

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Council

FROM: Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Citizen Recognition Awards

DATE: December 1, 2016

BACKGROUND

One of the things I did after coming to Cannon Falls was the implementation of a recognition program within the Police Department to formalize the process of recognizing both department employees and those that provide assistance to the department. I am proud of the actions of the officers and citizens previously recognized and I am very pleased to again be coming before the City Council to recognize both an officer and a citizen.

I invited Mark Norton owner of Soulfisher Collision and Repair and Keith Gesme to the City Council meeting to receive this recognition.

Officer Marc Fluhrer and I will also be receiving Medals of Commendation for our actions.

Mark Norton and Soulfisher Collision and Repair, September 26, 2016 Citizen Recognition Award

On 09-26-2016 Officer Marc Fluhrer was dispatched to a driving complaint on a vehicle approaching Cannon Falls on Highway 20 pulling a trailer with the ramps down. When Officer Fluhrer arrived at Highway 20 and Goodhue County Road 29, he saw a classic car had collided with a semi and trailer and was blocking the road. Officer Fluhrer stopped to see if anyone was injured and learned that the driver had fled on foot. At that same time he heard a scraping sound and saw the vehicle from the driving complaint pulling up to the stop sign. Officer Fluhrer approached the vehicle on foot, waving for the driver to stop. The driver turned hard to the right and accelerated, causing a safe to fly off the trailer. Officer Fluhrer ran to his vehicle and followed the vehicle with lights and siren.

A short time later the vehicle rolled in a ditch and the driver fled on foot. Chief McCormick had been advised that Officer Fluhrer needed assistance and responded, arriving shortly after Officer Fluhrer saw the driver head into a yard spot. Chief McCormick observed the driver in what was believed to be a stolen vehicle. The driver fled in the vehicle and a pursuit occurred. The driver lost control and crashed the vehicle outside of Cannon Falls.

During this commotion Mark Norton had walked out to see what was going on and decided to see what the security camera had recorded. The camera showed how the accident occurred, the driver of the classic car attempting to free the vehicle, and then flee on foot east. That information was provided to law enforcement that helped determine that there were two suspects involved in a burglary. That information and providing the video to law enforcement helped to identify the suspect driving the classic car later when apprehended.

Because of the immediate actions by Mark Norton in utilizing the security video system, to look back at what occurred and pass that information along to the Cannon Falls Police Department a second suspect was ultimately linked crashed classic car. The Cannon Falls Police Department is honored to present Mark Norton and SoulFisher Collision and Repair with its Citizen Recognition Award.

Keith Gesme, September 26, 2016 Citizen Recognition Award

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A short time later the vehicle rolled in a ditch and the driver fled on foot. Chief McCormick had been advised that Officer Fluhrer needed assistance and responded, arriving shortly after Officer Fluhrer same the driver head into a yard spot. Chief McCormick observed the driver in what was believed to be a stolen vehicle. The driver fled in the vehicle and a pursuit occurred. The driver lost control and crashed the vehicle outside of Cannon Falls.

Information provided to law enforcement identified a second suspect connected to the incident. After a search by foot and helicopter, the suspect had not been located. Keith Gesme was returning to his residence after giving a person he believed to be stranded a ride south of Cannon Falls. Mr. Gesme thought that all the police activity and the story the male he had given a ride to, do not seem to match. He contacted law enforcement to advise what he knew. Officer Fluhrer arrived at Mr. Gesme's residence and spoke with him. Based on the information Mr. Gesme provided Officer Fluhrer determined that the male was likely the suspect being sought. Mr. Gesme agreed to ride with Officer Fluhrer and show him where the male had been taken. After the male finally surrendered and came out, Mr. Gesme again returned to the location with Officer Fluhrer to identify that it was the same person he had taken there.

As a result of the actions of Keith Gesme, the second suspect in a burglary and string of connected crimes was caught. The Cannon Falls Police Department is honored to present Keith Gesme with its Citizen Recognition Award.

**Chief Jeff McCormick, Officer Marc Fluhrer
Medal of Commendation**

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A short time later the vehicle rolled in a ditch and the driver fled on foot. Chief Jeff McCormick had been advised that Officer Fluhrer needed unknown assistance and had a suspect fleeing on foot. Chief McCormick responded, and while passing the semi and classic car accident he observed a safe on the roadside and determined that the suspect being chased had likely committed a burglary. Officer Fluhrer had pursued the suspect on foot until the suspect went into a wooded area around a yard spot. As Chief McCormick approached the yard spot, he observed the suspect leaving the yard spot in a vehicle. Chief McCormick believed the vehicle was stolen, as the driver was not looking at the squad car with lights and siren, but down the road. Chief McCormick attempted to stop the vehicle, but it accelerated and a pursuit occurred. After driving through Cannon Falls the suspect headed west on Highway 19, the driver lost control and crashed the vehicle outside of Cannon Falls. Officer Fluhrer responded to assist Chief McCormick. From the suspects statements Chief McCormick determined that there was at least one additional person involved and instructed Officer Fluhrer to return to the other location to check for suspects in the other vehicle.

During this commotion Mark Norton had walked out to see what was going on and decided to see what the security camera had recorded. The camera showed how the accident occurred, the driver of the classic car attempting to free the vehicle, and then flee on foot east. That information was provided to law enforcement that helped determine that there were two suspects involved in a burglary. Based on witness information a search by foot and helicopter was conducted, but the other suspect was not located. Keith Gesme was returning to his residence after giving a person he believed to be stranded a ride south of Cannon Falls. Mr. Gesme thought that all the police activity and the story the male he had given a ride to, do not seem to match. He contacted law enforcement to advise what he knew. Officer Fluhrer arrived at Mr.

Gesme's residence and spoke with him. Based on the information Mr. Gesme provided Officer Fluhrer determined that the male was likely the suspect being sought. Mr. Gesme agreed to ride with Officer Fluhrer and show him where the male had been taken. After the male finally surrendered and came out, Mr. Gesme again returned to the location with Officer Fluhrer to identify that it was the same person he had taken there. That information and providing the video to law enforcement helped to identify the suspect driving the classic car later when apprehended.

On September 26, 2016, Chief McCormick was requested to assist Officer Fluhrer with a suspect that was fleeing in a stolen motor vehicle which was involved a burglary. Chief McCormick responded and observed a suspect leaving the scene in a freshly stolen vehicle. Chief McCormick engaged in a high speed pursuit with the suspect. Chief McCormick's quick response to the scene, observations, calm demeanor and ability to consider the larger picture of the situation and give appropriate orders to be taken, resulted in the apprehension of both of the suspects involved. It is for those actions that the Cannon Falls Police Department recognized you and for which I, Lt. Joseph Berg am proud to present you with a Medal of Commendation. A copy of this summary will be placed into your Cannon Falls personal file.

Officer Fluhrer for your role on September 26, 2016 in first checking a motor vehicle crash and quick action in attempting to stop the suspect from a driving complaint. That then fled in the vehicle, and after crashing, fled on foot with you pursuing him. Officer Fluhrer your actions in trying to locate the second suspect helped lead to his apprehension. It is for those actions that the Cannon Falls Police Department recognized you and for which I, Lt. Joseph Berg am proud to present you with a Medal of Commendation. A copy of this summary will be placed into your Cannon Falls personal file.