

SIGNAL



Volume 3, Issue 2 Summer 2009

The quarterly information publication of the Tampa Police Department



TPD's Focus on Four Plan

INSIDE:

- Super Bowl Wrap Up
- Controlling the "Spine" in DII
- Making the Connection with 911
- Police Memorial



Message from the Mayor

Tampa is truly a safer city because of the job you do each day. Your level of commitment over the past six years is both impressive and appreciated. Together, we have made progress in our city and your on-going commitment continues to make Tampa a better place to live.

Your hard work in 2008 has produced an additional reduction in the number of crimes taking place in our community. While many communities across the nation struggle with rising crime rates, Tampa continues to lead the way with an unprecedented level of crime reduction. Your effort has reduced crime 46 percent, translating to fewer victims in our city – our most valuable statistic.

Under the leadership of Chief Hogue, the department has worked to improve public safety through progressive training and practices, a strong work ethic and an unyielding determination to bring the crime down in our city.

Thank you for your hard work and the partnerships that you have developed with our citizens that improve the day-to-day quality of life in our city.

It is an honor to work with you.

Sincerely,

Pam Iorio

★
"Your effort has reduced crime 46 percent, translating to fewer victims in our city – our most valuable statistic."
★



Message from the Chief

Over the past six years of Mayor Iorio's administration, and the men and women of the Tampa Police Department have been dedicated to our mission of reducing crime and improving the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with our community. Faced with a daunting crime rate in 2003, our police force rose to the challenge by finding new ways to fight old crime problems.

This edition of the Signal 14 contains a summary of our new approach to policing. It's called the Focus On Four Plan. This plan, along with unwavering commitment from our officers, achieved an unprecedented 46% reduction in crime.

Tampa is home to a thriving multicultural community. A low crime rate and a sense of safety are some of the most basic attributes of a successful and vibrant city. "Every time an officer tracks down a suspect or helps someone in need, they are also helping to improve the quality of life in our community." For this, I am grateful to every member of the Tampa Police Department.

It is my honor and privilege to serve at your side and to be a part of the incredible success you have achieved.

Chief Steve Hogue

★
"Every time an officer tracks down a suspect or helps someone in need, they are also helping to improve the quality of life in our community."
★

© Mike Simpson

The Mission of the Tampa Police Department is to Reduce Crime and Enhance the Quality of Life Through a Cooperative Partnership with all Citizens.



Super Bowl Wrap Up

— By Laura McElroy

After two years of planning and preparations, Super Bowl XLIII is in the history books as one of the largest and most successful events ever to take place in the City of Tampa! A record number of eyes were on Tampa as 150 million viewers tuned in for the game. They saw more than a great game; they also got a taste of our city and all it has to offer!

We owe a big thank you to the Incident Commander, Major John Bennett for his attention to details and holistic planning that made it a safe and smooth event. His partnering with other local, state and federal agencies also helped ensure our success. Tampa has earned a spot on the map of best practices across the country for major events. The National Football League and the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee gave high accolades to our city for hosting the big game so well. Major Bennett was able to execute the extensive security plan for almost half of what was budgeted for law enforcement. That's 12 percent of what was spent by local departments at the last two Super Bowls. This translates into a large economic benefit to the Tampa Bay region, especially during these difficult economic times. But you don't have to hear it from us, there were plenty of citizens

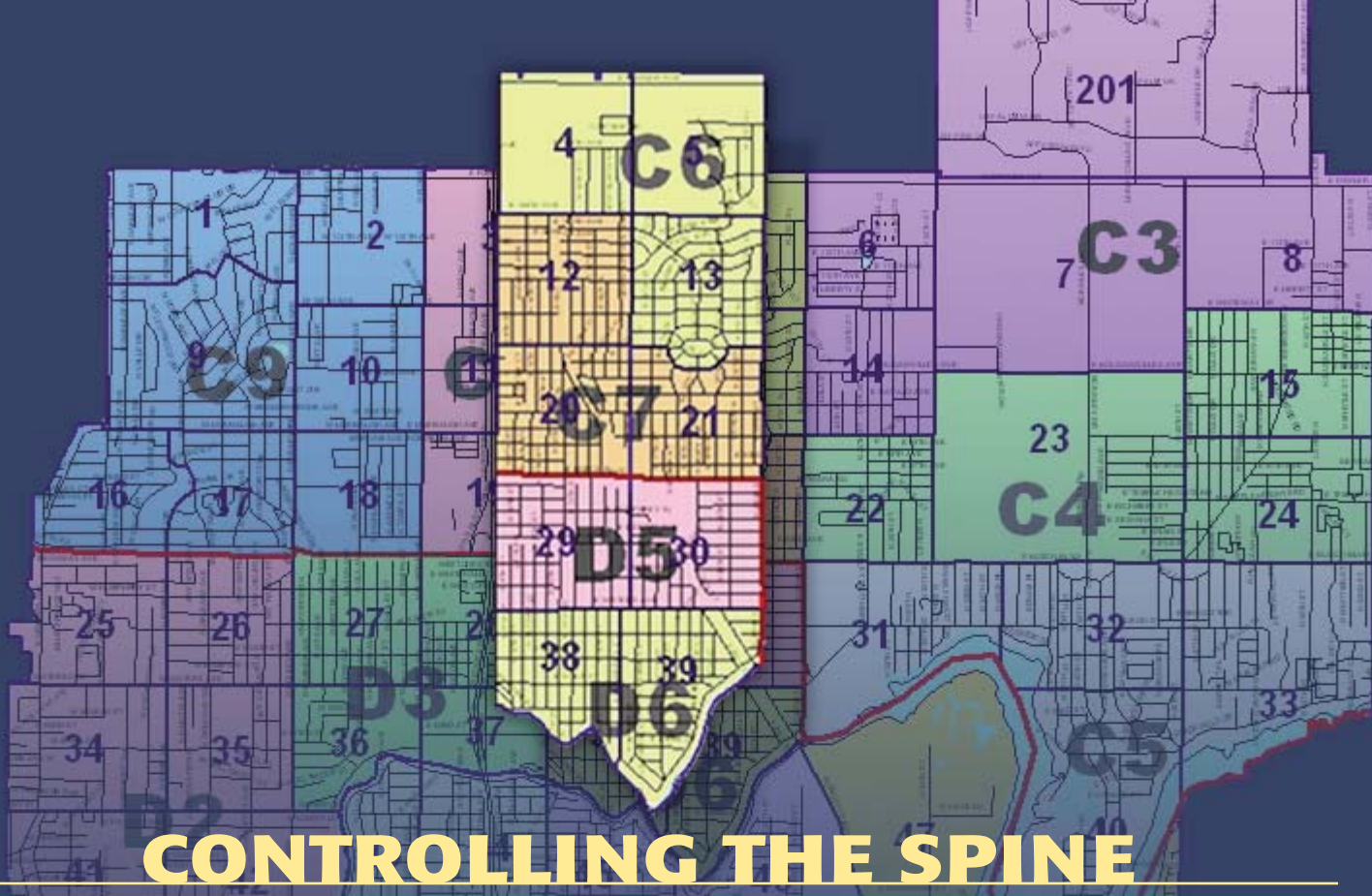
and visitors who were singing our praises!

Much of the groundwork for a successful Super Bowl was laid long before Tampa won the bid in 2005. It really started with the creation of TPD's Special Incident Management Unit known as SIMU. This post 9/11 unit combines special event planning with emergency management to better prepare, prevent, respond and recover from an unexpected emergency, whether natural or man-made. SIMU has planned hundreds of events and prepared for a handful of storms that threatened our area since its inception in 2002.

The Tampa Police Department did not have to purchase any technology to support the Super Bowl security plan because it was already in place through the Urban Area Security Initiative known as UASI. Assistant Chief Jane Castor ensured all federal funds were used to purchase equipment and technology

that could be utilized for any emergency or a large scale event such as the Super Bowl. That philosophy literally paid off for the big game. All local, state and federal agencies shared information during the planning and execution of the security plan through UASI funded technologies.

Tampa Police Officers and employees should be proud that they helped pull off one of the greatest sporting events in the history of the nation. They also continued to help fulfill the department's mission to reduce crime. With more than 100,000 visitors in town during the game, January 2009's crime rate actually dropped 8% from January 2008, Tampa scores again!



CONTROLLING THE SPINE

— By Major John Bennett

When we look at our resources and subsequent deployments, we have to sometimes micro-analyze our field data to determine the best risk for the best return of our efforts. When we did this in District II over the summer, we noticed everyone was working hard on the street and with latent investigations, but our community wasn't getting the same return on this labor as we have seen in the other communities. One set of numbers was indicating that District II was housing almost 48% of all offenders arrested in 2008.

Another thing that stood out clearly in the data was that 10 contiguous grids were hosting approximately two-thirds of the big four offenses for all of District II. Considering District II has 100 grids, 36 in New Tampa and the remaining from Fowler south, 10 percent of the grids were causing us the most headaches. These 10 grids are split, with six in Sector C and four in Sector D. These areas also had the most blight and were wrapped into the boundaries of Nebraska Ave. to the west, the Hillsborough River to the south, N. 22nd Street to the east and E. Fowler to the north. University Park and Sulphur Springs were the predominant neighborhoods.

We knew from this that we had to do several things for the affected communities. We had to first communicate internally and externally, next we had to design a C.O.P. deployment, and finally we had to fill the team with officers, supervisors and managerial staff that had the right vision. We also had to

WITH
BACKBONE

do this in conjunction with the shift-bid process. Needless to say, the communication process worked well with the community and the P.B.A. as they both saw the need – not only to reduce crime, but also to improve officer safety. Staff also was in full support, as District I and District III also gave up personnel slots to support the plan, and Chief Hogue and Chief Castor gave us the green light to proceed.

While it is early into the deployment as of this article and we haven't had the real test of the spring and summer seasons of crime – the first full month of the deployment had yielded some incredible results for our communities. These 10 grids in one month as compared to February 2008 have shown a reduction in part one offenses of a collective decrease of 53.9%, and of that number 43.6% was a reduction of the big four offenses of robbery, burglary, auto theft, and B&E Auto. This "controlling the spine" also allowed all of District II to have the largest one-month reduction of 43%.

We have a lot more of 2009 to get through, but the ultimate goal is not only to allow the spine to be controlled, but a philosophy that many of the spine offenders venture off into the other districts to commit their crime. So, in theory what helps this community may actually help the other zones, districts and surrounding communities as well. Our plan is to continue a holistic C.O.P. deployment with bike patrols, quality of life, and most importantly a focus on part one crimes starting with the big fours.



TPD's ADVANCED FIRST RESPONDERS

By Cpl. Jared Douds

Packing bullet holes with gauze, wrenching down on tourniquets and dragging injured officers to safety through a maze of hallways.

Just another day at HCC's recent Tactical Medic Response Course. The intensive, 2-day class focused on the rapid assessment and emergency care of victims during a "mass casualty" event. It was designed for officers responding in the aftermath of an active shooter, terrorist or similar incident. The skills taught, however, could easily apply to common events like multiple-victim traffic crashes.

Seven Tampa Police Officers attended the course taught by Todd Burke. A former Law Enforcement Officer,

Firefighter and Tac Medic, Burke used his 25 years of experience to teach triage protocols, use of trauma supplies and victim rescues.



The class ended with a full "mass casualty" scenario involving over 25 role players. The "actors" (mostly drama students from HCC) were decked out in full make-up to simulate a variety of serious injuries. Both the role-players and the attending Officers commented on how "real" the training was portrayed.

Catching the "bad guy" is often the main focus in law enforcement, and for good reason. We can never forget, though, that our first priority is to protect life.

Police Explorer Inspires Bill

By Andrea Davis

While riding with Corporal Danny Hernandez on Christmas Eve 2007, Tampa Police Explorer Raidel Martinez was put to the test. They were responding to a burglary call when the burglary suspect came running out of the house hitting, biting and grabbing the officer's gun belt.

As they were fighting on the ground, Raidel, who was just 16 at the time, jumped into action. He called for back up before joining the scuffle. The felon was able to grab Corporal Hernandez's baton and smack Raidel in the face. Once the brutal fight was over and the suspect was in custody, it was time to determine the appropriate charges. They looked at the statutes over and over and the only charge that seemed to apply to Raidel was child abuse. That didn't seem appropri-

ate for someone who was out on the street in an Explorer capacity. This incident inspired Florida House Bill 577. If successful, Police Explorers on patrol will be protected under the Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer Statute, a 3rd degree felony. Police Explorers provide a valuable service to the community while also learning the basics of law enforcement practices. Many of our young men and women of the post are future officers who will serve our city.

Explorer Raidel Martinez with Officer Rob Tungate and Governor Charlie Crist.





Photo by Tammie Bishop

Making The Connection

By Capt. Hugh Miller

The Communication's Bureau is "putting a face" on dispatchers by introducing them to the people in the community.

While supervisors have always attended regular neighborhood watch meetings, I was surprised to hear that many residents had no idea who answered their 911 calls, why the telecommunicator asked so many types of questions, why we called them back when a call was dropped or how a police officer knew to contact them when an open line existed without conversation. It was time to put the face on the telecommunicator and get to know the people who call Tampa home better and take customer

service to the next level.

Communications supervisors started a list of volunteers who were interested in reaching out to the community. A schedule was created sending 12 communication technicians and supervisors to 11 community and neighborhood watch meetings. They quickly become the focus of attention for the groups.

We have found that each group has benefited from the information and the "face" provided. For the operations districts in particular, the casual interaction with telecommunicators in all of

your neighborhoods should provide a shorter timeline between first contact and the dispatch of officers to your target crimes. The interaction also includes how to resolve dissatisfaction before it becomes a complaint.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with any Neighborhood Watch Group, community association or business association. For more information call, (813) 231-6161.





"Let them never be forgotten."

Remember Our Fallen Heroes

By Andrea Davis

As the anniversary of the deaths of Detective Randy Bell and Ricky Childers approaches, we are reminded how precious life can be. Tampa Bay will never forget May 19, 1998. While they were taken too soon from the police department family and the community, we can look back at their lives and remember the difference they made each and every day in Tampa. While those who knew these homicide detectives can't see, hear or talk to them every day, they have their memories close to their hearts.

Randy Bell

July 14, 1953 – May 19, 1998

Ricky Childers

February 26, 1952 – May 19, 1998

A memorial dedicated to Detective Ricky Childers was unveiled on November 19th at the Ybor Campus of Hillsborough Community College. Plant City residents raised the money for the memorial. Detective Childers was born and raised in Plant City.

Remember Detectives Bell, Childers and the other 24 Tampa Police Officers.

**Police Memorial Ceremony
May 6, 2009 at 10 a.m.
in front of Tampa
Police Headquarters**



Photo by Tammie Bishop



Detectives + Street Anti-Crime = SAC-tectives

— By Capt. John Newman

As the police department continues to look for new and innovative ways to lower the crime rate, every now and again it pays to take a fresh look at old practices or assumptions. Back in August of 2008, the burglary rate in District II was climbing. The detectives and Street Anti-Crime (SAC) units were busy and the patrol officers were conducting good, solid investigations. So what else could we do? A closer examination revealed a disconnect of sorts from the time a crime was reported to when actionable, latent efforts were initiated.

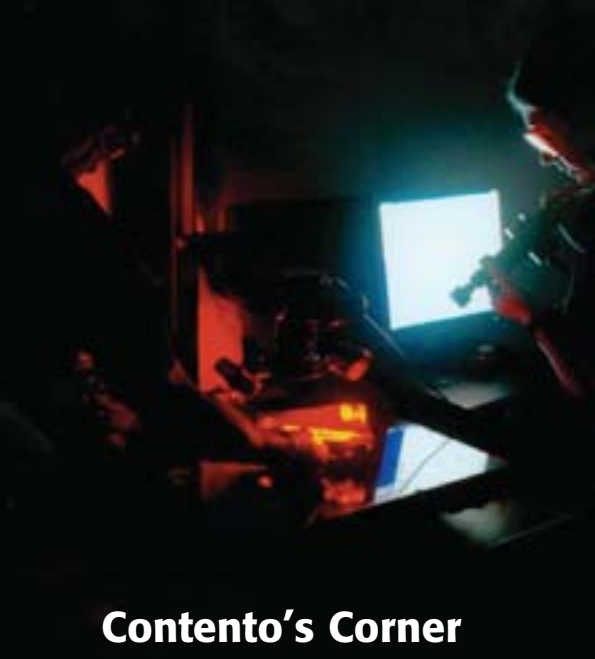
In order to bridge this period when the crime was stuck in some digital queue to when it could be worked on, District II's management team looked to marry the SAC officer and a detective based on specific geographic areas. Now this may seem like common sense, and something that may be considered a routine practice, but it quickly became obvious that SAC and detectives each had their own style and independent view of dealing with the same bad guys. More often than not, SAC would look for basic crime

patterns, while detectives were working cases. Neither way produced the sense of urgency that was required to solve crimes.

Who was recently released from jail? What data was available on a street check report? Which juvenile was awaiting sanctions on similar cases? And what bad guy or associate was living in the area of the crime? All of these questions and more, needed to be addressed while the case was still "warm" and the best people to gather this information were the SAC officers. Now, when a crime occurs, the detective turns to the SAC officer for the criminal intelligence in that area. This intelligence is accurate and actionable. To reinforce this SAC-tective working relationship, weekly meetings put the parties together to discuss the progress of investigations and share in the real-time information of bad guys that may victimize the citizens of District II. The dynamic has had extraordinary results as the crime rate continues to drop and more importantly, less people are victimized.



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Contento's Corner

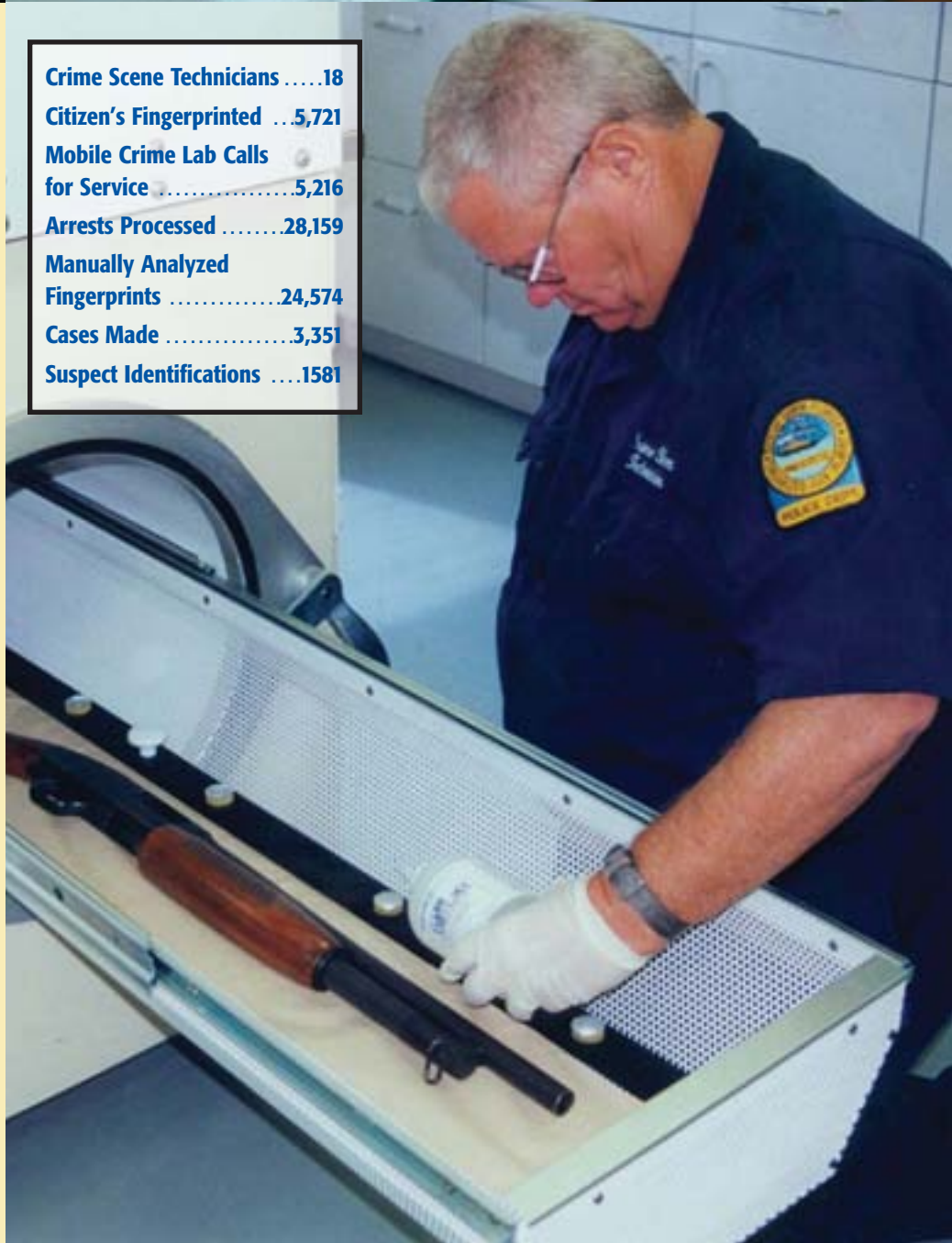
By Jim Contento

The Forensic Investigations Unit is helping out with the department's crime reduction efforts. The entire unit has taken a pro-active approach to processing scenes and is using all available technology to assist in that endeavor. As these professional technicians process more crime scenes, more fingerprints are obtained for latent evaluation. The unit has recently been upgraded with the new FALCON palm print system, which allows full and partial palm prints to be entered into Automated Fingerprint Identification System. As this database grows, so will our ability to identify more suspects through all parts of their fingerprints.

All of our personnel take great pride in knowing that they were a part of solving a crime in our community. As always, all of our technicians appreciate the safety and security they get from having a police officer remain at the crime scene with them. They need the support of our officers at a crime scene not only in the investigative portion, but also during the processing phase, as well as for site security. Their job is made easier and better results are obtained when an officer puts up the crime scene tape and prevents their scene from being contaminated.

There can only be one conclusion. There is no doubt that law enforcement and forensics working together at crime scenes will lead to more arrests and a safer city.

Crime Scene Technicians	18
Citizen's Fingerprinted ..	5,721
Mobile Crime Lab Calls for Service	5,216
Arrests Processed	28,159
Manually Analyzed Fingerprints	24,574
Cases Made	3,351
Suspect Identifications	1581



Missing Children's Day Ceremony, October 27, 2008



With best wishes

TPD K-9's Visit Governor on Missing Children's Day

In October, Major Sophie Teague and her K-9 partner Snoopy (far right) and Sgt. Eric Ward and his K-9 partner Mattie (far left) traveled to Tallahassee for Missing Children's Day. Governor Charlie Crist met officers and the K-9s who are on the front lines when there's a missing child report. Four-year-old Snoopy, a media veteran, taught young Mattie how to deal with all of the cameras – just look away and they won't see you.

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Does not imply city endorsement.

Officer Ryan Jurjevich Receives Medal Of Heroism Award



Officer Ryan Jurjevich received the prestigious Medal of Heroism Award for saving a man's life. Ten Florida police officers and one firefighter receive this award each year for putting themselves in harms way to save a life. Governor Charlie Crist presented Officer Jurjevich the award for jumping into the frigid waters off the Howard Franklin Bridge to save a man who was trying to kill himself.

Promotions

On February 22, 2009, the Tampa Police Department promoted 15 of it's finest.

Lieutenant Steve Lee

Lieutenant Steve Lee is an 18-year veteran who has served in narcotics for the past 10 years. He's also served as a Field Training Officer, the Street Anti-Crime Unit (SAC) and in Street Patrol.



Sergeants

Sergeants Jerry Patrick, Patrick Crate and Susan Bridges-Preyer



Detectives

Back Row:

Det. Desiree Ayo,
Det. Roderick Glyder,
Det. Jeff Diokas,
Cpl. Mike Flynn,
Det. Samuel Rojka,
Det. Brian Bishop,
Det. Brian Trlak

Front Row

Cpl. Kevin Doan,
Det. Mike Ruiz,
Det. Melinda Rewis,
Det. Deanna Mullins



Photo by Tammie Bishop

The Big Four

Over the past six years of Mayor lorio's administration, the men and women of the Tampa Police Department have been dedicated to our mission of reducing crime and improving the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with our community. Faced with a daunting crime rate in 2003, our police force rose to the challenge by finding new ways to fight old crime problems. This edition of the Signal

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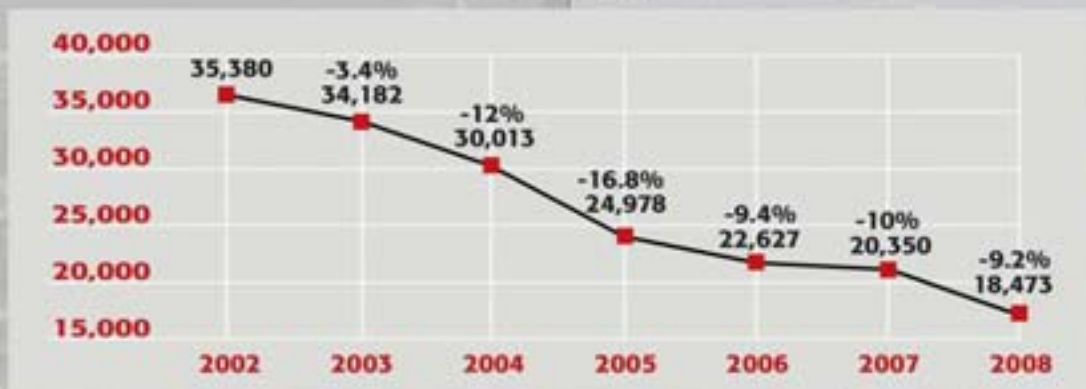
Steve Hogue
Chief Steve Hogue

**CRIME DOWN
-46%**

<h2 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">1</h2> <p>BURGLARY 2003: 6,390 2008: 4,098 - 35.8%</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</h2> <p>ROBBERY 2003: 1,769 2008: 1,056 - 40.3%</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h2> <p>AUTO BURGLARY 2003: 6,848 2008: 2,953 - 56.8%</p>	<h2 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h2> <p>AUTO THEFT 2003: 5,344 2008: 1,752 - 67.2%</p>
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**The Tampa Police Department has far exceeded state and national averages of reducing crime for the sixth consecutive year.
2002 - 2008**



⊕ **Redistribution of Tactical Resources**

The administration launched a new, proactive approach to policing to improve upon the more traditional concept of responding to 911 calls. Managers and officers were responsible for tracking the crimes in their area and then devising daily attack plans to solve those crimes and prevent future offenses. To ensure this new philosophy was achievable, the city was divided into three smaller, more manageable geographic districts. The majors who commanded these districts were provided specialized resources and the latitude to deploy them as they deemed necessary. The goal was to attack emerging crime patterns and trends that were unique to each geographic area.

⊕ **Intelligence Led Policing**

Tracking offenses as they occurred became a critical element of the new crime reducing tactics. To perform this tracking, each district was assigned a crime analyst to provide daily intelligence. They created a daily report that identified when particular crimes were occurring, how and where the crimes were being committed, and who the likely offenders were. This information allowed for a much more efficient and effective deployment of crime fighting resources.

⊕ **Proactive and Preventative Policing Initiatives**

Each officer was rewarded for displaying initiative that embraced the Tampa Police Department's annual crime reduction goals. These goals were distributed department-wide to ensure each officer developed a vested interest in reaching them. The department then launched a series of proactive initiatives that focused on the Big Four. Each of these operations indirectly reduced violent offenses because criminals who commit a series of burglaries may be more likely to commit an aggravated assault or worse.

⊕ **Partnering with Community**

A department-wide philosophy of Community Oriented Policing permeated the organization. Proactive communication with community leaders and cooperative partnership with neighborhoods has also helped reduce crime and improved the quality of life. Ironically, most of the "new" proactive techniques were implementation of long established and recognized methods of police work that were bundled into a new, more comprehensive approach. It was all designed to address the unique crime issues in Tampa.

The executive staff understood it would have to take the steps explained below to successfully implement the Focus on Four Plan.

Buy-In:

Lack of follow through causes many good plans to fade away. To solicit buy-in from the department and the community, the staff displayed a consistent and unwavering commitment to the Focus On Four Plan. The plan became our way of life and was communicated on a daily basis, from roll calls to community forums. Every member of the department understood how their job performance would impact the crime rate.

Simplify the Mission:

The mission statement needed to be simple enough for the entire department and community to understand, internalize and embrace. As a result, a simple and direct mission statement was developed focusing on crime reduction. This mission statement became engrained in every aspect of our department and developed into our guiding principle. It established measurable crime reduction as the basic tenant of the administration. "The mission of the Tampa Police Department is to reduce crime and improve the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with all citizens."

Police-Initiated Activity:

As the Focus On Four Plan was implemented, it became obvious that officers would still need to handle the large number of calls for service while initiating crime reducing activities. Positive recognition for increased proactive patrols became the standard. Officers responded by increasing proactive police calls by 89.8% over the past six years, while calls for service from the public decreased 12%.

Calls For Service:

2003
Dispatched:251,609
Proactive
Police Calls:205,891
TOTAL 2003: 457,500

2008
Dispatched:222,523
Proactive
Police Calls:390,791
TOTAL 2008: 613,314

Accountability:

Every member of the Tampa Police Department was held accountable on a variety of levels. Performance measures were put into place for supervisors and officers, and were relentlessly followed up on. There were and continue to be no exceptions when it comes to being accountable for reducing crime, whether the position be that of chief of police, crime scene investigator or records custodian.

Year-Round Community Outreach

By Janelle McGregor

In 1982, a rookie officer by the name of Gerald H. Honeywell put on his light blue uniform and set out to protect Tampa citizens. He spent seven years working crime-ridden beats where police were seen as enemies rather than guardians. Six years later, the department realized it needed to establish a rapport with the African-American community. That is when the Tampa Police Department organized its Black History Committee and it began partnering with leaders in the African-American community to form a bond with the residents.

Over the past 21 years, the committee has worked tirelessly to fulfill its vision of bridging the gap between law enforcement and citizens. During Black History Month, the committee recognizes citizens and businesses that were instrumental in improving police-citizen relationships. Now, as the new Black History Committee Chairperson, Major Gerald Honeywell is enhancing the 21-year-old vision by evolving the annual event into a year-round outreach to further strengthen the partnership that was started with the community.

Whether it is mentoring at-risk students in schools or meeting with local



Photo by Bryan Jensen

Major Gerald Honeywell and community member David Denson tour a revitalized area in East Tampa. Major Gerald Honeywell plays a major role in improving the community.

activists about enforcement concerns, Major Honeywell makes it a priority to keep the line of communication open between residents and police on a daily basis. He is encouraging other committee members to do the same to ensure the department has a positive presence in the community throughout the year.

Major Honeywell's commitment to increasing positive police interaction with citizens was recently recognized

when the Mount Pleasant Standard-Based Middle School presented him with the Black Diamond Award. It is an annual award that recognizes a law enforcement officer who is making improvements in the community. The Major looks forward to expanding the partnership the police department has with Tampa citizens and receiving feedback from the residents he vowed to serve and protect 26 years ago.

From Hours to Minutes

By Janelle McGregor

When the mother-in-law of retired police officer Judy Cashwell wondered off from her home in May 2008, Tampa Police Officers spent six hours trying to find her. By the time they found the 83-year-old woman who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, it was too late. She was overwhelmed by the heat and died. Now, the Tampa Police Department is rolling out a new program geared at finding children and adults with mental disabilities in minutes instead of hours. It's called Project Lifesaver. A person with a history of wandering off wears an electronic transmitting device around their wrist or ankle that continuously emits a signal. Officers detect the transmitter's signal using a hand-held radio receiver



MPO Gene King listens for a signal using the radio receiver.

which makes finding a lost person much faster. The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of South Florida donated two electronic radio signal receivers for TPD officers to conduct Project Lifesaver search and rescue efforts.

Officers assigned to the K-9 Unit, Air Service and Training attended a

three-day school to practice tracking down the transmitters signal on foot and in the air using the receivers. During one part of the training, officers formed search teams and were given five minutes to successfully find three out of five transmitters hidden in various areas. The rescue team completed their mission and became certified electron search specialists.

Using Project Lifesaver will not only cut down on the amount of time it takes to return a loved one home safely, but it will also drastically reduce the costs of finding missing children and adults. The department is still training officers with the new technology and hopes to launch the program by the end of the year.

Photo by Bryan Jensen



Citizen of the Year **Douglas Rand and Archie Thomas**

Douglas Rand and Archie Thomas selflessly placed themselves in the line of danger to save an 18-year police veteran. Master Patrol Officer Tara Edwards was driving to work when an intoxicated driver plowed into her police cruiser. She suffered a broken wrist, nose, leg and kneecap and was unable to get out of the cruiser on her own. Douglas Rand and Archie Thomas witnessed the head on collision and immediately ran to aid the severely injured officer. They pried open the door on the mangled patrol car and quickly carried Officer Edwards to safety. Minutes after the duo lifted Officer Edwards out of the smoky cruiser, it exploded into flames. Douglas Rand and Archie Thomas were truly at the right place at the right time.



Business of the Year **Target**

During difficult economic times, the Tampa Police Department relies more heavily on strong business partners like Target. Both the Walter's Crossing and Gandy Boulevard Target stores have worked closely in 2008 with the department's efforts to prevent crime. Both stores took part in the department's holiday operations and anti shoplifting initiatives. Their "Target Investigators", who focus on organized retail crime, worked with Tampa Police Officers to arrest a group of suspects and recover over \$15,000 in merchandise.

The Tampa Police Department also felt the benefits of the national "Target & Blue" grant program last year. The corporation gave \$1,000 to District One to buy police vests for a Street Anti Crime squad. Target served as the national co-sponsor of National Night Out while the local stores sponsored neighborhoods. Target volunteers brought door prizes and food to the neighborhood so they could connect with the community they serve. Congratulations to Target for earning the Tampa Police Department's 2009 Business Partner of the Year Award.



2008 Bell/Childers Memorial Award **Jay Pruner**

Jay Pruner has worked closely with law enforcement during his 22-year career as an assistant state attorney. He has become a true champion for the Tampa Police Department as the Chief of the Major Crimes Division. He has worked side by side with the Homicide Squad going to countless homicide scenes – always willing to respond in the middle of the night, on weekends and holidays.

Jay's hard work has led to convictions in several cases involving Tampa Police Officers injured or killed in the line of duty. The suspect who tried to kill Officers Mike Vigil and Kevin Howell is serving a life sentence. He also convicted Gutierrez for the homicide of Officer Lois Marrero.

However, one of Jay's most memorable trials involved a suspect who shot a couple as they slept in their home. Jay worked closely for many months with his good friend, Detective Ricky Childers. He never imagined it would be the last trial Detective Childers would ever work.



**Community Orientated Officer of the Year
Officer Dusty Rhodes**

Improving the quality of life for North Boulevard Homes residents is Officer Dusty Rhodes mission. He's been working hard in that neighborhood for three years and has made an impact on crime reduction. Just in the past year alone, Officer Rhodes has arrested 270 criminals, written 721 traffic citations and initiated nearly 2,000 calls for service. Officer Rhodes has developed a rapport with housing management and openly communicates with them on a routine basis. He frequently attends neighborhood meetings and is always available to the residents as well. Officer Rhodes was recently recognized for obtaining information that helped solve a homicide. He has a unique blend of a strong work ethic and a caring attitude to work with willing residents to improve the area.



**CVAP Volunteer of the Year
Irene Miller**

For 42 years, Irene Miller has been a part of the Tampa Police Department family. After she retired from the department in 1992, she came back in 1999 as a volunteer. Since then Irene has donated more than 2800 hours to assisting police. She spent a countless amount of those hours making sure the Police Museum was running smoothly. In 2008, Irene contributed over 318 hours of her time to assist with the daily operations in the museum. She always comes to work with a very pleasant attitude and will not hesitate to share her memories about TPD with those she comes in contact with. When Irene is not holding the Police Museum together, she can be spotted volunteering at her church or feeding the less fortunate. During these hard economic times, volunteers like Irene are truly an asset to any organization.



**Reserve Officer of the Year
David J. Miller**

In the one year David Miller has served the City of Tampa as a reserve officer, he has set a new standard for his peers and earned the respect of many veteran Tampa Police Officers. He far exceeded the required number of volunteer hours with a total of 600 for the year. Special event commanders could always count on Reserve Officer Miller to work city co-sponsored events.

Reserve Officer Miller has also made a difference while riding with patrol. One evening while conducting a traffic stop, he heard nearby cries for help. A short distance away, he spotted a suspect swinging a samurai sword at a victim. When the suspect saw Reserve Officer Miller, he fled on foot to a waiting car. Reserve Officer Miller ran after the armed suspect and managed to remove him from the vehicle and take him into custody. He then rendered aid to the victim who suffered severe injuries to his left arm until Fire Rescue arrived.



Major David Fairbanks Memorial Award Officer Selser Pickett

Officer Selser Pickett is a six-year officer of the Tampa Police Department who quickly earned a reputation as a “go to” person when a suspect needs to be identified. For over the past four years, he has been assigned to the District One Quick Uniform Attack on Drugs (QUAD) Squad where he investigates and assists with dismantling street level narcotic operations.

Officer Pickett prides himself in making the best possible case for prosecution and he goes to great lengths to achieve this. During 2008, Officer Pickett made 149 narcotic arrests and organized and participated in 30 buy-bust drug operations. One of the operations he spearheaded yielded over a half-kilogram of crack cocaine. Officer Pickett aggressively goes after the habitual drug dealers in his area. This year, he worked with the DEA on three cases, two of which resulted in federal convictions.



2008 Officer of the Year Detective Ronald Phifer

Tracking juvenile offenders has been a big part of Tampa’s 46% crime reduction over the past six years. Officers check on juveniles who are on probation to ensure that they are complying with the terms of their probation. District Three Detective Ronald Phifer has been coordinating the juvenile offender program for nearly two years. He introduced protocols that increased the juvenile checks and that is one of the main reasons crime is down double digits in District Three. Detective Phifer’s daily contact with patrol squads, the State Attorney’s Office and the Juvenile Justice System played a huge part in ensuring the program’s success. Other department districts have adopted the program because of District Three’s success. In October 2008, Detective Phifer was officially designated as the Juvenile Offender Program Coordinator for the department. Because of the juvenile program’s success, the department implemented an adult repeat offender program which Detective Phifer coordinates. Detective Phifer’s leadership has been an integral part of the department’s successful effort to reduce crime through the monitoring of repeat offenders.



2008 Employee of the Year Susan Delage

Latent Fingerprint Specialist Susan Delage is a tenured and experienced member of the Tampa Police Department’s Forensic Investigations Unit. Because of her extensive skills and experience level, she is one of the most sought after and in demand examiners. In the Forensic Unit, Susan is a leader and her co-workers always go to her for guidance on difficult cases. Recently when a detective arrested three juveniles in an armed burglary case and a fourth suspect was on the loose, the team called in Susan because of the difficulty level. Within two hours, she identified the serial burglar. On more than one occasion, she has been called into work from home to complete an analysis on fingerprints in serious crime pattern cases that directly affect the department and its crime rate. She does this without complaint and with a dedication to duty that is admired by co-workers and supervisors alike.

Employee Of The Month



October 2008
George Davila

PSO George Davila tracks and attacks the crime trends in his area! His high level of motivation was obvious when he spotted a stolen car while patrolling his area. He recognized it from several BOLOs for a 2002 Lexus. PSO Davila had no doubt the car he spotted cruising a Sulphur Springs was the one police were searching for. He immediately called for backup, followed the car until DII SAC squad and Air Service started tracking the vehicle. Four suspects eventually bailed out of the car. With the help of K-9, officers caught two of the suspects.

Public Service Officers routinely patrol Tampa's streets answering dispatched calls such as minor traffic accidents and delayed burglaries. But PSO George Davila found more than his typical call for service on that recent patrol. He has taken the department's crime fighting mission seriously and is a critical member of the crime fighting team.

Officer Of The Month



October 2008
Master Patrol Officer
Michael Rivera

With a bank robber trying to flee quickly from downtown, Master Patrol Officer Mike Rivera knew he had only a short window to catch the bad guy before he left the area. His determination and sharp investigative skills led him straight to the suspect and on-board a Hart Line bus.

In mid August, MPO Rivera and squad 307 swarmed the downtown area to locate a male bank robber. After 15 minutes passed without them finding the suspect, and Rivera started thinking about where the robber could have gone. He knew the suspect traveled towards the Marion Street bus mall and it would only take approximately 15 minutes to get there on foot. He scoured the area looking for a suspect that resembled the description in the BOLO. As he neared the bus terminal, Rivera noticed a suspicious man board one of the buses in a hurry. Rivera blocked the bus's path with his patrol car and hopped onboard. The items Rivera saw the man carrying were described in the BOLO so Rivera asked the man what was in the bag. The man stated he just withdrew money from the bank and opened the bag revealing stacks of currency. It turned out the man was indeed the Florida Bank robber and all the money was recovered. Rivera's persistence kept a bank robber from getting away.

Employee Of The Month



November 2008
Linda Giguere

When it comes to efficiency, Records Supervisor Linda Giguere sets the standard. Her goal to make the section a more effective workplace goes hand in hand with the department's mission of providing superior customer service to the public and other agencies.

Linda immediately recognized the challenges ahead of her once she took on the Police Records Supervisor position. She quickly gathered the tools and skills she needed to begin making improvements. Part of Linda's plan was to establish an automated phone answering system which would allow callers to get answers to frequently asked questions and general information. This new system also gave employees the ability to focus on other tasks and be more attentive to walk-up customers.

Several in-house changes that Linda managed also resulted in better service to the public. Recently, she adjusted employee work hours to enhance workplace productivity. She played a key role in redesigning the cashier transmittal process which tracks cash register transactions. The new system reduced the time spent on the reconciliation report by one hour each day.

Whether it is streamlining paperwork or quality checking reports, Linda is always looking for new and improved ways to enhance customer service in the Records Section. She is clearly a strong team player and her willingness to overcome challenges in the department is highly admirable.

Officer Of The Month



November 2008
Officer Steven Barber

The District II Woodland Terrace citizens praise Officer Steven Barber on a regular basis for his quick actions addressing their concerns. Many of the neighborhood watch leaders have his cell phone numbers and call him directly. He's even responded to their concerns on his day off.

Even though his partnership with the community is a top priority, crime fighting is still his main concern. Officer Barber pays attention to crime trends and even crimes in other districts. While backing up another officer on a traffic stop, he saw a Chrysler Sebring convertible pass him and he remembered a vehicle matching that description which was used in a violent crime in District III. He communicated with Air-Service to track the vehicle and as a result, the suspects were arrested.

Another example of Officer Barber's tactics addressing crime is after a robbery where the suspects were targeted outside their business at 4 a.m. He began circulating the area with other officers and observed a vehicle leaving the area. When he stopped the car for an expired tag, he determined the driver was a habitual traffic offender. After arresting the driver, he searched the car and found the gun and clothing worn during the robbery hidden under the spare tire in the trunk.

Employee Of The Month



December 2008
Wallace Nelson

Wallace Nelson may be employed as a Public Service Officer (PSO), but he did the work of a law enforcement officer when he helped catch an armed burglar and protected a family in danger. He showed no concern for his own safety when he heard a burglary in progress call over the radio. Wallace was sitting in his City vehicle when he heard officers were on a foot pursuit with a burglary suspect. He then noticed the fleeing suspect running straight towards his car. He quickly jumped out to stop him. Wallace chased the burglar over a fence and through a backyard. In an attempt to lose Wallace and the officers, the man hid in a home occupied by a woman and her children. While the suspect signaled for the woman to be quiet, Wallace put his fears aside and suddenly entered the home and continued to chase the burglar. As the suspect headed for the front door, Wallace grabbed him in a bear hug and they both landed in the yard. Wallace held the suspect until officers arrived and they took him into custody.

Wallace knew his quick action put a burglar in police custody, but he did not know the suspect he was chasing was armed with a knife and a loaded revolver. PSO Wallace Nelson acted bravely and selflessly to help protect the community.

Officer Of The Month



December 2008
Officer Deanna Mullins

While helping a wheelchair bound citizen get safely home, MPO Deanna Mullins was injured during a crash in 2006. She suffered severe injuries after the drunk driver hit her head on. Her rehabilitation has been painful and slow, but MPO Mullins has proven over the past two years that she can take a hopeless situation and turn it into a time of optimism and new opportunity.

After spending nearly 10-months recovering from her injuries, MPO Mullins returned to work. Although she couldn't go back to the streets, she tackled her new assignment tracking the over 200 District II juvenile offenders with great enthusiasm. Tracking these juvenile offenders significantly effects Tampa's crime rate. She makes sure that the list is updated daily with the most accurate and complete information such as their curfew, charges and probation restrictions. She provides this information to the street officers who depend on the information to fight crime. As if tracking juvenile offenders wasn't enough, she recently volunteered to start tracking repeat adult offenders.

With juveniles and repeat offenders committing a large percentage of the crimes in District II, supervisors and officers rely on MPO Deanna Mullins' keen memory and knowledge to fight crime. No matter how she physically feels each day, she comes to work with a smile and focuses on what she can do rather than dwelling on her physical limitations.

Employee Of The Month



January 2009
Shannon Kessler

Shannon Kessler is an aggressive Crime Scene Technician who has a knack for helping detectives track down bad guys. After only two years in the forensics field, she has developed into a highly experienced technician who thinks outside the box to get the job done.

Shannon is a consistent leader in the area of obtaining latent fingerprints at all types of crime scenes. In November 2008, she skillfully recovered a print off of an orange tin can at a burglary scene. She took the initiative to enter the print into the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and identified a match within an hour. This significant find gave the detective a crucial investigative lead.

Fingerprinting is not the only technique Shannon uses to identify crooks. In a recent case, she used her computer skills to enhance a robbery video and convert it into still pictures of the suspect. These pictures were sent off to Crime Stoppers, and within a short amount of time the career criminal was identified and arrested.

Shannon's personal drive ensures detectives and street units that each scene will be handled in a professional manner.

Officer Of The Month



January 2009
Detective Gary Sandel

Detective Gary Sandel spent countless hours for more than a year building an intricate case against three men involved in planning and carrying out the murder of a 34 year old man. Although this was Sandel's first case as a homicide detective, he handled every aspect of the investigation like a seasoned professional. His determination to solve the murder-for-hire plot and bring closure to the family led to a first-degree murder conviction.

From the first day of the investigation, Sandel set out with great drive and perseverance to unravel the complicated case. The victim was a cooperating defendant in an ongoing drug case and was the only person able to provide testimony against his cocaine supplier. Sandel read the 500 page narcotics report numerous times to determine motives and establish potential murder suspects. He worked closely with the State Attorney's Office to track and interview over 50 witnesses and drove over a 1,000 miles to conduct some of the interviews at out of state prisons.

Sandel, then a rookie homicide detective, did not let any obstacles stand in his way of solving the murder. He sought advice from other detectives and worked hand in hand with the State Attorney's Office to present a stellar case in court. He processed and presented over 300 hours of interviews, telephone calls, photographs and documents in order to charge these criminals.

Employee Of The Month



February 2009
Carmen Agüero

Every day for the past 22 years, Carmen Agüero has contributed nothing less than exemplary work to the Tampa Police Department. Carmen, an Office Support Specialist IV, is no stranger to taking on extra assignments and assisting her fellow co-workers. Recently, when the District One secretary went on vacation, Carmen eagerly stepped up to the plate and ensured all the district's administrative needs were covered. She did this in addition to staying on top of her daily workload in the Special Support Division. This is not the first time Carmen managed the office duties for an area other than her own. She has cheerfully volunteered on many occasions to help the three districts with administrative support.

Aside from assisting the districts, Carmen continuously reaches out to lend a helping hand throughout the department. She volunteered to take over as the contact person on a daily basis for subpoena deliveries after the department downsized due to budget cuts. When the False Alarm Unit was reduced to one employee, Carmen enthusiastically offered to learn the job in order to act as a backup if needed. As a result of Carmen's superb computer skills and valuable input, the false alarm process was updated and made more efficient.

Those who know Carmen personally know she is a considerate and compassionate employee who goes above and beyond to make sure the department's needs are met.

Officer Of The Month



February 2009
Detective Brian Bridgmon

During the course of one month, Detective Brian Bridgmon successfully nabbed three career criminals responsible for nearly 60 burglaries throughout the city and county. The massive case clearance from those arrests made a significant impact on District Three's crime reduction goal for the year.

While investigating a stolen vehicle report, Detective Bridgmon skillfully identified a suspect in the case and linked him to several other crimes in the district. Bridgmon learned the burglary suspect was arrested on unrelated charges and he started further analyzing the suspect's burglary techniques. As a result of his additional research, Bridgmon was able to confront the suspect with information connecting him to more crimes than he initially discovered. The amount of evidence overwhelmed the suspect and he confessed to 55 cases and gave up the information leading to the arrest of another busy burglar.

Bridgmon's outstanding performance did not stop with that case. In the same month, he arrested another career criminal and was able to link him to five auto burglaries. All three of these criminals now face lengthy prison terms thanks to Detective Bridgmon's high work ethic and tenaciousness.

Employee Of The Month



March 2009
Janelle McGregor

Security plans for the Super Bowl were a major story every day in the two weeks prior to the game and Janelle McGregor played a critical role in making that happen. Janelle handled all the logistics and coordination with other local, state, and federal agencies involved in the security plan. The Public Information Office was tasked with leading the Joint Information Center for the Super Bowl and Janelle was actively involved in every aspect of the planning and execution of the monthly meetings and news conferences that led up to the game. She was conscientious and thorough with every aspect of her planning from the smallest detail of making sure other agency PIO's had directions to the news conferences to the larger details of helping secure locations for news events. She always worked to make sure the department was represented in the best possible light whether it was with other agencies, the media or citizens inquiring about the Super Bowl.

Janelle defines a team player! She is willing to learn new skills, take on new tasks, adjust her work hours to accommodate the demands of the office and is never without a smile. She has developed into a strong writer and you will often see her byline in the Signal 14, on news releases, in the Chief's show or in the newspaper! Congratulations on a job well done!

Officer Of The Month



March 2009
Sergeant Eric Ward

Since taking over the K-9 and Mounted Patrol unit just over a year ago, Sergeant Eric Ward has made a dramatic difference. Even though he did not have experience with K-9 or the mounted patrol, Sergeant Ward still hit the ground running. He learned a lot about animal training in a short period of time. Not only was Sergeant Ward tasked with supervising 18 officers, he insisted on having his own K-9 partner. He started training with Mattie, an 8 week-old bloodhound. Mattie and Sergeant Ward required a different type of training from the other officer/K-9 teams that he supervised, but he took on the additional training task with enthusiasm. Along with supervising and training his own dog, Sergeant Ward implemented a new tracking system to monitor the minimum requirements mandated by state standards, but he always expects more from his officers.

Sergeant Ward also served as the K-9 liaison for the Super Bowl XLIII. For the past year, he has worked with local, state and federal agencies preparing for Super Bowl security. He spent countless hours ensuring the citizens of Tampa and visitors had a safe experience. The NFL was extremely appreciative of Sergeant Ward's efforts and his commitment to "going the extra mile" to ensure the safety and maximum enjoyment by the thousands in attendance.

Retiring Officers/Civilians



Vincent Bush
Detective
22 years



Bradley House
Detective
27 years



Robert "OP" Parrish
Detective
30 years



David Rochelle
Detective
29 years

Julia Massucci
Sergeant
21 years

Linda Mitchell
Sergeant
22 years

Donna Noblitt
Detective
24 years

Terry Sacca
Master Patrol Officer
20 years

Michael Willingham
Detective
29 years

Gary Metzger
Master Patrol Officer
20 years

Edward Morera
Detective
24 years

James O'Nolan
Detective
30 years

Jaynene Terrell
Lieutenant
26 years

New TPD Officers



The Tampa Police Department would like to welcome its newest officers sworn in 1/12/09.



Front row (l-r): Michael Molasso, Edwin Lopez, Frank Noel, Melissa Turner, Usilia Emilione, Erica Nartker and Daniel DeGrace. Back row (l-r): Chief Steve Hogue, Michael Lippold, Anthony Monte, Christopher LaFramboise, Casey Gonzalez, Erik Turner, Brian Haight, William Cain and Mayor Pam Iorio.



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When The Heat Is On

By Andrea Davis

While most people are taught early on in life to run away from a burning building, Officers Mike Stout and Kris Smith rushed into a burning building one January evening. The two officers were first on the scene of the fire at an assisted living apartment complex. They knew they had to act quickly since many of the residents were elderly and unable to get out of the apartments on their own. The veteran officers went room to room kicking in apartment doors looking for the elderly residents. In one smoke-filled apartment, they found an elderly man recovering from hip surgery so the officers carried him out to safety. Both officers were treated for smoke inhalation, but were unharmed during their rescue effort. Officers Stout and Smith recently received the department's life saving award because of their bravery.

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The mission of the Tampa Police Department is to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life through a cooperative partnership with all citizens.



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Important Numbers



- General Information(813) 276-3200
- Non-Emergency Dispatch(813) 231-6130
- District One(813) 354-6600
- District Two(813) 931-6500
- District Three(813) 242-3800
- Information/Switchboard(813) 276-3200
- Records Section ... (813) 276-3250



Photo by Bryan Jensen

Chief Steve Hogue reads a book about safety to 2 year-old Jaida Thomas during International Children's Book Day at COGIC Preschool in East Tampa.