



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report June 2011



Personnel Matters and Events

During the month of June, Officer Jason Venditto and his K-9 partner Titan of the Patrol Division were awarded with the 1st Honorable Mention of the Daniel S. Wasson Memorial K-9 Team Award from the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. This prestigious award is bestowed annually to the top K-9 teams in Connecticut for outstanding deployment in field operations.

During the month of June, Officer Gregg Curran of the Patrol Division was awarded with the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognition award. The award reflects the high level of commitment and dedication in the field of DWI enforcement. This marks the 5th time that Officer Gregg Curran has received this recognition from the (MADD) organization.

Effective on June 28, 2011, School Resource Officers (SROs) Robert Dunham and Angela Hall were transferred from their respective assignments at the Hamden High School and Hamden Middle School to the Patrol Division.

Effective on July 1, 2011, Sgt. Nathan Youngberg was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Major Crimes Unit.

Training - Sworn Personnel

There was no Department wide training during the month of June per labor negotiated economy give-backs agreement.

Training: In-Service

- Basic Cellular Phone Investigations @ POST . Detective Brian Stewart
- Advanced Crime Scene School @ POST . Detective Michael DePalma
- First Line Supervisor School @ POST. Sergeant Colin Kearns
- On-line for Insiders @ POST . Detectives John Marks, Sean Dolan, Angelo DeLieto & Brian Stewart
- Encase 3 Forensic @ Connecticut State Police Crime . Sgt. Robert Daniello
- Tactical Firearms Training @ POST . Officer Eric Hallstrom

Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in training sessions at the Michael J. Whelan building on Newhall Street and the former High Meadows facility on Hartford Turnpike. Areas of training included:

- Building searches
- Narcotics detection
- Patrol techniques
- Obedience
- Explosive detection
- Tracking
- Suspect apprehensions.



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Training – Dispatchers

During the month of June, Hamden Central 911 Dispatchers participated in the first responder shadowing with members of the Hamden Patrol Division. This first perspective experience is conducted annually to provide our dispatchers with an insider view of problems faced by members of the Patrol Division during their work in the field. This close quarter liaison becomes a cooperative route for problem sharing and resolution from both officer and dispatcher points of view.

Incidents of Special Interest

On June 4, 2011, during the early morning hours, Hamden Police met with a 21 year-old Mather Street resident at police headquarters. Investigation revealed that the complainant's boyfriend, Robert Piscitelli, entered her residence through an unlocked door. Piscitelli then allegedly choked and assaulted her and as she attempted to contact police, he broke the telephone. Further investigation revealed that Piscitelli forced the complainant to drive him first to Wal-Mart and then to Fair Haven. She was allegedly assaulted throughout the ordeal. As Piscitelli exited the vehicle, she was able to escape in the vehicle. The complainant suffered injuries to her head, arms and legs. Later in the day, Hamden Officers located Piscitelli at his residence, 367 Hartford Turnpike where he was promptly arrested. Robert Piscitelli, 29, of 367 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden was charged with Kidnapping in the 2nd Degree, Unlawful Restraint in the 2nd Degree, Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Assault in the 3rd Degree, Breach of Peace and Interfering With a 911 Call. Piscitelli, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$50,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden today.

On June 8, 2011, at approximately 1:30 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of Albert Road on the report of an individual breaking into motor vehicles. Upon arrival, Officer Jason Venditto of the Patrol Division observed an individual looking into a vehicle. The individual subsequently fled on foot. Officer Venditto, and his K-9 partner immediately attempted to track the individual. The track led them from Albert Road, to Wintergreen Avenue, to Brook Street. The individual, who was identified as Joseph Civitelli, was located lying on the ground near a basement door on Brook Street. Civitelli, who fought with officers, was subsequently arrested. Joseph Civitelli, 21, of 23 Alenier Street, Hamden was charged with 2 counts of Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Possession of Burglar Tools, Larceny in the 6th Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree, Simple Trespass and Interfering With a Police Officer. Civitelli, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$2,500 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on June 21, 2011.

On June 8, 2011, at approximately 9:00 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the 200 block of Ridge Road on the report of a rollover. Investigation revealed that a motor vehicle, which was operated by a New Haven resident, was traveling northbound on Ridge Road. The operator advised police that he lost control of his vehicle, due to the sun. The vehicle subsequently struck a utility pole and then rolled over, landing on its roof. The operator of the vehicle and his 7 year-old passenger suffered minor injuries. They were both transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for medical treatment. Their names were not being released at the time of the press release pending notification of their family. The accident is being investigated by Officer Michael Romanelli Traffic Division.



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Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

On June 12, 2011, at approximately 1:00 a.m. Hamden Police responded to Dunn's Pub, 2345 Whitney Avenue on the report of an assault. Investigation revealed that a patron, identified as Kenneth Paecht, became involved in a verbal dispute with a female bartender. Paecht allegedly used vulgar expletives towards her. She subsequently refused to serve him. Paecht then allegedly threw 2 bar glasses at her, the first one, striking her in the forehead. The second glass did not strike her; however, it damaged approximately \$100 in glassware. Officers located Paecht, who was sitting on the stairs of an adjacent building where he was immediately arrested. The bartender suffered a head injury. Kenneth Paecht, 41, of 1320 Foxon Road in North Branford was charged with Assault in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree and Breach of Peace. Paecht, who was detained on a \$1,500 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on June 27, 2011.

On June 15, 2011, at approximately 1:00 a.m. Officer Gregg Curran of the Patrol Division observed a suspicious motor vehicle parked in the front of Supplement King, 1423 Dixwell Avenue. In March 2011, Hamden Police had investigated an armed robbery there. The operator of the vehicle, Raymond O'Connell, is the owner of Supplement King. Investigation led to the search of O'Connell and his vehicle. Officers seized 3.5 grams of Oxycotin, a small quantity of Suboxane, 7 - 50mg Stanozolo pills (anabolic steroids), hypodermic needles and \$2,919.00 in cash. O'Connell was subsequently arrested. Raymond O'Connell, 30, of 155 Victoria Lawn, Stratford was charged with Possession of Narcotics, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance With the Intent to Sell, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Failure to Keep Drugs in the Proper Container. O'Connell, who was released after posting a \$50,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on June 29, 2011.

On June 16, 2011, at approximately 11:30 p.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Church Street on the report of a head-on collision involving a motorcycle. Investigation revealed that a 25 year-old New Hampshire man was traveling on his motorcycle, northbound on Dixwell Avenue. His motorcycle was struck, head-on, by a vehicle, which was operated by Peter Oddo Jr. of Hamden. Investigation further revealed that Oddo crossed into the northbound lane. Officers had Oddo perform a field sobriety test, which he failed. He was subsequently arrested. The 25 year-old New Hampshire resident was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital with serious injuries. Peter Oddo Jr., 38, of 30 Bagley Avenue, Hamden was charged with Operating Under the Influence, Improper Turn and Failure to Drive in proper lane. Oddo, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$2,500 bond, and is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on June 30, 2011.



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Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

On June 21, 2011, at approximately 11:30 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of 43 Jones Road on the report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers met with the assault victim, Edwin Arpi. Arpi suffered several facial injuries. Hamden Fire Rescue treated him at the scene. Arpi was transported to the Hospital of Saint Raphael. Investigation revealed that Arpi allegedly came to the Jones Road location to fight another individual, John Hopkins. Several other individuals became involved in the physical altercation. They all fled in a motor vehicle. A short time thereafter, Officer Nicholas D'Angelo of the Patrol Division conducted a motor vehicle stop in the Hamden Plaza. John Hopkins was the operator of the vehicle. Several other individuals, who allegedly participated in the brawl, were inside of Hopkins' vehicle. After further investigation, they were all arrested.

Hamden Police arrested: John Hopkins, 18, of 104 Thornton Street in Hamden. He was charged with Assault in the 3rd Degree. Hopkins was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on July 5, 2011. Edwin Arpi, 19, of 119 Corbin Road in Hamden was charged with Breach of Peace. Arpi, who was released on a Written Promise to Appear, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on July 5, 2011.

- A 16 year-old Hamden resident.
- A 17 year-old Hamden resident.
- A 17 year-old Westbrook resident.
- A 16 year-old Hamden resident.
- A 14 year-old Hamden resident.

All of the above were charged with Breach of Peace. They were all released on a written promise to appear with a court date of July 5, 2011 and July 6, 2011. Officers Jay Bunnell and Ronald Glifort of the Patrol Division conducted the investigation.

On June 21, 2011, members of the Patrol Division attempted to stop a 2001 Mazda 626 on Dixwell Avenue near Mather Street. The operator failed to pull over for the Officer and engaged Officers in pursuit continuing northbound on Dixwell Avenue where the fleeing car was involved in a minor accident in front of 2301 Dixwell Avenue. The fleeing vehicle then turned around on Skiff Street and continued south on Dixwell into New Haven where the fleeing vehicle hit a sign. During the pursuit, three police cruisers were slightly damaged. No injuries were reported in any of the accidents. After a short foot pursuit, Trevor Smith DOB 5-25-82 of 45 Kenny Street in New Haven was arrested and charged with Reckless Driving, Engaging in Pursuit, Operating an Unregistered motor vehicle, Evading Responsibility, Failure to Drive Right, Operating without a License and Criminal Attempt to commit assault on a police officer. He was given a court date of July 5, 2011 and held on \$100,000 bond.

On June 23, 2011, at approximately 10:30 p.m. Officer Robert Manfield of the Patrol Division observed a motor vehicle proceed through a red control signal at the intersection of State Street and Ridge Road. He subsequently conducted a motor vehicle stop on Davis Street. Further investigation led to the search of the operator of the vehicle, Carlos Cajigas. Officers located and seized 20 bags of crack cocaine and \$362.00 in cash. Cajigas was promptly arrested. Carlos Cajigas, 31, of 155 Dexter Avenue in Meriden was charged with Possession of Narcotics and Possession of Narcotics With the Intent to Sell. Cajigas, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$10,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on July 7, 2011.



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Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

On June 22, 2011, Officer Craig Appleby and Michael Nawrocki of the Patrol Division responded to 44 Dudley Street on the report of suspicious activity. Officers learned that people were inside of this foreclosed property. Further investigation revealed that there was forced entry into the structure. The Officers and Officer Appleby's K-9 partner Hunter proceeded to the second floor, where Hunter located 2 individuals inside of a bedroom. They were promptly arrested. Furthermore, Officers seized 29 bags of marijuana and 8 bags of crack cocaine, which were located in a handbag. Naquan Payne, 21, of 138 Warner Street in Hamden was charged with Burglary in the 2nd Degree and held on a \$2,500 bond with a court date of July 6, 2011. Sasha Heredia, 22, of 222 Chapel Street in New Haven was charged with Burglary in the 2nd Degree, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana With the Intent to Sell, Possession of Narcotics and Possession of Narcotics With the Intent to Sell. Heredia, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$2,500 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on July 6, 2011.

On June 29, 2011, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Hamden Police responded to Cherry Hill Road on the report of mail theft. Upon arrival, officers found numerous pieces of mail scattered throughout the street. A short distance away, 2 of the individuals, who were allegedly responsible for the mail theft, were arrested.

Hamden Police arrested:

- 13 year-old Hamden resident
- 14 year-old Hamden resident

They were both charged with Larceny in the 6th Degree and Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree. They are scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on July 13, 2011. Officer Mark Gery of the Patrol Division conducted the investigation.

On June 30, 2011, at approximately 12:45 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the Regency Hills Apartments, 304 Pine Rock Avenue, on the report of a robbery. Investigation revealed that a 64 year-old resident, parked her vehicle in the parking lot and she was approached by an individual, described as a thin built black male, who placed his hand over her mouth and demanded money. The individual subsequently grabbed a handbag and fled. A Hamden Police Department K-9 Unit conducted a track, which was unsuccessful. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.