



The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

Ground broken for new North Patrol Division

Police and City officials kicked off the construction of a new police station July 17 with a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the future building at 11000 N.W. Prairie View Rd. Nearly 150 people were in attendance.

The new station will replace the current North Patrol Division located at 1001 N.W. Barry Road. Construction is expected to be completed in Spring 2017.

“This new North Patrol Division will be the final project funded by the Public Safety Sales Tax, which the voters of Kansas City approved in 2002 and overwhelmingly renewed in 2010,” Chief Darryl Forté said at the ceremony.

He thanked the residents of Kansas City for supporting their police department.

Kansas City Councilman Ed Ford said the facility will be built with a long-range view of an eventual increase in law enforcement staffing, which he hopes will happen sooner rather than later.

“This new station will provide police services and security for our growing Northland community, which is approximately 40 percent developed at this point, with a strong potential for population growth and commercial development,” Ford said.

He added that the station was particularly needed in Platte County. The current North Patrol Division sits just inside of Clay County.

North Patrol serves an 85-square-mile area and is geographically the largest patrol division in Kansas City. In fact, if North Patrol Division were its own city, it would be the second-largest in Missouri, based on land area.

Chief Forté, members of the Board of Police Commissioners and City Council members – including in-coming Second District Council members Teresa Loar and Dan Fowler – shoveled

the first ceremonial scoops of dirt at Friday morning’s groundbreaking ceremony. Community members joined police and city officials in celebrating the occasion. Attendees even were treated to free lip balm donated by Burt’s Bees to wish “Bon Voyage to the ‘Bumblebee,’” the name by which many Kansas City residents know the current yellow-and-black North Patrol Division station.



Members of the Board of Police Commissioners, City Council, Police Department and the City architect turned the first shovels of dirt for the new North Patrol, which will be located at 11000 N.W. Prairie View Rd.

When the existing station opened in 1976, about 15 employees worked there. Now more than 90 people do. In addition to its size, the building has numerous structural deficiencies, including the needed replacement of the roof and flooring, sewer problems, inadequate parking for employees and the public, and an unusable detention area.

Located near Kansas City International Airport, the new North Patrol will be situated on land already owned by the City’s Aviation Department. At about 25,000 square feet, the new building will be about twice the size of the old one and

feature community meeting space, a functioning detention area, a work-out room for employees, upgraded building security and more.

Treanor Architects, P.A., is the design team lead on the project. The bidding process for the general contractor is almost complete, and the construction company will be announced shortly.

The project is funded by the quarter-cent public safety sales tax, which to date has funded four other new police stations, the Police Academy, a new Crime Laboratory and a complete renovation of Police Headquarters, as well as upgraded vehicles and technology. See more pictures of the groundbreaking on page 2.

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Police lead Prospect clean-up

While rain fell, community members came to assist police and neighborhood leaders July 18 with a big clean up in one urban core neighborhood.

The Take Care of Prospect event was part of the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) Byrne grant, which focuses on reducing crime in the Prospect Corridor (see April 2015 Informant newsletter). Officers in the grant-funded unit consistently communicate with seven different neighborhood associations and their leaders from 26th-39th streets and Paseo to Indiana. Those leaders worked with police to identify vacant properties in the 2600 block of Montgall that needed to be cleared of brush and debris to prevent criminal activity.

The week before the clean-up, police saturated the area with their presence.

“It was for deterrence, and letting the criminal element know that we are paying attention,” said Sergeant Garrik Haynes, who coordinated much of the effort.

Volunteers and a few people doing community service hours convened at the Green Duck Lounge and Grill at 7:30 a.m. Even those doing community service were eager to help, Sergeant Haynes said, despite rain for half the morning.

Chief Darryl Forté participated in the event and said he was surprised to see how many community members came out to assist with the clean-up.

“One guy came up to me and said he’d never met a cop he liked, but then he asked to take a picture with me because he didn’t think his family would believe he was with the Chief of Police,” Forté said.

Chainsaws echoed through the neighborhood. Volunteers cleared dense brush from



Chief Darryl Forté and Sergeant Michael Ward hauled brush from a vacant house on Montgall on July 18.

outside the vacant houses, making the whole lots visible from the street once again. They picked up trash and even tore down an abandoned metal shed that was a haven for prostitution activity. As they worked, volunteers realized they needed some additional tools for the clean-up. They asked the Fire Department if they could lend some. Not only did KCFD members bring the tools, they joined in to help with clearing limbs and brush.

The 80 to 100 volunteers were treated to free hot dogs and baked beans, and the food was offered to everyone else in the neighborhood, too.

“Police and community members were working together to better a neighborhood in need of change,” Sergeant Haynes said.

In addition to KCPD, several organizations assisted, including:

- City of Kansas City – Fire Department, Animal Control, Land Bank, Neighborhoods
- Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office
- Mothers-In-Charge
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Local Initiative Support Corporation
- Costco
- Aldi.

KCPD reaches 75,000 followers



On July 2, the department’s Twitter account reached 75,000 followers. The Media Unit produced a video featuring Violent Crime Enforcement Division officers to thank the community for joining with the Department online.

Officer of the Year: Jason Cooley

The Missouri Peace Officers Association has named a Kansas City Missouri Police Officer as their 2015 Officer of the Year.

Officer Jason Cooley received the award at the organization's annual conference June 29 for his relentless dedication to the community he serves in the East Patrol Division.

Major Rick Smith nominated Officer Cooley for the award.

"When I got to East Patrol Division, I tried to think of what I could do to be a successful division commander, so I asked Jason Cooley to introduce me to community leaders and people I needed to know," Major Smith said. "He's done so much more than that. He is consistently pushing me to go places and listen to people. Because of him, KCPD is doing more than just addressing crime. We're really helping neighborhoods and businesses be successful."

Officer Cooley has been assigned as East Patrol's Community Interaction Officer since 2009. It's the same position his father, retired Officer John Cooley, once occupied. Officer Jason Cooley works with dozens and dozens of organizations from community groups to churches to businesses to solve problems and help those in need. He sits on the board of two industrial associations, three advisory community groups and a non-profit organization.

The Missouri Peace Officers Association also recognized Officer Cooley's problem-solving efforts. He has helped families in need of appliances after they were burglarized, and arranged for low-income families to get desperately needed home repairs, including those who needed help making their residences handicap-accessible. When he noticed a robbery pattern, he arranged safety training



So beloved is Officer Jason Cooley of East Patrol Division that neighborhood leaders hosted an "Officer Cooley Appreciation Day" for him last year (top and bottom, with Major Rick Smith). On June 29, he earned the Officer of the Year Award from the Missouri Peace Officers Association. In May, he also received a KCPD Meritorious Service Award from Chief Darryl Forté, below.



for employees of targeted businesses. He's gotten vacant houses that were havens for drugs and violence cleaned up. He's gotten food to empty pantries and organized community celebrations. Officer Cooley established "Coffee with a Cop," so Hispanic residents could get to know him and become more comfortable with police officers. He has led numerous neighborhood clean-ups and persuaded city government to address issues of poor neighborhood lighting and parking problems.

So beloved is Officer Cooley in East Patrol that the community organized and hosted an "Officer Cooley Appreciation Day" last year.

In nominating Officer Cooley for the department's Meritorious Service Award, Major Smith wrote, "There isn't a community leader in East Patrol who does not consistently compliment Officer Cooley. ... It is also recognized that the relationships he has built and maintained daily have reached far outside of East Patrol Division. In fact, it is a common occurrence for city officials, community members, and citizens alike to seek out Officer Cooley for support and guidance, as he is known for his enthusiasm, professionalism, and ability to make things happen."

Officer Cooley was humble about the award and explained why he does what he does.

"I serve the community as if I were serving God directly, and I am!" Officer Cooley said.

The Missouri Peace Officers Association is one of the oldest and largest associations of law enforcement personnel in the state of Missouri, having been established in 1932. The Officer of the Year Award is one of the highest honors a Missouri police officer can receive. This is the first time a KCPD officer has received the award since 1997.

Upcoming Events

July 28
Awards Ceremony

August 18
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

The Informant is a publication of
KCPD's Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

Special Unit Citation

Purchasing Section
Supervisor Donna Kinder
Fiscal Administrator Trina Canady
Fiscal Administrator Elizabeth Choate
Fiscal Administrator Michael Flavin
Fiscal Administrator Terry Headley
Fiscal Administrator Anthony Rizzo

Information Services Division

Supervisor Sherry Abernathy
Supervisor Jackie Chapman-Fagan
Network Administrator Jeffrey Dillbeck
Network Administrator Cheryl Krupka
Network Administrator Jeffrey Swanson
Computer Service Specialist Jacob Gunter
Computer Service Specialist Andrew Meschede
Communications Specialist Deborah Whiteside
Network Security Specialist Jamie Hamilton

Meritorious Service Award

Officer Jason Cooley

Retirements

Officer Todd Beard
Clerical Supervisor Charlotte West
Communications Specialist Michael Scott

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with professionalism,
honor and integrity.