

THE GUARDIAN

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Park Police Members Receive Awards

Congratulations to the Park Police members listed below for receiving performance recognition awards. Officer Thomas Harrington received the Division's Silver Star as well as an Honorable Mention of Valor at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Public Safety Awards. A Silver Star is awarded for taking appropriate action at the risk of one's own life. On October 20, 2008, Officer Harrington assisted at an accident scene where a car full of young people had struck a tree and caught on fire. Officer Harrington along with Detective William Peacock of Montgomery County Police desperately worked to keep the fire away from one of the passengers who was trapped in the car. They tried every means possible to save the young man's life. Tragically, the young man succumbed to his injuries. The officers continued to assist with other victims and Fire and Rescue personnel praised their actions and life-saving efforts.

- Silver Star: Officer Thomas Harrington
- Civilian Special Recognition Award: Supervisor Deborah Hagberg
- Dispatcher Special Recognition Award: Dispatcher John Stinson
- Investigations Special Recognition Award: Sgt. Ed Rivera
- K-9 Team Special Recognition Award: Officer Justin Andrews & K-9 Shadow
- Patrol Special Recognition Award: Officers Steven Burroughs, Cylda Hodo and Brian Paulsen
- Special Operations Section Special Recognition Award: Officer Marc Fanelli
- Volunteer Special Recognition Award: Volunteers Ashley Hollingsworth and Carl Moore
- Brent LaMere Memorial Award: Officer Thai Giang
- Community Oriented Policing Award: Officer Nancy Jones



Officer Thomas Harrington




Congratulations to Detective Sarah Mikalauskas



*Photo by
Lt. Brian Smith*

Detective Sarah Mikalauskas wins “Fastest Female Runner” award.

Congratulations to Detective Sarah Mikalauskas for winning the “Fastest Female Runner” award at the 10th Annual National Police Challenge 50-K Relay Race on May 14, 2009. With a total of 910 runners from law enforcement agencies from around the world, the Race raises money for COPS and HEROES (organizations that provide resources to the surviving families of officers killed in the line of duty). Sarah completed her 5-K leg in 20 minutes and 38 seconds.

Other Park Police members from both Montgomery and Prince George’s Divisions who ran in the race include Captain Harvey Baker, Lt. Brian Smith, Officers Kent Berry, Micah Farmer, Kelley Hagen, Darian Huiswoud, Barry Jackson, Roy Ricasa, Eric Rojas, Ben Tionson and Anton White. Kudos to all Park Police participants from both divisions. 



Park Police Learn How to Deal With “Active Shooters”

The tragedy at Columbine ten years ago changed the way police deal with shooting rampages. No longer do police contain the area and wait for a SWAT team to go in because it may be too late. During the 45 minutes it took for the SWAT team to assemble and go in at Columbine, 10 people had already been killed.

Police across the country have developed “active shooter” training to stop assailants and save as many lives as possible. Historically, an active shooter kills a person every 15 seconds. Officers are trained to form contact teams to enter a building in formation and locate

and stop the shooter(s). Following the new approach has saved lives nationwide.

Park Police from both Montgomery and Prince George’s counties recently received joint training in this strategy. Officers practiced moving in formations from room to room while looking for the shooter.

Thanks to Paul Mazzei, Range Administrator, and Detective Mau Ly for providing this important training. Thanks also to Officer Jim Powers, Detectives Bill Kellogg and Greg Worsley for their assistance with the training. **G**



*Photo by
Margaret
Kingsley*

L-R: Detective Mau Ly, Officer Jim Powers and Detective Bill Kellogg demonstrate how to clear a room.



Park Police Clean Up

Working with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning maintenance personnel, several Park Police members spent a Sunday cleaning up Montgomery County parks. Armed with poles and plastic bags, the workers picked up trash and debris at Rock Creek Stream Valley #6. An ongoing problem in all parks, Park Police and Park Managers are working together to address the issue. Thanks to all who came out to lend a hand! 🇺🇸



Rock Creek Stream Valley Clean-Up

*Photos by
Mark Allen,
Senior Park
Manager, Wheaton
Regional Park*



Park Police Honored for Excellence in Traffic Safety Enforcement

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, was honored on April 15th as the top agency in its category at the annual Maryland Law Enforcement Challenge ceremony in Baltimore, Maryland. Winning a Law Enforcement Challenge award signifies not only excellence in traffic safety enforcement, but also a commitment to overall public safety. The 2008 campaign featured an emphasis on seat belt usage, driving under the influence and aggressive driving enforcement, as well as educational activities.

Earning this award, especially in light of the increased demands of the program, is truly special and it is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Park Police. Special thanks to Officer Marc Fanelli, the 2008 Maryland Law Enforcement Challenge Coordinator. Co-sponsored by the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, the Maryland Sheriff's Association and the Maryland Highway Safety Office; the Maryland Law Enforcement Challenge promotes competition among Maryland police agencies, while recognizing and honoring those that excel in traffic safety enforcement.

“More than 600 people are killed every year on Maryland’s roadways,” said Maryland Chiefs of Police Association President Chief Bernadette DiPino. “I want to congratulate the officers of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police for their commitment to the Maryland Law Enforcement Challenge and their service to their community.” 



*Photo by
Ofc. Kelley Hagen*

Officer Marc Fanelli makes a traffic stop.



Park Police Host Take Your Child to Work Event

Children of Park Police staff participated in the annual Bring Your Child to Work Day on April 23. Detective Greg Worsley gave the children an idea of what a day in the life of an officer is like. The day began with a tour of the station including the prisoner cells. The kids tried on heavy bullet-proof vests and face shields. Officer Chris Gayle gave an all-terrain vehicle demonstration and Detective Worsley showed the kids how evidence at a crime scene is processed. Detective Worsley also took the children’s fingerprints.

The group had lunch at Wheaton Regional Park provided by the Bring Your Child to Work Day Committee. Activities at the park included rides on the merry-go-round, miniature train and even a cherry picker! Parents were pleased with the program and thought it was a great opportunity for their child to see what policing is all about. Thanks to Officer Gayle for the demonstration and kudos to Detective Worsley for organizing a great day! **G**

*Photo by
Margaret Kingsley*



Ian Snyder tries on a ballistic face shield.

*Photos by
Senior Park Ranger
Michael Tchou*




Detective Greg Worsley demonstrates how to collect evidence.



Detective Worsley and son, Geoffrey, check out an all-terrain vehicle.



Congratulations to Sergeant Edgar Rivera


Congratulations to Ed Rivera on his promotion to Sergeant on March 6, 2009. Sergeant Rivera is a 21-year veteran with the Montgomery County Division. He has served in a number of positions including Patrol, Investigations and Accreditation. Sergeant Rivera will serve as a Patrol Sergeant on the evening shift. Congratulations to Sergeant Rivera. 



*Photo by
Margaret
Kingsley*

Sergeant Ed Rivera

Best Wishes to Acting Sergeants

Congratulations to Acting Sergeants Guy Jones, William Kellogg and Adam Sengbusch. The acting supervisors will fill the three Sergeant vacancies in the Field Operations Section of the Prince George's Division. Good luck in your new positions! 

Editorial Review Board

- Acting Chief Darien L. Manley
- Vivian Gardiner
- Sergeant Lauryn McNeill
- Sandra Petersen
- Gwen Wilmer





The Latest Scoop

Congratulations to Lieutenants Kevin Bridgeman and Anna von Schwerdtner

Congratulations to Kevin Bridgeman and Anna von Schwerdtner on their promotions to Lieutenant effective April 3, 2009. Lt. Bridgeman is a 18-year veteran with the Montgomery County Division of the Park Police. Lt. von Schwerdtner joins us from the Prince George's County Division with 13 years of service. Lt. Bridgeman will be assigned to the Planning and Research Section and Lt. von Schwerdtner will be assigned to the Professional Standards Section. Best wishes to Lts. von Schwerdtner and Bridgeman. **G**



Lt. Kevin Bridgeman



Lt. Anna von Schwerdtner

Greetings to Steve Brassell

Please welcome our new Fleet Coordinator, Mr. Steve Brassell. Steve comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and 32 years of experience with automobiles. He started March 9th and will coordinate the maintenance and repair of Park Police vehicles. **G**



Fleet Coordinator Steve Brassell

*Photos by
Margaret Kingsley*