



County Police Ink

February 2010

New Castle County Police Department

What's Inside

Canine apprehensions

Murder investigation

Arrest in pizza robberies

Footprints in snow

A Storm for the Ages



Snow plowed/drift in front of the public safety building

While most New Castle County residents enjoyed a few days off with their families, public safety employees did what they do best; in spite of the weather, and that is keeping our communities safe. In what has been categorized as a record setting snowfall for the month of February, officers, paramedics, communications specialist, emergency management officials, and the National Guard all worked together to provide the comfort and protection our citizens expect and deserve. Sometimes, people take public safety for granted. Well, that is until they are sick and in need of emergency care, injured, involved in an accident, have lost power, or simply got stuck in a 10 foot snow drift. For several days, emergency personnel rescued stranded motorists, assisted with patient care, and transported folks who had lost power. These families most likely have a better appreciation of what public safety is all about. To all of the personnel who worked in these difficult weather situations while their own families were left at home, we thank you!



Route 13 near Hamburg Road

Bootleg DVD Arrest

New Castle County Police have arrested **Derwin Forrest**, a 47 year old Wilmington man. He has been arrested after he sold a counterfeit DVD to another person directly in front of a police officer in a fully marked police cruiser. Police later recovered several hundred CD's and DVD's from his car and later recovered a total of 3,851 illegally manufactured discs. On Tuesday (2/16) at 4:40 p.m., Officers Cliff Allen and Rand Townley were patrolling the Edgemoor Gardens area along Rysing Drive when they observed a suspicious van parked in the parking lot of the 7-11 Store. The officers watched as the lone male occupant exited his car, walked around to the side of the minivan and started rummaging through items behind the driver's seat. While directly adjacent to the police cruiser, a female subject walked up to the van and handed the subject cash as he handed her what appeared to be a DVD. After the exchange, the woman walked away and the driver of the van pulled off. The officers noted the van had a large crack in the windshield, so they stopped the car on Governor Printz Blvd. When the officers approached the vehicle, they could see (in plain view) a large clear plastic container that was full with DVD's and CD's. The officers immediately determined the CD's were "bootlegged" as many of the following movies were still in the theatre: Avatar, The Blind Side, Edge of Darkness, and Wolfman to name a few. SEE—Bootleg page 4

Teen Charged with Food Delivery Robberies

Sameir Handy, a 19 year old male who resides in the community of Oakmont, has been charged with two counts of robbery and related offenses after police linked him to two armed robberies that have occurred over a five day period. The first robbery occurred on Thursday (1/28) at 9:30 p.m. Officers responded to the area of the unit block of Oakmont Drive for a report of a robbery that just occurred. Officers contacted the 35 year old male victim who reported he was just robbed at gunpoint. The investigation has revealed the victim was delivering a food order that consisted of two orders of sesame chicken and one order of beef with broccoli to a residence in Oakmont. The victim was accosted at gunpoint by two male suspects who were standing in the driveway of the home where the food was supposed to be delivered. The suspects each brandished handguns before stealing cash and the food order from the victim before fleeing on foot. The second robbery occurred on Friday (1/29) at 10:07 p.m. In this case, officers responded to the area of Morehouse Drive for a report of an armed robbery that just occurred. The male victim reported he had just responded to a home in the 200 block of Parma Avenue to deliver a food order. When the

victim knocked on the front door of the home, he was surrounded by three male subjects who were armed with handguns. The suspects stole the victim's wallet, cash and cell phones before fleeing on foot behind



Officer Justin Caserta

the home where the food was supposed to be delivered. The following Saturday evening, Officers Justin Caserta and Keith Sydnor were assigned to a high visibility patrol in the two communities where the crimes had occurred. At approximately 8:20 p.m., the officers encountered two suspicious male subjects who were walking along the street on Anderson Drive (in the community of Dunleith) wearing dark colored clothing without a light. The officers stopped the subjects and found one (Handy) of them was in possession of a small amount of marijuana. Based on information gathered from the encounter with the two men, the officers were able to establish enough evidence to obtain a search warrant for Handy's home. Inside police found items that linked him to the robberies. Handy was charged with two counts of robbery in the first degree and weapon related offenses.



Officer Keith Sydnor

Footprints in Snow Lead to Theft Suspects

County Police have arrested three suspects for breaking into at least one car in the Brookside and possibly in the Todd Estates and Newark Oaks communities. Police have recovered a number of stolen items (small electronics), but have not yet linked the goods to victims as they may not have reported/noticed the crimes. (Brookside, DE) On Wednesday (2/3) at 12:13 a.m., County Police responded to a residence in the area of the unit block of Greenbridge Drive for a report of four suspicious persons attempting to enter unsecured vehicles. Due to the accumulating snowfall, the officers discovered four unique sets of shoeprints that led from one car to the next on Greenbridge Drive. Officers Thomas Jackson and Jason Thomas followed the footprints for approximately one mile through a wooded area and into the Todd Estates and Newark Oaks communities. The officers were able to locate and arrest three of the four suspects who were in possession of several stolen items. So far, officers were only able to locate one victim who had a GPS system stolen from his unsecured car. The other items have not yet been linked to additional victims. The following suspects were charged with theft, conspiracy, and loitering: Joshua Needles, a 20 year old male who resides in Newark. Karen Needles, a 22 year old female (Joshua's sister, same address) and Jerrell Cooper, a 19 year old male who resides in Newark.



Officer Thomas Jackson



Officer Jason Thomas

Man Charged with 5th DUI

A patrol officer, who stopped a car for a minor registration violation, suddenly found himself engaged in a brief foot pursuit with a slow footed man who was unable to outrun the much younger officer. Police learned the subject tried to run because he had been drinking and was wanted for failure to report to a correctional facility to serve jail time for his 4th DUI conviction. On Thursday (2/4) at 4:00 p.m., Officer Scott Pastuszak was traveling on Route 2 (Kirkwood Highway) near Red Mill Road when he observed a vehicle with a fictitious registration plate. Pastuszak then activated his emergency equipment as the driver pulled behind the Red Mill Shopping Center and suddenly stopped. He then exited his car and sadly tried to run off at a very slow pace. After just a few short steps, Officer Pastuszak caught up to the driver and took him into custody. Police learned the driver, Jeffery Schneider, ran because he had a capias for his arrest, had been drinking, and he believed he could have outrun the officer. Schneider, who resides in the 800 block of Birchwood Drive in Newark, was charged with his 5th DUI, driving while suspended, and resisting arrest.

Teen Charged with Burglary, Theft of Safe

County Police have arrested **Kareem Tilghman**, a 15 year old male who resides in the Stratford Apartments after he broke into a neighboring apartment and stole a safe from inside. Police later recovered the safe and found it contained 72 grams of marijuana and cash. On Monday (2/8) at 5:50 p.m., County Police responded to the Stratford Apartments for a report of a burglary that had just occurred. The female tenant and her boyfriend reported they had only been out of the apartment for about an hour and a half. When they returned, they discovered their apartment door had been forced open and a safe and laptop were stolen from inside. The victims reported they had a large amount of cash inside the safe. Officers canvassed the community and spoke with witnesses who observed a young black male struggling as he carried a large square object from the area of the victim's home. The witnesses reported they could not see the object as it was covered with a sweatshirt. Officer Ed Mousley and his canine partner "Quattro" responded to the scene and conducted a track from the victim's home. The trail was not difficult to pursue as the partners followed a



Officer Ed Mousley

single set of footprints in the snow that led to a nearby apartment complex. Quattro's nose then led to a specific apartment door where Kareem Tilghman was found inside with his mother. Inside the home, police found the victim's laptop. Outside the home, officers found a second set of footprints in the snow from the backdoor of the apartment that led officers to the area of the rear of building "S." At this location, police found a black trash bag that contained the victim's stolen safe. While checking the safe for the reported stolen money, investigators found more than just cash inside. Police seized 72 grams of marijuana and the money as well. Tilghman has been charged with burglary and related offenses. Charges against the owners of the safe are pending.

Two Men Shot, One Dies in the Community of Whitehall

New Castle County Detectives are currently investigating a shooting that has resulted in the death of one man and the shooting of another. The deceased victim passed away at the Christiana Hospital while the other subject remained hospitalized with a gunshot wound to the groin. On Friday (2/19) at 1:29 a.m., County Police and Paramedics responded to a residence in the unit block of Dryden Road for a report of a shooting. An officer arrived within two minutes and located a 27 year old male subject laying outside in the snow suffering from apparent gunshot wounds to the upper body. He was treated at the scene and transported to the Christiana Hospital. Meanwhile, officers established a perimeter and began searching the area for any potential suspects. During the search, officers located a male subject walking into the parking lot of the 7-11 Store on Route 273. When the officer approached him, he attempted to elude them at which time he was stopped and later arrested after he was found to have a capias. The subject was transported to police headquarters where he was more thoroughly searched. When he began to remove several layers of clothing, the officers discovered he appeared to be bleeding from an injury to his groin area. The subject, who did not appear to be in any distress, was then transported to the Christiana Hospital where it has been determined that he too was suffering from a gunshot wound. He is currently being held for the capias as detectives continue to interview a number of potential witnesses.

Drug Offender Found Hiding in Igloo

County Police have arrested a 17 year old Wilmington Manor Gardens teen and charged him with drug related offenses after he tried to dodge police officers as he hid inside a homemade igloo while carrying an illegal fixed blade knife, two "bongs" and 7.5 grams of marijuana. On Wednesday (2/10) at 8:30 a.m., County Officers responded to the Wilmington Manor Gardens community for a report of a suspicious male subject who was walking in the snowstorm possibly carrying a gun. The officers searched the neighborhood for several minutes but originally could not locate the subject. A concerned citizen then called 911 and reported seeing a suspicious male subject hide inside a snow bank when the police cruiser approached him.

The officers responded to the area on Notre Dame Avenue and found two black shoes sticking out from the entrance to the igloo. The officers removed the subject from the igloo and found he was in possession of an 8 inch fixed blade "survival" style knife, two bongs (used for smoking illegal drugs) and 7.5 grams of marijuana. The teen was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon, three counts of possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed dangerous instrument (a hammer) and possession of marijuana. He has been arraigned and released to his parents pending a Family Court hearing.



BOOTLEG— Based on information gleaned from the car stop, the officers were able to obtain a search warrant for the suspect's home. In the garage area of the residence, police found a number of items that are commonly used to copy DVD's and CD's. The officers seized laptop computers, printers, CD and DVD copying devices, blank CD's and 3,851 illegally manufactured discs. Forrest was arrested and charged with manufacturing DVD's and CD's, improper labeling of DVD's, improper labeling of CD's, driving an unsafe vehicle and no proof of insurance. He has been arraigned and released on \$4,000 unsecured bail. According to the Motion Picture Association, in 2005, the industry lost more than 6 billion dollars to piracy.



Officers Cliff Allen and Rand Townley

Burglar Arrested, Approaches Officer While Carrying Stolen Goods

New Castle County Police have arrested **Donald Ramey**, a 19 year old male who resides in the 1800 block of Hettering Road in the community of Afton. He was taken into custody early this morning when he approached a police cruiser because he believed the officer was looking for him just after he committed a residential burglary. On Monday (2/15) at 2:20 a.m., Officer Steven Dykovitz responded to a residence in the 1700 block of Hettering Road for a 911 hang up call. While looking for the residence, Dykovitz observed a suspicious male subject dressed in all black clothing carrying several bags. The officer motioned to the subject who walked up to the cruiser and immediately started to explain why he was out and about carrying a bag of miscellaneous items. The subject advised he had gotten some of the items for his mother for Valentine's Day and had been storing them at a nearby friend's home. Officer Dykovitz recognized the subject's nervous demeanor and unusual actions, so he requested permission to look into the bags. Inside, he found several drinking glasses, a cordless phone and base, several "Ace" bandages, a small fireproof safe, a digital photo frame and a leather case. These items appeared to be unusual "gifts" to the officer, so he searched further and discovered the leather case contained several prescription bottles and medications. He noted the items were prescribed to a male subject who lived on Chelmsford Lane. The subject was detained as additional officers responded to the Chelmsford Lane address and discovered the home had been burglarized. All of the items recovered from the suspect were stolen from a home of a recently deceased male whose residence was unoccupied at the time of the break in. Donald Ramey was arrested and charged with burglary, possession of burglar's tools, obtaining a controlled substance by burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.



Officer Steven Dykovitz

Police Canine Tracks and Apprehends Wanted Subject

New Castle County Police have arrested **Gavin Pennington**, a 47 year old male who resides in the 100 block of Lynberg Drive in Newport, DE. He has been charged with resisting arrest after he tried to outrun a police canine and his handler who was investigating a suspicious subject. At the time of his arrest, Pennington was found to be wanted for an outstanding assault warrant.

On Wednesday (2/24) at 10:15 a.m., County Police officers responded to the area of the Sherwood Park II community for a report of two male subjects who were driving around the area stealing steel driveway ramps. While searching the area, the officers observed the reported vehicle (a Dodge pickup truck) pull into the Albertson Park community. The driver then observed the police cruisers and immediately fled onto Centerville Road at a high rate of speed. The officers attempted to catch up to the car as it quickly turned into the Brookmeade community. It was found parked and unoccupied in front of a home in the 2500 block of Teal Road. Officer Ed Mousley and his canine partner Quattro responded to the vehicle and conducted a track that led to the nearby wooded area. Quattro eventually located a male subject attempting to hide in the bushes who immediately ran off and refused commands to surrender. In short time, Quattro caught up to the subject and took him into custody. The suspect, Gavin Pennington, was later transported to the Christiana Hospital for puncture wounds to his upper body. Pennington was charged with resisting arrest and found to be wanted for an assault charge. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$1,000 secured bail. The reported theft investigation is pending. The other suspect has not yet been identified.

Significant Crime Recap February 2010

Linden Green II Apts. Sunday 2/7/10 1445 District 9-Sheldon

Summary: (Home invasion) A 25 year old male was inside his Limeric Circle apartment when he heard someone knocking on his door posing as maintenance men. When the victim opened the door, two suspects forced their way into the residence and demanded money. One suspect held the victim at gunpoint while the other searched the master bedroom. The suspects fled the home after taking cash and jewelry.

Apple Chase Apts. Sunday 2/7/10 2130 District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported robbery) Two teenage victims were walking on Scotland Drive when three suspects came up from behind them and began assaulting them. One of the victims ran off while the other was assaulted by the subjects who stole the victim's cell phone. One of the suspects was identified as a classmate of the victims.

Country Creek TH Sunday 2/7/10 2310 District 11-Tackett

Summary: (Robbery, assault) A 22 year old female had been riding in a car with three acquaintances throughout the night. During the ride, the victim called a friend and mentioned that she had a large amount of cash in her coat pocket. The female driver then parked on a cul-de-sac on Creekside Drive and all three occupants began assaulting the victim. After stealing her cash, the subjects kicked her out of the car and drove off.

Brookside Park Monday 2/8/10 2300 District 5-Diller

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 28 year old male victim was standing outside of his home in the 100 block of Brookside Blvd when he was approached by John Cresto, whom he has known for years. Cresto accused the victim of calling the police on him and began assaulting him. During the incident, Cresto went through the victim's pockets and smashed snow in his face. He then fled on foot. Warrants are on file for robbery.

Summerset Square TH Monday 2/8/10 2325 District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Shooting investigation) A 20 year old male was outside of his home in the unit block of Coachlight Court shoveling his mother's car out of the snow when another male subject started running toward him. The victim fled as the subject allegedly fired several shots at him from a handgun. This was apparently the result of an earlier confrontation between the two. One of the rounds apparently struck a nearby residence on Coachlight Court.

Cragmere

Saturday 2/13/10 0001

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Shooting investigation) Officers responded to the 500 block of Duncan Road for a report of 6-7 gunshots being fired. Approximately three 911 calls were received regarding the shots. The incident and subsequent shooting was apparently heard when a party was breaking up in the area. Officers checked the community, but were unable to locate any victims or evidence.

Woodfield Apts.

Saturday 2/13/10 2200

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 40 year old male was walking home from the 7-Eleven on Limestone Road. As he approached building 4625, he was “jumped” by two male subjects who assaulted him and stole cash from his pockets. The victim was later treated at Christiana Hospital for minor injuries.

Non-Development

Sunday 2/14/10 2055

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Reported robbery) Two victims were working inside the Paris Pizza restaurant in the 3300 block of Old Capitol Trail when two subjects armed with guns walked inside. One of the suspects held the victims at gunpoint while the other jumped the counter and stole cash from the register. One suspect then entered the kitchen and took a wallet from a cook before they fled on foot.

Buena Vista Park

Monday 2/22/10 1945

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 50 year old male victim was delivering food to an address in the 100 block of Aidone Avenue which was later found to be a vacant residence. Five male subjects then approached the victim and forced him into the residence. While inside, they brandished a handgun and removed his wallet while others entered his vehicle and removed the three orders of food.

Village of Windover Apts.

Thursday 2/25/10 2150

District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported robbery) A 79 year old female victim was walking up the stairs to her apartment (in the 400 block of Sandburg Place) when she was approached from behind by a suspect who grabbed the victim’s purse off of her shoulder. During the struggle, the victim fell and was injured. The victim was treated at the Christiana Hospital for minor leg injuries.

Castle Brook Apts.

Friday 2/26/10 1130

District 12-Bell

Summary: (Reported home invasion) A 24 year old victim returned home from cashing his paycheck at the Beaverbrook Shopping Center. Upon entering his apartment, he neglected to lock the front door. When the victim exited the bathroom, two suspects were standing in the living room of the apartment. The suspects demanded money, and when the victim advised that he didn’t have any, one of the bandits struck him in the head

with an unknown object he had concealed in the sleeve of his shirt. They then stole cash and electronic equipment before fleeing on foot.

NOTE: Some crime data was lost during this process.