



# BEHIND THE BADGE

February 2010

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

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## Promotions

### **Police veteran promoted to Captain**

Police Lt. Gavin Seiler has been promoted to captain, according to Police Chief Norman Williams. Seiler, an 18-year veteran, will oversee the Technical Services Bureau. "Captain Seiler is a respected and resourceful leader with a can-do attitude," Williams said. "Seiler's tremendous work ethic, his ability to solve problems and establish partnerships are significant strengths which benefit the community and department."

Seiler began his WPD career in 1991. Since graduating from the Training Academy, he has achieved the ranks of Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant.

During the past several years, Seiler has managed security operations for the Wichita River Festival and the Wichita Flight Festival. Directors of the events have expressed appreciation for his leadership and professionalism.

Seiler's section assignments have included patrol, sex crimes, larceny, robbery, training and accident follow-up.

Seiler has received various departmental awards, including the Bronze Wreath of Meritorious Service.



*Captain Seiler*

### **Officers promoted to lieutenant, sergeant and detective**

February saw another round of promotions within the ranks of the Wichita Police Department.

Sergeants Dan East and Kevin Mears were promoted to the rank of lieutenant. East, who joined the Wichita Police Department in 1991, has been assigned to Patrol West. Mears, who joined WPD in June of 1992, is assigned to Patrol East.

Detective Clay Germany, who joined WPD in 1994, has been promoted to sergeant. Germany has been assigned to Patrol South.

Officer John Ryan was promoted to detective in February. He will be serving in the Investigations Division. Ryan joined WPD in 1994.



*Lt. East*



*Lt. Mears*



*Sgt. Germany*



*Det. Ryan*

### **Accessible Parking Program**

WPD is seeking volunteers who are interested in working with us to reduce the handicap parking violations within the city limits of Wichita.

If you are interested in being considered for this volunteer program, please contact Lt. Daras Delamaide at [dde-lamaide@wichita.gov](mailto:dde-lamaide@wichita.gov) or 268-4196. Application deadline is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

## *WPD webpage now includes links to Twitter, Facebook and YouTube*

Social media has proven to be a valuable communication tool that allows local governmental agencies another way to stay in touch with citizens. In recent months the Wichita Police Department has added links to the social networking sites Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. In February, the department put links to these three popular sites on the front page of the WPD public website.



"The Department has not abandoned more conventional methods of communicating with the public, such as news releases, news briefings and working with the media," said Capt. Troy Livingston who has led the department's social media initiative.

"Instead, social media is a valuable tool that can reach those who may not get their news from more traditional sources such as local newscasts or the newspaper."

Those who visit the department's public website can look for the Twitter, Facebook and YouTube links on the left side of the front page near the top. When visitors click on the links they are taken to the sites where they can read WPD's posts and sign up to follow the department.

Posts on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube include information and videos that would let citizens help the department identify suspects in certain investigations. Proactively, WPD posts videos on the sites that offer safety tips such as how to prevent burglaries, larcenies from vehicles and auto thefts.

"Whenever WPD posts something on any of these social media sites where we're asking the public to help us identify a suspect we also ask people to either call the WPD section involved in the case or call, text or go online to Crime Stoppers where they can provide an anonymous tip," said Livingston. "What's important is that it appears we're making progress in our use of social media since we're now closing in on 1,300 followers on Twitter, 1,600 on Facebook, and the videos we've posted on YouTube have been viewed more than 7,000 times."

## 2010 Home Show includes Community Affairs Section

Community Affairs Section was part of the Wichita Area Builder's Association 56<sup>th</sup> annual Home Show at Century II again this year.

Home Show officials estimate between 38,000-40,000 people attended the four-day event which ran February 4-7. Community Affairs estimates 7,000-10,000 people visited the Wichita/Sedgwick County combined booth which included displays from the Wichita Police Department, the Wichita Fire Department, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, the Wichita Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Wichita Office of Central Inspection.

The WPD section was staffed by Officers Joe Seitz and Jason Dautrich who used laptop computers from the City's IT/IS department to show citizens how easy it is to connect to the City's website and through it to the many agencies at City Hall. One of the highlights of the show was WPD new 2010 Dodge Charger which is being evaluated for use by the department.



The 2010 Dodge Charger was highlighted during the 2010 Home Show at Century II

# Getting to know ... Detective Bradley Bryant

In his 31 years with the Wichita Police Department, Financial Crimes Detective Bradley "Bubs" Bryant has seen a lot through his twinkling, deep-blue eyes. The assignments he's had over the years - Patrol, Case Review, Burglary, Homicide, Bunco/Larceny, Financial Crimes and SWAT as a negotiator - have left Bryant with a lot of stories to tell. And, tell them he does, often through poetry.

"I consider a poem to be a very short, abbreviated story, the shorter the better," Bryant says. "I started writing poetry way back in the early 70's and wish I could find some of that stuff, but it has gone the way of the dodo. It would be good to compare then and now."

Bryant moved to Wichita in the 50's when he was four years old. After high school and attending Sacred Heart College, Bryant enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in both the U.S. and Germany. After leaving the Air Force, he joined the Wichita Police Department in March 1979.

During his career with WPD, Bryant has worked on some memorable cases.

"I knew this job was going to be different right off the bat when we were assigned to clean up A. P. Woodard Park, better known as "Stoned Park", in 1979. During one of our routine sweeps we found Molotov Cocktails with our names on them hidden behind the bathroom."

In another case, Bryant's work with people in the homeless community helped him locate a missing baby and arrest a suspect in the case. That led to Bryant receiving the Hometown Hero Award in 1985.

Bryant, who writes a lot of poetry in his spare time, is also a self-confessed "history nut" with a special interest in military history. He also uses his spare time to build models and travels.

"As for my favorite poet," Bryant says, "it would have to be whoever wrote Proverbs, which I suspect is a lot of people."



## ***Polar Plunge a wet and wild event***



Rob Mallon takes the Polar Plunge

As usual, cold weather didn't prevent the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser for Special Olympics from taking place. After all, "cold" is what it's all about.

This year, dozens came out for the event to either take a dip in the chilly waters of O.J. Watson Park or cheer on those who braved the cold. And, judging by the fact that the event raised more than \$8,300 for Special Olympics, the 2010 event was another success.



**WPD officers who helped out during the Polar Plunge**

## Detective Mitchell receives latent print certification

Detective Tim Mitchell, a 28 year veteran of the Wichita Police Department, has received his Latent Print Certification from the International Association for Identification (IAI). This has been a 3 year project for Mitchell since taking his current position in the Police Lab as one of the two Latent Print Examiners for the department. The other examiner, Mindy Craig, received her certification in 2003. Receiving certification in Latent Print work adds significant credibility to the work done by Detective Mitchell and the Wichita Police Department.

Certification with the IAI is a difficult achievement with many requirements. Those requirements include being a member in good standing with the IAI, college hours or a degree, training hours, time on the job doing comparison work, a written and practical exam, a case for review as well as endorsements by other Certified Latent Print Examiners and from a representative of the court.

Over the past 3 years while working toward this goal, Detective Mitchell has received over 300 hours of formal training from IAI approved instructors and from the FBI on fingerprint comparisons, palm print comparisons, latent print evidence processing, latent print photography and AFIS operations. Detective Mitchell has a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University and nearly 3 years of full time on the job comparison case work experience.

Detective Mitchell credits several people with helping him achieve his certification. Among them are Certified Examiners Mindy Craig and Jim McNutt, formerly of Sedgwick County and now serving with Homeland Security. Mitchell also credits his colleagues from the KBI and from Johnson County with their tremendous help in his achievement of this goal. Last but not least, Detective Mitchell credits the instructors representing Ron Smith & Associates and from the FBI for their expert training and guidance.

Detective Mitchell looks forward to several more years doing latent print work for the Wichita Police Department. He describes the work that he does as his "dream job" and looks forward to each new day at work.



## Patrol West project targets shoplifting, larcenies

A recent project by officers in the Patrol West Bureau used a two-pronged approach to reduce shoplifting and larcenies from vehicles at Towne West Square.

During the project, officers partnered with Towne West to educate middle school students about the problem and consequences of shoplifting. As part of the project, between 90 and 100 students at several middle schools in the west bureau created posters about shoplifting. While all the students received prizes that were donated by local merchants, several posters were judged by Patrol West officers as the cream of the crop. All posters were displayed at Towne West Mall.

Bureau personnel also worked with the Community Affairs Section to run videos produced by WPD that warned people about leaving valuables in their cars. In addition, officers increased patrols in the Towne West parking lot and walked the shopping areas, contacting managers of businesses in the mall to encourage their participation in the project to reduce shoplifting.

In addition, Officer Latavia Klumpp held a safety briefing for Towne West mall managers, and Officers Klumpp, Delana Long, David Evans and Brian Bachman distributed more than 150 of the department's "If I Were A Thief" flyers on vehicles parked on Towne West property that warned drivers not to leave personal property visible inside their parked cars.

This is an excellent example of proactive policing that targets specific crimes.

**Officer Dwain Diehl chosen to serve on state task force**

Patrol South Community Police Officer Dwain Diehl has been selected by Kansas Attorney General Steven Six to serve on the Human Trafficking Advisory Board. Diehl joins Cheryl Webb of the YWCA Women’s Crisis Center and others from Sedgwick County and across the state who will study the issue of human trafficking and advise the Attorney General’s Office on ways to address the problem by developing programs that will aid human trafficking victims in Kansas.

Diehl and Webb were chosen because of their leading roles in Project Butterfly, a joint project between WPD and the Women’s Crisis Center to help prostitutes leave behind their destructive lifestyle and become productive members of society.

Congratulations to Officer Diehl and Ms. Webb for bringing honor and distinction to the department and the Women’s Crisis Center through their selection.

**Bolan, Quick & Smith receive CDP training**

*By Sergeant Phil Smith*

Sergeant’s Clark Bolan, Jerry Quick and Phil Smith from the Patrol West Bureau recently completed Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) located in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Federal

Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

Bolan, Quick and Smith all attended the “Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions” training. The course is an advanced hands-on training which enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other incidents involving hazardous materials.

Responders attending CDP training are selected from the nation’s 11 million emergency responders. Training at the CDP ensures that responders gain critical skills and confidence to be better prepared to effectively respond to local incidents or potential Weapons of Mass destruction incidents.

**Officers Machain and Wash receive School District awards**

Police-School Liaison Officers Ramon Machain and Shay Wash have been named as Good Apple Award recipients by Wichita Public Schools. Both Machain and Wash were nominated by Police-School Liaison Coordinator Michele Zahner.

“These outstanding, veteran officers play an invaluable part in the safety and education of all, by serving as teacher, mentor and positive role model for our students,” said Zahner. “Officers Ramon Machain and Shay Wash singlehandedly teach nearly 1,500 classes each school year. Last

year, as a result of teaching D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) and law-related education programs, these two School Liaison officers impacted an estimated 36,056 students!”

Zahner said the two offices carry on a 30-year tradition of partnership between the Wichita Public Schools and the Wichita Police Department. They are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of all children by increasing student awareness of citizen’s rights and responsibilities under the law and by creating positive relationships between students and law enforcement officers.

Some of the comments from a couple of the classroom teachers say it all:

*“It is a great opportunity for my students to hear important information like this from someone that sees and works with this on a daily basis. I can tell them this same information, but coming from an officer seems to make it more valid.”*

*“This was a very appropriate program and a wonderful way to tie in community leaders so that students see that these are skills they will need their whole lives.”*

Congratulations to Officers Ramon Machain and Shay Wash.

## Security Officer Koehn nabs several suspects

Several times each week, members of the Wichita Police Department issue "Wanted" posters for suspects sought for a variety of crimes. And, thanks to City Hall Security Officer Michael Koehn, several suspects featured in the posters are now in custody.

"S.O. Koehn conscientiously reviews each of these wanted posters, files copies at the Security Desk and uses his position working at the 'crossroads' in City Hall to look out for these individuals," said Chuck Quinn, the supervisor of City Hall Security Unit. "He has been successful on a number of occasions, most recently in late February when S.O. Koehn recognized a suspect wanted in an auto theft case when she entered the building to make a court appearance in an unrelated case. After Koehn recognized the suspect, he took her into custody without incident and delivered her directly to the detective who had issued the wanted poster."

That incident, said Quinn, was only the latest in a string of incidents where Koehn has taken people into custody.

"Earlier, while working at the Security Desk, he was approached by a man who told him he had missed a court appearance. When Koehn checked, he found an active warrant, detained the man and turned him over to a warrant officer."

Later the same day, Quinn said S.O. Koehn, while working overtime at the Wichita Public Library, was approached by a man who stated he was aware he was wanted on a pickup for domestic violence battery.

"The man told Koehn he had tried to turn himself in at the jail but was told to contact an officer at the library. When S.O. Koehn checked on the man, he found two pickups orders, one for the misdemeanor and one for a felony. He detained the man and turned him over to a patrol officer."

Excellent work by Security Officer Koehn.

## J.U.D.G.E. program receives grant

In February 2010 the Kansas Department of Transportation announced it would be taking applications for the 2010 Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws grant. The grant pays for teams of four officers and a supervisor to conduct compliance checks on liquor and cereal malt beverage licensees within the city. The funding also pays to conduct party patrols and to monitor third hand sales.

Patrol East Community Police Officer Mike Lloyd, WPD's Juvenile Underage Drinking Group Education/Enforcement (J.U.D.G.E.) program coordinator, applied for the grant again this year. Lloyd has been involved in the writing of the grant application since the department first started receiving them in 2004.

The grant time-line is designed to address the problems of underage drinking during the spring each year. Every spring, all four field services bureaus are allocated a specific number of assignments to help address the issue of underage drinking. This year the department will be holding a city wide enforcement which will occur in April.

Working with Michelle Meyer in Support Services Bureau, Lloyd applied for more than \$29,000 in 2010 overtime funds for the department. Police Chief Norman Williams, City Manager Robert Layton and the City Council all approved the application. This year's grant brings to more than \$178,000 the Wichita Police Department has been awarded for the J.U.D.G.E. program over the last seven.

Good job by all involved.

<i>Year</i>	<i>J.U.D.G.E. Grant Funding Received</i>
<b>2004</b>	<b>\$19,503.00</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>\$23,822.55</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>\$23,353.75</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>\$28,584.24</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>\$26,405.88</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>\$27,218.88</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>\$29,321.28</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$178,209.60</b>

# Narcotics raid also nets a forgery operation

On September 5, 2009 the Patrol South SCAT Team set out to do a narcotics search warrant on a residence on South Ellis. What they didn't know was that their search warrant would produce some additional results.

After entering and securing the residence the team found that in addition to narcotics a very active forgery ring was being run by members of a generational family of forgers. The SCAT officers knew their search warrant would be anything but normal, but when they saw the checks on a computer screen totaling six figures they were surprised.

Once the officers secured the residence they drew an additional search warrant. By the time they had completed their search the officers had found and secured several large lawn trash bags full of documents and a storage tub full of equipment.

The following day the squad room of the Patrol South sub-station became an evidence sorting room as Financial Crimes Section detectives and members of the Patrol South SCAT team began the time consuming task of going through all of the papers and documenting and copying those that pertained to the forgery operation.

By the time they had finished processing the documents they had located 164 counterfeit business checks drawn on many local banks that used the names of 47 businesses in the Wichita area. The officers also had recovered 56 personal checks, again drawn on local banks, with the names of 21 real individuals. These checks could have cost these citizens and the community an amount that ran into six figures. More than one hundred individuals were identified as being involved in the operation, either as possible check passers or principal players in the organization.

The Financial Crimes Section initiated an investigation and over the course of the next five months was able to interview a number of forgery suspects who pointed fingers at the residents of the house as the people who recruited them, provided them with the checks, and in many instances took them to banks or businesses to cash the checks. The Financial Crimes Section was even able to convince one of the principal players in the organization to provide information about how the operation worked and how the money was divided up.

The investigation showed that not only was this group passing checks in Wichita, they also were hitting the surrounding communities as additional documentation from Newton and Olathe, Kansas proved. Members of the Citizens Police Academy assisted with the investigation by taking on the difficult task of creating a spread sheet and logging the information on 220 checks including payee information, business names, banking information, routing numbers and account information.

On February 10, a series of forgeries starting at a local drug store mobilized the Patrol East officers who netted two of the principal players and their latest check passer. The Financial Crimes Section prepared an extensive affidavit which resulted in a twenty-two count felony warrant that was drawn against four people involved in this activity.

The Financial Crimes Section expresses its' thanks to and respect for the work that was done by all of the officers and citizens who participated in this investigation. They have made a significance in dealing with this particular forgery group.

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

By Officer Aaron J. Mattson

The early offices of Wichita's city government were scattered about town. In 1886, Wichita City Hall was located at 117 North Market, the City Clerk's office at 111 West Douglas, and the Police Court at 230 North Market. The city's early jails had been located at 1200 North Main and 220 North Market. A fourth city jail was built at 204 South Main in 1885.

Around that time the governor of Kansas declared Wichita a first class city and the population had grown to 32,000. The city, not wishing to be outdone, began discussing the need for a new city building shortly after construction began on the courthouse. Both the north and south sections of the city competed for the new city building with the south side winning when the final location was picked on the southeast corner of William and Main.



Construction of the new city building began in 1890 and was completed in 1892. The city council liked the design of the county courthouse but chose a different architect, whose design proposed a four story structure of native stone, built in the Richardson Romanesque style. The architects liberally used spires, turrets and arches and included a tall central tower. The 170 foot by 80 foot building was built of Cambridge limestone quarried in Butler County and cost of \$71,000.

The all-in-one building included space for the regular offices as well as for a new jail, police and fire departments, courtrooms, offices for the board of education, and a large city library. The tower originally housed a 1,000 pound bell cast by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland, and in 1917 a Seth Thomas clock was purchased and installed. This building, remodeled numerous times, served to house city offices until 1975 when city services moved to the new City Hall at 455 N. Main.

The Metropolitan Act of 1889 created a three member Board of Police Commissioners with complete control of the police department. They had the responsibility of appointing policemen, but could not exceed one officer for every 1,500 citizens. Developing rules and regulations for the police force was also a function of this Board.

Spoiled by Wichita's past success, residents were totally unprepared for the economic recession which followed in 1890. The building process slowed down and gradually ground to a halt leaving unfinished buildings vacant. Stone masons, carpenters, and other craftsmen along with a large portion of the population would leave the city. The city would also face hardships including a tornado, dust storms, floods, fires, and a severe winter.

To be continued....



Wichita Police Officers pose in front of the old City Building in 1900

# Boy Scouts learn about fingerprinting

By Detective Tim Mitchell, Latent Print Examiner

The Wichita Area Technical College held its 6th Annual Merit Badge College for area Boy Scouts on Saturday, February 20th. Wichita Police Department Latent Print Examiners Tim Mitchell and Mindy Craig taught Fingerprinting Merit Badge to 37 Boy Scouts during the two sessions. They were assisted by Patrol East Bureau Commander Captain Hassan Ramzah, who is also a faculty member at Wichita Area Technical College.



Left: Latent Print Examiner Mindy Craig talks with Boy Scouts about fingerprinting.

Right: Examiner Mindy Craig demonstrates fingerprinting techniques.



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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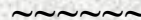
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## Our Mission

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