

# NEWS ON THE INSIDE

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# NEWS ON THE INSIDE

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

Volume 3

No. 1

Jan — Mar, 2009

## DEPUTIES PROVIDE SECURITY AT HOMELESS SHELTER

We have reached the end of another successful year helping the homeless. The PORT emergency winter shelter ran from November 5, 2008 until March 25, 2009.

“On behalf of LINK (Living Interfaith Network) and most importantly the over 6,000 interfaith volunteers who come from all areas of the Peninsula, PORT could not and would not be as well supported by them if not for the huge efforts of security and oversight provided by the Newport News Sheriff's Department,” said Lynne Finding, LINK Executive Director.

Over the course of 20 weeks, a network of churches opened their doors on a rotating basis. Deputies made sure



Dep. L. Washington conducts breathalyzer test on every homeless person entering the shelter. For privacy, the identity of the homeless man is concealed.

(continued Homeless p. 6)

## POPULAR RADIO STATION INVITES SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO SINK IT'S TEETH INTO MORNING SHOW

Z-104's Morning Zoo on-air personality Shaggy Brandon is put through some pretty agonizing situations every Tuesday – all in an effort to entertain their listeners. They call it Torture Tuesday.



Cpl. W. Hill (r) gets on the microphone at Z-104 to talk about canine handling. Dep. S. Sheridan (l) listens-in.

On January 27, 2009, Corporal W. Hill and Deputy S. Sheridan helped with one of the station's funniest bits.

(continued Z-104 p.3)

## BIRTHDAYS

## APRIL

Dep. M. Hunter  
 Dep. M. Feliciano  
 Dep. R. Spencer  
 MDep. C. Woodhouse  
 Dep. I. Santiago  
 Corp. L. Chandler  
 Lt. J. Smith  
 Dep. D. Turner  
 Dep. R. Donato  
 Corp. G. Robertson  
 Dep. C. Cowell  
 Dep. J.T. Smith  
 MDep. D. Perez  
 Dep. S. Anby

Lt. A. Maule  
 MDep. J. Brenzel  
 Dep. W. Loth



## MAY

Maj. B. Thomas  
 Sgt. J. Rankins  
 Sgt. L. Mebane  
 Nurse H. Hasan  
 Dep. W. Smith  
 Dep. T. Strother  
 Dep. C. Serrette  
 Dep. C. Agee  
 Dep. A. Owens  
 Dep. F. Rogers  
 Dep. G. Armstrong  
 Dep. K. Taylor

Admin. Specialist  
 F. Tucker  
 Dep. I. Rowland  
 Dep. L. Winfree  
 Maj. J. Vergakis  
 Dep. A. Baxter  
 Dep. C. Towns  
 Corp. C.T. Zanders  
 Dep. N. Agosto-Gerena  
 Dep. E. Feliciano

## JUNE

Dep. C. Daniels  
 Sgt. H. McCoy  
 Dep. M. Kingsley  
 Dep. M. McGee  
 Dep. D. Jones  
 Dep. A. Pinkney  
 Dep. S. Wall  
 Dep. C. Peake

Dep. K. Jones  
 Dep. T. Corbett



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Birth:

- ★Lt. Coleman and his wife Jamie welcomed their first child on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Jacob Thomas Coleman weighed an even 8 lbs and measured 20.5 inches.
- ★Health Administrator Hope Hasan announced the birth of her first grandbaby. Brennen John Napper was born March 7, weighing 8 lbs 9 oz and measure 20.5 inches.

## Married:

- MDep. T. E. Crites was wed on January 24, 2009
- Dep. S. N. White, Work Release Coordinator, exchanged wedding vows on February 14, 2009

## Retirement:

- Dep. S. Duprey retired in January of 2009. He began his career with the Newport News Sheriff's Office November 11, 1996.

## Anniversary:

- 5 year:** MDep. D. Perez 1/04; Dep. L. Brown 3/04;  
 Dep. R. Spencer 3/04
- 10 year:** MDep. C. Brown 3/99; Dep. T. Davis 3/99; Cpl. W. Hill 3/99  
 Sgt. B. Murray 3/99
- 15 year:** Dep. S. Anby 3/94; Lt. K. Patrick 3/94



## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

- Sgt. C. Zanders (pictured left), Deputy of the Year, 2008
- Deputy C. Durham, **D-Rotation**, Monthly Recognition, December, 2008
- Deputy F. Garland, **D-Rotation**, Monthly Recognition, January

**Z-104** (continued from page 1)

Hill was interviewed about a dog's sense of smell and how canines help law enforcement officers. Trainers from Canine Obedience brought a couple of their dogs for a demonstration.

Shaggy put on bite sleeve and dog suit and was taken down by the dogs. This was all done on live radio. You could hear the fear in Shaggy's voice as he prepared for the demo. Hill, Sheridan and the two trainers instructed him on how to behave. They were on-hand to ensure Shaggy's safety.

It turned out to be quite entertaining. And it was also educational.

Thanks to Tias Schuster and the "Zoo Team" of Nick Taylor, Shaggy Brandon and Tricia Delicia for having the Newport News Sheriff's Office participate in the event.

Top photo: Shaggy (l) getting ready to put on bite sleeve. Dep. S. Sheridan offers advice.

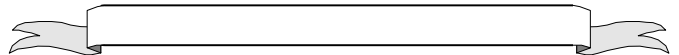


Bottom photo: Shaggy (r) nervously talks prior to demonstration. Tricia Delicia covers face in anxiety.



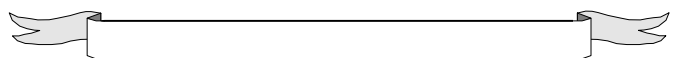
**RECOGNIZED FOR PROTECTING CHILD**

Deputy K. M. Berends received a letter of commendation from Child Protective Services (CPS). During intake, Berends discovered that a 10-year old child was left alone in a motel room. As a result of quickly notifying CPS with her concern about the child's welfare, an investigation is being conducted.



**JOB WELL DONE!**

Congratulations to Lieutenants M. Daniels, G. Grogan, K. Patrick, and C. Thomas. Each was presented a certificate of appreciation from Captain Janie Vergakis for their outstanding performance as acting jail administrator in her absence.





## COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SCHOOLS



“Committed to Making a Difference”. The Newport News Sheriff’s Office holds true to its motto. The department truly is committed to making a difference – In the jail. In the courthouse. In the community. In the school.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan is always looking for ways to reach young people with a positive message.

In 2006, he teamed with the Office of the Attorney General to teach Class Action: Reducing Gangs in Virginia. Deputies teach 4<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the city about the dangers of gangs and how to resist joining one. This volunteer program is taught in all 26 elementary schools.

Other deputies start every school morning at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School as mentors.

Sheriff’s Office employees accept a wide variety of invitations to guest teach. And it’s not just students who want to learn. Faculty members are also eager to gain knowledge that will help them better connect to students. The top photo shows the NNSO at Kiln Creek Elementary school on March 3rd where some 80 teachers gathered to hear about gang activity in Newport News. Sgt. C.A. Wilberg and Lt. K. L. Patrick focused their presentation on what to look for – hand signs, dangerous notebook doodles, graffiti, behavioral changes, clothing and colors, etc. – why children join gangs and how adults can intervene. In the middle photo is Sheriff Gabe Morgan at Richneck Elementary School on February 27<sup>th</sup> where he talked to kids on Career Day. And Captain Keith Langford (bottom photo) was invited to Hampton Head Start. Langford used visual aids to emphasize what it means to be a good citizen.





**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Greetings!

As we enter the spring season, and the weather is getting warmer and nice for outside activities, people also get busy preparing their lawn for luscious green grass, and beautiful flowers.

As we prepare our surrounding for the new season, I urge you to prepare your spirits as a ground for God's dwelling place. Be careful not to miss His voice when He is talking to you, letting you know what areas of your lives need trimming.

Do you know that our souls and the grass are very similar? The grass will always die in the

winter, but will come back in the spring, beautiful and lush (depending on the care received), or not so pretty, but will be there!

When we die, our souls will wake up either in heaven, or in hell, (depending on your own decision to make Jesus the Savior of your soul) are you preparing your soul for the beautiful eternal life, or for the horror of eternal hell? Please meditate on this, and choose a blessed and beautiful life!!

Your chaplain,

*Omayra Pinos*

**PROMOTIONS**

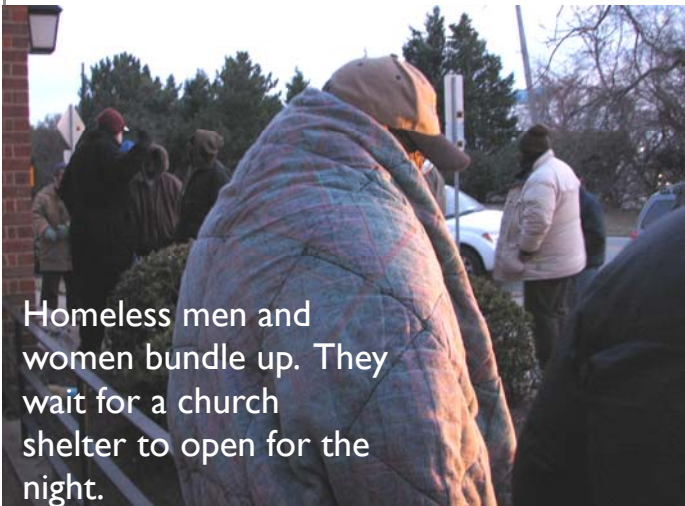
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
C.P. Bannon	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
S. Boothe-Brooks	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
S.L. Chapman	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
W.G. Churchill	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
J.L. Hostetler	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
K.O. Jones	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
E.D. Morales	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
S.M. Sheridan	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009
C.Q. Woodhouse	Master Deputy	January 1, 2009

# HOMELESS

*(continued from page 1)*

the nightly tenants are not intoxicated. Names are run through a crime data base to see if anyone is wanted. Deputies stand guard over night to handle any disruptions, ensuring the safety of the volunteers and the homeless men and women.

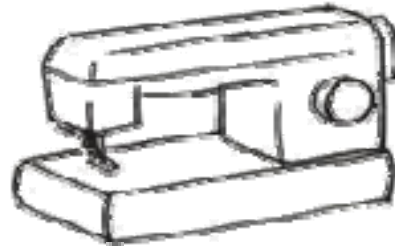
As bed space at mental hospitals drops, the mentally ill are shifted onto city streets. The service provided by deputies at homeless shelters proves more vital every year with the rise in numbers of people needing help, from families to those in mental crisis.



Homeless men and women bundle up. They wait for a church shelter to open for the night.

Lynne Finding described the need for the PORT program to continue to run annually, "PORT over the years has become the temporary home to many chronic and newly homeless persons with a myriad of stories and disabilities. The continuity of security is imperative to keeping the peace within the PORT program, especially when we are dealing with over 100 guests per night. I suspect that the PORT volunteers will continue to lobby for the presence of the Newport News Sheriff's Office in years to come."

The partnership between deputy sheriffs and the LINK PORT program is clearly beneficial on a number of levels.



## SEWING THE SEEDS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

*Jail Annex Designed for Rehabilitative Programs*

Volunteer sewing instructor Francine Douglas began teaching female inmates at the jail annex. The new program is part of Sheriff Gabe Morgan's vision for the adult correctional facility, dedicated December 1, 2008. The 108 bed facility will house men and women



who are enrolled in inmate programs. Academics and trades will be emphasized in an effort to provide inmates with skills to help them succeed on the outside upon their release. The annex also helps to ease overcrowding at the Newport News City Jail.



# FLASH BACK



# To EVENTS

## KIWANIS CARE about PROJECT LIFESAVER

Jim Russell, President of the Denbigh Chapter of the Kiwanis Club, presented Sheriff Gabe Morgan with



a \$250 check for Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a 501(c)(3) non-profit search and rescue program overseen in Newport News by the Sheriff's Office.

Should clients diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Autism, Down syndrome and other mentally related disorders wander away from their caregiver, a team of deputies immediately mobilize and go into action. Research shows that search times with Project Lifesaver average 30 minutes compared to nine hours without it.

## PROUD PAPA SHOWERED WITH WELL WISHES



Organized by Classification/Records, a baby shower caught Lt. R. Coleman completely off guard. Part of the fun was watching the lieutenant's face as he tried to figure out what some of the gifts were and how they were supposed to be used. The timing of the shower couldn't have been better. His baby boy was born just days after the shower. Congratulations!

# BIDDING WAR NETS BIG BUCKS FOR CHARITY



The Peninsula Catholic High School held a silent and live auction February 21, 2009. Sheriff Gabe Morgan was one of the prizes. A bidding war over the "Sheriff for the Day" package led to two highest bidders.



Package highlights include a ride along with the sheriff, attend court and enjoy lunch with him. The sheriff is pictured with Bill Lehmann and with Resa Muhler. Each bid \$275.00 for a total of \$550.00.

# SHERIFF'S Last Word

The year 2009 opened with news that placed us on shaky ground. Proposed state budget cuts had the Newport News Sheriff's Office looking at trimming its budget by half-a-million dollars.

Let me begin by saying how very thankful I am to both the House and Senate conferees for seeing the need to restore the cuts and ensure that the citizens of the Commonwealth have adequate law enforcement services. We survived the negotiations without losing monies after quite a journey.

Late 2008 Governor Tim Kaine announced his proposed budget cuts. The Commonwealth of Virginia had a \$3.7 billion dollar shortfall. That's "B" as in Billion. The governor was proposing massive cuts to public safety, education, health care, and other operations in order to balance the budget.



What that meant for sheriffs' offices across the state was a 7 percent cut. Here in Newport News, we had already trimmed back to bare bones by this point. The only way I could meet a 7 percent cut was to reduce force. There was no way to trim \$500,000 from our budget without laying-off deputies and other personnel.

This was not an option for me. You are too important. The service you provide the citizens of Newport News is too vital.

This was going to be a scrappy, take off the boxing gloves kind of fight. I was not the only sheriff who felt this way.

I traveled to Richmond along with a number of my counterparts from across the Commonwealth. We met with members of the House and members of the Senate. We pleaded our case by demonstrating the risk to public safety if the proposed budget cuts were realized.



I asked for your help and you did not let me down. Individual calls and letters to legislators confirmed the vast impact that the proposed cuts would have on the agency and on the City of Newport News. Members of the General Assembly took your opinions to heart.

The House softened the cuts to 5 percent. Members of the Senate deferred their votes until they learned how much federal stimulus money was coming to Virginia. When it was clear that President Obama's plan would float more than \$1.5 billion in stimulus money to Virginia, the General Assembly redrew some of their proposed cuts. They were

unable to preserve all services without mandating some cutbacks.

However, they recognized the need to maintain public safety. Any reductions in that area of service would mean jeopardizing vital services. Ultimately, federal stimulus dollars saved the Newport News Sheriff's Office and other sheriffs' offices.



Members of the General Assembly, in passing a new state budget, restored all proposed cuts to this office. Let

me reiterate, as I began this letter, how grateful I am for their understanding and cooperation.

This is all very good news for us. But let me caution that we must still be diligent in our efforts to operate efficiently. Who knows what future battles lay ahead.

Allow me to close by once again referring to you as the City's Boldest. In the face of professional and personal crisis, you never gave up. It is a pleasure to work with each of you and to serve the citizens of Newport News. I look forward to a strong future together.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Your Sheriff  
Gabriel A. Morgan