



March Highlights

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2008

New Castle County Police Department

County Police Link Three Suspects to Crime Spree

60 Cars (Windows) Damaged by BB Gun

New Castle County Detectives have linked three suspects to a crime spree that spanned several days and cost innocent victims thousands of dollars collectively. All three suspects were responsible for damaging more than 60 vehicles by shooting out windows using a BB gun. The crimes occurred over a five day period beginning on the first of March. The suspects targeted cars in the following communities: Sycamore Gardens, Newkirk Estates, Windy Hills, Harmony Woods and Robscott Manor.

(Newark, DE) On Saturday (3/1) County Police began receiving multiple reports of damaged vehicle windows in the communities of Sycamore Gardens and Newkirk Estates. Throughout the day, police received a total of 17 reported cars that were damaged (overnight) by individuals firing projectiles from a BB gun. In response to the complaints, a crime alert was posted on the New Castle County Police Portal System for all officers to view and additional officers were assigned to patrol the areas. Crime maps were also disseminated.

On March 4th, the suspects relocated to the community of Harmony Woods where at least four car (windows) were damaged by a BB gun. During the morning hours between 1:30 and 4:00 a.m., County Police began receiving multiple reports of damaged vehicle windows in all five of the aforementioned communities. Approximately 40 damaged cars have been reported to police within a 24 hour period.

County Police detectives subsequently launched a joint investigation with the Newark Police Department as they too had received multiple reports of criminal mischief incidents involving windows that had been shot out by a BB gun. In one case, a witness reported seeing a small silver four door vehicle with a loud muffler fleeing the scene of a crime that occurred in Newark. Due to the extensive media coverage, police began receiving multiple crime tips detailing possible suspects.

Detectives Thomas Orzechowski and Seth Polk of the Criminal Investigations Unit were assigned the case and spent countless hours over the following several weeks researching tips from concerned citizens. Some of the crime tips led police to three subjects. As a result of the investigation, detectives linked two Newark area teens and one 20 year old woman to these cases. Both of the below listed subjects and the 16 year old youth were charged by County Police with 62 counts of criminal mischief and 62 counts of conspiracy.



John P. Wittmer



Deanna C. Scatasti

Drug Trafficking and Child Endangerment

New Castle County Police have arrested two Bear residents and one Newark woman for drug and child endangerment charges when they were all found with various quantities of drugs in the presence of a one year old child.

On Wednesday (3/26) at 2:00 p.m., officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team responded to the unit block of Monferrato Court in reference to anonymous complaints about possible illegal drug activity.

As officers approached the home with a search warrant, they encountered Danielle Schiavo (27) inside her vehicle in the driveway. Schiavo was detained and officers discovered she had a small amount of marijuana in her possession. It was also apparent that Schiavo had just finished smoking marijuana inside the aforementioned vehicle with a one year old child in her presence.

The child belonged to the homeowners, who were immediately detained and identified as Paul Rigano (25), and Ashley Smarro (20). Officers entered the home and served the search warrant where they discovered 330 grams (1/4 Kilo) of powder cocaine, drug paraphernalia and \$1,508 in suspected drug money.

Rigano and Smarro were subsequently charged with trafficking in cocaine, possession with intent to deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling, maintaining a vehicle, conspiracy, endangering the welfare of a child, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Schiavo, of the 2300 block of Milton Place, was charged with maintaining a vehicle, endangering the welfare of a child, and possession of marijuana.

All three subjects were arraigned on their respective charges. Rigano was committed to the Howard Young Correctional Center when he failed to post \$517,000 bail. Smarro was committed to the Baylor Women's Correctional Center when she failed to post \$517,000 bail, and Schiavo was released on \$1,500 bail.



Photograph of 1/4 Kilo of cocaine

Suspect Charged with Attempted Murder

New Castle County Police arrested **Hector Negron**, a 27 year old male who resides in the 100 block of N. Connell Street in Wilmington. He has been charged with attempted murder and related offenses stemming from his involvement in an attempted robbery and shooting that resulted in the injury of a victim and subsequent shooting death of his co-conspirator.

On February 13, 2008, New Castle County Detectives investigated a homicide that occurred in the unit block of Virginia Avenue (Naamans Trailer Park). The investigation revealed a 30 year old male (Myron Williams) was found deceased inside the trailer having suffered fatal gunshot wounds.

During the course of the investigation, detectives from the County Police, officers from Upper and Lower Chichester Police Departments and officers from the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force discovered three men were hiding inside a residence approximately ½ mile north on Sterling Avenue in Pennsylvania. Investigators learned the men were inside the trailer when the shooting occurred and one of the subjects had possibly suffered gunshot wounds.

As the investigators surrounded the home, two male subjects ran out of the back of the residence and were taken into custody by the awaiting officers. The third male subject was found inside the home suffering from a gunshot wound to the hand and lower body. He was taken to the Crozier Chester Hospital for treatment.

The investigation has revealed the three men were actually victims of an attempted robbery that occurred inside the Virginia Avenue home. Detectives discovered Hector Negron and Myron Williams entered the residence armed with handguns with the intent to rob the occupants. During the attempted robbery, one of the victims tried to disarm Myron Williams at which time the weapon discharged striking him (the victim) in the hand. As they continued to struggle, the weapon fell to the floor at which time the one of the victims retrieved the gun and shot Williams.

Meanwhile, Negron exchanged gunfire with the victims at which time he sustained a gunshot wound to his upper leg. He was able to flee the home and was later transported to the Wilmington Hospital where he claimed to have been shot during a bogus attempted robbery in the city.

After completing dozens of interviews, detectives consulted with the Attorney General's Office and determined Hector Negron should be charged with the following offenses: attempted murder in the first degree, attempted robbery in the first degree, two counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, burglary in the first degree, three counts of reckless endangering in the first degree, wearing a disguise during the commission of a felony, conspiracy in the first degree, and possession of a deadly weapon by a person prohibited.

On Friday (3/7), detectives and officers from the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force responded to several locations in an attempt to locate Negron. He was located near a residence on S. Grant Avenue in the City of Wilmington attempting to flee on crutches. He was taken into custody without incident. Negron was also charged by the Wilmington Police Department with falsely reporting an incident.

Three Arrested in Stolen Car, Drugs Seized

New Castle County Police arrested two teenage females and a 20 year old male who were found to be operating a stolen car in the community of Rosegate. On Wednesday (3/5), officers from the Special Operations Division were assigned a patrol operation in the Rosegate community. At 6:20 p.m., the officers observed a vehicle enter the community. A computer inquiry revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen from Wilmington.

The officers stopped the car on Revis Avenue and discovered a 17 year old female was operating the vehicle. She and her two passengers were each arrested without incident. Inside the vehicle, officers found a small amount of marijuana and nine Percocet pills in the pocket of one of the occupants.

The driver, who resides in the 800 block of N. Monroe Street, was arrested and charged with (felony) receiving stolen property, conspiracy, possession of marijuana, driving without a license and additional traffic offenses. She was arraigned and released on \$4,700 unsecured bail.

Dashawn Burton, a 20 year old male who resides in the unit block of Rose Lane, was charged with receiving stolen property (felony), conspiracy, possession of marijuana, and possession of a narcotic (Percocet). He was arraigned and released on \$4,000 unsecured bail.

Melanie Williams, an 18 year old female who resides in the 900 block of E. 24th Street, was charged with (felony) receiving stolen property, conspiracy, and possession of marijuana. She was arraigned and released on \$3,000 unsecured bail.

Serial Burglars Arrested

New Castle County Police arrested two North Wilmington men after linking them to a series of nine residential burglaries that occurred in and around the community of Bellefonte.

During the first few weeks of March, detectives from the Criminal Investigations Unit began to notice an increase in residential burglaries in and around the town of Bellefonte. As a result of a forensic evidence analysis, two individuals who reside in the area were developed as suspects. They were identified as **Michael Rebock** (33) and **Christopher McDowell** (24).

Investigators executed a search warrant at the home that the two suspects shared in the 1000 block of Bellevue Avenue in the same community. Property belonging to several of the victims was recovered, thereby linking both suspects to the burglaries.

Detectives from the Evidence Detection Unit were instrumental in assisting with developing the two men as suspects. The rest of the investigation was completed by property squad detectives who were able to link the suspects to the crimes.

Rebock and McDowell were each charged with nine counts of second degree burglary, nine counts of felony theft, nine counts of felony conspiracy, and five counts of criminal mischief. They were both committed to the Howard Young Correctional Center when they each failed to post \$41,500 bail.



Teens Arrested, Charged with Attempted Burglary

New Castle County Police arrested two teenage males for attempted burglary and related offenses after a concerned citizen reported witnessing a burglary in progress.

On Monday (3/10) at 1:15 p.m., County Police responded to a residence in the unit block of S. Woodward Avenue, in the community of Roselle, for a report of a burglary in progress. A witness reported seeing two male subjects attempting to gain entry into a neighboring home. As police were en route to the scene, the witness reported the subjects had fled after they discovered the neighbors were watching the crime unfold. Multiple police units established a perimeter and searched the area. Officer William Yeldell observed two subjects walking in the community who fit the description of the fleeing suspects. Both subjects were taken into custody after police confirmed they were responsible for attempting to break into the home. Officers also found the teens were in possession of gloves, a pry bar, screwdrivers and other burglar's tools.



Officer William Yeldell

Police have charged the following suspects with attempted burglary, possession of burglar's tools and conspiracy: **David Ramirez**, a 17 year old male who resides in the 1500 block of Bonwood Road in Wilmington and **Shaka Roberson**, an 18 year old male who resides in the 900 block of E. 27th Street in Wilmington. Roberson was arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$8,000 secured bail. Ramirez was also charged with possession of marijuana after officials found he had attempted to smuggle contraband into the New Castle County Detention Center by concealing a small package of marijuana in his buttocks. His bail was set at \$12,000 secured.

Victim Shot in Crowded Bowling Alley, Dies in Hospital

New Castle County Detectives are investigating the shooting death of a 19 year old Wilmington man who was killed following a shooting at the First State Bowling Alley.

On Sunday (3/1) at 12:45 a.m., County Police responded to the establishment, located at 25 Kiwanis Drive in Wilmington, for a report of a fight in progress with "shots fired." When police and paramedics arrived, they discovered a male victim was transported from the scene to the Wilmington Hospital in a privately owned vehicle after he sustained a gunshot wound to the torso. He was later transported to the Christiana Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. Unfortunately, the victim died at 5:53 this morning.

The investigation has revealed two groups of patrons engaged in a dispute inside the bowling alley that led to a physical fight between two individuals. A third subject then brandished a handgun and fired a shot into the crowd striking the victim once in the torso. Witnesses at the scene have described a black male was responsible for the shooting.

Detectives are presently interviewing witnesses, but have not yet identified the suspect. The victim has been identified as **Stephon Owens**, a 19 year old male who resides in the 200 block of West 24th Street in Wilmington.

Suspicious Man Found with Stolen Copper

During the past several months, New Castle County Police have investigated a series of thefts of copper that have occurred at various locations throughout the county. Most recently, Officer Gary Truver arrested **David Banet** and charged him with theft and criminal mischief when he was found with a backpack full of stolen copper wire.

On Saturday (3/15) at 1:00 p.m., Officer Gary Truver responded to the area of Boxwood Road in the neighborhood of Bestfield for the report of a suspicious person. A concerned citizen called 911 and described a man who appeared to be cutting the copper grounding wires from many of the telephone poles in the area.



Officers responded to the scene and began searching the area of the suspect. Officer Truver came upon the subject, who was found walking in the immediate area. He was detained and questioned about his presence in the area. The suspect was identified as David Banet, a residence of the 800 block of Maryland Avenue in Wilmington. Police discovered he was in possession of a backpack that had several lengths of copper wire inside. Banet was arrested at the scene and linked to at least eight damaged telephone poles in the immediate vicinity. Banet was charged with multiple offenses and released on \$1,000 bond pending his appearance in court at a later date.



Officer Gary Truver

County Police receives accreditation for 6th time



On Monday, March 17, 2008, Colonel Gregory and Executive Chris Coons hosted a press conference at police headquarters to announce the agency's successful bid for reaccreditation. After 20 straight years, the agency has received accreditation by CALEA for the sixth time. The lead assessor proclaimed, "New Castle County is a world class organization," this year at a CALEA conference in Atlanta, Georgia. According to Lieutenant Harden, the reaccreditation process had been changed and this was the first time that we were accredited under this format. "This was a team effort, no one person is responsible for our successful reaccreditation bid." After a review of 450 standards, only three were sent back for review by the assessors. The Accreditation Team knew the process was going well when the assessors began to spend less time in the files and more time speaking with members of the agency. According to Colonel Gregory, "I am very proud of the Accreditation Team and the entire department for the momentous achievement."



Congratulations to our recently retired employees



Ms. Faye Wiesinger retired on March 29, 2008. She was originally hired by New Castle County on September 5, 1972 as a secretary for Parks and Recreation. She was later transferred to the Administrative Services (transportation division) in 1986, before moving to the police department (Criminal Investigations Unit) on September 17, 1990. Faye says, "I'll be spending a lot of time at the beach this summer and then I don't know what I'm going to do." She recently began playing pool in a pool league and is looking forward to fishing when the weather gets warmer. She said she will miss "you all" and will be back to visit soon.



Corporal Brian Daly retired in March of 2008. He was originally hired on March 19, 1984. During his tenure, Brian worked in patrol for 21 years before being transferred to the United States Marshal's Task Force in February 2005. Brian accepted a position with the Attorney General's Office as a criminal investigator the following day after his retirement. According to Brian, "There is life after the county—I am enjoying my career as an investigator. I am not used to day work just yet and miss the three days off between shifts."



Corporal Kevin Cassidy retired in March of 2008. He was originally hired on March 1, 1982. During his tenure, Kevin worked in patrol until 1994 when he was transferred to the Traffic Services Unit. He spent two different tours in TSU until he was transferred back to patrol in 2006. Kevin now does "due diligence" work for a private company that ensures overseas companies are complying with the Patriot Act. He said it is "pleasant" to be off weekends and holidays, but he too is finding it challenging to adjust to a regular schedule. He has re-joined his hockey team, but injured his shoulder in the second week. He also recently purchased a new surfboard and wet suit that he plans on using at his beach house at the Jersey Shore.