



# BEHIND THE BADGE

April 2010

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**Up-coming event:**

**The Kansas Special Olympics annual Law Enforcement Torch Run will begin at the Sedgwick County Courthouse at 7:00 pm June 4th**

## Officer Justin Whyte honored with 2010 Excellence in Public Service Award

Patrol East Community Police Officer Justin Whyte has been honored with the DeVore Family Foundation 2010 Excellence in Public Service Award. The award also includes a \$2,500 honorarium.

Officer Whyte has been a member of the Wichita Police Department for nine years. In citing Whyte, the foundation wrote, "As a CPO, Whyte has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for residents in his neighborhoods. He worked with residents in Hilltop to implement the Hilltop Summer Activity Camp for youth, which has helped reduce juvenile delinquency by 50% each year since its inception. Last year, he volunteered more than 75 hours to ensure the camp was a success.

"He also volunteers his time at Glenn Park Christian Church, where he teaches Sunday school for adolescents. He is working on creating a new organization to assist first responders injured or killed in the line of duty.

"Whyte serves on the Step Stones Advisory Board, the Site Council for Jefferson Elementary School, the Boston Park Advisory Board and the Hilltop Revitalization Steering Committee. Last year he organized volunteers from WPD to help deliver holiday meals to more than 100 needy Wichita families. Whyte completed his associate's degree at Butler County Community College in 2009 and is a member of the Navy reserves. He is married and has two children."

WPD adds its congratulations to Officer Whyte for his leadership and involvement in the community.



City Manager Robert Layton and Councilman Jim Skelton present the award to Officer Justin Whyte

## Officers and Investigations detectives nab bomb-threat suspect

A woman who had phoned in nine separate bomb threats to Payne Elementary over the last six months was nabbed in late April following an investigation by Patrol West officers and detectives from the Investigations Division.

Beginning late last year, the staff at Payne Elementary began receiving bomb threats. In all, a total of nine threats were phoned in to the school between November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

As the threats became more numerous, Patrol West officers working with detectives in the Persons Crimes Bureau began to notice a pattern emerging that showed all of the threats were coming from four pay phones in the area. After putting the phones under surveillance, officers were able to connect the last threat phoned in to the school when that call was made.

Patrol West officers then were able to follow the woman to the school where they took her into custody. It turned out the woman, who has a child that attends the school, had been involved in a dispute with school staff.

This is an excellent example of solid police work. Congratulations to all involved in the suspect's apprehension.

## Officers Schomaker and Groh work drug, forgery case

Patrol East SCAT Officers Ryan Schomaker and John Groh are to be congratulated for their hard work on a recent case that led to seizure of drugs, guns and money.

In late March, Schomaker and Groh obtained a search warrant for a residence in the 3600 block of E. Funston to search for drugs. Members of the Patrol East and Patrol North SCAT teams executed the warrant and arrested a 35-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman.

Inside the residence Schomaker and Groh located marijuana, and powder and crack cocaine as well as miscellaneous packaging materials, scales, and a large amount of U.S. currency.

After observing computer equipment and paperwork that led SCAT officers to believe there were fraudulent vehicle insurance papers and possibly checks being manufactured in the home, the officers were able to amend the search warrant to include the other evidence which also was seized.

One of the men was charged with possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of crack cocaine with intent to sell, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, three counts of no tax stamp, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The woman was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of narcotics with intent to sell, possession of paraphernalia, and no tax stamp.

Excellent work by Officers Schomaker, Groh and the Patrol East and North SCAT teams.

## Getting to know ... WPD Security Section

Every time someone walks into City Hall, the downtown Public Library or has contact with several other locations in Wichita they fall under the watchful eye of the Wichita Police Department's Security Section.

The Security Section was formed in December, 2005 when the first personnel were hired. Since then, the section has grown and is now responsible for ensuring the security of several locations including City Hall, the downtown Wichita Public Library, the Keeper of the Plains and the Laid-off Worker's Center. The section is staffed by one supervisor, twelve armed non-commissioned officers, and six partially-armed security screeners.

In addition, the section has more than 200 surveillance cameras at more than 20 locations that constantly monitor City property.

"It's a big job," says Chuck Quinn, the supervisor of the section. "Our biggest challenge each day is dealing with those who don't understand the need for security at City Hall, those who feel they're special, and that security screening is for other people."

By far more people come into City each day than into any other City facility.

"We screen about 1,800 to 2,000 visitors at City Hall every weekday. That's a big responsibility and one we take very seriously," said Quinn.

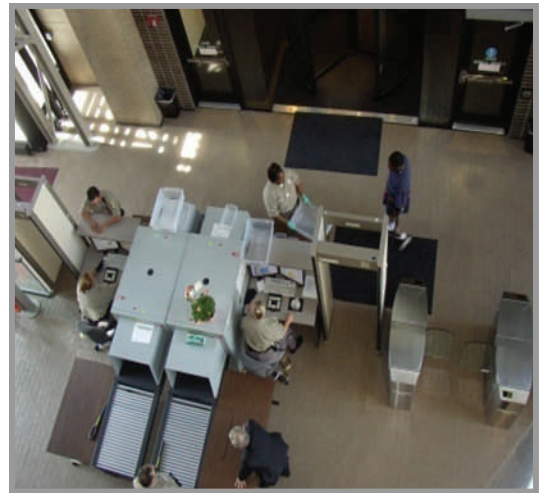
Annually, those and other numbers add up: About 450,000 screenings at City Hall each year, approximately 12,000 items of contraband confiscated annually, 185 arrests made and 125 parking tickets issued at both City Hall and the downtown library.

Some of the items seized include knives, guns, drugs, drug paraphernalia and, believe it or not, a meat thermometer.

Then, there's the event that many in the community remember.

Early on the morning of January 7, 2008 a driver fleeing officers intentionally drove his car through the Main Street City Hall entrance, through the elevator lobby, and out the revolving door in the atrium, crashing in the parking garage. Although no one was hurt, that incident caused more than \$142,000 dollars in damage. Yet, security screeners had the atrium entrance cleaned up and ready for City employees and visitors when the business day began.

"The biggest reward of the job is catching those who would in some way breach security," said Quinn. "When you combine that with the fact that the Security Section has more hands-on contact with citizens in the community on a daily basis than any other section in the Wichita Police Department, you can see the rewards can be great."



## ***Forgery suspect leaves behind a “clue”...***

It's one thing to commit a crime. It's another thing to get caught. And, it's yet another story when you commit a crime and get caught because you didn't complete your "check list".

Recently, Officer Chad Remy was dispatched to a forgery call that had just occurred at the Radio Shack in the 400 block of S. Rock Rd. When Remy arrived and interviewed the clerk he realized the suspect had already gone but had left his driver's license and the bad check behind.

While following up on the case, Remy located a surveillance photo of the suspect at the Ribbit Computer Store next door. Continuing his follow-up, Remy discovered the suspect was located at a nearby motel. The man was taken into custody and has been charged.

Good work on following up by Officer Remy.

## **Six join Mounted Unit**

Six officers have officially joined the ranks of the Wichita Police Department Mounted Unit. In an April 22<sup>nd</sup> Graduation ceremony, Officers Jon Forred, Charley Davidson, Dave Halverson, Barry Gomes, Stacey Woodson and Joe Camp earned their spurs and will join the other Mounted Unit officers during the upcoming River Festival.

Congratulations to the new officers on their new assignment.



## **Inter-agency cooperation leads to significant arrest**

What started out as a call to WPD officers from Andover Police to check on a domestic violence suspect in the 1100 block of S. Webb Rd. eventually led to the arrest of a convicted child killer and the seizure of weapons and drugs.

After being contacted by Andover PD, Officers Gary Morris and Carlton Rodgers checked into the suspect's background. They learned the 36-year-old man was flagged as a violent offender and had recently been paroled after serving time in prison for the conviction of the involuntary manslaughter of a child.

Once Morris and Rodgers contacted the suspect they observed a rifle case in plain view in the man's home. At that point Sergeant Bruce Watts worked hard to convince Andover Police to obtain a search warrant for the man's property. That search uncovered several weapons, ammunition, body armor and a significant amount of drugs.

This is an example of excellent police work by Officers Morris and Rodgers, and great follow-through by Sgt. Watts.

## Officers Machain and Wash honored with Good Apple Award

School Liaison Officers Ramon Machain and Shay Wash in April were honored with the Good Apple Award from Wichita Public Schools.

The Good Apple Award program allows schools and administrative support centers to recognize employees, volunteers and school partners who provide exemplary service to the district and its students. Twice each year, principals and selection committees take up the arduous task of reviewing nominations and selecting only three award recipients for their buildings.

Award recipients are recognized within their building communities and also by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education at two special ceremonies each year.

Police-School Liaison Officers Machain and Wash carry on a 30-year tradition of partnership between Wichita Public Schools and the Wichita Police Dept. Dedicated to making a difference in the lives of all children through law-related education, these officers teach 1,500 classes each year to nearly 37,000 students.

Congratulations to Officers Machain and Wash for receiving this prestigious award.



Wichita Public Schools Superintendent John Allison congratulates Officers Machain and Wash for their service to USD 259 students.

## Officer Lloyd honored with State Red Ribbon Award

Patrol East Officer Mike Lloyd was recognized in April by the State of Kansas with its Red Ribbon Award for his work in preventing underage drinking.

Lloyd's work in preventing underage drinking in collaboration with the City of Wichita, WPD, Wichita Public Schools, the Regional Prevention Center, the Kansas Army National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Team and the Stand Together Coalition was part of a week-long drug and alcohol awareness program that took place in October 2009 and was launched by the reading of a proclamation by Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer.

The project included an outreach program that touched the lives of more than 2,000 students, teachers and counselors in Wichita. In addition, 8,700 red ribbons were distributed to elementary, middle and high school students, faculty and administrators in 20 locations. During that project, students and their parents also received information about drug and alcohol awareness programs.

Congratulations to Officer Lloyd for this honor and for his hard work in preventing underage drinking.



## Accident Follow-Up Unit service officers develop KLER project

Two service officers in the Accident Follow-up Unit recently were awarded Bronze Wreaths for their work in developing a paperless accident reporting system.

Service Officers Susan Evans and Tiffani Ulrich began working with the Kansas Highway Patrol in 2009 to develop a procedure and training plan that would allow WPD officers to report traffic crashes electronically rather than on paper. It was a project that took a great deal of focus and hard work, not only in the development of the paperless system but in the training of all WPD officers as well.

In just three weeks, Evans and Ulrich and seven officers from the Field Services Division trained all Wichita Police Field Services officers in the new procedure that made the transition from paper to electronic forms seamless. The Field officers who helped with the training are Noland Keahey, Janette Griggs, Nichelle Woodrow, Brian Sfris, James Bray, Danny Brown and William Manchester.

Congratulations to all the officers for their hard work and dedication to this important project.



Service officers Susan Evans and Tiffani Ulrich pictured with Captains Gavin Seiler and Max Tenbrook after receiving their Bronze Wreaths for the KLER Project.

## Walk against gang violence a success

By all measures April's Wichita Walk Against Gang Violence was a success. Between 1,500 and 2,000 people took to the streets or stood on the sidewalks in north central Wichita to demonstrate the community's solidarity against gang violence.

The event, organized by Sergeant Jose Salcido and Lieutenant James Espinoza of the Patrol North Bureau, saw more than two dozen community partners step forward to co-sponsor the event.

Among the other community partners were Safe Streets Wichita, St. Patrick's Church on N. Arkansas, USD 259, the Kansas Air National Guard and Crime Stoppers.



Between 1,500 and 2,000 people joined the walk which started at North High School.

Information booths and static displays were located at Minisa Park. Public officials and local clergy gave speeches about the dangers of gang violence in our city.

## Historically speaking: The story of the Wichita Police Department

By Officer Aaron J. Mattson

As early as 1870, traffic safety had been a concern of the police. Early traffic ordinances were established to allow the right-of-way of cattle during cattle drives. The laws reduced the speed of horses and carriages on the city streets in the interest of public safety. It also assured that horses were secured to prevent escape.

The first large scale production of the automobile was unveiled by Ransom Olds at his Oldsmobile Factory in 1902. This concept was expanded by Henry Ford beginning in 1914. In Wichita, automobile sales steadily increased and in 1910 forty-four people were arrested by Wichita policemen for "fast driving" while another 72 were charged with violating the "Auto Ordinance".

In 1912, an effort was made to control the traffic problem. Fifty-two traffic ordinances were on the books. The speed limit from Gilbert Street, north to 13th Street and Seneca, east to Hydraulic was posted at 12 miles per hour. Outside the boundaries, the speed was 20 miles per hour.

By 1913, even more enforcement action was taken and traffic violators were arrested for major traffic violations instead of being issued traffic summonses. Violations such as speeding, cutting corners, speeding past standing street cars and failure to have headlights (kerosene lamps) illuminated were dealt with harshly. The public was also warned that old license plates on cars would no longer fool officers as color was being changed each year.

In 1915, Amos Grable was appointed as Wichita's first traffic officer. Grable was the tallest man on the force and had served as a motorman on the street car line for twenty years. The traffic position was badly needed.

An increase in traffic and jaywalking pedestrians and daring drivers at the intersection of Main and Douglas became a problem. Grable took over the intersection, using a pool cue to direct traffic.

In 1921, the first traffic signal light was installed at Main Street and Douglas Avenue. It cost \$30 and consisted of two glass boxes, stacked one on top of the other, suspended from overhead by wires at right angles. Inside one box were two red lights; inside the other, two green lights. These were changed manually by pressing a button from a control booth located on the corner of the intersection. By 1925, the use of traffic signals, "Electric Cops" as some called them, became commonplace.

Due to inadequate parking, residents had been leaving their cars at home and riding street cars. These Wichitans complained that while waiting for traffic to change to cross the street, they often missed their street car. A half-hour limit was placed upon vehicular parking and ten policemen were employed to check cars. A Junior Traffic Patrol was formed in 1928. It consisted of older grade school students acting as school crossing guards.

By 1933, Wichita had gained recognition as the safest city of its size in the United States. Due to strict enforcement of traffic speed laws, the Junior Traffic Patrol and an Educational Program broadcast on KFH Radio, traffic accidents and injuries were reduced.

*Continued on page 8*

## ***Detective Amy recognized by DUI Victim Center***

Wichita Police Detective Mike Amy in April was honored by the DUI Victim Center of Kansas with its Red Ribbon Award.

On October 1, 2008 a drunk driver struck and killed 37-year-old Claudia Mijares and her 4-year-old daughter, Gisle, as the two were crossing the street in the 1900 block of S. Ida walking toward a school. Following the crash, the husband and father of Ms. Mijares and Gisle asked that personal property belonging to his wife and daughter be returned to the family.

Because the child's backpack, necklace and other property showed signs of the traumatic death of the mother and daughter, Detective Amy felt the items should be cleaned prior to returning them to Mr. Mijares.

Working diligently and carefully, Detective Amy took great pains to restore the child's backpack, necklace and other property, then presented them to Mr. Mijares in a way that would allow him to view them in privacy.

Congratulations to Detective Amy for this prestigious award.



Detective Amy receives the award from DUI Victim Center Director Mary Ann Khoury

## ***Law enforcement Expo held at Towne West Square***



### **Historically speaking ...**

*(continued from page 7)*

During the 1940's, "Stop for pedestrian" signs appeared on streets. Auxiliary policemen were established through the Federal Civil Defense Program. These policemen helped with traffic enforcement. The traffic section was also given the responsibility of escorting military convoys through the city.

In 1942, 10,708 traffic summons were issued and the city reported 754 traffic accident cases. Proactive campaigns included a Traffic Accident Cruiser program and campaign to reduce traffic fatalities.

Traffic accidents reached 5,173 by 1953. From those accidents Wichita recorded 15 fatalities and 1,691 persons injured. In that year police officers wrote 153,908 traffic tickets, yet the traffic continues.

To be continued....

## *Critter rescued from patio door*

It wasn't a high priority call recently that caught Patrol West Officer Nichelle Woodrow's attention. In fact, it was a pretty low-priority call. But, it was the type of call that made her take notice: A dog was stuck in a patio door.

Officer Woodrow noticed the call had been holding on her computer terminal, then saw it disappear from view. When she called dispatch to find out why, she was told the call had been transferred to Animal Control.

Being a dog lover and owner, and knowing it might be some time before Animal Control could respond, she took the call herself.

When she arrived at the residence on 199 beat she found an older small dog whose head was stuck between the slats of a patio door. Working quickly to help the dog, she was able to cut one of the slats and free the animal.

Woodrow said it was obvious the animal and her owner, an older woman, were both frightened. And, said Woodrow, she was just glad to help.

"I'm a huge dog lover. I didn't want to see the animal get hurt trying to free itself from the door."

Good job by Officer Woodrow for helping rescue the critter.

***We want you to submit articles and photos for the WPD newsletter.***

***Articles, ideas and tips should be emailed to either Gordon Bassham at [gbassham@wichita.gov](mailto:gbassham@wichita.gov) or Jan Messerschmidt at [jmesserschmidt@wichita.gov](mailto:jmesserschmidt@wichita.gov).***

***Please submit your photos in either a .JPG or .TIF format.***



The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Wichita Police Department

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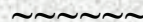
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## **Our Mission**

The Wichita Police Department's mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.



## **We Value**

Ethical Behavior

Protecting the Community

Diversity

Problem Solving