

THE GUARDIAN



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Park Police Assist at Fire

by Officer Gregory Worsey

On June 19, 2005, Officer Thai Giang and I were just leaving Wheaton Regional Park after completing a call when we heard of an apartment fire on Shorefield Court, adjacent to the park entrance. We immediately responded to see what assistance we could provide.

Arriving on the scene in less than a minute, Officer Giang and I saw smoke coming from several third story windows. We ran around to the front and found the interior stairs filling with smoke. A resident pointed up to his apartment stating the fire had started in his bathroom.

Officer Giang and I ran into the building and immediately started evacuating residents. The stairwell was rapidly filling with smoke as we worked our way down the floors banging on doors and getting residents out.

In all, we evacuated close to a dozen residents out of the fire building; several who were unaware there was even a fire.

Officers Cindy Weisman, Ron Salmon, and Shibu Philipose (off duty) responded to the scene also. They quickly assisted in removing residents and clearing the way for Fire/Rescue. They then went to the next building over (which was attached to the building on fire) and started evacuating residents there. By this time, there was fire blowing out of the rear windows of the building. Officer Richard Roberts arrived a short time later and joined the others.

A massive Fire and Rescue response was required as the fire quickly grew. Officers on the scene continued to evacuate residents, direct traffic, and control the crowd (*Continued on page 5.*)

Georgian Woods
Apartments



Photo by Officer
Gregory Worsey





Park Police Host Police Awareness Day

On June 5, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, sponsored the 13th Annual Police Awareness Day at the Kristin M. Pataki Training Center in Sandy Spring, Maryland. With more than 1,000 people attending, the event was a big success with fun for all.

The Montgomery County Fire Department came in full force this year with a large collection of fire equipment. Cutting up an old car with their "Jaws of Life" machine, the Fire Department demonstrated how they rescue accident victims from mangled cars. Representatives from Montgomery County Police, Takoma Park Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Metro Transit Police, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources provided demonstrations and information regarding their services. *(Continued on Page 3.)*

Photos by Detective Levon Ellian



Crowd Control Demonstrations



L-R: Harvey Baker, Jr., Lt. Harvey Baker, and Officer Jeffrey Coe



Moon Bounce



K-9 Demonstrations



Park Police Host Police Awareness Day

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Kids enjoyed a moon bounce and an NFL Punt, Pass, and Kick game. A "Fatal Vision" simulation ride was a big hit. Wearing special glasses that simulate driving while intoxicated, participants drove a golf cart around a cone course. Many teenagers were surprised how difficult it was to drive with the glasses on.

Police gave horse, motor, K-9, and all terrain vehicle demonstrations. The Maryland State Police gave tours of their helicopter. Ronald McDonald was there and arts and crafts projects were available for the children. Thanks go to Officer Jeffrey Coe, Park Police employees and volunteers who coordinated and set up the day. Thanks also go to our corporate sponsor, Giant Food, Inc., for their generous donation and to the Olney Chamber of Commerce for their support. **G**



Officer Sean Thomas heads to the horse ring.



Fatal Vision Rides



Officer Ed Rivera demonstrates an all terrain vehicle.



Montgomery County Fire Department



Annual Long Branch Community Festival Held

by Officer Terry Nye

On May 14, the Annual Long Branch Community Festival drew a crowd of about 2,000 people. There were activities and entertainment for everyone. Park Police officers and volunteers distributed information on child safety seats, seat belt laws, bicycle laws, safety gunlocks, and trail safety. Mounted Officers Sean Thomas and Paul Christ were a big hit with their horses.

Officers Terry Nye, Cindy Weisman, Nicole Adams, Changsup Kim, and Lt. Darien Manley showed off their bicycle skills with a Bicycle Rodeo. One hundred ten kids were fitted with and given bicycle helmets. Officers Lauryn McNeill and Cheri Winter manned the safety seat table. Volunteers Jim Feiser and Carl Moore assisted wherever they were needed. Last but not least, Officer Alfredo LaPorte helped out with his language skills.

Thanks go to everyone who helped make the Long Branch Community Festival such a big success. Events such as this put the community in our goal of community policing. 



Officer Paul Christ visits with the kids.



Officer Cindy Weisman directs the Bicycle Rodeo.



Officer Cindy Weisman fits a child with a bicycle helmet.

Photos by Officer Cheri Winter



Park Police Assist at Fire

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of the now hundreds of people who were gathering around the apartment complex. Officers Bill Kellogg, Rosemary Whelan, and Sergeant George Coleman arrived to assist. Shorefield Road was closed due to the amount of fire equipment needed and park patrons were unable to leave Wheaton Regional Park. Once the situation was under control, we were able to direct the hundreds of cars/park patrons out of the park.

Meanwhile, using the radio, the Dispatchers handled many transmissions and requests to relay information. Dispatcher Dave Avery worked the radio and Communications Supervisor Debbie Hagberg manned the phones. They kept everyone abreast of the quickly evolving incident and worked promptly to handle our radio traffic. Dispatcher Jimmy Butts joined in when he arrived for work.

The fire grew to such intensity that it eventually required a five-alarm response from the Fire Department. In talking with a Fire/Rescue chief, he noted that it was the first five-alarm fire he knew of in the County in his more than 20 years of experience in Montgomery County. More than 150 firefighters and upwards of 50 vehicles/trucks responded to this call. Eventually it was determined the fire destroyed 42 apartments, displaced more than 100 residents, and caused \$3.5 million dollars in damage.

I was truly impressed with our Division's actions at this incident. With an event of this magnitude, numerous lives were in jeopardy. Everyone worked together quickly and efficiently to bring the incident under control. Fire/Rescue command staff made a number of positive comments about our Division's personnel and actions. I commend everyone for his/her professionalism and quick response to this unfortunate incident. **G**



Firefighters assess situation.

Photo by Officer Gregory Worsey




Division Donates Cell Phones

by Lead Dispatcher Charles J. Nash, Jr.

Division members recently donated obsolete cell phone equipment to "Secure the Call," a non-profit coalition of battered women's shelters, senior citizens/neighborhood watch groups, and law enforcement agencies in the Washington-Baltimore region. Secure the Call is dedicated to providing free emergency 911 cell phones to people who would otherwise be unable to obtain them.

With the ever-present threat of terrorism and the country's heightened state of alert, the coalition's mission is to ensure that people can get help in any

emergency. Donated phones are cleaned and the memories are cleared of old names and number information. Then the phones are reprogrammed to dial 911, tested, and distributed.

Along with the 44 Commission and staff-owned phones collected, eight desktop chargers, 19 car chargers, four wall-unit chargers, 10 assorted other chargers, and nine cases were donated to this worthy cause. 



L-R: Dispatcher Bob Monroe, Mr. Neal Holtz of Secure the Call, and Lead Dispatcher Monica Warren



In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of retired Dispatcher Willie Foulks. Willie died on May 7, 2005, after several months of illness. Leaving behind his wife, son, and grandson, Willie will be sorely missed by his immediate family and his Park Police family.

Born in Batesburg, South Carolina, Willie attended Batesburg High School where he played quarterback on the school's football team. After graduation, Willie joined the United States Army and received commendations for his superior marksmanship skills. Following his honorable discharge from the military, Willie joined the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Force where he served until a job-related injury forced him to leave there.

Continuing his law enforcement dedication, Willie joined the Maryland-National Capital Park Police Communications Section as a Dispatcher. Willie received several recognition awards for his outstanding work in his 25 years with the Park Police until his retirement in October 2004. **G**



Dispatcher Willie Foulks receives the 2000 Dispatcher of the Year Award from Retired Captain Mike Wynnyk (left) and Lt. Darien Manley (right).



Photo by Dana Brassell



The Latest Scoop

Sergeant Harvey Baker Promoted to Lieutenant

Congratulations go to Sergeant Harvey Baker on his promotion to Lieutenant on May 19, 2005. Harvey joined the Montgomery County Division in 2002 from the Prince George's County Division where he had served for more than 14 years. Lt. Baker has recently served as supervisor of Investigative Services and Special Services Section and will be taking on the duties of Patrol Commander. Best wishes, Harvey!



Photo by Margaret Kingsley

Lt. Harvey Baker

Officer Michael Paulk Promoted to Sergeant



Congratulations go to Officer Mike Paulk on his promotion to Sergeant on June 13, 2005. Mike joins us from the Prince George's Division where he served for 19 years as a Patrol, Mounted, Motor, and Investigative Officer. Mike also participated in a Drug Enforcement Agency task force for 10 years. Welcome aboard, Mike!

Photo by Officer Ed Rivera

Sergeant Michael Paulk