



New North Patrol Division rendering—see p. 2

New unit ups ante on missing persons cases

An average of 246 people are reported missing to Kansas City Missouri Police each year, and until recently, only one person was charged with finding them.

Similarly, about 650 juveniles are reported as runaways here annually, and their cases previously received little investigative follow-up, Special Victims Unit Captain Todd Paulson said.

The new Missing Persons/Cold Case Unit is changing the way the Department handles such cases, bringing more investigative resources to bear on them to ensure missing children and adults get home safely. The Unit launched May 10 and already is recording many successes.

Detective Darla Harris of the Metro Property Crimes Section (and aunt of Kara Kopetsky, who was 17 years old when she disappeared from her high school in Belton, Mo., in 2007 and remains missing) originally proposed the idea of a Missing Persons Squad. The idea was shelved due to lack of manpower. But when Captain Paulson took command of the Special Victims Unit, he agreed that more resources were needed to find the city’s missing. He incorporated Detective Harris’s idea into a broader vision and included it in a March 2015 memo outlining the need and logistics for the creation of the Missing Persons/Cold Case Unit.

“The current case load does not allow for the development of relationships with hospitals, homeless shelters, etc., to increase the ability to locate these missing persons,” the memo stated.

The wheels for the new unit were set in motion before the March 2015, memo, however. The department’s policy on runaway juveniles changed last September, requiring an officer be dispatched to every runaway juvenile call. Previously, reports were taken only by telephone. And when a child has returned home, patrol officers now are required to go to the home, lay eyes on the child and determine whether they’re alright.

“Part of the thought process in changing the policy was, ‘Why are these kids running away?’” Captain Paulson said.

He wanted to get resources on board so runaway children – usually ages 12 to 16, detectives said – could get the safety and assistance they needed while addressing the possible problems at home that prompted them to flee. This has led to an expanded partnership between police and Synergy Services, which provides shelter, counseling and other ser-

vices for runaway and homeless youth, among other things.

“Runaways are at risk of becoming victims of crimes like human trafficking, or they could become suspects in crimes, as well,” Captain Paulson said.

The changes are having an impact. Although the runaway policy change didn’t go into effect until September 2014, about 100 fewer runaways were reported missing last year compared to the previous four years. So far this year, out of the 250 juveniles reported as runaways, only four remain unaccounted for.

Captain Paulson said the investigators for the new unit include the one detective pre-

viously assigned to Missing Persons and three who had been assigned to work cold case homicides and sex crimes. The Cold Case Squad had been so successful in solving old cases that they were running out of work, Captain Paulson said. Now, they’ll still follow up on any new DNA hits or investigative leads that come in for cold cases, but they also can devote their skills to resolving more urgent missing and runaway cases. Sergeant Monica Blackmore oversees the new Missing Persons/Cold Case Unit.

The reorganizing just made sense, Captain Paulson said.

“I’ve not come across one person who said this wouldn’t be useful,” he said.



Members of the new Missing Persons/Cold Case Unit are Detective Kristin Strawn, Sergeant Monica Blackmore, and Detectives Mary Kincheloe and Steffan Roetheli. Not pictured is Detective Jeffrey Littlejohn.

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‘Green’ery Helps Mounted Patrol

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Upcoming Events

FBI, police forum reaches out to youth



On May 20, members of the FBI, ATF, KCPD and Kansas City Kansas Police Department participated in a Youth Forum at the Robert Mohart Center on Linwood Ave. The event presented an opportunity for young people to openly ask questions and voice concerns to a panel of law enforcement representatives, which was closed to outside media.

After the question-and-answer session, attendees were able to meet individually with panel members, including guest speaker Kansas City Chiefs General Manager John Dorsey; FBI Special Agent in Charge Eric Jackson; Chief Darryl Forte, KCPD; Deputy Chief Kevin Steele, KCKPD; U.S. Attorney Tammy Dickinson, Western District of Missouri; and U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom, District of Kansas.

The youth and media outlets were then invited to interact with Police, FBI and ATF personnel to learn about job opportunities, how to Text-A-Tip, don the Bomb and Arson Bomb Suit, learn how fingerprints are acquired, and several other displays. Pizza and soft drinks were available for attendees to enjoy.



'Green'ery Helps Support Mounted Patrol

For a few Fridays every spring, Suburban Lawn and Garden hosts a Charity Night for various organizations. The Friends of the Mounted Patrol group has participated for the past several years. Ten percent of sales between 5 and 8 p.m. is donated to the KCPD Mounted Patrol Unit; as is money from sales of Mounted Patrol apparel, hot dogs, chips, cookies, etc. Bill and Bo Stueck, owners of Suburban, add to the "party" with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

Of course, the center of attention is the Mounted Patrol. The officers and horses are magnets, drawing the attention of adults and children.

The threat of stormy weather caused some patrons to shy away from attending the recent event on May 8. It was still, however, a lucrative night with \$935 in merchandise and food sales and 10% of sales totaling \$2,200, donated by Suburban.

AliceLee Hollister, Fundraising Chairman for Friends of the Mounted Patrol, said, "I personally feel such pride to be associated with this unit and especially hold dear the friendships created. With the storm systems coming through, the percentage was lower than previous years. Regardless, we certainly appreciate the generosity of Bill and Bo Stueck."



You are invited to attend the
GROUND BREAKING

CEREMONY FOR THE
North Patrol Division Station

11000 NW Prairie View Road

FRIDAY |  | July 17 |  | 9AM

City and KCPD officials will join community leaders in turning the first shovels of dirt as the construction phase begins.

Club recognizes service, longevity

An elite new club with very strict membership requirements recently inducted its first members.

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department's Retirement System welcomed certain retirees to what they're calling the "30/30 Club" on June 9. The 30/30 Club was designed for department members who retired from the department with 30 years of service and have been retired for at least 30 years. Up until 2013, 30 years was the maximum that sworn KCPD members could serve, according to state statute.

At the monthly Retirement Board Meeting on June 9, eight out of the 16 members who were eligible made their way to the Police Academy to be welcomed into the 30/30 Club. They were presented with a special coin, designed just for them.

The idea for the club came from Retired Sergeant Jimmy Doolan, who retired in March of 1985. He graduated from the Academy on June 20, 1955, in Entrant Officer Class 46. He spent 10 years of his career in the Intelligence Unit investigating organized crime.

He said the idea for the 30/30 Club really started when he reached 25 years of retirement. Once he reached that milestone, he said, "Wouldn't it be something if I could make it to 30?" He then thought to himself, why not start a 30/30 Club?

When asked what being in the 30/30 Club meant to him, he jokingly said, "That means we are still alive to get it."

Retired Officer Leroy Day, another 30/30 Club member, said he spends his time taking police retirees around from place to place, one blind and one with cancer. He said he was happy to be inducted to the new Club.

"It is wonderful," Day said. "I've spent 30 years on the job and 32 years loafing."

Retirement Administrator Jim Pyle said he thinks the new inductees were surprised and pleased with the Retirement Board's recognition. Their 30 years of service at the KCPD is



30/30 Club and Retirement Board members: (Front Row, left to right) standing - John Paul, sitting: Bill Ponessa, Leroy Day, Richard Hopper, Jimmy Doolan, Al Stewart, Art Felts and Freddie Stephens; Back Row, Retirement Board: Jim Pyle, (Ret.) Sgt. Bob Jones, (Ret.) Sgt. Gary Jenkins, Major Rick Smith, Bailus Tate, Leslie Lewis, Pat Trysla, and P.O. Matt Tomasic.

something they are still proud of, Pyle said, even after being retired for 30 years.

"While they liked the honor of being recognized, they liked seeing their fellow retirees just as much," Pyle said.

One thing Jim Pyle says he hears over and over from retirees is how the KCPD was their family. So anytime they can catch up with fellow retirees is always a good time for them.

The oldest member in the 30/30 Club is Mildred Marx at the

age of 93. She was an Assistant Supervisor in Input Control.

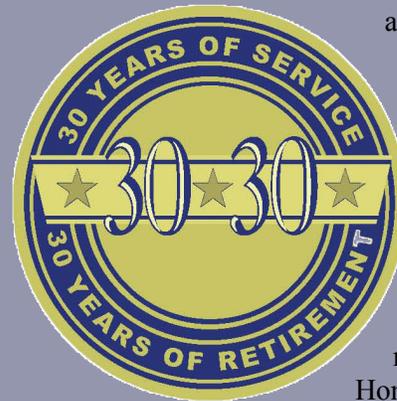
The average age of the group is 88, and the one who traveled the farthest to receive this honor was Retired Officer Freddie Stephens, who came all the way from Texas.

Retired Sergeant John Paul, another 30/30 Club inductee who retired in October 1984, "lives and breathes the police department," his friend and caretaker Pat Hastert said. "He was instrumental in saving people from the January 28, 1978, Coates House Fire, in which he received two Medals of Honor."

Being in the 30/30 Club means quite a bit to Retired Sergeant Paul.

"I wish I could start all over again," he said.

The Retirement System plans to induct new 30/30 Club members on an annual basis. They have one more member reaching this milestone in December.



Fun Facts: Mary Stoecklein is the **oldest civilian retiree** at the age of 97. Mary was born in 1918 and retired in 1992 with 24 years of service. Lucile Dickey is the **oldest retiree in the police plan**. Lucile was born in 1919 and retired with 29 years of service in 1984.

Upcoming Events

July 16
Health Fair - Headquarters

July 17
North Patrol
Groundbreaking

July 21
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

July 23
Health Fair - South Patrol

July 28
Awards Ceremony

The Informant is a publication of
KCPD's Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Retirements

Major Anthony Ell
Major Ronald Fletcher
Captain Jeffrey Emery
Captain Gabrielle Pfeifer
Captain Rex Tarwater
Sergeant Damon Hayes
Sergeant Charles Joseph
Sergeant Steven Sandusky
Sergeant Randall Sims
Sergeant Richard Sticken
Sergeant John Wagner
Master Patrol Officer Richard Monroe
Master Patrol Officer James Schriever
Officer Lynda Hacker-Bristow
Officer Nevenko Mikic
Officer John Stafford
Officer Linda Walker
Detective Mark Nieman
Detective James Svoboda
Detective Joseph Truschinger
Detective Paula Emery
Communications Specialist Alan Brady
Administrative Assistant Sigrid Frederick

Retirements Continued

Computer Services Analyst Debra Herndon
Administrative Assistant Linda King
Administrative Assistant Enita Miller
Fleet Operations Technician Richard Ross
Communications Specialist Michael Scott
Administrative Assistant Quenesta Terry
Fleet Operations Technician Robin Wagner
Forensic Specialist Mary Whalen

Obituary

Retired Sergeant Stephen Wright

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with professionalism,
honor and integrity.