



Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

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Marking The Way

By Sheriff Frank

When we read our history there is often mention made of our "forefathers". We imagine wise gray haired old men contemplating and making remarkable decisions that have stood the test of time. How did they do it and just who were these people?

They weren't any older or wiser than many of us today. Many soldiers that have fought for our freedom were mere teenagers at the time. They were average people who were called upon in a time of need. They rose to the occasion and unselfishly gave of themselves for the common good. They had strong value systems and cared more than others dared to. They were also afraid of what was before them.

Today our country is faced with more difficult times than any of us have witnessed. We are faced with economic uncertainty, and foreign and domestic issues. And with that, Correctional Officer Mike Morrissey was called to activity with the Marine Corps last week. We wish him well and a safe return.

What will be said about our times and us in the history books?

I believe we are a caring nation and a caring organization that will rise to the challenge and be written of some day as "forefathers". It will take courage and unselfishness to mark the way for others to follow. It is not so much the challenge we face, but how we face the challenge.

Sheriff Frank Sworn in for Third Term

By Chief Deputy Steve Pott

Jim Frank was sworn in for his third term as Sheriff by the Honorable Judge Stephen Muehlberg, at the January 7, 2003 County Board Meeting. Sheriff Frank took office as Sheriff of Washington County in 1995. Over the past 8 years, the Sheriff's Office has experienced significant changes. More than one half of the Deputies and Correctional Officers, and all but three of the Communications Center personnel have been hired since January 1995. Sheriff Frank has initiated programs such as ethics training, strategic planning, and community policing initiatives to increase the level of professionalism and service to our community. Sheriff Frank was unopposed in the November 2002 election.



Sheriff Frank sworn in by Judge Muehlberg

Sergeant Jesse Kurtz Retires

By Sgt. Rick Peterson

On January 3, 2003, Sergeant Jesse Kurtz retired from the Washington County Sheriff's Office after nearly 22 years of service. This article reflects on some of the highlights of his career path.

Jesse started his career in law enforcement in 1974 as a Reserve Officer in Mound, Minnesota. From there he went into a full-time position at the Renville County Sheriff's Office in 1978. He then saw an opportunity in Buffalo Lake, Minnesota and soon became Chief of Police in that small community for three years. He reflected back on those days with great admiration. He had always admired the challenges of policing and was lured to the action of the job. Wanting to work for a larger agency in the metro area, Jesse was hired by Washington County in July of 1981.

Some of his first memories at the Sheriff's Office were both good and bad. Jesse's first day on the job was filled with both excitement and sorrow. He rode with Randy Hill in the assigned northern area of the county and their first call was to a drowning on Big Marine Lake. Jesse remembers his annual salary being, \$19,400.

Jesse then was assigned to the 11-7 shift under the leadership of Sergeants Jay Kimble and Mike Johnson. This part of his career was one of the most exciting times for Jesse. The midnight shift had a very high "zero tolerance" reputation towards criminal activity and he felt very proud being part of that shift. After a brief time on the power shift, Jesse then was assigned to the Lake Elmo contract area where he spent seven years serving the citizens of that city.

In 1992, Jesse was promoted to sergeant and served as a shift commander on the 11-7 and 3-11 shift for approximately six years. Jesse was assigned to Investigations in 1998, where he spent the rest of his career as an Investigative Sergeant. He reflected on his investigative assignment as the best time of his career. His camaraderie with the detectives on the south team, made coming to work very enjoyable. Jesse wanted to personally thank both Mike Lindholm and Lonnie Van Klei for their support and teamwork during the last years of his career. Jesse felt that the contribution the south team made to Investigations was significant. Something that still bothers him is the unsolved disappearance of Susan Swedell. "It's a hard thing to let go of when you are so personally involved with the family", Jesse stated.

One of the things Jesse wanted to leave with the employees at the Sheriff's Office is to remember to build trust with people on a personal basis. "You should strive to achieve trust with people that you work with on a daily basis, that in itself promotes teamwork within the organization".



Sergeant Jesse Kurtz retires after 22 years of service

Sergeant Joel White Retires

By Sgt. Scott Malinosky

Sergeant Joel White, who began his career in law enforcement as an intern with the Maplewood Police Department in 1971, retired from the Washington County Sheriff's Office December 21, 2002. Sergeant White spent 4 years with the Maplewood Police Department during which time his position was re-titled to Community Service Officer. The North St. Paul Police Department hired Sergeant White as a full time officer in 1975. In June 1980, he left the North St. Paul Police Department for the Apple Valley Police Department for a short stint of 3 weeks, when he was hired by the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Sergeant White served as a contract deputy in Mahtomedi for 4 months, went to general patrol for 8 months and then served as an Afton/Lakeland contract deputy for 14 years. Joel's next assignment was as an investigator. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in November 1997 and served as the first supervisor of the Youth Unit. Joel was a DARE officer for 12 years and found it to be very rewarding. Sergeant White transferred back to the Patrol Division in February 2000, where he completed his service as a supervisor on the night shift. Joel listed his years as a DARE officer and his work in assisting Carlton County on the Katy Porier case, as career highlights.

After his retirement, Sergeant White plans to continue serving as a paid, on-call firefighter for the City of Maplewood, which he has done for the past 13 years. Joel's wife, Peggi, continues to work for the State of Minnesota Department of Administration. They plan to spend more time at their condominium on Lake Mille Lacs. We thank Sergeant White for his years of service and wish he and Peggi well in retirement.



Joel White with his retirement cake



Sheriff Frank presenting Joel with his shadow box

Investigations Division News

By Commander Don McGlothlin

Since the last Stars and Bars article, the Investigative Division has seen the retirement of Sgt. Jesse Kurtz in December of 2002. The Woodbury Police Department has also made their contribution to the Washington County Coordinated Narcotics Task Force, with the assignment of Chris Ployhart.

The Narcotics Unit just completed its most successful year since the Task Force was created. The Narcotics Task Force seized over one million dollars of street valued drugs and conducted over one hundred search warrants.

The budget deficit problems have reached into the Investigative Division along with other divisions within the Sheriff's Office. The Investigation Division will closely monitor the budget and continue to meet its responsibilities. The Investigation Division remains hopeful that our case clearance rates that were at an all time high last year, will not be affected by the cuts.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

By Jill Strong

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has added, transferred, and promoted staff in several divisions. Here is a list of personnel moves in the Sheriff's Office:

New Staff

Chris Stellmach

Correctional Officer II

Effective Date

January 6, 2003

Transfers

Steve Casey

to Patrol from Investigations

January 5, 2003

Greg Reiter

to Investigations from Patrol

January 5, 2003

Ricky Gruber

to Investigations from Patrol

February 16, 2003

Laura Waldon

to Jail from Jail Administration

January 5, 2003

David Deal

to Jail Administration from Jail

January 5, 2003

Promotions

Bradley Marquardt

to Deputy Sheriff – Sergeant

Effective Date

January 5, 2003

Communication Center News

By Sgt. Bernie Morency

Call Taker Sherry Kirby was recently presented with the Washington County Sheriff's Office Meritorious Service award. Sherry has been a 911 Call Taker since September 2001. Just before 11:00 A.M. on July 7, 2002, Sherry took a call from a young female reporting her grandfather down and that he had recently had a heart attack. With Sherry's instruction, the girl was able to perform CPR and saved her grandfather's life.

This is only one example, of many, of Sherry's contributions to the welfare and safety of Washington County residents. Sherry displays a great deal of empathy for callers and is able to quickly and effectively process calls. These characteristics and abilities make her a great asset to our operation. Next time you see Sherry, stop and congratulate her. We are very proud of her.



Sheriff Frank presenting Sherry with her meritorious service award.

Troy Ruby resigned his position as 911 Center Coordinator on December 28, 2002, to take a position as Communication Center Supervisor for the City of Eagan. Troy had been an employee of Washington County for 11½ years. He started his career as a dispatcher on 7/1/91 and was promoted to 911 Center Coordinator on 11/29/98. During his tenure at Washington County, Troy also participated in new dispatcher training and tactical dispatching for the Special Response Team. We wish Troy well in his new position.

WCSO Flexes Its Muscles

By Dan Luke

Correctional Officer Chris Thomazin, Deputy Tim Wessels and Sergeant Rick Peterson competed in the Third Annual Miller Chevrolet Christmas Bench Press Classic, sanctioned by The Minnesota Power Lifting Association. The competition was held at The Gym in Elk River on December 7, 2002. A large and enthusiastic crowd assembled to cheer on many of Minnesota's and the surrounding states top weightlifters. A number of state records were set.

Chris, Tim and Rick competed in the Police/Fire/Military division. In the 220-pound weight class, Rick finished in first place with a lift of 360 pounds. In the 275-pound weight class, Chris finished in first place with a lift of 405 pounds and Tim finished in second place with a lift of 385 pounds.

To be able to lift the amount of weight that Chris, Tim and Rick do, takes a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication to their sport. Please join me in congratulating them for their outstanding performances.



Sgt Rick Peterson, CO II Chris Thomazin and Deputy Tim Wessels.

Moving Into The New Year

By Jail Commander Chuck Yetter

The first month of 2003 has been a month of changes and also a time of identifying what will be the major areas of focus for the coming year. In the area of change, after three years as operations sergeant, Sgt. Laura Waldon has moved to a shift sergeant position on afternoons. Sgt. Waldon did an excellent job in the operations position (thank you) and now Sgt. Dave Deal will carry-on at this position.

January also saw the return of Supervisor (and new mother) Christina Richert. We were all happy to see Christina return, but nobody as much as Michelle Ritzer, who once again helped the Jail Division by covering for Christina in the area of processing and reviewing booking paperwork. Thank you for all of your help Michelle!

Lease revenue generated from the boarding of inmates from other jurisdictions has always been a major focus of the jail. This will be no different in 2003, especially with the "less than bright" financial outlook for the State and the inescapable effects of State budget shortfalls on local governments. Ramsey County, who has been a major leaseholder of Washington County Jail beds, will have all of their inmates out of the jail by February 23, 2003.

History has shown that as one jurisdiction has pulled their inmates out of the jail, another has always filled the void. Dakota County began leasing 20 beds when Ramsey County pulled out their first 20 inmates and there is also some talk of utilizing empty beds for State Department of Corrections inmates. It is uncertain at this time what the lease revenue outlook will be for 2003; however this is one area that will always be a major focal point that we must explore options for and keep tabs on.

With the focus on budget, the jail will not fill three current vacancies for Correctional Officer. New staff, which are now completing their training, will soon be able to take on posts of their own. With the cooperation of all jail staff, I believe we will be able to "weather the storm" and do our part to overcome the challenges of unavoidable budget restraints.

Crime Prevention Unit

By Amy Sprague

For the past several months, the Washington County Crime Prevention Unit has been proactive in an attempt to formulate more community involvement between deputies and the communities they serve. In an attempt to organize the Crime Prevention Unit, several deputies have attended training and participated in community activities.

This fall, Deputy James Wells assisted the City of Mahtomedi in implementing a McGruff House. The McGruff House seeks individuals near schools in an attempt to provide a safe haven for children seeking help. Deputy Wells also drove the D.A.R.E. car in the Mahtomedi parade to promote the program.

On August 6th, 2002, the Washington County Sheriff's Office hosted a National Police Night Out in several communities. Unfortunately, many block parties were affected due to the funeral of Minneapolis Officer Melissa Schmidt. The Crime Prevention Unit is hoping to increase community involvement for National Police Night Out on August 5th, 2003.

On October 12, 2002, Deputy Stephane Courtois assisted Deputy Amy Sprague at the annual Hugo Fire Department Open House. A Crime Prevention booth was set up to provide community members with a variety of pamphlets and to encourage and inform community members about neighborhood watch programs.

On October 22nd and 23rd, Deputy Greg Reiter and Deputy Amy Sprague attended the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention conference in St. Cloud. The conference included topics ranging from rave parties to how to enlist volunteers for crime prevention programs.



On January 13 – 17, 2003, Deputies Mike Benson, Rebecca Engel, Bill Harrell, Amy Sprague and Sgt. Larry Osterman attended a crime prevention course sponsored by the Minnesota BCA. The Washington County Sheriff's Office was the host site for the Crime Prevention course and included officers from the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota. The course addressed a variety of topics including: implementing a crime prevention unit, security locks and alarm systems, motor vehicle theft prevention, media relations, and the preparation and presentation of a speech.

Future goals of the Crime Prevention Unit are to seek more involvement among deputies and community members to reduce crime.

Deputy James Wells and McGruff the Crime Dog at the parade in Mahtomedi

Patrol Division News

By Commander Tim Tuthill

The start of 2003 has been very busy, challenging and exciting for the Patrol Division. Due to anticipated reductions in state funding, the Patrol Division has started the year 2003 by moving forward with cost savings initiatives, while keeping our eye on maintaining a high quality service to the citizens of Washington County. The members of the Patrol Division have shown great support, understanding, skill and insight as we continue to review our operational function and associated costs.

In January 2003, Sgt. Brad Marquardt joined the Patrol Division in place of Sgt. Joel White. Joel retired December 28, 2002 after over 31 years of public service. Sgt. Brad Marquardt has come to the Patrol Division from the Special Services Division, where he worked with Civil Process. Sgt. Brad Marquardt was promoted as a result of an in-house competitive promotion exam involving 33 well-qualified deputies. Sgt. Brad Marquardt now shares the responsibility of the midnight shift along with Sgt. Larry Osterman.

On January 17, 2003, Deputy Cory Reedy graduated from 2 weeks of D.A.R.E. training provided by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Deputy Cory Reedy has been assigned to the 2003 New Scandia Township contract and will begin providing D.A.R.E. classes to local school children located within that community.

During the week of January 13 – 17, 2003, Sgt. Larry Osterman and Deputies Bill Harrell, Amy Sprague, Mike Benson and Becky Engel attended a 5-day training course in a Crime Prevention Practitioners Course. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension once again provided the training. This type of training will increase the ability of the Sheriff's Office to better respond to community needs, while helping to identify and organize community resources. The best tools we have, as law enforcement officers, are fellow citizens who care about their community and who are willing to get involved and share information.

In the near future, I anticipate new initiatives taking place within the Patrol Division. One of the initiatives will involve providing our patrol deputies with more comprehensive information as it pertains to recently

reported crime patterns. By using computer programming software, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) databases and classified crime statistics, we will be better prepared to identify crime patterns within the surrounding communities. We can intervene more effectively with our ongoing patrol efforts.

I look forward to the challenges which lie ahead and have no doubt that the working membership of the Patrol Division will overcome any obstacles we face given our displayed team work and innovation.

Brad Marquardt Promoted

By Sgt. Scott Malinosky

Brad Marquardt, most recently assigned to the Civil Division, was promoted to the rank of sergeant effective January 5th. A cake and coffee reception was held on Friday, January 3rd, to mark the promotion.

Sergeant Marquardt has been with Sheriff's Office for nearly 5 years. He served in the Patrol Division for the majority of his time here, spending 2 years in general patrol and 2 years as a Hugo contract deputy. Sergeant Marquardt brought with him 2 years of experience with the Minneapolis Police Department and 4 years with the United States Marine Corps.

Brad states that he is looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead of him in his new assignment as a shift sergeant on the night shift. Congratulations Brad!



Brad and Sheriff Frank at the promotion ceremony.

3M Provides Grant to Washington County Sheriff's Office Reserves

By Sgt. Cheri Dexter

In recognition of Washington County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputies B.J. Brown and Bill Lehman's commitment to the community and for their outstanding service, the 3M Foundation has donated \$400 to the Washington County Sheriff's Office Reserves on their behalf as part of 3M GIVES (Grants Initiated by Volunteer Service) program.

B.J. Brown and Bill Lehman have donated more than 461 hours to improving life in our communities. Sheriff's Office Reserves, B.J. Brown and Bill Lehman have worked water patrol, park patrol, community events and emergency call outs.

"Volunteerism is 3M's greatest contribution to our communities," said Fred Harris, vice-president, 3M Foundation. "Our employees and retirees donate thousands of hours to making their communities better places to live. 3M is pleased to recognize their efforts. 3M GIVES enables our employees and retirees to make a greater impact on their communities." As part of the 3M GIVES program, the 3M Foundation will donate \$200 to eligible non-profit organizations for which a 3M employee or retiree volunteers 25 hours or more per calendar year.

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