Southeast Patrol Division
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February 2009
Newsletter

What's New on the Police Front

This newsletter is dedicated in memory of our fallen brother, Officer Richard Matthews.

On the morning of February 18, 2009 at approximately 1:20 a.m. Wilmington Police Officer Matthews died from injuries he sustained in a car crash. The officer was in his marked police car headed eastbound on Shipyard Boulevard. Officer Matthews was en route to assist a fellow officer attempting to stop a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed when he came upon some debris in the roadway. While attempting to avoid the debris, he lost control of his vehicle, went off the roadway and struck a tree in the 3900 block of Shipyard Blvd. Officer Matthews was assigned to the Northwest Patrol Division.

Officer Richard John Matthews, age 28, was hired by the Wilmington Police Department on December 11, 2006. He came to WPD after serving with the New York City Police Department from January 2004 until December 2006.

Since arriving at the Wilmington Police Department, Officer Matthews served the citizens of Wilmington with distinction.

On January 24, 2009, Officer Matthews was issued a commendation for his acts of bravery, courage and professionalism. The details of that act involved Officer Matthews and several of his co-workers arriving at a structure fire on Park Avenue, and finding the structure fully engulfed.

Officer Matthews, along with four other officers, awakened and evacuated residents of the complex as the fire was spreading quickly. Their actions included taking a 96 year-old woman to safety.

He was a 1999 graduate of Liberty High School in Bethlehem. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from York College of Pennsylvania in May 2003.

A sincere thanks goes out to our citizens, neighbors and friends that have thought of the Wilmington Police Department during this difficult situation and taken time out to either pray, send an e-mail, flowers or just stopping an officer to express heartfelt feelings and thoughts on a the loss of a fine public servant of this community.

Police Beat

Below is the end of month breakdown of SE Patrol activity for January 2009.

5,362 – Number of calls for service SE Patrol Division Officers responded to during January 2009. **This number includes 2,430 calls that were officer initiated.**

Arrests:

4 – Armed Robbery / Common Law Robbery
1 - Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
1 – Pointing Laser Toward Aircraft (SABLE)
2 – Possession of Burglary Tools
3 – Burglary/Breaking and Entering (B&E)
1 – Carrying a Concealed Weapon
12 – Narcotics Related
2 – Resisting Arrest/Assault on Law Enforcement Officer
14 – Assaults
28 – Larceny/Shoplifting/Larceny by Employee
38 - Traffic Related (DWI, Driving During Revocation, Speeding)
17 – Quality of Life Violations (comm. threats; disorderly conduct, harassing phone calls, etc.)
138 - Warrants served

District 5:

WPD Officers made a variety of notable arrests in January. Both Districts, 5 & 6, had been plagued by Burglaries and B&Es of Automobiles during Dec. ’08 and Jan. ’09; however multiple persons have been arrested and numerous Burglary and B&E cases have since been cleared.

Operation "Take Control" has been initiated by day shift District 5 officers. This operation involves dedicating two to three officers, depending on daily staffing levels, to pro-active activities in both Districts 5 and 6. The operation is headed up by a Corporal. That Corporal communicates closely with the Sgt. and/or Lt. on the operation's daily focus, for example speeding complaints; license checking stations; warrant lists; foot patrols; etc.

Lt. Cochran is contemplating enlarging the District 5 model block [New Centre Dr. to S. College to Market St.] area to incorporate the residential corridor of Lullwater Dr. A review of crime statistics for this area will be completed prior to any changes being made. Officers continue to focus on the model block area.

Several instrumental arrests have been made by WPD during January that are summarized below; some of these individuals have multiple charges for crimes committed in District 5**.**

Suspect	Address	Crime	Crime Location
Walter Franks Jr.	**E. Stewart Circle**	**Firearm by Felon**	**Vineyard Lane**
Jimmy Bonds	**Pointer Lane**	**Common Law Robbery**	**100 blk S. College Rd.**
John McDonald	**Key Point Dr.**	**Common Law Robbery**	**100 blk S. College Rd.**
Jason M. Parker	**N. MacMillan Ave.**	**Burglary; Possess Burglary Tools**	**S. Kerr Ave. & Greenway Ave. (arrested 2x)**
William Poage	**Scotts Hill Loop Rd.**	**Armed Robbery; Common Law Rob. & B&E Auto**	**Various locations along Market St. corridor**

District 6:

Officers working the District 6 assignment have been keeping busy with traffic complaints, added patrols and beginning to work the new District 6 Model Block areas. Even though, the new MB plan is still in the development phase, officers are jumping ahead. With the help of special units within the Police Department, visibility has been increased in these areas, most recently the Wrightsville Ave & McMillan Ave. area of the district.

Operation "Take Control" has been a united effort and Drivers License Checking Stations on 01/26/2009 on St. Andrews Dr., resulted in 14 Citations and 3 Written Warnings. A Checking Station on Greenville Ave. only resulted in 2 Written Warnings on 01/27/2009.
One unusual arrest was made by District 6 Officers in January which is summarized below. According to statistics for January 2009, violent crimes are down, however Larcenies are up. Some of the thefts have been contributed to teenagers according to information being received.

Suspect	Address	Crime	Crime Location
Nicholas L. Wheeler	**Park Ave.**	**Point Laser Towards Aircraft**	**Park Ave.**

For those of you that would like to view or make reflective comments on behalf of Officer Richard Matthews, may visit the below website and click on the "reflections" link on the left side of the page!

http://www.odmp.org/officer/19770-police-officer-richard-matthews

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