

THE GUARDIAN

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www.parkpolice.org

Congratulations to Chief Darien L. Manley

Darien L. Manley, Acting Park Police Division Chief in the Montgomery County Department of Parks since March 2008, was promoted August 23, 2009, to head the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division.

Chief Manley began his career with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police on August 17, 1987. He attended the Montgomery County Police Academy. During his career, he has worked, supervised or played a role in every section in the Montgomery County Park Police Division: serving as detective, patrol officer, supervisor and commander.

He also directed the Support Operations Branch of the Prince George's County Park Police Division for two and a half years. He has been a Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions' Police Trainer and Firearms Instructor for almost two decades. Manley has received numerous commendations and awards from the community, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and other public safety agencies and organizations.

Manley is a strong proponent of community policing and supports the use of technology to improve the safety of Montgomery County's parks. Congratulations and best wishes to Chief Manley! 



*Photo by
Kevin Kennedy
Photography*


Chief Darien L. Manley

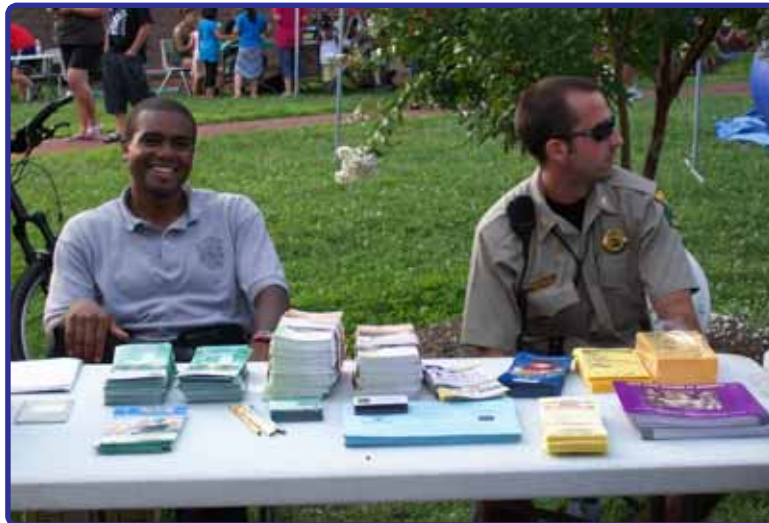


Park Police Meet and Greet at National Night Out

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police participated in 13 National Night Out celebrations throughout Montgomery County on August 4th. In its 26th year, National Night Out is a nationwide event designed to strengthen police and community relationships.

At the Black Rock Performing Arts Center in Germantown, officers displayed proper car seat use as well as ran a Fatal Vision program. Participants wore Fatal Vision goggles while riding a tricycle to simulate the effects of drugs and alcohol on a driver. Horse-mounted officers, volunteers and park rangers took part in the event as well as bicycle officers.

Officers and volunteers at Olney Town Center shared our "Leave it @ home" program with community members. This program is designed to teach people how and where to secure belongings so they don't become victims of theft. K-9 and ATV officers were also on site. Park Police members at the Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center organized a Punt Pass and Kick competition for children ages eight to 15. Winners of this competition go on to sectionals and may even qualify to go to a Washington Redskins game at FedEx field. *(See more photos on page 3.)* 



*Photo by
Margaret Kingsley*

L-R: Officer D.J. Brew and Park Ranger Bart Viguers hand out car seat literature.



Park Police Meet and Greet at National Night Out (Continued from Page 2)



*Photo by
Margaret Kingsley*

*Photos below by
David Cohen*

Bike Officer Cindy Weisman



Lt. Karen Petrarca with Fatal Vision participant



Special Operations Officers Johnny Beason (front)
and Megan Lau (back)




Dispatcher Doniqua Marshall Sings Like an Angel

by Captain Willie Parker-Loan, Montgomery County Police

The Montgomery County Law Enforcement Gospel Choir held its first rehearsal on September 29, 2001. This volunteer group has since grown into a cohesive group that shares a message of hope and encouragement to community members within Montgomery County, Maryland and throughout the Washington Metropolitan region.

Both sworn and non-sworn members from the Montgomery County Department of Police, the State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police sing in the choir. Community members Simone Deering and Suzanne Mitchell unselfishly serve as the choir's pianist and director respectively. Captain Willie Parker-Loan of the Montgomery County Police Department is the coordinator.

The choir performs at various venues including church services, community events and civic ceremonies. Recently, Park Police Dispatcher Doniqua Marshall sang a solo! With God's help, the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Gospel Choir will continue to spread joy throughout the community. 

*Photo by
Sgt. Victor Galladora*



Montgomery County Law Enforcement Gospel Choir
(Dispatcher Doniqua Marshall on far left.
Former Park Police member Kathleen Wilson third from left in front row.)



Park Police Honor Volunteers


by Volunteer Allison Abernathy, XRay 21

On Saturday, June 20, the Park Police Volunteers were treated to a Volunteer Appreciation Day hosted by the Volunteer Services Office. A large group of volunteers and their spouses, children and at least one extremely-well behaved dog attended in spite of the inclement weather.

The festivities were held at the boathouse at Lake Needwood. At noon, the rain tapered off to a light drizzle, shortly followed by sun and blue skies. As the weather improved, more and more folks showed up until all the tables in the boathouse were filled. Fortunately, there was plenty of delicious BBQ provided by Red, Hot and Blue for everyone.

After lunch, Chief Darien L. Manley presented numerous commendations and awards. Ten volunteers received Certificates of Appreciation for giving more than 90 hours throughout the year to Park Police. Ashley Hollingsworth and Carl Moore received Special Recognition Awards and David Cohen accepted a Commander's Award. Congratulations to all the volunteers receiving awards.

After the awards presentation, we were treated to a private tour of Lake Needwood on the flat bottom pontoon boat, the Needwood Queen. While leisurely cruising the 75-acre lake, we were given an interesting narrative about the history of the lake and the environmental challenges it's facing. We saw turtles dozing on logs, a number of whitetail deer and a few herons. The children especially enjoyed spotting the turtles.

All in all it was a great summer day of good food, fun and lively conversation. Many volunteers commented on how much they appreciated the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of friends in the group and to meet their spouses and children. 



*Photo by
Allison Abernathy*

Park Police Volunteers and Officers with Chief Manley (far left)




Young Community Relations Officer Tours Saddlebrook

by Volunteer David Cohen, XRay 136

Gabriel Sternberg is not your average six year old. When most kids his age play “police,” they simply play “cops and robbers.” Not Gabriel. He gets the big picture of community and media relations.

His mother Debbie notes, “Gabriel is now apparently the Chief of his own police force. He has been posting little advocacy notes around the house such as “The best police just got better!” My favorite: “No matter what you think, if we’re grand or bad, we’re your local ones!” Gabriel’s father Seth adds, “There’s a downside to having the police chief in your house. If you do something bad, especially if he can’t put you in jail (his closet), he puts you on the local news broadcast police report!”

On Friday, August 7th, Gabriel was invited to tour the Saddlebrook Station. The tour was given by Sergeant Lauryn McNeill and Lieutenant Mike Meixsell. Gabriel wore his own uniform (with the rank of Sergeant, no less) and was given a badge and sworn in as a Junior Officer by Lt. Meixsell. Gabriel toured lockup, got to sit in one of the police cruisers and visited several of the employees within Saddlebrook.

Sent home with a full complement of giveaways including a bike helmet, coloring book, Park Police patches, water bottle, and several other items, Gabriel was thrilled. When asked what he thought of his experience afterwards, he said it was “GREAT!!!” 



*Photo by
Margaret Kingsley*

“Sergeant” Gabriel Sternberg



Congratulations to Lead Dispatcher John Stinson

On July 26, 2009, Dispatcher John Stinson was promoted to Lead Dispatcher. John has been employed with us since September 2, 2003, and has received Dispatcher of the Year every year beginning in 2005.

Lead Dispatcher Stinson always goes above and beyond what is required and has been recognized numerous times for his hard work. In anticipation of the Inauguration, he and Senior Dispatcher Jimmy Butts reprogrammed all the radios. John is also a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician in his “spare” time.


John’s specialties include programming portable and mobile radios, administering the alarm system and training new personnel. Mr. Stinson will oversee the midnight shift. Best wishes to John! 



Photo by Francine Bethea

Lead Dispatcher John Stinson (left) received Dispatcher of the Year from Chief Darien L. Manley.



Editorial Review Board

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


Editor

Margaret Kingsley



The Latest Scoop

Congratulations to Sergeants Guy Jones, Bill Kellogg and Adam Sengbusch

Congratulations to Guy Jones, Bill Kellogg and Adam Sengbusch on their promotions to Sergeant in the Prince George's Division on July 15, 2009. Sergeant Jones is a 22-year veteran who has served in a variety of assignments including accreditation, patrol, investigations and recruitment. Sergeant Kellogg, an 8-year veteran, is a firearms, CPR and defensive tactics instructor and also served as a detective and patrol officer. Sergeant Sengbusch is a 9-year Special Operations Officer who coordinated the Field Training Officer Program for the Division. Congratulations and good luck to all! 



*Photos by
Margaret Kingsley*

L-R: Sergeants Guy Jones, Bill Kellogg and Adam Sengbusch

Welcome to Officer David Simonetti

Greetings to Officer David Simonetti, a lateral officer from Metropolitan Police Department. Officer Simonetti is currently attending a seven-week Comparative Compliance class which will certify him as a police officer in Maryland. Please welcome Officer Simonetti. 