

Law Enforcement Profile

Kevin Dunn, the Senior Assistant State's Attorney for Domestic Violence, is making a difference in the way law enforcement and the courts view this growing problem. Page 5

Police Pastors

Police officers are trained to hold the line, but what happens when their emotions become involved? Page 6

Cyber Crimes

A combined state and federal task force is working to make a difference and stem Internet crimes. Page 9

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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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**Have You Seen These Men?**

Connecticut has experienced a rash of bank robberies this year, 60 percent more than last and in a few cases authorities believe they are dealing with serial robbers (see story on page 3). The Federal Bureau of Investigation needs help identifying these five men who are suspected in those robberies. At top left is one of two men who robbed the Patriot Bank in Wilton. They are described as black males, wearing blue jeans and "hoodies," about 5'5" – 5'10" in height. Top center is a white male, about 5'7", weighing 200 pounds, suspected of robbing a Webster Bank in Norwalk. Suspected of three robberies in eastern Connecticut where a gun was used, the individual at the top right is considered armed and dangerous. He is described as black, 5'10" to 6'. Bottom left is a white male, about 5'6" tall, believed to be in his mid-20's. He is of medium build and his nose was covered with white gauze. At bottom right is a man suspected of robberies in Fairfield County and Branford. Each robbery was in the early evening hours, and he wore the same mask and hat. He carries a handgun and a black bag. Call the FBI at (203) 777-6311. (Photos provided by FBI)

Juvenile Arrests Decrease but Violent Crime is Troubling

By NATALIE MISSAKIAN
Correspondent

PolicenationallyandinsomeConnecticut cities have reported a worrisome rise in violent youth crime over the last few years, but juvenile arrests are still far below the highs of the early 1990's.

The slayings last year of two 13-year-olds in New Haven thrust youth crime into the spotlight statewide, sparking calls for curfews and other get-tough measures to curb teen violence.

But were the killings part of a dangerous trend, or was it just a bad year in one Connecticut city? It depends who you ask.

Capt. Richard Conklin of the Stamford Police Department said crimes committed by young people in his city started to "rise explosively" about two or three years ago, particularly robberies and assaults.

"Certainly (youth) crime is growing and the seriousness of it is growing," said Conklin, who runs the department's bureau of criminal investigations.

He said gang activity has intensified throughout the Northeast, and children are joining at much younger ages.

But Abby Anderson, executive director of the Bridgeport-based Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, said juvenile crime in the state is down significantly

from where it was just 10 or 15 years ago. In Fairfield County, the 2004 arrest rate for youth crimes was nearly half what it was a decade earlier, FBI statistics indicate.

"If you look at it in terms of the overall picture, the percentage of crimes that are committed by youth is still a very small number," she said.

Nationally, violent juvenile crime rose for the first time in 2005 after declining for more than a decade, according to FBI statistics.

The jump between 2004 and 2005 included an 11 percent rise in robbery arrests, a 20 percent rise in murder arrests, and a 7 percent rise in weapons offenses. Police chiefs in several of the nation's large cities warned that the increase was a sign of a coming crime wave.

Police are concerned because juvenile crime had dropped steadily through much of the 1990's, a decrease some experts attributed to a better economy, community policing, and a greater focus on prevention.

Now, experts say tighter budgets have drained money from police and youth programs at a time when negative influences on young people – in music, movies, and

- See *Juvenile Crime* on page 10

Finding Jesus, Solving Household Mysteries is all Part of 'The Job'

By LEISA TAYLOR
Correspondent

Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...

I was home alone in my kitchen, with a beep sounding every 15 seconds. Wherever I stood in the kitchen, it sounded like the Beep! came from the opposite corner. I checked the fire alarm, kitchen clock, coffeemaker, and even the refrigerator. No luck.

Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...

I was home for the morning, and after about 15 minutes, the beep began to drive me crazy. I called my handyman neighbor, but his wife said he had already left for work. I called an electrician, but no one

could come until the next day. Finally, at wit's end, I called the Trumbull Police Department. No, not the emergency line, but the dispatcher said an officer would be at my house shortly.

The Trumbull officer arrived in about 20 minutes, and he confirmed that the beep seemed to emanate from different areas in the kitchen. He searched and searched and searched again. And all the while, Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep!...(15 seconds)...Beep! The officer looked for hidden wires, searched the cabinets, and checked all appliances. Minutes passed, and the officer became determined not to leave until he had located the source. Finally, while taking yet another look into the lower cabinets, he accidentally leaned against

my dishwasher, and it clicked. No more beeping. Aha. The dishwasher was not fully closed and was emitting a beep as a warning signal.

I can laugh about this now, but at the time, I was shocked and embarrassed. Fortunately, the officer (the dear man) was professional throughout my ordeal and said I was right to call the police. After profusely thanking the officer, I asked him not to report it to the local weekly newspaper. To my knowledge, he never did.

The foregoing is a true account, but it pales in comparison to the numerous offbeat "emergencies" which occur every day in Fairfield County. The following stories are all true, although in the first story, the officer's name has been omitted

to protect his identity.

An officer in the Fairfield Police Department was just one year out of the police academy and working the evening shift when he received a call about "unknown trouble" at a laundromat. "You automatically assume it's something like theft or robbery," the officer said. "My mind was going over all the possibilities of what it could be. I got mentally prepared.

"I got to the laundromat, my hand on my weapon, and this hysterical woman comes running out and says, 'Thank God you're here. It's been in there for hours.' The woman is completely hysterical, so I walk in expecting the worst."

The woman showed the officer to a

- See *Solving Mysteries* on page 13

Unidentified Victims Present Great Challenge for Police

By **BILL BITTAR**
Correspondent



Interviews with a victim's family, friends, and coworkers are basic steps in a homicide investigation, but when the victim is unidentified, it becomes a significantly more complex puzzle for investigators.

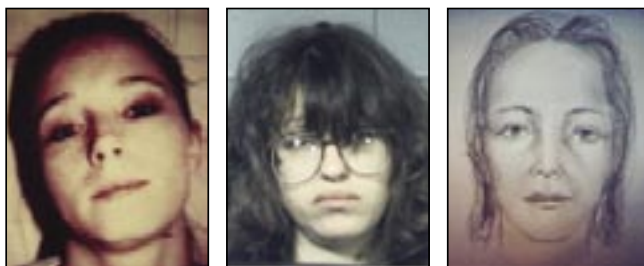
Such was the case reported in Westport on May 18, 1985. The partially dismembered body of an African-American female had been lit on fire and was found burning in a wooded area off of the westbound shoulder of I-95 – near the Sasco Creek overpass by exit 19. All police investigators have to go on is that the victim was wearing blue or black jeans and a heavy wool sweater (either white or off-white). She also wore a plain gold chain around her neck. Her body was in such a condition that no photo could be taken, and a sketch artist was unable to make a drawing of her face to solicit clues from the public.

"It's a challenge for investigators to attempt to develop leads and to move it forward," State Police Spokesperson Lt. Paul Vance said recently. "But all cases are a challenge."

"People in law enforcement aren't miracle workers," he continued. "We depend on leads and information people give to us. Something that seems insignificant could prove to be an important piece of the puzzle."

"We've had several cases over the years that have been solved for that very same thing," Vance said of private tips. "The Maryann Measles homicide was one, so we're always cautiously optimistic."

Information from witnesses helped police to solve the 1997 abduction and murder of 13-year-old Maryann Measles of New Milford, and to recently recover evidence in a 23-year-old cold case of a missing Sherman resident,



Karen Everett **Mildred Alvarado** **Pamela Jerome-Pepper**

Mary Badaracco.

Anyone with information about the Westport homicide case should call the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 575-6330 or (203) 696-2561.

Badaracco Case

In the Badaracco case, state police were recently able to secure a search warrant to perform excavations at a Farrell Road home in Newtown, which produced three motor vehicles and other items. Badaracco disappeared from the Sherman home she shared with her husband, Dominic, her two daughters, and four step-children in August 1984, at the age of 38.

Her husband told police she left their Sherman home with a sack stuffed with over \$100,000, leaving behind

only her 1982 Chevrolet Cavalier – with a smashed windshield on the driver's side – and her wedding ring. Nine months after she was missing, her husband said they were planning a divorce and she agreed to leave and give him the house in return for "approximately \$100,000."

Vance said there were no new developments in the case since the warrant was executed.

A \$50,000 reward has been offered by the state for information leading to an arrest or conviction in the case. Anyone with information about it is asked to call the Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 376-1554.

Never Give Up

Vance said evidence in all of Connecticut's cold cases is maintained, adding that state police have assigned investigators to each one.

"When one officer retires, [his] case passes to a new investigator for review to see if something else pops up," Vance said.

Several of the open cold cases involve the discoveries of female murder victims.

One cold case state police are working on is the strangling deaths of two prostitutes, whose bodies were dumped in a wooded area off of Valley Road in the town of Harwinton – a short distance from Route 8.

Both Waterbury women were known prostitutes in the area. The body of Karen Everett of 2040 North Main St. was found on Nov. 16, 1988 – just six days after her 25th birthday. The murder of Mildred Alvarado, 30, of 45 Long Hill Road was reported on Jan. 19, 1989.

- See **Cold Case Update** on page 17

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Bank Robberies in Connecticut Increase 60 Percent

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

Connecticut banks have experienced a 60 percent increase in robberies over the last year, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes that many of them are the work of several serial robbers.

Since January, 82 banks have been robbed across the state, many of them in Fairfield County, which has 32 different banking institutions with a total of 392 branches. To date, 22 of the robberies have been solved.

While Fairfield County robberies have increased over prior years, says Special Agent Michael Ferrick, who has been with the bureau's New Haven division for more than ten years, the jump is not different than the trend experienced in Hartford or New Haven counties.

"Violent crime is rising throughout the United States, and in Connecticut, the number of robberies which one considers violent has increased," Ferrick added.

"Also, there are more serial robbers this year than last year, and we have also seen more robbers from out of state. We have had several serial bank robbers this year, and some individuals do two, or well over 10. The longer someone is out there, the more chance they have to rob," Ferrick explained.

In more than half of the 82 robberies, a note was passed alerting the teller that a robbery was underway. In 25 incidents a gun was shown to a teller, while in 34 robberies a gun was threatened but not seen. Ninety-two different robbers have been identified. Forty-six of them were white males, 31 black males, six Hispanic males, and four males of unknown ethnicity. Three white females have been identified, along with one black female. The gender and race of another robber is undetermined.

"The FBI will get involved in solving



Goldens Bridge, NY 10/04/07 **Watertown, CT** 09/25/07 **Bethel, CT** 02/23/07 **Southbury, CT** 9/01/07

Wanted for multiple bank robberies

The FBI and multiple police departments in the Connecticut and New York area are looking for the public's assistance in locating this individual who is believed to be responsible for nine bank robberies occurring in both Connecticut and New York. The suspect in these robberies is a white male, 5'7" to 5'10" tall, and 45 to 55 years old. He has been wearing a baseball style hat and sunglasses and carries a black, over the shoulder style, canvas bag. Anyone with information regarding this individual is asked to contact the FBI at 203-777-6311.

a bank robbery only when requested by a bank manager," says Marybeth Miklos, spokesperson for the FBI New Haven division. "So, there may be other bank robberies committed that we are not aware of."

The town of Norwalk has seen more than its share of robberies this year—11 to date. So far, eight suspects have been apprehended.

In July, the Board of Police Commissioners honored two Norwalk police officers with Distinguished Service Awards for their quick arrest of a bank robbery suspect fleeing a TD Banknorth in a taxicab. Isaiah Gary, age 25, of Norwalk, confessed after being apprehended by Sgts. Ronald Pine and Praveen John. Gary is also a suspect in a number of other bank robberies, authorities say.

Authorities believe that one man is

responsible for a series of nine robberies throughout Connecticut and the nearby New York area. Law enforcement agencies in both states are searching for this suspect, described as a white male, 5'7"-5'10" tall, and 45-55 years old. He has been seen wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses and carries a black, over-the-shoulder canvas bag. He has not shown a weapon but presents a handwritten note to the teller. The robber is usually in and out of the bank in less than one minute.

The suspect has been reported leaving the scene of robberies using numerous getaway vehicles. In several instances witnesses reported observing a black Chevy Colorado pickup with Connecticut plates, but he has also been seen in a dark-colored SUV, and a later model dark burgundy Ford Expedition with no front plate and damage to the right front area of the

vehicle. In his most recent theft he was seen in a dark-colored SUV, with partial New York license plate of "BVG", traveling south on Route 22.

Banks the serial robber is thought to have robbed include:

- Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m.: Newtown Savings Bank, Bethel.
- March 9, 1:42 p.m.: M&T Savings Bank, Dover Plains, N.Y.
- July 20, 4:18 p.m.: Thomaston Savings Bank, Thomaston.
- Aug. 10, 3:30 p.m.: TD Banknorth, Waterbury.
- Sept. 1, 11:45 a.m.: Newtown Savings Bank, Southbury.
- Sept. 18, 2:49 p.m.: M&T Savings Bank, Amenia, N.Y.
- Sept. 25, 3:45 p.m.: Naugatuck Savings Bank, Watertown.
- Oct. 4, 3:15 p.m.: Bank of America, Goldens Bridge, N.Y.
- Oct. 12, 3:30 p.m.: Salisbury Bank & Trust, Dover Plains, N.Y.

Fairfield County residents who have been arrested in connection with robberies this year include Christina Bennett, age 28, and Carl Harris-Jones, 22, a husband-and-wife team from Stratford. Norwalk resident Marque Taylor, age 19, was arrested in Waterbury with the help of the U.S. Marshals Service in connection with three Norwalk bank robberies.

On September 14, Eliezer Negron, age 29, of Norwalk, was arrested by police in Monroe after allegedly robbing a People's United Bank there, and was charged with committing a series of other robberies. According to his arrest warrant, he confessed to three Norwalk robberies that netted a total of \$46,000: Patriot National Bank on Westport Avenue on June 14, New Alliance Bank on New Canaan Avenue on

- See **Bank Robberies** on page 12

VIOLATION BY TYPE OF INSTALLATION

	Robberies	Burglaries	Larcenies
Commercial Banks.....	6,154	182	66
Mutual Savings Banks.....	114	2	4
Savings & Loan Association.....	159	3	1
Credit Unions.....	521	22	7
Armored Carrier Companies.....	37	0	0
Total:.....	6,985	209	78
Grand Total - All Violations:.....	7,272		

LOOT TAKEN & RECOVERED

Loot was taken in 6,674 (92%) of the 7,272 incidents. Loot taken is itemized as follows:

Cash.....	\$70,384,936.73
Securities - Face Value.....	0.00
Checks (Include Traveler's Checks).....	2,279,487.83
Food Stamps.....	0.00
Other Property.....	23,254.00
Total:.....	\$72,687,678.56

Full or partial recovery was reported in 1,349 (20%) of the 6,674 incidents. Loot recovered is as follows:

Cash.....	\$9,548,990.76
Securities - Face Value.....	0.00
Checks (Include Traveler's Checks).....	1,659,391.99
Food Stamps.....	0.00
Other Property.....	11,688.69
Total:.....	\$11,220,071.44

National Bank Crime Statistics

Reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006

NUMBER, RACE, & SEX OF PERPETRATORS

The number of persons known to be involved in the 7,272 robberies, burglaries, and larcenies was 9,010. In a small number of cases, the use of full disguise makes determination of race and sex impossible.

	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Male.....	3,275	4,137	554	86	277
Female.....	242	263	25	10	13
Unknown Race/Sex.....	128				

MODUS OPERANDI USED

Demand Note Used.....	3947
Firearm Used 1.....	1855
Handgun 2.....	1781
Other Firearm 3.....	111
Other Weapon Used.....	35
Weapon Threatened.....	3248
Explosive Device Used or Threatened.....	236
Oral Demand.....	3861
Vault or Safe Theft.....	51
Depository Trap Device.....	4
Till Theft.....	90

OCCURRENCES BY DAY & TIME

Monday.....	1,275	6-9 a.m.....	203
Tuesday.....	1,288	9-11 a.m.....	1,901
Wednesday.....	1,233	11 a.m.-1 p.m.....	1,656
Thursday.....	1,233	1-3 p.m.....	1,574
Friday.....	1,539	3-6 p.m.....	1,613
Saturday.....	560	6 p.m.-6 a.m.....	321
Sunday.....	88	Not Determined.....	4
Total:.....	7,272		

SECURITY DEVICES USED DURING CRIMES

Alarm System Activated.....	6,636
Surveillance Cameras Activated.....	6,985
Bait Money Taken.....	2,785
Guards On Duty.....	366
Tear Gas/Dye Packs Taken.....	938
Electronic Tracking Activated.....	293

SECURITY DEVICES FUNCTIONED

Alarm System Functioned.....	6,568
Surveillance Cameras Functioned.....	6,841

INJURIES, DEATHS & HOSTAGES TAKEN

Acts of violence were committed during 329 (4.5%) of the 7,272 robberies, burglaries, and larcenies. These acts included 91 instances involving the discharge of firearms, 197 instances involving assaults, and 40 instances of hostage situations. These acts of violence resulted in 129 injuries, 13 deaths, and 80 persons being taken hostage.

	Injuries	Deaths	Hostages
Customer.....	17	0	18
Employee.....	75	1	49
Employee Family.....	0	0	2
Perpetrator.....	17	10	0
Law Officer.....	8	1	0
Guard.....	5	1	2
Other.....	7	0	9
Total:.....	129	13	80

NEW ENGLAND STATES

	Robberies	Burglaries	Larcenies	Extortions
New England.....	416	20	0	1
Connecticut.....	72	0	0	0
Maine.....	21	1	0	0
Massachusetts.....	272	9	0	0
New Hampshire.....	20	2	0	1
Rhode Island.....	28	8	0	0
Vermont.....	4	0	0	0

Freedom After an Arrest Might Come at Premium Rates

By **ROD MEEHAN**
Correspondent

It could happen to anyone. A hard day at the office contributes to a raucous argument at home. It might be a fight over fidelity, finances, or the fish for dinner. You lose your temper and shove your spouse. The next thing you know, the police are at the door.

At the police station you are fingerprinted and taken to a holding cell. You can be released if you post a \$15,000 bond.

It could also happen with one of your children. It's a late-night call from your 20-year-old. On his way back to the "frat" house, a broken taillight alerts a state trooper. A cursory search finds a bag filled with marijuana your son says belonged to a friend. Bail is set at \$10,000.

How do you come up with the money?

You call someone like Dave Simons, who has seen many similar cases in his decade-long career as a licensed bail bondsman. The president of Aces Bail Bonds, Inc., Simons is based in Norwalk, and his firm oversees 14 licensed bond agents within Connecticut. Aces also operates nationally through a network.

The cost is generally 10 percent of the first \$5,000 and seven percent of the balance. For the accused, the ability to meet the bail bondsman's risk standards and come up with that portion of the amount is the difference between sleeping in their own bed or that of a local or

county lockup.

The right to bail is an integral part of the legal system. Its purpose is to safeguard the presumption of innocence while assuring a criminal defendant's appearance in court. A myriad of state and federal laws govern bail procedures and eligibility for bail.

While current state law provides for the right to bail, the court can use discretion when a defendant may cause a risk to the public or a threat to jurors. A judge may deny bail, or purposely set bail high enough, to assure that a defendant remains in custody, especially when violent capital offenses are involved.

Connecticut law provides five options for pretrial release. These include: a non-financial, written "promise to appear"; non-surety bond with a monetary amount set; and surety bond with a monetary amount set. Additional options are a 10 percent cash bond, requiring the partial posting of the total bond; cash only bond, requiring the posting of the entire bond; and property bond. The latter is covered by items of equity such as a house, cars, jewelry, credit cards, or like items of cash value.

Pretrial release can be arbitrary, and is a judgment call for the courts and the State Bail Commission. When a defendant

cannot raise the necessary bail, a state-licensed bail bondsman enters the picture.

Essentially, a bondsman offers a short-term loan at a regulated rate of interest, usually 10 percent. It's a business, and the bond agent expects to make a profit.

Since most citizens have not had an experience with a bondsman, the public's perception is, at best, murky, and a certain onus is attached to the profession for various reasons. One explanation could be a reflection of bondsmen's traditional clientele: people who break the law. Another is the confusion and overlapping jurisdictions regulating bondsmen.



"You have in Fairfield County probably 15-20 different bond companies with about 60-75 agents," says Simons. "There are about 500 agents working in the state of Connecticut."

Here, Simons is referring to surety bail bondsmen, whose transactions are underwritten by an insurance company. The Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) regulates Ace's agents. "We have underwriting regulations that we follow," he says.

"You can get bail set by the courts for either felonies or misdemeanors," says Simons. "A person can have bail set, say, for stealing a \$60 sweater; maybe for \$500."

"We don't post bond for everybody," Simons explained. "The only way we do it, if there is no one to cosign, is if I get the fee. I personally like real estate or cash."

"We charge 10 percent for the first \$5,000; after that it is 7 percent," Simons explains. "I'd say about 8 to 10 percent fail to appear in court." Profiling prospective clients is a necessary component of Simons' business. "It is based on the past criminal record of the arrestee or their ties to the community," he says. "Transients and out-of-staters are a high risk. We experience only 4 to 5 percent defaults."

Defaulting, or "jumping bail" in the vernacular, becomes a civil matter for the bondsman to solve. It can also involve a bail enforcement agent, or "bounty hunter," who seeks to return the fugitive to the court before bail is forfeited.

Simons asserts that Aces has a high capture rate of fugitives but disparages the popular image of a bounty hunter as portrayed by the television character "Dog."

"Usually, it is the defendant who phones me," says Simons. "I'll tell him, 'I will meet you in a coffee shop and even buy you the coffee.'" Bland as this description might be, the agent says the process of extraditing fugitives from other states is one of the major headaches of his profession.

However, Simons' biggest problem is dealing with competition from "professional bail bondsmen," a category of bail agents working with personal assets, not underwritten by insurance.

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) regulates professional bondsmen, of which

there are fewer than 40 within the state. The discrepancy between bond agents is a source of confusion and part of the genesis of overlapping jurisdictions regulating the bail system.

Some confusion reigns even within the state's regulatory agencies over jurisdiction. "The DPS oversees all infractions, while the Insurance Department oversees civil matters," says Simons. Michael Cronin, a spokesperson for the State Senate Republicans, believes the regulation of bonding agents should be revised.

"It is an arcane area of the law," Cronin says. "It should be streamlined and both types of bail bondsmen regulated together," said Cronin.

The state police ultimately oversee all bondsmen except when infractions warrant an arrest.

"We license and regulate professional bondsmen, of which there are about 37 in the state," says Sergeant Ron Basturo of the state police. He is assigned to the special arms and licensing unit which is charged with regulating professional bondsmen and bail enforcement agents.

"There are different laws that regulate the two types of bondsmen," Basturo says. "Professional bondsmen operate based on their own assets, and we have to track that to make sure they have the assets available. They have to fill out forms to issue bonds."

The DPS conducts a mandatory 30-hour course and examination which was implemented by the state last July. Both categories of bondsmen must pass this course to become licensed.

"We conduct enforcement with our bondsmen and can revoke licenses and make criminal arrests," says Basturo. The Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) has the same capability over surety bondsmen, maintains the officer; however, their issues of infractions are more administrative. If arrests are warranted, they call upon Basturo's DPS unit.

Dawn McDaniel, communications director, says the insurance department investigates all of the complaints related to the 500 surety bondsmen under its jurisdiction.

"What we see are a lot of complaints of bondsman against bondsman when they are not playing within the rules of the game," McDaniel said, alluding to price undercutting between competitors.

"There are a lot of misconceptions and hearsay," says McDaniel. "It is hard to get credible witnesses. We have a mandatory, 30-hour class and exam in order to become a licensed bondsman, which makes sure bondsmen are better trained, with an emphasis on ethics."

Jayne McLaughlin, manager of the CID Licensing Division, maintains strict guidelines regulating surety bondsmen. "As far as we are concerned, a person who wants to be a bail bondsman must qualify," says McLaughlin. "If you have had a felony or misdemeanor conviction since 2000, you are disqualified for a license." In order to maintain regulations, the CID requires bond agents to renew their licenses every two years.



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Kevin Dunn: Pioneer Domestic Prosecutor Spreads 'The Word'

By **LEISA TAYLOR**
Correspondent

In 1997, Kevin Dunn was an unlikely candidate for what he is known for today — the state's first domestic violence prosecutor and a pioneer in the way the Connecticut court system handles such cases.

"When I became a prosecutor, I didn't know anything about domestic violence," admits Dunn, a well-built man in his late 50's. "I remember my first day, though. There were 197 cases on the docket, and I was the only prosecutor for those domestic violence cases."

Now, 10 years later, Dunn is a senior assistant state's attorney specializing in both the prosecution of domestic violence and the training of others to most effectively deal with domestic violence. That's an interesting position for someone who never intended to become a lawyer in the first place.

Kevin Dunn, a native of Manhattan, started off as a high school teacher and coach in Connecticut after serving in the army during the Vietnam War. With a history degree from the University of Bridgeport and a graduate degree in education from Fairfield University, Dunn started student teaching in 1973.

"I got my first real job teaching at Bullard-Havens Technical School in Bridgeport in 1974," Dunn said. "I taught social studies and also coached football, basketball, and tennis." Dunn continued to teach in Bridgeport for the next 13 years.

At age 35, Dunn began law school at the University of Bridgeport. "I had no plans to become a lawyer, though," he said. "I liked school and just wanted to continue my education." Law school must have suited Dunn, too. He received many awards, including one for outstanding graduating student and several for having the highest grade in classes. "I'm probably proudest of winning the highest grade in my ethics class," he said. "There were probably 75 to 90 people in that one class."

Dunn was admitted to the bar in 1987, and a friend of his submitted his name for an opening with the Bridgeport court system. Dunn got the job and worked as a prosecutor for the next four years. In 1992, Dunn went into private practice with a criminal law firm, but he returned to his prosecutor's role five years later.

First Specialist

"In 1997, there was an opening to be a domestic violence prosecutor because they were starting a domestic violence court in Bridgeport," said Dunn. With the title of deputy assistant state's attorney, he thus became the first state prosecutor specializing in that area of the law. Dunn is quick to point out, however, that events in the 1980's were the triggers for active domestic violence prosecution in the 1990's.

The first event came in 1983, when a woman named Tracy Thurman was horribly beaten in Torrington, CT. "She was stabbed and her neck was broken by her husband," said Dunn. "The police responded, but they were negligent in several ways. The first police officer who arrived watched him stab her and did not do anything."

Thurman survived but sued the city in 1985. *Thurman vs. Torrington* was the first federal case in which a battered



Kevin Dunn

Profile

woman sued a city for the police's failure to protect her from her husband's violence. Thurman won a \$2 million judgment against the city.

The 1983 beating and the subsequent lawsuit led to the 1986 passage of the Connecticut Family Violence Prevention Act. The comprehensive act defines family violence, gives police officers and courts directions on handling family violence cases, and requires the Judicial Department to maintain family violence intervention units in each of its geographical areas. Perhaps most importantly, the act provides that the police *must* arrest

When Kevin Dunn began prosecuting domestic violence cases in Bridgeport in 1997, the conviction rate was 7 percent. Within three months, the conviction rate had risen to 30 percent.

the person or persons committing the violence and charge them with the appropriate crime.

"Before 1986, most of the police departments had an informal or even formal policy that arrest was the last resort in family violence cases," said Dunn. But then another problem arose with the mandatory arrest policy. "Now we had a lot of domestic violence cases in the courts," said Dunn. "Because we had a lot of cases, and prosecutors were dealing with cases they'd never dealt with before, a lot of the cases were dropped (not prosecuted)."

"Real Manipulators"

Dunn said that for every 100 persons that would get arrested, maybe seven of them would get convicted. "Some of the batterers are real manipulators," he said. "As they would manipulate their women, they would manipulate the cops who responded and the prosecutors who worked on the cases. So a lot of the cases were dropped in the late 1980's and 90's. That doesn't mean that nothing ever happened; sometimes they were sent for some education,

maybe eight or 10 classes, but that's like sending an alcoholic to a driver's education course. A true batterer is not going to change with eight or 10 classes."

With a rising community response that dropping cases was not acceptable, Dunn said that specialized courts were created to deal specifically with domestic violence cases. "In 1997, the culture in Connecticut changed in the way courts responded to domestic violence cases," he said. "It went from inactive prosecution to more proactive. With these special courts, you have the same prosecutor and the same judge and the same location."

When Dunn began prosecuting domestic violence cases in Bridgeport in 1997, the conviction rate was 7 percent. Within three months, the conviction rate had risen to 30 percent. "The specialized docket has clearly made an impact," said Dunn. "Victims are safer, and people are being held accountable."

Safety and accountability are crucial concepts for Dunn. "The key is balancing societal interests with the safety and welfare of the victim," he said. "In prosecuting these cases, the first thing we're interested in is victim safety, and then we're interested in accountability. If a person slaps you once, it's most likely not going to stop there. I'm a true prosecutor in the sense I believe people should be held accountable."

30,000 Arrests in 2006

In 2006, there were approximately 30,000 domestic violence arrests in Connecticut, accounting for approximately 25 percent of all criminal cases in the state. As a prosecutor, Dunn has seen a wide range of cases, from simple assault to homicide. But he said that most of the cases aren't that serious. "The majority of the cases are low-level assaults, breaches of the peace, pushing and shoving, and punching. You do have some of the more serious cases involving weapons and strangulations, though." Dunn said the hardest part of his job is the stress of worrying about victims. "It's the stress that if you make a mistake on a case, something bad could happen to the victim," he said.

Stress also plays a role in domestic violence cases themselves. "We're more likely to do something stupid when we're under stress," Dunn said. "If you corner a wounded animal, it's more likely to strike out at you." Dunn said that after 9/11, some affluent men who were in the World Trade Center were arrested for domestic violence. "None were real bad cases," he said. "They were just throwing things around and yelling and screaming. When they came to court, people said I should feel sorry for them. And I did. But I said, 'See those other people sitting in the courtroom with them? They all have stressors. All the people in that courtroom have stressors in their own way.'"

Dunn also points to a sense of male entitlement in some domestic violence cases. "You've got to remember that if you go back into our history, women did not have the right to vote until 1920," Dunn said. "And before that, the rule of thumb was that your husband could chastise you with a stick. In a paternalistic society, men could physically discipline their wives. So we have a history to contend with, notwithstanding the fact that there are



DUAL ROLES

A handful of Connecticut police officers also serve as clergymen. At left is Fairfield officer and pastor Ken Evans in uniform and offering his thoughts and blessings at a wedding. At right is Norwalk Patrolman Christopher Holms who serves as an Episcopal deacon.



Providing Pastoral Care for Police Can Be Challenging

By **TEALE CALIENDO**
Correspondent

"It's the nature of the beast that cops are not very trusting...they've always got to be on their guard...some wouldn't even trust Mother Teresa," says the Reverend Charles Ferrara, chaplain to the Bethel Police Department and author of "Beyond the Badge: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Cops and their Families."

Lowell F. Lawson, writing for the nondenominational Chaplain Fellowship Ministries, agrees it is difficult to get police officers to open up and ask for help, since they are trained to keep their emotions under control. Lawson says police usually are unable to break

through the 'blue wall.' "It's not a physical structure," he explains. "It is the invisible social and psychological barrier that separates police officers from others."

The inability to breach that 'blue wall' can lead to alcoholism and/or domestic

violence and may be one of the reasons a police suicide happens every 24 hours, double the rate among the general population. And, for every officer killed in the line of duty, three officers commit suicide. So where is an officer to turn when the stress is just too much and he or she fears that seeking mental health counseling could jeopardize a promising career? The answer could be right among the officer's ranks. Nationally about 15 percent of police chaplains are also licensed peace officers.

Although police are inclined to view most clergy as naïve when it comes to society's evils, that's not the case when the chaplain is one of their own, such as 21-year veteran Fairfield police officer and newly appointed department chaplain the Reverend Ken Evans.

"I've been in the ministry (since) 1981 in the Word of Faith Deliverance Church in Bridgeport, and then I became a police officer because it would give me a chance to help people even more," Evans says.

Then earlier this year, when an opening for a chaplain occurred because one of the department's three chaplains moved to Israel, Evans began taking on those duties in addition to his regular department responsibilities.

"Actually the same duties I have...are extended," says Evans. "(But) my faith always comes first. Some may view it as a conflict; I don't. I'm a minister, and I never lose sight of who I am." Evans says he always asks for God's help in dealing with serious issues such as depression and suicide. "How do you deal with that? How do you counsel (someone that) there is still something good in life? Show that you care. That it is not just words, and you know what they are going through, and in time they will be healed and the pain will lessen."

The need for chaplain services among law enforcement officers was recognized more than 30 years ago following a number of police fatalities across the nation. The International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) was organized and held its first meeting in Chicago in July 1974 when 23 chaplains came together. Today that number has grown to 2,600 members in 20 nations.

"Things are getting more realistic," says Officer Christopher Holms of the Norwalk

"What I am trying to tell police chiefs is that we all have our tough times...and go through emotional down times. We should give our officers permission to come in and be honest about it. We don't always have to give them a desk job or take their gun away or stigmatize them."

Police Department. "People realize we are not supermen or women. We are mothers and fathers...ordinary people doing an extraordinary job that takes its toll. We need people who understand that to talk (about problems) is healthy."

Holms has been with the department 11 years. A deacon with the Episcopal Church, he recently became the department's second chaplain and feels his two roles complement one another. "We need someone there who can understand our world, and when you have a clergy member who lives alongside us, it is much easier for us to take advice. When those two worlds collide, great things can happen."

The Reverend William Hinckley of Shield of Faith Ministries in Plainfield trains ministers to work with Connecticut police departments. Hinckley, a retired police officer, is also Connecticut's representative to the ICPC. He says although there are no official statistics regarding the state's total number of chaplains, there are 54 ICPC-certified chaplains in Connecticut, and Shield of Faith trained 29 of them.

Hinckley says the most important part of a chaplain's role is "just being there." "I don't know of any police officer who would call up a pastor and say 'I'm in trouble.' But if you're in a cruiser with an officer for four hours...the opportunity and availability is there for him to open up. This chaplaincy is a ministry of presence."

Hinckley says the public doesn't fully comprehend how police are affected by

- See **Police Pastors** on page 8

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Commentary

More Emphasis Needed on “Driving While Impaired”



By **KENN VENIT**

The police officer at an accident scene was so compassionate he gave just a verbal warning to the woman who caused the crash, indicating how she was “driving while impaired” – that was after she revealed she was undergoing chemotherapy treatments and that they may have been affecting her driving. She went on to be involved in three other accidents before her family and friends stopped her from driving.

A businessperson taking prescription medicine to help him deal with excruciating pain in his leg continued to drive even though he probably should not have operated any kind of dangerous equipment – he did not seem to think that included his car. At one point, his pain became so great, he was hospitalized.

Then there are the elderly people who continue to drive despite loss of much of their reflexes, dexterity, and/or vision, or who are experiencing early stages of dementia. That is even though their families know their loved ones represent rising danger to themselves and others.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation notes, “*Driving safely requires a combination of concentration and motor skills, a great deal of common sense, a courteous attitude, and a concern for the safety of everyone on the road. Safe driving requires a steady hand, a clear head and an observant eye.*” When someone drives who cannot meet the necessary requirements for “concentration and motor skills,” to me, that is “impairment” and may or may not have anything to do with blood alcohol levels or illegal drugs.

While we still need greatly increased vigilance regarding what the National Commission Against Drunk Driving calls “drunk and drugged driving,” we also need to expand our concern far beyond alcohol and illegal drugs to have greater focus on situations affected by prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and mental and physical limitations.

Attorney Richard T. Meehan Jr. provides the example of a diabetic who goes into insulin shock or the person with a seizure disorder. “The first time it happens they can escape criminal liability, but once on notice that they are at risk to suffer seizure or blackout they then are no different than the drunk driver when they take the wheel of a car.”

As for cell phones, information technology editor/blogger Sonja Thompson writes, “Ironically, I heard a story the other day about someone who was pulled over, arrested, and charged with DUI. Sure, this person was way over the legal alcohol limit to be behind the wheel, but the reason *why* she was stopped was because she was sending a text message and swerved her vehicle.”

LawInfo.com indicates there is a law in Oregon known as “DUII” or “Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicant” stating, “...a person is guilty of DUII when he or she drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle and is under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any chemical or controlled substance to the extent that his or her mental faculties are impaired...”

Another Web site, operated by Legal Brand Marketing, LLC, states, “As to what constitutes being ‘under the influence’ or ‘impaired’ for purposes of DUI drugs or DWI drugs, the definition used in California is a typical example: a drug must be capable of affecting the nervous system, brain, or muscles of a person as to impair, to an appreciable degree, his ability to drive a vehicle in the manner that any ordinarily prudent and cautious man, in full possession of his faculties, using reasonable care, would drive a similar vehicle under like conditions.”

“Drowsy driving,” or falling asleep while driving, causes over 1,500 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation – that is 4 percent of all traffic fatalities. Working an extended shift reportedly may make some people five times more likely to be impaired while driving.

The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) reports the following states are considering legislation specifically penalizing “drowsy driving” or driving while fatigued: Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, and Tennessee. New Jersey enacted “Maggie’s Law” in 2003, defining driving while fatigued as a possible form of reckless driving. It was named after a 20-year-old college student who died in a head-on collision with a car driven by a man who admitted to being awake for over 30 consecutive hours – and that was after he had smoked crack cocaine. The NSF also says a 2005 survey revealed more than one-third of all licensed adult drivers admitted to falling asleep behind the wheel, even if only for a few seconds.

The public and the justice system should be taking even greater interest in the prevention and reporting of “Driving While Impaired” circumstances. The lives we save may be our own.

(Kenn Venit is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. He teaches journalism courses at Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University.)

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DOUG JOHNSTON *Publisher*
TED HOLCOMB *General Manager*
JOHN C. PETERSON *Interim Editor*

Correspondents

Bill Bittar
 b.bittar@thejusticejournal.com
 Teale Caliendo
 t.caliendo@thejusticejournal.com
 Pamela Falcigno
 p.falcigno@thejusticejournal.com

Chandra Niles Folsom
 c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com
 Rod Meehan
 r.meehan@thejusticejournal.com
 Natalie Missakian
 n.missakian@thejusticejournal.com

David Scales
 d.scales@thejusticejournal.com
 Grant Stinchfield
 g.stinchfield@thejusticejournal.com
 Leisa Taylor
 l.taylor@thejusticejournal.com

Contributing Analysts

Capt. Gary MacNamara
 Richard Meehan, Esq.

Advertising Sales
 Lisa Levitt

Distribution

Richard Gabriele -
 Direct Marketing Distribution

Advisory Board:

Aaron Graham, Vice President Purdue Pharma
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Office Manager

Robin Kozakiewicz
Proofreader
 Martha C. Stewart

Intern

Evan Wagner

Editorial & Corporate Headquarters APB Media LLC

Doug Johnston, CEO
 21 Charles Street, Suite 114
 Westport, CT 06880
 Telephone: (203) 454-5910 • FAX (203) 227-0092

E-mail: info@thejusticejournal.com
 editor@thejusticejournal.com
 advertising@thejusticejournal.com
 Website: www.thejusticejournal.com

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Police Pastors—

Continued from page 6

what they see on a daily basis.

“We are there for the officer because of the stress that comes with the job...I spent time counseling the family of a young man who had taken his own life after killing someone else, but I had to spend more time counseling the officer involved,” he adds.

The Reverend Charles Ferrara, pastor of the United Methodist New Life Community Church in New Fairfield, was a New York City police officer retiring as a lieutenant after 16 years of service before he became a minister. He became Bethel's police chaplain six years ago. He holds a bachelor's degree from the New York Institute of Technology, a master of divinity degree from Drew University's Theological School, and a doctorate from Oral Roberts University.

“Working in my favor is that I have a police background that kind of cuts the way through. Officers often tell me, ‘The reason that I am here is that you understand, because you have the experience.’ To get the police community to open up is very difficult. So chaplains oftentimes, breaking into that subculture, have to observe and listen (until) eventually (the officers) feel you are trustworthy,” says Ferrara. And he notes that an officer in need probably will turn to a chaplain before seeking help from a mental health professional, with good reason.

“I don't particularly like the way those

officers (seeking mental health care) are treated at times ...with mistrust,” says Ferrara. “The message that gets out to officers is that if you are struggling it could kill your career. What I am trying to tell police chiefs is that we all have our tough times...and go through emotional down times. We should give our officers permission to come in and be honest about it. We don't always have to give

them a desk job or take their gun away or stigmatize them.”

Unlike medical professionals, chaplains don't have to diagnose or report an officer's condition; they just listen, pray, and advise. So Ferrara advises officers needing help, “Call a chaplain and you know your conversation will be confidential.”

In addition to being there for officers during times of stress and difficulty, a police chaplain has a number other responsibilities, including counseling the families of law enforcement officers, making death notifications, offering prayers on special occasions such as recruit

graduations and awards ceremonies, acting as a liaison with other clergy in the community, dealing with the homeless, and assisting at suicide scenes.

Although Ferrara never imagined becoming a minister while on the force, he does recall the assistance a chaplain provided him when he was part of the NYPD.

“I was a plainclothes detective sergeant and I was going through a very tough time in life,” Ferrara says. “I don't know why I did it, but I got on the phone and called the chaplain's office. I'll never forget, one of the chaplains took me out to lunch, and it was a tremendous help...no one knew that I was meeting with him. He listened to me and gave me some advice. I don't even remember the advice, but it was very helpful to me...he was instrumental in getting me back on my feet again.”

Ferrara thinks officers also being chaplains can “...be a little sticky...(when) you're trying to wear both hats. I think the jury is still out on it...but I talk to these officers every year at the ICPC and they tell me they are doing a great job and it's working.”

And, it's possible today's officers are less reluctant to ask for help and a few small cracks are forming in the ‘blue wall.’

“Like I said before, there are some officers who wouldn't trust Mother Teresa. It's just the ‘us- against-them’ personality. I'll be very honest with you – I had a guy like that...but he got in trouble one time, and I got a phone call. He came up to my office and opened up. So you never give up on anybody,” he adds.

(Tcaliendo@thejusticejournal.com)

Role of Law Enforcement Chaplains

- Counsel law enforcement officers
- Counsel other members of a department
- Counsel the families of law enforcement officers and other department personnel
- Visit sick or injured officers and departmental personnel in homes and hospitals
- Make death notifications
- Provide assistance to victims
- Teach officers in areas such as Stress Management, Ethics, Family Life, and Pre-retirement classes and courses
- Serve as part of a department's Crisis Response Team
- Assist at suicide incidents
- Serve as liaison with other clergy in the community
- Provide for the spiritual needs of prisoners
- Furnish expert responses to religious questions
- Offer prayers at special occasions such as recruit graduations, awards ceremonies, and dedication of buildings
- Serve on review boards, award boards, and other committees
- Deal with transients and the homeless

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State and Federal Task Force Tackles Cyber Crimes

By **DAVID SCALES**
Correspondent

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and a handful of Connecticut police agencies are combining their efforts to target Internet predators who prey on children.

With Connecticut ranked 17th in the nation in number of cyber crime perpetrators and 20th in overall complaints, the unit which was founded in 2003 has amassed more than 60 indictments.

Taking an aggressive step to combat Internet predators, the FBI set up the Connecticut Computer Crimes Task Force (CCCTF) as the spearhead in Connecticut's war on cyber crimes to investigate hacking, Internet scams, identity theft, and Internet child exploitation, plus other assorted crimes.

Located in the FBI's New Haven field office, the task force is the joint effort of nearly a dozen government agencies, including the U.S. Service Secret, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Department of Defense Inspector General, the Internal Revenue Service, and the FBI. The Chief State's Attorney's office and the Connecticut State Police participate as well as the Glastonbury, Bridgeport, Milford, Middletown, Avon, and South Windsor police departments.

Agents investigate complaints filed by citizens, service providers, and law enforcement agencies, and they check into locations suspected of online activity. Agents will frequently pose as a minor under a screen name and literally act like a child to lure the offender into making arrangements for a sexual encounter.

"We have entrapment issues and protocols we have to follow when we engage in conversation with these guys for evidentiary purposes," explains FBI Agent Tim Egan, who supervises the squad. "We can't come right out and say, 'Do you want to meet me?' or something like that. We can't be the aggressors, and we have to act like innocent children who don't know any better."

"Our undercover officers target those individuals with chats and conversations," Egan said. "Eventually it turns sexual, and then they request to meet with the minor child who is actually an undercover officer. When we do set up that meeting we arrest them at that meeting point."

Nationwide there has been a nearly 2,000 percent increase in child pornography cases since 2003, from 113 to 2,135. Connecticut, ranks 20th in the nation for Internet criminal complaints, with 57 complaints per 100,000 people.

"The supply of sex offenders and predators is overwhelming," Egan said. "It doesn't seem to matter how much we put into it, there's an endless supply of offenders out there. There are a tremendous number of individuals with computers out there trying to patrol the Internet, trying to locate children they could coerce into meeting them for sex."

Last month a federal court sentenced a Portland man to 27 years in prison



for raping children, filming the assaults, sharing the pictures with friends, and compiling a child pornography collection consisting of thousands of images. He was accused of being involved with boys all over the country for decades but agreed to a plea bargain that eliminated the need for his victims to testify.

Also, in late October a Norwich man was charged with conspiracy to commit criminal solicitation, sexual assault on a child, and sexual exploitation of children after he flew to Colorado planning to have sex with a 28-year-old woman and her nine-year-old daughter.

According to Egan, even a five- to ten-year prison sentence upon conviction seems to do little to deter would-be offenders. But parents can protect their children by watching for some warning signs, such as children spending large amounts of

time online (especially at night), porn on their computer, phone calls from strangers, or gifts and packages from unknown persons.

Behavior changes may include children turning off the computer monitor or quickly changing the screen when a parent enters the room. Be concerned if your child becomes withdrawn from the family or uses an Internet account which belongs to someone else.

Child porn is illegal in the U.S. because the federal statute says the victims – children – are under 18 and therefore not capable of making adult judgments and considered exploited. Photographs of naked children alone or engaged in sex acts are illegal.

Contrary to popular conspiracy theories of secretly uploading tracer programs into people's computers to monitor them,

offenders are usually identified through complaints filed by those who discover the sites or who say they know someone who has it on their computer.

"Computer shops and repair stores fixing a computer with child porn on it notify us," Egan said. "In our undercover online operation we actually go online and look for those who are out there actively trading child porn through file-sharing software to trade it among themselves."

If the investigation yields enough evidence to establish probable cause, a search warrant is then issued by a federal judge. Then the agents and other law enforcement professionals enter the premises to execute the warrant. If child porn is present, any suspects can be arrested on-site or tracked down later.

Prosecuting Attorney David I. Cohen will review the case and decide which of the three felony degrees Connecticut law has regarding possession of child porn is appropriate. A guilty verdict can carry a five- to 20-year sentence, depending on the charge.

Web surfers may be linked over to a child porn site by accident, but that doesn't mean they're at risk of being arrested. The law has defenses which allow for the occasional slipup or malicious link. If someone stumbles over a child porn site but closes the window right away, they won't necessarily be in trouble, for several reasons, according to Cohen.

"They're safe if they can show they didn't deliberately buy it, solicit it, or ask for it," Egan said. "If you promptly and in good faith do not retain any of these things, allowed no one access to it, and took the necessary steps to destroy them, or if you reported it right away, you're pretty safe."

Egan says millions of spam e-mails advertising child porn are floating around the Internet, and they receive thousands of complaints every month.

Some groups founded by parents want to stop the spread of child porn, and they surf the Web looking for child porn sites to inform other parents. While they may have good intentions, they may find themselves in trouble unless those intentions are based in a bona fide medical, scientific, or judicial institution.

"There are exceptions under the law, but it can't be downloaded just to show your kid," Egan said.

While child porn is illegal, virtual child porn is not. In a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Ashcroft v. The Free Speech Coalition*, the 6-3 vote against Ashcroft's attempt to ban virtual child porn was quashed. The majority opinion claimed the ban would impede the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech. The ruling against the ban also cited examples where teenage sex was portrayed in 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'American Beauty,' and 'Traffic.' Justice Kennedy and the majority claimed it violated artistic values.

Cohen said virtual child porn is not

No Shortage of Potential Victims

Individuals looking for potential child victims online have no difficulty finding them. It is quite common for these individuals to frequent "kids only" chatrooms and communicate with children who unwittingly divulge personal information about themselves. A more recent phenomenon is the solicitation of sex over the Internet.

After this initial meeting, these individuals will often continue to communicate with the child electronically or through other means. Some of these individuals may then attempt to lower the child's inhibitions by gradually introducing sexual content into their online conversations and even send pornographic images to the child. When children are shown images of peers engaged in sexual activities, they are led to believe this behavior is acceptable. This lowers their inhibitions and makes it easier for the molester to take advantage of the child sexually.

Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to speak openly with their children about online dangers and monitor their online activities.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Juvenile Crime—

Continued from page 1

video games – are at an all-time high.

“Our entertainment is saturated with violence, and it does tend to give people the idea that it’s normal,” said West Hartford Police Chief Jim Strillacci. “If you’re disrespected, you’re supposed to fight about it. That’s causing what would have been schoolyard squabbles to become stabbings and shootings.”

But a 2006 report by the University of Chicago’s Chapin Hall Center for Children called the alarm premature, noting youth crime remained at or near a 30-year low. While the one-year increase in juvenile

Nearly 60 percent of children admitted to juvenile detention in Connecticut have mental health problems and are in need of treatment, according to statistics on the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance Web site.

murder arrests across the nation seems large, the report said it translates into about 200 more arrests.

The report concluded that the juvenile violent crime rate, which grew by one percent between 2004 and 2005, would have to rise at the same pace for 19 more years before the arrests would climb as high as they were in 1994.

“America’s decade-long crime decline may be coming to an end, but it is too early to predict a new surge of violent crime,” the report said.

It is difficult to gauge whether Fairfield County is following the national trend, since county-by-county statistics for 2005 and 2006 are not yet available from the state Department of Public Safety or the FBI.

The most recent available statistics show the arrest rate for youth crime in Fairfield County declined by 15 percent between 1999 and 2004, even as the population of young people was growing.

There were 5,167 arrests for every 100,000 people under age 18 in 1999, compared to 4,393 in 2004, the FBI figures show. In 1994, there were 7,952 arrests.

But the arrest rate for violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) rose by four percent, with 291 arrests per 100,000 in 1999, compared to 303 in 2004.

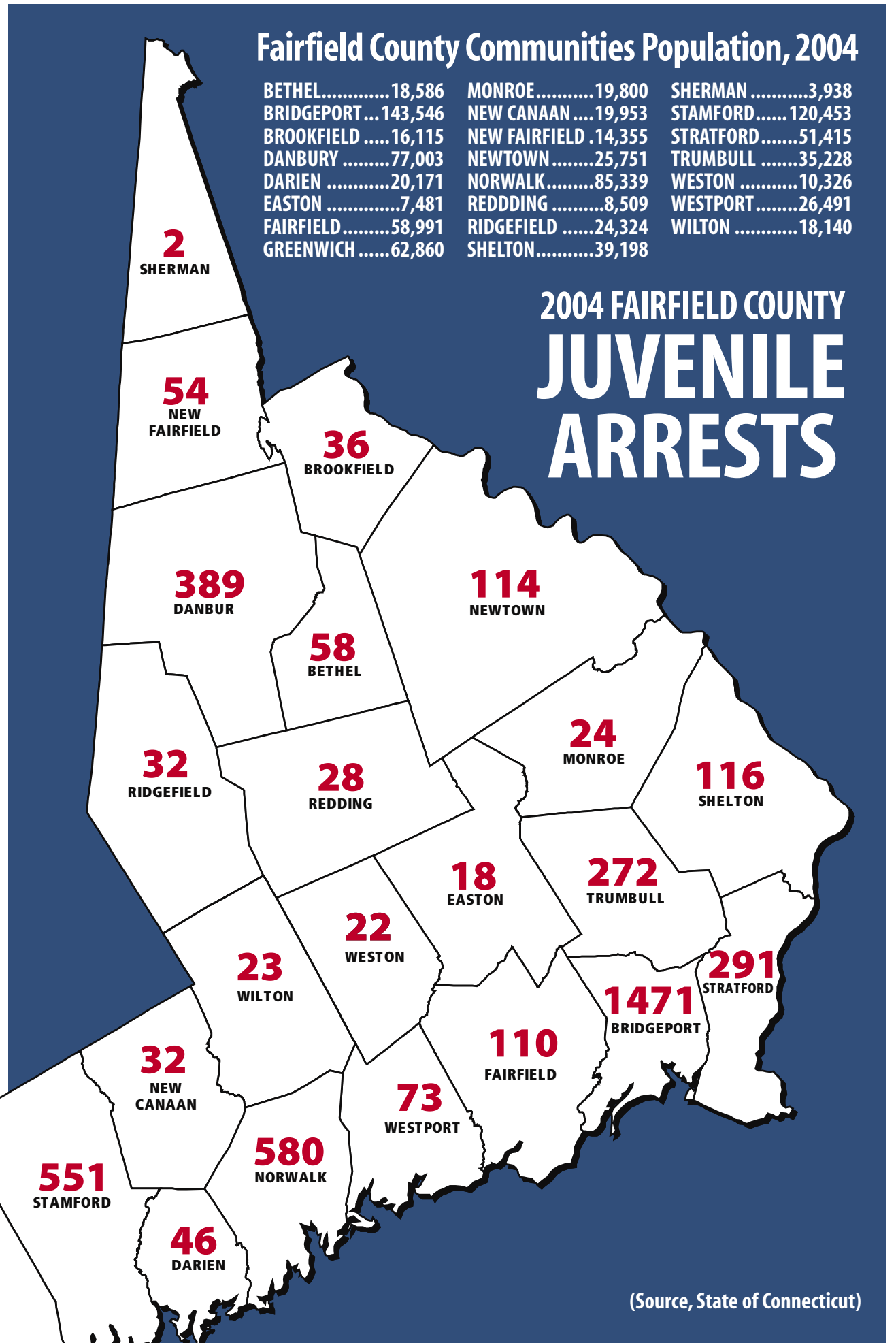
Robberies posted the largest jump, with 72 arrests per 100,000 in 1999, compared to 125 in 2004. Arrests for murder also increased from one in 1999 to four in 2004. Other crimes, such as car thefts, vandalism, and weapons and drug violations, decreased.

Police nationally and in Connecticut have attributed the rise in robberies in part to a worsening economy and increased demand for portable electronic devices such as iPods and cellular phones.

“Our standard of living has increased. There are more things that people want to keep up with the Joneses, and they weren’t invented when I was a kid,” said West Hartford’s Strillacci, who recently lobbied against a new state law that will change the age for juveniles in Connecticut from 16 to 18.

“The cell phones have been a big item,” said Bridgeport Police Sgt. Jesus Ortiz, head of the youth bureau division. “I had a girl who just walked up to another girl, punched her in the face, and took her cell phone.”

Robbery arrests for juveniles in that city rose from 15 in 2000 to 63 in 2004, according to statistics posted on the state Department of Public Safety’s Web site.



In Stamford, Conklin cited a recent trend where groups of young people stake out places late at night where people are likely to be drunk, and then beat and rob their victims as they are leaving. State statistics show robbery arrests remained virtually unchanged in Stamford between 2000 and 2004 (46 compared to 44), but Conklin said police started seeing the incidents more in the last couple of years.

Police also cautioned that arrest statistics don’t tell the whole story about youth crime, since police are only

required to make an arrest if an offense is considered serious. Other cases can be turned over to the child’s parent or guardian. The statistics count arrests that are made and do not reflect open cases where a juvenile may have been involved.

“You may have more incidents where calls are made, but there is no way to track it,” said Bridgeport’s Ortiz.

Many experts say the key to stemming youth crime is

- Continued on next page

Juvenile Crime—

Continued from previous page

reaching children who are at risk early, in their own communities or in their schools.

The University of Chicago study recommends “community-based strategies that can reach all young people, especially those who are disconnected from school, work, and family and those who are from distressed and impoverished neighborhoods.”

Anderson said Connecticut cities are getting better at doing just that, moving away from simply incarcerating and committing kids and looking instead at programs that address the mental health, family, and educational difficulties that often lead to

“If you’re disrespected, you’re supposed to fight about it. That’s causing what would have been schoolyard squabbles to become stabbings and shootings.”

youth violence.

Nearly 60 percent of children admitted to juvenile detention in Connecticut have mental health problems and are in need of treatment, according to statistics on the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance Web site.

“We still have an issue with a lot of those behaviors being criminalized that are sort of outgrowths of a previous condition,” Anderson said. “We sort of punish the symptom instead of treating the cause. We’re getting much better (at not doing that).”

Stamford’s Conklin said another proven prevention strategy is finding meaningful things for preteens and teenagers to do after school.

“Sometimes that’s lacking in many of our communities. We don’t have the formal activities for kids. They find themselves with a lot of time on their hands,” he said.

Bridgeport’s Ortiz said the role of the schools is crucial.

“We need to somehow link the school with these kids beyond 8 to 2:30 in the afternoon,” Ortiz said.

In New Haven, a city rocked by youth violence in the summer of 2006, officials are starting to see some success with a ramping up of after-school, anti-truancy, and dropout-prevention programs.

Components include a mentoring program that releases city employees for one hour a week to volunteer in the public schools, an Open Schools program that provides recreational activities for city kids, and a jobs program for young people to keep them engaged.

Meanwhile, a new Street Outreach Worker Program is sending full-time employees into city neighborhoods to mentor young people police have identified as most likely to commit violent crimes, said New Haven Police Chief Francisco Ortiz Jr. He said the workers are trying to mediate some of the feuds and turf issues that often lead to violence.

While New Haven saw a troubling rise in youth crime in 2006, Ortiz said so far this year he is seeing more crime among “the population we’ve always known,” who tend to be in their early 20’s.

“We’ve got a lot of partners and we got people’s attention, and that was quite different a year ago when I had those young people shot,” Ortiz said. “It really galvanized the community.”

For more information about crime statistics in your community see the state Department of Public Safety web site at <http://www.dir.ct.gov/dps/ucr/ucr.aspx>

(n.missakian@thejusticejournal.com)

Fairfield County Communities with more than 100 Juvenile Arrests in 2004

	Age	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor-Vehicle Theft	Arson	Simple Assault	Forgery/counterfeiting	Fraud	Stolen Property	Vandalism	Weapons Charges	Sex Offenses	Drug Abuse Violations	Offenses vs. Family	DUI	Liquor Laws	Disorderly Conduct	All Other Offenses	Curfew And Loitering	TOTAL
BRIDGEPORT	<10	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	11	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	22
	10-12	0	0	3	7	7	6	0	0	74	0	0	3	14	3	1	2	0	0	0	15	6	0	141
	13-14	0	0	6	26	16	12	11	0	217	0	0	11	27	8	6	11	2	0	1	55	16	0	425
	15	1	0	19	10	7	4	6	0	124	0	0	13	9	6	2	17	0	0	0	39	22	0	279
	16	0	0	14	15	3	7	3	0	144	2	1	7	7	8	3	21	0	0	0	41	27	0	303
	17	0	2	21	16	3	9	4	0	102	0	0	8	5	14	2	41	1	1	0	35	37	0	301
	Total	1	2	63	76	37	40	24	0	672	2	1	42	64	41	15	92	3	1	1	186	108	0	1471
FAIRFIELD	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-12	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
	13-14	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	21
	15	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14
	16	0	0	1	1	4	3	1	0	11	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	33
	17	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	3	6	3	1	0	35
	Total	0	0	1	1	10	26	1	0	28	0	0	0	7	0	3	8	1	4	6	8	6	0	110
GREENWICH	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	10-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	14
	13-14	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	12	2	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	10	16	1	59
	15	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	13	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	11	9	0	46
	16	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	12	0	0	0	2	2	0	10	0	2	0	7	20	3	67
	17	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	6	1	0	1	1	0	1	15	0	9	2	7	15	0	63
	Total	0	0	3	5	0	17	2	3	46	4	1	1	12	6	1	28	1	11	3	39	63	4	250
NEWTOWN	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	13-14	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	2	1	0	0	25
	15	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	5	3	3	0	0	18
	16	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	5	1	0	3	2	16	0	0	38
	17	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	1	3	1	17	0	31
	Total	0	0	0	1	8	9	0	2	12	0	0	0	3	2	1	13	1	1	16	8	37	0	114
NORWALK	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	10-12	0	0	0	4	0	6	0	1	15	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	16	1	0	49
	13-14	0	1	3	11	6	17	2	1	53	0	0	0	3	2	1	5	0	0	0	36	8	2	151
	15	0	0	3	10	3	15	2	0	46	1	0	0	7	0	1	9	1	0	1	28	7	0	134
	16	1	0	1	4	0	11	2	0	41	0	0	0	4	4	0	8	0	0	0	28	7	2	113
	17	2	0	3	5	3	9	0	0	34	1	0	1	1	4	0	11	0	2	2	26	27	1	132
	Total	3	1	10	34	12	58	6	2	189	2	0	1	17	11	3	35	1	2	3	135	50	5	580
SHELTON	10-12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	13-14	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	21
	15	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	7	0	20
	16	0	0	1	1	1	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	0	37
	17	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	3	0	7	0	0	0	1	9	0	36
	Total	0	1	1	4	3	25	0	1	21	0	0	0	9	5	0	17	0	0	0	2	26	1	116
	STAMFORD	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-12		0	0	7	1	2	7	0	0	23	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	48
13-14		0	2	9	6	6	22	1	0	43	0	1	0	9	0	0	3	2	0	0	4	14	0	122
15		0	0	5	10	1	19	2	0	40	0	2	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	7	15	0	108
16		0	2	11	9	2	20	0	0	45	1	1	0	3	1	0	13	0	0	0	6	17	0	131
17		0	4	12	8	3	19	1	1	24	0	0	0	4	3	0	27	2	0	0	9	25	0	142
Total		0	8	44	34	14	87	4	1	175	1	4	0	22	5	3	45	4	0	0	26	74	0	551
STRATFORD	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4
	10-12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	9
	13-14	0	0	0	3	4	24	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	18	8	0	74
	15	0	0	0	0	4	15	3	0	8	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	17	12	0	65
	16	0	0	1	1	4	12	3	0	17	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	20	7	1	70
	17	0	0	0	1	2	18	3	0	9	0	0	0	2	3	0	9	0	0	0	14	8	0	69
	Total	0	0	1	5	14	71	10	0	51	0	0	0	5	5	1	16	0	1	0	71	39	1	291
TRUMBULL	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10-12	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
	13-14	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	1	7	0	0	1	2	1	0	3</							

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Bank Robberies—

Continued from page 3

July 23, and Citibank on Main Avenue on Sept. 8.

He has also been charged with robbing a Citibank branch in Ridgefield, a town that had not experienced a bank robbery in 20 years. In that theft on September 4, the robber displayed a note that indicated he had a gun and wanted money, according to Ridgefield Police Capt. Stephen Brown.

"After a teller opened her drawer, he jumped onto the counter and grabbed an undisclosed amount of cash and then ran around the corner to a parked car and drove south on Main Street toward Wilton," said Brown.

"Maybe we haven't experienced as many robberies as other towns because we are a bit isolated from highways, or maybe we just have been lucky. But this man was arrested," Brown said.

Negron was arrested by Monroe police as he fled a robbery ten days later.

"The Monroe police called us immediately after they arrested him," he said. "All the police departments are in contact with each other when a robbery takes place—the cooperation of all the departments has helped countless times during my career."

"Norwalk sent six or seven officers, and Danbury brought their canine officer because our dog was not on duty that day," said Brown.

Negron is being detained at the Bridgeport Correctional Center in lieu of \$700,500 bond, according to state Department of Correction records.

In May of this year, seven Bronx, NY, men were arrested after a high-speed pursuit involving officers from six local police departments, Metro-North Commuter Railroad police, the New York and Connecticut state police, police dogs, and at least one helicopter, plus agents from the FBI. That dragnet forced the suspension of train service for more than one hour and blocked sections of I-95 while a car-by-car search was conducted.

Authorities allege the group was returning to rob a branch of the First Union Bank in Cos Cob after netting \$8,500 from a robbery there one week

earlier. Federal agents had the bank under surveillance, and the gang fled before they attempted to rob the bank. The FBI said the suspects were heavily armed with three automatic weapons and two handguns. They are being questioned in connection with other bank robberies where more than \$30,000 had been stolen.

Banks in the area declined to comment on their technology or procedures for employees in the event of a robbery, explaining it might endanger the public if the robbers were made aware of their tactics.

A number of Fairfield County banks have increased security measures as the robberies have increased. Two of the three Norwalk Bank of America branches that were robbed now employ armed guards, while the third has since posted a sign asking customers to remove hats, hoods, or sunglasses while inside the bank. A Patriot National Bank branch, robbed June 4, has posted a similar sign.

In August of this year, a New Britain man, Michael Gola, age 33, was sentenced to more than nine years in prison after admitting in a plea agreement that he robbed 28 banks throughout the Northeast in 2004. He plead guilty to robbing 15 banks in Connecticut and two banks in New York, plus he also admitted that he committed 11 bank robberies in three other states, including five in Massachusetts, three in New Jersey, and three in Rhode Island.

In each robbery, Gola entered the bank and handed the teller a note in which he demanded money in large denominations. These notes also stated he had a gun, although he never actually showed a weapon. Gola, who obtained \$54,369 in the robberies, said he was addicted to prescription narcotic drugs at the time of the robberies. Gola's plea agreement requires him to make full restitution to the 28 banks he robbed.

What should you do if you witness a bank robbery or other criminal act? See Captain Gary MacNamara's column on page 18.

(c.nilesfolsom@thejusticejournal.com)



Events & Notices

MADD Candlelight Vigil - Sunday, December 2, 1 pm at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford. For additional info call Carole at 203-234-6521.

City of Fairfield's TRIAD Kickoff Ceremony - Wednesday, November 21, 10 am-noon at the Dolan Building, Fairfield University, 1073 N. Benson Road, Fairfield. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal will be the featured speaker. Yellow Dot supplies will be available and refreshments will be served. To register call the Fairfield Sr. Center at 203-256-3166.

Amber Alert ID Session - Sponsored by the Danbury Rotary Club, Friday, December 7, in Woodbury, time TBA. Call Bob Vetter at 203-748-1105.

Safe and Sound Class - Thursday, November 15, 7 pm at Greenwich Hospital. Classes deal with the issues of car seat and home safety for children from birth to age 5. To register please call Tender Beginnings at Greenwich Hospital at 203-863-3655.

Toys for Tots - Thursday, November 15, Fritz's Harley Davidson of Stamford will be hosting the U.S. Marines to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Toys for Tots program. The kickoff event begins between 10 and 10:30 am. New, unwrapped toys will be collected through December 20 during regular business hours at 575-579 Pacific Street, Stamford, also at the Harley Davidson of Bridgeport, 155 Research Drive, Stratford. For more information call 203-975-1985.

Solving Mysteries—

Continued from page 1

washing machine and cried that her \$300 bath mat had been stuck in the machine over an hour, spinning and spinning in the water. "There was an instant fall in my adrenaline rush," the officer said. "I was not angry, but flabbergasted. It explained why the dispatcher thought it was easier to say that the trouble at the laundromat was unknown."

Looking through the glass of the washing machine, the officer confirmed that the bath mat was there, spinning and spinning away. "If you looked real hard, you could see that the mat was beginning to fall apart," the officer said. "The fabric was starting to decay. And all this time the woman is still hysterical."

The officer said he adjusted and adapted to the situation as police officers are trained to do. He looked for an emergency number on the wall, but the woman said she had already called the number and no one answered. The officer continued to look for different alternatives.

"Finally, out of frustration and because the woman was so hysterical, I decided I had to improvise," the officer said. "I risked life and limb to open the door, flooding the floor with water. I reached in and grabbed the mat, saving it from an early death, and threw it into a wash bucket."

The officer added that he spent a quality half hour with the woman, trying to rescue her bath mat. "She was in her 50's or 60's, and she was certainly concerned about her bath mat being held hostage by the washing machine," he said. "I didn't stick around long enough for much appreciation. I figured the media wouldn't be arriving anytime soon."

Jesus Offers "Salvation"

The Shelton Police Department relates this story from March 2002, when Lucas Patrick of Seymour walked into headquarters and announced he was Jesus Christ. He then led officers to his vehicle, which held 16 bags of cocaine. Patrick said the officers would earn "salvation" by arresting him on drug charges.

Patrick was arrested and charged with possession of narcotics and possession of

narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school zone. "By arresting him, he said we passed the test and had been saved," said Captain Michael Madden. And upon his arrest, Patrick said, "It is God's will." According to the police, Patrick later acknowledged using hallucinogenic drugs and smoking marijuana laced with embalming fluid. "But he said God was the reason he didn't want to sell crack anymore," said Madden. "He shook our hands and told us we have been made whole, 100 percent."

Phantom Alarm

Lt. John Lynch of the Wilton Police Department provided the following stories from his own experience. In the first instance, Lynch responded to a call of an alarm late one night along with members of the fire department. The alarm, sometimes loud and sometimes fading, was sounding around a homeowner's residence.

"We all walked around the house for about half an hour trying to locate this alarm," said Lynch. "Was it a furnace alarm? Sewage alarm? Alarm malfunction? Three firemen, a cop, and the homeowner were all walking around trying to find this alarm."

"Finally, I realized it was the homeowner's watch alarm. Can you imagine a homeowner walking around with his watch going off and not realizing it? Now, the question was what disposition can we give dispatch without looking like complete idiots?"

Naked Burglar

In another instance, Lynch was training a female officer on a warm and beautiful Sunday afternoon. "Typically, Sundays are slow," said Lynch. "Anyhow, the radio blared with a burglary in process." Since burglaries were uncommon on a Sunday afternoon, Lynch thought it could be a mistake. But as he and the female officer headed to the residence, Lynch quickly reviewed the response procedure with the new recruit. "She is to take the shotgun, and we will start a building search," Lynch recalled.

En route, the radio broadcast that the

homeowner had come home and seen their front door open. Upon entering, the owner and her daughter found several household items had been moved. Then they had seen someone outside the house.

"Wow, a real burglary, and we would be ready," said Lynch. "We arrive there with our adrenaline flowing. She grabs the big gun, and I have my revolver. We both run towards the house, careful to take cover. We turn the corner, and there he is. 'Police, don't move!' we both yell."

The "intruder," however, continues to grab for something. "We are taught to look at the hands," said Lynch. "Hands can kill. However, we quickly saw his naked torso, and he was trying to cover up his genitals. He had been lying on a blanket, bathing himself in the nude. With the shotgun aimed at several parts of his body, he was shaking uncontrollably."

In the end, the intruder turned out to be a friend of the family who had stopped by to surprise them. "Fortunately, everything went well," said Lynch. "No one was hurt, and we had a story that we could laugh about for years to come."

Oh Oh!

Lynch also recalls working a graveyard shift when he spotted a car between two buildings. Thinking it odd, Lynch called for backup and pulled up to the suspicious vehicle. "I was nervous because it looked like a classic burglary," Lynch said. "I soon realized what it was. The driver was alone, and he was terribly nervous. I shined my light in the car and, sure enough, I quickly

found out what was making him nervous. He was wearing women's underwear with some very sexy fishnet stockings."

When the backup officers arrived, Lynch ordered the suspect out of his car for questioning. But Lynch said that his two partners started to laugh uncontrollably, and soon he had to stifle laughing himself. Lynch then decided to conclude the situation. "I told the suspect to get back in his car and to get lost, which he gladly did."

Good Deed

Sometimes, the unusual is not something to laugh about, but it's all in a day's work. Lynch once received a call from an elderly woman whose cat had just died. "She was in tears and didn't know what to do," said Lynch. "I was brand new on the job and was sent to see what I could do for her. I got there and felt so bad for her that I took the cat and buried it. We even made a nice little gravestone for it."

"She was so thrilled that I helped and said she would remember it for the rest of her life. Unfortunately, even though I was thrilled I could help and make a difference in her life, I was the butt of many jokes for years to come."

(l.taylor@thejusticejournal.com)

The Justice Journal invites you to share your unusual stories. Please send your E-mail to the Editor@Thejusticejournal.com, or call 203-454-5910. Identifying information may be withheld to prevent embarrassment.



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Motorcycle, Bicycle Use Sees Resurgence with Some Local Police

By PAMELA FALCIGNO
Correspondent

The motorcycle, with its long and proud history of police service, appears to be regaining popularity with several Fairfield County police departments.

Used by police since 1908, the vehicle was seeing less duty, but now more departments are returning to it and also using bicycles because they offer flexibility and advantages not possible with a patrol car.

Less than two years ago Darien formed a unit specifically dedicated to motorcycle traffic patrol. Thomas Courtney Isaac, one of two motorcycle officers assigned to that patrol, says one main reason for the resurgence of this vehicle is the ability for officers to “conceal” themselves.

Captain Gary Pavia says the number one complaint for the department is traffic, and now with officers to concentrate on this area 100 percent of the time, it makes a big difference. He says he also sees a growing trend toward use of motorcycles for patrol, something he feels that should have been put into place in his department years ago. Pavia says he would not mind adding another motorcycle but can only spread the amount of people he has so thin.

“We want to increase the services we’re giving to the town, but we have to either reorganize or get more manpower,” he explained.

Sergeant Ryan Devaney of the Stamford Police Department says that city phased out motorcycles in the late 1980’s because of ongoing mechanical problems and lack of manpower. In 2000 the department reinstated a motorcycle program and currently employs use of three motorcycles and nine motorcycle officers.

The advantages of motorcycles in heavy rush hour traffic were evident when Stamford police were able to apprehend a suspect fleeing in a car after a shooting incident.

“With the increase in traffic,” says Fairfield Captain Robert Comers, “most progressive police departments are more aware of the need for motorcycle patrols to assist in traffic direction, control, and safety. Motorcycles have the ability to maneuver through tighter areas where a cruiser would be stopped.”

Police also see another bonus employing motorcycles: public relations. People find an officer on a motorcycle very approachable.

Darien’s Isaac, a ten-year law enforcement veteran, says it’s rare that someone comes up to an officer in a police car. On a motorcycle, “people will walk right up to you or pull a car up and speak to you. Kids are attracted to it, they think it’s cool, they want to come up and see the bike,” he commented. It’s a good public relations tool, since general conversation about the motorcycle leads to conversation about community services that the police provide, he added.

Motorcycles are also used in parades and for V.I.P. and funeral escorts. Comers says a motorcycle escort for a funeral gives a sense of “honor and dignity” in laying a loved one to rest, and families are most appreciative to the officers providing this service.

Officers must be certified to operate a motorcycle, and that is managed through the Fairfield and Connecticut State Police Departments. The motorcycle of choice in Fairfield County is the Harley Davidson, and motorcycle certification testing is a culmination of the Harley Davidson course and the Institute of Police Technology and Management Course. According to the Harley Davidson Web site, history of use of this vehicle by police dates back to 1908.

Officer James Chueka of Fairfield, a certified motorcycle instructor, says the two-and-a-half week course is probably one of the toughest, short of SWAT training, and is both physically and mentally exerting. Many officers fail.

Bicycles, which have advantages similar to motorcycles, are also experiencing a resurgence as a police vehicle for some local departments.

Chief Edward Nadriczny of New Canaan says they started using bicycles for patrol about eight years ago. They started with two and now have six certified officers. The theory behind the introduction of bikes was to reduce the barrier between the officer and citizen, making the officer more approachable, he said.

The uniform style is more casual, explained Nadriczny, and because of a smaller downtown area the bike is “very effective.” Bike patrol is conducted seasonally, April through November. It can sometimes extend into December, depending on severity of weather. Officers do not ride after dark.

“The community loves it. It’s great for the police department,” says Jeffrey Deak, a certified bicycle officer in New Canaan. He says he enjoys the patrol and exercise, but with helmet and bulletproof vest in over 100 degree temperatures, he has to stay hydrated and conserve energy. Deak carries a handgun and Taser, but says he misses having a laptop for “instant information at his fingertips.”

The City of Fairfield also has had a bike program in place. Two patrol cars have bike racks for transportation and deployment, and the bicycles are widely used throughout the community.

“They are very effective in investigating suspicious activity, drug activity, and crowd control,” Comers points out.

Training for certification is provided through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) and is conducted locally at Southern Connecticut State University Police Department.

Sergeant Tom Medera, a certified bike trainer, says the one-week class is vigorous. Officers have to be in top physical shape. They learn techniques for riding up and down stairs, through obstacle courses, and over long distances.

Departments are thinking more “green,” and with the benefits of not having to use fuel and less wear and tear expenses, more police chiefs are considering going back to bikes as a good “community-based policing tool,” says Sgt. Medera.

Darien phased out its bicycle program over the past year, but Capt. Pavia notes the benefits to the bike and says he thinks eventually they will bring it back.

(p.falcigno@thejusticejournal.com)



Then and Now Officer Amos Anderson, one of Darien’s first cycle-mounted officers, is shown on an Excelsior Henderson motorcycle in this 1929 photo. Working with Harley Davidson Road Kings in modern times are, from left to right, Officer T. Courtney Isaac, Sergeant Gary Pavia, and Officer James Martin. At 40 miles to the gallon and great flexibility, the motorcycle is a great option for many police departments.



Officer Jeff Deak and his specialized Cannondale bike. One of the most important parts of his gear is a bulletproof vest which can make operating the bike in 100 degree temperatures difficult.

COMMUNITIES USING MOTORCYCLES & BICYCLES

.....Motorcycles.....	Certified Officers	Bicycles
Bethel.....0.....	0.....	6
Bridgeport.....8.....	12.....	0
Danbury.....0.....	0.....	2
Fairfield.....4.....	8.....	14
Greenwich.....6.....	5.....	6
New Canaan.....0.....	0.....	6
Norwalk.....0.....	0.....	12
Redding.....0.....	0.....	2
Stamford.....3.....	6.....	0
Stratford.....0.....	0.....	2
Trumbull.....4.....	5.....	0
Westport.....1.....	1.....	2
Wilton.....0.....	0.....	5



SCAM of the Month

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Correspondent



Sports Fans Become Losers in Online Ticket Schemes

Die-hard sports fans are willing to pay hundreds of dollars to see their favorite team take on the latest rival. But it turns out, when it comes to some online ticket sales, con artists are the ones taking the field. Sadly, with football fever in full effect, fans are getting burned at an alarming rate.

Alfonse Jacobi thought he had it made. After an exhaustive online search to find tickets to see the New York Giants open up their season against the Green Bay Packers at home at the Meadowlands, Jacobi found tickets for sale on the popular online site Craigslist.com. He paid \$400 for two tickets near the 40-yard line. "What I actually bought was the most expensive pieces of scrap paper ever paid for," Jacobi said.

The tickets looked legitimate, complete with hologram and Giants team logos. But when the gate attendant went to scan the tickets in, the tickets would not register. She called security; they examined the two tickets, then turned to Jacobi and said, "Sir, where did you get these? They are fake, good fakes, but not good enough to get you inside."

"I couldn't believe I had been taken like that, my stomach dropped," Jacobi said. He went to the Meadowlands with his son and couldn't bear to tell him what just happened. "How do you tell your son he can't see the game because Dad was an idiot," Jacobi said with regret.

What happened to Alfonse Jacobi happens to thousands of sports fans every week. "The

Internet has become the playing field of choice for sports fans looking to unload or buy tickets. Unfortunately, the Internet is also a breeding ground for scammers looking to take advantage of game-day fever," said Steve Cox, spokesperson for the Better Business Bureau System. "Sports fans are often blinded by their devotion to their team and run the risk of putting their trust in a seller that doesn't deserve it."

The problem has become so prolific that the Better Business Bureau is issuing a warning to consumers. "The most common way sports fans are getting burned online is by paying for either counterfeit tickets or tickets that

never arrive," says Cox.

Many victims are like Jacobi. He contacted the seller, and then set up a place to meet and make the exchange. The seller asked for either cash or a cashier's check for the tickets. It's a common request by all scam artists, because both forms of payment are impossible to trace. "The tickets looked so real, and he seemed so nice. It's just another example that you can't trust anyone," Jacobi warns.

Many fans will buy the tickets online, with the seller promising to send the (bogus) tickets. "Even if the tickets do arrive, they are sometimes not for the seats the seller advertised – which can mean being stuck with seats that aren't next to each other, are up in the nosebleed section, or with an obstructed view," explains Cox.

The secondary ticket market for sporting events and concerts is a \$10-billion-a-year industry, with online ticket sales accounting for about one-third of that number. There are a growing number of secondary-market ticket firms that offer highly regulated Web sites. The sites often provide buyer protections that include money-back guarantees on the legitimacy of tickets. For example, TicketsNow.com takes possession of tickets and verifies them in-house before listing them for resale. StubHub and RazorGator hold sellers' credit-card numbers. If a seller sells fake tickets, he or she gets charged for the replacements.

Some Do's and Don'ts

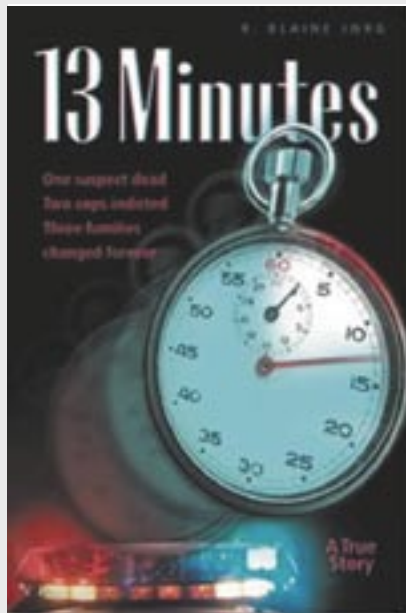
Here are some tips provided by the Better Business Bureau designed to help protect consumers when buying event tickets online:

When buying from an individual through an online exchange, don't be lured away from the Web site by the seller. Even if you met the seller on the exchange Web site, the company may not guarantee any lost money if a transaction occurs outside its domain.

If you buy tickets through an online auction, choose a seller with a long, continuous history of satisfied customers. Scammers can hijack old accounts, so make sure they have recently bought or sold other items.

Never pay with a cashier's check or wire money to the seller; you'll have no way to get your money back if the tickets never arrive. Pay with a credit card or through PayPal, which offer some amount of protection and potential reimbursement.

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Cyber Crimes—

Continued from page 9

illegal in Connecticut, but the resemblance to the real thing is still there. Cohen said that no matter how many cases he has handled, crimes against children can still affect him.

Despite the difficult job of stemming child porn, the Innocent Images Program, another FBI initiative, has posted some large numbers over the last ten years nationwide:

- 878 percent increase in information & indictments (99 to 968)

- 2,174 percent increase in arrests, locates, and summons (68 to 1,546)
 - 1,397 percent increase in convictions and pretrial diversions (68 to 1,018)
 - Number of cases opened: 17,691
 - Number of information and indictments: 5,752
 - Number of arrests, locates, and summons: 7,700
 - Number of convictions and pretrial diversions: 5,840
- (D.scales@thejusticejournal.com)

Tips to Prevent Internet Abuse

Some prevention tips provided by W.H.O.A. (Working to Halt Online Abuse) are:

- Use a gender-free username/e-mail address.
- Use free e-mail accounts from Yahoo, Hotmail to instant message, go on chat rooms and answer e-mails and other on-line activities.
- Don't give your primary e-mail to anyone you don't know or trust.
- Instruct children never to give out their real name, age, address or phone number without permission.
- Try to avoid providing your credit card or other information as proof of age to access Web sites you aren't familiar with.
- Lurk on newsgroups, mailing lists and chatrooms before 'Speaking' or posting messages.
- Be careful when you participate online and type only what you would say to someone's face.
- Don't reveal personal things about yourself until you really know the person.

Law Enforcement Profile—

Continued from page 5

stressors. That sense of male entitlement cuts across all socioeconomic lines."

Dunn has encountered female batterers, and same-sex cases are not uncommon. But Dunn believes that, in general, men are more violent than women. "I think men, because of their different makeup, are more violent," he said. "When I'm teaching, I say that there aren't more women in heaven than men. I don't believe women are inherently better than men. So if you believe in heaven, I don't think there's going to be 95 percent women there and 95 percent men in hell. I don't think that's the way it works. At the same time, there are more men in prison than women for violent events."

Nature vs. Nurture?

Children who are exposed to domestic violence are another area of concern. "It's the old nature vs. nurture debate," said Dunn. "Are you what you are because of your environment and what you've seen? Or are you what you are because of genetics and natural selection? I've heard experts talk about the resiliency of children, but if you're exposed to something, it can become a way of life."

To relieve his own stress, Dunn enjoys his hobby of fly fishing. "I like being outside, and fly fishing gives you the opportunity to go to beautiful places," he said. "I like the casting and the athleticism of that. But I think you have to have a predatory instinct to be a good fisherman. I think that's waned a little bit in me. I mostly catch and release."

Dunn has also practiced transcendental meditation for the past 32 years. For 20 minutes twice a day, Dunn meditates as a way of settling his mind and reenergizing his body. "It's a way to have an experience with silence and quiet time that gives the body rest and slows down the mind," he said. "We're dealing with life-and-death issues every day. After years and years of doing this, it can be very stressful. Meditation gives me energy."

Energy is a must for Dunn. He and his wife, also a lawyer, live in Fairfield with their 22-month-old son. And in December 2006, Dunn became a senior assistant state's attorney under a grant awarded to the Connecticut Arrest and

Prosecution Project, a specialized domestic violence prosecution unit headed by the Office of the Chief State's Attorney.

"...if you make a mistake on a case, something bad could happen to the victim."

— Kevin Dunn

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women awarded \$805,848 to the state in 2005 through the Office of Policy and Management.

Teaches "Best Practices"

"Half my time now is spent handling cases and half is traveling around the state teaching 'best practices' to police and prosecutors," Dunn said. Best practices involves learning about domestic violence and how best to prosecute the different

types of cases. "What makes domestic violence interesting is that it's not anger management in a sense," said Dunn. "Because if a guy can go to work and not assault his boss and not assault the crossing guard who tells him to stop the car, but then assaults his wife, anger management

is not the issue. It's more an issue of power and control."

The goal is to figure out the best solution for the batterer. "We prefer to have people change their behavior rather than send them to jail," said Dunn. "Some people will have to go to jail, but often that's a lose-lose situation. It may be bad for the person and also bad for society because we're paying a rather heavy bill for the jails. If you're going to put a guy in jail, you must also understand that the wife may lose their house."

For some serious batterers, there is a 26-week program, with classes twice a week. "With some people in domestic violence, it's a question of changing their thinking and their behavior and reeducating them with the programs," Dunn said. "I've had people come out of these programs and say, 'It really helped me and the way I think about things. It helps me deal with stresses in my life. Before, I didn't know any better. Now I react differently.'"

Dunn said that about 75 percent of the time, victims don't want to cooperate in the prosecution even though they called the police. "They want the violence to stop," he said, "but at the same time, they don't want to lose the financial security they might have. There may be child-care issues. It's not uncommon for these women to be working and the guys are home watching the kids."

To prevent such cases from being dropped, Dunn teaches how to mitigate the victim's reluctance. "You can make sure the victim feels comfortable," he said. "You make sure the victim knows you are working in his or her best interest. You tell them about victims' advocacy programs which are very, very important."

Dunn laments that there is sometimes a lack of creativity with domestic violence cases. "Some think you just need to put batterers in the family violence education program. That might be good for some guys, but some others need the 26-week program. Some guys need to be on a very close leash. If it's something serious, they have to go to jail."

Neglected in Past

Dunn is serious himself about the work he does. "I think domestic violence prosecution is an important thing," he said. "It's a job that's been neglected in the past. Essentially, we weren't arresting people before 1986, and that's not that long ago. The old mentality is hard to kill."

Still, Dunn acknowledges that domestic violence prosecution has made progress. "We're beyond raising awareness," he said. "We are at the point where we know it's a problem. The question is how we're going to respond to it. My mantra is: We have to respond. We have to act."

And when push comes to shove, Dunn has no problem drawing the line. "I didn't have a problem putting the guy away

— See **Law Enforcement Profile** on page 19

At-A-Glance

CONN. GEN. STAT. Sections 46b-38a (1)-(3) (2005)

Family violence: "means an incident resulting in physical harm, bodily injury or assault, or an act of threatened violence that constitutes fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault between family or household members. Verbal abuse or argument shall not constitute family violence unless there is a present danger and the likelihood that physical violence will occur."

Family or household member: "means (A) spouses, former spouses; (B) parents and their children; (C) persons eighteen years of age or older related by blood or marriage; (D) persons sixteen years of age or older other than those persons in paragraph (C) presently residing together or who have resided together; (E) persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they are or have been married or have lived together at any time; (F) persons in, or who have recently been in, a dating relationship."

Family violence crime: "means a crime as defined in section 53a-24 which, in addition to its other elements, contains as an element thereof an act of family violence to a family member and shall not include acts by parents or guardians disciplining minor children unless such acts constitute abuse."



Due Process

RICHARD T. MEEHAN JR.



Dear Due Process,

I have a youngster who will be turning 16 soon and am concerned about her getting a driver's license. I was hoping you could give me some directions.

T.L., Monroe

Dear T.L.,

As the father of five, I have lived through this experience four times in the past 20 years. Fast approaching is a date my wife and I have dreaded for some time, our youngest child's 16th birthday. It's not that we don't want to see him grow up, although it's hard to see the "baby" of the family approach adulthood. It isn't the fact that he is fast becoming an adult, or that in less than three years we will be empty nesters, after 36 years of child raising.

No, it is that trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles on his birthday to get his learner's driving permit that has once again filled us with parental angst. Richie is the youngest of five boys, so we are not strangers to this rite of passage. We have lived through four other episodes of driver's ed classes and monumental increases in our auto insurance premiums. We have stood in our driveway on countless other days watching a teenager drive off, hoping that he truly understands the privilege a license affords and the responsibility that operating a motor vehicle entails. By and large we have survived the others.

A few fender benders and the occasional traffic violation hadn't deterred us from allowing the next in succession to venture onto the highway. The last time we did this was ten years ago when son number four hit the road for the first time. The anxiety level doesn't decrease with age—our age.

The rules have evolved through the two decades of student drivers that we have endured. Connecticut has recognized that there should be limits set that allow young drivers to gradually venture out with friends. These include:

During the first three months, a 16-

or 17-year-old with a learner's permit can drive only with parents, or a legal guardian, who must possess a valid license, and no other passengers.

The youth is also permitted to drive with an instructor who is at least 20 years of age and has held a license for four or more consecutive years, and whose license has not been suspended during those four years.

The same passenger restrictions also apply to 16- and 17-year-old drivers who have successfully obtained their licenses. Only parents or a legal guardian can ride along for the first three months. In the second three months immediate family members are permitted.

Until age 18 the young driver cannot operate a vehicle between midnight and 5 a.m. unless traveling for work, school, religious services, or medical necessity.

Parents or legal guardians can still home train a youngster, but most insurance companies provide a discount for the successful completion of a commercial or secondary school driver's education program. Good-student discounts are also offered.

Failure to follow the rules can lead to a revocation of the learner's permit, and the adults who are training the youngster are charged with the responsibility to see that the rules are being followed. A substantial portion of driver training must be devoted to issues involving driving and the use of alcohol and drugs.

Causing death as a result of operating a vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol constitutes the ten-year felony of manslaughter in the second degree. If the impaired driver causes serious physical injury, the charge is the five-year felony of assault in the second degree with a motor vehicle. It matters little that the offender is an otherwise good person with no prior criminal record. Those convicted of these offenses are generally sentenced to substantial prison time. There is zero tolerance for youngsters who operate a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs. Where the legal limit of alcohol in the blood in an adult is .08, for those under age 21 it is .02!

When our two oldest became new drivers, cell phones were not common and the phenomenon of text messaging had not yet erupted. Today, the restrictions on distracted driving are more stringent. Until age 18 no young driver can use a cell phone during operation, even with a hands-free device. The law also prohibits the use of other mobile electronic devices. That means no text messaging while driving.

Until 18 young drivers may not transport more passengers than there are seat belts in the vehicle and cannot operate a van pool. Alcohol in a vehicle can lead to suspension, regardless of who is consuming it.

The Department of Motor Vehicles Web site (www.ct.gov/dmv) offers informative aids to parents and new drivers alike. Dozens of Podcasts are offered, directed specifically to teen drivers. Podcasts allow the computer user to listen to short, informative lectures on such topics as the dangers of texting and driving, how to drive in the snow and ice, staying focused, avoiding road rage, and many others. They can be downloaded to MP3 players like the iPod for instant access for the youthful driver.

Of course, the learner's permit is one of the greatest parental incentive devices ever. As the weeks count down to permit eligibility day, we have effectively used

the threat of delaying the permit. Our son struggles to roll out of bed in the morning, but this school year we have invoked the "I'm not making a second trip into the room rule." That is for every time we have to call him again to get up, we add a week to the calendar to get the permit. So far he hasn't missed a wake-up call! Permit day is coming fast, and my wife and I are fastening our seat belts for one last time.

*Commentary and answers to your questions about legal issues will be provided by one of Connecticut's premiere trial attorneys, Richard T. Meehan Jr. of Bridgeport's Meehan, Meehan & Gavin (www.meehanlaw.com). Meehan is a nationally certified criminal trial specialist and a charter fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, as well as a former adjunct law professor. He has handled some of Connecticut's highest-profile criminal and civil cases. He can be seen as a law commentator on local and national TV, including Court TV's *The Best Defense with Jami Floyd*, and *Courtside with Ashleigh Banfield and Jack Ford*. Rich is a frequent contributor to the blog, *Cool Justice* (www.cooljustice.blogspot.org). He writes a weekly column on legal issues for the *Norwich Bulletin*. E-mail your questions to: Dueprocess@thejusticejournal.com.*

Cold Case Update—

Continued from page 2

Those with information on either of those homicides are asked to call the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 203-0004 or (860) 567-6841.

A Woman in the Snow

On Jan. 13, 1986, a Department of Environmental Protection officer discovered the body of Pamela Jerome-Pepper, 43, naked from the waist down and partially buried in the snow, on Bridgeport Hydraulic Co. property off of Valley Road in Redding. The blonde-haired woman was wearing a dark-colored

wool blend coat, a tan-colored turtleneck shirt with maroon and brown stripes, a pair of tan corduroy pants, and brown leather boots.

Jerome-Pepper was last seen in the downtown Bridgeport area on Nov. 25, 1985. The state police Web site did not list the victim's address.

A \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction in the homicide. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad at (800) 375-1554 or (203) 267-2220.

(b.bittar@thejusticejournal.com)

"I let my kids and their friends drink at my house, but I take their keys. I don't think there's anything wrong with that."

THINK AGAIN.

Parents have the power to help prevent underage drinking. Regardless of whether you're buying teens alcohol or hosting a drinking party for minors, it's irresponsible and illegal. Do your part to prevent. Don't provide alcohol to minors.

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What If...?

By CAPT. GARY MACNAMARA

Fairfield Police Department
Special to The Justice Journal



What If You Were in a Bank During a Robbery?

When James Caldwell entered the Citizen Bank in Manchester, NH, in July 2007, his disguise quickly led employees and customers to realize this was no ordinary customer.

With tree branches and leaves duct-taped to his head and torso, Caldwell demanded cash as he robbed the bank. He fled but was later arrested after someone identified him from bank video surveillance. Caldwell's disguise was a far cry from the days of John Dillinger – a dangerous criminal in the 1930's known for leaping over the counter during bank robberies – or Lester Gillis – better known as Baby Face Nelson, named for his youthful appearance. Both were known for their violence and the brazen way they entered and robbed banks. Both also prided themselves on their reputation and fame.

Dillinger had been quoted as saying, "I rob banks for a living. What do you do?" He compared his career to others, saying, "My buddies wanted to be firemen, farmers or policemen, something like that. Not me, I just wanted to steal people's money." Both Dillinger and Nelson did make a career of robbing banks, until 1934, when both were shot and killed in unrelated incidents.

Whether perpetrated by people lured by the potential of instant cash or driven by desperate conditions, Fairfield County has experienced a recent rash of bank robberies, greatly increasing the likelihood that more citizens might find themselves in the

Some Do's and Don'ts

- Do not try to intervene if you are present in a bank when a robbery occurs.
- If you observe something suspicious as you enter, leave the bank calmly and report your observations to the police immediately. Don't panic or draw attention to yourself.
- Try to remember as many details as you can: height, weight, clothing, and other personal identifiers.
- Write down your observations on a piece of paper immediately.
- Try not to talk to other witnesses so as not to confuse your observations.

middle of one. FBI statistics for 2006 show that nationwide bank robberies rose by 4 percent, but the FBI's New Haven division recently told The Justice Journal that the number of bank robberies in Connecticut is up 60 percent over last year.

We've seen dozens of variations on the theme in movies or television. Sometimes the robbers are silent and courteous, and other times they're violent and reckless. Frequently bank patrons are not even aware a robbery has taken place until the police arrive. What should you do? What shouldn't you do?

The simple answer is to cooperate and allow the robber to leave the bank as quickly as possible to reduce the chance of violence.

While that's the quick answer, there are more things you can do to avoid becoming a victim, or even possibly to prevent a robbery from occurring in the

first place. Additionally, your observations could contribute valuable information that will help solve a bank robbery that has occurred.

Since any bank at any time may be the target of a robbery, customers should remain alert when going to their bank. Watch for suspicious people in and around the bank when you arrive. Generally, customers with legitimate business at the bank conduct their business and leave. People walking back and forth in front of the bank, or observing the bank from their vehicle in the parking lot for long periods of time, may have a legitimate reason, or they could be waiting for the right opportunity to rob the bank. Strange behavior that concerns you should be reported to the police. This may disrupt or prevent a robbery.

The parking lot is not the place to count money or complete deposit slips or sign checks. Attention should be given to your surroundings when parking and approaching the bank. Those planning to rob a bank may also seize an opportunity to commit a street robbery should the opportunity and victim present itself. Be deliberate in your actions, by parking and immediately proceeding into the bank to conduct your business. Be observant of suspicious activity.

Once in the bank, continue to be observant of your surroundings. People have been known to walk in while a bank robbery was being committed. If you observe something through either a customer's or an employee's behavior, leave the bank calmly and report your observations to the police immediately. Don't panic or draw attention to yourself.

While waiting to conduct your banking business, act deliberately. Have the forms completed ahead of time so your time and attention are not distracted while waiting to complete your transactions. Also remember a bank robber's actions may not be what you expect.

Bank takeovers – where subjects come in a bank with guns drawn, ordering everyone to the ground – are rare. It is more likely that a person robbing a bank will attempt to draw as little attention to himself as possible. In fact, customers inside the bank at the time may not even realize the bank was robbed until the police arrive. It is more likely that the robber will quietly present a note or demand to a single teller, retrieve some money, and flee. This is another reason why customers should be observant of activity occurring within the bank. Tellers may not be able to signal a robbery is occurring, so customers may

not be able to provide details later because they are unaware of a problem. If you observe evidence of a possible robbery, pay attention to the details, or leave the bank to report the observations to police.

After completing your banking, remember your vulnerability has not ended until you have left the bank and parking lot. Do not exit the bank counting your withdrawal or holding your money in your hand. Anyone intent on robbing a bank is also likely to seize an opportunity to rob people entering or leaving the bank. The key here is money, and the likelihood you're going to make either a deposit or a withdrawal qualifies you as a target.

Be observant of those wandering around the front of the bank or loitering in the parking lot with no apparent reason for being there. Report such suspicious activity to the police. These observations may help to prevent or interrupt a planned robbery from occurring.

If you find yourself inside or outside the bank when a robbery occurs, try to remember as many details as you can. What did you observe while entering the bank that may have not peaked your interest at the time? What was going on in the bank? What did you see or hear? Did you hear any conversations that may be helpful to the police? Did it appear two or more people were acting together? Write down your observations on a piece of paper immediately after the robbery so they can be accurately relayed to the police. Try not to talk to other witnesses so as not to confuse your observations. If you witness the actual robber, try to remember as many specific details as possible, including height, weight, clothing, and other personal identifiers. Relay this information to the police as soon as possible.

Bank robberies can take on any number of different forms. Some occur at opening, closing, or in the middle of the day. Some robbers may like attention, some may not. Some bring, display, or even use weapons, or some will just imply they have a weapon. Some work alone and some in groups. Some try to hide their identity by using disguises, and some don't wear any disguises at all.

With all the differences, however, there are some very important similarities. All robbers have to travel to the bank somehow. They have to enter, conduct their crime, and leave the bank.

Citizen assistance can make all the difference in solving a crime, so if you see something you feel is suspicious, report it to the authorities. What's suspicious activity? It's hard to define, but it can be anything that seems out of the ordinary or that doesn't feel right to you.

Good witnesses providing accurate information and descriptions at the time of the robbery are invaluable to authorities.

Here's a parting thought: Next time you go to the bank, remember James Caldwell, the robber in New Hampshire. Tree branches and leaves rarely enter banks for legitimate purposes.



Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Visor Alert Program

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association along with the state DMV and the State Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired have a program aimed to better alert police officers to hearing impaired drivers.

The program provides bright green visor envelopes for hearing impaired drivers to place their license, registration and insurance information.



In Connecticut about 1 in 5 drivers is hard of hearing or deaf and the program is designed to help police officers better communicate with drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The envelopes are available at all Connecticut Police Departments and from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

www.cpcanet.org

Law Enforcement Profile—

Continued from page 16

for 20 years when he sliced a woman's face," he said. "I don't have a problem plea bargaining homicides when you're talking long periods of time. Some defense attorneys think I'm too hard, because they're used to a culture when these cases were dropped. And then

there's a perception by some prosecutors that domestic violence cases are too easy because it's basically social work."

Dunn said his goal is to create a culture of success. "There's still that competitive aspect in me," he said. "I want to create a culture of success with successful

prosecution while keeping victims safe at the same time. And also a culture of success where people want to change and are motivated to change. We want to help them change without having to put them in jail."

Asked if he is passionate about his work, Dunn replies, "I hesitate to say I'm passionate because I don't want to sound like a crusader. But I think I'm passionate about 'no one likes bullies.' I

think what I'm doing is a good thing, And I don't doubt that I should be doing what I'm doing. There's a reason why I'm here. Again, I don't want to come off as a crusader, but I think I'm here for a reason. My whole life is ending up where I'm supposed to be."

Interesting comment for someone who says, "I never really made conscious choices to become either a lawyer or a prosecutor."

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