



August Highlights

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2008

New Castle County Police Department

2008 Youth Police Academy



Campers enjoy demonstration by EOD Robot

The second annual New Castle County Police Youth Academy was once again well received by the 23 students who attended the program this year. The re-vamped program was modeled after the Citizen's Police Academy which provides an in-depth overview of the police department.

Corporal Amy Kevis (camp coordinator) and members of the community services unit envisioned a program that would represent officers in a positive light rather than just trying to force them into a law enforcement training model. As a result, the young men and women experienced first-hand, the police department's everyday operations such as: patrol procedures, computer crimes, crime scene investigation, the history of the police department, composite sketches, nutrition and fitness and many other interesting facets of law enforcement. The camp was specifically designed to be a hands on experience rather than a lecture type classroom environment.

Each day, the campers received additional training in drill and marching instructions as well as proper nutrition habits. The campers also traveled to Washington DC to visit two very important destinations: the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and the National Museum of Crime and Punishment.



Campers climb aboard the Lenco

Although last year's camp was a tremendous success, this year the students were impressed and engaged in all of the programs. In all, the students and instructors had a great experience and can not wait until next year.

National Night Out



Citizens spending time with public safety officials

The New Castle County Division of Police joined forces with a number of public and private agencies this year for a most successful National Night Out program. The event is designed to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts. In order to balance the festivities throughout the county, the police department sponsored three simultaneous events in the northern districts. The Northern District Advisory Council held their event at the Woodshaven Kruse Park. The Central District event was held at Glasgow Park and the Western District program was held at Banning Park. According to the latest figures, hundreds of adults and children attended each event as officers and members of the advisory councils prepared food and had plenty of give away items for children. Special thanks to the Target Company, the advisory councils, and the many other sponsors and volunteers for putting together a first class evening.



Loitering Investigation Leads to Drug Bust

New Castle County Police have arrested **Cheinier McCray**, a 23 year old male who resides in the unit block of Continental Avenue in the City of Newark. He has been charged with felony drug violations after he was stopped for loitering in the Admirals Club Apartments and tried to run off. McCray, who was unable to out run the officers and their Tasers, was arrested as he tossed away two bags (16 grams) of cocaine. While wrestling with the officers, his hat fell off and (10) Xanax pills and (10) Ecstasy pills spilled out.

On Thursday morning (8/3), Officer Justin Caserta and Corporal Gus Zeissig spoke with management at the Admirals Club Apartments about a recent letter that had been sent out to residents warning them not to loiter on the front steps of the apartment complex. After speaking with management, the officers encountered subjects loitering while sitting on the front steps of 28 Fairway Road. While speaking with one of the subjects, he became very nervous and pushed the officer's hand away just before a pat down search was conducted. The subject then jumped off of the top step and ran before losing his balance and tripping on the roadway curb. The subject, who stood 6'3" and weighs 280 pounds, continued to try to escape but was apprehended after the officers used a Taser. Police discovered he was also in possession of \$713 in suspected drug proceeds. McCray, who had just been released from house arrest the previous day, has been charged with trafficking in cocaine, possession with the intent to deliver Ecstasy, possession with the intent to deliver Xanax and resisting arrest. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$43,750 secured bail.



Officer Justin Caserta

Homicide Investigation

(North Wilmington) New Castle County Detectives are currently investigating the murder of a male subject who was slain in the Edgemoor Gardens community.

On Saturday (8/2) 10:10 p.m., County Police received reports of "shots-fired" in the area of S. Cannon Drive. Multiple units responded to the scene and located an unresponsive male subject lying on the roadway. Despite rescue efforts, the victim died at the Christiana Hospital. The cause and manner of the victim's death was determined by the Medical Examiner's Office and classified as a homicide.

The victim has been identified as **Nelson Drakeford**, a resident of the unit block of Painter Drive in Wilmington. Detectives have received cooperation from members of the community with the investigation which is progressing, however, additional witnesses are being sought.



Fugitive Police Impersonator Apprehended

New Castle County Police, supported by the Wilmington Police Department, have apprehended a Maryland man who was a fugitive wanted by North Carolina and Georgia authorities on felony charges including impersonating a police officer.

On Wednesday (8/13) County Police were contacted by investigators from the Greensboro, North Carolina police department who requested assistance in apprehending 33 year old **Rodney O. Vereen**, who lists his residence in Waldorf, Maryland. Vereen was wanted by Greensboro authorities for felony theft after he allegedly befriended a female, convinced her to give him money and a 2008 Chevrolet Impala, and then fled the area. It was reported that Vereen has been using multiple aliases, including the name of Eric Newban. Greensboro authorities determined that Vereen has ties to Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

The investigation lead County Police to a residence in the 2500 block of W. 4th Street, Wilmington, DE where Vereen was believed to be staying. Officers from the County Police Special Operations Section including the Drug Control Unit and Mobile Enforcement Team responded to the area and observed the Chevrolet Impala. They immediately established surveillance and obtained a search warrant .

With the support of the Wilmington Police Department, officers executed the search warrant and found Vereen inside of the residence where he was taken into custody. Upon his arrest, Vereen provided arresting officers an alias of Eric Newban. However, through the use of photographs and fingerprints, his identity was determined. When officers recovered the Chevrolet Impala, several law enforcement items including web gear, handcuffs and emergency lights were discovered. Vereen was transported to County Police headquarters where he was charged by County Police with being an Out of State Fugitive. Vereen was also wanted by Georgia Authorities for Violation of Probation where one of the original charges was Impersonating a Police Officer. Vereen was arraigned at Justice of the Peace Court 11. He waived extradition and is being held without bail at the Howard Young Correctional Institution until he is returned to North Carolina to face criminal charges.

30 Pounds of Marijuana Seized, Two Subjects Arrested

On Thursday (8/14) members of the New Castle County Police Drug Control Unit, Mobile Enforcement Team, Detective Division and Delaware State Police arrested two subjects after they were found to be in possession of 30 pounds of marijuana.

New Castle County Police Detectives developed information that a large quantity of drugs would arrive at a home in the **Unit block of Danville Court, Cambridge Gardens, New Castle, DE**. It was also learned that the resident, 24 year old **Candace R. Wilson**, was wanted on outstanding warrants from local Courts for failing to appear on various traffic charges.

Members of the Northern Delaware Drug Task Force, which consists of County Police Drug Control Unit and Delaware State Police Detectives, along with the County Police Mobile Enforcement Team combined resources and established surveillance of the residence. During the surveillance, Candace R. Wilson was observed loading a package into the trunk of a 2002 Mazda 626, which was being driven by 34 year old **Eduardo A. Griffith, Jr.** of Chester, PA. Detectives then stopped the vehicle as it drove from the area. During the subsequent investigation, 20 pounds of marijuana were located in the package that Wilson had placed in the vehicle and an additional 10 pounds of marijuana was also located in the vehicle. The vehicle was seized as part of the investigation. Both subjects were charged with multiple felony drug offenses, including Trafficking in Marijuana and Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana.



North Carolina Postal Worker Wanted for Attempted Abduction of Virtual Boyfriend

Detectives have arrested **Kimberly Jernigan**, a 33 year old female who resides in the 800 block of Parker Street in Durham, North Carolina. She has been charged with kidnapping and related offenses after county detectives discovered she had driven to Delaware and plotted to kidnap her former virtual boyfriend to start a new life together “out west.” The determined suspect broke into the victim’s apartment and waited for his return while equipped with handcuffs, a Taser, duct tape and a BB gun.

(Claymont, DE) On Thursday (8/21) at 5:28 p.m., County Police responded to the 7100 block of Society Drive, in the Whitney Presidential Towers, for a report of an attempted kidnapping that just occurred. When police arrived, they contacted the 52 year old male victim who reported he believed his ex-girlfriend (Jernigan) was attempting to kidnap him.



Gogi post duct tape incident

The victim advised when he arrived at his home, he noticed a person standing inside his apartment holding an object in their hand pointing it at him. He then observed a laser beam on his torso that appeared to be shining from the object the person was holding. The victim immediately ran out of the apartment and called 911 from his cell phone. He reported he believed the intruder was his ex-girlfriend because she had tried to kidnap him two weeks ago at his place of employment in Pennsylvania. When police arrived, they searched the apartment and did not find the intruder, but did find Kimberly Jernigan’s dog “Gogi” bound by duct tape in the bathtub of the home. During a further examination of the crime scene, officers found a pair of handcuffs just outside of the victim’s bedroom window, a roll of duct tape inside and they also discovered the window screen had been cut and removed.

Based on the information provided by the victim, a general broadcast was sent out to the surrounding police agencies regarding the attempted kidnapping suspect and her vehicle (a blue 2008 Kia Rio with North Carolina tags). Approximately one hour after the initial report, Troopers from the Maryland State Police located the vehicle and suspect at the Maryland House road stop on I-95. Jernigan was arrested by the troopers after a brief struggle. The investigation has revealed the couple had met on-line through a website called “Second Life.” The victim, whose character was a Lion, engaged in a virtual relationship with Jernigan (whose character was a virtual woman) which ultimately lead to the two meeting a few months ago. After the “in-person” meeting, the victim broke off the relationship. Unfortunately, Jernigan was not ready to end the companionship and later attempted to kidnap the victim at gunpoint in Pennsylvania approximately two weeks ago. Investigators learned Jernigan returned to Delaware on Monday (8/18) and posed as a local postal worker attempting to deliver a package to the victim as he had recently moved and she did not know his address. After four days, she successfully found his address and responded to the apartment with her dog. Not wanting to leave the dog in her car, she brought her canine accomplice along in the break-in. Evidently, her partner was making too much of a disturbance so she had to ice him by binding him with the duct tape and locking him in the bathroom. The canine was found to be in good health and apparently uninjured, however, the SPCA is investigating the possible cruelty to an animal case. Jernigan waived her right to an extradition hearing and was returned to Delaware by detectives. She has been charged with attempted kidnapping, burglary, and aggravated menacing.

Serial Burglar Arrested in Stolen Car

New Castle County Police have arrested **Nicholas Porter**, a 26 year old male who resides in the 100 block of Cherry Lane in the community of Collins Park. He has been linked to a week-long burglary spree involving at least five homes that were burglarized in his neighborhood after he was stopped in a vehicle he had stolen during the most recent break-in.

During the week of August 17th through the 22, County Police investigated a series of burglaries that occurred in the community of Collins Park. During the investigation, detectives developed a suspect, Nicholas Porter, who resides in the community and lives with his girlfriend named **Trisha Carmichael** (33). The investigation has revealed Carmichael had pawned jewelry that had been taken in one of the burglaries. She was arrested last week and charged with receiving stolen property, theft by false pretense and violating a no contact order (she had a no contact order with her boyfriend Nicholas Porter stemming from an unrelated crime).

On Friday (8/22) morning, Detective William Lenhart was patrolling Collins Park when he observed a vehicle that had been stolen in the most recent burglary traveling through the community. Lenhart stopped the vehicle and discovered Nicholas Porter was the operator. Detectives linked Porter to a total of five burglaries where jewelry, a plasma television and prescription drugs were stolen. Investigators were able to recover some jewelry and the television (valued at \$3,600) from an area resident who purchased it for \$50. Additional charges are pending as investigators continue to seek witnesses and victims.



Detective William Lenhart

Introducing Canine Eros



On Thursday, August 7, 2008, Corporal Joe "Krackers" Krajewski and his canine partner Eros (not the Greek goddess) were honored at a graduation ceremony at the public safety building. After completing 17 weeks of intensive training, Eros was nationally certified through the National Police Canine Association. The tandem will specialize in narcotics detection and patrol work. According to Senior Corporal Tobin, "Eros is as a high energy canine with tremendous scenting ability. Eros will be successful as he has adopted his handler's "high drive" personality.



Congratulations to Nicole and Tom Jackson on the birth of the newest member of their family. Matthew Tyler Jackson was born on Saturday, August 2, 2008, at the Christiana Hospital at 5:54 p.m. Matthew weighed in at seven pounds, four ounces and was 19 1/2 inches. He, mom, dad and big brother Thomas Andrew are all doing well.



Congratulations to Andrea and John Mancuso on the birth of their precious little girl. Sophia Lynne Mancuso was born on Sunday, August 10, 2008, at the Christiana Hospital at 8:26 a.m. Sophia weighed in at six pounds, eight ounces and was 20 1/2 inches. She, mom and dad are all doing well.



Significant Crime Recap August 2008

Overview Gardens

Friday 8/1/08 1745

District 10-Street

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Two 19 year old males were selling stereo equipment out of the rear of their vehicle and were contacted by two potential buyers. During the conversation, the two potential customers asked the victims to follow them back to their home so they could get cash. The suspects drove to Overview Gardens and parked on Briarcliff Drive. After negotiating for some time, one suspect walked over to a Ford Windstar and retrieved a black handgun. Both suspects then robbed the victims at gunpoint and stole two boxes of stereo equipment. The victims were able to get the tag number, but the vehicle was reportedly sold and not re-registered.

Maple Hill TH

Saturday 8/2/08 0210

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 27 year old male walked out of his home in the unit block of Baylis Streets and was approached by two suspects who displayed a shotgun. The suspects told the victim "give it up" and then struck him in the face. The victim fell to the ground as the suspect stole his Timberland boots, black jeans, watch and Sprint cell phone.

Edgemoor Gardens

Saturday 8/2/08 2200

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Homicide investigation) A 19 year old male, who has been identified as Nelson Drakeford, was found shot to death in Edgemoor Gardens. The investigation has revealed Drakeford had engaged in an altercation with at least one suspect and was shot while other witnesses were present. Detectives have identified persons of interest, but have not yet made an arrest.

Weiss Park

Sunday 8/3/08 0040

District 11-Tackett

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Three teenage victims advised that they had been hanging out on the benches in the rear of the park near the basketball court when two males wearing black sweatpants, black hoodies, black baseball hats and black sneakers approached them from the pavilion. One displayed what appeared to be a silver handgun and told them to drop their stuff. They took the victim's cell phone and cash. They then fled on foot back in the direction of the pavilion.

Brookside SC

Monday 8/4/08 2125

District 5-McClellan

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Two teenage victims, who are brothers, were reportedly walking home from a friend's house in Brookside when they were approached by two subjects in the rear of Brookside Plaza Apartments. One of the suspects asked the victims a question and then began to punch him about the face while removing items from his pockets. The other suspect pointed what was described as a sawed off shotgun

at the victims and forced them to lie on the ground. Approximately 30 minutes later another attempted robbery occurred on Hobart involving the same suspects.

Spring Run Apts

Monday 8/4/08 2205

District 5-McClellan

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 26 year old male was sitting in front of his building when he was approached from his right side by two male subjects. Once brandished a shotgun and robbed the victim after striking him in the face with the barrel of the weapon

Delaware City

Tuesday 8/5/08 0233

District 12-Bell

Synopsis: (Home invasion) Three adult males reported that three unknown males forced their way into their residence (in the 300 block of Adams Street) and assaulted them with handguns. Each victim was struck in the face/head with a handgun as they were bound with cables. The suspect stole cash and electronics before fleeing.

Woodstream Garden Apts Wednesday 8/6/08 2055

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Shooting investigation) WPD responded to the old Riverside Hospital for the report of a person shot. Their investigation revealed that the uncooperative 23 year old victim had been shot one time in the shoulder while he in the area of the 900 block of Peachtree Road. The investigation was turned over to county detectives who discovered the victim had driven a stolen car to the hospital, however, the shooter has not yet been identified.

Willow Run

Wednesday 8/6/08 2318

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Attempted robbery) A 28 year old female was walking home (1500 block of Old Farm Road) from work, after getting off a bus in Elsmere. While walking on the sidewalk, two unknown male teens approached her from behind, riding bicycles. The teens suddenly grabbed the victim and pushed her into an unlit driveway while pulling her purse. One of the subjects pulled a black handgun from his waistband and pressed the barrel to her forehead, while the other subject continued to attempt to forcefully pull the victim's purse off of her shoulder. The suspects fled when the victim started screaming.

Leedom Estates

Friday 8/8/08 0258

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 44 year old male was walking home from the Wawa on New Jersey Avenue when he was approached by a male subject who suddenly attacked him. The suspect fled after taking cash from the victim.

Brookside SC

Saturday 8/9/08 2144

District 5-McClellan

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A male subject entered the Brookside Liquor Store, and brandished a black in colored handgun while demanded money from the clerk. The suspect stole and undisclosed amount of cash from the register and a purse from a female patron. The suspect then fled on foot out the front door of the store.

Westhover

Saturday 8/9/08 2150

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 49 year old male, who is employed by Papa John's Pizza, responded to a home in the unit block of Goya Place to deliver a pizza. The victim advised that as he arrived to the delivery address he observed the three male subjects waiting outside of the residence. When the victim exited his vehicle with the pizza order, he was confronted by the three suspects who forcibly removed the cash proceeds from pizza sales.

Kimberton TH

Monday 8/11/08 2138

District 5-McClellan

Synopsis: (Shooting investigation) Officers respond to an address in the unit block of Waltham Street for a report of a shooting that just occurred. When the officers arrived, they determined a 44 year old male had already been transported to the hospital in a privately owned vehicle. The officers discovered there had been a barbeque style party at the residence prior to the shooting. Witnesses reported hearing several shots that originated from the rear of the residence. During this time, the victim attempted to get into the residence for cover when he was shot in the buttocks. There were also 4-5 other projectiles that struck the residence and at least 2 of them entered the home

Dunleith

Tuesday 8/12/08 0935

District 10-Street

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A police officer was flagged down at the intersection of Morehouse Drive and Anderson Drive in the community of Dunleith by a male subject who claimed to have just been robbed. The victim advised that a male subject had just tried to rob him and stated he had a gun. The victim pointed to two males walking east on Anderson Drive. The officer stopped the suspects, whom the victim pointed out. Neither subject was found to be in possession of a weapon, however they were linked to the crime and arrested.

Hampton Walk Apts

Wednesday 8/13/08 1500

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Shooting investigation) Patrol Officers were dispatched to 43 Lea Road, Manor Park, in reference to a shooting that just occurred. Upon arrival, the officers located the 21 year old male victim leaning against a vehicle with a gunshot wound to his upper right leg. The victim was not cooperative, but later indicated he had a verbal altercation with a male subject on Carvel Avenue. During the dispute, another male approached him and shot him in the leg. The suspects then fled in a "beat up" white Crown Victoria or white Grand Marquis.

Llangollen Estates**Sunday 8/17/08 1425****District 12-Bell**

Synopsis: (Carjacking, robbery) A 92 year old male had just parked his car and was walking to the front door of a home in the 200 block of Schafer Blvd. to visit a friend. As he approached the door, he was hit from behind and lost consciousness. When the victim woke, his vehicle was gone and his hand was bleeding. The victim was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he was admitted. His vehicle was located in front of building 47 in the nearby Castlebrook Apartments. Witnesses observed a young black male in his mid-teens, dark skin tone, wearing red shorts and a white T-shirt flee from the vehicle. The suspect got into a green Ford Focus that was parked in the parking lot and fled.

Riverside**Monday 8/18/08 2300****District 8-Cartier**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) An 18 year old male was walking from his residence on Third Street to a convenience store to purchase cigarettes when he was approached from behind by two suspects. The suspects demanded that the victim empty his pockets. One of the suspects implied he had a weapon as the other punched the victim in the face. Both suspects fled toward the Waterview Court Apartments after taking a cell phone and wallet.

Bedford Park TH**Tuesday 8/19/08 2315****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Attempted carjacking) Two 18 year old males were reportedly sitting inside a Ford Taurus on Edinburg Drive near Lanford Road when two unknown males approached the passenger side of the vehicle. One male was armed with a black handgun and knife. He tried to open the door, but it was locked. He then put the handgun to the victims head while demanding money, the victim's cell phone, and the car keys. The victim then started the vehicle and drove away, dragging the male subject for a short distance.

Bear Library**Wednesday 8/20/08 1330****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 13 year old female victim reported that while walking in the area of the Bear Library, she was approached by the two suspects, whom she is familiar with as she has seen them at the library in the past. According to the victim, the two girls "jumped" her and took her purse prior to fleeing.

Edgemoor**Saturday 8/23/08 1730****District 8-Cartier**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Officers were dispatched to Rysing Drive and Pennewell Drive location regarding a strong arm robbery. The victim advised that a male suspect followed him from the nearby Dart bus stop and stopped him to ask a question. He then forcibly removed his wallet before fleeing on foot.

Coventry Parkland

Tuesday 8/26/08 1310

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Two New Castle County Employees were walking in the parkland when they noticed they were being followed by the two suspects. While on a bridge in the park, the victims moved to the side to allow the suspects to pass. The suspects passed by, then turned around and confronted the two victims while armed with a handgun. The suspects ordered the victim's onto the ground and then stole their wallets before fleeing on foot

Maryland Park Apts

Tuesday 8/26/08 2100

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 25 year old male victim advised that he was walking to the Maryland Park Apartments from the corner of Maryland Avenue and Robinson Lane when he was approached by two suspects. The victim advised that one suspect was armed with a knife and held same to his throat. The victim advised that the suspects demanded money. The victim pushed the suspect holding the knife and the suspect cut the victim's left arm (2 inch laceration). The victim then responded to his residence where he advised his family what had happened and police were notified. The victim was treated and released from St. Francis Hospital.

Oakmont

Wednesday 8/27/08 1519

District 10-Street

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) An 11 year old male was riding his friend's bike in the area of Birkshire Drive when he was approached by a 12 year old male. The suspect asked if he could see the bike as he pulled out what appeared to be a silver in color handgun and racked the slide. The victim complied and gave the bike away. The suspect was later identified and arrested.

Forest Glen

Thursday 8/28/08 0100

District 6-Powers

Synopsis: (Reported robbery, shooting) Officers responded to a residence in the unit block of Forest Glen Court for a report of a home invasion robbery that just occurred. Police discovered two suspects smashed a rear sliding glass door and entered the residence. The subjects responded to the second floor bedrooms and held a mother and her daughter victims at gun point. The subjects asked for money and jewelry and fled with same. As they were leaving the residence, they fired three rounds from a .45 caliber handgun into a first floor television.