



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report October 2012



Personnel Matters and Events

On October 3, 2012, Officer David Falcigno was transferred from the Traffic Division to the Patrol Division.

On October 8, 2012, Officer Beatriz Montijo was transferred from the Patrol Division to the position of Property Officer in the Support Services Division.

On October 22, 2012, the department appointed four new Communication Technicians: Sara Parker, Marangelly Morales, Cory Brown and Michael DeCaprio.



Welcoming our new dispatchers at the Commission



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

During the month of October, the Community Liaison Unit was involved in the following community outreach events:

- Temple Beth Sholom safety talk
- Drug and Alcohol awareness fair at the Church Street School
- Brooksvale Fall Festival (Officers A. Hall, K. Hall, B. Montijo, and S. Degrand)
- Hamden High School Career fair
- Hamden Police Departments Halloween Safe Night (Officers Montijo and DiMaria)
- Ridge Hill school safety talk
- Arcadia Avenue Block Watch Meeting
- Law Enforcement Club Meetings at Hamden Middle School



Hamden High School Career Day



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Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed Speed Compliance Units throughout areas in Town with a high volume of speeding complaints. The signs and trailer were deployed on: Church Street, Arents Street, Haverford Avenue, Woodin Street, Main Street, Lane Street, and Joseph Lane. Proactive traffic enforcement typically receives positive feedback from residents, schools, and business owners.



Training - Sworn Personnel

October's Department wide training was held at the CT Police Academy firing range in Meriden. The training consisted of low light handgun qualification, shotgun familiarization and Taser recertification.





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Training: In-Service

- Field Training Officer School @ POST – Officer Matthew Barbuto
- States Attorney School @ POST – Officers William May, Shawn Natcher, Joseph Liguori, and Mark Katz



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. The training curriculum included:

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

Training – Dispatchers

The newly appointed Dispatchers attended Collect training at the Connecticut State Police Headquarters facility in Middletown, and are in the early stages of the Field Training program.





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Incidents of Special Interest

On October 3, 2012, at approximately 6:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Goodrich Street and Shelton Avenue on the report of 2 canines attacking a person. Upon arrival, officers observed several people in the street, yielding baseball bats. Numerous other individuals were assisting 47 year-old Cynthia Reed, who was bleeding profusely from the head and back. Hamden Fire Rescue arrived and rendered medical treatment. Reed was transported to the Hospital of Saint Raphael with serious injuries. Investigation revealed that 2 Rottweiler's escaped from a fenced in area at 35 Edwards Street. The owner of the canines, Kim Miller advised police that as she was placing garbage outside, the dogs pushed open the gate. The canine's proceeded to 440 Shelton Avenue, where they attacked Reed's 6 year-old granddaughter. Cynthia Reed, who resides on the second floor, heard the screams of her granddaughter and rushed to her aid. Monique Jones, who observed the attack on the 6 year-old, quickly grabbed her and ran into her home. As Cynthia Reed ran outside, the 2 canines viciously attacked her. According to a witness, the canines bit and dragged Reed towards the street. Two area residents, Kenneth Lewis and Curtis Watkins, retrieved baseball bats and struck the 2 canines until they released Reed. It should be noted the numerous residents played a heroic role in coming to the aid of Cynthia Reed. Hamden Animal Control is continuing the investigation and charges will be filed against the owner of the canines. One of the canines has been impounded at the North Haven Animal Shelter and the second canine was transported to the New Haven Central Veterinary Hospital. The 6 year-old was not injured in the attack.

On October 4, 2012, at approximately 11:30 a.m., Officer Joseph Liguori of the Patrol Division observed a suspicious motor vehicle in the area of Dixwell Avenue and Easton Street. A computer check revealed that the vehicle was recently stolen out of Hamden. Officer Liguori attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop; however, the vehicle proceeded into New Haven. Numerous residents assisted Hamden Police in locating the operator of the vehicle, who parked it in the driveway of a Mansfield Street address. Vincent Steele was promptly arrested as he exited the vehicle. A subsequent search of Steele led to the discovery of 6 bags of marijuana. Vincent Steele Jr., 19, of 192 Stanley Road, Hamden, was charged with Larceny in the 2nd Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Sell, Reckless Driving and Engaging an Officer in Pursuit. Steele, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$50,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on October 17, 2012.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On October 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., there was a street robbery/carjacking reported in the area of Augar Street and Newhall Street. The victim met members of the Patrol Division at Walgreens, on Dixwell Avenue and Putnam Avenue. The victim reported that (3) black males armed/displaying handguns took the victims' vehicle. The vehicle was a 2001 Ford Taurus, grey, bearing CT dealer reg. DC1513. The vehicle had an IBEW local 90 bumper sticker on the rear right portion of the bumper.

The suspect's description is as follows: Suspect (1): Black male, late teens/early 20's, 5'7", 140 lbs., clean shaven, wearing black and tan jacket, blue jeans and silver handgun (operator). Suspect (2): Black male all black clothing, displayed black handgun. Suspect (3): black male all black clothing. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.

On October 10, 2012, at approximately 1:30 a.m., Officer Robert Manfield of the Patrol Division observed suspicious activity in the parking lot of the Salvation Army, 1359 Dixwell Avenue. Upon proceeding to the front of the store, Officer Manfield observed an individual, with the upper half of his body inside of the front opening of the donation bin. As the individual, who was later identified as Michael Rossamondo, emerged, he was in the possession of a hair dryer. He was subsequently arrested and transported to Hamden Police Headquarters. Michael Rossamondo, 51, of 583 Columbus Avenue, New Haven, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. Rossamondo was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on October 22, 2012.

On October 10, 2012, at approximately 1:30a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a home invasion at 1733 Dixwell Avenue. Upon arrival, officers found the injured 47 year-old resident, crying hysterically. Investigation revealed that as she got out of bed, she observed an individual she has known for years, Michael Zaccarino, running towards the front door, while in the possession of her television. The victim advised officers that she attempted stop Zaccarino, at which time he allegedly pushed her onto the floor, where she struck her head on a piece of furniture. The victim was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital with injuries to her head, neck, back and shoulder. A short time thereafter, Officer Nicholas Lovett located Zaccarino in front of a Lakeview Avenue residence. That after further investigation, Zaccarino was arrested and transported to Hamden Police Headquarters. Michael Zaccarino, 22, of 86 Lakeview Avenue, Hamden, was charged with Home Invasion, Burglary in the 1st Degree, Robbery in the 2nd Degree, Larceny in the 5th Degree and Assault in the 3rd Degree.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Michael Zaccarino, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$50,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on October 24, 2012.

On October 12, 2012, David B. Fein, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that four individuals involved in a New Haven-area oxycodone trafficking were sentenced this week by United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport. This matter stems from "Operation Big Blue," a year-long investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Haven Task Force into a New Haven-area oxycodone trafficking operation headed by Michael Marchitto, Jr., of Hamden. The investigation included the use of court-authorized wiretaps, physical surveillance, and controlled purchases and seizures of oxycodone. According to court documents and statements made in court, Marchitto and his associates were involved in the distribution of substantial quantities of oxycodone in and around New Haven. Marchitto and others regularly traveled, at Marchitto's expense, to Florida where they obtained prescriptions for large amounts of oxycodone at unscrupulous pain clinics, commonly referred to as "pill mills". Marchitto also arranged to have three Florida residents' ship bulk quantities of oxycodone to him on a regular basis. Marchitto sold most of the pills that he and his associates were able to acquire to an established network of redistributors in Connecticut. On October 11, 2012, Marchitto's parents, MICHAEL MARCHITTO, SR., 53, and BRENDA MARCHITTO, 51, both of Hamden, were each sentenced to 39 months of imprisonment, followed by four years of supervised release. The investigation revealed that MICHAEL MARCHITTO, SR. and BRENDA MARCHITTO regularly traveled to Florida with Michael Marchitto, Jr., at Marchitto Jr.'s expense, and fraudulently obtained prescriptions for large amounts of oxycodone from the pill mills. Marchitto Jr. allowed his parents to keep some of the pills they acquired for their own use, and purchased the remainder from them, which he then distributed for profit. MICHAEL MARCHITTO, SR. and BRENDA MARCHITTO also stored bulk quantities of oxycodone pills at their residence for Marchitto, Jr. On October 11, 2012, AMBER FISCHER, 28, of Meriden, was sentenced to three months of imprisonment, followed by four years of supervised release. FISCHER was one of the most active street-level distributors of oxycodone affiliated with the Marchitto organization. Intercepted communications revealed that she sometimes obtained multiple shipments of oxycodone pills per day from Marchitto Jr. On October 9, 2012, KRISTINA GARGANO, 25, of East Haven, was sentenced to four years of probation, the first six months of which she must serve in home confinement under electronic monitoring. GARGANO was a street-level distributor of oxycodone.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Each of the four defendants previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute oxycodone. Sixteen individuals were charged as a result of this investigation, and all have pleaded guilty. Marchitto Jr. awaits sentencing. This matter has been investigated by the DEA New Haven Task Force, including personnel from the New Haven, West Haven, Ansonia, Meriden, Hamden, Branford, and Wallingford Police Departments, and the United States Marshals Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Patrick Caruso and Douglas Morabito.

On October 14, 2012, at approximately 09:30 a.m., Officer Joseph Liguori of the Patrol Division observed David Arzuaga and spoke with him concerning an unrelated incident. A wants/warrant check showed that there was an active arrest warrant and he was promptly arrested and taken into custody. David Arzuaga, 21, of 58 Michael Road, Hamden, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree (4 counts), Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Trespass in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. Arzuaga, who was released after posting a \$1,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on October 26, 2012. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that had occurred on October 30, 2011, when members of the Patrol Division responded to the Jefferson Arms Apartment complex regarding suspicious activity. Investigation revealed that an individual forcibly entered 4 property storage lockers. Several items, valued at approximately \$200, were stolen. After a lengthy investigation, Officer William May developed a suspect, and an arrest warrant application was submitted to the court for the arrest of David Arzuaga. The arrest warrant application was subsequently approved.

On October 17, 2012, at approximately 3:30 p.m., members of the Street Interdiction Team, with the assistance of the Quinnipiac University Public Safety Department, seized 1.5 pounds of marijuana, which was delivered to the university by the United States Postal Service. The package of marijuana was addressed to Quinnipiac University student Nicholas Dinanno, who resides in the York Hill complex. That after further investigation, a search and seizure warrant was secured for Dinanno's residence. Officers seized several items, including drug paraphernalia and a large amount of money. The street value of the marijuana is estimated at \$15,000.00. Nicholas Dinanno, 20, of 305 Sherman Avenue, Hamden, was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana With the Intent to Sell and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Dinanno, who was released after posting a \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on October 26, 2012.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On October 19, 2012, at approximately 2:45 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Mill Rock Road address on the complaint of a victim with a gunshot wound. Upon arrival, officers found 22 year-old Edward Wright, lying in the doorway, with a single gunshot wound to the back. Hamden Fire Rescue administered medical assistance, and Wright was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital.

A preliminary investigation has revealed that Wright parked his motor vehicle at the corner of Winchester Avenue and Mill Rock Road. As he was walking to a Mill Rock Road residence, he heard a gunshot. He reported that he started running, at which time a second gunshot struck him in the back. He continued to run, before collapsing in the doorway. The Detective Division is conducting the investigation.

On October 18, 2012, Hamden Police arrested Neville George Saldanha, 36, of 1107 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven, on the strength of an active arrest warrant. George Saldanha was charged with Making a False Statement in the 2nd Degree and Interfering With a Police Officer. Saldanha, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$2,500 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on November 1, 2012. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that had occurred on August 1, 2012, when members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the report of a robbery at the Wine Merchant Package Store, 2300 Dixwell Avenue. After an extensive investigation, Hamden Police arrested Robert Gordner for Robbery in the 1st Degree. During the course of the investigation, Detectives determined that false statements were made to police, pertaining to the amount of money that was stolen in the robbery. The false statements indicated that an additional several thousand dollars was taken. As a result of this information, Detective Sean Dolan submitted an arrest warrant application to the court for the manager of Wine Merchants, Mr. Neville George Saldanha, and the arrest warrant application was subsequently approved.

On October 18, 2012, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Hamden Police responded to a Belden Road residence on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found the shooting victim, 28 year-old Robert Edwards, lying in the bedroom with a single gunshot wound to the chest. Hamden Fire Rescue was summoned to the scene. Paramedics subsequently pronounced Edwards dead. A preliminary investigation revealed that the wound to Edward's chest was self-inflicted. His body has been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Farmington for an autopsy. The manner of death has not been determined at this time and foul play is not suspected. The Detective Division is conducting the investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On October 25, 2012, Detective Raymond Quinn, along with other members of the United States Marshal Service Connecticut Violent Fugitive Task Force and other members of the Hamden Police Department located and arrested Marquis Winfrey Sr., 492 Woodin Street, on the strength of an active arrest warrant. Marquis Winfrey Sr., 22, of 28 Fawn Ridge Road, Hamden, was charged with Assault in the 1st Degree and Criminal Attempt to Commit Assault in the 1st Degree. Winfrey, who was detained on a \$250,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on November 8, 2012. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that had occurred on July 2, 2010, at approximately 12:15 a.m., when members of the Patrol Division responded to Elliott Drive on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found John Belcher, then 25 years of age, lying face down in the driveway, with a gunshot wound to the chest and neck. Belcher was subsequently transported to the Hospital of Saint Raphael with serious life threatening injuries. A preliminary investigation at the time of the incident revealed that Belcher was confronted by 3 individuals, who were wearing face masks. Witnesses believed that at least 2 of the individuals were in the possession of handguns. In addition, they believed that several gunshots were fired. Immediately after the shooting, Officer Craig Appleby and his K-9 partner "Hunter" conduct a track, which led to the residence of Marquis Winfrey Sr., 28 Fawn Ridge Road. After an extensive 2 year investigation, Detective Angelo DeLieto of the Major Crimes Unit submitted an arrest warrant application to the court for Marquis Winfrey, which was subsequently approved. In a statement from Chief Thomas Wydra, "The arrest in this case would not have been possible without the prolonged efforts and spirit of teamwork delivered by the New Haven State's Attorney's Office, State of Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory and members of the Hamden Police Department, specifically Detective Angelo DeLieto." The victim, John Belcher, has suffered permanent injuries as a result of the shooting.

On October 29, 2012, at approximately 3:30 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the report of a burglary in progress in the area of Myra Road. Upon arrival, officers learned that an individual broke the front passenger window of a motor vehicle that was parked in the driveway of a Myra Road resident. The individual subsequently fled the area in a motor vehicle. Moments later, Lieutenant Michael McNeil observed the vehicle that fled from the scene. He conducted a motor vehicle stop on Davis Street, near Hartford Turnpike. The motor vehicle stop led to the discovery of numerous burglar tools, including a pry bar. Further investigation led to the arrest of the 2 occupants, Jason Batts and Christina Gifford.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Jason Batts, 39, of 1738 North Avenue, Bridgeport, was charged with Criminal Attempt to Commit Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree and Possession of Burglar Tools. Batts, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$10,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on November 13, 2012. Christina Gifford, 48, of 175 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeport, was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree. Gifford, who was released after posting a \$1,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior court on November 13, 2012.

On October 29, 2012, the Town of Hamden was hit by a devastating hurricane/tropical storm (Hurricane Sandy), which caused havoc to the local community as well as other states in the tri-state area. As a result of this storm, additional manpower coverage was summoned to assist in providing safety to the residents and roadways. For three/four days, members of the Patrol Division, Communications Division, Detective Division, and Support Services Division worked extended shifts to provide assistance to residents in need, clearing roadways, assisting motorists, and provided patrol coverage to areas that were without power.

On October 29, 2012, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of the Patrol and Traffic Divisions responded to Benham Street on the report of a motor vehicle accident. Investigation revealed that a motor vehicle, which was operated by Marc Torello, was traveling westbound on Benham Street and struck a tree that was lying in the roadway. Further investigation revealed that Torello drove through police caution tape, as well as several police barricades, prior to striking the tree. The caution tape, barricades and tree were located in a well-lit area. Officers conducted a field sobriety test on Torello, which he failed. He was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence. Marc Torello, 44, of 337 Basset Road, North Haven, was charged with Driving Under the Influence. Torello, who was released after posting a \$500.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on November 8, 2012. Officers Stephen DeGrand and Eric Goclowski conducted the investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On October 30, 2012, at approximately 11:30 a.m., members of the Hamden Police Department responded to 630 Mix Avenue, the Broadmoor Apartments, on the report of a structure fire. Upon arrival, officers observed heavy smoke billowing from a second floor apartment. Officers subsequently forced entry into the apartment, but were unable to enter, due to the density of the smoke. Numerous Hamden Police Officers subsequently proceeded to alert all of the residents, from floors one through six, of the fire, while the hallways filled with smoke. During the course of the evacuation, Officers carried an elderly, wheel-chair bound, resident to safety. While on the 5th floor, Officers were informed that a canine was trapped in an apartment. Officers again forced entry and rescued the animal. Officer Stephen Baris became concerned when he noticed that an apartment was locked with a deadbolt. Officers again forced entry and located a mother and her 2 young children inside. They then carried the children to safety. When the incident concluded, numerous residents were able to escape on their own volition, while Hamden Police rescued dozens more. Approximately 10 officers were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation. The officers involved in the rescue were Lieutenant Frank McDermott, Sergeant John Testa, Detective Scott Levenduski, Detective Stephen Rossacci, Officer Stephen DeGrand, Officer Robert Villano, Officer Mark Atwater, Officer Craig Appleby, Officer Ronald Glifort, Officer Patrick McCue and Officer Nicholas D'Angelo.

On October 31, 2012, at approximately 9:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the parking lot of 651 Newhall Street on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located the shooting victim in a nearby apartment. The victim, a 30 year-old Hamden resident, was shot in the back. She was treated at the scene by Hamden Fire Rescue. She was subsequently transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital. Investigation revealed that the victim, who had recently returned to her residence after taking her children out for Halloween, was standing outside of her home, talking on the telephone. A vehicle entered the parking lot, at which time a male passenger began firing at a group of adult males, who were standing nearby. The victim was not the intended target. Members of the group fled on foot after hearing approximately 5 gunshots. Witnesses advised police that a dark colored vehicle fled from the scene. Detective Michael DePalma of the Major Crimes Unit is conducting the investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On October 31, 2012, at approximately 9:15 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the Regency Hills Apartment Complex, 300 Pine Rock Avenue, on the report of an assault with a knife. Upon arrival, officers found the victim, a 35 year-old Hamden resident, lying unconscious, in the 3rd floor hallway. The victim was bleeding profusely from the head. Hamden Fire Rescue responded and rendered medical aid. He was transported to Yale – New Haven Hospital. The status of his medical condition is unknown at this time. Investigation revealed that the victim and his girlfriend, Stephanie Darden, were involved in a verbal dispute, which became physical. Neighbors, who reside on the second floor, proceeded to break up the fight. Moments later, the victim started bleeding and became unconscious. It appeared that he was stabbed in the head. Further investigation led to the arrest of Darden. She was subsequently transported to police headquarters. Stephanie Darden, 37, of 302 Pine Rock Avenue, Apt. B14, Hamden, was charged with Assault in the 2nd Degree and Disorderly Conduct. Darden, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$100,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior court on November 1, 2012. Detective William Onofrio conducted the investigation.

