistrates, etc. — they all took part in the evaluation.

Who is in jail? Why are they there? What's keeping them from being released?

Between 1996 and 2006, the crime rate in Newport News grew by 20%. Yet, the rate of incarceration increased by 40% over that same ten year period. That begs the question, "Why?" Attempts to answer that question only raise more. Is "policy" driving incarceration rates, or is "crime?"

*(continued page 3)*



## "Bowl for Kids'

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Peninsula held its signature "Bowl for Kids' Sake" event Saturday,

February 24 at Spare Times in Hampton. According to BBBS, the total tally from the community bowl was \$15,000. With six teams, we helped raise a healthy portion of that total. Participation in "Bowl for Kids' Sake" has been an annual tradition for the NNSO for years. This year, Gabe Morgan, Sheriff of Newport News, is the Campaign Chairperson for the year-long campaign. It is not too late for you to make a donation. Go to [www.bbbsmentoring.org](http://www.bbbsmentoring.org) and click on "Donate Now." The Campaign Goal for 2007 is \$100,000.

*(find PHOTOGRAPHS page 4)*



## SNAP SHOTS AND TIDBITS

### Police Ball Means "Party"

Q: Do you know this person? Unmask her identity. Turn upside down for the answer.



The Police Ball, with a "Mardi Gras" theme, was held on February 10, at the Omni Hotel. "Slapwater" was the party's featured entertainment. The band has been a Peninsula favorite for decades playing soul and R&B.

A: Brenda Charity, Professional Standards Bureau Admin. Specialist

### In Memoriam

Kenneth W. Hunt, drummer and leader of "Slapwater," passed away suddenly February 17 at the age of 55. One of Hunt's final performances was the Police Ball held February 10 at the Omni Hotel. Hunt entertained audiences in Hampton Roads for nearly 40 years. Hunt was a Newport News native. He was employed by Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard. His passion, however, was music. The Newport News Sheriff's Office sends its condolences.



Congratulations to the Indianapolis Colts, winners of the 2007 Super Bowl. Rookie Antoine Bethea, number 41, is the son of Deputy Larry Bethea.



### FINGERPRINTING WAS F.U.N.

The Community Resource Office calendar is starting to fill-up with requests for our Kids' Handy Prints program (new name for Keeping Kids Safe). Timothy Lentz holds 8-month old daughter Evelyn while Deputy Vickie Gaffney palms her for prints. Allen Lentz, 8, completes the paperwork. The NNSO accepted an invitation from Newport News Public Schools for F.U.N. (Family University Network), held February 13 at Hines Middle School.



The photo serves as a reminder that volunteer help is greatly appreciated. See Deputy Gaffney to learn how you can get involved. Our next major event will be Saturday, May 5 at the Super Block (Washington Avenue at 26<sup>th</sup> Street). K-9 Handler Deputy Morgan Hanks and his dog Tyson will demonstrate the abilities of an explosives dog. Other volunteers are needed for fingerprinting. Parks and Recreation anticipates a big crowd. The event commemorates Newport News' role in Jamestown 2007: America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### Ministry Honors NNSO



Col. Michael Eaves with Pastor James Nickols

On Sunday, March 11, Reformation Lutheran Church recognized the Newport News Sheriff's Office for its work to serve the citizens of Newport News. Col. Michael Eaves served as lector (reading the

appointed lessons) for the 9:30 worship service. Lt. Kathleen Carey served as lector at 11:00. Deputy Vickie Gaffney co-taught Sunday School during both services, centering her message on making good choices in life. The NNSO also displayed information about each of our community outreach programs in the church lobby.



**CROWDING** *(continued from page 1)*

**Electronic Monitoring, using state of the art GPS technology, went on-line early in 2007 at the NNSO.**

NIC assessors looked at a snapshot taken 12/06/06. There were 712 inmates. Of that number, 396 were pre-trial status being held on 'no bond.' Bond had been issued to 124, but they were unable to pay. The remaining 192 were sentenced. Bottom line, more than half the people behind bars that day were not issued a bond. Three-quarters were pre-trial.

Other contributing factors to jail crowding include political interests and conflicts. City management and the police department have a "tough on crime" position. Sheriff Morgan believes there must be a moment of pause just prior to making an arrest. When a police officer has choice between arresting or writing a summons for an infractions, Morgan thinks that option could be exercised. "I'm tough on crime," he said. "But I'm 'common sense' on non-violent crimes. Meaning, not everyone needs to be locked-up in a maximum security facility."

Alternate incarceration was one of the recommendations in the NIC report. Electronic Monitoring, using state of the art GPS technology, went on-line early in 2007 at the Newport News Sheriff's Office. The goal is to grow the EM program to 100 eligible pre-trial detainees.

What the NIC Jail Assessment uncovered were a number of obvious and not so obvious inefficiencies throughout the entire Criminal Justice System. "Incarceration capacity is finite in size. To date there simply has been no recognition by the wider system that the jail has a capacity limit and that it was exceeded a long time ago," cautioned Aguirre. A cooperative effort on the part of all the policy stakeholders is essential to fix the problem. ◇



**VLEPSC** *(continued from page 1)*

Gary Dillon, pictured far left, is with DCJS. Sheriff Charles Jett, pictured at the podium, presented Sheriff Morgan with the certificate. Jett is the VLEPSC Board Chairman. Also pictured, Sgt. Scott Humphrey and Major Leroy Johnson with the NNSO Professional Standards Bureau. John Jones, pictured far right, is the Executive Director of the Virginia Sheriff's Association.

If you would like to see the Certificate of Accreditation up close, it is mounted on the second floor just as you get off the elevator. ◇

**DEPUTY OF THE YEAR, 2006**

Sergeant Carl A. Wilberg was honored by the American Legion Braxton-Perkins Post No. 25 as "Deputy of the Year, 2006." Even though Saturday, March 17 was St. Patrick's Day, the color of the night was "brown." Approximately 20 members of the Newport News Sheriff's Office turned out to cheer Wilberg. Wilberg's career with the Newport News Sheriff's Office began in 1995. Wilberg was offered free dues to the American Legion Post 25 for one year when they learned he had spent 19-years with the Submarine Forces of the United States Navy.



Pictured Left to Right: Delegate Mamye E. BaCote, Col. Michael Eaves, Betty Wilberg, Sgt. Carl Wilberg, Gerald Rhoads, and Vice Mayor Charles C. Allen.

## "Bowl for Kids' Sake" Memories



### Congratulations BLE Class 06-C



Master Deputy Rubben Wilson graduated from Basic Law Enforcement taught through the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy. The graduation ceremony was held March 7<sup>th</sup> at Tabb High School. BLE is a 16-week program which offers extra training like evasive driving maneuvers, arrest techniques, and traffic control. Wilson is pictured with Colonel Michael Eaves.

### Congratulations BCJ Class 07-1



On March 20, the Newport News Sheriff's Office gained eight new members. The deputies graduated from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy. They are pictured with their instructor Corporal Lesley Mebane. Standing from left to right: James Jenkins, CPL Mebane, Melissa Bryant, Steven Marler, Cedric Wilson, and Vance Walton. Seated from left to right: Glenda Taylor-Dones, Nycole O'Garro, and Chivagnne Peake.

## BIRTHDAYS

### APRIL

Dep. M. Hunter  
 Dep. R. Spencer  
 Dep. C. Woodhouse  
 Dep. S. Duprey  
 Dep. I. Santiago  
 MDep. L. Chandler  
 Sgt. J. Smith  
 Dep. B. Britt  
 MDep. G. Robertson  
 Dep. Cedric Wilson

Dep. Charles Wilson  
 Dep. D. Perez  
 Dep. S. Anby  
 Lt. S. Whitfield  
 Sgt. A. Butler  
 Dep. J. Brenzel  
 Dep. D. Baker  
 Dep. D. Brown  
 Dep. S. Brown  
 Dep. C. Marshall  
 Dep. V. Walston

Corp. T. Bracero  
 Lt. B. Thomas  
 Louis Kenmar  
 Dep. M. Sheard  
 Dep. C. Archer  
 Corp. L. MeBane  
 Corp. J. Rankins  
 Nurse H. Hasan

### MAY

Dep. A. Johnson  
 Dep. G. Armstrong  
 Dep. K. Taylor  
 Corp. L. Winfree  
 Fatima Tucker  
 Lt. J. Vergakis  
 MDep. A. Baxter  
 Sgt. C. Towns

### JUNE

Sgt. H. McCoy  
 Nurse E. White  
 Nurse S. Jones  
 Dep. R. Williams  
 Dep. S. Wall  
 Dep. R. Haywood  
 Dep. K. Jones  
 Dep. S. Peake

