



THE



# WPD NEWSLETTER

January 2008

[www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Police/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Police/)

*The new seat belt law went into effect January 1.*

*Drivers and passengers ages 14-17 are required to be buckled up or prepare to pay \$60 fine.*

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## Wichita Police Department completes a very good 2007



Wichita Police Department members, thank you for a very good year. The success of our Department in 2007 can be attributed to your dedication to making our department a premier police department in America.

I am also extremely proud of the viable partnerships that we have established with our citizens, business representatives, elected and appointed officials and media to make Wichita a safe and secure community.

Despite the increases in some of the major crime categories in 2007, we realized some significant accomplishments that demonstrate the "can do attitude" of the department. As the result of outstanding teamwork, the following tasks were achieved:

- Approximately 90% of the Department goals were accomplished.
- Three major investigations occurred that involved:
  - Auto theft investigation, that resulted in five suspects being indicted on 35 federal counts of operating an auto theft ring in Wichita.
  - Cold Case investigation, thus far 49 suspects have been indicted, and for the first time in the State of Kansas the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO) is being used against gang members.
  - Kaweah Indian Nation, 11 suspects were indicted on 60 counts of violating federal laws.
- Clearance rates surpassed the FBI National average for cities 250,000 to 499,999 population: aggravated assault 68%, auto theft 16%, burglary 13%, homicides 81%, larceny 19%, rape 77% and robbery 42%.
- We continued to partner with City Departments, such as the Office of Central Inspection, Housing and Community Services, and Environment Services with the Stopblight Program.

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## Did you know ...

At the end of 2007 fatalities were down 55% and there was only one Motorcycle fatality this year.



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Officer Baker assisted with coordinating the 14<sup>th</sup> annual T-95 "Don't Drink and Drive" on-air presentation, held on New Year's Eve. Officers Kimrey, Tejeda, Maris, Jordan and James assisted with conducting field sobriety test on the volunteer drinkers, along with running the intoxilizer on each of the volunteers. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness at how quickly a person can reach the legal level of influence, making it illegal for them to drive a motor vehicle. This year, the event was held at the Community Policing office, at 601 N. West St. This location proved to be much more conducive to the event and no concerns were noted with any of the volunteer drinkers.

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**The WPD vehicle auction will be held on January 29th and 30th.**

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Officer Bachman was dispatched to a check the welfare call at Kellogg and Washington. Officer Bachman was able to locate the suspect, Mr. Raymundo, who was attempting to commit suicide by jumping off of the overpass. Officer Bachman spoke with Raymundo for several minutes before backup arrived. Officers Ramsey and Seachris arrived to assist Officer Bachman. The officers were able to talk Raymundo off of the ledge. Raymundo then attempted to run from the officers. The officers tackled Raymundo and after a brief struggle were able to take him into custody. Raymundo was transported to St. Joe for a mental evaluation. Great job by the officers.

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### ***Congratulations Sheila!***

In January, Sheila Fisher was promoted to Court Liaison Section Supervisor.

Sheila joined the department in 1976. Previous assignments have been in the Records Section, Parking Control Clerk, and Traffic Safety Officer.



She has been an Administrative Aide I in the Court Liaison Section since 1992, and Acting Section Supervisor since July of 2007.

CSI Natalie Rowe is a volunteer with Senior Services and mows the lawn and takes out the trash for a handicapped senior. She is also a Big Sister to a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Pleasant Valley Elementary School. She meets with her every week and on occasion meets with the student and her friends in a group setting. Natalie uses the opportunity to be a positive influence on the children. Natalie is also on the E-board of the Wichita Sedgwick County Chapter of the National Latino Peace Officer's Association. The organization works toward promoting a better association between the Police Department and the Latino Community.



### **Detective Andy Koharchik retires after 33 1/2 years of service!**

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Andy joined the department in 1974. During his tenure he was a patrol officer, traffic investigator, lab investigator and a detective. Detective Koharchik has been highly respected in his career, and will be missed by his fellow officers.





## *Celebrate safely helps lower dangers from New Years celebrations*

The Wichita Police Department and the Historic Midtown Citizens Association, teamed up in December to urge citizens to once again ring in the New Year safely. "Celebrate Safely is an annual project to inform citizens about the dangers of celebratory gunfire", said Patrol North Bureau Commander Captain Felecia Norris.

"As part of the project, officers from the four police substations distributed fliers reminding citizens that firing weapons into the air can be dangerous and is illegal," Norris said.

City Council Member Sharon Fearey said such gunfire in the past has been known to injure people and damage property.

"Celebratory gunfire in other cities has caused injuries and property damage," said Fearey. "This is something we want to avoid at all costs in Wichita."

"We plan to continue to encourage citizens to celebrate safely," said Norris. "In 2003 on New Years Eve, officers responded to 24 such calls. That number went down to 19 in 2004, 6 in 2005 and only rose slightly to 9 such calls in 2006. In 2007, WPD officers responded to 18 calls of shots fired. This increase tells us we need to continue to emphasize this program."

City of Wichita Ordinance 5.88.20 calls for both fines and jail time for discharging a firearm in the city.



## **Pets in Crisis continues to help victims of domestic violence**

When most people think of domestic violence, they think of the toll it takes on those who are abused. Yet, one of the biggest obstacles to an abused person leaving a home filled with violence is that many of the abused don't want to leave because they have pets.

Studies show that every year thousands of people, mostly women, are abused, and that two-thirds of them refuse to leave or delay leaving because of the pet they must leave behind.

That's where Pets in Crisis steps in.

With the help of the YWCA Women's Center and WPD, Pets in Crisis was established in 2004 to provide foster care for pets of domestic violence victims. In 2007, the program has helped care for 28 pets, including 13 dogs, 11 cats and four birds. Of these animals, 15 were also abused by those who abused human victims. The average time pet's stay in foster care is 31 days.

"The program is another way to help those who are abused in a domestic violence environment," said Patrol North Captain Felecia Norris. Norris said anyone interested in becoming a caregiver for pets should contact the YWCA Women's Center.



# WPD completes a very good 2007 ...*Continued from page 1*

- In June, the Police Department partnered with other law enforcement agencies to provide dignitary protection for President George W. Bush while he visited our city. This was a great opportunity to showcase the Wichita Police Department along with state and federal law enforcement agencies during this historic visit to Wichita.



- During 2007, Captain Felecia Norris was instrumental in working with members of the clergy to develop and implement the "Faith Based Initiative". This is an on-going effort to encourage and engage area churches to proactively assist the Wichita Police Department with crime deterrent efforts.
- The inaugural Law Enforcement Expo was held at the Sedgwick County Extension facility and attracted 1500 citizens. This was another example of law enforcement agencies working together to provide an opportunity to educate citizens about law enforcement, and to view an impressive display of equipment.

- The Police Department



- approximately 100 police officers and supervisors to assist with the devastation that struck Greensburg, Kansas.
  - The Wichita Police Department welcomed 13 new police officers in June when the spring recruit class graduated from the Wichita-Sedgwick County Law Enforcement Training Center.
  - Seven commissioned members of the Police Department were promoted to the ranks of Detectives (6) and Sergeant (1). In addition, one interim director and eight non-commissioned members were promoted to various positions.
  - In September, thirty police officers and detectives attended the Community Police 40-hour training session that was held at Harvest Community Church.
  - Police Department members have attended or participated in more than 7,000 community, civic, business and governmental meetings throughout 2007.

- The Police Department was actively involved with the passage of two bills by the Kansas Legislature that will assist in making Wichita a safe and secure community. The measures were House Bill 2035 which deals with scrap metal sales; and House Bill 2062 which requires imprisonment when a person convicted of a burglary has two or more convictions of the crime of burglary. The bill also governs the criminal use of explosives.
- In 2007, there were 16 traffic fatalities compared to 36 in 2006. This is a 56% decrease from 2006.
- The Comprehensive Traffic Safety Plan was completed and approved by the Executive Staff. Forty-one recommendations were identified in the plan. The Committee was comprised of representatives from the Police Department, DUI Victim's Center, businesses and media.



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## WPD completes a very good 2007 ... *continued from page 4*

- The Gateway crime database process was improved significantly in 2007. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised they were no longer concerned with the quality of the Wichita Police Department submissions.
- The Training Academy worked with the City Manager's Office and Nye Associates to develop a new recruiting campaign, which included the Airport Public Safety Administration and the Wichita Fire Department.
- A Field Training Officer Program Committee was created to assess the current program. The Committee made several recommendations for enhancing the FTO Program. The most significant recommendation, which was approved, was to lengthen the program from eight weeks to twelve weeks.
- The Police Department commitment to youth initiatives continued strong in 2007. This is evident by our involvement with the following programs and activities: Bicycle Skills and Safety, Camp Awareness, Coleman Middle School E-mentoring, Hooked on Fishing, Home Depot Kids Safety Fair, Plane-view Activity Camp for Kids, Superhero Day at Herman Hill Park, Special Olympics, Youth Police Academy and 1,538 instances of mentoring and tutoring.
- Five new Reserve Officers joined the Police Department, which increases the Department Reserve Unit to 24 members.
- Department members continued to go above and beyond to assist citizens that were in need of clothing, food, shelter and other resources to survive.

As you can see, 2007 was a very good year for the Wichita Police Department. Our challenge for 2008 will be to build on our amazing successes over the years and diligently work to make Wichita a safe and viable community. I believe with our "can do attitude" we can accomplish this ambitious goal.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Norman D. Williams".

Norman D. Williams

Chief of Police

## Patrol North conducts paraphernalia, tobacco sting operation



Officers from the Patrol North bureau conducted a sting operation on January 17, targeting smoke shops in north Wichita that sell drug paraphernalia and tobacco products to minors. A total of 14 businesses were checked, with citations being issued to three. B & B Liquor and Tobacco at 13<sup>th</sup> and N. Minnesota and Central Smoke Shop in the 2700 block of E. Central were cited for selling tobacco products to minors. The two businesses also were fined by state Alcohol and Beverage Control for underage sales of tobacco to minors. In addition, U.S. Gas and Grocery on N. Hillside was cited for selling single cigarettes. Eleven other businesses that were checked were found to be in compliance with city ordinances and state law.

## Officers help family in need

It didn't take much to put a smile on the face of Vickie Malcolm. But, thanks to some caring WPD officers, the single mom and her four children not only had a good Christmas, they'll be having a lot better days for a long time to come.

The family came to the attention of SRO Amie Fiegel at Allison Middle School. She noticed two brothers were wearing the same soiled clothes to school day after day. It turns out their mother, Vickie, works four jobs just to make ends meet and had little time to go to a laundromat.

Fiegel, working with Officers Stella Boyd, Troy Bussard, Daniel Boone, Sergeant Clark Bolan and Station Clerk Mary Peters, began collecting items for the family. A friend of Lt. Guy Schroeder, Ms. Karen Clothier, put the officers into contact with Mr. Jeff Davison who donated a washer and dryer to the family.

"It was a great Christmas," said Vickie Malcolm.



Sgt. Clark Bolan, Lt. Guy Schroeder, Officer Amy Fiegel (front right) of Patrol West and Officer Stella Boyd of Patrol North with Vicki Malcolm.

## Family gets help after Christmas Crusade

What do you do when you come across a family who deserves a Christmas but the deadline for the Christmas Crusade has come and gone? You improvise, as did Officer Lori Kimrey-Johnson when she learned about a family of four.

The single mom, Taprica Williams, her 4-year-old daughter Markayla, Taprica's autistic brother Edward and her mother were not going to be able to have a Christmas. So, Officer Kimrey-Johnson took it upon herself to find a way to help the family.

Patricia Kimrey and Jeff and Janelle Johnson donated money for gift purchases. Dana Brown, the retired assistant to the District V advisory board, donated several new electronic learning toys and 4 new clothing outfits for Markayla. Ricky Tejada from The Medicine



Officer Lori Kimrey-Johnson delivers gifts

Shoppe donated money for gift and clothing purchases. Linda Nicholson purchased 6 clothing outfits and new toys for Markayla. DeAun Johnson provided several clothing outfits for the 16-year-old, Edward. Extra money that was donated was used to buy clothing and a radio/CD player for Edward.

On Christmas Eve Officer Kimrey-Johnson and Lt. Marceau went to Taprica's house to drop off all the gifts that were wrapped by officers in the Community Police office. Taprica and her mother were very grateful. Edward came out to hug both Officer Kimrey-Johnson and Lt. Marceau.

"The smile on his face was priceless, and made this project worth all the effort put into it," said Officer Kimrey-Johnson.

When Kimrey-Johnson first took on this project she didn't know if she would get much help or response from anyone to help her. After contacting these citizens, she found herself overwhelmed with the willingness and the amount of contributions given to help this family. This family had a great Christmas, something that wouldn't have happened without the help of all those who contributed.

## Support Services Division adopts family

Each year for more than two decades, the Wichita Police Department has teamed up with KFDI radio to hold the Christmas Crusade. It's a time when citizens "adopt" children for Christmas who have been nominated by police officers.

This year, though, a family of seven missed the cut-off date for nomination. When KFDI learned of their misfortune, several members of the Support Services Division stepped in to help.

Emily and Brad Sampson have five children ranging in age from 9 to 15. Emily is a stay-at-home mom who also does day care for other children. Brad lost his job after he spent nearly a year taking care of his mom following the death of her husband. He also missed work taking care of his own dad who also fell sick and eventually passed away.

Each of the children's wish lists were pretty small. Marissa, Elishah and Kristen, ages 9, 11 and 15 respectively, all asked for and received gift cards from Barnes and Noble or Borders. Joshua and Rebecca, ages 9 and 10 respectively, each asked for and got McDonalds gift cards. All children, though, got fun things and clothes. And, their parents received gift cards to Wal-Mart to help buy food and other necessities for the family.

"It's easy to overlook the misfortune of others when you have a good job and your life is going well," said Lucretia Burch, a fiscal affairs specialist in Support Services. "Fortunately, the Support Services group came through and shared their good fortune. That's what made Christmas 2007 a good one for a lot of people."



Sampson family with Support Services Division personnel

## WPD security officer helps homeless at library

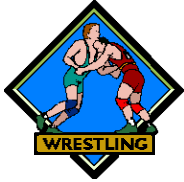


When most of us think about Christmas, the first thought that comes to mind is family. But, what about those in the community who are homeless? One WPD security officer gave that some thought and made Christmas more enjoyable for some of the homeless in our community.

Officer Danielle Jackson handles security at the downtown branch of the Wichita Public Library. With the help of her mother, a teacher at Jackson Elementary, the two of them and other teachers at the school were able to raise enough money to provide twenty homeless people with gift cards to McDonalds and Wendy's.

"I encounter many homeless people on a daily basis," said Jackson. "The gift cards were our way of making the Christmas holiday more enjoyable for those whom I encounter daily."

## Wolfpack Wrestling continues winning streak



The youth Wolfpack Wrestling club, directed by Sergeant Bobby Wiley, continues to win. The club's 27 wrestlers took home 44 medals in the experienced and novice categories over the two tournaments.

"The team finished with a total of 54 wins, 30 pins and 31 lost matches," said Wiley. Wolfpack Wrestling is a Wichita Police Department project designed to help young boys who are at risk of falling prey to gang violence.

Other Wolfpack coaches are Officer Doug Mitchell, head coach; Officers Pat Phipps, Ken Roush, Erik Guzman, Steve Thornton and Jessie Cornwell, assistant coaches.

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



#### Chief's Office

455 N. Main

Wichita, Kansas 67202

Phone: 316-268-4158

Fax: 316-858-7704

Email: [gbassham@wichita.gov](mailto:gbassham@wichita.gov)

## 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