A Person of Interest: Redux

By: Joseph Andalina

A couple of years ago, I wrote an essay on the relatively new buzzword in policing, “a person of interest.” Actually, it should be called a buzz phrase. It has picked up steam in the vernacular of police work since then, but its use has also caused some criticism for our great leaders in law enforcement.

Then, as now, I find the term to be pedantic, pompous, and ceremonial. I could never see what was wrong with calling a suspect of a crime a suspect. As I wrote earlier, if you think a certain person committed a crime, he or she is a suspect. If that person saw something or knows something, then she could be a witness. She could be a person of interest, but you can readily see that she is most certainly not a suspect. So we should refer to her as a witness, tipster, or informant.

But why is this constant referral of suspects as “persons of interest?” I have never heard a cop, correctional officer, or detective refer to a suspect as a person of interest. They know who he is and what he is suspected of. And he will tell you that, too. We don’t really care if we call Johnny Dirtbag a suspect before he’s charged. If we’re on to him, he can be a dirtbag and a suspect all at the same time. If we think he committed the crime, then he certainly isn’t a witness!

The brass, however, (surprise, surprise) has gone way to the “left” of the political spectrum with the constant use of the term “a person of interest.” I’ve heard them say a person of interest (or POI) as a phrase to describe a witness, a possible witness, someone who needs to be talked to, or a suspect. To them it encompasses everyone to be interviewed by the police. Sorry, but that just doesn’t fly, kids. I personally would like the slug I’m looking at and investigating to know I’m coming after him or them. And I want my witness to trust me and cooperate and be a witness. I do not want to throw a helpful, caring, and voluntary witness into the trash heap with real slugs by calling the witness a POI, too.

How insulting to do this. What do witnesses think of being called a POI, lumped in with real hoopties who are suspected of committing a crime? I used to think that the media created this monster and the brass, fearful of hurting someone’s feelings by calling a suspect a suspect, went along for the ride, bending to the will of the press. But now I’m not so sure.

Here’s why. Last May 2007, a woman disappeared from her home in Plainfield. Not in thin air, via Harry Potter, but came up missing when she

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Hope you have enjoyed the summer with some time off to relax and rest. For us, the summer of '07 has been one of another move—we say the last move! The MAP office also moved and I am sure Joe and Carol feel the same way. We moved into a 55 and over community and have given up the lawnmower, snow shovel and all that goes with keeping the grass green. After doing all those chores for the last 36 years, it’s time to sit back and watch it grow and let someone else worry about its upkeep. Now that does not mean life is not busy. It is an adjustment of priorities to concentrate on the things which I truly enjoy and hopefully allow more time to accomplish them. But that is what a busy life is about. Adjusting priorities, schedules, tasks to make room for new adventures. But that is the best of life and I know I am blessed that I have the opportunity to compete. I guess it goes back to holding a positive attitude in light of the mounting issues that life presents.

Being in the FAITH business—so to say—I do have the chance to improve people’s lives by bringing faith into the equation. Without question I find faith is the foundation of my life. What do we mean by faith? Consider this in the light of hearing so much about issues with what we consume in our everyday lives. What did you have for breakfast? And as a reasonable, clear-thinking person, you must have subjected your breakfast to a strict chemical analysis to make certain it was safe to eat, right? You didn’t? That could have been a life or death issue, you know. You ate it anyway? You just took it on faith? Yes, that is right—we trusted. Faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see. Faith is not a vague hope in the dark. Faith is an active, working relationship with a Person, not just an idea. Faith is not just unexamined impulsiveness. Have you considered how faith plays in your life? I have always wondered about people in your business and how one puts on a protective vest, hangs a gun on your belt and goes out each duty day to face the troubles of society without some basis of faith. Maybe a good question to consider, and yes, to answer for yourself.

9/11 is here again and time to remember all of the heroes of that day—police, fire, citizens. I recall vividly how quickly we pulled together as a defense mechanism in the horror of what happened. In crisis, we turned to faith. In light of not knowing what to do exactly, we filled our churches and called on our faith to get through the situation. And now, six years later, we have survived and continued in life. I think we enacted a positive spin that together we can get by this and we have.

Stay safe—God Bless you all for doing what you do for us citizens.

Another essay of wisdom by the usual author—Author unknown—is on page 11. I hope you enjoy the message.

PEACE
A recent article in the Chicago Tribune tells us that Bradley Stephens, the new mayor of Rosemont, just got his annual salary increased from $100,000 to $125,000. Trustees got a $5,000 pay increase too, from 25K to 30K. The board also assigned a pay increase for all village employees. I’ll bet it’s not $5,000! But maybe it was a good one. Three or four percent, maybe, of whatever their salary might be okay. It just ain’t going to be five grand!

These administrative increases puts Rosemont’s board pay far above other suburbs where village presidents, trustees, etc. are usually considered part-time employees and pay is minimal, according to the article.

Remember what we wrote in a past MAP article when one mayor, George Pradel of Naperville, asked his pay to be doubled from 20K to 40K? He was soundly rejected by his own Naperville Council. He makes $27,500, but that includes being the liquor commissioner and other duties, including many, many, many, many, many public appearances on behalf of Naperville. Naperville has a population of about 130,000.

Rosemont has 4,200 people.

The article also mentions our fine mayor of Bolingbrook, who makes over $122,000. They tell us that the mayor of Aurora pulls in $107,536. Bolingbrook is much smaller than Naperville, but is much, much larger than Rosemont. It is smaller than Aurora. Aurora and Bolingbrook do, however, have a hell of a lot more crime than the larger Naperville or smaller Rosemont.

What statistical reference can be made of this? I… don’t… know (to quote our favorite arrested comedian in children’s programming for indecent exposure, Mr Pee Wee Herman). It’s probably nothing other than to point out the huge salary and benefits that some mayors get over others. Maybe it’s simply that once these political types get into office, they stay forever. They never want to leave. And when that happens, they want, and many times get, pay packages as if they were the CEOs of General Electric, rather than the mayors of towns who are elected to serve the public.

Roger has been in Bolingbrook for a very long time. Maybe he thinks he deserves that kind of dough. It’s especially important, then, that he holds huge fundraisers and can amass hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars for his campaign war chest to run against… nobody.

George wants more dough, too, but his councilmen won’t give it to him in large and relatively crime-free Naperville. George could use the pay increase because he doesn’t have a campaign war chest of more than a few hundred dollars. He doesn’t buy stuff like Jaguars, computers, phones, etc. and doesn’t spend “mucho dinero” on political entertainment like that other guy in Bolingbrook does at the world famous Bolingbrook Golf Club.

I don’t know what the Aurora mayor spends. Haven’t checked his D2s; Aurora isn’t a MAP chapter, but he is a full-time guy like Bolingbrook with a good amount of crime—so maybe a bigger salary is relevant.

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In late spring, MAP president Joe Andalina and Board member Ray Violetto of Tinley Park traveled to Springfield to meet with our governmental affairs rep, Kelly Tyrrell, and Senator John Cullerton, Majority Caucus Whip 6th District, on our Dispatch Interest Arbitration legislation. Three Telecommunicators/call-takers; Michelle Vickers of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Joe McGrath and Barbara Harris-Lee, both of Oak Lawn Dispatch, traveled with us to provide testimony on the importance of this bill and its need for passage.

Attending the meeting, headed by Senator Cullerton, were our lobbyist, Kelly Tyrrell, Joe Andalina, Ray Violetto, and the three other MAP members. Also present were Teamster Joint Council 25 Political Director Frank Zebell and a representative from the AFL-CIO. AFSCME’s reps could not participate. As we discussed in the past, our opposition was the AFSCME group and the AFL-CIO. The Teamsters had supported MAP; the FOP never responded to our letters.

The meeting was fruitful in that our opposition from AFSCME and the AFL-CIO changed from being opponents to being neutral on this legislation. We feel that having active telecommunicators in the meeting pushed across the idea that this was positive legislation and that MAP was not going to go away on this issue. I do not feel that any group wanted to challenge their integrity.

The result was that while the bill number itself would not go forward, the initiative to get the bill attached to another bill is alive and will go forward. The bill, originally numbered SB1301, would find another home, since it now has no registered opponents.

But that by no means indicates a sure thing in passage. MAP still feels that the AFL-CIO and AFSCME’s heart is not in this due to their neutrality on the issue. Who knows at this time if there are some behind the scenes shenanigans going on. We hope not. While we appreciate AFSCME’s and the AFL-CIO’s neutrality, we wish they would place their full support behind MAP as we strive to get this bill passed in the fall.

Shortly after this meeting, the FOP rang in, contacting our governmental affairs people. After much discussion, they agreed to support MAP’s efforts, but they asked that we amend the bill by including language that ensures the dispatch service performed is done by public employees or other public entities. This could help in preventing privatized dispatch.

MAP went along with the amendment as long as it wouldn’t interfere with the bill. It is harmless language at this time that may or may not have any impact on the legislation.

It was, however, a positive agreement between MAP and FOP that hopefully will assist us in finally getting this bill passed.

Remember, the essence of this legislation is to include and make applicable the Illinois Labor Act to emergency service support staff (telecommunicators and similar 911 dispatch entities) and to provide them binding arbitration for all contractual issues, like their peers in police and fire units.

The new amended legislation will be reassigned to another relevant number.

MAP would like to thank all of our dispatch members who wrote letters of support to Senator Cullerton, asking that he continue to push this bill forward.

These letters, over 200 of them, were delivered to Senator Cullerton and were very helpful in getting his full attention. Our governmental affairs people will be working the general assembly to get enough votes to provide passage for our bill. It’s still an uphill climb, but the ground is leveling off.

A big thanks goes to Michelle, Joe and Barbara for traveling with MAP to Springfield. We truly appreciate their assistance and the time they took to help MAP on this issue.

Also, a big thanks to Senator Cullerton for holding this meeting and sponsoring our legislation.

We will keep you informed as to the progress of this important bill.
Chief’s Follies

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But in Rosemont, crime is low unless you sneak into one of their parking garages without paying during the Golf Show, Flower Show, Sportsman Show, RV Show, Boat Show, How to Cut Sandpaper to the Right Lengths Show or some other such mind-boggling revenue producing extravaganza.

But the Village of Rosemont believes Mr. Stephens, a newly appointed mayor who took over from his father (who was there since the Jurassic period) deserves the 125 grand because it is fair.

They say Rosemont is a “much more complicated community” and the decisions they make are pretty complex. A lot of work and study goes into a project before they vote.

Oh, I see—Aurora, Naperville, and even Bolingbrook, must have a pretty easy agenda at their monthly meetings, as well as the many other small towns and municipalities where it apparently doesn’t require a lot of study or complex decision making.

The point is these villages spin their garbage all the time to justify their pay, benefits, special perks, trips to India or sister cities, banquets, meetings or other foolishness. It all sounds pretty lame to us here at the friendly confines of this union. I will save the folly of discussing DuPage County and their never-ending crying jag about having no money while they hire a PR guy for over $107,000, and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight MAP over whether their cops and court security officers can join MAP for collective bargaining purposes.

But I don’t begrudge mayors raking in the cash. We all like the thought of lighting our cigars with large greenbacks. But it is a closed society that these public figures are in to get their big pay raises. We only ask that they just be straight with everyone, especially their employees. My point here is that none of their employees—or us—really care what you pay yourselves as long as you share the wealth with our poor law enforcement people. If you can make something up to give yourselves a big fat paycheck, do the same for the copper and other law enforcement people who make complex decisions, also.

You know—the dispatcher who saves someone from killing themselves when speaking to them on the phone, while articulating the needs of hysterical accident victims on another line.

How about the records clerk, who puts all the files together, organizes the PD into a viable system and also deals with the public and makes intelligent decisions.

The correctional officers who are forced to work in “Dante’s Inferno” and must live for a few hours each day watching people, some who are not fit to mingle with the rest of society. Talk about complex decision making! Bless our correctional officers.

And of course, all the men and woman in blue whose complex decision making on a daily basis saves lives, protects people and property, and make our communities a safe place to live and to work, while occasionally sometimes saving the politicians from themselves.

This whole pay thing is just another illustration to show how the politicians take care of themselves because they can, while often times ignoring the needs of their employees; the cops, telecommunications, and others who actually risk their lives and miss most holidays and weekends being away from their families while making complex decisions that impact the citizens on a daily basis.

The next time all you politicos want to pad your pay $25,000, think how many employees you could make happy for their complex decision making if you cut them a chunk of that loose change you have lying around your village.

So for our sergeant members in Naperville, we do expect a decent pay increase since the village wouldn’t give George any. In Bolingbrook, we expect a nice pay package because Roger doesn’t need a raise since he has a huge campaign fund that he doesn’t spend on campaigning. He could give his or any impending pay increase to his grunts on the street.

Regarding Rosemont and Aurora, we don’t represent their people, but we hope they take care of them, too. Comp some gambling at the Hollywood Casino or some free parking at the Rosemont Convention Center during the “How to Deep Fry Calamari Show.” Now that would be a nice start.

The color green looks good on everyone

#2. Mayor charged with DUI (like I said, they ain’t hot because they’re not)

The mayor of Romeoville, Fred Dewald, was arrested for drunk driving last July. By his own police department. Nice set of “cojones,” Romeoville. Don’t see that all the time.

A witness whose car was almost struck by the mayor called in the suspected DUI. The mayor was taken to the hospital after the stop for “medical concerns.” Don’t know what the medical issues were, other than: holy crap, I just got whacked for a DUI and I’m not feeling...
Persons of Interest: Redux

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allegedly did not return home from an errand.

She is a wife and a mother of two children; she was seeking a divorce from her husband, but both remained in the home while the divorce proceedings went through the usual process in court. She had recently tried to have him evicted, if I’m not mistaken, the very same day she turned up missing.

A recent Chicago Tribune article and editorial in July 2007 discusses what happened as the investigation focused on the husband as being involved in this woman’s disappearance.

The article and editorial actually focused on and discussed the Plainfield police chief calling the husband of the missing woman a “person of interest.” The police say this is a case of foul play and when the investigation became more fixated on the husband, the press asked the chief if the husband was a suspect.

The chief, in a press conference, left the room when a reporter asked him if a person of interest was the same as a suspect. Later via a phone interview, the chief, when asked what it means to be called a person of interest, stated that the husband was “the focus of the investigation.” Sure sounds like he did not want to call this POI a suspect by dancing around the term “over the last several years… an insidiously squishy term has crept into cop speak, that term being a “person of interest.”” The police related on how the chief of police (note: nothing about the detectives actually working the case) used it to describe the husband of the missing woman.

They report that when pressed, the chief dodged the question twice, explaining that the guy in question is “the focus of our investigation.” The chief obviously cannot bear to call the guy a suspect, but the press considers him one, since the chief says “he is the focus of the investigation.”

The Tribune editorial stated that “over the last several years… an insidiously squishy term has crept into cop speak, that term being a “person of interest.””

Suspect.

The divorce attorney for the missing woman also stated “So they made it official” (calling the husband a POI, or euphemism for suspect). “It was something everyone was thinking.” No, really? Smart man, that guy. Nice to hear some honesty here. But if a POI is, in fact, just a euphemism for suspect, why not just call him a suspect? Whose sensibilities is the chief trying to protect here? Why all the hiding behind what is surely turning out to be semantics and making cops look foolish?

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The press states we should just call people Mr. So-and-So until we actually get enough to charge them. Maybe that will work; maybe not. But it certainly gives me the idea that it isn’t the press who started this nonsense, but the brass who is so obviously afraid to offend someone nowadays, except their own employees of course.

I’d say let’s go one further. A new clarification of euphemisms to be used for people we come in to contact with and how we can describe them to the press:

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Chief’s Follies

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I would be concerned, too. At least I’m not a mayor. Just like coppers who take the hit for a DUI pinch, while I feel some sympathy, if you’re going to write fellow coppers like some towns do, mayors are fair play.

Mr. Romeoville Mayor refused to blow to give his blood alcohol. Just like our friend, the mayor of Bolingbrook, did a few years back when he was booked for DUI. He refused to blow, too. He didn’t go to the hospital with “medical concerns,” however. He was removing his “Mardi Gras” beads from around his neck on a curvy road in Naperville when he was stopped, coming from a party where he was having a few toasts. So he had no “medical concerns” since the bad Mardi Gras beads are the reason he was driving erratically enough to get stopped. Darn Mardi Gras beads. Like I said, no medical concerns there. Maybe some voodoo, but it didn’t necessitate a trip to the hospital.

You know, I tried that once. I drove down the same curvy road at night where the mayor was stopped and tried to take off my beads, which were not Mardi Gras beads, but beads I received in Jamaica from a guy who was very, very, scary looking.

He said they were friendship beads and I took his word for it, not wanting to make him unfriendly. So I took the beads, brought them home, and lo and behold, I had the occasion to use them for this experiment.

Anyway, I was able to successfully take off the friendship beads three times in succession while driving this curvy road at night without crossing the center line. Of course, I was not drinking and had no alcoholic containers in my car, nor was I at a party of any sort, so maybe my experiment means nothing. But maybe, too, it was the Mardi Gras beads that caused the erratic driving, as Jamaican beads might be lighter in the voodoo.

What is interesting is that this chief executive did not blow into the breathalyzer. Now that might mean something, since the judge in the Bolingbrook mayor’s case eventually found him innocent without the blood alcohol number results. I guess you can’t trust these cops’ word anymore.

So if the mayor of Romeoville didn’t blow and goes to court, will he, too, find success in a not-guilty decision? Is this a pattern that will spread? No blowing if you get nailed for DUI. No number, no evidence of DUI. Unless, of course, you hurt someone or yourself seriously enough to have your blood taken.

Could be a new PR move for the community. You know: Mayor announces a “Don’t blow” campaign. “I got cracked for DUI but I didn’t blow and guess what? I got off!” Now that’s a public service announcement if I ever saw one.

But for now we’ll see which way the wind “blows” with this one—especially since the paper reports the village’s tremendous growth in industrial and retail development during the mayor’s term, which started in 1997. And they add that he had six years before that as a trustee. What’s the significance of this in an article about the mayor getting stopped for DUI? Maybe he’s a nice guy or the paper just wants to remind us of the village’s tremendous growth. Might be a public service announcement isn’t that far-fetched after all.

I guess that’s what pay raises for complex decision making for our mayors is all about, as explained in story #1.

#3 What would you do if:

If the mayor of your town or one of his toadies were stopped in your town for DUI. What would you do?

While I am always for professional courtesy for coppers who get stopped, their wives, kids, mom and dad, should you extend that courtesy to the mayor and his crew?

Guess it depends on how they treat your department. Or how feared they are by the brass. Or how much the guy who stops them wants to get promoted.

I have heard towns where cops will pick up an inebriated politician or pal and drive them home, or help them out in a 10-50. Once I heard that when a mayor’s wife knocked a light pole over in a suspected driving while gassed incident, the nice police officer took her home.

No tickets, no report. GOA–UTL, I guess. (For you non-cops, a GOA–UTL means gone on arrival, unable to locate. Like when you’re on a dog call and you get to the scene and you see “Sparky” the barking rat licking his nether regions. You advise Dispatch

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<th>Now</th>
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<td>Witness</td>
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<td>Crime-stopper</td>
<td>Mr. Put the Cash in his Pocket</td>
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<td>Informant</td>
<td>Mr. Plays it Both Ways</td>
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<td>Tipster</td>
<td>Mr. I’m sure glad that guy called</td>
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<tr>
<td>POI</td>
<td>Mr. Potato Head, because you can change him around anyway you want</td>
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<td>Suspect</td>
<td>He-who-shall-not-be-named, and/or Lord Voldemort, for you Harry Potter buffs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiefs in general</td>
<td>Pinocchio</td>
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<td>Cops in general</td>
<td>Sir Lancelot or William Wallace or Joan of Arc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Bull sharks, or any other kind of sharks that eat people</td>
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<td>Victims</td>
<td>Victims (or the people everyone forgets about)</td>
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With these euphemisms, we won’t have to worry about offending anyone (except maybe some chiefs who can’t face the truth or real sharks). Remember even though the press stated that the Plainfield chief “tried lamely” to apply the POI euphemism to the “suspect” in this case, it is in reality the press who hounds everyone to death on these issues.

The cases they explore where people are damaged by the use of POI or suspect being applied to them even though eventually some are fully exonerated is due not to the cops investigating them, but the feeding frenzy that occurs when the Bull Sharks, er, media, set up camp on a story.

Can anyone say Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, or Anna Nicole Smith’s baby? Just look at what a rival TV network caused when they taped that very experienced, very respectful, and very pretty TV reporter who was working this missing person case in Plainfield and televised her in Mr. Potato Head’s/He-who-shall-not-be-named backyard swimming pool. I tell you, if she had a can the size of Rosie O’Donnell, this wouldn’t even be a story. But they played that tape over and over and over both locally and on national TV. Do you remember Rodney King?

It’s the Bull Sharks who cause ruined reputations and damaged psyches. The cops care and are only after the bad guy, not a story for the 10pm news. The Sharks will beat this dead horse until it turns to glue.

Well, I’ll stop whining until the next person of interest case turns up. In the meantime, every time your chief or primary media person (aka chief’s cabana boy) say POI, hand him a bar of soap and tell him to wash his mouth out. Or to grow some hair on his rear-end and call the suspect a suspect. You don’t have to explain why. That’s your police business. But be straight up to the press. “He’s our suspect, based on our investigation that we cannot divulge at this time without endangering the work our detectives have done in this matter.” See how easy that was?

Let’s just be cops again. A suspect is a suspect until he isn’t, or he’s in the hoosegow.

If not, my euphemisms might just catch on.

Stay safe.

Ed. Note: Next time we’ll begin a three-, maybe four-part series of satirical essays on “lying.” Should be fun.
“GOA–UTL” and drive away, hoping that Sparky finds his soulmate after all.) I guess the damaged light pole was GOA–UTL, just like Sparky.

Other guys might call their supervisors, who invariably panic and call the chief. There is some merit in not wanting to touch that hot potato.

It is the power you have over the purveyors of evil which makes some of them dislike you very, very much. So it is your decision, but remember a mayor is not immune to DUI laws—just like you. If you can give one a break that's your decision. It’s okay by me. But does your mayor deserve one? You decide.

But it is gratifying to see cops, like in Romeoville, not cower like I've seen some guys do in some departments due to the reasons given earlier.

Here's hoping you make the right decision when your time comes.

#4 Bozo’s Circus is alive and well in Hawthorne Woods

Since MAP signed up the officers in the Hawthorne Woods Police Department last year, it has been a constant fight to protect the chapters’ and individual officer's rights.

The chief and mayor were absolutely livid at their officers’ desire to join a union. Even though they know this is their officers’ rights, it didn't stop them from trying to sway their employees into dropping their membership in MAP. It didn’t work, as the officers knew things could only get worse and they knew MAP would fight for them.

The chief or mayor, or maybe both, subsequently took away some existing benefits after the Labor Board recognized Hawthorne Woods as a MAP chapter. They also failed to bargain in good faith and MAP filed a two-count ULP against Hawthorne Woods on these two issues.

A series of letters resulted that I would print, but had no room for in this issue. One received from the mayor we believe contained some slanderous material. Since the mayor did not copy the letter to anyone, we are waiting for him to answer your president’s letter on publishing his allegations. MAP will then most certainly file litigation against him and his town. He isn't man enough, at this writing, to admit his knee-jerk reaction was wrong, but he may not be able to help himself in the future.

His Honor, and I use that jokingly, also got into a verbal and almost physical confrontation with one of our MAP attorneys when negotiations did not go the way he planned. Mayors can be so child-like at times. The unlikable kind, that is.

And now we wait for mediation to get filed in Hawthorne Woods. Is that Hawthorne Woods with an “e” or without? I can't remember, but the administration apparently took great umbrage over the “e” in Hawthorne Woods—or is that without the “e.”

Oh well, but the one that takes the cake in all this glorious mess is the one involving a sergeant who expressed his desire to the administration that he wished to resign his sergeant stripes and go back to patrol. Not common, but it does happen. Should be no big thing, right? Wrong! Well, in Hawthorne Woods (with or without the “e”) it is a bad thing. The chief (I forgot her name) called the sergeant in and promptly fired him, saying if he resigned from the sergeant ranks, then he also resigned from the department. I know, I know, I was incredulous, too. And Hawthorne Woods wonders why their officers joined a union. We don't know who is behind this, but obviously “they” forgot that maybe the officer can only be fired by their police commission and maybe some sort of “just cause” would be appropriate to take away a man's career. We are currently fighting for his job. We'll keep you posted.

And finally, in an attempt to show what a circus it is up north nowadays, a recent article in the Daily Herald tells us about the mayor’s attempt to dive off the village’s three-meter diving board into their pool. We are assuming that the mayor checked first to see if the pool was filled with water.

He insisted on being the first one off the board, since, according to him, he used to be a competitive diver in high school and college. Wow! Very impressive.

Even though from what I hear he is not a Greg Longanis look-alike, he made what the parks' director called a “stunning dive” and hit his head on the bottom of the pool, cutting his head. The mayor is lucky. We know people who have been paralyzed by these “stunning dives.” But the mayor says he is just clumsy. Okay, we’ll agree with that. And there’s also something to be said about the mayor’s head, as the report also stated that the impact caused a small crack in the pool’s floor. Really wish we could have seen that one.

Hmmm, there must be a joke in there somewhere, don't you think?
New Member News/Promotions

**Algonquin Dispatch**
- Judith Caleca
- David Drosos
- Alexander Panvino

**Bartlett**
- John Mich

**Bridgeview**
- Moawiah Bages
- Quinten Jackson
- Erik Lewis
- Jose Zepeda

**Carpentersville Civilians**
- Kevin Duda

**Channahon**
- Craig Gunty
- Paul Potts

**Cook Co Dept of Corrections**
- Leah Adams
- Paul Aguirre
- Carol Allen
- Ellenor Altman
- Joel Alvarado
- David Alvarez Jr.
- Daniel Alvarez Jr.
- Fortunato Amato
- Eliseo Barboza Jr.
- Jaime Bedolla
- Richard Billingsley
- Nicholas Bohlsen
- Carolyn Brown
- Raymond Callahan III
- Peter Chico
- Angela Cochran
- John Coleman
- Anthony Colquitt
- Tierre Crawford
- David Cross
- Keith Crot
- Chrl Dade
- Ernest Daggs
- Noel Dominguez
- Kellie Doyle
- Jean Droyen
- Jason Earl
- Nyema Ellision
- Kyle Gaffney
- Robert Gaona
- Raul Garcia
- Noemi Gaud
- Terry Gholston
- Ramon Guerrero
- Corban Hairston
- Jamie Hamideh
- Jacqueline Harris
- Denise Hobbs
- Gregory Holstrom
- Ezequiel Hruza
- Ricardo Ibarra
- Juan Izurrary
- Edgar Jaquez
- Shotaoka Jefferson
- Phillip Johnson IV
- Patrick Kaminski
- Joseph Klinger
- Shawn Knapp
- Patrick Krzyzak
- Thomas Leahy
- Kevin Leonard
- Michael Lizcano
- Charles Lucas Jr
- Diedre Martin
- Joseph Maselko
- Monica McElvaine
- Thomas McGowan
- Sean McNamara
- Manuela Mendoza
- Carl Mercherson
- Anthony Modello
- Latoya Nelson
- Nicholas Ortiz III
- Louis Parker
- Timothy Pater
- Cecilia Patterson
- Dave Patterson
- Alfonso Pedraza
- Martin Pierce
- Valdemar Ramos
- Hector Romero
- Erika Rosas
- Shannon Ryan
- Anthony Salamone
- Judith Salazar
- Matthew Senger
- Michael Sheehan
- Le’monne Sherman
- Lashawn Simmons
- Donyelle Smith
- Brandi Smith
- Luz Solorio
- Kimberly Squires
- Denise Swims-Norwood
- Veronica Thomas
- Karina Valquez
- Michael Vasquez
- Elma Vasquez
- Kyriako Vogiatzis
- Edward Wallace
- Pascal Waller
- Timothy Ward
- Jason Watkins
- Natasha Williams
- Addy Yau

**Cook Co Dispatch/EM/Veh Svcs**
- Rene Christmas-Stapleton
- Sherry Crawford

**Crystal Lake**
- Michael Avila
- Michael Stone
- Mark Szumanski
- Dominika Wawrzyniak

**DeKalb Co**
- Cynthia Matt
- Angela Van Ostrand

**DesPlaines**
- Marcus Benavidez
- Nicholas Braski

**Elk Grove Vlg**
- Kristina Dredge
- Jason Gottwald
- Efren Pelayo

**Grundy Co**
- Michael James

**Hickory Hills**
- Jonathan Rice

**Highwood**
- Tim Coffee

**Huntley**
- Marques Griffith
- Brett Kinney
- Eric Lee

**ISTHA Call-takers**
- Michelle Cartololano
- Charles Jedrzejas

**Lake in the Hills CSO**
- Lori Greenlee

**LaSalle Co**
- David Diaz

**Metra**
- James Hancock
- Dion Kimble
- Lyndell Luster
- Lionel Major
- William Peters
- Jerri Spearman
- Douglas Wiencek
- Willie Wright

**Minooka**
- Michael Gerbert
- Matthew Hann
- Matthew Juras

**Morris**
- Daniel Burke
- Timothy Schanz

**Mt Prospect**
- Joseph Giner

**Naperville Sgts**
- John McNally
- Russell Wolf

**Oak Lawn**
- Steven Harrison
- William O’Connor

**Orland Park**
- Steven Kois

**Palos Park**
- Anthony Loiacono

**Plainfield**
- Luke Ostreko

**Romeoville**
- Eric Lestronge
- Mark Pryzbylski

**South Elgin**
- Phillip Augustyn
- James Creighton
- Adam Rzeppa

**St Charles**
- Brandon Roth

**Tinley Park**
- Amy Skorniak

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- Byran Chester
- Robert Contro
- Jason Elledge

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New Member News

Will Co Mgmt
Michael Kelley
Renae Parker
Chester Wilburn
Joseph Boers
Brian Conser
Joseph Grozik
Brian Hickey
May Kenziora
Promoted
Crete
Robert Krainek

Crystal Lake
Thomas Kretschcer
Todd Richardson
DesPlaines
Charles Akin
Michael Holdman
Jeffrey Rotkovich
Lisle
Timothy Dempsey
Norridge
Louis Orlando

Oak Lawn
Dispatch
Timothy Hudson
Tinley Park
Christopher Butler
UIC
Timothy Spangler
Retired
Crystal Lake
William Hayes

Metra
Raymond Ortiz
Niles
Michael Baumhart
Marty Stankowicz
Military/Good Luck
DesPlaines
Matthew Jones
Retired
Will Co Mgmt
Derrick Calhoun

Life is a Do-it-Yourself Project

Contributed by Deacon Tom Ross

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his em-
ployer contractor of his plans to leave the house building
business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, enjoy-
ing his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he
needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked
if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The
carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart
was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and
used inferior materials.

It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the
carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect
the house, the contractor handed the front door key to the
carpenter. “This is your house,” he said, “my gift to you.”

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was
building his own house, he would have done it all so differ-
ently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too
well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, react-
ing rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At
important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then
with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find
that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had
realized that, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house.
Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall.
Build wisely.

It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for
only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously
and with dignity.

The plaque on the wall says, “Life is a do-it-yourself project.”
Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of
your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will
be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.
Thoughts and Prayers

Last July, two of our officers in our St. Charles police chapter were involved in a serious car accident. Returning home from a call out involving work, Officers Mike Griesbaum and Vaughn Olson were seriously injured, as well as two others, when the two cars struck each other head-on. All individuals were hospitalized with extensive injuries.

Both St Charles officers were subsequently released from the hospital, as well as the other injured parties. Officer Olson went to a rehabilitation facility for further therapy. While there, Officer Olson was found unresponsive at this facility and was later pronounced dead.

Officer Vaughn’s family, his department, and this union were deeply saddened by his unexpected death. Our deepest condolences to his family, children, friends, and fellow officers.

The family is accepting donations that will benefit Officer Olson’s children. Please dig deep and send a check to:

The Vaughn Olson Memorial Fund
Fifth Third Bank
St Charles Main
1525 W Main St
St. Charles, IL 60174

We pray for his family and the continued recovery of Officer Griesbaum, and the other injured parties in this accident.

Contract Corner

Assigned attorney Steven Calcaterra

**Johnsburg PD:**

Initial 4-year contract with the implementation of a wage scale where none had previously existed, increasing the top wage for 2007 by approx. $9,000. Wages range from $41,600-$59,800 (corporal). Future raises of 4%-4%-4%. Increases in sick time (ten 8.5 hr days per year) and vacation. Health insurance fixed at $120/month for family, increases of up to 10% to be borne by the Village; increases over 10% to be divided between Village and Employees. Change to all hours compensated equals hours worked for overtime calculation.

**Elwood PD:**

Initial 4-year contract. The contract has implemented a wage scale where none had existed. Increases in sick time/vacation time, creation of comp bank, creation of uniform allowance. Change to all hours compensated equals hours worked for overtime calculation.

**Darien Civilians:**

Three year contract with wage increases of 3%-3%-3%. 2007 wages range from $36,126 - $47,085. No increase to health insurance contribution percentages. Addition of union language to the fair share indemnification language (action may not be brought by employer).

Assigned attorney Richard Reimer

**Palos Hills**

Settled 4-year contract. Wages of 5%, 5%, 4.5%, 3.9% with a $2000 retroactive equity adjustment.

**Warrenville**

Settled 5-year contract. Full retro, average wage of 3.75% each year. Equity adjustment each year based on external comparables with other municipalities. Locked in 90/10% contribution for HMO for five years. Twelve hour shifts.
Chief’s Follies

Continued from page 9

#5 The DUI Couple

Last July 3rd, Mount Prospect Police Chief John Dahlberg, clad in shorts, a tee shirt and a pair of sandals, left a local carnival with his spouse and headed off in his unmarked village squad car. His car is unmarked, but has all the cool lights, bells and whistles a police car needs.

Shortly after leaving, the chief (with his spouse at his side) was passed in the opposite direction by a car that was obviously exceeding the posted speed limit. The chief made a u-turn and pursued the vehicle, eventually pacing it at around 40 miles over the limit.

The chief performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and once curbed, the passenger of the stopped vehicle promptly took off running. The driver stayed behind to see who the guy in the shorts and tee shirt was. Officers report the only thing on the chief’s belt was his cell phone—no weapon!

Eventually the chief asked for a marked car and someone to assist him. The driver stayed behind to see who the guy in the shorts and tee shirt was. Officers report the only thing on the chief’s belt was his cell phone—no weapon!

In my day, I think they used to call this behavior the “John Wayne syndrome.” What do they call it now—Police Academy #27?

#6 Not really a chief story, but too good to pass up!

In Elko, Nevada, an off-duty sheriff’s deputy was stopped for DUI. Yes, by another officer, and actually a deputy in her sheriff’s department, who just happened to be her husband. She is an 11-year veteran of the jail and he is a sheriff’s deputy in patrol.

After being stopped by her old man, she left the scene before her husband could administer a portable breathalyzer test. He then went after her and pulled her over again after calling in for back-up by a city policeman. He then left and let the city cop bust his wife.

No word either as to whether there was some marital strife going on or if he was just trying to beat her out of a promotion.

You would think that he had to have been able to recognize the driver as his wife, or at least the car she was driving. Most guys, if they can’t remember what mama looks like, certainly know the ride she drives.

So without getting into a philosophical discussion on DUIs and how bad it is to drive under the influence, or that she should know better, or that she is not above the law, this guy must be a real horse’s rear-end. He’s the kind of guy you all want coming to your bachelor, super bowl, or card party, isn’t he?

(Of course, to be fair, I could point out that maybe the wife makes a habit of being a DUI, or she totaled two of his cars before, or whatever. I’m covering for him to be sure, but he is certainly on shaky ground as far as this whole thing is concerned as regards the “better or worse” vows of holy matrimony.)

How much do you want to bet that some romance is not in his immediate future? I don’t know, I could be wrong, but I think that even most chiefs would look a little warily at this guy, too.

Well, that’s it for now. Join us next time for more stories from the Twilight Zone.
I further countered the County’s argument regarding their Union for the process that has been followed by this Union. In this instance, the ILRB’s card check process adequately follow the law and to point out any deficiencies in the process and the election process. I explained the difference between a Majority Petition and a secret ballot election and answered questions concerning the other evidence and what I thought the legislature meant when they added dues authorization cards to the required evidence to be submitted for a Majority Petition. I explained that this Union does not charge dues until a contract is obtained and additionally, that most members of prospective Unions will not sign dues authorization cards to the required evidence to be submitted for a Majority Petition filed by MAP in 2006. The argument presented by the County encompassed the uni-deputy argument, and the County’s position that the Union failed to have dues authorization forms signed pursuant to the statute. The third issue presented was the fact that the Board failed to give the County a hearing based upon new evidence. That argument was presented by James Baird of Seyfarth Shaw on behalf of the County and arguments on behalf of the Illinois Labor Relations Board were presented by Assistant Attorney General Gerald Post and me on behalf of the Metropolitan Alliance of Police.

Subsequent to the County’s argument, the ILRB argued the dues deduction card issue and touched on the uni-deputy and failure of the Board to grant a new hearing. The justices were made up of Justice Jack O’Malley, John Bowman, who acted as head of the panel, and Katherine E. Zenoff. When I presented my argument to the court, answering numerous questions from Justice O’Malley and Justice Bowman and a few questions from Justice Zenoff, I explained the card check process and the election process. I explained the difference between a Majority Petition and a secret ballot election and answered questions concerning the other evidence and what I thought the legislature meant when they added dues authorization cards to the required evidence to be submitted for a Majority Petition. I explained that this Union does not charge dues until a contract is obtained and additionally, that most members of prospective Unions will not sign dues authorization cards until those Unions have been certified to represent them. Most members are not going to give carte-blanche authority for a non-representing organization to take unknown amount of dollars from their paychecks without any recourse. I also explained the safeguard between the Majority Petition and Secret Ballot Petition which requires a 50% showing. We further argued that the Unions rely on the ILRB to adequately follow the law and to point out any deficiencies in the petitions filed. In this instance, the ILRB’s card check process did not detect any problems with the cards submitted by the Union for the process that has been followed by this Union.

I further countered the County’s argument regarding their desire to see these cards or to do handwriting samples as being facetious in nature and that the true intent in DuPage County was to discover who was supporting the Union so that they could retaliate. We also argued extensively over the uni-deputy issue and that the County could still only provide the uni-deputy theory with certain deputies whose primary function is as a correctional officer.

When the Court asked about the importance of the unit being either in Corrections Bureau, the Law Enforcement Bureau, or the Administrative Bureau, I informed the Court that the Sheriff in DuPage County has been manipulating these units to his own political and legal advantage. For example, the Fugitive Warrant Section, which is made up of peace officers, was placed within the Correctional Bureau so as to give the appearance that these were correctional officers. The Court was fully informed that it was not the case and these manipulations by the Sheriff were self-serving and not fundamental.

There was some argument which concerned itself with the actual duties of a peace officer versus a security officer. The County argued that the security officers, the correctional officers, do not have training in the handling of domestic violence, armed robberies, burglaries in progress, and the kinds of things that occur routinely for peace officers. The Court allowed argument by the County for approximately 20 minutes, they have the Illinois Attorney General about 10–12 minutes, and I argued for about 15 minutes before the Court. Arguments were ended and we anticipated a decision in the near future.

Ed. Note: On August 24, 2007, shortly before press time, the appellate decision was published, granting the county relief in this matter as regards the interpretation of the ILRB’s rules and regulations and accepting evidence of bargaining cards to file a majority petition without submitting dues deduction authorization cards. As I wrote in a letter to all of our DuPage County members, the decision was determined after the court examined the use of the words “and,” “otherwise,” the phrase “in lieu of,” and punctuation “,” or where a “comma” was placed in the Act.

The court ruled that the ILRB committed legal error but MAP submitted evidence (of the cards) in conformance with the ILRB rules at the time the majority petition was filed. Simply, the problem was not MAP, but the error made by the ILRB in formulating its rules.

The uni-deputy issue was not addressed by the court, leaving that fight to be fought another day once MAP gets new cards signed simultaneously with dues deduction cards and files them under the
new guidelines with the ILRB. A new majority petition will then be filed. We will not start bargaining over but from where we left off. Remember, this applies to majority petition only.

If you’re thinking this sounds like so much technical bs, you are so right. We are all used to that kind of mumbo-jumbo, are we not? It’s just another hurdle that we have to jump over in this five-year fight to get DuPage County sheriff’s police and court service officers unionized. We feel confident that eventually we will prevail. We are in round 10 of a 12 round fight. We are a point behind but hope to knock them out within the next two rounds.

The full text of the appellate court decision can be found on our website, along with the letter I sent to the DuPage County chapter members and our DuPage Forest Preserve members.

More to come in the near future. We will keep you posted.

**Two Minutes with the Boss**

Hey, I’m just sitting here on my deck in my backyard, having a glass of red wine, reading my book and throwing a ball to my Jack Russell Terrier, whose energy is boundless. Makes me feel guilty—I should do something. So I do.

I walk over to the bench in my yard which overlooks my fish pond and sit down there with my book, my wine, and my dog. As the fish gather towards me among the lily pads, I throw tidbits of food their way until they are sated and swim away to find their own adventures in the pond. Great, I’ve accomplished something important.

I lean back now and close my eyes so I can barely see the sun through the leaves of the trees. The slight, humid breeze whispers among the leaves and reminds me that this is just the ticket to do nothing for the rest of the day. No phones, no pagers, no faxes, no e-mails. Nothing coming my way for a change. And that’s what I hope you all had the opportunity to do sometime this summer. Kick back for a while and do something summery—which is for the most part, doing nothing. Just like when you were a kid.

See, the police work, the prisoners, the conflicts with the chief, for some, your upcoming suspension, the labor strife and contract disputes can for today, take a back seat to laziness, boredom, or just plain relaxing to “il dolce vita,” or the sweet life.

All too often those of us in this profession find it very difficult to relax and unwind. Many don’t know how to refine this lost art. Some never will and the job will be all encompassing. It’s a long way to retirement, so you must seek the opportunity to bask in the snippets of getting away from the murder, the mayhem, and the mayor when you are away from your home-away-from-home.

So let’s take a time-out today. We can fight later. Hold summer in your hand. Hold on to it for a while because it is waning, and soon it will be waxing fall. It would be a shame not to grab a fistful. All the joys and pain you encounter at the PD or the jail on a daily basis will still be there tomorrow.
### More News From Around the MAP

#### New Chapters on the MAP
- Maywood Sgts

#### Arbitrations and Mediations

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>DuPage Co Deputies and Court Services</td>
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<td>Sugar Grove</td>
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#### Negotiations in Progress

- Bolingbrook
- Bridgeview
- Cook Co DCSI Deputy Chiefs
- Crest Hill
- Crystal Lake
- Darien Police
- DuPage County Coroners
- DuPage County Forest Preserve
- East Dundee
- Ford Heights
- Hickory Hills
- McCook PO & Sgts
- NIU Police
- Oak Lawn Civilians
- Oak Lawn Police
- Palos Park
- South Elgin PO
- South Elgin Sgts
- Sugar Grove
- Warrenville PO
- Warrenville Sgts
- West Dundee
- Woodridge

#### Signed Contracts

- Bensenville Sgts
- Darien Civilians
- Elwood
- Johnsburg
- Palos Hills
- Round Lake Police
- Round Lake Supvs
- Warrenville

#### Collective Bargaining Chapters

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<td>Hoffman Estates Sgts</td>
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#### Legal Defense Chapters

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[Source: The Rap Sheet Summer 2007]