



County Police Ink

August 2009

New Castle County Police Department

What's Inside

- Robbery and Graffiti Arrests
- Ice cream truck driver arrested
- Homicide investigation
- Promotions

Colonel Gregory promoted to CAO



Colonel Gregory speaks with Paul Sweeney's granddaughter during memorial service

NEW CASTLE — Police Chief Rick Gregory has resigned his position as Colonel with the division of police and has been promoted to the number two position in New Castle County Government, Chief Administrative Officer. For the past three years, Colonel Gregory has served with distinction as a chief who led by example, who treated people fair, and worked virtually everyday without taking a single vacation. His engaging personality, humor and unique ability to get the job done during financially challenging times will be missed. Although he is assuming a much larger role, Gregory will not be too far from the public safety building as he will remain the acting director of public safety. Prior to his departure, one of Chief Gregory's last duties as Colonel was filling several open promotional positions, which by all accounts, was a positive and well received selection of officers. This eclectic group of supervisors will shape the leadership of the agency and soon begin creating their own legacy. In late August, Colonel Gregory promoted the following officers: Major Michael McGowan, Major Mark Hitch, Captain Robert Becker, Lieutenant Ruben Martinez, Lieutenant John Treadwell, Lieutenant Wendi Feeser, Sergeant Joseph Bloch, Sergeant Gustavo Zeissig, Sergeant Diane Smith, and Sergeant Jason Atallian. A special congratulations is due Ruben Martinez. For the first time in the history of the New Castle County Police Department, Ruben Martinez is the first Hispanic to rise to the rank of lieutenant. Major Michael McGowan has assumed the role of acting chief of police until such time as a permanent replacement is chosen. According to Major McGowan, "While we are sad to see Colonel Gregory depart, we look forward to working with him in his new role as Chief Administrative Officer. Colonel Gregory brought with him a new and fresh perspective that enriched the culture of NCCPD. We thank him for that and wish him the best in all his future endeavors."

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Canine graduation goes to the dogs

Colonel Rick Gregory and Senior Corporal Mark Tobin co-hosted a police canine graduation ceremony on Wednesday afternoon (8/19) at the Delaware Technical and Community College in Stanton. After 15 grueling weeks of training in the summer heat, Senior Corporal Mark Tobin declared and certified the graduates as "fit for duty." A team of five police canines and their handlers have completed their training and received their certification through the National Police Canine Association and the New Castle County Police Department. All of the canines are narcotic, patrol and tracking certified. As part of the certification process, each canine and handler completed 300 successful "narcotic hides" and had extensive training in tracking and aggression. The graduates are: Officer First Class Christopher Sarnecky and canine "Diablo." Officer First Class Steven Donahue and canine "Monty." Middletown Officer Mark Miller and canine "Nitro." Havre de Grace Corporal Joseph Cooper and canine "Zigo." Havre de Grace Officer Brian Daniels and canine "Benny."



Officer Christopher Sarnecky and "Diablo"

Two Men Charged with Homicide, One Remains at Large

Detectives have arrested two men for the murder of Clifford Deshawn Steed, an 18 year old male who was slain during an armed robbery on July 28, in the Georgetown Village Apartments. As a result of countless hours of interviews, evidence collection, and follow-up investigations, two out of the three robbery and murder suspects have been arrested and charged with the following offenses: murder in the first degree, two counts of conspiracy, robbery in the first degree and conspiracy. Both men have been arraigned and are being held without bail pending further court proceedings. "Although overall crime is down in New Castle County, robberies that transition into shootings are occurring far too often. This homicide has had a profound effect on this neighborhood that ultimately led to a number of reported crime tips. We applaud the community cooperation and the tremendous efforts of our investigators who worked tirelessly to solve this complex case," said Chief Rick Gregory. The investigation has revealed that the three possible suspects were patrons at the 7-11 Store just prior to the robbery and shooting. Detectives were able to recover the surveillance video from the business as other investigators continued to interview witnesses. As result of multiple interviews, the street names of "Sticks" and "Lil" were developed as possible suspects. A computer inquiry (that links to a nickname database) revealed the true identities of both suspects who were later positively linked to the murder of Clifford Steed. The suspects have been identified as: **Tavaughn Crosell**, a 17 year old male who resides in the unit block of Fairway Road in Newark and **Charles Ringgold**, a 20 year old male who resides in the unit block of Bradley Drive in Newark. Crosell was arrested on Friday (7/31) at his home by SWAT officers. Ringgold was arrested at his mother's home (2600 block of N. Market Street in Wilmington) later Friday also by SWAT officers. The third suspect has been identified as Khary Knight. He is presently still wanted for murder.

Two Charged in Home Invasion

County Police arrested two males for forcing their way into a Pike Creek home, then accosting the male homeowner and assaulting him before they removed a 50 inch television set and a digital camera. On Monday (8/3) at 7:00 p.m., County Police responded to the Pepper Ridge Townhouses, for a report of a home invasion that just occurred. The investigation has revealed the victim was inside his home when he heard someone calling his name on the first floor of his townhouse. When the victim walked to the door, he was confronted by two male subjects who had entered his home without permission. The two suspects inquired about an alleged debt owed to them by the victim and then proceeded to steal items from inside the home. The victim was shoved to the side by the two suspects as they stole a 50 inch television set (\$2,200) and a digital camera (\$850) from the home. The victim identified the suspects as Matthew Todd and David Robison who both reside in The Bluffs Apartments. Police then responded to their home and recovered the victim's stolen property from Robison's apartment. Matthew Todd (27) and David Robison (30) have each been arrested and charged with robbery related offenses.

Ice Cream Truck Driver Charged with Selling Counterfeit Movies

Police have arrested Ali Nasser, a 40 year old male who resides in the 2100 block of Glendale Avenue in Philadelphia. He has been charged with selling counterfeit CD's and DVD's after an alert officer observed him selling more than ice cream from his Jack and Jill truck. On Wednesday (8/5), Officer Cliff Allen was patrolling the Edgemoor Gardens area as part of a foot patrol assignment. At 4:05 p.m., Officer Allen's attention was captured by a parked Jack and Jill ice cream truck that had several customers waiting in line to be served. He became curious when he noticed several patrons walking away from the vehicle carrying items that were clearly not ice cream. Officer Allen contacted one of the patrons who was in possession of a DVD movie that is presently in movie theaters. Officer Allen followed the truck for a moment and pulled the driver over as it was leaving the community. He immediately observed a box of DVD's and CD's on display. His investigation revealed the driver was selling counterfeit DVD's and CD's to the patrons in the community. A further search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of 212 counterfeit CD's and 67 DVD's. All of the illegal items were recovered from the vehicle as well as \$382 in cash. Ali Nasser has been arrested and charged with improper labeling of a trademarked item and two counts of manufacturing or distributing counterfeit DVD's and CD's.



Officer Cliff Allen

Police Canine Apprehends Burglary Suspect

County Police have arrested **Donald Cope**, a 40 year old male who resides in the 200 block of Clayton Avenue in Wilmington. He has been charged with burglary related offenses after he broke into a Gwinhurst home and was later apprehended by a police canine. On Sunday (8/30) at 8:20 p.m., County Police responded to a residence in the unit block of Laurel Avenue for a report of two victims who were being threatened by a known male subject. When police arrived, they contacted the victims who reported Donald Cope had responded to the home and wanted to stay with the female victim (a former girlfriend). When the victim refused, Cope threatened both the female and her boyfriend before fleeing the area on a stolen bicycle. Police searched the area, but Cope had already fled. About two hours later, Cope returned to the home and broke into a basement window forcing the victims to flee in fear to a neighboring residence to call 911. Police again responded to the home, but Cope had fled (this time on foot).

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Suspect Flees Officers after Traffic Stop, Arrested after Tossing Loaded Handgun

County Police have arrested **Duran Lewis**, a 29 year old male who resides in the City of Wilmington. He has been charged with felony and drug violations after he ran from police during a traffic stop and later found to be in possession of a loaded gun, crack cocaine and marijuana. On Wednesday (8/5), officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team responded to the area of Lexington Green and Smalleys Dam Road area to address quality of life issues in the community. At 7:30 p.m., the officers observed a gold colored Kia Sorento fail to stop for a stop sign on Freedom Drive at Smalley's Dam Road. The officers stopped the car for the violation and were removing the occupants from the vehicle when (Lewis) ran off. As the officers chased him, they observed Lewis throw a black colored handgun to the ground. The officers eventually caught up to the fleeing suspect and took him into custody after a brief struggle. Lewis was found to be in possession of several bags of crack cocaine and a single bag of marijuana. The officers also located the gun and discovered the weapon (Glock 19 9mm) had a fully loaded magazine. Lewis was arrested and charged with the following offenses: possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, carrying a concealed deadly weapon, tampering with evidence, resisting arrest, possession with the intent to deliver cocaine, and possession of marijuana.

Officer Encounters Robbery Suspect

New Castle County and the Delaware State Police have arrested **Naim Al-Amin**, a 22 year old male who resides in the unit block of Phoebe Farms Lane in the Woods at Bayview community. He has been charged with robbery after he stole food from the Wawa Store and assaulted a clerk while attempting to flee. On Thursday (8/6) at 1:00 a.m., Officer Joseph Wyka responded to the Wawa store, located in the Beaver Brook Plaza, to purchase a beverage. As he pulled into the parking lot, he encountered a frantic employee who reported he had just been assaulted by a male subject who had stolen food from the store. The victim, who was suffering from multiple contusions about his face, pointed to a male subject who was running off toward the rear of the shopping center. Officer Wyka chased the subject and was able to catch up to him as he attempted to scale a fence in the construction area in the rear of the shopping center. The suspect initially complied with the officer's commands to get off the fence, but suddenly turned and started walking toward Wyka in a menacing fashion. After several verbal commands to surrender were ignored, Wyka deployed his Taser and the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect, Naim Al-Amin, was charged by County Police with resisting arrest and then turned over to the Delaware State Police who charged him with one count of robbery. Al-Amin was later committed to the Howard Young Prison.

Teen Charged with Painting Graffiti on the Smith Covered Bridge

County Police have arrested **Marshall Williams**, an 18 year old male who resides in the 100 block of Lovelace Road in New Castle. He has been charged with one count each of graffiti and conspiracy after police linked him to the spray paint "tagging" on the Smith Covered Bridge in Centerville. On July 3, 2009, the Delaware State Police arrested Marshall Williams and three other teens for "tagging" an Exxon gas station on Concord Pike. Corporal Vince Harris (New Castle County Police) responded to the location of the arrest and interviewed the suspects regarding crimes that occurred in New Castle County. Based on the interviews, Harris discovered Marshall Williams used the "tags" Yoda, Panic, and Panik in the past.



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Corporal Vince Harris

Two Charged with Attempted Burglary

New Castle County Police have arrested two male subjects for burglary related offenses after an alert citizen called 911 to report that the two suspects had just attempted to break into a neighboring home. Both men, who were previously ordered to have no contact with each other (stemming from another burglary arrest in July), were arrested after police located their car after they fled the crime scene. On Wednesday (8/12) at 1:30 p.m., County Police responded to a residence in the 3200 block of Coachmans Road for a report of an attempted burglary that just occurred. When officers arrived, they contacted the concerned neighbor who reported seeing two male subjects parking a car near his home. The subjects then got out of the car and walked to the neighboring property where they rang the doorbell. After receiving no answer, the subjects walked to the side garage door area and attempted to force open the lock before fleeing when they noticed they were being watched. They ran back to the car and fled (black Nissan Maxima) out of the neighborhood. Officer James Allison, while responding to the community, observed the vehicle traveling on Shipley Road near Silverside Road. Officer Allison was able to catch up to the car and pull it over. Both occupants indicated they had just left a local gym, although neither subject was wearing gym clothes. The subjects were arrested after they were linked to the attempted burglary and found to be in possession of black gloves that were worn during the crime. Both men were charged with the following offenses: attempted burglary, possession of burglar's tools, conspiracy and non-compliance with a court order.



Officer James Allison

Traffic Stop Leads to Discovery of Two Guns

County Police have arrested three suspects for felony weapon offenses after they were stopped for committing a traffic violation and later found to be in possession of a handgun and double barrel shotgun. On Thursday (8/13) at 11:29 p.m., Officers Sonia Trudeau and Benjamin Paris were patrolling the area of Songsmith Drive and Highland Way when they observed a black Honda Accord fail to use a turn signal. The officers stopped the car for the violation and asked the operator for the car's registration and insurance card. The driver then reached into the glove box and only opened it wide enough to fit his hand inside. The officers immediately observed a small silver handgun inside and then took the subjects into custody. After securing all three occupants, the officers searched the car and found the following additional items: a double barrel shotgun, a black full face ski mask, and latex gloves. The driver, **Lamar Massas** (20) and male passenger **Miguel Taylor** were each charged with two counts of carrying a concealed deadly weapon, two counts of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, and conspiracy. Massas was also charged with failure to signal before turning, no proof insurance and driving while suspended. The other passenger (female) has been identified as **Brianna Gallman** (19). She was charged with two counts of carrying a concealed deadly weapon and conspiracy.



Officer Sonia Trudeau

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Corporal Joseph Krajewski and his canine partner "Eros" responded to the scene and began tracking Cope along the back of Holly Oak Manor. Canine Eros located Cope as he tried to hide behind a set of stairs on Jill Court. He was arrested after a brief struggle with police. Cope has been charged with burglary, resisting arrest, theft and two counts of terroristic threatening. He was later arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$17,000 secured bail.



Corporal Joseph Krajewski

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Harris's investigation led him to the Smith Covered Bridge, located in the 1000 block of Smith Bridge Road. Inside the bridge, Harris discovered at least two tags belonging to Williams. Harris later executed a search warrant at his home on Lovelace Road and recovered additional evidence that linked him to the crime. Williams was arrested on Sunday (8/09) and charged with the aforementioned offenses. He was later arraigned and released on \$500 unsecured bail. Williams was also ordered to not possess spray paint or any other items commonly used for graffiti.

Congratulations to the following officers who were promoted in August 2009



Lieutenant Ruben Martinez



Lieutenant John Treadwell



Lieutenant Wendi Feeser



Sergeant Jason Atallian



Sergeant Joseph Bloch



Sergeant Diane Smith



Sergeant Gustavo Zeissig

Significant Crime Recap August 2009

Pepper Ridge TH

Sunday 8/2/09

District 9-Sheldon

Summary: (Reported home invasion) Two adult male suspects forcibly entered the victim's home in the 4900 block of Tupelo Turn through an unsecured door. The suspects called out to the victim and said they were there to collect money that was owed to them. When the victim told them that he did not have any money, the suspects proceeded to steal items from the victim's home. Both suspects were identified and later arrested.

Rockwood Apts.

Monday 8/3/09 1830

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Attempted robbery) A 26 year old male victim had reportedly won \$3500.00 at Dover Downs. While in the facility, a male subject struck up a conversation with the victim. While driving home, he noticed that he was being followed by an unknown vehicle. When the victim went to park his vehicle, the suspect car tried to block him in. The male subject from Dover Downs exited the car and tried to rob the victim while holding an unknown object in his hand. The victim was able to back out of the parking space and drive off. The suspect chased the victim briefly in his vehicle, but was last seen driving south on Route 1.

Abbey Walk Apts.

Wednesday 8/5/09 2115

District 9-Sheldon

Summary: (Reported robbery) Three male victims were robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of the Abbey Walk Apartments by two males who were trying to purchase marijuana. The suspects fled with the victim's cell phone toward building 60.

Georgetown Village Apts.

Thursday 8/6/09 0140

District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 20 year old male victim was walking through Georgetown Village Apartments, en route to the community of Coventry, when he stopped to tie his shoe. He then heard the sound of a gun being cocked and advised that a male subject then pushed a small caliber handgun against his neck. Suspect and another male went through the victim's pockets and stole his cell phone before fleeing toward the middle of the apartment complex.

Red Clay Creek Apts.

Saturday 8/8/09 0115

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 29 year old male victim was leaving a friend's apartment when he was approached by five suspects in the parking lot of Red Clay Creek Apartments. One of the suspects struck the victim in the left arm with a baseball bat and forced him to the ground causing injury to his right wrist (approx 2 inch laceration). All

five suspects assaulted the victim and went through his pockets removing cash. All five suspects fled on foot toward building F.

Village of Lindell

Saturday 8/8/09 1955

District 9-Sheldon

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 15 year old male victim was walking on Milltown Rd. when a white or gray 1990's four door vehicle drove very close to him. The victim responded with a hand gesture to the operator of the car and continued walking. The driver of the car stopped and exited the car with a metal object in his hand and demanded money. The victim turned over a small amount of cash and his I-Phone.

Middle Run Crossing

Sunday 8/9/09 1429

District 3-Tansey

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 19 year old male was playing basketball in the parking lot of Paper Mill Park with a number of subjects. Two of the players observed the victim's I-phone and later approached him and demanded the phone. When the victim refused, he was struck and kicked. The suspects took the phone and fled in a red Chevy Lumina. The phone was recovered at the park entrance.

Sparrow Run

Wednesday 8/12/09 0020

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Shooting investigation) Officers were in the area of West Plover Circle on an unrelated complaint when they heard three gunshots. The officers responded to the area of the shooting and observed three male suspects fleeing on foot and jumping the fence into Glasgow MHP. Upon a check of the area, the above firearm was located in a side yard.

Cedar Tree Apts.

Thursday 8/13/09 1150

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Reported robbery) Two teenage males were walking in the area of Peach Tree and Greentree Roads when they were grabbed from behind by three young males. The victims advised that the suspects took their cell phones and money from them. Responding patrol units were able to locate two of the suspects in the wooded area in Stoneybrook. The suspects were identified via a show-up line up and arrested. Suspect #1 provided a full confession to the incident and Suspect #2 gave a partial confession. Suspect #3 is still outstanding with warrants on file.

Leedom Estates

Thursday 8/13/09 2030

District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 26 year old male was driving down Bacon Avenue when two suspects ran into the street from the area of 203 Bacon Avenue and stopped his car. The two suspects approached the victim as one brandished a handgun. The victim turned over cash to the suspects and was punched in the head.

Pheasant Lake TH

Saturday 8/15/09 0457

District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported sexual assault) A 19 year old female victim, who lives in the 200 block of Beaver Court, advised that she was sleeping in bed when she was awakened by someone touching her private area. The victim recognized the subject as her neighbor, "Jay." Jay was then seen leaving the house by other family members. He was later found following a K9 track hiding behind some trash cans. He was arrested and charged with burglary and unlawful sexual contact.

Glasgow Court MHP

Sunday 8/16/09 0229

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Reported robbery) The victims advised that they were approached by four subjects who initiated a conversation. The subjects then assaulted the victim and stole their money. The four suspects were later identified and arrested.

Linden Green II Apts.

Tuesday 8/18/09 2100

District 9-Sheldon

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 64 year old victim was carrying groceries into her apartment building (5508 Limeric Circle) when a male subject ran up to her and grabbed her purse. The victim struggled with the man, but her purse snap broke. The momentum caused the victim to hit the wall causing her minor injuries. The suspect fled with the purse in an unknown direction.

Gwinhurst

Wednesday 8/19/09 2129

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Reported robbery) Three adult male victims were sitting in a parking lot adjacent to 2115 Harrison Avenue when they were approached by three suspects. Two of the suspects then displayed firearms and pointed them at the victims. The suspects stole the victims' cash, wallet and cell phones before fleeing on foot.

Pine Valley Apts.

Wednesday 8/19/09 2145

District 12-Bell

Summary: (Robbery investigation) A 47 year old female had entered her apartment building when a male subject yelled for her to stop. He then pointed a handgun at her and robbed her of her purse, cash and prescription medication. A responding officer located a male subject walking in the area and detained him after he found items belonging to the victim nearby. The suspect was later arrested and linked to the crime.

Maryland Park Apts.

Saturday 8/22/09 0130

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 29 year old male victim advised that he had walked to his apartment on Robinson Lane and was about to unlock his door when he observed a red over gray SUV abruptly pull up in front of the building. Four male subjects exited the car, ran toward the victim and began assaulting him. The victim attempted to flee but was knocked to the ground. The suspects stole the victim's wallet and cell phone before fleeing in the car.

Woodacre Apts.**Sunday 8/23/09 2020****District 8-Cartier**

Summary: (Attempted robbery, shooting) Three adult male victims were sitting in front of a residence in the 900 block of Cedartree Road when four suspects approached them from the side of the building. The suspects brandished handguns and attempted to rob the victims who fled on foot. While fleeing one of the suspects began firing at them. A live round and shell casing were recovered at the scene.

Greentree Apts.**Monday 8/24/09 1600****District 8-Cartier**

Summary: (Shooting investigation) The 31 year old male victim advised that he was leaving the apartment complex after visiting a relative. As the victim was driving, he observed four male subjects running south on Peachtree Road. As the suspects were running the victim advised he heard approximately six gun shots. The victim's vehicle was struck approximately four times, one of which shattered the passenger side window. Projectiles were recovered at the scene. The victim was not injured.

Hidden Valley Apts.**Monday 8/24/09 2043****District 1-Reda**

Summary: (Reported attempted robbery) A 41 year old male victim was delivering an order to an apartment in building "A" within the complex. When there was no answer at the door, he began walking back to his vehicle. Once in his vehicle, he was approached by the two suspects, one of which brandished a handgun and demanded the food and money. The victim then sped off in his vehicle. The suspects fled in an unknown direction. The phone number used to place the order is being researched.

Holloway Terrace**Thursday 8/27/09 0700****District 10-Street**

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 14 year old female victim advised that she was waiting at the bus stop on 9th Street and Central Avenue listening to music on her iPhone when she was approached by a gold colored sedan. The front seat passenger started a conversation with the victim and grabbed the phone out of her hand before fleeing in the car. As the vehicle fled, the victim's leg was run over and she suffered minor injuries.

Fieldcrest Apts.**Saturday 8/29/09 0001****District 8-Cartier**

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 59 year old female was removing items from her vehicle after she arrived home (700 block of Peachtree Road). A male subject approached her from behind and pushed her into the side of the vehicle. The subject then maced the victim and stole her purse before fleeing on foot.