North Myrtle Beach Detective Joel McGartin Receives the North Strand Optimist Club’s Cal Leonard Police Officer of the Year Award

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC — On May 18, the North Strand Optimist Club presented the Cal Leonard Police Officer of the Year award to North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Detective Joel McGartin.

Detective McGartin was presented with the award for his hard work and dedication to the department’s Investigation Division. Since rotating into the division a year ago, he has taken on a full case load and has cleared an outstanding number of cases.

Also, the North Myrtle Public Safety Department lost its Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) operator a year ago and, until Detective McGartin’s arrival in the Investigative Division, the department had been using other agencies to handle all latent print entries into the AFIS system. Not everyone has the special skills needed to become an AFIS operator. Detective McGartin demonstrated...
that he has the skills and showed an interest in this side of investigations. During the past year, and with only one AFIS class completed, he has had over 22 AFIS hits, all from felony cases.

Detective McGartin takes great pride in every aspect of his job and is always willing to help other officers when needed.

The Cal Leonard Police Officer of the Year Award is named after North Strand Optimist Club charter member Cal Leonard, who passed away in 2004. He was a minister, and he served as the North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Department’s first chaplain. The North Strand Optimist Club presents the Cal Leonard Police Officer of the Year award each May during Optimist Law Enforcement Month.

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