



# County Police Ink

September 2009

New Castle County Police Department

*What's Inside*

Significant Drug Busts

Canine Apprehensions

Graffiti Arrest

## Corporal Jeffrey D. Shriner recognized as one of America's Top Police Officers

### Congratulations Jeff

Acting Police Chief Michael McGowan and his staff would like to congratulate Senior Corporal Jeffrey Shriner for being selected by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the PARADE magazine as an Honorable Mention Award recipient for the 2009 PARADE/IACP Police Officer of the Year program.

Senior Corporal Shriner is being honored for his exceptional police work in the David Matusiewicz parental abduction case that occurred on September 11, 2007. As a result of his tireless work on this case, along with the assistance of many law enforcement agencies, the Matusiewicz children were successfully reunited with their paternal mother in Nicaragua on March 13, 2009. Jeff was able to orchestrate the multi-agency investigation from police headquarters while assisting law enforcement officials searched the globe for the Matusiewicz family.

Senior Corporal Shriner will be officially recognized during the Police Officer of the Year Awards Luncheon at the IACP's Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, on October 6, 2009.

The nation's police chiefs honor those who stood out in 2009

## America's Top Police Officers

by Larry Smith

**S**AN ANTONIO POLICE OFFICER PEDRO Garcia saved the life of one critically wounded officer and helped rescue another in a shootout in the city's South Side last September. For his quick thinking and daring action, the 33-year-old father of two has been named 2009 Police Officer of the Year by PARADE and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He and 12 other officers will be honored Tuesday in Denver at the IACP's annual convention.

Officer Garcia and his partner were called to the scene after a suspect opened fire on three officers trying to arrest him for domestic violence. After providing cover so another officer could be rescued, Garcia dodged gunfire to reach Officer Brandy Roell, 30, who was just one month out of the cadet academy and wounded with a gunshot to the back. "I checked her stomach and was holding some of her intestines," Garcia recalls. "I had to get her out of there." But the officers were hemmed in by a locked fence with spikes on top. Garcia called to another officer to ram the gate with a patrol car, forcing it open. They—completely exposed to fire from the gunman, who was wielding an assault rifle—Garcia carried Roell over his shoulder to a waiting patrol car. "I was thinking he could shoot me any time," Garcia recalls. He insists that credit for the rescues belongs to all of the officers who responded to the scene of the six-hour siege, which ended when the gunman took his own life.



### Honorable Mentions

**Detective John Hamlett**  
Greenville, S.C., Police

Detective Hamlett negotiated with a bank robber who was threatening to kill two hostages and himself. Hamlett talked the suspect into giving his gun to one of the hostages, whom he released before surrendering to a SWAT team.

**Special Agent Keith Bishop**  
Drug Enforcement Administration

Special Agent Bishop led a drug strike force in Houston against the international drug-smuggling Gulf Cartel. His team seized \$11 million in cash, 14,000 kgs of cocaine, 60,000 lbs of marijuana, and 200 lbs. of morphine. Thirty suspects were indicted.

**Officer Stephen T. Grieser**  
Dublin, Ga., Police Department

By conducting safe-driving classes, initiating a program to help seniors gauge their ability to drive, and making more than 1400 arrests for speeding and other traffic violations, Patrolman Grieser has greatly reduced car accidents in Georgia.

**Cpl. Jeffrey D. Shriner**  
New Castle, Del., Police

Cpl. Shriner conducted a year-and-a-half search spanning four states and four countries to help a local woman reclaim her children—aged 2, 4, and 5—who had been abducted and taken to Nicaragua by the woman's ex-husband.

**Agent Richard Birch**  
**Agent David Weeks**  
West Palm Beach, Fla., Police

Agents Birch and Weeks worked nonstop for months to solve the murder of a family of four—including two children under the age of 5—slain on the Florida Turnpike. The killings were linked to a drug-trafficking organization that Birch and Weeks had previously disrupted. The agents made 40 arrests and seized 50 kgs of cocaine and \$250,000 in cash.

**Detective Karla F. Heine**  
**Detective Sgt. Justin Barlow**  
Columbia, W. Va., Police Department

Detectives Heine and Barlow built a case against a woman accused of attempting to drown her newborn child. The remains of a second child were later found in the woman's home. Through painstaking interviews and examination of medical records, Heine and Barlow pursued the investigation despite a muddled crime scene and lack of evidence.

**Trooper Kurt Johnson**  
Virginia State Police

Trooper Johnson crawled through the crumpled rear passenger door of a burning vehicle to reach a small girl wedged under the dashboard and pull her to safety. The girl, rescued on her third birthday, has since recovered from two broken legs.

**Officer Larry Marrero**  
Miami Beach Police

Officer Marrero obtained the confession necessary to convict a man of a murder he'd committed 10 years earlier. The case had gone cold after the suspect fled. But he was tracked down and, after a seven-hour interview, admitted to beating a Miami man to death.

**Special Agent Marvin F. Burgos**  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Office of Inspector General, Washington, D.C.

Special Agent Burgos' investigation saved taxpayers millions of dollars by revealing fraud among contractors in Afghanistan. Executives and employees of a company working for USAID were indicted after submitting false and inflated receipts.

**Patrol Officer James Simone**  
Cleveland Division of Police

A controversial figure in Ohio, Patrol Officer Simone is being recognized by the IACP for his brave rescue of a woman who fell through the ice on the Cuyahoga River. He rappelled down a steel retaining wall to reach her, then stayed in the water until more help arrived.

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Insert from Parade Magazine

### Edgemoor Drug Bust

While patrolling in their assigned community of Edgemoor, Officers Clifton Allen and Roberto Herrera were approached by a concerned citizen. The officers were advised that in the unit block of South Cannon Drive there was a male subject, later identified as **Warren Small** (37), was yelling for police assistance. Both officers quickly responded over to the subject and observed Small to be disorientated and very nervous. The subject was shaking and bleeding from an injury to his right hand. Hand clenched into a fist and he appeared to be concealing an unknown object. After ordering Small several times to open his hand, he dropped a set of keys and a clear plastic bag on the ground. Small was placed into custody without incident for officer safety and stated he needed help and wanted to talk to someone. Further investigation revealed the bag that Small had dropped contained 39 individual baggies of heroin that was packaged for sale. Officers transported Small to the Wilmington Emergency Room, Capes Unit where he was evaluated. Small was then committed to Meadowood Hospital for further evaluation. Upon his release, he will be charged with possession with intent to deliver a narcotic schedule I controlled substance.



Officers Cliff Allen and Roberto Herrera

### Canine Apprehens Suspect

New Castle County Police have arrested **Bryan Massello**, a 26 year old male who resides in the 400 block of Renee Loop in Bear. He has been charged with criminal mischief and terroristic threatening after a verbal argument turned violent and the suspect started punching holes in the walls of the victim's residence as he threatened to kill her. After fleeing the residence, he was later apprehended by a police canine. On Friday (9/04) at 4:36 a.m., officers responded to the 400 block of Renee Loop in Waterford Trailer Park for a reported assault. When officers arrived, the victim told officers that Massello became enraged because she told him he needed to care for his kids and stop drinking excessively. He then began punching holes in the walls of the residence and threatened to kill her, before fleeing on foot. Senior Corporal Anthony Scelsi and his canine partner "Greif" responded to the scene and began tracking Massello through the streets and around the trailers located within the trailer park. Canine Greif located Massello just west of the 400 block of Renee Loop. Scelsi gave Massello a canine warning and ordered him to the ground. He complied and was taken into custody without incident. Massello has been charged with criminal mischief and terroristic threatening. He was later arraigned and released on \$500 unsecured bail. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim.



Corporal Scelsi and Greif

### Property Check leads to Drug Bust

New Castle County Police have arrested two juveniles after they were found to be in possession of crack cocaine and marijuana while within 300 feet of a county parkland in the community of Rose Gate. On Thursday (9/03) at 11:00 p.m., a two person patrol unit (Officers Andrew Blithe and Justin Breslin) was patrolling the community of Rose Gate in New Castle, when they observed numerous subjects standing in the unit block of Thorn Lane. When they approached the area, three subjects fled on foot while two others were observed hiding behind a vehicle. The two subjects that were hiding were later identified as a 15 year old male who resides in the unit block of Thorn Lane and the other subject was a 17 year old male who resides in the 600 block of East 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Wilmington. Officers located a marijuana cigar and crack cocaine underneath the front driver's side tire of the vehicle. The 15 year old male had a clear bag containing four separate blue bags in his pocket which contained crack cocaine. Both subjects were charged with possession of marijuana, possession of crack cocaine, and possession of a controlled substance 300 feet from a county parkland. The 15 year old male also had a capias from family court and an outstanding warrant issued by New Castle County Police. Both subjects were arraigned and both committed to the New Castle County Detention Center. The 15 year old failed to post \$5,500 secured bail and the 17 year old failed to post \$3,000 secured bail.

### Safe Streets Officers Arrest Dominican Man for Trafficking Cocaine

New Castle County Safe Streets Officers have arrested **Julio Maladonado**, a 22 year old male who resides in the 500 block of S. DuPont Highway. He has been charged with felony drug offenses and endangering the welfare of a one year old child who was living in the home where the drugs were kept. On Thursday (9/30) at 1:00 p.m., officers from the New Castle County Safe Street Team responded to the Pine Valley Apartments to conduct a follow-up on an unrelated investigation. When the officers knocked on the door of the home in the Building 5, they were greeted by Julio Maladonado who indicated he did not know the person the officers were looking for (even though her name was on the lease). While speaking with Maladonado, the officers observed drugs and paraphernalia inside the apartment. They then took the subject into custody and obtained a search warrant. During the execution of the search warrant, officers located and seized a total of 14.2 grams of cocaine, a digital scale, packaging materials and cash. The officers also noted several items inside the home that indicated a small child was living there as well. Police determined Maladonado's girlfriend and infant child reside in the home where the drugs were kept. Maladonado has been charged with trafficking cocaine, possession with the intent to deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling for keeping a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and unlawfully dealing with a child. He was later arraigned and committed after failing to post \$41,000 secured bail. The officers also notified the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency regarding the arrest of the Dominican Republic native.



Safe Streets Officers

### Suspect Tries to Conceal Marijuana in his Hair

County Police have arrested three men after an officer conducted a vehicle stop for an equipment violation later found marijuana hidden in the hair of one of the suspects. On Wednesday (9/9) at 11:55 p.m., Officer Gregory Meyer was conducting a property check in the area of Wilton Boulevard and Berkeley Way when he heard the sound of a vehicle spinning its tires. He was able to catch up to the vehicle and noticed there was an unknown material obstructing the license plate numbers and the plate was covered with plastic. Officer Meyer stopped the car for the violation and contacted the driver of the vehicle, a 17 year old male, who resides in the unit block of Hunting Ridge Road in the Newark, DE. After the stop, the driver was asked to exit the vehicle. He told Meyer the vehicle belonged to the front seat passenger and they were driving the rear seat passenger home. When questioned about the odor of marijuana emanating from the car, he claimed to have smoked marijuana earlier in the day and had not brushed his teeth. The front passenger, **Billy Clark** 18, exited the vehicle and advised that he was the owner. A search of the vehicle revealed seeds and plant residue under the front passenger seat. Officer Edwin Mousley and his canine partner "Quattro" assisted and found an old traffic citation that was issued to Clark concealed inside the emergency brake handle/boot of the center console. The citation was folded and contained a small amount of marijuana. The rear passenger, **Wayne Carlos** 31, exited the vehicle and upon removing his hat, a portion of a plastic bag was observed protruding from his hair which contained marijuana. A second bag was also found in his hair which was partially torn and scattered throughout. The 17 year old male was issued a traffic summons for the equipment violation and released. Billy Clark was Wayne Carlos were both issued a criminal summons for the possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana and released.



Officer Gregory Meyer

### Canine Apprehends Trespassing Suspect

**Joseph Lappa**, a 43 year old male who resides in the community of Whitehall, has been charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. He tried to flee from police after officers discovered he was trespassing in a vacant residence. A police canine was able to apprehend him after a brief track. On Saturday (9/12) at 9:15 p.m., County Police responded to the area of W. Bellemy Drive for a report of a suspicious male who was seen loitering around a vacant residence. When the officers arrived, they encountered the male subject who immediately ran off when the officers approached him. The officers chased the subject into a heavily wooded area behind the Whitehall community and lost sight of him. Officer Ed Mousley and his canine partner "Quattro" responded to the scene and began searching for the suspect. Quattro was able to pick up the scent of the fleeing suspect and began a track into the thicket. Officers then attempted to convince the male to surrender, but he chose to try to hide in the bushes. Canine Quattro was then deployed into the woods and apprehended the suspect, Joseph Lappa. Lappa was later treated and released at the hospital for puncture wounds.

### Teens Charged with Graffiti Offense

New Castle County Police have arrest warrants on file for two teenage male subjects who defaced a county parkland by spray painting graffiti on the playground equipment. The teens were able to originally elude capture, but they left compelling evidence behind near the crime scene, their car. The vehicle was not registered to the owner as the registration was recently transferred – so police had it towed away. One teen was identified when he responded to police headquarters to recover the tow slip. On Monday evening, Corporal Hugh Ferrill was dispatched to the area of the entrance of Todd Estates for a report of a suspicious vehicle. Several concerned neighbors reported seeing three subjects exit the car and walk off toward the county parkland located off of Garrett Road. Corporal Ferrill found the car to still be warm indicating it had recently been parked. He then walked into the parkland and immediately smelled the odor of fresh paint in the area of the playground equipment. The officer located the following “tags” that had just been painted: “Boom,” “Yup,” “Shamoo” and “4BZ.” Police searched the area on foot and with a canine, however, the suspects escaped. Corporal Ferrill, who believed the suspects responsible for the graffiti had driven the suspicious car to the scene, then had the vehicle towed away. The 18 year old teenage owner responded to police headquarters on Tuesday to obtain the tow slip so he could recover his car. Corporal Ferrill, who was awaiting the owner, later interviewed him and discovered he and a friend were responsible for painting the graffiti on the playground equipment. **Joshua Carter** (18) of the 200 block of Fieldstream Drive and **David Forbes** (18) of the unit block of Lynch Farm Drive are both currently wanted for one count of graffiti. They will be arrested when they turn



Corporal Hugh Ferrill

### Canine Apprehends Trespassing Suspect

County Police have arrested **Joseph Lappa**, a 43 year old male who resides in the unit block of Dunsinane Drive in the community of Whitehall. He has been charged with trespassing and resisting arrest when he fled from police after officers discovered he was trespassing in a vacant residence. A police canine apprehended him after a brief track. On Saturday (9/12) at 9:15 p.m., County Police responded to the area of W. Bellemy Drive for a report of a suspicious male who was seen loitering around a vacant residence. When the officers arrived, they encountered the male subject who immediately ran off when the officers approached him. The officers chased the subject into a heavily wooded area behind the Whitehall community and



Officer Ed Mousley and Quattro

lost sight of him. Officer Ed Mousley and his canine partner “Quattro” responded to the scene and began searching for the suspect. Quattro was able to pick up the scent of the fleeing suspect and began a track into the thicket. Officers then attempted to convince the male to surrender, but he chose to try to hide in the bushes. Canine Quattro was then deployed into the woods and apprehended the suspect, Joseph Lappa. Lappa was later treated and released at the Christiana Hospital for puncture wounds. He has been charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. He has been arraigned and released on \$550 unsecured bail.

### Couple Charged with Trafficking Cocaine

New Castle County Police have arrested an Edgemoor couple for multiple felony drug offenses after detectives completed a two week investigation into drug sales within the community and found 285 grams of cocaine hidden inside their home. On Thursday (9/17) at 7:22 p.m., County Police officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team, drug control unit, criminal investigations, and community services responded to a home in the unit block of Polk Drive to execute a search warrant at the residence of Tamika Richardson and Kyle Tillery. During the course of executing the search warrant, police seized 285 grams of cocaine (that was hidden in several locations inside the home), \$1,414 in suspected drug proceeds, 46 Xanax pills, several bags of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. **Tamika Richardson** (27) and **Kyle Tillery** (27) were each arrested and charged with trafficking cocaine (over 100 grams), possession with the intent to deliver cocaine, possession with the intent to deliver Xanax, conspiracy, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Tillery has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$596,000 cash bail. Richardson has been arraigned and released on \$596,000 unsecured bail.

Have story ideas?



Please contact Senior Corporal Trinidad Navarro at 395-8005.

## Significant Crime Recap September 2009

**Woodbridge TH**

**Thursday 9/3/09 1819**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Home invasion) Two adult victims were sitting inside their home in the 700 block of Red Clay Drive when two males forced their way inside. One of the suspects pointed a "sawed off" shotgun at the male victim and demanded money. After the victims were unable to provide anything of value, the suspects fled the home empty handed.

**Castle Hills**

**Saturday 9/5/09 2110**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) An 18 year old male was riding his bike on Moores Lanes to the store when he observed a group of approximately seven males hanging out at the playground at the Castle Hills Elementary School. The victim was assaulted by the suspects who stole his bike, cell phone and money. The victim was admitted to the Christiana Hospital for head trauma. The suspects fled into Jefferson Farms.

**Woodland Apts.**

**Sunday 9/6/09 2225**

**District 9-Sheldon**

**Summary:** (Stabbing investigation) A 17 year old male was standing outside of his apartment in the 1100 block of Centre Road when a blue colored Lexus pulled up. The suspect got out of the Lexus and began physically fighting with the victim's cousin. When the victim intervened in the fight, he was cut on his hands with a six inch knife. The suspect was chased by a group from the party and fled with another subject in a small black truck with Pennsylvania registration. The truck had all of its windows smashed out by the victim's friends prior to it fleeing. The victim received five stitches at the hospital.

**Spencer Park TH**

**Sunday 9/6/09 2045**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Three teenage males were walking to a friend's house and were carrying gaming equipment. While walking on Old Forge Road in the area of Hampton Green, a maroon in color vehicle (possibly a Nissan) stopped next to them and a group of male suspects got out. One of the suspects displayed a silver/wood handgun and demanded the bag, which contained an Xbox game and videos. The suspect vehicle was stopped by responding officers in the area of the 7-11 on Route 273 at Airport Road. The stolen property and the gun (determined to be a BB gun) were found in the car. Five suspects were arrested.

**Liberty Knoll Apts.**

**Tuesday 9/15/09 10000**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two adult victims were visiting a friend in building #1 and were speaking with Wade Smith inside. Smith, who was known to the victims, then

brandished a handgun and robbed both victims of a video game and cash. The suspect was later arrested and charged with robbery.

**Dunleith**

**Tuesday 9/15/09 1855**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) An 8 year old boy was riding his bicycle along Bethune Drive and encountered a 14 year old male who pushed him off of his bicycle causing minor injuries. The teen then rode off on the victim's bike. The thief was later identified and arrested.

**Abbey Walk Apts.**

**Monday 9/21/09 2336**

**District 9-Sheldon**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery/ shooting) A 20 year old male victim was sitting on the steps in front of his apartment building (43) talking on his cell phone when he observed a vehicle pull into the parking lot. Two male subjects got out of the car and robbed the victim at gunpoint. Before the suspect left, they shot the victim once in the leg. The victim was treated at Christiana Hospital for minor injuries.

**Rosegate**

**Wednesday 9/23/09 2314**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) Officers responded to a home in the unit block of Revis Avenue for a report of shots fired. When the officers arrived, they discovered the parties involved had fled. Detectives, however, collected a large number of shell casings that indicate multiple weapons were fired. Several cars and homes were struck by bullets, but no injuries were reported.

**Collins Park**

**Friday 9/25/09 2200**

**District 12-Bell**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 55 year old male victim had just made a legitimate food delivery to a residence in the 300 block of Single Avenue and was walking back to his car when he was approached by the a suspect who had his hood tied tightly around his face. The suspect displayed a black handgun and told the victim that he would shoot him. The victim fought back, striking the suspect. The victim was able to beep the horn in his car as he fought with the suspect over the cash that was in his hands. The residents of Single Avenue address came out and assisted in chasing and fighting with the suspect, who was eventually able to get away by running off.

**Valley Run Apts.**

**Sunday 9/27/09 2100**

**District 8-Cartier**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) An 80 year old male was taking his nightly walk when he was approached by three suspects. He indicated the subjects held his arms while they went through his pockets. The suspects removed a cell phone and fled on foot.

**Ashbourne Hills**

**Sunday 9/27/09 2130**

**District 8-Cartier**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 17 year old male victim advised that he was walking home from a meeting at church when he was approached by a group of suspects. One of the suspects, ordered the victim to relinquish his valuables under the threat of violence. The victim turned over his cell phone to the suspects who then fled into Ashbourne Hills.

**Dunleith**

**Monday 9/28/09 1115**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Three teenage victims were in a vehicle riding through Dunleith on Robinson Drive when they stopped to speak to another subject. The subject then produced a handgun and attempted to rob the occupants. The suspects fled after the victims were unable to produce any valuables.

**Hampton Walk Apts.**

**Wednesday 9/30/09 2050**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two teenage females entered their apartment building on New Jersey Avenue and noted they were followed inside by two suspects. One of the two pointed a gun at the victim and stole their cash. One of the females attempted to disarm the suspects, but was unsuccessful and was struck in the face with the butt of the gun. The victim suffered a small laceration to her left cheek.

**Belvedere**

**Wednesday 9/30/09 2315**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 21 year old male was driving home from work when he noticed a vehicle following him. He parked in front of his residence on Livingston Avenue as the other vehicle parked about three houses down. As the victim was unlocking his front door, the suspects approached him and held a gun to his neck. The suspects took his laptop and cell phone charger before he started yelling for help. Several neighbors came outside which prompted the suspects to flee in their car. The victim and his sister followed suspects in their vehicle while calling 911 and providing information to dispatch. One of the suspects then leaned out the passenger window and fired one shot at the vehicle causing the victim to discontinue his pursuit. Officers later located the car which led police on a short chase before losing sight of them in the City of Wilmington. With the assistance of WPD, one of the two suspects was arrested and the victim's property was recovered from the car.