

# CITY OF CONROE

## 2006 DRUG INITIATIVE

### PROJECT SUMMARY

In late 2005, City officials walked door to door and met with residents, church leaders, and community leaders to begin a dialogue with citizens to hear their concerns regarding the neighborhood problems. Based on the results of the meetings, the 2006 Drug Initiative was created.

The 2006 City of Conroe Drug Initiative launched a citywide plan to reduce illegal drugs based on four premises:

- The public has the right to be secure in their homes and feel safe on city streets.
- Illegal drugs are a detriment to the community and a threat to future generations.
- Illegal drugs encourage other crimes including burglary, theft, robbery, and prostitution.
- Community involvement must be an integral part of program.

The City of Conroe has pledged to:

- Increase its police presence reflecting a high priority of eliminating drugs in Conroe.
- Conduct neighborhood meetings to interact with citizens.
- Conduct neighborhood walks to gain first hand knowledge of drug issues.
- Establish neighborhood watch programs in targeted drug activity areas.
- Place signage in targeted neighborhoods to discourage criminal activity.
- Partner with the Conroe Independent School District to increase drug awareness in local schools.
- Implement a juvenile curfew to reduce drug activity.
- Partner with Entergy to increase lighting to reduce cover for crime.
- Work with Montgomery County officials to enforce stronger penalties for drug offenders.
- Work with City Code Enforcement/Community Development Block Grant Departments to concentrate or eliminate sub-standard housing that could harbor criminal activity.

Statistics reveal the significant impact the 2006 Drug Initiative has had on crime as compared to 2005 statistics:

- A 21% increase in cases opened
- A 72% increase in the number of narcotics tips received
- A 34% increase in felony charges filed
- A 82% increase in misdemeanor charges filed
- A 78% increase in the number of felony arrests
- A 96% increase in the number of misdemeanor arrests

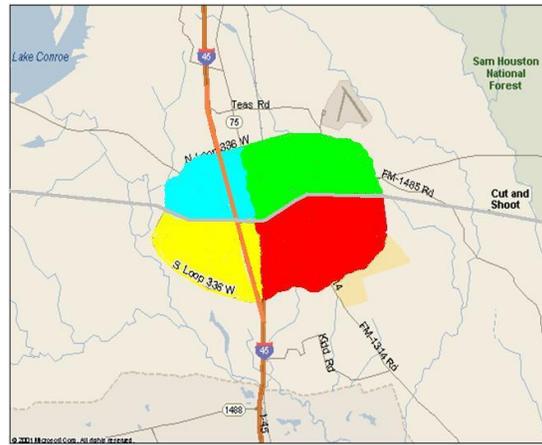
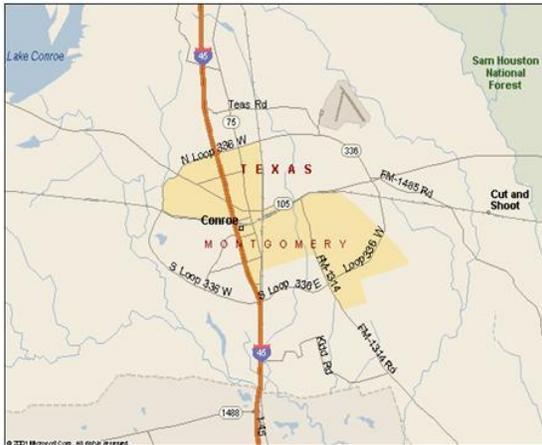
Texas Department of Public Safety statistics show an approximate 16.1% increase in the City's population, to a 2006 total of 48,375.

Despite an increase in population, the number of crimes directly related to drug use and sales dropped as follows:

- Robberies decreased by 38.2%
- Assaults decreased by 33.4%
- Larcenies decreased by 16.5%
- Burglaries decreased by 8.5%

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Conroe encompasses approximately fifty two square miles in the center of Montgomery County, just north of Houston. Conroe is the largest city in the county. The Conroe Police Department is staffed with approximately one hundred officers. For the purposes of the project, the City (primarily inside Loop 336) was divided into four major geographical areas as shown below:



The southeast quadrant of the city, known as Dugan (red), is a predominately an African-American residential area. Dugan is known as an area where drug use, drug transactions, and prostitution are readily available. .

The southwest quadrant of the city, specifically the area known as Milltown (yellow), is a predominately Hispanic residential area along with a mix of light industry and is second for drug related calls for service.

The northwest quadrant is a predominately retail and light business area. There is a mix of single family and multi-family residential areas in this quadrant. There are minimal drug related calls for service in this area.

The northeast quadrant is a predominately Caucasian/Hispanic residential area with scattered light industry. This area has minimal drug related calls for service.

Statistics show the southeast quadrant as the quadrant with the most calls for service which corroborates the anecdotal information received from citizens and community leaders.

### Citizens Assistance Guidelines

- Be Vigilant! No one knows your neighborhood like YOU!! Talk to your neighbors along with using your eyes and ears to observe unusual activity.
- Support forming a neighborhood crime watch to partner with the Conroe Police Department.
- Work with code enforcement to eliminate abandoned houses and promote neighborhood clean-ups.
- Participate in joint meetings with the city officials and police to maintain quality communications.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Tommy Metcalf



### Narcotic Information Tip Guide Contact Numbers

*It takes teamwork to solve these issues. To report illegal drug activity, please call the narcotic investigators at:*

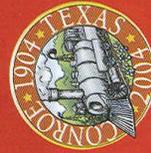
**MONTGOMERY CO. S.I.U.**  
936-538-3299

**TIPLINE CRIME STOPPERS**  
1-800-392-STOP

*To seek assistance on setting up  
Neighborhood Watch programs or get a  
Crime Prevention speaker at an event or  
Community Meeting, call:*

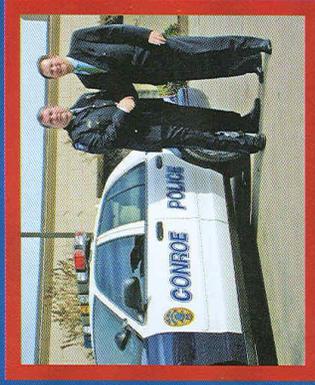
Conroe P.D. Dispatch  
936-522-3203

Conroe P.D. Crime Prevention  
936-522-3250  
936-522-3326  
or 936-522-3227

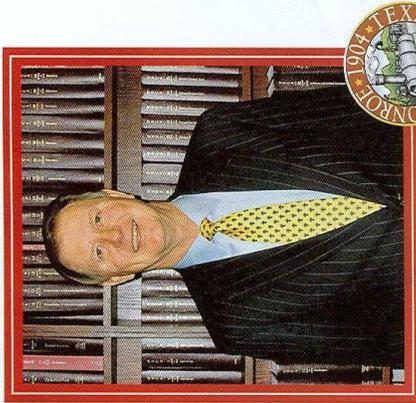


CITY OF CONROE

## MAYOR'S 2006 DRUG INITIATIVE



*Our Mission is to Protect and  
Serve the Citizens of Conroe and  
Exceed Their Expectations*



MAYOR,  
TOMMY METCALF

## 2006 DRUG INITIATIVE

### History of "War on Drugs"

*Mayor Metcalf began his administration proclaiming a "WAR ON DRUGS" in Conroe. His strong policy against drugs and those persons involved in drug activity were not going to be tolerated emphasizing . . . NO DRUGS . . . LEAVE TOWN . . . OR GO TO JAIL. Great strides have been implemented by Mayor Metcalf but there is still work to be done.*

*The Mayor, City Council, City Administration and the Conroe Police Department are committed to continue the "2006 WAR ON DRUGS". It is the city's desire for the citizens of Conroe to be safe and secure at home, their businesses and other public places. Please know the city is working for you to protect and serve you and exceed your expectations.*

## MAYOR'S 2006 INITIATIVES

- Establish neighborhood watch programs in targeted drug activity areas.
- Mayor/Police Department to conduct neighborhood meetings to interact with citizens.
- City of Conroe to place signage in targeted neighborhoods to discourage criminal activity and city officials conduct neighborhood walks to gain first hand knowledge of the drug issues.
- Conroe Police Department to increase its presence reflecting a high priority of eliminating drugs in Conroe.
- Partnering with Conroe Independent School District to increase drug awareness.
- The city will implement the juvenile curfew to reduce drug activity.
- City of Conroe partners with Entergy to increase lighting to reduce cover for crime.
- City will focus its efforts to work with Montgomery County judicial officials to enforce stronger penalties for drug offenders.
- City Code Enforcement/Community Development Block Grant Depts. to concentrate or eliminate sub-standard housing that could harbor criminal activity.

## Making a Drug Case

*Making a drug case involves an investigation that can take a few days to many months during the initial investigative process. Below is a basic rundown of a drug case:*

- Contact police about any information involving the location of drug activity.
- The police will conduct surveillance to gather information.
- The police put the information together of who, what, where and the details of the case.
- Upon sufficient information, a search warrant is requested to go forward in the investigative process.
- The final work product is then assembled into a case file that is taken to the District Attorney's office for evaluation and charges are filed.
- The charges are filed, an arrest warrant is issued and the violator can be arrested.

## Statistical Information

| Aug 2003 – Aug 2004 | Aug 2004 – Aug 2005        |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 446.....            | Cases Worked..... 595      |
| 267.....            | Felony Worked..... 366     |
| 179.....            | Misdemeanor Worked. 229    |
| 306.....            | Arrest Made ..... 365      |
| 183.....            | Felony Arrest..... 200     |
| 123 .....           | Misdemeanor Arrest ... 165 |

# PROJECT ANALYSIS

Door to door walks and meetings between citizens, business owners, and the City Administration brought to light the following points:

- The drug problem and its related crimes were visible in all areas of the city, but more so in the southeast area of the city.
- The problem had been engrained in the community long enough that not only the known drug dealers had established a drug trade, but their children were following in their footsteps and the children now had criminal records for using and selling illegal drugs.
- Both the young and elderly, rely on family members who sell drugs to provide food, clothing, and shelter. In one specific case, a grandson who was a known drug dealer was allowed to sell drugs from his elderly grandmother's residence because the grandson paid the grandmother's utility bills and provided food for the grandmother. The grandmother lives on a fixed income consisting of only social security.
- The police response to the drug problem had remained unchanged in several years. Staffing in the Narcotics Unit had remained virtually unchanged in over a decade. Regular district patrols maintained visibility and were call responsive; however, did little to deter the problem.
- Citizens did not feel safe on the streets and were intimidated by drug dealers. Citizens also reported they feared retaliation from drug dealers if they reported the crime.
- Drugs were responsible for related crimes such as burglary, robbery, assault, and prostitution.
- There was a lack of communication between citizens and neighborhoods and City Administration.
- There seemed to be no incentive for drug users to enter into rehabilitation programs and even if there were incentives, there were no formal, low cost treatment programs available locally.

Meetings with patrol officers, narcotics investigators, and police administration revealed the following about law enforcement's perspective of the problem:

- Street level drug dealers were visible at all times of the day or night.
- The drug problem in the neighborhoods consisted not only of the dealers who lived in the neighborhoods and sold their drugs, but the customers who came from outside the neighborhood to buy the drugs.
- Abandoned and dilapidated buildings fostered drug use and served as locations for prostitution.
- Drug dealers networked just like any business owner. They compare notes, know the narcotics officers by sight, and recognize the vehicles they drive.
- Little documentation had been done regarding statistics and trends with the drug problem.
- There was perception of lack of cooperation between law enforcement, prosecutors, and the justice system.

# PROJECT RESPONSE

A ten point program was formulated. The plan reached out to the community as well as invited the community to participate in the plan. The plan included the following points:

## 1. INCREASE IN POLICE PRESENCE

Prior to August 2004, the Conroe Police Department Narcotics Unit consisted of two full-time investigators assigned to a multi-agency narcotics task force operated by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department. The task force was responsible for drug enforcement, vice enforcement, and other major crimes within Montgomery County. At that time, the task force consisted of approximately 12 officers from multiple agencies who covered an area of approximately 1044 square miles, in effect leaving only scattered enforcement efforts within the City limits.

In the last quarter of 2004, two additional investigators were added to the Conroe Police Department Narcotics Unit and the staffing remained at four until January 2006. Those four officers remained in the narcotics task force until the beginning of 2006.

In January 2006, two additional officers were added. During the first quarter of 2006, all six Conroe Police Narcotics Investigators were reassigned to duties within the City and are now responsible for approximately fifty-five square miles of City area. The unit currently consists of four plainclothes or undercover investigators and two uniformed officers. The two uniformed units are not call responsive and are dedicated to the narcotics enforcement mission. When not working in a support role with plainclothes investigators on surveillance or other operations, the uniformed units saturate "hotspots" and can be credited with making not only narcotics arrests, but also warrant arrests, and arrests for other crimes.



Courier  
1/26/06

# TOUGH ON DRUGS



Staff photo by Jerry Baker

Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf announces the 2006 drug initiatives for the city and gives an ultimatum to drug dealers at a press conference at the Conroe Police Department on Wednesday. Behind Metcalf are Conroe Police

Chief Charlie Ray (from right), Montgomery County Sheriff Tommy Gage, Montgomery County District Attorney Mike McDougal and CISD Chief of Police Bill Harness (hidden behind Metcalf).

## City to work with county on initiative

BY JAMIE NASH  
COURIER STAFF

Conroe's Mayor Tommy Metcalf gave an ultimatum to drug dealers in his city on Wednesday. He did not wear a 10-gallon hat or a gun belt, but the event was held at high noon and in front of the police station.

Flanked by law enforcement and elected officials, Metcalf's message was clear. "If you're dealing drugs, you need to get out of town," he said.

Police Chief Charlie Ray acted as master of ceremonies. He reminded guests that Metcalf began to attack the drug problem when he took office in 2004 and vowed to continue the

fight. "We will go forward with a renewed, reenergized initiative," Ray said.

As he pointed out some ministers in the crowd, he emphasized the need for community support. He also recognized school officials and Conroe ISD Police Chief Bill Harness.

Ray thanked the mayor and council members for their support, as well as the other law enforcement entities who work with the Conroe Police Department, which was a fitting segue for the mayor's message.

Metcalf began his address with a characteristically bold statement. "We're here to do a show of force," he said. A plan reminiscent of Metcalf's

previous initiative was outlined, but there were differences he said would improve the results. He explained how the process would be refined.

"It will be a three-pronged process," Metcalf said. The three prongs are arrest, prosecution and sentencing, he said. A stern message was issued to anyone considering using drugs as well. He said first-time offenders would get a second chance and have the opportunity to change their path. However, the mayor said repeat offenders would receive no such mercy.

"You're going to pay a tough price if

See DRUGS, Page 4A

# Drugs

Continued from Page 1A

you're a repeat offender," he said. "The chief will be working closely with the District Attorney's Office."

Metcalf pointed out District Attorney Mike McDougal in the audience and said he was onboard. He further stated that the public should hold judges accountable for the sentences they handed down and hoped repeat offenders would receive the maximums allowed by law.

"We as citizens need to ask prospective judges if they're going to be tough on crime," Metcalf said. "If not, they don't need to be judges." He later said, "We just want them to do their jobs."

The mayor said he and council plan to follow the process through to the end now, meaning they will watch cases as they go through the system and remain aware of the prosecution, verdicts, and sentencing. "We're going to monitor every 2 months," he said, "and see how it's working - that includes the prosecutions and the judicial system."

He praised Sheriff Tommy Gage and called him a friend and colleague.

In a show of countywide unity, Gage then spoke. He talked about the various law enforcement entities working together and mentioned the special investigative unit headed by Lt. Philip Cash.

"The Conroe Police Department is a big part of that," he said, "We don't just want drugs out of the city, we want them out of the county." He said together law enforcement would do something about the drugs in Montgomery County.

Chief Ray took the podium once more, saying the support from the community and elected officials was unprecedented. "I hope our efforts are rewarded," he said.

The group adjourned and everyone was invited inside the station for refreshments.

Code enforcement officers Joann Huffman and Tom Sivley showed their support by attending. Metcalf said they play a crucial role in the overall cleanup process for the

City of Conroe.

"These two people are making a difference," he said. The mayor said the pair had helped rid the city of numerous dangers and eyesores in the form of abandoned vehicles and dilapidated houses.

"If you're not proud of your town, how can you get things done," he pondered. Metcalf said their efforts contributed growth in the community. Huffman and Sivley praised other local law enforcement for working with their agency as well, including the office of Constable Gene Deforest who was also present.

Deforest said agencies were working together to make a difference in Conroe and that he believed he had seen tremendous improvement in the working relationship among agencies since he took office in 2001. "I'd like to see a safer Conroe for all to live in and raise children in," he said.

Chief Ray echoed what Deforest said. "I feel good about what we've done through this point and believe with the new initiatives we'll

be able to make great progress in the coming year," he said.

Some of those present who were directly involved in the City's cleanup process were Sheriff Tommy Gage, District Attorney Mike McDougal, MCSO Captain Bruce Zenor, Precinct 2 Constable Gene Deforest and his Chief Deputy Steve Roper. There were numerous members of his police force present as well.

City Councilman and Mayor Pro-tem Duke Coon, and Council members Jerry Streater, J. Ross Martin and Pat George attended the event, along with City Administrator Jerry McGuire and City Finance Director Steve Williams. Conroe Fire Chief Ken Kreger was also present.

The comments of all who spoke met with thunderous applause from the invited crowd. Most of those in attendance went into the station for refreshments and congratulations afterward.

*Jamie Nash can be reached at [jnash@mail.hcnonline.net](mailto:jnash@mail.hcnonline.net)*

### **2,3. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS AND WALKS**

There were three neighborhood meetings held in 2006. Each meeting included the following events:

- **Neighborhood Walk**  
The Neighborhood Walk signifies unity between citizens, the City, and police.
- **Crime Prevention Displays and Neighborhood Watch Information**  
Crime Prevention Officers were available to discuss home security and personal safety. Information and registration for Neighborhood Watch Programs was also available.
- **Hot Dogs and Cold Drinks**  
Refreshments always create a good tie-in to a public meeting.
- **Interaction with Citizens and City Officials**  
These meetings allowed City officials and police officers to meet the citizens on their territory and listen one-on-one to their concerns. Not all comments were positive, however, it was a start to resolve long-standing issues in the neighborhoods.

The first meeting was held on March 2, 2006, in the Dugan area of the city at Washington Jr. High School. It is estimated that over 200 persons attended the meeting. The Neighborhood Walk covered approximately three-quarters of a mile.

The second walk was held on May 18, 2006, at Flournoy Park located in the northeast region known as “Madeley Quarters”. The meeting and walk attracted approximately one hundred people. The walk covered approximately one mile.

The third neighborhood meeting and walk was held on September 8, 2006 at Milltown Park in the southwest district of the city. The area is predominately Hispanic. Attendance was estimated at approximately 200.

# A BETTER PATH IN LIFE

covered  
5/22/06



Photo by Sgt. Bob Berry

Maya Grant, 9, and her sister Chelsea, 8, stood front and center while children from the Washington Outreach Program led the Pledge of Allegiance during Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf's second neighborhood walk as a show of

solidarity in his 2006 anti-drug initiative. The other children who helped lead the pledge were Talisa Johnson, 11, D'Quan Hubbard, 7, Patricia Barrera, 13, Dion, 13, and Trevon, 14.

## Mayor's second neighborhood walk a success

By JAMIE NASH  
COURIER STAFF

The city of Conroe continues to make progress in uniting citizens to battle the drug problems in their communities.

Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf, city officials and police embarked on their second neighborhood walk Thursday evening at Flournoy Park to promote the mayor's anti-drug initiative. Children from the Washington Outreach Program made signs, marched and led the Pledge of Allegiance at the park, which is at the corner of East Davis and 10th Street. The neighborhood program, funded by the YMCA and the city of Conroe, gives children somewhere safe to go after school.

Jezebel Franklin, who is the site counselor and bus driver for the program, said many of the children in the program live with grandparents or other family members because their parents have drug problems. She hopes she can keep them from following the same path.

"If I can save one, I feel like I've done something," said Franklin, who was recruited six years ago by Conroe Police Officer Roosevelt Lasker, the program's director.

Franklin was preparing for the anti-drug and drug awareness week in the program when she learned about the neighborhood walk.

"The kids were excited," she said.

The children who attended, ranged from 7-14 years old, and showed in

their creativity in making signs with phrases such as "crack is whack."

Franklin is a fan of Metcalf's anti-drug initiative and said she knows first hand it has made a difference in the community.

"Thank God for Mayor Metcalf," she said. "He's definitely made an impact."

She said the atmosphere in the area had changed dramatically. Where there were once drug transactions occurring on the sides of the street, she and her mother now feel safe going for walks because of an increase in patrolling the area.

"I'm glad for the police presence," she said. "It shows the community we

See WALK, Page 4A

## Walk Continued from Page 1A

still have some good officers.”

Franklin believes the increased police activity, community involvement and getting children on the right path early will help turn around the community. She said the children in her program have made great strides in learning about the dangers of drugs.

“People told them marijuana would not hurt them. I read them the facts, and told them it had a chemical in it,” she said. “I gave a prize for the one who could answer the most questions, and I ended up giving everybody a prize because they listened.”

She normally takes them

off the streets, but she was glad to walk the streets with them to send out a message to drug dealers that the neighborhood and those children would not be taken over.

Between 40 and 50 children per day participate in the outreach program and stay from 5:30-9:30 p.m. When school is out for summer, the hours will change to 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Donations and volunteers are needed. Anyone who would like to help can contact Officer Roosevelt Lasker at the YMCA at (936) 756-9345.

*Jamie Nash can be reached at [jnash@hcnonline.com](mailto:jnash@hcnonline.com).*

## 4. SIGNAGE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

City Administration and community leaders met and discussed goals and formats for signage in the neighborhoods. It was decided the signs should convey a positive but firm message to those who read the signs. Another important message to convey was that this anti-drug effort was not just another police enforcement effort, but also a community effort and that the community supported these signs.

The signs were placed at strategic entrances and exits of subdivisions and neighborhoods where both residents and those visiting the neighborhoods would see that they were being watched by both the residents and police.

A major concern was that the signs would be vandalized or torn down by those being affected by the Drug Initiative. After a year of sending out their message, it is good to report that every sign that was erected is still intact.

# SIGNS SEND THE MESSAGE

Courier 2-27-06

## Drug war gaining visibility

BY JAMIE NASH  
COURIER STAFF

Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf's 2006 drug initiative will continue to march forward Thursday night with a neighborhood event.

It will be the first of many meetings and will include erecting signage with a message to criminals.

Area residents are invited to join a group comprised of Metcalf, Conroe City Council members, Police Chief Charlie Ray, as well as neighborhood and community leaders in an evening of unity, designed to make a statement to those who buy, sell and manufacture illegal drugs in Conroe. The group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Washington Junior High, located at 507 Martin Luther King Place North, where participants will begin with a walk around the neighborhood. The walk will be followed by hot dogs and cokes at 6 p.m. and a discussion at 6:30 p.m.

Conroe Police Department Sgt. Bob Berry said the event marks the first of several neighborhood meetings scheduled as part of the mayor's renewed drug initiative.

"The mayor always had an emphasis on drugs," Berry said. "But in 2006, he re-evaluated the situation and decided more could be done – that more must be done."

Berry said Metcalf's Jan. 25 press conference was the culmination of plans previously enacted.

"It's starting in the southeast part of town, but that's not to say that's where drugs are," Berry said. "It just happened to be first."

He said every neighborhood has a drug problem.

See DRUGS, Page 3A



Staff photo by Jamie Nash

Conroe Police Department Sgt. Bob Berry holds up the prototypes of the signs that are part of Mayor Tommy Metcalf's 2006 drug initiative. The signs will be put in Conroe neighborhoods as a warning to those involved in drug activity that the residents and the police will not tolerate criminal activity in the area.

## ■ Drugs Continued from Page 1A

The city also commissioned metal street signs in red, white and blue, the colors of the American and Texas flags, as well as the colors of information distributed regarding the mayor's drug initiative. The signs will be placed on poles in neighborhoods as a warning to those involved in illegal drug activity, Berry said. They were designed in two sizes, 18 inches by 24 inches and 24 inches by 30 inches. The larger signs will be placed on poles at or near neighborhood entrances, and the smaller signs will be on poles in the neighborhoods.

"We're in the process of making signs and putting them up all over town," Berry said.

There is not a determined number of signs. Berry said the signs would be as sturdy

*City leaders are also working with the Conroe Independent School District through a program called GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training). Berry said the program teaches resistance to drug involvement, promotes self-esteem among children and stresses family values.*

as possible, but realistically the city knows signs will be damaged and they will be replaced. He said the signs are an attempt to put everyone who enters a Conroe neighborhood on notice that police would be notified that police and people in the community would be watching for suspicious activity, particularly any that might indicate drug involvement.

"It's a partnership we want to start and foster," Berry said.

"There are lots of good people who deserve a life free of drugs."

They want to help and work with the good people, he said.

"People who choose to go into the neighborhoods where they see the signs and participate in drug activity should not be surprised when they're arrested," Berry said.

He said officials are working with community leaders, such as ministers, to get the word out about the partner-

ship they hope to cultivate.

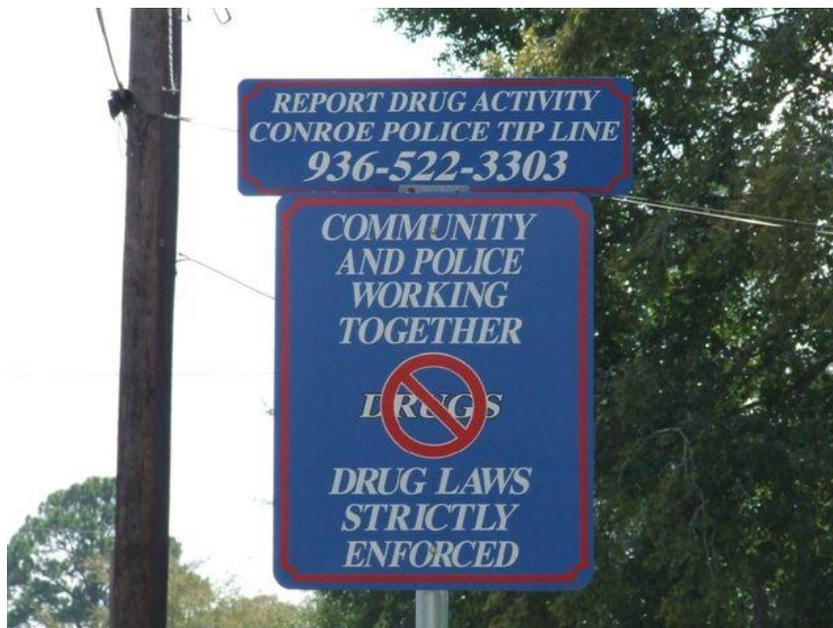
"By going to the churches, we hope to reach those who might not be reached otherwise," Berry said.

City leaders also are working with the Conroe Independent School District through a program called GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training). Berry said the program teaches resistance to drug involvement, promotes self-esteem among children and stresses family values.

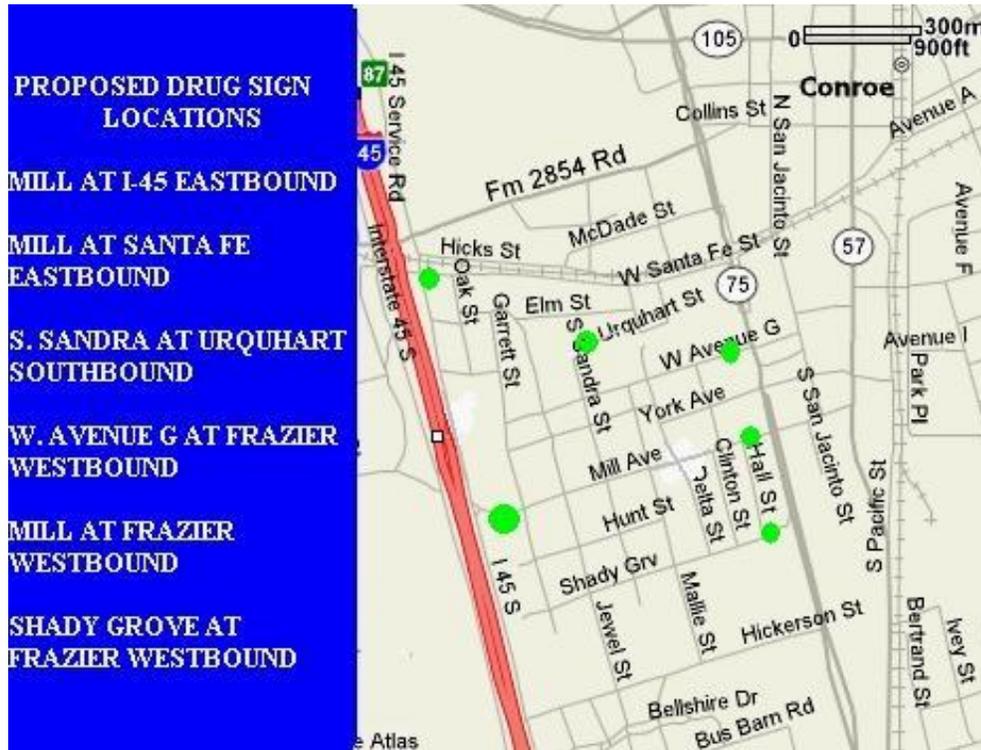
"We're working with CISD to emphasize those things," he said.

Berry said the city and the Police Department hope for a good response Thursday night and want to see subsequent progress through unification of residents, police and city leaders against drugs in Conroe.

Approximately two months into the sign program, an additional sign was added. The Conroe Police Department Narcotics Unit created a tip line for citizens to call in their reports of drug activity. A tip line sign as seen below was attached to each of the larger drug signs.



## SAMPLE OF DRUG SIGN PLACEMENT



## **5. PARTNERING WITH THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- In February 2006, Conroe Police Officers taught over 1000 freshman Conroe High School students about drug awareness and consequences.
- In March 2006, Conroe Police Narcotics Investigators assisted CISD and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in conducting an “alcohol sale to minors” sting at local convenience stores. Forty seven locations were visited resulting in eight arrests.
- In May, 2006, Conroe Police Narcotics Investigators assisted CISD Officers in performing a “tobacco sting” in the City of Conroe. Five convenience store operators were issued citations for selling tobacco products to minors.
- The CISD Police Department assisted in each of the neighborhood meetings and walks held during 2006.



## **6. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS**

In addition to passing out information on the Neighborhood Watch Program at the Neighborhood Meetings, the Conroe Police Department provided information to local churches in the Dugan and Madeley Quarters area. Neighborhood Watch information is also provided on the local Public Access Cable Channel.

## **7. PARTNERING WITH ENTERGY**

Adequate lighting on streets helps deter crime. During 2006, thirteen requests were made and Entergy responded by repairing or replacing the lights.

## 8. NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Conroe Police Narcotics Investigators worked with City Code Enforcement Officers by observing and reporting obvious violations of sub-standard housing and dangerous buildings that are or have been used by drug users or sellers.

Narcotics Investigators also began working with local motels in regards to renting rooms to known drug dealers or prostitutes. Motel management has been cooperating and a good rapport has developed with the officers.

Local convenience stores attracted Narcotics Investigator's attention by selling items, that when packaged together, amount to narcotics paraphernalia. Investigators warned these stores to cease selling these "kits" or face possible prosecution for selling narcotics paraphernalia.

Narcotics Investigators mail letters to owners of vehicles, houses, or buildings explaining the legal ramifications of participating in or allowing others to use drugs or sell drugs in or on their vehicle or property. Under current seizure laws, it is possible to seize a vehicle or building if the owner is aware of the activity and has been previously warned about the activity. Copies of these letters are kept on file for future reference if needed.



## **9. WORKING WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICIALS**

In January 2006, Mayor Tommy Metcalf, met with prosecutors and judges advising them the Narcotics Unit would be tracking the following data:

- Dispositions of felony drug cases.
- Bond information on felony drug cases.
- Data collected on all drug offenses handled by the police department.

Prior to implementation of the program the private sector was asked to help with the program:

- Local news media outlets were contacted and asked to play a part in the program.
- Local businesses were asked to become involved in the program.

## **10. ESTABLISHING A JUVENILE CURFEW**

Mayor Metcalf and City Council instituted a juvenile curfew. Both juveniles and parents can be held accountable for violations of the ordinance.

# PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Project efforts were tracked during 2006 and because some statistics are still not yet firm, tracking continues into 2007. Quarterly progress meetings were held with City Administration, Police Administration, and Narcotics Unit members. Assessment of the project's progress was tracked through the following methods:

- **Narcotics Arrests, Charges Filed, and Drugs Seized**  
An emphasis was put on both the quality and quantity of data tracked. Detailed information was tracked in 2006 and as shown below, some of the data was not tracked in 2005 or 2004.
- **Reduction in Drug Related Crimes**  
The Texas Department of Public Safety tracks felony crimes and reported significant decreases in felony crimes commonly associated with drug activity.
- **Population Change**  
While drug related crimes went down during the reporting period, the population of the city increased 8.8% from 2005 to 2006 and approximately 16.1% from 2004 to 2006.
- **Drug Related Calls For Service**  
A chart below shows the calls for service and the increase or decrease for each district in the project for the years 2004-2006. Calls for service increases can be attributed to two possible scenarios:
  1. Narcotics Unit Investigators opened more drug cases as a result of increased enforcement actions
  2. Citizens began to feel more comfortable in reporting drug activity as witnessed by the approximate 70% increase in leads that were reported.
- **Offense Tracking**  
Municipal, Misdemeanor, and Felony drug offenses were tracked to obtain an idea of exactly what types of drug problems were occurring within the city. Associated crimes identified during narcotics investigations were also tracked.
- **Felony Case Disposition Tracking**  
Prosecutors and Judges were held accountable through tracking of felony drug offense dispositions. Numerous cases of what appeared to lenient sentences and plea bargains were discussed with prosecutors and judges in October 2006. Dispositions received after October 1, 2006 were tracked to see if any changes had been made.

As a result, the District Attorney's Office created a guideline stating suspects charged with distribution of narcotics would not be eligible for probation in plea bargains.

After the October discussion, a trend of assessing at least a minimal amount of jail time either in county jail or in a state jail or penitentiary was observed. The average sentence assessed ranged from six months to one year.

- **Felony Bond Dispositions**

Bonds on charges greater than Municipal charges are set by a group of magistrates appointed by the State District Court Administrative Judge. There was an appearance of inconsistency in the way bonds were being determined for drug charges. Known drug offenders with previous history and those awaiting trial on previous charges were also being released back into the community as a result of low or inconsistent bonds.

Through cooperation with the magistrates, prosecutors, and arresting officers, bonds have become more consistent and notice is being taken on repeat drug offenders. Arresting officers are including more information on their arrest reports showing the history of the suspect and his/her history of drug use or sales.

Jail overcrowding created a problem with bonding procedures in that when the jail was over capacity, bonds were automatically reduced to make space in the jail.

As the project progressed, changes needed to be made to adapt to the changing circumstances:

- While one of the goals of the project was to rid the street corners of drug dealers, it soon became harder to accomplish as dealers moved off of the streets and into residences to sell their drugs. This forced clients to come inside the residence to buy. Another tactic used was to force clients to ingest their drugs inside the residence, making it less likely for officers to arrest the clients for possession charges when they leave the residence.
- It was also noted that drug dealers, specifically “crack cocaine” dealers, moved out of residences and began using local motels in which to “cook” their cocaine. This created another problem in that narcotics investigators had to start directing their attention to the local motels as crimes such prostitution, assaults, and thefts began to occur.

## ARRESTS, CHARGES FILED, AND DRUGS SEIZED

| <b>CONROE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>                  |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>NARCOTICS STATISTICS 2004-2006</b>            |             |             |             |
| <b>*ASTERIKS INDICATE DATA WAS NOT CAPTURED*</b> |             |             |             |
|  | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2006</b> |
| <b>INVESTIGATIONS</b>                            |             |             |             |
| Investigations Opened                            | 91          | 228         | 190         |
| Patrol Cases Assigned                            | 113         | 339         | 258         |
| Uniformed Unit Cases Opened                      | *           | *           | 276         |
| Drug Free Zone Cases                             | *           | *           | 11          |
| Search Warrants                                  | 6           | 15          | 31          |
| Knock and Talks                                  | *           | *           | 18          |
| <b>LEADS</b>                                     |             |             |             |
| CPS  | *           | *           | 1           |
| CrimeStoppers                                    | *           | *           | 2           |
| Public Service                                   | 24          | 15          | 51          |
| <b>CHARGES FILED</b>                             |             |             |             |
| Felony Charges Filed                             | 81          | 242         | 367         |
| Misdemeanor Charges Filed                        | 26          | 30          | 172         |
| Felony Arrests                                   | 22          | 34          | 158         |
| Misdemeanor Arrests                              | 38          | 8           | 223         |
| Warrants Cleared                                 | *           | *           | 396         |
| Adult Narcotics Arrests                          | 28          | 32          | 169         |
| Adult Gang Arrests                               | *           | 3           | 4           |
| Adult Prostitution Arrests                       | 4           | 1           | 2           |
| Other Adult Arrests                              | 7           | 1           | 109         |
| Juvenile Gang Arrests                            | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Statute Related Citations                        | *           | *           | 117         |
| Warning Citations Written                        | *           | *           | 168         |
| Vehicles Searched                                | *           | *           | 329         |

**ARRESTS, CHARGES FILED, AND DRUGS SEIZED (CONT.)**

| <b>VALUES</b>                     |         |        |        |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Currency Seized                   | 6093    | 89822  | 45716  |
| Vehicles Seized                   | 3       | 4      | 11     |
| Property and Assets Seized        | 3500    | 1      | 2000   |
| Stolen Property Recovered         | 9000    | 100    | 4040   |
| Number of Firearms Seized         | *       | *      | 18     |
| <b>DRUG SEIZURES</b>              |         |        |        |
| Marijuana Recovered (grams)       | 53.8    | 8153.5 | 203.22 |
| Marijuana Plants Recovered        | 0       | 0      | 2.03   |
| Cocaine Recovered (grams)         | 10277.4 | 121.8  | 679.37 |
| Crack Cocaine Recovered (grams)   | 59.9    | 69.34  | 793.81 |
| Methamphetamine Recovered (grams) | 35.3    | 3.8    | 1.38   |
| Ecstasy Recovered (hits)          | 5       | 200    | 123.7  |
| LSD Recovered (hits)              | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Heroin Recovered (grams)          | 0       | 0      | 0      |
| Soma (pills)                      | *       | *      | 49     |
| Hydrocodone (pills)               | *       | *      | 0      |
| Xanax (pills)                     | *       | *      | 180.5  |
| Other Pills                       | *       | *      | 297.6  |

## REDUCTION IN MAJOR CRIMES

| <b>MAJOR CRIMES BY CATEGORY<br/>2004-2006</b> |             |                               |             |                               |             |                            |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
|   | <b>2004</b> | <b>2004-2005<br/>% CHANGE</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2005-2006<br/>% CHANGE</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>3 YEAR<br/>% CHANGE</b> |
| <b>MURDER</b>                                 | 4           | -50.0                         | 2           | +60.0                         | 5           | +20.0                      |
| <b>RAPE</b>                                   | 25          | -4.0                          | 24          | -16.6                         | 20          | -20.0                      |
| <b>ROBBERY</b>                                | 94          | +6.9                          | 101         | -42.5                         | 58          | -38.2                      |
| <b>ASSAULT</b>                                | 233         | -8.5                          | 213         | -27.2                         | 155         | -33.4                      |
| <b>BURGLARY</b>                               | 492         | +13.5                         | 569         | -20.9                         | 450         | -8.5                       |
| <b>LARCENY</b>                                | 2124        | -11.5                         | 1878        | -5.5                          | 1773        | -16.5                      |
| <b>AUTO THEFT</b>                             | 197         | -11.6                         | 174         | +7.4                          | 188         | -4.5                       |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                 | 3169        | -6.5                          | 2961        | -10.5                         | 2649        | -16.4                      |

## CITY OF CONROE POPULATION

| <b>CITY OF CONROE<br/>POPULATION BY YEAR 2004-2006</b> |             |                               |             |                               |             |                          |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
|  | <b>2004</b> | <b>2004-2005<br/>% CHANGE</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2005-2006<br/>% CHANGE</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>3 YEAR<br/>CHANGE</b> |
| <b>POPULATION</b>                                      | 40,566      | +8.0                          | 44,116      | +8.8                          | 48,375      | +16.1                    |

## DRUG RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE BY YEAR

| <b>DRUG RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE 2004-2006</b> |             |                             |             |                             |             |                          |
|---|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
|   | <b>2004</b> | <b>2004-2005<br/>CHANGE</b> | <b>2005</b> | <b>2005-2006<br/>CHANGE</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>3 YEAR<br/>CHANGE</b> |
| Northwest District ( A )                        | 41          | +62.7                       | 110         | -27.2                       | 80          | +48.7                    |
| Northeast District ( B )                        | 100         | +29.0                       | 141         | -2.1                        | 138         | +27.5                    |
| Southwest District ( C )                        | 94          | -6.0                        | 88          | +14.5                       | 103         | +8.0                     |
| Southeast District ( D )                        | 191         | +18.0                       | 233         | +28.7                       | 327         | +41.5                    |
| Totals  | 426         | +25.5                       | 572         | +23.2                       | 648         | +34.2                    |

**SAMPLE OF QUARTERLY OFFENSE TRACKING REPORTS**

| <b>2006 OFFENSE TRACKING MONTHLY REPORT</b>     |            |            |            |            |  |                             |                             |     |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|
|   |            |            |            |            |  | <b>4TH<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> | <b>3RD<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> |     |
| <b>FELONY</b>                                   | <b>OCT</b> | <b>NOV</b> | <b>DEC</b> |            |  |                             |                             |     |
| DELIVERY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE                   | 6          | 2          | 0          |            |  | 8                           | 12                          |     |
| DELIVERY SIMULATED CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE         | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 0                           |     |
| DELIVERY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DRUG FREE<br>ZONE | 1          | 4          | 0          |            |  | 5                           | 4                           |     |
| DELIVERY MARIJUANA FELONY                       | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 0                           |     |
| POSSESSION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE FELONY          | 31         | 38         | 35         |            |  | 104                         | 66                          |     |
| POSSESSION MARIJUANA FELONY                     | 2          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 2                           | 4                           |     |
| NUMBER FELONY WARRANTS                          | 10         | 18         | 17         |            |  | 45                          | 27                          |     |
| OTHER FELONY                                    | 13         | 8          | 6          |            |  | 27                          | 25                          |     |
|   |            |            |            |            |  | <b>4TH<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> | <b>3RD<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> |     |
| <b>MISDEMEANOR</b>                              | <b>OCT</b> | <b>NOV</b> | <b>DEC</b> |            |  |                             |                             |     |
| POSSESSION DANGEROUS DRUG                       | 10         | 10         | 7          |            |  | 27                          | 16                          |     |
| POSSESSION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE<br>MISDEMEANOR  | 12         | 10         | 12         |            |  | 34                          | 22                          |     |
| POSSESSION MARIJUANA MISDEMEANOR                | 27         | 25         | 34         |            |  | 86                          | 76                          |     |
| NUMBER MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS                     | 24         | 10         | 9          |            |  | 43                          | 39                          |     |
| OTHER MISDEMEANOR                               | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 0                           |     |
| PROSTITUTION                                    | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 5                           |     |
|   |            |            |            |            |  | <b>4TH<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> | <b>3RD<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> |     |
| <b>MUNICIPAL</b>                                | <b>OCT</b> | <b>NOV</b> | <b>DEC</b> |            |  |                             |                             |     |
| POSSESSION NARCOTICS PARPHERNALIA               | 18         | 18         | 16         |            |  | 52                          | 74                          |     |
| CURFEW VIOLATION                                | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 0                           |     |
| OTHER VIOLATION CITY ORDINANCE<br>SOLICITATION  | 0          | 0          | 0          |            |  | 0                           | 0                           |     |
| NUMBER MISDEMEANOR WARRANTS                     | 18         | 22         | 4          |            |  | 44                          | 84                          |     |
| OTHER MISDEMEANOR CHARGES                       | 0          | 7          | 0          |            |  | 7                           | 7                           |     |
|   |            |            |            |            |  | <b>4TH<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> | <b>3RD<br/>QTR<br/>2006</b> |     |
|   |            | <b>OCT</b> | <b>NOV</b> | <b>DEC</b> |  |                             |                             |     |
| <b>PATROL INITIATED</b>                         |            | 72         | 79         | 96         |  |                             | 247                         | 197 |
| <b>NARCOTICS UNIT INITIATED</b>                 |            | 39         | 34         | 45         |  |                             | 118                         | 79  |

## SAMPLE OF CASE DISPOSITION TRACKING

### 2006 CASE DISPOSITIONS BY COURT AND ATTORNEY PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1, 2006 (9TH DISTRICT COURT)

| SUSPECT   | CHG  | DATE OF OFFENSE | DATE DISPOSED | DISPOSITION  | ATTORNEY            |
|---|------|-----------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| Wilson, James Timothy   | PCSF | 02/02/06        | 08/03/06      | Pled Guilty, 4 years Deferred Adjudication               | Dournburg, Brent    |
| Massie, Kenneth Dewayne   | PCSF | 02/02/06        | 09-21-06      | Pled Guilty Sentenced to 1 Year in County Jail           | Simon, Stephen      |
| Stewart, Robert Ed  | PCSF | 02/04/06        | DISMISSED     | Court notes show "Dismissed in the Interest of Justice " | Canlas,Richard      |
| Taylor, Darrian L.  | PCSF | 02/07/06        | 08/14/06      | Suspect under indictment on 4 Possession Cont. Substance | Burns, Brian        |
| Count 1: PCSF<br>Count 2: PCSF<br>Count 3: PCSF<br>Count 4: PCSF  |      |                 |               |  |                     |
| Counts 1 and 2 dismissed by State. Suspect plead guilty to counts 3 and 4 and received 8 years TDC.   |      |                 |               |  |                     |
| Lopez, Nava Emitterio   | PCSF | 02/07/06        | 11-02-06      | Pled Guilty Sentenced to 6 months in County Jail         | Jackson, Steve      |
| Boone, Buford   | PCSF | 02/15/06        | 01-25-07      | Pled guilty, received 6 months TDC                       | Simonsen, Stephen   |
| Harrell, Carlos Ray Jr.   | PCSF | 02/23/06        | PENDING       |  | Clay-Jackson, Lydia |
| Franklin, Dakadro Wesley  | PCSF | 02/23/06        | 09/14/06      | Suspect indicted on two counts:                          | Baldwin, Janice     |
| Count 1: Possession Controlled Substance indictment number 06-05-04445<br>Count 2: Felony Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle                                  |      |                 |               |  |                     |
| Count 2 dismissed in plea bargain; suspect plead guilty to judge and received 15 years TDC  |      |                 |               |  |                     |
| Price, Amber Lavette  | PCSF | 02/23/06        | 10/03/06      | State's Motion / Dismissed in the interest of justice.   | Dournburg, Brent    |
| Montiel, Jose Luis  | DCSF | 03/05/06        | 08/03/06      | 4 years Deferred Adjudication                            | Mata, Jose          |
| Kellow, Janice Bradley  | DCSF | 03/14/06        | 3-29-07       | Pled Guilty-State Jail --amount of time not entered      | Bond, Tay           |
| Kellow, Janice Bradley  | DCSF | 03/14/06        | 03-29-07      | Pled Guilty-State Jail --amount of time not entered      | Bond, Tay           |
| Hatchett, Jerry Vanderous   | PCSF | 03/16/06        | PENDING       |  | Jones, James        |
| Kellow, Janice Bradley  | PCSF | 03/16/06        | 3-29-07       | Dismissed convicted in another case                      | Bond, Tay           |
| Collier, Christopher Shawn  | PCSF | 03/21/06        | 04-09-07      | Pled Guilty; 3 years TDC                                 | Tillman, Marcia     |
| Maxwell, Marcus Walter  | PCSF | 03/21/06        | PENDING       | Capias FTA issued  | Pawgan, Scott       |
| Franklin, Byron   | PCSF | 03/27/06        | 01-25-07      | Pled guilty, 4 yrs TDC                                   | Stevens,Grant       |
| Quinney, Rusty DeWayne  | PCSF | 04/05/06        | 11-02-06      | Received 5 years Deferred Adjudication                   | Berg, Eric          |
| Eakin, Anisa Roann  | PCSF | 04/13/06        | PENDING       | Capias FTA issued  | Baldwin, Janice     |
| Johnson, Johnathon J.   | PCSF | 04/17/06        | 09/18/06      | Suspect indicted on three counts:                        | Labella, Joseph     |
| Count 1: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon<br>Count 2: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon<br>Count 3: Possession Controlled Substance Felony 4 |      |                 |               |  |                     |

Suspect plead guilty to assault charge count 1. 10 yrs TDC. counts 2,3 dismissed.

**FELONY CHARGE BOND DISPOSITIONS  
AUGUST 2006**

| <b>CASE<br/>NUMBER</b> | <b>SUSPECT<br/>NAME</b>                       | <b>OFFENSE</b>      | <b>BOND<br/>AMOUNT</b> | <b>OUT<br/>Y/N</b> | <b>BONDING<br/>COMPANY</b> |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 06080028               | Bellmore, Kelly Marie                         | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06080225               | Johnson, Chantal Carnice                      | PCSF                | Juvenile               |                    |                            |
| 06080425               | Robins, Raymon Lee                            | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06080443               | Johnson, Angela Leigh                         | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06080577               | Henry, Jack Eugene                            | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06081179               | Simmons, Angela Carey                         | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Byron Benton               |
| 06081372               | Hill, Moses Eundray                           | PCSF                | \$3,500.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06081372               | Stansel, Kelly O'Neal                         | PCSF                | \$3,500.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06081372               | Stansel, Tana Kay                             | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06081412               | Johnson, Tremayne<br>Alexander                | PCSF, PSCM,<br>POMM | \$19,000.00            | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06081578               | Spiller, Thomas Dean Jr                       | PCSF, PSCM          | \$10,000.00            | N                  |                            |
| 06081809               | Pierce, Justin Allen                          | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Renell Pedigo<br>Dustin    |
| 06082243               | Box, George Robert                            | PCSF                | \$10,000.00            | Y                  | Rutherford<br>Dustin       |
| 06082243               | Box, George Robert                            | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Rutherford                 |
| 06082314               | Gray, Jerry Bruce                             | PCSF, CCAB          | \$30,000.00            | N                  |                            |
| 06082316               | Ratcliff, Donyea Monique<br>Johnson, Tremayne | PCSF, PSCM          | \$3,000.00             | Y                  | Steve Sondag               |
| 06082483               | Alexander                                     | PSCF                | \$5,000.00             | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06082619               | Samuel, Liticia Denise                        | DCSF                | \$80,000.00            | Y                  | Steve Sondag               |
| 06082619               | Jefferson, Toussainte Leost                   | DCSF                | \$105,000.00           | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06082720               | Roebuck, Darrell Franklin                     | PSCF                | \$7,500.00             | Y                  | Debra Foster<br>Dustin     |
| 06082821               | Noriega, Lee Rene                             | PCSF                | \$4,000.00             | Y                  | Rutherford                 |
| 06083053               | Eason, Timothy Faith                          | PCSF                | \$5,000.00             | N                  |                            |
| 06083268               | Gillespie, Earl Ray                           | PCSF                | \$6,000.00             | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |
| 06083356               | Lopez-Nunez, Juan Carlos                      | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Bob Gold                   |
| 06083496               | Gonzales, Rosalio Paredes                     | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Bob Gold                   |
| 06083500               | Castenada, Jeffrey Ruban                      | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Cash Bond                  |
| 06083818               | Martinez, Juan P.                             | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Bob Gold                   |
| 06084252               | McWashington, Lisa Louise                     | PCSF                | \$2,500.00             | Y                  | Eddie Lagway               |

Conroe 07-15-07

## Efforts curbing crime despite growth in city

Most people believe population growth is the main reason for increased crime. But the city of Conroe is bucking that trend, and the Conroe Police Department, city officials and citizens can take the credit.

Additional law enforcement and public awareness have been the catalysts in reducing robberies, assaults, larcenies and burglaries over the past few years, despite a rapidly growing city.

While the population has increased nearly 22 percent from 2003 (39,672) to 2006 (48,375), robberies have decreased by 54 percent (126 to 58), assaults by 34 percent (235 to 155), larcenies (most thefts and frauds) by 19 percent (2,198 to 1,773) and burglaries by 14 percent (524 to 450).

The Patrol Division, headed by Lt. Mike Hansen since 1996, employs 45 patrol officers who are split up among five shifts. The entire department had 45 total officers in 1984; today, it has 102 positions, including seven additional officers since October 2004.

Hansen increased the number of shifts from three to five in February 2006, adding 12 officers to the two additional shifts during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Six officers work from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and six more work from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. These shifts enable the department to overlap with the three traditional shifts that place approximately a dozen officers on the streets from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 2:30-10:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., so there is never a lag in police presence on the

streets.

"The department has grown, and the city leaders understand the battles we go through and have been very supportive in getting us the resources," said Lt. Russell Reynolds, Criminal Investigations Division commander.

Some of those resources have been used to combat drug dealers and users, who are associated with committing other crimes that help fund their addictions.

"By getting these people off the streets and getting them into programs ... getting the others prosecuted and hopefully scaring off a lot of them," the department has been able to reduce the number of crimes in other areas, Reynolds said.

Statistics support the theory that the city's War on Drugs, initiated by Mayor Tommy Metcalf around two years ago, is curtailing crime in other areas. Seizures of crack cocaine by the Conroe Police Department Narcotics Division jumped more than 1,000 percent from 2005 to 2006, according to a department report.

"Let's face it, somebody who is addicted to crack doesn't hold a job long, so they're out there stealing ... and it doesn't matter who they steal from," Reynolds said. "We're trying to get these people off the streets; we're reducing their opportunities to commit these crimes."

While the increased law enforcement presence is a deterrent for criminals, conscientious citizens also have helped curb crime.

The city has implemented neighborhood meetings and marches to raise awareness. The next one will start at 5:30 p.m. May 24 at the Oscar Johnson Community Center, located at 200 Park Place and East Avenue G. There will be crime prevention and drug awareness displays, a neighborhood walk with the mayor, police chief and residents, as well as a meeting.

Another example of community awareness was a recent seminar that included a couple of classes for city employees on crime-related issues, including pedophiles.

"That's something you wouldn't have seen a few years ago," Hansen said.

"It all adds together. We tried to make it a point to get out to the people."

The growth in Conroe will continue. But as long as Conroe police officers, city officials and citizens continue their efforts in battling the criminals who feed off that growth, residents will be able to rest easier at home and in their neighborhoods.

# Drug initiative cleaning up east Conroe

*Courier 2-28-06*

For years, Louis J. Williams Sr. has seen the problems in his neighborhood and he felt that few people outside his neighborhood cared about getting them fixed.

Drug dealers walked the streets of his east Conroe neighborhood and openly practiced their trade. If it was a busy day, a dope deal could back up traffic.

"I would have to sit there and wait for two or three minutes until they got their dope sold," Williams said.

But Williams, who works in the County Attorney's office, is seeing things change and they are getting better. There are fewer deals taking place, he says, and people are not standing around on neighborhood streets flagging down cars.

"It's been quite a bit safer. There were some streets you couldn't drive down. People wouldn't move out of the road," he said.

Williams is a big supporter of Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf and Metcalf's proclamation to remove drug dealers from Conroe. Williams said that prior to Metcalf's push, he felt there wasn't much ambition to make east Conroe better.

"Before Metcalf took the reins, it was horrible," Williams said. "You eat this stuff, breath this stuff and see this stuff, and it's horrible. (Metcalf) wants to give



**Robb Reeves**

Courier Publisher

kids in that community a chance to grow up and not see this."

Williams said the big difference is policing. Conroe police are in the neighborhood and they are getting the job done. Dealers are arrested, and word is getting out that east Conroe isn't an easy place to make a living anymore if you're a drug dealer.

"They have arrested quite a few people, and the streets were just so clean after those arrests," Williams said.

Recently, Metcalf held a press conference to push the other side of the equation – the courts. The message was that if the police are going to arrest the dealers, then the courts need to deal with convicted criminals effectively.

The timing of that message was perfect because the March 7 primary is loaded with judicial candidates, and those candidates have to talk about the issue. How to sentence convicted drug dealers is a big campaign issue this year. Williams says

he can see a need for leniency in some cases. Having lived in east Conroe for 15 years, he's seen young people turn into old drug dealers. Some people need a second chance. Some don't.

"Some of these people deserve a break, but some need to stay gone. I don't want my grandkids seeing that stuff in my neighborhood," Williams said.

For those of us who don't live in east Conroe, it would be easy to hope the drug problem stays there. After all, it's been there for years and Conroe has grown in spite of it.

But it doesn't stay there. Most of the people who live in east Conroe are minorities, yet Williams says the buyers are white and they are young. Conroe is still a small city, and it is only as strong as its most troubled neighborhood.

It is common for our elected leaders to talk tough about drugs, especially with elections approaching. While that talk is good, it is even better to hear from someone like Williams who says things are getting better in his neighborhood.

The combination of dedicated elected leaders, aggressive police, tough courts and motivated citizens can make it very hard on drug dealers.

*Robb Reeves is publisher of The Courier; his column runs on Sundays.*

Courier 2/28/06

# Success within reach for war against drugs

**Our View: Mayor's leadership is bringing real results in fight against drugs in Conroe.**

**R**ecent events in Conroe show a War on Drugs that is very much in force.

Continuing his leadership on the issue, Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf and the city are planning a rally Thursday in southeast Conroe designed to show a community united against drug dealing and drug use.

Metcalf, Conroe City Council members, Police Chief Charlie Ray, as well as neighborhood and community leaders are inviting residents to an evening of unity against drugs 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Washington Junior High School, located at 507 Martin Luther King Place North. The evening will start with a neighborhood walk against drugs followed by hot dogs, cokes and a discussion.

It will be the first of several neighborhood meetings scheduled as part of the mayor's renewed drug initiative.

As part of its push, the city has commissioned metal street signs in red, white and blue; the signs will be placed on poles in neighborhoods as a warning to those involved in illegal drug activity.

All of this is occurring against a backdrop of significant drug busts in Conroe recently.

Thursday, Conroe police arrested three people and seized up to \$75,000 in illegal drugs after spotting an alleged drug deal taking place at a Conroe motel.

And on Wednesday, the Montgomery County Special Investigation Unit arrested two people who allegedly sold an ounce of cocaine to an undercover officer at a local motel.

Finally, on Thursday again, police arrested three teenagers, including a 15-year-old who allegedly was selling drugs out of a home in the Artesian Oaks subdivision.

The degree of commitment shown by this mayor and by city and county law enforcement is truly extraordinary, and offers real hope for neighborhoods that have long struggled with this problem. If these communities can unify and continue to help police do their job, and as officials promote an anti-drug message in the local schools, success, defined as communities that are safe and orderly and no longer a haven for drug dealing, seems within reach.

Courier 5/4/06

# Statistics show city is winning war on drugs

**Our View: Numbers indicate success in war on drugs**

**I**s the city of Conroe winning a war on drugs? The first complete year-to-year look at the numbers suggests the answer may be yes. Barring some other explanation, it's clear: the city needs to continue its aggressive efforts to target drug dealers and drug crime in general.

In general, one can expect that cracking down on drug dealers and users will cause crime to fall across a number of categories, especially property crimes and robbery. The connection between drug use, addiction and certain kinds of crime is well-documented. Addicts who do not have the means to support their drug habits will turn to crime - burglary and robbery, for example - to get the cash to feed their habits. It's a vicious pattern, and destructive to our communities.

Some glimmer of hope that busting drug crimes is reducing others can be gleaned from the numbers released by the city of Conroe. In 2004, there were 880 misdemeanor thefts, compared with only 842 in 2005. In addition, the number of burglaries dropped from 1,220 in 2004 to 1,128 last year. Auto thefts were also down to 162 in 2005, from 194 in 2004.

One big question is whether the strong efforts by police are being followed up with a similar push by the District Attorney and the courts. It will take a little longer for that picture to emerge, but it's a critical part of the process to drive drugs out of Conroe.

Still, at this point, the numbers point to some success. The city needs to keep it up. Delivering communities and residents from drug dealing and its effects must remain a top priority.

*Jamie*

# Conroe narcotics raid nets 5 arrests

By **JAMIE NASH**  
COURIER STAFF

A mobile home at 309 S. Pacific in Conroe was the focus of a multi-agency narcotics investigation that culminated in the arrest of five people Thursday night.

Conroe Police Sgt. Bob Berry said the department's narcotics investigators and investigators from the Montgomery County Special Investigations Unit executed a search warrant on the residence around 8:45 p.m.

"The address has a history of involving arrests for narcotics sales and prostitution," Berry said.

Recent surveillance prompted by information regarding drug use and sales led to an undercover drug buy at the home. That incident provided probable cause for officers to obtain the search warrant, Berry said.

Initially, 12 people were removed from the small singlewide mobile home, including the homeowner.

See NARCOTICS, Page 3A



Suspects are lined up after law enforcement officers raided a mobile home in Conroe Thursday night. Five people were arrested on narcotics charges after the raid.

Courtesy photo

## ■ Narcotics

Continued from Page 1A

According to Berry, the group included blacks, whites and Hispanics, ranging in age from 20-something to the 70-year-old owner. He was asleep in the back of the home when officers arrived.

The home was searched and a small amount of crack cocaine was seized. All 12 people were detained during the search; five were arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Jail. The homeowner was not among them. Sedrick Bernard Davis, 27, was arrested on a warrant for a parole violation. He was held without bond. Rebecca Lynne Nault, 47, and Alvin English, 49, were charged with possession of a controlled substance, a state jail felony.

Two of those arrested were brothers. Ray Anthony "Ray Ray" Rowe, 47, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and two outstanding city of Conroe municipal warrants. His brother, Morris Rowe, 49, was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The rest of the 12, exclud-

ing the homeowner, received criminal trespass warnings for the location and were released.

Berry said the house has been there for a long time and was typical of the residences seen under those circumstances.

"Most are in complete squalor," he said. "Many are lacking in electricity, water or some utility."

They tend to have piles of dirty clothes and old food, Berry said.

"Basically, what's happened is their priorities have changed," Berry said. "They're not living to be living; they're living to do drugs."

Officers left the scene around 11 p.m. It was the second execution of a drug-related search warrant in the past week and the second since Mayor Tommy Metcalf announced his anti-drug initiative for 2006 and his plan to work with city and county agencies to clean up Conroe.

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FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL (505) 774-3377

*Courier*

# Drug bust finds squatters in woman's home

By JAMIE NASH  
COURIER STAFF

A multi-agency law enforcement task force executed a search warrant Friday night at the home of an elderly woman located at 410 S. San Jacinto in Conroe.

Conroe Police Department Sgt. Bob Berry said officers removed 11 people from the home and confiscated 3.5 grams of crack cocaine, along with various miscellaneous drug paraphernalia. Three people were arrested. Jeffrey

Paul Wise, 35, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and outstanding city warrants. Reginald Steele, 34, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance; and Eugene Taylor, 44, was arrested on outstanding city warrants. Bond was set at \$3,000 each for Wise and Steele on the possession of a controlled substance charge, which is a fourth-degree, or state jail, felony, punishable by 180



Police removed 11 people from this Conroe home on Friday night. Drugs and drug paraphernalia were found inside the ransacked home. Three people were arrested and the rest were forced to leave. The home's elderly owner was hospitalized and knew nothing about what was going on.

Photo by Scott J. Engle

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## Bust Continued from Page 1A

days to two years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000. Wise had a criminal history including drugs and weapons charges.

Homeowner Edna Jackson, who turns 89 in March, had been in the hospital for two weeks and left the home in the care of Wise, her grandson, Berry said. During that time, police received complaints about the residence and set up surveillance.

"Undercover officers purchased illegal drugs at the location, which gave them probable cause to get a search warrant for the residence," Berry said.

The task force is comprised of Conroe Police Narcotics officers, investigators from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Special Investigation Unit and Conroe Police Department SWAT. The group of more than 25 officers, including an MCSO K-9 unit, met at the police station around 10:30 p.m. Friday. They were briefed, then split up into vehicles and went to the home to execute the warrant.

"Some at the back of the house appeared to be playing dominoes or cards," Berry said. "There were three people sleeping in Jackson's bed."



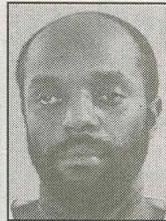
WISE

A total of 11 people were detained while the small home was searched. Those inside were male and

female, white, black and Hispanic, and a wide range of ages.

The home is an older, wood-frame, two-bedroom structure surrounded by pecan trees.

The interior is filled with items Jackson has collected over the years for sentimental reasons, with grade-school certificates hanging on the walls from the early 1970s. Family photos and a multitude



STEEL

of other mementos were in stark contrast to the crack pipes and the trash piled deep inside of

the house. "You could tell it was a nice house," Berry said.

Officers contacted Jackson through the hospital where she was receiving treatment for unknown ailments. She was informed of the situation



TAYLOR

and gave officers permission to lock her home and force those who were not arrested to leave.

Berry said the two men arrested for possession of a controlled substance were charged because their names appeared on the search warrant.

*Jamie Nash can be reached at [jnash@mail.hcnonline.net](mailto:jnash@mail.hcnonline.net).*

*Officers contacted Jackson through the hospital where she was receiving treatment. She gave them permission to lock her home and force out those who were not arrested.*

Saturday, March 18, 2006

FOR HOME DELIVERY, CALL (936) 442-3377

*Courier*

# Man caught in narcotics bust 2nd time

By JAMIE NASH  
COURIER STAFF

A Conroe man was arrested by police on narcotics charges for the second time in less than six months Thursday night.

Jefferey Hatchett, 25, is being withheld without bond pending his court date.

Conroe Police Department Narcotics Investigators, assisted by Conroe Police Department SWAT, executed narcotics search warrants at the Lodge

Suites Apartments, located at 920 Interstate 45. Hatchett, his brother Jerry Hatchett, 29, and Janice Bradley, 48, were arrested.

Conroe Police Sgt. Bob Berry said Jeffrey Hatchett was free on bond awaiting trial after his arrest in November. That arrest, also reported in *The Courier*, was made when the Montgomery County Special Investigation Unit executed narcotics search warrants at a home on First Street. He

Jefferey Hatchett sat on the sidewalk beneath his apartment as he waited for officers to transport him to the Montgomery County Jail for his second narcotics arrest in less than six months.



Photo by Scott J. Engle

See NARCOTICS, Page 3A

## Narcotics

Continued from Page 1A

faced multiple drug charges then, followed by a motion to revoke his probation in December.

"Hatchett was free on a \$1,500 bond for motion to revoke probation, a \$15,000 bond for possession of a controlled substance and \$3,000 bond for possession of firearm by felon," Berry said.

Hatchett's arrest also marked the second time his school-age children were found living in a situation where drugs were allegedly sold, he said.

Two warrants were executed simultaneously in rooms 40 and 44 around 9 p.m. Thursday. Berry said the warrant for room 40 was a "no knock" warrant, but the door was unlocked, so forced entry was not required. Jefferey Hatchett was found alone inside and taken into custody, Berry said.

As Hatchett sat on the sidewalk waiting to be transported to jail, he was asked whether he knew about Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf's drug initiative. He said he read *The Courier* and was aware the mayor wanted drug dealers out of the city.

"I ain't going against the mayor; I know I can't win," Hatchett said.

He was arrested and



JEFFEREY HATCHETT

charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine and ecstasy), possession of marijuana and tampering with evidence, as well as outstanding municipal warrants. A magistrate ordered him held without bond Friday morning.

Berry said Hatchett told officers his children were out for the evening. Inside the apartment, a school backpack with a child's name written in permanent marker and school papers inside lay on the floor beneath a bar that was littered with drugs and drug paraphernalia, including a substance that tested positive for cocaine, and a razorblade. On Friday, Berry said Child Protective Services would again be notified.

The search warrant for room 44 was a "knock and announce" warrant. However, no one opened the door, and entry was made with the use of a door ram, Berry said.

"Four subjects were found inside the apartment; and a variety of narcotics were found inside the apartment, including Jerry Hatchett, Jefferey's brother," he said.

Jerry Hatchett was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) and possession of marijuana. His bond was set at \$8,000. Janice Marie Bradley was also in the room. She was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine) and possession of marijuana, as well as outstanding municipal warrants. Her bond was set at \$8,000. The other two people

in the apartment at the time were released without charges.

Room 44 also contained evidence of children staying or living there, but none was present at the time the warrants were executed.

Berry said the search warrants were obtained after the suspects allegedly sold drugs to undercover officers.

"They were arrested for possession Thursday night because they were not selling at that time," Berry said. "However, more charges are pending."

All three arrested had criminal records. Some of the other residents stopped officers and thanked them as they left.

*Jamie Nash can be reached at [jnash@mail.hcnonline.net](mailto:jnash@mail.hcnonline.net).*



*West Tabernacle Church*  
*"The House of Miracles"*  
428 Old Magnolia Rd.  
Conroe, Texas 77304

A. R. Shelton, Pastor

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To: Mayor Tommy Metcalf  
Chief Charlie Ray  
Detective Roosevelt Lasker

From: Pastor A. R. Shelton

Re: The Cities War on Drugs

Dear City Officials let me pause from a very busy schedule to give kudos to Mayor Metcalf, Chief Ray, Detective Lasker and all others who are responsible for the major turn around on our fight against drugs in our city and county. Thank God for the concern of people in high places. I really can appreciate what happens when city, community, county, and churches come together for one common goal and that is to make our streets safe for everyone.

I've been blessed to be a part of the community meetings and community walks thru our neighborhoods we have had since Mayor Metcalf has taken reign as Mayor and how he has kept the promises he made during his campaign run for Mayor of the city of Conroe.

I also noticed how his excitement has flowed down to those who are part of this united team. Chief Ray has taken the ball and is running with it along with Detective Lasker who keeps me informed along with other pastors on how we can help this fight on the war on drugs.

This is a win-win situation for all who want to do what is right. Once again Thank You Mayor Metcalf, Chief Ray, Detective Lasker, and Sheriff Gage along C.P.D and M.C.S.D for making it possible for our seniors to once again sit on their porches, our children to ride their bicycles in their communities, and citizens to walk the streets in safety.

May God Continue to Bless You

Pastor A. R. Shelton  
West Tabernacle Church

# Outreach program quietly helping victims of drug war

**Our View: It's not just a war on drugs; sometimes it's a rescue mission.**

**F**or most of our readers, the city of Conroe's War on Drugs means a war against the drug trade and the crime it typically spawns, like burglary, theft and armed robbery.

But a recent neighborhood event lead by Conroe Mayor Tommy Metcalf helped shine a spotlight on victims who've lost more than property or money – they've lost a parent, sometimes both – in this war.

At the Washington Outreach Program in southeast Conroe – an area of town where much of Conroe's drug activity has been centered – children find a safe place to play and learn after school in a program funded by the YMCA and the city of Conroe. Many of the children in the outreach program, according to Jezebel Franklin, one of the site counselors there, live with grandparents or other family members because their parents have drug problems.

The drug trade is evil not just because of the crime it spawns, but because of what it does to individual users, who lose control of their lives. Drug addicts lose their jobs, their marriages, their families, their self respect – and others suffer as a result, especially children.

We continue to be told from residents and those who work in these areas of Conroe that the anti-drug initiative is working, that the dealers who once openly sold drugs on street corners have disappeared. The city recently released crime statistics that appear to indicate the crackdown is having an impact on property crimes.

The city should continue to focus its efforts on arresting drug dealers and users.

Meanwhile, the rest of us can help in other ways – like helping provide the resources for the Washington Outreach and others. Between 40 and 50 children per day participate in the outreach program and stay from 5:30-9:30 p.m. When school is out for summer, the hours will change to 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Donations and volunteers are needed. If you'd like to help, call the program's director, Officer Roosevelt Lasker, at the YMCA at (936) 756-9345.

## **AGENCY AND OFFICER INFORMATION**

The 2006 Drug Initiative was adopted throughout the Conroe Police Department and officers, civilian employees, and volunteers participated in the project at levels from serving food at the neighborhood meetings to the patrol and narcotics investigators who chased down drug suspects.

All City Departments participated in the initiative at levels from approving parade permits to assembling and erecting street signs for the project.

Outside organizations such as the local newspaper, the Conroe Courier played an integral part in promoting citizen involvement in the project as well as informing its readers of the project's successes.

Local businesses participated by donating food for the neighborhood meetings and even participated in preparing and serving the food.

For more detailed information, questions, or comments on the 2006 Drug Initiative, contact:

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