



# County Police Ink

December 2009

New Castle County Police Department

## What's Inside

Trafficking cocaine arrest

Gun seizures

Guess who has retired?

New Delivery

## Cache of Weapons Seized



### Safe Streets Officers Seize 16 Firearms During Search

The New Castle County Safe Streets Team arrested **Michael T. Read Jr.**, a 25 year old male who resides in the community of Castle Hills. He has been charged with 16 counts of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited after police seized four handguns, 12 rifles, four knives, five bows, and several hundred rounds of ammunition from his home. Read's mother, Roberta (44), was found to be in possession of three bags of marijuana and 11 (narcotic) sleeping pills. On Thursday (12/3) at 8:45 a.m., officers from the Safe Streets Team responded to the Roxeter Road address for an ongoing gun investigation involving Read, a level III probationer. The officers executed a search warrant at the home and found the aforementioned guns inside the residence. During the search, officers found three bags of marijuana and 11 sleeping pills (Lyria, a schedule V narcotic) in the master bedroom. Read's mother, Roberta, advised that the drugs belonged to her so she too was arrested. Roberta was charged with 16 counts of possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, maintaining a dwelling for keeping a controlled substance, possession of marijuana, and possession of a narcotic. Her three year old granddaughter was also located inside the home prompting an additional charge of endangering the welfare of a child. She had been arraigned and released on unsecured bail. Michael was charged with 16 counts of possession of a firearm by a person prohibited and related offenses. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$20,000 secured bail.

## Officer Saves Choking Baby

A quick thinking county police officer who, like all county officers is trained in first responder emergency care, helped save the life of a three month old child who was choking on her own mucus.

On the day after Christmas, Officer Wesley Neeman was patrolling the area of Harvey Road and Garfield Avenue "looking for something to get into." While traveling through the community, he observed a vehicle commit a minor traffic violation at approximately 9:48 p.m. Officer Neeman subsequently stopped the car for the violation and obtained the driver's documents. While speaking with the driver, Officer Neeman was approached by a frantic young female who reported her child was inside her nearby car and was not breathing. Officer Neeman immediately called for an ambulance and ran over to the woman's car. When he got to the car, another woman reached out and handed the infant to Neeman. He found the infant was not breathing as her eyes were rolling back into her head. Neeman followed his first aid training and placed the child face down in his hand and forearm as he patted on the baby's back. After a few moments, the child vomited and began spitting up a large amount of fluid. While waiting for the ambulance to arrive, Officer Neeman held the child in such a position that allowed the child to clear the obstruction in her throat as she began to breath. The child was transported to the A. I. Hospital for Children where she was treated and released for a virus.



Officer Wesley Neeman

### Woman Charged with Felony DUI, 5<sup>th</sup> Offense

**Bryn Davis**, a 31 year old female, has been arrested and charged with felony DUI and related offenses after she was stopped during the early morning hours when she parked in a driveway of a home whose owners were not known to her. On Wednesday (12/2) at 2:35 a.m., police responded to the area of Church Road and Meridian Blvd. for a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on the side of the road idling without the headlights on. When the officers arrived, they observed the vehicle, a blue Chevrolet pickup truck, traveling on Church Road toward Route 71. By the time the officers turned around and caught up to the vehicle, the driver had already made several turns and traveled into the Emerald Ridge community. The officer stopped the car as the driver pulled into a driveway on Winchester Lane. He immediately detected a strong odor of alcohol on the driver's breath and observed a six pack of 12 ounce cans of beer on the passenger seat. The woman was removed from the car after police determined she did not know who the owner of the home was. After failing a series of field sobriety tests, the driver (Davis) was arrested without incident. The investigation has revealed Davis had been previously charged with four prior DUI offenses. Her new charges include: felony DUI, driving while suspended, failure to reinstate her license, no proof of insurance and knowingly operating a vehicle on private property without the consent of the owner. She was also found to be wanted by the Court of Commons Pleas for a *capias* (original charge driving while suspended). Davis has been arraigned and committed to the Women's Correctional Facility after failing to post a \$5,503 secured bail. She was also ordered not to drive any type of motor vehicle.

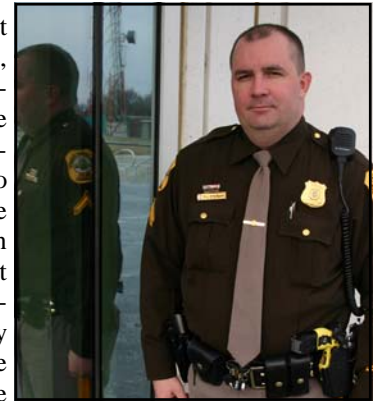
### Victim Suffers Multiple Serious Injuries in Baseball Bat Attack, Suspect Arrested

**Mark Kenney**, a 27 year old male who resides in the 300 block of W. Summit Avenue, has been charged with felony assault in the first degree and related offenses after police encountered him inside a home striking another male repeatedly with a baseball bat. On Sunday (12/6) at 3:42 a.m., County Police responded to the residence in the 300 block of W. Summit Avenue for a report of a male subject who was causing a disturbance inside the home. When the officers arrived, they heard what sounded like a fight in progress inside the home. The officers then entered the residence and found a male subject striking another male about the back and head as the male (who was being struck with the bat) was fighting with another subject. The officers immediately ordered the male subject to drop the bat who complied, but ran into the back of the home. The male, who was struck with the bat, then crawled over to the officers and collapsed. He was bleeding heavily from several deep lacerations and began to suffer a seizure before he was transported to the Christiana Hospital.

### Teen Charged with Trafficking Cocaine

New Castle County Police have arrested **Laquan Gibson**, an 18 year old male who resides in the 2600 block of N. Monroe Street in Wilmington. He has been charged with trafficking cocaine after police found he had concealed the drugs inside his underwear and attempted to hide some of it while in the back of a police cruiser.

On Wednesday (12/9) at approximately 3:40 a.m., Officer Pete Stewart was patrolling the area of Rosegate when he observed a suspicious person standing next to a car that had parked in the driveway of a home on Thorn Court. When Officer Stewart turned his car around, he noticed the subject had quickly run into the home. While driving passed the home, he noticed an occupant inside the car Officer Pete Stewart (in the driveway) who was sitting very low. Officer Stewart then drove out of the development and parked his cruiser next to the entrance. After approximately 10 minutes, the vehicle and three occupants pulled out of the community and failed to use a turn signal as it turned north on Route 9. Officer Stewart stopped the car for the violation and noticed the passenger was in the process of zipping up his pants. While speaking with the female driver, he noticed that both of the male subjects were moving around as if there was something inside their pants that seemed to be bothering them. Both subjects, Laquan Gibson and a 13 year old (who resides in the unit block of Stephanie Drive in Bear), were removed from the car and charged with criminal impersonation after they gave false names.



Gibson was placed into the cruiser as the other subject (13) admitted to having a bag of cocaine inside his pants. The drugs were recovered and found to be less than a gram of cocaine. Police noticed Gibson was moving about in the back of the patrol car, so he was removed. Inside the cruiser, police found he was grinding a white substance on the floorboard. Officers then found several bags of cocaine that he had tried to hide underneath the seat and one bag on his lap. In total, officers recovered 12 grams of cocaine from Gibson.

The 13 year old male was charged with criminal impersonation and possession of cocaine. Gibson was charged with trafficking cocaine, possession with the intent to deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for keeping a controlled substance, tampering with evidence, and criminal impersonation. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$43,000 secured bail.

### Woman Charged with Trafficking Ecstasy

#### Two Days in a Row

New Castle County Police have arrested a female suspect for trafficking Ecstasy (MDMA) pills early Tuesday (12/8) morning. Evidently, she did not learn her lesson as she was arrested on Wednesday and charged, once again, with trafficking drugs.

The first arrest occurred on Tuesday (12/8) at 10:38 a.m. Officer Frank Fitzwater responded to the parking lot of the Mermaid Run Condominiums for a report of a suspicious vehicle. The caller reported two subjects were inside and appeared to be living out of the vehicle. When Officer Fitzwater arrived, he located the car (a black Acura Integra) parked in the lot. When he approached the car and contacted the occupants, a thick plume of burnt marijuana smoke poured



Officer Frank Fitzwater

out of the driver's door. Both subjects were removed from the car and detained. A search of the car produced a purse that had just over two ounces of marijuana, a digital scale and 48 pills inside. The pills were later determined to be Ecstasy. The female occupant, **Kayci Riley** (18) claimed ownership of the drugs and was charged with possession with the intent to deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and trafficking in Ecstasy. The male subject, **Michael Maynard** (21) was released without being charged (this time). Riley was later arraigned and released on \$33,500 unsecured bail. On Wednesday, investigators continued to follow up on a lead regarding the two suspects who were reportedly selling large amounts of Ecstasy pills in the Pike Creek area. Based on the arrest from the previous day and additional intelligence that was gleaned from other sources, the officers learned the subjects would be back in the Pike Creek area and in possession of additional drugs. At 10:40 p.m., the officers located and stopped the car in the 600 block of Paper Mill Road near a gas station in Newark. Police discovered Riley had attempted to hide 90 Ecstasy pills and four bags of marijuana inside her bra. Both she and Maynard were arrested and charged with the following offenses: trafficking Ecstasy, possession with the intent to deliver Ecstasy, conspiracy, and maintaining a vehicle for keeping a controlled substance. Riley, who resides in the 300 block of Strickersville Road in Landenberg, PA, was arraigned on the new charges and committed to the Women's Correctional Institute after failing to post \$78,500 secured bail. Maynard, whose last known address was in the unit block of Shagbark Court in Hockessin, was committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$26,500 secured bail.

### Loaded Firearm Recovered After Traffic Stop

(Canby Park) County Police have arrested **Jerome Tilghman**, a 27 year old male who resides in the 600 block of Spruce Street in the City of Wilmington. He has been charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon and traffic offenses after he was stopped for a traffic violation and police found a loaded handgun underneath his seat. On Tuesday (12/15) at 1:06 a.m., Officer Matthew Morrison was conducting stationary patrol in the area of Bonwood Road and Homestead Road when he observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed in the wrong direction on a one way street (Homestead Road). Morrison stopped the car for the violation and contacted the driver and lone occupant, Jerome Tilghman, who did not have a driver's license. A computer inquiry revealed he was not licensed and wanted by the Court of Common Pleas for failing to appear in court for traffic offenses. Tilghman, who was very nervous, was removed from the car and arrested. Officer Morrison then searched the car and found a loaded .22 caliber handgun hidden inside a white tube sock underneath the driver's seat. Tilghman was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon, driving without a license and driving the wrong way on a one way street. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$2,250 secured bail.

### Teen, 14, Found with Loaded Handgun

New Castle County Police have arrested two teenage males in the community of Rosegate after they were found to be in possession of cocaine and a loaded handgun while loitering for the purpose of selling drugs. On Thursday (12/17), officers from the Mobile Enforcement Team were assigned to the community of Rosegate in an effort to address quality of life issues in the neighborhood. At 3:15 p.m., the officers encountered two teenage males who were standing in the middle of the roadway (Thorn Lane) flagging down passing cars. The first subject they spoke with (age 14) was found to be in possession of a loaded .32 caliber handgun that he had concealed inside his jacket pocket. The other subject (age 15) was found to be in possession of crack cocaine. Both subjects were arrested without incident. **Dimerr Ward**, a 14 year old male who resides in the 900 block of E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Wilmington, has been charged with possession of a firearm by a person prohibited, carrying a concealed deadly weapon and loitering. He was committed to the New Castle County Detention Center after failing to post \$8,000 secured bail. **Curtis Finney**, a 15 year old male who resides in the unit block of Thorn Lane in New Castle, has been charged with possession of cocaine within 300 feet of a parkland, possession of cocaine and loitering. He too, was committed to the New Castle County Detention Center after failing to post \$1,500 secured bail.



## Congratulations and best wishes to our latest retirees!




**Senior Corporal Thomas Darby** has announced his retirement effective December 2009. Tom has been a member of the police department since April of 1990. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division and afterward to the community services foot patrol unit. Tom was later transferred into the canine unit where he proudly served with two four-legged partners; Astor and Ajax. Tom says he is fortunate to be able to fully retire at the age of 48. He is enjoying spending quality time with his family and his immediate plan is to do more traveling.



**Senior Corporal William Lenhart** has announced his retirement effective December 2009. Bill (Lenny) has been a member of the police department since August of 1990. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division and was later assigned to the Southern Patrol Unit. Bill was later transferred into the community services unit as a foot patrol officer. His most recent assignment was in the criminal investigation unit as an evidence technician. Bill has taken a position with the Allegheny County Police Department near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He is currently attending the police academy with the youngsters.



**Senior Sergeant Domenick Gregory** has announced his retirement effective December 2009. Domenick has been a member of the police department since October of 1987. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division. He later served in the criminal investigation unit as a lead detective on several high profile cases. His most recent assignment was in the professional standards unit. Domenick said he had a great career, but thought it was time to move on to something new. He said he is adjusting just fine in the crossing guard unit.



Congratulations to the Fitzwater Family on the arrival of their beautiful daughter, AshLynn Therese Fitzwater. Our newest member of the public safety family was born on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:16 p.m. at the Kent General Hospital. She weighed in at exactly 7 pounds and was 20 inches. Brenda and Frank say little AshLynn is doing quite well.



AshLynn "Little Frank" Fitzwater

## Significant Crime Recap December 2009

### **Garfield Park**

**Tuesday 12/1/09 0235**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Home invasion, shooting) Three adults were inside their home in the 100 block of Halcyon Drive when they heard several suspects forcing open the rear door. All of the occupants of the house were held at gunpoint and forced into the spare bedroom as the suspects ransacked residence. The suspects removed electronic equipment and were leaving the home when they encountered a fourth victim who was returning home. The suspects told the male victim to stop as they tried to rob him as well. The victim ran off and heard several gunshots that were fired by the suspects. The victim escaped without injury.

### **Jefferson Farms**

**Tuesday 12/01/09 2140**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 23 year old male victim was walking on Rivanna Road to a friend's residence when an older model Buick pulled up next to him and the driver asked a question. Three suspects then exited the vehicle and one of the suspects pointed a semi automatic handgun at the victim and ordered him to lay on the ground. As the victim was getting down, he was struck on the top of his head with the handgun. The suspects then went through the victim's pockets and stole his wallet before getting back into the car and fleeing the area. The victim did not require medical treatment.

### **Rosegate**

**Wednesday 12/09/09 2019**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 39 year old male victim advised that he was walking home on Thorn Lane when he was caught in the cross fire of a "shoot out." The victim was shot in the calf area and taken to Christiana Hospital for treatment. At the time of the shooting, probation and parole officers were in the neighborhood and witnessed part of the incident. A vehicle involved/struck was stopped by police and temporarily seized as evidence.

### **Rosegate**

**Saturday 12/12/09 1859**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 20 year old male victim was sitting in a dark colored Mitsubishi Galant with several friends while parked just outside of 6 Thorn Court. A suspicious vehicle approached the home and suddenly fired several gunshots in their direction as they drove by. One bullet struck the tire of the Galant causing it to go flat. None of the occupants were injured.

### **Stones Throw TH**

**Sunday 12/13/09 0321**

**District 11-Tackett**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 25 year old male looked outside of his home window (500 block of Cobble Creek Curve) and observed two unknown subjects

attempting to break into his vehicle. The victim/suspect decided to get his handgun and fire one shot into the air to scare off the suspects. Police recovered the gun inside the home and charged the would-be victim with firing a weapon in a residential area.

**Mayview Manor**

**Thursday 12/17/09 1200**

**District 12-Bell**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) An adult male was walking home along Hillview Avenue when he was approached by two teenage male subjects. One of them brandished a knife and held it to the victim's throat as the other stole cash from him. The suspects were last seen fleeing on foot.

**Woodfield Apts.**

**Monday 12/21/09 0340**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 23 year old male victim was walking home when approached by two male suspects in the parking lot in front of 4639 Patrician Blvd. The subjects brandished a knife and made a racial remark before robbing the suspect and assaulting him with the knife handle. The suspects stole property from the victim and then fled on foot toward the Haverford Place Apartments.

**Iron Hill Apts.**

**Monday 12/21/09 1410**

**District 11-Tackett**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two adults were driving through the Iron Hill Apartments when they saw a known acquaintance. The two offered the male subject a ride and he got in the back seat of the vehicle. When they arrived at the entrance to the apartment complex, the subject pulled out a handgun and told the victims to give him everything they had. After stealing property from the victims, the subject fled on foot.

**Pennrose**

**Monday 12/21/09 2350**

**District 8-Cartier**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery, shooting) A 31 year old male victim responded to an address in the 3600 block of Pine Street to delivery a pizza order. The victim rang the doorbell to the residence and received no answer. While walking back to his car, he attempted to call back the number that placed the order and observed two suspects near his vehicle. The victim quickly returned to his car as one of the subjects tapped on the driver's window with a handgun. When the victim drove off, he heard gunshots as his front and rear windshields shattered and at least one of the bullets grazed the victim's hat.

**Greentree Apts.**

**Tuesday 12/22/09 0010**

**District 8-Cartier**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 23 year old male victim was standing by his vehicle in the 900 block of Peachtree Road when he was approached by two suspects. One of the suspects grabbed the victim and pushed him up against the vehicle as they stole cash and electronic items. The suspects then fled on foot.

**Georgetown Village Apts. Wednesday 12/23/09 1653**

**District 7-Smiley**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 19 year old male engaged in an altercation with another male subject in the area of Building P. During the altercation, the suspect brandished a handgun and started shooting several gunshots at the other subject who fled in a car. The shooter also fled in a Buick Regal which was later located in Wilmington by city police officers. The shooter was taken into custody, however, the gun was not recovered. The victim in this shooting was identified but not located.

**Green Acres**

**Friday 12/25/09 2030**

**District 2-Weiner**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 16 year old reported he had planned on purchasing marijuana from a black male he knows as "Pee-Wee" but the plans never came together. The victim stated that he was walking outside of his friend's house on Quincy Road smoking a cigarette when he was approached by a suspect who engaged him in small talk, then brandished a handgun and demanded what was in his pockets. A second suspect then approached the victim from behind and ran his pockets taking cash and other items. Both suspects then fled on foot.

**Glasgow Court**

**Sunday 12/27/09 2100**

**District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 33 year old female victim (delivery driver for Season's Pizza) responded to a residence in the 100 block of Edinburg Street to deliver a pizza. The residents at the home advised that they did not order a pizza. The victim was approached by two armed suspects as she responded back to her car. The suspects stole cash and the pizza before fleeing into Sparrow Run.