

# THE GUARDIAN



Volume 13, Number 1

January-March 2006

[www.parkpolice.net](http://www.parkpolice.net)

## Park Police Members Honored at Awards Ceremony

On February 22, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, held its Annual Awards Ceremony. This year we were pleased to have NBC4 news reporter Pat Collins host the ceremony. Dignitaries such as Derick Berlage, Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and newly appointed Director of Parks Mary Bradford attended and spoke to the audience. Chief Nathaniel J. Barber, Assistant Chiefs Jake Bise and Dan McNickle presented awards to Division members recognizing their accomplishments in 2005.

Officers Thai Giang and Gregory Worsey received Silver Stars for evacuating residents from a burning apartment building. A Silver Star recognizes acts of courage that involve risk to one's own life. Officer Alfredo LaPorte also received a Silver Star for pulling a woman out of a burning car.

Officers Dennis Benden and Heather McLaughlin received Bronze Stars for their actions in going above and beyond the call of duty to save a human life. Officer Benden performed CPR on an unconscious man and Officer McLaughlin pulled a disoriented woman from a creek. *(Continued on Page 2)*

Chief Nathaniel Barber (left) thanks Pat Collins for hosting the 2005 Awards Ceremony.



*Editor's Note:  
The Guardian will now be published on a quarterly basis.*

*Photo by  
Francine Bethea*






## Park Police Members Honored at Awards Ceremony (Continued from Page 1)

A Teamwork Award was presented to all the officers who coached, organized, and supported the Third Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament (see story on pages 4 and 5). More than 100 children from various Montgomery County community centers participated in the event in 2005. Lt. Brian Smith, Officers Jeffrey Coe and Rosemary Whelan accepted Community Oriented Policing Awards for their contributions to the community.

John Stinson received the Dispatcher of the Year Award for 2005. Officer Kent Berry received Patrol Officer of the Year and Officer Sean Thomas received Special

Operations Officer of the Year. Dana Brassell was honored with the Civilian of the Year Award.

Park Police Volunteer Carl Moore was recognized for contributing more than 800 hours of volunteer service in 2005, creating a new record. Several businesses were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Special thanks go to Pat Collins for entertaining us in his own special way and to all the Park Police officers and staff who serve their community with honor and distinction every day. 



Derick Berlage, Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, speaks at the Awards Ceremony.



Newly appointed Director of Parks Mary Bradford attended the Ceremony and spoke to the audience.

*Photos by Francine Bethea*



## Park Police Members Honored at Awards Ceremony (Continued from Page 2)



Officer Sean Thomas received Special Operations Officer of the Year award.



Officer Dennis Benden received a Bronze Star for an act of valor that was intended to save a human life.



Ms. Carolyn Blue of Natural Resources Division delivered the invocation.



The Honor Guard made the *“Presentation of Colors.”*



# Fourth Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament Held

by Officer Noell White

The Fourth Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament, organized by Officers Noell White and Cindy Weisman, was held in January at the Long Branch Community Center. Officer Joseph, who passed away in 2000, became a Park Police Officer in 1995 and was involved with several Montgomery County youth groups, in particular Good Hope's Police Athletics/Activities League program. The tournament was held in his honor.

In January 2000, Officer Joseph created the Y2K Basketball Challenge consisting of six basketball teams from various community centers around Montgomery County. He wanted to make the tournament an annual event and to eventually add all nine community centers in which the Park Police have jurisdiction. Unfortu-

nately, Officer Joseph passed away shortly after the tournament.

In 2003, Officer White organized the First Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament. To fulfill Officer Joseph's wish, the tournament has been held annually, growing in the number of teams participating and in support from the community. This year's tournament included children in grades 8-10 representing seven different community centers within Montgomery County: Gwendolyn Coffield, East County, Plum Gar, Long Branch, Bauer, Wheaton, and Good Hope. Park Police officers and community center directors coached the teams. (Continued on Page 5)



Back row (L-R) - Officers Christian Ziegler, Codi Evans, and Keith Gentry  
Middle row (L-R) - Officers Howard Johnson, Noell White, Clay Goldston, and Amy Sheehan  
Front row (L-R) - Officers Nancy Jones, Cindy Weisman, and Greg Ford



# Fourth Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament Held

## (Continued from Page 4)

With more than 150 individuals involved or watching, the tournament was once again a great success. Coffield Community Center and East County Community Center girls dance teams performed at the tournament. Officer Joseph's wife, mother-in-law, and two sons came to the tournament to show their appreciation and support. Anita Joseph thanked everyone for keeping this program alive and doing such an outstanding job. Expressing her gratitude, she said, "I appreciate your time and effort. You don't know how much this tournament means to my family and me."

The Joseph family presented the trophies to the first and second place teams. Radio Station 93.9 WKYS Disk Jockey Osay came to the tournament and gave the children gifts. Each participant received a free lunch thanks to donations from The Pizza Stop, Domino's, Jerry's, Papa John's, and Giant Foods. The Bicycle Place gave a Giant gift card to help purchase lunch

items. Each participant, officer, and the Joseph family received a tournament t-shirt. Thanks go to Wheaton Awards and Trophy Shop for donating all the trophies. Jamie Nicholas Printing and Graphics Company designed the tournament programs.

Thanks go to Chief Barber and Park Police members from both divisions (Montgomery and Prince George's) who came by and showed their support. Thanks also go to all the officers who worked the event and made this year's tournament another great success. Congratulations go to Officer Howard Battle, Director Ron Martin, and Coffield Community Center for being this year's tournament runner-up. Congratulations also go to Officer Clay Goldston, Director Hercules Twine, and Plum Gar Community Center for winning the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Keith Joseph Memorial Basketball Tournament. Everyone is looking forward to next year's tournament! **G**


Champion Team  
Plum Gar  
Community Center  
coached by Officer  
Clay Goldston and  
Director Hercules  
Twine.



*Photos by Ofc.  
Cindy Weisman*



## Please Welcome Two New Park Police Officers

**C**ongratulations go to Charles Spitzner on his graduation from the Montgomery County Police Academy, Session 47, on January 6, 2006. The Academy is a demanding six-month program designed to teach and prepare candidates for their new roles as police officers. Officer Spitzner will now complete a 14- to 16-week field training program. Best wishes go to Officer Spitzner. 

Officer Charles Spitzner



*Photo by Sgt. Chris Tippery*

**P**lease welcome Officer Robert Carter, a transfer officer from New York City, New York. One of Officer Carter's duties with New York's finest was guarding the Statue of Liberty. Welcome aboard, Officer Carter! 

Officer Robert Carter



*Photo by Sgt. Mike Meixsell*




# Park Police Sergeant Apprehends Robbery Suspects

by Lt. Tony DeVaul

**K**udos go to Sergeant Mike Meixsell on a job well done in apprehending two robbery suspects. While patrolling the Wheaton Parking Lot at 1:30 in the morning in late December, Sergeant Meixsell heard a call go out for a robbery that had just occurred at the Wheaton Metro Station.

Being less than a block away, Sergeant Meixsell responded to the scene. Upon locating the suspects, Sergeant Meixsell was able to detain both of them and alert Montgomery County Police of their location. Both suspects were taken into custody without incident.

Not only had the suspects robbed the victim but had also knocked him to the ground and beaten him. I would like to commend Sergeant Meixsell for his actions in this case, which led to the apprehension of two dangerous robbery suspects. 



Sgt. Mike Meixsell



*Photo by Margaret Kingsley*



# The Latest Scoop

---

## Welcome to New Park Police Member

Please welcome new Park Police member Tammy White who will be working in the Records Unit. Before joining us Tammy worked for a private detective performing background investigations for 13 years. Please stop by and say hello when you get a chance. **G**

Tammy White



*Photo by Margaret Kingsley*

---

## Goodbye to Officer Cheri Winter

Congratulations and good luck go to Officer Cheryl Winter who retired December 31, 2005, with more than 22 years of service. Beginning her career with The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as a Park Maintenance Helper, Cheri became a Park Police officer in 1986 where she served as a Patrol, Mounted, Motor, Marine, and Special Services Officer.

Officer Winter also functioned as the Volunteer Program Coordinator and received international recognition, accolades, and awards for the program. She received several Governor's Awards for Crime Prevention. Best wishes go to Officer Winter for a future filled with good health and happiness! **G**