

# THE GUARDIAN

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

## Santa Comes to Town

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, Santa rode into Park Police Headquarters with his entourage of close to 40 motorcycles. Motor officers from police departments throughout Montgomery County, including the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, got together to raise money for the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health. The Inn is a private, non-profit residence that keeps families together while the child is being treated for a serious illness.

The ride included stops at all six Montgomery County Police stations and the Executive Office Building in Rockville to greet County Executive Isiah Leggett. Ending in front of the Inn, Santa and his officers spent time with the children and their families. Gift cards for the families and gifts for the children were purchased with the more than \$13,000 that was raised through donations and raffle ticket sales. Thanks to Trish McCourt for selling tickets and everyone involved for supporting such a worthwhile cause. **G**



*Photo by  
Tricia McCourt*


Santa (Officer Robert Ladany) and his entourage make a visit to Park Police Headquarters.



## Park Police Assist with Presidential Escort

President Barack Obama paid a surprise visit to the students at Viers Mill Elementary School in Silver Spring on Monday, October 19, 2009. Picked because the school was designated a National Blue Ribbon School, President Obama visited with the children during their lunch time. Excited to meet the President, the third and fifth-graders shook his hand and talked to him about what books they were reading.

Montgomery County Police and school officials found out about the visit Friday afternoon and were told to keep it a secret. With less than two days over the weekend to plan for such an operation, police executives went into action. The Secret Service and local police departments, including the Park Police, worked together to get President Obama to and from the school safely.

One route was selected for the trip to the school and a different one for the way back. Officers stopped traffic along the way, including the Capital Beltway, so the motorcade could go through unobstructed. A great deal of planning went into providing security for this detail and everything went smoothly. The Secret Service and Montgomery County Police were very complimentary to everyone who participated. Thanks to all who took part in this special detail. 



President Barrack Obama's  
Presidential motorcade

Officer Misti Hoffmaster stands guard.



*Photos by  
David Wiggins*



# Law Enforcement Challenge

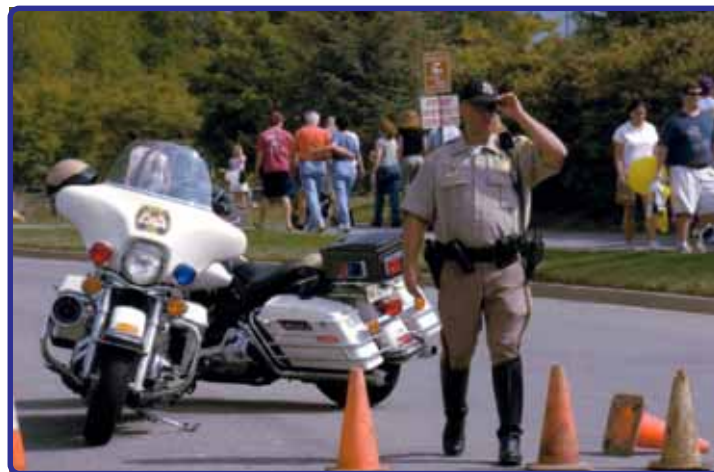
**T**hanks to everyone who contributed to a successful Smooth Operator Wave #4. Part of the Law Enforcement Challenge, the wave, held from September 6-19, focused on aggressive driving. Officers from the Montgomery County Park Police Division took 814 enforcement actions against aggressive driving. The top overall producers by beat and Special Operations are as follows:

2A – Officer Cylda Hodo  
2B – Officer Emily Murphy  
2C – Officer Andre Murphy  
2D – Officer Caleb Garcia  
1A – Officer Misti Hoffmaster  
1B – Officer Chris Gayle  
1C – Officer Michael Bennett  
Special Operations Section – Officer Marc Fanelli

The top overall producing officer based on the number of hours each officer worked was Officer Marc Fanelli with 51 enforcement actions. Other high producers included:

Officer Misti Hoffmaster – 51  
Officer Andre Murphy – 50  
Officer Michael Bennett – 45  
Officer Caleb Garcia – 45  
Officer Cylda Hodo – 40

Thanks to everyone for making the roadways of Montgomery County safe for all to travel. Great job! **G**



Officer Jeff Adcock directs traffic.


*Photo by  
Francine Bethea*



## Congratulations to Paul Mazzei, Sr.

Congratulations to Bi-County Firearms Range Administrator Paul Mazzei, Sr. who received the Law Enforcement Non-Academy Instructor of the Year at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions' Instructor Conference. Mr. Mazzei's position oversees the firearms training program which includes annual firearms in-service and qualification; the shooter improvement program; tactical firearms training and judgmental use-of-force training. Since he joined the Park Police as the Bi-County Firearms Range Administrator, the number of officers required to take part in the shooter improvement program has been reduced by more than half.

Mr. Mazzei also researched, planned and facilitated the purchase and construction of an interactive use-of-force training simulator and a separate building structure to house the unit. The simulator is being used to meet the revised Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions' Firearms Training Regulations which mandate annual judgmental training. Mr. Mazzei's expertise in the areas of firearms training and the use of deadly force has benefited our organization greatly as he developed various lesson plans, revised firearms-related Divisional directives/policies and has acted as a consultant to our Command Staff on other firearms-related issues. Mr. Mazzei also developed and instituted active shooter training for both Park Police Divisions during our 2009 Spring In-Service Training.

Prior to joining the Park Police training team, Mr. Mazzei served the Prince George's County Police Department as an officer for 20 years, 12 of those assigned to the Emergency Services Team. Mr. Mazzei is a dedicated trainer who advocates officer safety and has been a professional law enforcement firearms instructor for over 34 years. He served as a Prince George's County Police Academy instructor and he also was the Deputy Director of the Prince George's County Municipal Police Academy. Congratulations to Mr. Mazzei for this well-deserved award! 



*Photo by  
Det. Mau Ly*

Paul Mazzei, Sr. (center) receives Non-Academy Instructor of the Year Award.



## Congratulations to Horse-Mounted Class Graduates

Congratulations to six officers on their graduation from Horse-Mounted Class. An intense 12-week class, officers learn how to ride and patrol with horses; how to care for them; how to control crowds with them and how to transport them. Graduates include Officer Joshua Scully from the Montgomery County Division of Maryland-National Capital Park Police and Officers Berry Jackson, Chris Klotz, and Candice Sewell from the Prince George's Division. Officer Chip Green from Ocean City, Maryland Police Department and Officer Jeramy Ramos from Prince William, Virginia Police Department also graduated.

A graduation ceremony was held on November 20, 2009, at the Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac, Maryland. Thanks to Sergeant Rick Pelicano and Officer Megan Lau for their dedication to the Park Police horse-mounted course and for their quality instruction. **G**

*Photo by  
C.Z. Scully*



L-R: Officers Berry Jackson, Chip Green, Candice Sewell, Chris Klotz, Joshua Scully, and Jeramy Ramos



## Park Police Say Goodbye to Two Valued Members

**M**ounted Volunteer Carol Westbrook passed away on November 4, 2009, after a brief and tough fight with leukemia. Carol was a volunteer with the Park Police for more than three years. She was actively involved in the Pheasant Hill Equine Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of horses ([www.phequinefoundation.org](http://www.phequinefoundation.org)).

Retired Police Officer Sheryl (Curly) Cruikshank, a 25-year veteran of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, died December 1, 2009, after a long, brave fight with cancer. Sheryl spent the majority of her career assigned to the Special Operations Section where she focused her talents on patrolling the lake at Black Hill as “Marine 1,” on horse-mounted patrol and hunting details. Sheryl was the owner of Curly’s Critters Farm where she enjoyed taking care of all her horses including two retired Park Police horses, goats, dogs and cats. She was passionate about animals and did everything she could do to stop animal cruelty.

Both members will be sorely missed. Our prayers and thoughts are with Carol’s and Sheryl’s families and friends. **G**



Mounted Volunteer Carol Westbrook at 2009 National Night Out



Retired Park Police Officer Sheryl Cruikshank on Mark



# Sunrise Residents Fill Halloween Bags

**S**unrise residents filled Halloween bags for distribution by the Park Police. A total of 2,567 bags were handed out to the following elementary schools: Waters Landing, McNair, Damascus, Summit Hall and Washington Grove. Seventy-five bags were handed out at Park Police Headquarters.

The bags were filled with Park Police piggy banks and activities books. Thanks to Officer Sabrina Pirtle for organizing this effort and thanks to the Sunrise residents and families for helping out. 

*Photos by Tauna Woolery  
Life Enrichment Manager &  
Activities and Volunteer Assistant*



Sunrise residents and visitors fill Halloween bags.



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# The Latest Scoop

## Welcome to Two New Dispatchers

Please welcome new Communication Technicians Julian Parsons and Mary Powell to the Communications Section. Julian joined us on October 5 and is currently working midnights with Lead Communications Technician John Stinson. Julian's father, Retired Sergeant Joe Parsons, retired from the Park Police in 2004.

Mary Powell began October 19, training with Lead Communications Technician Monica Warren. In her previous job, Mary was the supervisor of the dispatch section for UPS. Please come by and introduce yourself to our newest Park Police members. 



Dispatcher Julian Parsons



Dispatcher Mary Powell

*Photos by  
Margaret Kingsley*