



County Police Ink

March 2009

New Castle County Police Department

What's Inside

Significant investigations
MET Team updates
A great month for the dogs
Newest member of public safety family

19 Month Investigation Ends with Matusiewicz Arrest



Colonel Gregory addresses the media at the public safety building

NEW CASTLE—Detective Jeff Shriner knew early on that this investigation would not be the “usual” missing person case. His investigation revealed David Matusiewicz had begun planning this crime long before he told his ex-wife he was taking their children on vacation to Walt Disney World. For 19 months, Shriner tirelessly pursued countless international leads into the whereabouts of Matusiewicz and his three young daughters. When asked how he was able to maintain his fervor for this case, Shriner simply stated, “I promised the children’s mother—I will never give up the search for these kids.” Sadly, what started out for the kids as a proposed fun filled family vacation, turned into a year and a half of running from the law and living in less than ideal conditions in foreign countries. According to Detective Shriner, this was one of the most complex missing person cases in his career and perhaps in the history of the police department. One of most challenging aspects of a missing person case that

is no longer in New Castle County is having to rely on assistance from other law enforcement agencies that have different policies, procedures and, in many cases, time zones. Another reason for concern was the fact that Mr. Matusiewicz sold his business for nearly a half million dollars and may have had much more available cash on hand at the time of his disappearance. One of the first outside agencies that assisted detectives with this case was the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children who immediately authored a nationwide advisory for this case. Shriner discovered the family had recently purchased an RV from a local dealer in Smyrna and had overloaded the vehicle with essential living supplies. This information was confirmed as Shriner learned the RV was serviced for tire repairs due to an excessive load. As the investigation progressed, much help was provided by the U.S. Marshals who followed up on leads ranging from locations in Canada, to Las Vegas, to Florida and ultimately

to several states in the U.S. In April 2008, the FBI discovered the family had crossed from Panama into the country of Costa Rica in the RV purchased from the Smyrna dealer. Although Shriner had many leads, this was the first explicit evidence that they had entered into a foreign country. As a result of a collaborative effort with the Nicaraguan authorities, David Matusiewicz was located and arrested while he drove his oldest daughter to school on March 13. The other two girls were found safe and unharmed with David’s mother at their remote campsite in a desolate area of Nicaragua. Both David and his mother Lenore were arrested and deported to the United States. The children were reunited with their mother in Nicaragua and also returned to the U.S. Colonel Gregory has expressed his sincere gratitude to the following agencies who assisted with the successful conclusion of this case: the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the United States Marshal’s Office, the United States State Department, the FBI and the United States Attorney’s Office.



Detective Shriner speaks at press conference

Mobile Enforcement Team making impact in our communities

Pregnant Woman Found with 73 Bags of Heroin in Waistband

County Police arrested two occupants of a vehicle for felony drug and weapon offenses after their car was stopped for having an illegal window tint. They were later found with heroin and guns in the car. On Wednesday (3/4), officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) were patrolling the Route 9 corridor when they observed a vehicle traveling on Rogers Road with an illegal window tint. At 12:45 p.m., the officers stopped the car and contacted the operator (Jeron Johnson) and passenger (Shawnett Backus) who were unable to provide an insurance card for the vehicle. The officers removed the occupants from the car and searched the exterior with a police canine. The canine's search indicated the presence of drugs inside the vehicle which led to a subsequent search. Inside the car, police found six bags of heroin between the seats. During a more thorough search, police found a loaded .22 caliber handgun and an electronic stun gun in the trunk of the car. Both Johnson and Backus (who is four months pregnant) were arrested and transported to police headquarters where police found she had an additional 73 bags of heroin concealed in her waistband. Both suspects were arrested and charged with felony drug violations. They were each committed to prison after failing to post secured bail.

Car Flees, Strikes Several other Cars, PCP Found Inside

MET officers have arrested two Newark men for trafficking PCP and multiple traffic violations after the driver of an Oldsmobile fled from a car stop in Brookside. After a brief vehicle and foot chase, both occupants were arrested and later found to be in possession of 88 grams of PCP. On Friday (3/20) evening, officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team were assigned to patrol the area of the Kimberton Apartments. At 5:15 p.m., the officers observed the Oldsmobile traveling on Marrows Road and noted the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. The officers stopped the car and contacted the driver who was unable to provide a drivers license. A computer inquiry revealed no record found so the officers returned to the car and asked the driver to exit the vehicle. He then suddenly put the car in drive and drove off at a high rate of speed. The driver struck one car on Marrows Road, a second car on Route 273 and two more on Route 72 where their vehicle became disabled. After a brief foot chase and Taser deployment, the driver was taken into custody. The passenger was arrested without resistance. A search of the car revealed the two had hidden two vials of PCP inside the center console. The driver, Marcus Taylor and passenger, Christopher Lyles were charged with trafficking PCP, possession with the intent to deliver PCP and conspiracy.

416 Bags of Heroin Seized

MET officers have arrested a husband and wife for felony drug violations after they executed a search warrant at their apartment and seized two and a half "logs" of heroin. During the search warrant, the couple's seven year old son was found playing an X-Box game while seated directly next to the heroin. For about a week in late March, officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team were assigned to the Haverford and neighboring Woodfield Apartments complexes to address reported complaints of open air drug sales, loitering and prostitution. As the assignment progressed, the officers stopped several people who were leaving the complex who had just purchased heroin. The investigation revealed that all of the subjects had purchased the drugs from a male subject named Sammy who lived in the Haverford Apartments. Sammy and the location of his apartment were later identified as the officers conducted a surveillance assignment. On Monday (3/30), Sammy was seen leaving his apartment on foot as he was evidently about to make a drug sale when the officers stopped him. At the time of the stop, Sammy was found to be in possession of 13 baggies (one bundle) of heroin. Based on this information, MET officers obtained a search warrant for his apartment. When the officer executed the search warrant, they found Sammy's wife and seven year old son inside the apartment. The seven year old was playing a video game while he was seating directly next to the 403 baggies of heroin that were seized. Police also recovered \$3,235 in suspected drug proceeds from the home.

Samuel (31) and Madeline Padilla (30) were both arrested and charged with trafficking heroin, possession with the intent to deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling for keeping a controlled substance and unlawful dealing with a child.



Mobile Enforcement Team



Canine Apprehends Carjacking Suspect

County Police have arrested Jermaine Goins, a 15 year old male who resides in the 100 block of Thorn Lane in the community of Rosegate and charged him with attempted carjacking and related weapon offenses. On Thursday (3/5) at 7:30 p.m., County Police responded to the area of the 300 block of S. Booth Drive, in the community of Penn Acres, for a report of an attempted carjacking that just occurred. When police arrived, they contacted the 70 year old male victim who reported he had just parked his car in his driveway and was walking toward his front door when he was accosted by two male subjects. Each subject pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded his car keys. The victim refused to give up the keys and began banging on his door in an effort to notify the occupants of a potential problem. Both suspects then ran off. Corporal Joseph Krajewski and his canine partner Eros were committed to an unrelated investigation at the time of the incident, but responded to the crime scene about an hour later. Krajewski and his partner began tracking from the victim's home south onto S. Booth Drive and then east on Oregon Avenue. The track ultimately lead them to a residence on N. Purdue Avenue in Wilmington Manor where they encountered a male subject who fit the description of one of the attempted carjacking suspects. Jermaine Goins was taken into custody after police confirmed he was one of the two suspects. He has been charged with attempted carjacking, aggravated menacing, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and conspiracy.



Police Canine Apprehends Theft Suspect

Matthew J. Williams, of W. Keystone Avenue in Wilmington, has been charged with theft and related offenses when Canine Greif found him hiding behind a resident's home after he was spotted by a concerned neighbor who called 911. On Sunday (3/8) at 7:30 a.m., County Police responded to the unit block of Lynam Place, in the community of Lynford, for a report of a trespassing in progress. A concerned resident called police after she observed a male subject lurking along the side of her residence with a second male subject who had walked out of her sight. Corporal Anthony Scelsi and his canine partner Greif responded to the scene and started checking the area. Greif was deployed on a lead and responded to the rear of the residence where they found the subject hiding behind a shed in an adjacent yard. The subject, not wanting to be taken into custody by the canine, decided to surrender without resistance. Police found he was in possession of several prying devices, a flashlight and other items that are considered "burglar's tools" at the time of his arrest. Further investigation revealed he and another suspect had broken into the next door neighbor's car and stole a wallet from inside. Police later identified the second suspect and arrested him at Williams' home on W. Keystone Avenue. The suspect, Keith Brady (23), was found to be in possession of the stolen wallet and credit cards. Williams was arrested and charged with theft, possession of burglar's tools, three counts of criminal trespassing, conspiracy two counts of criminal mischief and possession of a deadly weapon by a person prohibited after police found a Samurai sword underneath his bed. Williams is prohibited from possessing deadly weapons due to a previous felony conviction.



Open Air Canine "Sniff" Results in Drug Arrest

Raymond Davenport, a 32 year old male who resides in the 200 block of Clyde Street in the community of Belvedere, has been charged with a felony drug violation after a police canine searched the exterior of his car by "sniffing" the area surrounding the vehicle and "indicating" for the presence of a controlled dangerous substance (marijuana). On Sunday at 10:39 a.m., Officer Heather Carter was patrolling the area of Boxwood Road when she observed a vehicle that was being operated by a male subject who was not wearing his seatbelt. Officer Carter stopped the vehicle for the violation and subsequently issued the driver (Raymond Davenport) a ticket for not having a license in his possession and failure to wear his seatbelt. Officer Carter noted the vehicle contained an unusually heavy perfume fragrance so she requested a police canine to search the vehicle. Corporal Jim Fitzgerald and his canine partner "Rony" later conducted an open air search of the vehicle's exterior. Canine Rony "alerted" on the vehicle and jumped through the open window where he found a jacket that belonged to the operator on the back seat. Inside the jacket, police located a clear plastic sandwich bag that contained four individually rolled clear plastic sandwich bags containing 38 grams of marijuana. Raymond Davenport was arrested and charged with maintaining a vehicle for keeping a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.



Print "Hit" Leads to Arrest

Brandon L. Ryans (22) has been charged with burglary and felony theft after he stole more than \$4,500 worth of jewelry from a Prices Corner home. He was linked to the break-in after evidence technicians "lifted" his fingerprints from the crime scene and later received a computer match. On Tuesday (3/10) at 9:30 a.m., police responded to a home in the unit block of Elm Avenue for a report of a burglary that just occurred. The female resident reported she and her two small children had returned home and went to the basement area to play. While downstairs, the victim heard the sound of footsteps and then heard her front door close. The victim walked upstairs and found the front door ajar. She looked outside and observed a male subject attempting to hide behind a stone well in her front yard. The victim shouted at the subject who then casually walked off toward the parkland. The victim called police after finding several items missing from her jewelry box. Detective William Lenhart processed the residence for physical evidence and was able to lift fingerprints from inside the home which he later placed into the AFIS fingerprint system. Within a few hours, detectives received a match for Brandon Ryans.

**Female Serial Burglar Arrested**

Rosemarie Singh (39) has been arrested for multiple burglaries. She was apprehended after a surveillance team followed her to a home and watched her as she attempted to break into a window after breaking the glass. Evidence detection specialists later obtained "print hits" for Singh from three other area burglaries. On Monday (3/23), a team of patrol officers from "E" Squad developed information regarding a woman who was possibly responsible for a series of residential break-ins in a number of Wilmington suburbs. The team of officers watched Singh and her sister, **Jennifer Colasanti** (age 33), as they left their residence on foot. The two walked around the neighborhood and appeared to be seeking a home to break into. The hunch was correct as the officer watched the two sisters approach a home on Westmoreland Avenue. They knocked on the front door and, after receiving no answer, Singh was seen walking to the side of the residence and attempting to enter the dwelling by breaking out a window. The officers then moved in and arrested both suspects. They were found to be in possession of gloves and burglar's tools. Singh has been linked to burglaries in the following communities: Elmhurst, Bellemoor, and Glen Berne Estates. She has been charged with three counts of burglary, one count of attempted burglary, possession of burglar's tools and conspiracy. Her sister, Jennifer Colasanti, has been charged with burglary related offenses.

Canine Quattro Finds Suicidal Assault Suspect

Officer Edwin Mousley and his four-legged partner Quattro had a very productive evening in Late March. The team located a stolen motorcycle that was taken in an earlier burglary and later (in an unrelated investi-



gation) located a suicidal male who had stabbed himself and was wanted for assaulting his parents. On Monday (3/30) at 4:10 p.m., Officer Mousley and Quattro responded to the Kelly's Trailer Park for canine support involving a burglary investigation. The partners began tracking from the home that led them into the Rambleton Acres Parkland and across a creek. The track continued into a heavy wooded area where Quattro found the victim's stolen motorcycle, speakers and gas can. The recovered property was later returned to the victim. The second case occurred two and a half hours later at a residence in the unit block of Walnut Avenue in the community of Brookland Terrace. Mousley and Quattro responded to the home to search for a 24 year old suicidal male who had cut himself with a knife and physically assaulted his parents. When the original officers arrived on scene, they witnessed the bloodied suspect running into the basement area who was reportedly still armed with a razor blade. While speaking to his parents, they learned he had assaulted them during a domestic dispute and had cut himself with the blade. As the officers moved into the basement, they discovered the subject had fled from the exterior door. Canine Quattro conducted a track from the door which led him to the Woodland Run Parkland. The suspect, who was still bleeding from self-inflicted lacerations to his arms, was located as he attempted to hide near a foot bridge. He was arrested and found to still be in possession of a razor blade.



Congratulations to Officer Rhonda Cras on the birth of her daughter, Ava Elizabeth. She was born on March 9, 2009, at 11:37 a.m. She weighed in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Rhonda (Mom), James (Dad) Braden (big brother) and baby are doing great.



Significant Crime Recap March 2009

Silver Springs Apts.

Thursday 3/5/09 0230

District 1- Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 28 year old male victim met a female at a bar and took her to his apartment on Mary Ella Drive to have sex in exchange for money. After the female left, two male suspects showed up at victim's apartment and knocked on the door. Suspects stated that they wanted to show the victim something, at which time the victim was struck on the head with an unknown instrument. The victim jumped from the balcony of his apartment to avoid further assault. The victim was admitted to the Christiana Hospital due to his injuries. The suspects stole cash from the victim's bedroom.

Penn Acres

Thursday 03/05/09 1950

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Attempted carjacking) A 70 year old male had just parked his car in the 300 block of S. Booth Drive when two male subjects approached him. The subjects brandished a handgun and attempted to rob the victim of his car. The subjects fled on foot when the victim started shouting for help. Corporal Joseph Krajewski and his canine partner Aros searched the area and located one of the suspects walking a few blocks away from the scene. The subject, who was found to be in possession of an air soft gun, was positively identified and arrested. The other suspect has not yet been found.

Edgemoor

Friday 3/6/09 1445

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 15 year old victim advised he was walking in the unit block of South Cannon Drive when an unknown subject approached him from behind covering his face and knocking him to the ground. The subject proceeded to kick him and removed cash from the victim's front pocket. The victim advised that he just moved to the area and doesn't know anyone in the neighborhood. The victim advised that he did not see the suspect at all.

Overlook Colony

Friday 3/6/09 1500

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 15 year old male victim advised he was walking on Mansion Drive when he was approached by the three suspects. The suspects assaulted the victim and stole his sweatshirt and house keys before fleeing.

Carpenter Station Plaza

Monday 3/9/09 2150

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) An 18 year old male victim advised that he had exited the Wawa store and walked to his vehicle, which was parked on the south side of the store. The victim was approached by four suspects who had their sweatshirts pulled over their

faces. One of the suspects then began patting down the victim and took cash from his pockets before they fled on foot.

Southview

Wednesday 3/11/09 1808

District 9-Sheldon

Synopsis: (Murder/suicide investigation) Police were called to a residence in the 1200 block of Charles Place for a request to check on the welfare of John Muldoon. When police arrived, they found Muldoon's wife deceased inside having suffered multiple stab wounds. Mr. Muldoon, who was located in another room, was also suffering from multiple self inflicted stab wounds. He was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he later died. The investigation has revealed Muldoon fatally stabbed his wife before committing suicide.

Sparrow Run

Monday 3/16/09 1400

District 6-Powers

Synopsis: (Reported home invasion) A 43 year old male victim advised that he was home (unit block of Egret Court) when he heard a noise coming from the rear door of the residence. As he walked to investigate the noise, he found two suspects had kicked open the rear door to the house and confronted him. One suspect struck the victim with a large stick about the head and arm, while the other displayed what appeared to be a revolver. The suspects ransacked the residence and stole cash and electronics before fleeing the home.

Woodfield Apartments

Tuesday 3/18/09 0020

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Shooting investigation) Several officers responded to numerous reports of shots fired in the area of 4619 Patrician Terrace. During a property check of the area, officers discovered two spent 20 gauge shotgun shells. No victims have come forward and no damage to any vehicles or buildings was observed.

Mill Creek Village Apts.

Wednesday 3/18/09 0640

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Officers were dispatched to the Mill Creek Village Apartments after a witness observed a female lying on the ground in the parking lot and a green vehicle speeding out of the complex. The witness observed the victim having a seizure and observed that she was injured. Following the brief seizure episode, the victim got up and began walking towards Building 31, and advised that she did not need any help. During a later interview with the victim, she advised that she was approached by a two males who had exited what she believed to be a mid-1990's model, 2 door, blue or black car. The subjects assaulted the victim and removed cash from her pockets. The victim advised that she then woke up underneath a car and was being helped by a male (witness).

Mayview Manor**Saturday 3/21/09 2055****District 12-Bell**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 40 year old male victim advised that he was delivering a food order to a residence in the unit block of East Hillview Avenue when he discovered no such address existed. The victim then walked to a neighboring home in an attempt to deliver the food and was approached by a male suspect who displayed a large knife and demanded the victim's money. The suspect stole cash and food from the victim before fleeing on foot.

Sparrow Run**Saturday 3/21/09 2310****District 6-Powers**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Three male victims advised that they were sitting in front of their home on Teal Circle when they observed a dark colored vehicle drive by. Shortly after seeing the vehicle, a male suspect approached the car and struck up a conversation. While talking, the suspect pulled out a black handgun and demanded money. The victims turned over cash before they observed the suspect enter the passenger side of the dark vehicle and flee.

Edgemoor Gardens**Monday 3/23/09 0600****District 8-Cartier**

Synopsis: (Shooting investigation) Officers were dispatched to a home in the unit block of Pennewell Drive for a report of shots fired. Neighbors reported seeing a 50 year old male resident shooting a gun. After contacting the reported shooter and seeing live rounds of ammunition in plain view, police obtained a search warrant for the residence. As a result, officers recovered a handgun, crack cocaine, marijuana, drug packaging materials and spent shell casings. The resident was arrested without incident and charged with multiple crimes.

Lancaster Court Apts.**Tuesday 3/24/09 2230****District 1-Reda**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 21 year old male victim advised that he was walking to his residence on Court Drive when he heard someone yell to him "Yo man!" Upon turning around, he was approached by a male subject who displayed a black in color, semi-automatic handgun and demanded his money. The victim turned over his cell phone before the suspect fled toward building 20.

Maple Hill Townhouses**Friday 3/27/09 2115****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Three teenage males had exited a home on Deen Street and were walking to another location when they were approached by two male subjects. The two individuals started to grab at their waistbands as if they were carrying a weapon so the victims ran back inside the home. Once inside, the victims heard several gunshots, some of which struck the residence. A shotgun was recovered behind a home on Pell Street.

Linden Heath**Saturday 3/28/09 1740****District 9-Sheldon**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) An 18 year old male was walking on Mermaid Blvd when he was approached by two known suspects. One of them grabbed the victim's bag containing beer as the other punched him about the face. The two suspects then got into separate cars and fled.

Arbor Place Townhouses**Saturday 3/28/09 2313****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 24 year old male was standing in front of a home in the 100 block of Parma Avenue when a male subject approached him from behind and demanded money. The victim advised that he did not have any money and turned to face the suspect. He then fired shots from a handgun striking the victim twice in his left shin. A nearby home was also struck by two of the bullets. A patrol officer, who was already on Parma Avenue heard the gunshots and chased the suspect on foot. The suspect was lost in a wooded area by Morehouse and Robinson Drives in Dunleith.

Mayview Manor**Monday 3/30/09 1310****District 12-Bell**

Synopsis: (Attempted robbery) A 45 year old male victim responded to a home in the unit block of Hillview Avenue to deliver a food order. Upon arrival, the victim was approached by the suspect who was holding a large butcher knife in his hand. The suspect demanded the victim's money who replied he had none. The delivery person then walked with the suspect to his car at which time he (victim) pulled out a tire iron and began chasing the suspect who ran off. The suspect in this case was later arrested the next day after he attempted to rob undercover officers who were posing as a food delivery person.

Garfield Park**Monday 3/30/09 1710****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 12 year old male victim advised that he was walking to the P.A.L with his brother when he was approached by the suspect known to him as "Nas." The subject, who was riding a green bicycle, asked the victim if he had any money at which time the victim replied no. The subject Nas then punched the victim in the head three times and pulled him to the ground by his ear. Once on the ground "Nas" kicked the victim in the stomach numerous times and removed an unknown amount of change from his pocket.

Simonds Gardens**Monday 3/30/09 2000****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A delivery order was placed for a residence in the unit block of Simonds Drive by a possible robbery suspect. The management, who had previously spoken to County Police about recent robberies in the area, recognized the order as a possible bogus order. The store management notified police who set up a surveillance of the area. While undercover officers responded to the community posing as a delivery driver, the suspect waived down the car, thinking it was the delivery person.

Upon realizing his error, the suspect attempted to flee on foot, but was apprehended after a short chase. The suspect was carrying a large knife, a cap gun and the cell phone used to place the call. He was later charged with multiple crimes.

Eagle Glen

Tuesday 3/31/09 2350

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 26 year old male victim responded to an address in the 100 block of Layton Drive to deliver a Papa John's food order. Residents at the house advised that they did not order any food so he began to return to his car when he was approached by 6-8 male subjects who knocked him to the ground. The suspects began to kick and punch the victim and pull at his pockets while one was holding a handgun. The suspects stole the victim's cash and food before fleeing on foot.