

**HAMPSTEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 18, 2011  
7:00 PM**

Chief Ken Meekins called the Hampstead Police Department Advisory Council Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Also in attendance from the Town were: Mayor Chris Nevin, Councilwoman Marlene Duff, Councilman Wayne Thomas, Councilman Jason Cavey, Councilman Tim Babylon, Captain Jay Gribbin, PFC Bob Swartz, and Carolyn Griffin. Members and guests present were: Nora Ward, Tim Duff, Tami Weeks, Cathy Baker, Jimmy Dell, Larry Ridgley, Cindy Marachi-Bosley, Susan Doyle, Eric Yospa, Janice Hansen, Ken Cebulski, Fran Bartels, Judy Reed, Debbie Ortih, Ross Zelesnick, Lois Bankert, Jason Cavey, Jim Maness, Tammy Ledley, Dave Guinto, Betsy Wertz, Kim Spangler, Ned Coyne, Carolyn Gordon, Julie Dryden, Lisa Arcuri, Meghan Tew, Robin Millman Carter and Paulette Biscotti.

Chief Meekins stated that he was not going to give his usual Activity Report, but provided a paper copy of the issues of concern/interest to the guests. He also stated he would be available after the meeting, if anyone had any questions or concerns. He then introduced the meeting's guest speakers.

The guest speakers from the Drug Enforcement Administration were: Carl Kotowski, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Baltimore District Office, SA Ernie Donovan, Group Supervisor, Tactical Diversion Squad, and GS Terence Riley, Diversion Group Supervisor.

The members of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) gave a presentation concerning the abuse of prescription drugs in the state of Maryland. This problem is exceeding the abuse of cocaine, hallucinogens and heroin combined.

Some of the issues/problems of prescription drugs discussed during the presentation were: "pill mills" which supply prescription drugs; patients who are "doctor shopping" for prescriptions; doctors writing prescriptions illegally; states who have no prescription monitoring program; names of prescription drugs that addicts are using to get high; "pharming" a practice of sharing, trading and mixing medicines, often consumed with alcohol; and the "National Take Back Day", where you turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal.

The regulatory and enforcement strategies of the DEA, concerning the prescription drug abuse problem are:

The Diversion Unit handle: Distribution and Pharmacy/Doctor Investigations

The Tactical Unit handle: Undercover activities with dealers, doctors and pharmacies.

On May 10, 2011, the Governor of the State of Maryland signed a Prescription Monitoring Program bill. This program will help monitor what prescriptions doctors

write and identify the people who are “doctor shopping”. The goal is that health professionals will eventually have access to this database. In states that have passed this type of monitoring system, abuse of prescription drugs has significantly declined.

The following is a copy of the Chief’s quarterly activity report.

- **Crime Issues-** Residents reported 2 burglaries, 1 robbery and 16 thefts during February thru April. One burglary occurred in the 1300 block of Main Street in February. A bike was removed from an unlocked shed. The bike was recovered a short distance away. The other burglary occurred on Sycamore Drive during March where entry was made by breaking a basement window. Once entry was gained a bottle of Oxycodone was stolen. The robbery was reported by a drug customer who alleged that he was robbed of his money while he was attempting to buy drugs at an apartment in the 1300 block of Main Street. Two arrests were made in that investigation.

The breakdown of the reported thefts is as follows:

- 6 Shoplifting cases, primarily at Weis Markets
  - 2 Thefts of vehicle batteries
  - 3 Thefts from homes, a suspect was arrested and charged with all three. The suspect had been an invited guest/relative to each of the victims
  - 1 Theft of dumpster services.
  - 2 Thefts of unattended property.
  - 1 Missing necklace/Late reported theft from over 1 year ago.
  - 1 Theft of a motorcycle on North Woods Trail
- **Traffic-** HPD officers have issued 406 citations and warnings (February-April). There were 30 collisions reported to HPD. 8 of those collisions occurred on Main Street. 5 occurred in the Bypass Traffic Circle at Rt. 482. 10 occurred on parking lots. Three occurred on North Woods Trail. No other street had more than 1 collision. 1 collision was handled out of town due to manpower/coverage issues. The Law Enforcement Challenge has begun and you probably have seen our officers out with our law enforcement partners encouraging motorists to use their seatbelts and secure their children in car safety seats. Please buckle up!
  - **Arrests-** HPD Officers made 22 arrests in the past quarter. All 22 were adults. The vast majority of those arrests involved charges related to possession, sale or use of alcohol or drugs of some type. 2 of the 4 people charged with driving under the influence were using prescription drugs which resulted in their intoxication. The prescription drugs of choice this month included clonazepam, klonopin, oxycodone and dilantin. Eleven were charged with traffic violations. Four were charged with assault. Seven were charged with theft. Two were charged with some type of forgery or fraud. Three were charged with Failure to Appear for Trial or Parole Violations (forged prescriptions). Other charges included reckless endangerment, Bad Check, Identity Theft. Two people charged with Robbery resulting from a drug deal gone bad. Some arrests involved multiple charges.

- **Other Prescription Drug Issues-** In addition to the arrest and reported crimes the following incidents are indicators of prescription drug abuse/misuse issues that occurred between February 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.
  - w/m 39 emergency commitment. Overdosed on his girlfriend's daughter's medication and left food on the stove burning (Meclizine/Triazolam).
  - w/m 24 emergency commitment related to his addiction to pain killers and failure to take his depression medications.
  - w/m 23 emergency commitment for depression issues.
  - w/f 36 emergency commitment for depression. Overdosed on Xanax and smoked marijuana.
  - w/m 54 emergency commitment. Addicted to Dilaudid and Oxycontin. Takes more than he is prescribed and buys additional pills on the street.
  - w/m 29 emergency commitment for addiction to prescription pain killers.
  
- **K-9 Activity-** Since we last met, Pfc. Halterman and K-9 Nego were requested for drug scans on 17 occasions. As a result, 10 arrests were made. Allied agencies assisted by our K-9 team included MSP, Carroll County Sheriffs Office, Westminster City PD, Taneytown PD and Manchester PD. The K-9 Team also assisted allied law enforcement agencies with a traffic bail-out (MSP), a Search Warrant execution (Howard Co. PD), a search for a Rape Suspect (MSP) and a search for a burglar (MSP).
  
- **Upcoming Events-** Hampstead Day Sponsored by the Hampstead Lions Club (May 21<sup>st</sup>), a Fishing Derby is scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Roberts Fields Pond, a Cub Scout Bike Rodeo at Spring Garden Elementary School is planned for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, a 5K Run is planned for the Shiloh Run/Westwood Park area on the morning of June 4<sup>th</sup>, The annual Special Olympics Torch Run will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup>, There are no events on our schedule for July. The annual Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department Carnival is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 20<sup>th</sup>. The parade will be on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Community Policing/Awards-** HPD personnel attended and/or participated in the following activities:
  - Hampstead Business Association Meeting- Pfc. Swartz and Pfc. Orem.
  - North Carroll Farms HOA Meetings- Pfc. Holland and Pfc. Orem.
  - Hampstead Business Expo- Captain Gribbin and Pfc. Orem.
  - CC Health Department Behavioral and Substance Abuse Committee- Chief Meekins
  - S/Sgt Malachowski's viewing and funeral- Entire Agency
  - Fields HOA meeting- Pfc. Swartz
  - College student interviews (4)- Captain Gribbin and Chief Meekins
  - Car Safety Seat installations (2)- Detective Gaegler
  - US Department of Justice/DEA Prescription Drug Take Back- Captain Gribbin, Pfc. Swartz and Pfc. Holland

- Recording Public Service Announcements for “Click it or Ticket” and “Aggressive Driving” at WTTR. Captain Gribbin
  - Carroll County Special Olympics- Detective Gaegler
  - Brandywine Station Condo Assn Meeting- Sgt. Riggio
  - Hampstead Lions Club Awards Dinner- Chief Meekins, Captain Gribbin, Sgt. Riggio and Pfc. Swartz. Pfc. Swartz and Captain Gribbin received awards. Pfc. Swartz is the Lions Club Officer of the Year and Captain Gribbin was recognized for his efforts to assist the Hampstead Lions Club over the years.
  - Mid-Western Regional Traffic Safety Committee Awards breakfast. Detective Gaegler and Chief Meekins attended. Detective Gaegler was recognized as the Hampstead Police Department’s Traffic Safety Officer of the Year.
- **Personnel**- Pfc. Holland is on modified duty. All other personnel are on full duty.
  - **Tip411**- HPD has contracted with TIP411 to provide a means for community members to text anonymous crime tips to HPD personnel. Posters are displayed in various town locations including the schools and post office. Officers have business cards with TIP411 instructions to hand out. To date we have received several tips and are investigating or have followed up on each one. Tipsters should be confident that their identity is unknown to our staff unless they provide it in their message.
  - **FY12 Budget**- As you know budget time is upon us. I ask that you all become participants in this process. Communicate with your elected officials and let them know what is important to you. This is a well run, fiscally conservative town. But, we still need your support each spring when our budgets are reviewed. I ask that you all be informed and active.

In conclusion, Chief Meekins thanked Carl, Ernie and Terry for helping all of us get a better understanding of the prescription drug problem in the area

To wrap things up, Chief Meekins issued a challenge to everyone to do whatever they can to help minimize the damage being done to and by the people of our community. Chief Meekins issued a challenge to the following:

**To the medical community:**

Our society has chosen to hold bartenders and liquor establishment owners accountable for serving intoxicated patrons who then go out and kill or maim on our roadways. You also need to ensure that your patients are not endangering themselves or others by diverting their medications, overusing their medications or using their medications in combination with illicit drugs.

**To my law enforcement colleagues:**

We all need to start documenting the source of the problems that we address daily. Have your officers include physician names and pharmacy names in their reports when prescription abuse/misuse are involved. Communicate with the doctors and pharmacists and explain your concern and forward that information to DEA if necessary.

**To parents and grandparents:**

Keep your medications under your control. Too many addicts get started down that path by accessing the unsecured medicine cabinets of their relatives. Be involved with your kids and get help when you see behavioral changes. When you're done with your medications dispose of them properly. Carroll County has 4 active drug disposal sites throughout the area.

When I see that CHC had less than 5 admissions related to prescription drug abuse in 2000 and in 2010 the number of similar admissions had risen to 90, I am amazed that this issue is not front page news everyday. If we had experienced an 1800% increase in heroin addictions I don't believe that it would take us this long to confront the problem.

Chief Meekins then thanked everyone for coming and for their interest in finding solutions to the prescription drug abuse problem in our community.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the **Hampstead Police Department Advisory Council** will be held on **Wednesday, August 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Hampstead Town Hall**. Remember the meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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**ATTEST**

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**CHIEF OF POLICE**