

THE GUARDIAN

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Annual Awards Ceremony 2003

The Montgomery County Division of the Park Police held its Annual Awards Ceremony on December 17, 2003. Division members and volunteers received awards for heroism, hard work and a variety of events throughout the year. Officer Steven Lytwynec received the Silver Star Award for rescuing a motorist who was trapped in her car by rising

waters. Officer Justin Andrews received a Bronze Star for subduing a suicidal man. Lt. Lisa Vasco and Sgt. Bob Mehl also received Bronze Stars for saving several stranded motorists.

Steven Lytwynec also received the Patrol Officer of the Year Award for his excellent performance throughout the year. Detective Brent LaMere received the Investigator of the Year Award. Special Services Officer of the Year was presented to Officer Jeffrey Coe and Vivian Gardiner was presented with the Civilian Employee of the Year Award.

Congratulations go to everyone who received recognition this year. Keep up the good work! 



Department of Park and Planning Director Charlie Loehr



Roxie Bushby wins table centerpiece.

L-R: Chief Elizabeth Kreiter, Officer Steven Lytwynec, Captain Jake Bise





Officer Cheri Winter Receives Governor's Award

by Sgt. Joe Parsons

On December 15, 2003, Officer Cheri Winter received the Governor's Award for her outstanding crime prevention work in Montgomery County, Maryland. Cheri is the Division's Volunteer Program Coordinator and a committee member for regional National Night Out programs, both of which have been nationally recognized. She has presented crime prevention programs to hundreds of citizens, from Girl Scout troops to seniors.

Officer Winter received the award at a luncheon in Glen Burnie where she met Governor Ehrlich. Acting Chief Nathaniel Barber, Lt. Dan McNickle and Sgt. Joe Parsons also attended to recognize her work. Congratulations go to Cheri for this great accomplishment! 



Officer Cheri Winter receives Governor's Award.

Photo courtesy of Governor's Awards Committee

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Three Graduate from the Academy



Photos by Steven Hagberg

New Park Police Officer Joshua Scully



New Park Police Officer Caitlyn Stevens




New Park Police Officer Christian Ziegler

Congratulations go to three new Park Police Officers who graduated on January 8, 2004, from the 43rd Montgomery County Police Academy. The Academy is a grueling six-month program designed to teach and prepare candidates for their new roles as police officers.

The graduates will now complete a six-week field training program under the supervision of Field Training Officer Coordinator Officer Neita White. Well done and best wishes go to all our new Police Officers! **G**



Retirement Celebrations

A number of long-term employees retired from the Park Police this last year. Lieutenant Laura Sheldon retired in October with more than 28 years of service. Officer Jim Reilly also retired in October with more than 16 years of service. In December, Officer Mike Kerr retired after 22 years and Chief Elizabeth Kreiter also retired after serving for more than 28 years. The total combined years of service comes to more than 94 years! Good luck to one and all. 





Retirement Celebrations

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Volunteer Holiday Party

by Ofc. Cheri Winter



The "Power Squad"

Photo by Sharon Dameron

On January 21, 2004, the Montgomery County Park Police held a party for their volunteers at the Lodge at Little Seneca Creek to show appreciation for all the time and hard work they have contributed to the Division. Volunteers donated these hours through community patrols or working to assist us during special events. Through their work, assorted park infractions and criminal violations have been discovered.

As part of the celebration, the following volunteers were presented with the Volunteer Service Award: Esther Brown, Rich Cohen, Bob Colvin, Don Copeland, Jim Fieser, Jim Hathaway, Dave Hondowicz, Clare Jacocks, Geneva Loczi, Daryl McGrath, Ann

Riley and Sid Silverman. This award was given to these volunteers, also known as the "Power Squad," because of the more than 1,600 volunteer hours they have contributed to the Division in the past year. This averages to 130 hours per month.

Their presence at special events such as Police Awareness Day, the Garden of Lights holiday event, the Marathon in the Parks and National Night Out has been invaluable. Volunteers help to staff the Park Police display and collect data during speed and stop sign surveys on Commission parkways. Please join us in commending the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the community and the Division. **G**



Santa Claus Visits Jesup Blair

by Jenn McCourt (daughter of Trish McCourt)

Santa and his elf arrived at Jesup Blair on December 12, 2003, in Officer Gentry's police car with flashing lights and sirens blaring. The kids were eagerly waiting at the door. Santa made his way into the party room and with the assistance of his elf, started handing out gifts.

Every child received one gift that night and the moms all received gift cards to Target. The mothers were given more gifts for the children, but they were for Christmas Day. After the gifts were opened, the kids couldn't wait to go back to their rooms to play with their new toys. To end the evening, one of the residents sang a beautiful version of The Christmas Song.

Thanks go to all the Park Police and Air Services' employees who helped make a wonderful holiday for the families at Jesup Blair. Sole D'Italia donated food for the party. Thank you, Vivian Gardiner for organizing the event and Sergeant Joe Parsons for arranging for the food. Thank you once again. This was probably the most generous year ever! 📷

Santa and his helper, Jenn McCourt



Photos by Lt. Dan McNickle



Vivian Gardiner and Officer Keith Gentry






The Latest Scoop

Captain Barber Named Acting Chief

With the retirement of Chief Elizabeth A. Kreiter, Assistant Chief Nathaniel Barber has been appointed Acting Park Police Commander until a permanent successor can be named. Barber has been with the Commission since 1986, serving both Prince George's and Montgomery County Park

Police Divisions. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in February 1999.

Nat is a graduate of the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Leadership and Management with Johns Hopkins University. Best wishes go to Acting Chief Barber as he takes on this new challenge. 



Acting Chief Nathaniel J. Barber

Stork News

Retired Officer James E. Connor is a proud grandpa! Jim's daughter, Caren Smith, welcomed a baby girl, Caitlyn Taylor Smith, on January 31, 2004. Caitlyn weighed in at 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20.4 inches long. All are doing well! 