Retirees can now qualify at KCPD range

KCPD law enforcement retirees have a new reason to come back to visit every year. The Department recently began a program for KCPD retirees in conjunction with the Federal Law Enforcement Safety Act (LEOSA). The law, enacted in 2004, allows for a qualified retired officer to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of state or local laws, with certain exceptions.

Until this month, retirees who carry a concealed firearm were forced to qualify at outside ranges, paying a fee to do so. “We work really hard to train our people while they are here, and we feel they are well trained, so we wanted to extend ourselves and allow them the opportunity to come here to qualify,” said Sergeant Ward Smith, Firearms Training Section.

The idea of retirees coming back to KCPD to qualify has been in the works for many years. It is quite a process to make sure everything is in order according to the law. The last piece to get the program rolled out fell to Captain Greg Williams, Human Resources.

“We had to see what to do about an ID card for those who qualified through KCPD, but looking through the requirements, we realized a special ID card was not needed, only the qualification certificate from the Firearms Training staff stating the date of qualification,” Captain Williams discovered.

All retirees received an official ID card upon retirement from the department. As soon as retirees qualify at the range, the staff gives them a slip of paper, just like they received when they were on the department, with the date of qualification, targets are provided, and eye and ear protection are available if needed. “If somebody works here for as long as our retirees do, there should be a little giveback to let them know they are still a part of the KCPD family,” Sgt. Smith said.

The first session of retirees paved the way for the new program on January 31, and everyone breezed right through the course. “It’s just like riding a bike,” Sergeant Smith said. “It’s the same qualification course officers fired their entire career.”

Retired Sergeant Larry White, who retired after 27 years of service in July 2015, came back to qualify in the first session. “My wife and I plan on doing a lot of traveling throughout the U.S. in the next year and want to be able to carry a firearm in every state we go,” he said of the importance of qualifying.

Not only does the program offer an opportunity to avoid a fee for qualifying, it is a chance to meet up with retirees and friends in a familiar environment.

Retirees interested in qualifying at KCPD should contact Mindy Davis, Human Resources, at mindy.davis@kcpd.org or 816-234-5400.
New commissioner has old KCPD ties

The newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners is no stranger to the Department or the Board.

Cathy Dean was sworn into the Board on Dec. 3, 2019, and now serves as its vice president. She replaced Leland Shurin, whose four-year term had expired. It may be her first time as a police commissioner, but it’s not her first time on the Board. She served as the Board’s Secretary/Attorney in the late 1980s into the early 1990s.

“I have great respect for the department, for its philosophy and its professionalism,” Commissioner Dean said. “It works very hard to train its officers, to give them opportunities for advancement and to try and do what’s best for the city of Kansas City. Being a police officer is a very difficult job, and I will do anything I can to make that better.”

Commissioner Dean wasn’t always a lawyer. She grew up in Fulton, Mo., and went to the University of Missouri-Columbia after high school to major in English and public speaking. She’d planned to go to law school after graduating from college but said that as she approached her senior year, she couldn’t face the idea of three more years of school. She got an emergency teaching certificate instead. It was intended to help with a teacher shortage in the state.

She took a job teaching junior high English, public speaking and drama in her hometown of Fulton. She married Preston Dean right after she graduated from college. The couple remained in Columbia so Preston could finish law school, while Cathy taught in Fulton public schools. When her husband graduated from law school and took a job in the Missouri Attorney General’s Office, they moved to Jefferson City, where she continued to teach in the public school system. After nine years of teaching, she finally decided the time was right for law school. She received her law degree from MU, and then the couple moved to Kansas City.

Commissioner Dean served as a clerk for federal judge Brook Bartlett for two years before joining the law firm of Horowitz and Shurin. (Yes, that’s the same Shurin whom she would later replace on the Board of Police Commissioners.) She was then recruited to work at the Polsinelli Law Firm just one year later, and that’s where she spent the rest of her career until her retirement in 2013. Commissioner Dean was a trial lawyer who specialized in civil litigation, such as anti-trust cases and contract disputes. Eventually, she headed the entire litigation department at Polsinelli.

She also lent her litigating talents to the KCPD in her service as the Board’s Secretary/Attorney. She worked with former General Counsel Dale Close to defend KCPD officers in lawsuits.

KCPD members and retirees also may be familiar with Commissioner Dean’s late husband, who passed away in 2011. Preston Dean, better known to many as “Judge Dean,” served as a Jackson County Circuit Court judge from 1989 until his retirement in 2006.

Commissioner Dean said Governor Mike Parson asked her to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners, and she was happy to do so. One of things that’s impressed her most so far has been the Kansas City Crime Laboratory.

“I had no idea the extent of the new lab, which is just fabulous,” she said. “I learned a lot about that, and all the new techniques they use to process evidence.”

She thinks the biggest challenge the Board faces going forward is having the money to have enough officers on the Department to serve the City well.

“It’s a very serious concern,” she said.

Donations sought to refurbish Trail of Heroes plaques

The Trail of Heroes, located on the campus of the Police Academy and the Shoal Creek Patrol Division, opened in 2008 to honor fallen members of the Department. The memorial name plates and plaques are found on benches and posts along the trail to commemorate officers killed in the line of duty, retirees and former members. The name plates and plaques have aged over the years and are in need of replacement. Officer Nick Simons, who works in East Patrol, has designed and created replacement name plates and plaques made from stainless steel for longevity. Officer Simons is donating his labor to make the plaques at his off-duty job at CM Fabri-cutting, located at 501 Sante Fe in Kansas City.

A total of $6,000 will be needed to fund the replacement costs of all existing name plates and plaques on the Trail of Heroes. A Trail of Heroes fund exists in the Fiscal Division and is coordinated by Melissa McLaughlin.

Anyone who wishes to contribute, please make checks payable to Board of Police Commissioners and mail to:

KCPD
Attn. Melissa McLaughlin, Accounting,
1125 Locust St., Kansas City, MO 64106

All contributions are welcome. Thank you!

Informant, page 2

January 2020
New dog brings “girl power” to Canine

One new female officer on the department has pushed through the cliché glass ceiling, paws first.

Pepper, a 1-and-a-half-year-old Dutch Shepherd, is one of the first female canine officers ever at the KCPD. She is assigned to Officer Tanner Moats, who transferred to the Canine Section in November.

Canine Sergeant Bill Brown selected Pepper from the Department’s Canine supplier, Vohne Liche Kennels in Indiana. He said the selection of dogs was slim when they visited in November.

“They said, ‘Well we’ve got a little female, but you guys don’t take females,’” Sergeant Brown recalled. “And I said, ‘I never said we don’t take females.’”

Pepper went on to perform exceptionally in all the tests officers put her through. She is a dual-purpose dog trained in bomb detection and patrol work. Officers tested not only her tracking and bomb detection ability, but also her courage, her footing on uneven surfaces and her focus.

“We tested her, and I wanted her,” Sergeant Brown said. “She’s got just as much drive as (the male dogs) do.”

At 60 pounds, she’s a little smaller than the male canine officers, but Sergeant Brown said, “She thinks she’s 1,000 pounds.”

Sergeant Brown said there are a couple of reasons the Department has always taken male dogs. The first is that male dogs typically tend to have a higher drive than females. To keep that drive high, the dogs are not neutered, which begets the second problem with having a female dog around.

“They want to pay more attention to her than work,” Sergeant Brown said.

Because they are all alpha dogs, KCPD’s canines don’t usually interact with each other because they would fight. Sergeant Brown suspects the boys wouldn’t fight Pepper – who is “definitely a little alpha, herself” – but they may be interested in her for other, more romantic reasons. At this point, Sergeant Brown said he has no intention of getting Pepper spayed.

Officer Moats said Pepper has fit in well at his home, where he has three large dogs of his own. He’s introducing them to each other slowly. He said she definitely has an on-off switch.

“At home, she’s a ham,” he said. “She’s chill and you could pet her all over. But when it’s time to work, she knows it’s time to work.”

The duo recently had their first successful track. Pepper and Officer Moats found a carjacking suspect who’d ran through several backyards hiding in brush. Pepper also sniffed out the credit cards and other property stolen from the victim after the suspect fled on foot through multiple backyards.

“She’s amazing at tracking,” Officer Moats said.

He said he can’t wait to get her more real-world experience so she can be the best possible dog for the Police Department.

KCPD has had one other female dog in the past, but she didn’t work out. She was too possessive, not letting her human partner get near a suspect decoy, even after she released her bite. She returned to Vohne Liche.

Sergeant Brown said he has no such concerns with Pepper.

“Pepper is doing awesome,” Sergeant Brown said. “I picked her for Tanner Moats. I wish I could have dogs like her for every new handler we get. She’s really easy-going, and she taught him pretty quickly. It really sped up our training time.”
Upcoming Events

March 2-27
Free Tax Preparation, Multiple Sites

March 10
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

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

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

Officially Speaking

Award
Mentorious Service Award
Manager Ed Brundage

Promotions
To Assistant Supervisor
Lori Nelson
Ashanti Roper
George Santoro

To Supervisor
Jackie Donovan
Robert Fields
Detrick Hilliard
Anthony Rizzo

To Manager
Jeff Brame

To Director
Kevin Winer

To Sergeant
Selvir Abidovic
William Campbell
Nicole Christmann
Lawrence Cory
Luke Ewert
Eurik Hunt

To Captain
James Buck
Martin Cobbinah
Michael Glass
William Hewitt
Joey Roberts

To Major
Paul Luster
Joseph Mabin
Ryan Mills

To Deputy Chief
Karen True
Shawn Wadle

25-Year Rings
Captain Everett Babcock
Officer Jason Brungardt

Reserve Officer Kristun Crawford
Detective Todd Dolato
Detective Scott Emery
Officer Timothy Fillpot
Detective Robert Murphy
Captain Lonnie Price III
Detective Errol Riggins II
Sergeant Derek Rothert
Sergeant Steven Schramm
Detective Timothy Sims
Sergeant Matthew Taylor
Detective Brian Williams

Retirements
Sergeant Kevin Kilkenny
Civilian Leona Miller

Obituaries
Retired Sergeant Richard Mason
Retired Civilian Charlene McCorkle
Retired Sergeant Kent Moore
Officer Alan Roth
Retired Investigator Maurice Watson

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