



MIKE WOOD REJOINS DEPARTMENT AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS



Michael Wood, who served 21 years with the Rochester Police Department before being named Chief of Court Security for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in January 2009, has rejoined the RPD as Deputy Chief of Operations.

In his prior service with the RPD, Deputy Chief Wood served in many operational and administrative assignments, including Patrol, Tactical and Headquarters. In addition, he was an original NET Lieutenant, Aide to the Police Chief and is a past commanding officer of the Crime Analysis and Homicide/Major Crimes Units, and also served as Commander of Patrol Division West.

Appointed to his new position on February 7, 2011, Chief Wood will oversee the Operations Bureau, which is responsible for providing direct police services to the public and includes departmental coordination of the Neighborhood Service (NSC) project. The Operations Bureau is divided into Patrol Division West, Patrol Division East, Special Operations Division, and the Central Investigation Division.

"It was a very exciting opportunity to come back to the Rochester Police Department, and quite the honor to be asked by Chief Sheppard. Very simply, my heart has always been with the RPD and the men and women that make up this outstanding organization," Chief Wood explained.

While his days are long as he acclimates back into RPD, Deputy Chief Wood is hoping to carve out time to continue his community activities, including coaching youth sports. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bivona Child Advocacy Center and the Pastoral Council of his church. He and wife, Ann, have been married for 22 years, and have three sons, 21, 19 and 13.

NEWS BRIEFS:

CENTER FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT RECOGNIZES MOSES ROBINSON

Officer Moses Robinson was presented with the Center for Dispute Settlement's Honored Law Enforcement award, presented at its 21st Annual Awards "Fair Play" Luncheon, held February 8. The award honors a law enforcement person or department that exemplifies the de-escalation of conflict on a regular basis and makes the community more peaceful—in partnership with citizens.

Persons nominated for the award exemplify the ideals of the Center for Dispute Settlement, promoting the cause of peace, non-violence and peaceful dispute resolution processes. Officer Robinson, an RPD School Resource Officer at East High School, was recognized for his commitment, outstanding leadership, dedication and community involvement.

**NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D):****FOUR RPD OFFICERS HONORED BY MESSENGER POST MEDIA**

Four members of the RPD have been recognized in a special Black History Month section of *Messenger Post Newspapers* as some of Rochester's most influential African-American leaders.

Sgt. Henry Favor Jr., Sgt. Mark Simmons, Sgt. LaRon D. Singletary and Investigator Jacqueline Pulsifer were among 40 African-Americans under the age of 40 honored as role models in the community.

Sgt. Favor, 32, worked for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office before coming to the RPD in 2002. He was promoted to Sergeant in June 2009 and is assigned to Patrol Division West. He has been awarded five Chief's Letters of Recognition, an Excellent Police Service Award and two Unit Commendations.

Sgt. Simmons, 30, also joined the RPD in 2002. The recipient of multiple Excellent Police Service Awards, an Officer of the Month Award, Community Service Award and Distinguished Service Award, he was promoted to Sergeant in November 2008 and is currently assigned to the Professional Standards Section.

Sgt. LaRon Singletary, 30, was hired by RPD in July 2000 after working as a Public Safety Aide for two years. He most recently served as the Public Information Officer in the Chief's Office before being promoted to Sergeant in June 2010. He is currently assigned to Patrol Division West.

Investigator Jacqueline Pulsifer, 37, joined the RPD in 1999. She has been awarded three Excellent Police Service Awards, several Chief's Letters and a Good Conduct Award in 2005. She is an Investigator working out of Patrol Division East.

ROCHESTER HISPANIC YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed for the Rochester's Hispanic Youth Baseball League's 2011 season. The program was launched in 1995 to enhance the lives of Hispanic youth and their families by encouraging teamwork, volunteerism and parental involvement.

The League is open free to youth between the ages of 11-17, and upcoming registration dates will be held on the following dates at Ibero/PRYD Office entrance #3 – 2nd Floor at 30 Hart Street:

Saturday, March 19, 2011	12:00PM – 3:00PM
Saturday, April 2, 2011	12:00PM – 3:00PM
Saturday, April 16, 2011	12:00PM – 5:00PM <i>Last Registration Date!</i>

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Carlos M. De Jesus Jr., (585) 957-0607.

NEWS BRIEFS (CONT'D):

CHIEF HENRY JENSEN MEMORIAL AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE ON MARCH 18

The Rochester Downtown Rotary Club will present the ninth annual Chief Henry Jensen Memorial Award at its annual Law Day Luncheon on May 3 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Retired Deputy Chief Henry Jensen passed away in 2001 at the age of 95, designating in his will that an appropriate award be presented to an "unsung hero" of the Rochester Police Department.

Chief Sheppard is currently soliciting nominations for this year's recipient. Nominations focus on those individuals who are considered "unsung heroes" of daily police performance.

STAFF CHANGE AT PATROL DIVISION WEST

Chief Sheppard announced in February the appointment of Samuel Farina Jr. as Commander of Patrol Division West. Cmdr. Farina formerly served as Deputy Chief of Operations and as Commander of the Special Operations Division. He is a 19 year veteran of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and joined RPD in 2008.



RPD NEWS



March 2011

BLACK HERITAGE MONTH AT RPD



Above: RPD kicked off its celebration of Black Heritage Month with a “glimpse into the past” featuring a talk with the Department’s first black officer, retired Captain Charles Price (far right), and retired Sergeant John Ashford (center) by Public Information Officer Stephen Scott. Capt. Price and Sgt. Ashford posed for a photo with current RPD Chief James Sheppard. On February 17, School #50 entertained an audience at the Public Safety Building with singing, dancing and poetry readings honoring heroes and artists. Right: A student portrays the first black astronaut and physician Mae Jemison. The performers get a round of applause from the audience. Four students perform a dance they choreographed to the song, “Man in the Mirror”.



RPD NEWS



March 2011

BLACK HERITAGE MONTH AT RPD (CONT'D)

On February 7, students from School #20 participated in a meet & greet at the Public Safety Building. Thirteen minority RPD officers joined the students to eat lunch, play games and talk about their interests, and then took them on a tour of the Public Safety Building. The media was on hand to interview students and officers. A gospel concert wrapped up the month-long series of events with performances by Hope Divine Church of God Choir, Greater Harmony Missionary Baptist Church Male Chorus, Voices of Tomorrow from Holy Light Church of God, Fifteenth Tabernacle Church of God and Saints of Christ Acapella Chorus and the Brockport "Top Brass" Youth Band. Jeff Graham directed the program and the Rev. Sammie Drayton gave the opening and closing blessings.





WE PRODUCE LEADERS

Over the years, the Rochester Police Department has developed a national reputation for excellence due in large part to the tremendous talent, commitment and innovative thinking exhibited by those who have worn the uniform of the Rochester Police Department. The "We Produce Leaders" series highlights RPD alumni who have gone on from the Department to continue serving the community in a variety of leadership roles. We hope these articles inspire current RPD members and demonstrate the many ways that the skills and professionalism gained as a RPD officer benefit the community for a lifetime.



LORI (BISHOP) BALDWIN

Lori Bishop, Director of Safety and Security at the Rochester City School District, says that her experience as a Rochester Police Department officer "shaped my future," but a career in law enforcement was a goal long before that.

"I was at my class reunion recently, and a friend reminded me that I said I wanted to be a police officer when I was in kindergarten," she said with a laugh. She ended up pursuing that interest at Rochester Institute of Technology where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She then took a job working security at the University of Rochester.

When several colleagues signed up for the Rochester police exam, she decided to take it also. She joined the Department April 21, 1986 and retired as a Sergeant in September 2008.

Ms. Bishop worked a variety of assignments at the RPD, including Patrol, Clinton Section investigations, Technical Services, Professional Standards, and Research & Development. The skills she developed as a police officer made her a strong, marketable person in the private sector.

It was her role supervising school resource officers (SROs) that led her to the school district. "The assignment working with the SROs provided a collaborative opportunity and resulted in a better understanding of the Rochester City School District," she explained. "At the time, I didn't know that assignment would provide insight and experience that would lead to this job. I guess it was meant to be."

She began her second career as the Emergency Management/Professional Development Coordinator of the Rochester City School District, the third largest school district in New York State. She was promoted to Director of Safety and Security in 2010.

She is now in a position where she will collaborate with Chief James Sheppard, who held her position at the school district before returning to RPD. "I followed my boss from RPD to the school district and now I will be working with him again. This will be a great united effort, enabling us to work together on issues mutually affecting students, staff and the community."

Her advice to current RPD officers: "Take advantage of the opportunities that are presented, and emulate the positive attributes of people around you, whether it is a peer, a supervisor or a community member. The knowledge you gain today may be your future tomorrow."



RPD OFFICER IS SANTA CLAUS YEAR ROUND TO CHILDREN IN NEED



RPD Officer Otto Harnischfeger may be on his third Santa suit but his giving spirit never seems to fade. Since donning his first Santa costume over 20 years ago as an officer assigned to Clinton Section, he now helps provide toys year-round to children through his work with the Pirate Toy Fund.

The Pirate Toy Fund was founded in 1995 by local children's entertainer Gary the Happy Pirate. What makes this organization unique is the year-round supply of toys it provides to sick and disadvantaged kids, not just at holiday time but throughout the year. Staff and dedicated volunteers work together to put smiles on the faces of children throughout the Rochester area.

Currently about 70 local organizations receive donated toys from the Fund, including the "Do the Right Thing" program at RPD. Most of the toys are given to programs that support children affected by medical issues, domestic violence or who are in financial need. A variety of events from the Christie Simonetti Golf Tournament to the Halloween-themed Treat-Fest to the recent Buccaneers' Ball raise money for the organization. Last year, the Pirate Toy Fund donated almost 25,000 toys.

In 2009, the Fund launched TIC-TOC (Toys Inspiring Children To Overcome Challenges) to purchase adaptive toys for children with disabilities. These toys are usually hard to find and expensive, and are rarely donated. The Fund purchases the toys in conjunction with each child's teacher or counselor, to help the child improve his or her social, physical, and/or emotional abilities.

Off. Harnischfeger was appointed to the Pirate Toy Fund Board of Directors in 2007 and was elected vice president last year. As dedicated as he is about the organization, he still finds time to help the community in other ways.

This past Christmas, the Harnischfeger family reached out to local families in need by inviting them to share Christmas dinner with the family. They contacted St. Michael's Church on North Clinton Avenue and St. Monica's Church off Genesee Street, and extended an invitation to enjoy a prime rib dinner with the Harnischfeger family.

Rick's Prime Rib donated prime rib, Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided transportation to pick up the 120 guests, and family and friends enjoyed an event that truly embodied the spirit of the holiday. They even had leftover food that they donated to local soup kitchens.

Giving to others is a role that comes naturally to Off. Harnischfeger. "The department teaches us to give, that we're all in this together," he explained. "Service is what we provide every day and helping people is part of the job."

For more information on the Pirate Toy Fund, visit <http://piratetoyfund.org/> or call (585) 271-5519.



“DO THE RIGHT THING” WINNERS HONORED



Eleven students from the City of Rochester and Monroe County were honored on Feb. 10 as the January and February winners of the “Do The Right Thing” Program.

The program is sponsored by the Rochester Police Department, Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust, C.J. & B.S August Family Foundation, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Daisy Marquis Foundation, Democrat and Chronicle, Dynamic Recording Studios, Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, J & T Security Associates, McDonalds (Upper Falls Blvd.), Memorial Art Gallery, News 10NBC, Pirate Toy Fund, Rochester City School District, Rochester Housing Authority, Rochester Press-Radio Club, Rochester Rhinos, Rural Metro Medical Services, Seabreeze Amusement Park, TOPS Friendly Markets, Trophies and Awards by NYRA, The Battery, The Buffalo Bills, Salvatore’s Old Fashioned PIZZERIA, and Walmart (Hudson Ave) Store.

January winners are: I’nyce Green, 5th Grade, John Walton Spencer School #16, who alerted adults when she saw a car engulfed in flames; Jayleen Amoroso and Maya Daniels, 8th Grade, Calkins Road Middle School, who intervened when a group of 7th grade boys

were teasing another student; Kayla Smith, 7th Grade, School Without Walls Foundation Academy, who demonstrated her bravery when she told the school principal about girls on the bus who were being severely bullied; Treasure Beacoats, 11th Grade, Global Media Arts at Franklin High School, who interceded on behalf of another student who was the victim of a crime, and Jessica DeRoller, 11th Grade, Bishop Kearney High School, who, after losing her grandmother to cancer, volunteers her time with children at the Strong Memorial Cancer Center.

February winners are: Emily Buchbinder, 8th Grade, Johanna Perrin Middle School, who initiated a drive at her school that brought in over 3,500 items (including winter clothing, toys, art materials and canned food) for families in need at Wilson Commencement Park; Keyanna Bolton, 3rd Grade, Henry W. Longfellow School #36, who bravely participated in an investigation that stopped a rash of crimes in her neighborhood; Cameron Irland, 5th Grade, Harris Hill Elementary School, who recognized that kids his age were fighting the same life-threatening disease as his mom so he collected a truckload of gifts for children at Golisano Children’s Hospital; and Nicole Ryder and Alexis DiPasquale, 7th Grade, Gates Chili Middle School, who mentored and protected a 6th grade student who has Down syndrome.

Congratulations to all of “Doing The Right Thing” winners. For information on the program or to nominate a deserving student, click here <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936500>.



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Thirteen officers have died in the line of duty over the 193-year-history of the Rochester Police Department. In upcoming issues of the RPD News, we will honor their memory by sharing their stories with members of our department. Our thanks to Capt. Johnston for researching and providing the information.

PATROLMAN WILLIAM P. O'NEIL
APPOINTED DECEMBER 9, 1870
1841 – DECEMBER 30, 1888
BADGE# 208



On Saturday, December 29, 1880, Patrolman William P. O'Neil was shot to death during the service of a warrant. Patrolman O'Neil went to the home of William Manley to serve a warrant sworn out the day before by Manley's wife for neglecting to support his family. When Patrolman O'Neil reached Manley's house at 48 Penn Street he had no difficulty in getting him to accompany him.

As they walked to the jail, Manley cursed everybody, his wife in particular. Manley did not attempt to escape until reaching Plymouth Avenue. Manley tripped O'Neil and fled. When O'Neil tried to take Manley back into custody, he pulled out a revolver and said, "Keep away - I will not be arrested again." O'Neil cautioned Manley not to shoot but Manley fired.

Patrolman O'Neil, disregarding his wound or further danger, pounced on Manley and brought him flat on his back. Mr. Chambers of 566 East Main Street was approaching the bridge when he heard Manley's threats and saw the patrolman take Manley down. Chambers said that Manley still had the revolver in his hand and was trying to discharge another round into the patrolman. O'Neil and Chambers were able to get the revolver away from Manley.

Four other citizens came to help and restrained Manley until the Patrol Wagon bearing Patrolmen Borchill, Ryan and Frank arrived and transferred him to jail. Manley said he escaped from O'Neil and resisted because the patrolman had refused to read the arrest warrant.

O'Neil, not knowing how seriously he was injured, started to walk with the assistance of Patrolman Frank and Mr. Chambers until he collapsed at the corner of Ford and Adams Street. O'Neil was carried into a house at 158 Adams Street where he was examined by Police Surgeon E.M. Pierce. The wounded patrolman was taken to his home at 57 Bronson Avenue where doctors operated on him. However, he died at 8:00 a.m. on December 30, 1888.

William Manley, who shot and killed Patrolman O'Neil was declared insane and taken to a Buffalo insane asylum.

Patrolman O'Neil was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Wednesday January 2, 1889. Patrolman William P. O'Neil name appears on Panel 34, E-3 of the National Law Enforcement Memorial located in Washington, D.C.