



Miranda proves her worth in murder case

Miranda, Des Moines Police Department's police dog, may have made the bust of her life when she sniffed down what may be the murder weapon in a shooting death in August.

The shooting occurred early on a Friday morning and two pairs of suspects were arrested over the weekend. On Monday, police gave Miranda the scent from one of the suspect's jackets and set her loose near the scene of the shooting.

She took off down a trail and in 11 minutes found a shotgun and the suspect's hat, both of which may turn out to be key evidence in the case.

Miranda's sharp nose and the fact that she's a purebred Bloodhound is what sets her apart from other dogs used by law enforcement agencies. While a typical K-9 police dog can only trace a scent less than an hour old, Miranda can follow scents 24 hours old. Miranda tracked down the shotgun 80 hours after the shooting, but officers said that was highly unusual even for a Bloodhound.

Miranda has been with the police department for nearly two years, owned and trained by Mitch Barker, Sergeant of Special Operations. Although every once in a while a big case such as finding a murder weapon comes along, most of the time she is used to track missing persons or stolen property.

Barker said she can save searchers a lot of time by giving them the direction of a missing person or suspect, cutting down the area needing to be searched.

While Bloodhounds are commonly used by police agencies in the south and east parts of the country,



Miranda and owner/trainer, Mitch Barker. (Ken Shipley photo)

they are rarely used in Washington. In fact, Miranda is the only police Bloodhound in the state.

Word about her abilities has spread though, and more and more she and her owner are being called in on cases by other area police agencies.

Councilmember needs Waterland buttons for display

City Councilmember Richard Kennedy needs some help from long-time Des Moines citizens in his efforts to put together a complete collection of Waterland Festival buttons.

Kennedy has most of the buttons from the annual festival's

start in 1960 but is missing those from the years 1963 to 1968, and 1978 and 1979. He has some buttons with no dates, and those may cover the missing years but he needs someone to identify which button goes with which year. He also hopes citizens will donate but-

tons from missing years.

Kennedy hopes once completed the Waterland button display can be permanently placed at City Hall. Kennedy can be contacted through City Hall, 878-4595.

DES MOINES DIRECTORY

City Hall, 21630 11th Ave. So., 878-4595

Business Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

City Council - 878-4595

Frank Jovanovich, Mayor
Bob Wray, Mayor Pro Tem
Audrey Bowers
Richard Kennedy
Carmen Scott
Scott Thomasson
Don Wasson

Administration - 878-4595

Greg Prothman, City Manager
Bob Olander, Assistant City Manager
James Gorham, City Attorney
Betty Hayes, Finance Director
Denis Staab, City Clerk

Planning/Engineering/Parks/Public Works - 878-8626

Eric Shields, Planning Director
Dale Schroeder, City Engineer
Jim Sempek, Building Official
Frank Olson, Supt. of Public Works
Jon Jainga, Parks Supervisor

Police Department

878-3301 Business - 911 Emergency
Martin Pratt, Chief

Fire District No. 26

878-2210 Business - 911 Emergency
Bob Arnold, Chief

Des Moines Senior Center - 878-1642

Karen Marshall, Supervisor

Des Moines Marina - 824-5700

Jesse Cadena, Harbormaster

Des Moines Library - 824-6066

Mike McNamara, Librarian

Look for the
next issue of
Des Moines City Currents
in January

Updated Comprehensive Plan will guide future development

The city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is being updated to better reflect current and future land use policies.

The Comprehensive Plan, which serves as a guide for development in the city, was last updated 10 years ago.

"We're taking a close look at what has changed in the last 10 years," explained Planning Director Eric Shields. "We're bringing land-use policies up to date and to better reflect current attitudes about growth and development." City planners aren't alone in this sizeable task. A citizens committee has been formed and is hard at work examining the plan and proposing changes.

Comprehensive plans took on a new importance following passage of the State Growth Management Act by the 1990 Legislature. The Act mandates that cities and counties must have a comprehensive plan, and that all zoning decisions on growth and development must be consistent with the plan.

"It becomes more than a guideline," said Shields. "It's a code and we intend to use it as a meaningful document." He added that some past zoning decisions have contradicted the Comprehensive Plan.

Shields said the main focus of the plan will be to preserve and protect single family neighborhoods, while still allowing multi-family and business development. Part of the updating process includes identifying different neighborhoods and districts and developing plans for each.

One of the biggest changes will be in a section of the city under the flight path of Sea-Tac Airport. Those 50 acres in the city and 100 acres outside the city but within its planning area are now zoned for single family. If approved by the

'We're taking a close look at what has changed in the last 10 years'

- Eric Shields
Planning Director

City Council, that acreage would be designated for business park development in the Comprehensive Plan, allowing such uses as offices, research and development, and limited warehousing.

A long-range district plan and new zoning regulations for this area are now before the City Council for approval. The district plan guides future growth, limiting types of uses, regulating traffic and creating buffer areas. The zoning regulations address requirements for landscaping, architecture, parking and access.

The overall update of the Comprehensive Plan is being conducted in segments, each of which must go before the Planning Agency and City Council for approval. Those segments are conservation, general planning, land use, urban design, public facilities and housing.

The city already has adopted the conservation and general planning segments, and this fall will take action on the land use segment. The process of updating the Comprehensive Plan may not be completed until 1992.

Citizens welcome

The Des Moines City Council welcomes citizens to attend regular meetings of the council. Meetings are held the first, second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at City Hall, 21630 11th Ave. S.



Voters to decide open space tax proposal Nov. 6

On Nov. 6, voters throughout King County are being asked to authorize a 1 percent real estate excise tax for purchase of open space and parks. King County officials estimate this would generate \$70 million annually county-wide. After 10 years the program and tax would sunset.

The Proposition 21 plan allocates 55 percent of the funds for incorporated and designated urban unincorporated areas, 35 percent for rural natural lands, and 10 percent for creation of a maintenance endowment fund.

Des Moines' share of \$450,000 annually would be used to purchase needed open space, greenbelts and future park property.

While proponents point out the tremendous need for acquiring park and open space, opponents are concerned about adding to the cost of new home purchases.

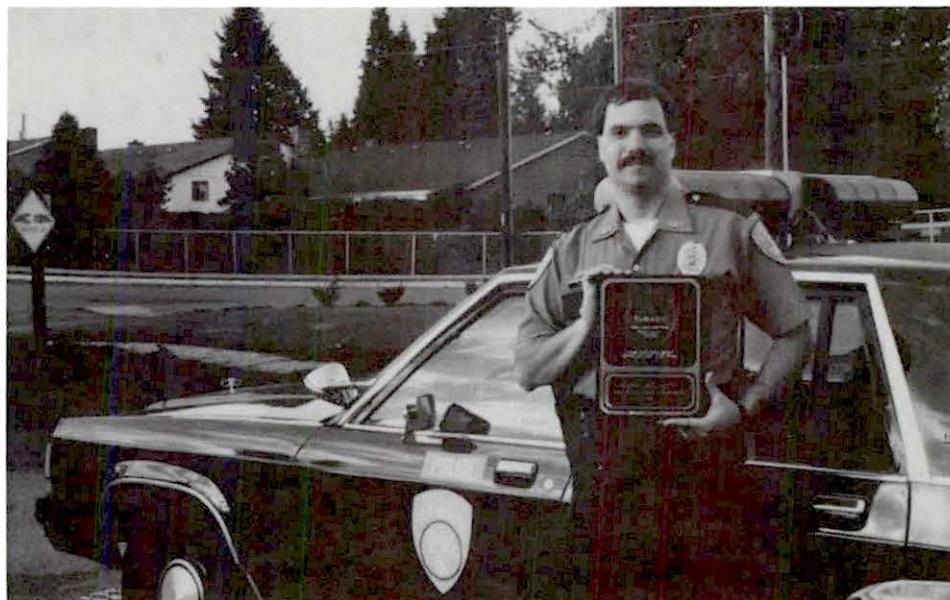
Local realtors indicate a 1 percent tax for buyers would significantly increase the cash downpayment required, pricing more people out of the home-buying market.

According to one realtor, an average FHA loan on a \$125,000 home purchase currently requires the buyer to come up with \$8,125 in cash for down payment and closing. A 1 percent increase adds \$1,250 to this requirement, amounting to a 15 percent increase in cash required.

Advocates of Proposition 21 counter that they are requesting the state Legislature to modify the authorizing law in 1991 by adding an exemption for low and moderate income home purchases.

While the Des Moines City Council has not taken a position on this proposition, council members urge Des Moines voters to become fully informed on this issue and to vote on Nov. 6.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. election day.



OFFICER HONORED - Des Moines police officer Doug Jenkins was recently awarded a plaque by King County Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for his outstanding work in arresting drunk drivers. Jenkins lead the Des Moines department in DWI arrests in 1989.

Senior Center expands nutrition program to five days a week

The Des Moines Senior Center has expanded its nutrition program to five days, meaning area seniors can get a good, nutritional lunch, enjoy each other's company and listen to music and special speakers Monday through Friday.

The lunch program was expanded from three days to five days in early September. Monday has a music program, Tuesday and Thursday special speakers, and Wednesday and Friday socializing.

Lunches are \$1.75 (donation) and are served at noon. Reservations are not necessary. Transportation to the Senior Center is provid-

ed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and those needing rides should call one day in advance. Seniors can call for a program schedule and menu.

Senior Center Director Karen Marshall encourages residents to bring their parents and grandparents to the Senior Center for the lunches. "It's a great way to socialize, meet people in the area and get a good meal," she said.

The lunch program is run by volunteers, and more volunteer help is always needed. Call the Senior Center at 878-1642. The Center is at 22030 Cliff Ave.

Des Moines history book still on sale

The popular history book about Des Moines, published for last year's city centennial, can still be purchased.

The 316-page book, "100 Years of the Waterland Community - A History of Des Moines,

Washington", contains more than 100 historical photos and was written by volunteers.

It can be purchased for \$10 at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce or at Jack's Drive-Up Pharmacy.

Marine View Drive, 7th Avenue South

Design work begins on downtown road projects

Funding is finally in place, and design work is beginning on the long-awaited road improvement projects downtown.

Marine View Drive and 7th Avenue South both will become full three-lane arterials, with curbs, sidewalks, gutters and street lighting. In addition, the portion of Des Moines Memorial Drive that crosses Des Moines Creek ravine at the northern entrance to the downtown district will be widened with a new access route to 7th Avenue South.

Downtown traffic congestion will be alleviated, it is hoped, by having the two arterials carrying traffic. Transportation planners point out that this project will

only ease congestion and not end it entirely.

The project is the result of years of study and debate over what to do about downtown traffic congestion.

Plans for one-way streets and widening Marine View Drive to five lanes were considered and rejected, but the City Council last year did approve the plan for three lanes (north, south and a center turning lane) on Marine View Drive and 7th Avenue South.

The project will take two to three years to complete, with construction of the first phase, 7th Avenue South, to begin next spring. Widening the road

crossing over Des Moines Creek ravine is expected to take a year. The final phase will be the new widening and improvements on Marine View Drive.

The \$6.2 million project is being largely funded by the state, since Marine View Drive is a state road. Des Moines' share is \$1.5 million.

Did you know...

Fred Meyer receipts can be saved to help acquire Apple computers for schools. Call your nearest school to see if they are participating.

Des Moines

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