

**HAMPSTEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

Chief Ken Meekins called the Hampstead Police Department Advisory Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also in attendance from the Town were: PFC Robert Swartz, Councilwoman Marlene Duff, Councilman Wayne Thomas and Councilman Tim Babylon. Members and guests present were: Chuck Drennen, Cara Drennen, Dave Unglesbee, Janice Hansen, Irene Ward, Judy Reed, and Cheryl Schuster.

Chief Meekins discussed the following issues of concern or interest.

- **Traffic-** HPD officers issued 261 citations and warnings (August thru October). There were 32 collisions reported 18 of those collisions occurred on Main Street. 8 occurred on parking lots and 5 occurred within the traffic circle at Route 482. Only one accident occurred on a residential street.

Traffic enforcement is generally focused to two types of areas: locations of collisions; and locations of traffic complaints. As you can see, the overwhelming majority of traffic crashes on public roadways occur on either Main Street or at the Traffic Circle at Rt. 482 and the Bypass.

Traffic complaints are evaluated by placing the speed display sign in the area and evaluating the data to help develop an efficient enforcement strategy. Once that is done, targeted enforcement is conducted. If you have a suggestion for speed enforcement please e-mail you request to police@qis.net or call the office at 410-239-8954.

- **Crime Issues-** There were fifteen thefts and four burglaries reported. The types of thefts that were reported included the theft of services (Illegal Dumping in a dumpster), theft of a stop/street sign (2), 2 shopliftings, a theft of a bike, theft of a m/c, a stolen check, a stolen tag, jewelry stolen from a residence, theft of Rx, theft of a wallet, 2 internal commercial thefts and a theft of an iPad from the library. Storage sheds/garages were the target of 2 burglaries. The other two burglaries were domestic in nature. One suspect was arrested. He was the estranged domestic partner of the victim and was also violating a protective order. The other involved the victim's brother, and she elected not to pursue charges.

During a recent review of the burglaries that have been reported during the first nine months of 2011, a significant trend was discovered. Of the six residential burglaries, five were committed by friends, neighbors or family members. Only one of those burglaries remains unresolved. In most of those cases the victim declined to prosecute due to that personal connection.

There has been only one commercial burglary in town, thus far, and that incident was cleared with charges placed against two juveniles. That prosecution is pending a juvenile hearing.

The remaining two burglaries involved property being removed from outbuildings such as garages and sheds. These offenses are much more difficult to solve because they are often reported weeks or months after the incidents have occurred.

The majority of thefts reported, thus far, in 2011 have occurred at commercial establishments. These incidents included a significant number of shopliftings, employee thefts, thefts of batteries and illegal dumping in commercial dumpsters. The remaining thefts were focused in three types: theft of prescription or over the counter medications; thefts from or of vehicles; and thefts of jewelry and other personal items from homes.

Many, if not all of the thefts of personal items, were committed by people who were known to the victims and who had been allowed in their homes with little or no oversight. The thefts from vehicles were once again from vehicles that were left unlocked. You can help reduce thefts by limiting access to your valuables. Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. Secure your jewelry within your home and **LOCK YOUR VEHICLES.**

Our officers made 19 arrests; 16 were adults and 3 were juveniles. Charges included; Assault (5), Burglary (6), CDS Possession (5), Possession of CDS Paraphernalia (3), Destruction of Property (3), Driving while suspended, Theft (4), Violation of a Protective Order (2), Stalking, Telephone Misuse, DUI/DWI, Prescription Violation, Hit and Run, Fleeing and Eluding and Resisting Arrest. Pfc. Swartz was able to identify and charge two juvenile suspects with the burglary of the Hampstead Liquor Store which occurred in May. Some arrests involved multiple charges.

- **Community Policing-** Activities during the August thru October period included; Assistance with the HVFC Parade and Carnival, Issuing coupons for free snowballs to children observed riding their bikes and skateboards while wearing their helmets, and conducting our 2nd Annual Night Out Against Crime. **Captain Gribbin and Chief Meekins** attended the Main Street Merchants Assn meetings, **Pfc. Swartz** attended the Fields HOA meetings, **Pfc. Swartz and Detective Gaegler** conducted HPD Station tours for the cub scouts. **Detective Gaegler** installed two car seats for area residents, attended the Carroll County Health Expo and a meeting at the Westminster Moose Lodge. **Detective Gaegler** also participated with the Carroll County Health Department at a Child Car Seat Check at Celebree Learning Center. **Detective Gaegler** attended School Bus Safety Day at Sandymount Elementary School. The Main Street Merchants Association held its Fallfest. **Chief Meekins** was one of the judges for the Chili Cook-off at the Fallfest. **Pfc. Halterman** conducted a K-9 Demonstration at the Fallfest.

Captain Gribbin and Pfc. Orem attended the MSMA Community Breakfast. **Pfc. Swartz, Detective Gaegler** and members of the NC Auxiliary monitored activity during Halloween and helped to keep the children safe while trick-or-treating.

- **Shop With a Cop-** The Hampstead Police Department will once again be sponsoring several families in our Shop With a Cop initiative. Our annual **Pizza Hut fundraiser** is set for tonight, **Wednesday November 16th**. I encourage you to join us after the meeting at Pizza Hut or to pick up dinner on the way home. HPD accepts donations throughout the year. Please make any checks out to the Town of Hampstead and indicate “Shop With a Cop” in the memo section. With your support, we can make this holiday season a memorable one for some local families that have fallen on hard times. This effort will conclude at Wal-Mart on December 10th, when HPD officers will shop with the children of the selected families.
- **Prescription Drug Take-Back-** Captain Gribbin coordinated our second annual prescription drug take-back on October 29th at the Police Station. HPD and the DEA co-sponsored this initiative where Prescription and Over-the-Counter drugs were accepted. Even though this collection occurred on a snowy Saturday, it was a success. Residents turned in over three times the drugs as were turned in last year.
- **K-9 Activity-** Pfc. Halterman and K-9 Neco conducted thirteen scans and a suspect track. Four were for Westminster PD, two for Taneytown PD, two for the Carroll County Sheriffs Office, three for MSP, one for Manchester PD and one for Hampstead PD. Eight arrests were made as a result of these scans.
- **Awards-** Pfc. Swartz attended the opening ceremony of the Maryland Chiefs of Police, where he was honored for Exceptional Police Service for agencies with fewer than 25 sworn officers. Pfc. Swartz continued a tradition of success for HPD nominees. He became the 4th officer to receive this award and the 6th time that a HPD Officer has won this award in the past ten years. HPD had two officers who received this honor on two occasions.

Pfc. Orem received his second “Smooth Operator” award for his efforts in traffic enforcement and was invited to attend a luncheon for honorees in Greenbelt sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- **TIP411-** The public is encouraged to use TIP411 to send anonymous texts to the police. Simply text **HPDTIPS and your message to 847411 (TIP411)**. Tips are 100% anonymous. Add TIP411 to your contact list!
- **Staffing-** Pfc. Holland remains on extended leave. We project that she will return to duty in early December. Sgt. Riggio is assigned to a light duty assignment pending his recovery from an on-duty injury. We have shifted some assignments,

schedules and responsibilities in order to minimize the impact of service to the community. Detective Gaegler is back in uniform as the acting patrol supervisor and Sgt. Riggio will be picking up a lot of her office assignments to free her to concentrate on patrol supervision.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Mr. David Unglesbee discussed the following traffic issues: speeding complaints on Willow Street and Gloucester Circle before and after school; stop sign complaints on Gloucester Circle and Dana Avenue; and speeding on the bypass.

Ms. Judy Reed discussed the following issues in her neighborhood: Excessive parking on Dogwood, including a large commercial truck; the intersection of Eagle Ridge Drive and Brodbeck Road. Drivers are not following traffic laws. (The Chief said he would pass this info along to the CCSO/MSP); and a vacant house next to her. Owners have come back several times to clean out the shed. The house is starting to become dilapidated.

Ms. Sherry Schuster, Carroll County Community Mediation talked about her meditation group and handed out brochures for her organization.

Councilman Tim Babylon discussed the oddity of his fiancée's vehicle, which was broken into. Two GPS units and the vehicles owner's manual were taken. The Hampstead Police Department is investigating the incident.

Councilwoman Marlene Duff discussed the Hampstead Farmer's Market. She is trying to obtain more diverse vendors for next season.

Ms. Irene Ward stated there were no issues in her Shiloh Run neighborhood.

Ms. Janice Hanson briefly discussed the thefts at the Hampstead Baptist Church (the MSP are investigating).

Mr. Chuck Drennen discussed the following issue in his neighborhood: speeding complaints on Burnside Drive. Large commercial trucks and dump trucks are driving through the area on their way to a work site. He also discussed attending the FBI Civilian Academy at the FBI Baltimore Field office in Woodlawn.

Councilman Wayne Thomas stated that the Hampstead Business Association will donate to Shop With a Cop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the **Hampstead Police Advisory Council** is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Hampstead Town Hall**. Everyone is welcome.

ATTEST

CHIEF OF POLICE