

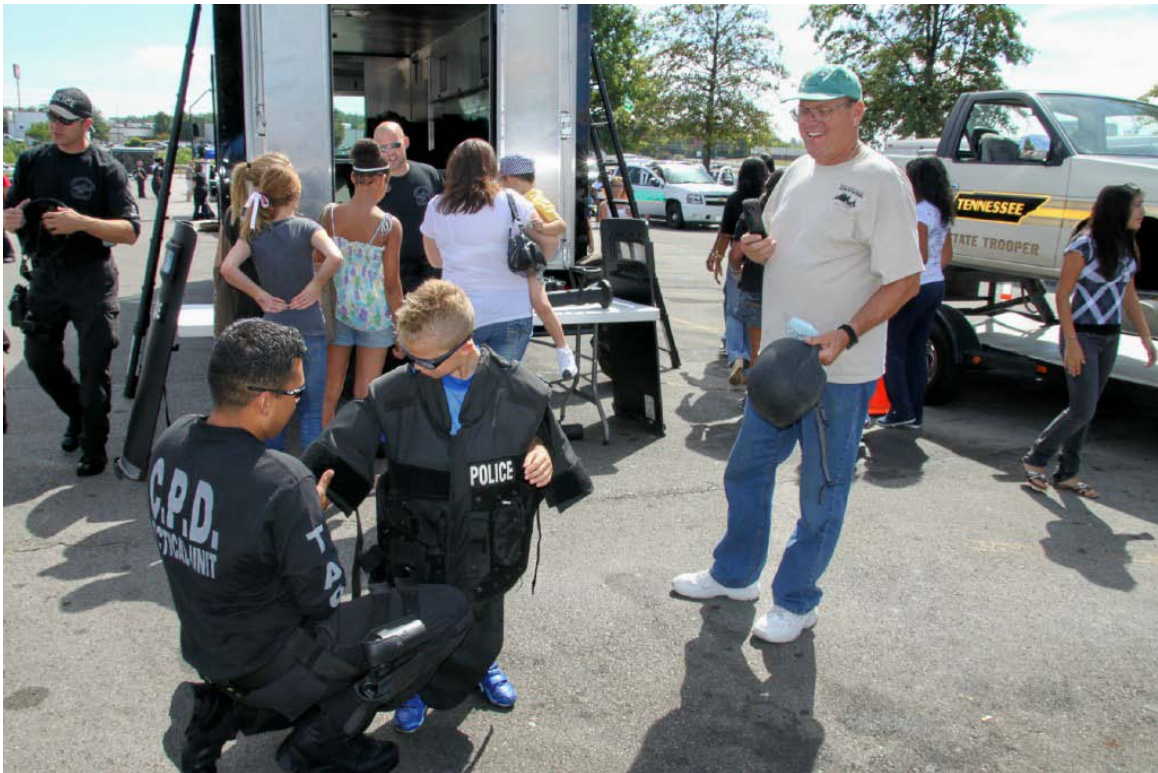
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER-DECEMBER 2010

BY JIM KNOLL

As 2010 is rapidly coming to an end, we are still battling to outdo our impressive crime statistics from 2009 in which we had the lowest crime statistics for a city our size in Tennessee. At the end of November, we had 359 less reportable crimes for 2010 than 2009. We've seen reductions in arsons, residential burglaries, vehicle burglaries, vehicle thefts, homicides, rapes, and robberies. The Chief down to the newest patrol officer, along with the civilians that: make sure we have the supplies, interpret the crime stats, input the reports, monitor our money, fix the equipment, send us to the calls, and make sure our working environment is clean, are all contributors to our success. It's a team effort.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CRIME PREVENTION PAY DIVIDENDS

Kids and Cops was a resounding success. The weather was perfect and attendance was heavy. There was a representative from, virtually, every local law enforcement agency (CPD, MCSO, THP, and APSU) at the event. The positive interaction between law enforcement and the citizens was great to see. An event like that takes a lot of effort to organize to make it happen. We would like to thank everyone who put it all together, the sponsors and those who came out to spend the day with us.



Clarksville Police Department awarded the Crime Free Business certification to Ralph Payne, owner of Queen City College; 1594 Ft Campbell Blvd. Queen City College was

the ninth Clarksville business to be awarded the prestigious certification. To receive certification, the business had to meet the standards set by The International Crime Free Organization. It entailed: attending a two hour training program which gave the business the tools and techniques to set up a crime free business; development of written policies and procedures for the business to follow; developed ongoing training for employees, and successfully passing a crime free business inspection.



CPD's Crime Prevention Officers are most often behind the scenes but are invaluable resources for the department and community. They are an integral part of any agency's crime fighting strategy. Crime cannot always be prevented, but, with citizens' help, techniques/tools/solutions can be put in place that can make it harder for the criminal element to conduct "their business." The Police Department has a series of Crime Free programs available which cover everything from businesses to personal residences. Our Crime Prevention Officers are working with businesses, apartment complexes, and neighborhood watch programs to make "prevention" a reality. There are five businesses and 12 multi-housing complexes working toward achieving crime free certifications. While all that is going on, the crime prevention officers are regularly updating and visiting 18 neighborhood watch programs all over the city. They also act as crime prevention advisors for developers for over 40 new construction projects, the housing authority, and planning commission. You can contact the District Crime Prevention Officers, 931-648-0656: District 1-Booker Dailey, ext. 1011, District 2-Roger Carroll, ext. 2316, and District 3-Alan Morgan, ext. 3011.

We are continuing our efforts to raise the awareness of the traffic safety issues facing teen drivers. One of the ways is through our Student Traffic Awareness Training (S.T.A.T) classes. We had the last S.T.A.T. class of the year in November and it could not have turned out better. The weather and attitudes were perfect. There were a lot of cone babies wiped out during the class. At one point, the young drivers were taking out so many of the cones; they had to be reminded the object of driving was to miss the cones. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We had 53 participants in this class and hope to bring the class back for 2011. We want to thank all the sponsors for supporting the class. We also appreciate the help from all the instructors that gave up their free time to make this program a success. If one driver in the class learned something which will make them a better or safer driver, then the class was a success. So far, 2009 and 2010 have been fatality-free for teens between 15-19 years old.



The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is another way that we interface with the local community. The CPA has been around since 1994 and is a good way for members of the community to see the total spectrum of law enforcement and to gain an appreciation for what we do. The citizens attending the ten week class are introduced to all sections within the Police Department and afforded the opportunity to receive a condensed version of firearms and driving training. Ironically, Class 34 which graduated in November had 34 participants in the class. If you're interested in attending, keep an eye out in the newspaper, check out the Police Department's website, or contact the Training Division for the next class date.



Another way we are reaching out to the community is through Social Media. We have been on Facebook for almost a year. We have not put out much about it since we wanted to see how well it would work out and if there were any difficulties associated with using social media. So far, it has been very positive. We have close to 1,500 “friends” on our CLARKSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT page. It has been useful in getting information out on departmental events and we’ve also used it to elicit information when we are looking for someone. If you get a chance, visit the site.

AWARD WINNING

The Clarksville Police Department received first place in The Tennessee Department of Transportation Governor’s Highway Safety Office’s 6th Annual Law Enforcement Challenge, September 10th. We were in the 201-500 Officer category. According to a Governor’s Highway Safety Office Press Release, “The Law Enforcement Challenge recognizes outstanding performances by law enforcement agencies and officers from across the state,” said Governor Phil Bredesen. “These dedicated public servants work diligently for the good of their communities and deserve this recognition both by the state and nationally.” The Law Enforcement Challenge is an annual competition which recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs across the state and across the country as judged by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Similar sizes and types of agencies are judged on their local efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about the dangers of driving impaired and speeding as well as the importance of occupant protection. The winning safety programs combined officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within their jurisdictions”.



AMPING UP RECRUITMENT

We continue to hire the best of the best for our department. Our written and fitness tests for new hires continue to challenge those vying for a job as a Police Officer. Every potential candidate that wants to become a Clarksville Police Officer must take and pass both the fitness and written exam. Even if the officer worked at another Police Department as a sworn officer, they must pass our tests to be considered for hiring. In the October testing, there was a total of 112 applicants, 15 canceled, 35 were no shows. Out of the 62 that took the fitness test (52 males/10 females), 32 passed (27 males/5 females) and moved onto the written exam. Out of the 32 that took the written test, 26 passed (21 males/5 females). We are continually recruiting and hiring. There are currently vacancies that we are working hard to fill with highly qualified applicants. If anyone is interested in joining the Clarksville Police Department team, go to the CPD website, check out the requirements and, if you qualify, get the process started and submit an application. We are equal opportunity and encourage females and minorities to apply.



Our two latest Police Academy graduates reaffirm the quality of the officers hired. Officers Jeff Lucenti and Brandon Myers graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy October 8, 2010. Both officers distinguished themselves while at the academy. Officer Lucenti was elected by his peers to hold the office of Class Leader/President. Furthermore, at the graduation ceremony, Officer Lucenti was selected by the academy instructors to receive The Leadership Award. It is given to the officer that the academy staff believes demonstrated the most outstanding qualities of leadership during their tenure at the academy. Officer Myers was selected by the academy staff to hold one of the three positions as Squad Leader. Additionally, in every class in 2010, our officers have earned one of the top awards presented at the academy.



On December 1, we added 11 New Police Officers to the ranks of the Clarksville Police Department. Mayor John E. Piper administered the Oath of Office as City Officials, family, friends, and officers were in attendance. This is the largest group of officers hired since 2003. Five of the officers are already certified as sworn officers and, after in-house training will begin the Field Training Program. The six officers that are not certified will attend the Police Academy, Jan 2-March 11, 2011. This is the first group which is totally comprised of officers under the new fitness testing standards.



TOP GUN

The 4th Annual David Scott Memorial Top Gun shooting competition sponsored by the Clarksville Police Union was held at the Clarksville Police Department's range on October 19, 2010. The competition is held in memory of Officer David Scott, Clarksville Police Department, who died in the line of duty on June 7, 2002. Officer Scott was the winner of the Top Gun event when he served as an officer with the Clarksville Police Department. There were 25 local law enforcement officers from the Clarksville Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office that participated. There was an air of camaraderie as the competition heated up and ammunition was fired in the multi-event competition. The Top five competitors were awarded a plaque. The overall winner's name will be imprinted on the large "Top Gun" plaque housed in the Clarksville Police Department's headquarters. The 2010 Top Gun winners were: First - John Smith, MCSO, Second - Sean Averitt, CPD, Third - Blake Wanstroth, MCSO, Fourth - Brad Holder, CPD, and Fifth - Will Evans, CPD.



TRAINING NEVER ENDS

The training folks probably thought there might be a moment to catch their breath after in-service training was finished up for 2010. They knew better than that, but it was nice to dream for a moment. They still have to go through the verification and paperwork submission process for all of the 2010 training. As if that isn't enough to keep them busy, they are in the beginning stages for the 2011 training. They have to work with the command staff to determine the type of training which will take place for 2011 find instructors, set up training dates, gather and submit lesson plans, biographies, and tests. They are also in the middle of finalizing the plans and going through the bid process for the new range construction. It takes a lot of coordination and careful planning, especially if you have never built a range from the ground floor. Oh, let's throw in the training for 11 new people either going to the academy for starting in field training, and then preparing for the four officers that will be graduating on December 17. Whew! Don't know what there are doing with all that spare time.



TACTICAL UNIT

Our entire Tactical Unit (On TV, it's called SWAT)) recently made a trip to the West Memphis area for some high speed, hard-core tactical training. We do not have the facilities available, locally, which would enable the team to perform live-fire and chemical drills, explosive and tactical type entries, door breaching (breaking down a door) entries, etc. This type of team training is essential for honing the team's tactical skills. It was an exhaustive, yet rewarding three days for the team members.



TECHNOLOGY AND BEYOND

We continue driving forward with upgrades to our technology. We're installing laptops, in-car cameras, and have recently brought TITAN online. TITAN is an automated crash reporting system which offers little room for errors and an editing capability. The goal for the department is to go completely digital.



A TIME FOR COMRADERIE

The Clarksville Police Union sponsored the Police Department's annual Christmas celebration. The food was good and attendance was heavy. There were also annual awards given out during the festivities. The nominees were selected and voted for by coworkers. Without further ado, let's announce the annual winners in each category: Detective – Vince Duke, Agent – Lon Chaney, Civilian-Kathy Gray, Dispatcher-Sarah Morris, Supervisor-Andy Hagewood, Officer-Coz Minetos, and Reserve-Tim Winters. Congratulations to all. On a side note, it is rumored that a certain Chief of Police should not give up his crime fighting job for singing Karaoke. We're just saying!!!

CLOSING

The holiday season is upon us. It is a time to enjoy our families and take time to remember those that are deployed or unable to be with us through the holiday season. As the New Year rolls in, we prepare ourselves for the challenges that 2011 will bring. The Clarksville Police Department wishes everyone Season Greetings and Best Wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.