



# County Police Ink

April 2010

New Castle County Police Department

## *What's Inside*

Canine apprehensions  
Elder scams continue  
Mounted unit drug bust  
Retirees honored

## Welcome Home Officers Jared Miller and Jamente Cooper



Officers Jared Miller and Tom Jackson

## Promotion

Congratulations to Corporal **Brad Norris** who was promoted to the rank of sergeant on April 28th. During his 15 year tenure, Sergeant Norris served in patrol and on the "power shift." He was later transferred to the Human Resources Unit where he has served as the range instructor, Taser and use of force trainer. He is also a certified police instructor who has served as a part time drill instructor for the police academy. Brad has also been a member of the SWAT Team since 2000 and was recently promoted to team leader. Sergeant Norris lives in Hockessin with his wife Krissy.



Harrington, DE —After a one year deployment, officers from the 262 Convoy Security Company returned home to their loved ones following a grand ceremony in Harrington, Delaware. Two New Castle County police officers were honored at the event after spending about 350 days away from home. According to Officer Jared Miller, he and fellow (soldier) Officer Jamente Cooper spent their first three months training in Georgia. Once the training was complete, the officers were shipped together to Iraq for approximately nine months. Although they traveled together, they each had specific duties on opposite ends of the spectrum. Officer Cooper was responsible for supporting and maintaining the lines of communication for the troops. He specialized in a "Blue Force Tracker" system that worked as a GPS program for the military vehicles. Officer Miller was assigned to a convoy safety detail that provided security for up to 60 trucks at a time that carried supplies such as: water, food, ammunition, vehicles and other important items. Both commented on how they did not experience direct gunfire, but their FOB (forward operating base) did endure an occasional mortar round attack. They agreed that they missed their families particularly around the holiday season. Even though they could not be with family during the season, they were thankful for the free internet service that allowed them to speak with loved ones on a regular basis. Officer Cooper will be back to work very soon as his vacation time from the military is about to end. Officer Miller is planning a motorcycle trip to Nova Scotia with his wife who also owns a Harley Davidson. —**Welcome home!**

### Elderly Woman Conned Out of \$27,000--- Phone Scam Continues

New Castle County Police, with the assistance of the FBI and the Delaware Attorney General's Office, are investigating the latest series of phone scams that has cost at least three elderly women thousands of dollars. Over the past three weeks, New Castle County Police have investigated three similar incidents involving elderly female victims who were contacted by phone. In each case, the caller indicated they had won a lottery (in one case \$2.5 million dollars) and that they were required to wire money to the bogus agency so that they could credit their accounts. In the most recent case that was reported, a 73 year old female wired cash to the scammer in several increments totaling approximately \$27,000. Police also recently received a report from an 81 year old Cambridge Gardens woman who was also duped into wiring an undetermined amount of cash for a lottery scam. Three weeks ago, a third elderly female from the Linden Knoll community also fell prey to a lottery scam. The following information can be used as helpful tips to avoid these types of scams: Never give out banking information, credit card numbers or social security numbers to someone who has called. Popular scams include promising information on new health miracle products, a charitable donation, or confirmation of a sweepstakes. If a salesperson will not provide written information about his or her company--including the company's

### Canine Tracks, Apprehends Suspect

New Castle County Police have arrested Jamal Winckler, a 20 year old male who resides in the City of Wilmington. He was originally wanted by Probation and Parole for escape after conviction. He was apprehended by a police canine after he jumped from a window and led officers on a lengthy chase in Becks Woods. On Wednesday (3/31) at 2:00 p.m., Officer Steve Purse and his canine partner "Tessa" responded to an address in the 200 block of Becks Woods Drive to search for a wanted subject who ran from probation and parole officers. When the officers arrived, they learned Jamal Winckler had jumped from a second floor window and fled from the officers who were there to arrest him. Officer Purse and Tessa then began a track from where he was last seen running in the rear of Ellendale Court. Tessa tracked along the wooded area and across several streets toward a row of homes on Chilmark Court. While approaching a wooden deck with lattice around it, the male subject suddenly shouted okay, I am coming out. The subject, who was hiding under the deck and was covered in mud, was arrested without further incident and turned over to probation and parole officers.



### Suspect Found Hiding in Closet

New Castle County Police have arrested Donald J. Jordan, a 60 year male who resides in Wilmington. He has been charged with burglary and related offenses after police found him hiding inside of a closet of a home that he had just broken into. Police learned he had unplugged a 60 inch flat screen television and was about to steal it when the officers arrived. On Monday (4/12) at 8:30 p.m., County Police responded to a residence in the 1300 block of Grinnell Road (same unit block as Jordan's home) for a report of a burglary in progress. When the officers arrived, they found evidence of a forced entry to the back of the home and a cut storm door screen. The home was surrounded until Corporal Anthony Scelsi and canine Greif arrived to search the home. The canine searched the home and located the intruder "curled up" on the floor of a hallway closet. He was taken into custody with the assistance of additional officers after a brief struggle. Jordan was arrested and charged with burglary, attempted theft, criminal mischief and resisting arrest. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison.



name address and telephone, do business with someone else. If someone calls from a "government agency" requesting money, ask for a certified letter on an official letterhead. Visit the homes of elderly relatives regularly. Ask about phone calls they've received (con artists tend to develop relationships with their lonely victims and prey on their need for conversation). And watch for a full mailbox. Large numbers of mailings from promotional companies could indicate that the elderly person is on a "sucker" list. Tell your elderly loved ones to never hire someone who shows up at their door. If they are told their plumbing needs fixed, or the roof needs repaired, the scammer may take money, but never do the work. Tell your parents never to make an "on-the-spot" decision. If the person says you have to take the offer immediately or you will miss the opportunity, it is likely a scam. Legitimate companies do not pressure people to act without taking the time to look into the deal. Avoid investments that promise huge profits with no risk. "High return" investments are not guaranteed, and legitimate companies will tell consumers about possible risks involved. Put the senior's phone number on the National Do Not Call registry by phoning 1.888.382.1222 or visiting [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) (this will help to limit phone calls from telemarketers.)

**Motorist Nearly Strikes Officer, Flees**

County Police have arrested **Jon J. Sassone**, a 48 year old male who resides in the 900 block of Shipley Road in Wilmington. He has been charged with felony reckless endangering, felony resisting arrest and nine traffic violations after he was pulled over by a police officer and nearly struck him with his car while fleeing from a car stop. On Tuesday (4/20) at 8:50 a.m., Corporal Joe Berg was patrolling the Westover Hills community when he observed a suspicious primer gray colored Ford pickup truck traveling on N. DuPont Road. A computer inquiry revealed the owner of the vehicle was "flagged" as a person who was wanted by the Delaware State Police. Corporal Berg momentarily lost sight of the car as it turned onto Edgehill Road, but he later found it unoccupied in a driveway just off of the roadway. He then drove around the block and waited for a few moments and found the vehicle fleeing on N. DuPont Road toward Kennett Pike. Corporal Berg stopped the car on Kennett Pike near 141 and contacted the operator.



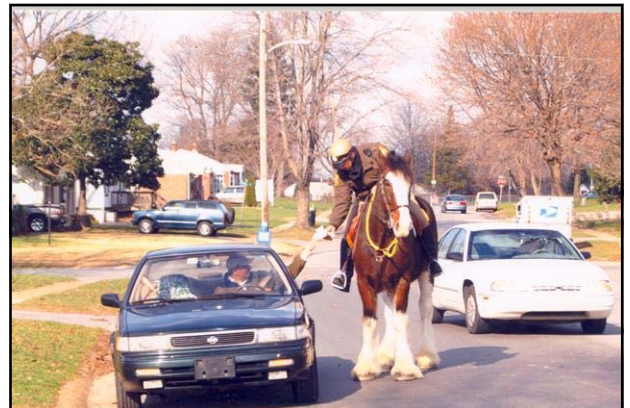
While speaking with him, the operator suddenly took a deep breath, put the car in drive, and drove off while spinning the tires and nearly striking the officer. Corporal Berg then returned to his car and attempted to stop the driver who began passing cars while driving on the shoulder at which time he (Berg) disengaged the vehicle in the interest of safety. Berg was able to confirm the driver's identity and later signed arrest warrants for this incident. Jon Sassone was tracked back to an address in the 100 block of Deer Valley Lane where he surrendered to police. He was also found to be wanted by the Delaware State Police.

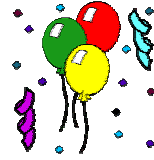
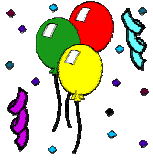
**Police Canine Apprehends Burglary Suspect**

New Castle County Police have arrested **Aaron Wheeler**, a 24 year old male who resides in the 100 block of Lynch Farm Drive in Newark. He has been charged with burglary related offenses after a police officer and canine located him hiding in a laundry room near an apartment he had attempted to break into. On Tuesday (4/20) at 6:53 p.m., County Police responded to the Cavalier Apartments for a report of a burglary in progress. When the officers arrived, they contacted the female victim who reported she had just returned home and found her door to her apartment had been tampered with. The victim, believing someone had attempted to enter her apartment, did not enter the dwelling and called police. Officer Jennifer Bunora and her canine partner "Lucca" were about to enter the apartment when the canine "scented" the front door area and then alerted to the adjacent laundry room. Inside this room, the officers found a male subject hiding underneath a laundry folding table. He quickly surrendered in the presence of the police canine. Officers found gloves, a screwdriver, and the door knob to the victim's apartment on the table where the subject was hiding. Aaron Wheeler has been charged with attempted burglary, possession of burglary tools, criminal impersonation (provided a false name) and criminal mischief. He has been arraigned and released on \$8,000 unsecured bail.

**Mounted Officers Car Stop Leads to Drug Bust, Stolen Car**

New Castle County Police have arrested **Tevan Patrick**, an 18 year old male who resides in the unit block of Copperfield Lane in the community of Brookside Park. He has been charged receiving stolen property (stolen car), possession of marijuana, and six traffic offenses. On Wednesday (4/21), mounted patrol officers were conducting a proactive patrol in the Old Newark Road area at Greenbride Drive when they observed a vehicle occupied by four individuals who were not wearing seatbelts. At approximately 11:00 a.m., two of the mounted officers motioned for the driver to pull over on Old Newark Road. The driver continued a short distance and then pulled over. The driver (Patrick) was unable to provide a driver's license and refused to show his hands while placing an unknown object inside his pants. Patrick was removed from the car and was found to be in possession of five bags of marijuana. A computer inquiry revealed the vehicle, which was displaying an expired temporary tag, was reported stolen to the Newark Police Department.





## Congratulations to our latest retirees.



**Senior Sergeant Michael Walsh** has announced his intention to retire on June 5, 2010. Michael has been a member of the police department since 1987. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division. He was later transferred into the drug squad where he also served as the intelligence/electronic surveillance officer. He later spent “a cup of coffee” as a detective in the person’s squad. He jumped right into the fire as his first case was (as the secondary detective) the Puglisi murder, kidnapping and rape investigation. Michael was later promoted to the rank of sergeant and assigned back to patrol. In 2004, he was transferred to the Crime Analysis Unit and later to the Information Systems Liaison Officer. On June 7th, he will become a (civilian) crime analysis employee and serve in the same office. Michael said he is looking forward to using some of the applications he has supported over the last several years.



**Senior Corporal Kevin Murphy** has announced his intention to retire on April 15, 2010. Kevin has been a member of the police department since October 1990. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division. He later spent some time in the Westover Hills project before being transferred to the criminal investigation unit. As an investigator, Kevin became an expert as a latent print examiner. He has taken a position with the department of public safety as a civilian serving in the same capacity (without the gun). In his typical easy going tenor, Kevin said, “At least I didn’t have to clean out my desk and locker. I retired on Wednesday and came back to the office on the following Monday. God has been good to me.”



**Senior Corporal Vaughn Harrigan** has announced his intention to retire on April 17, 2010. Vaughn has been a member of the police department since July 1990. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division where he proudly served for 20 years. According to Vaughn, he was previously a dispatcher for the Delaware State Police for a (one) year prior to becoming a county police officer—so he has worked shift work for a total of 21 years. While in patrol, he worked in the Southern Patrol Unit for about six years and was also a turnkey for two different squads. Vaughn has taken a position with AW Ramey Construction and is “loving it.” He has already lost 10 pounds and indicated he has a lot less stress in his life now. He admitted to having difficulty “getting into the grove of sleeping at night” for the first couple of weeks, but is now resting well.



**Senior Corporal Stephen Duncan** has announced his intention to retire on May 2, 2010. Stephen has been a member of the police department since June 1989. After graduating from the police academy, he was assigned to the patrol division for 20 years before being transferred into the Crime Analysis Unit in 2009. Stephen has accepted a position with the Wilmington University as a constable. He said he is enjoying his retirement and is adjusting well to the new job. He is responsible for the safety of four main buildings and a number of annex locations. So far, his most exciting action was a skunk on the school property. He planned on spraying the skunk before it sprayed him, but the varmint ran off before he had to “spring into action.”

## Significant Crime Recap April 2010

### **Silver Springs Apts.**

**Monday 4/5/10 2130**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two adult male victims had been speaking with two suspects about purchasing a digital camera, but they declined to buy it. The proposed sellers (suspects) began assaulting the victims, injuring both. This incident occurred in the area of Mary Ella Drive. During the incident, one suspect was reportedly armed with an unknown knife. One suspect was identified by the victims after a witness observed them flee in a vehicle. Warrants are on file for his arrest.

### **Rose Hill/Dunlieth Area**

**Tuesday 4/6/10 2135**

**District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Reported shooting) Several persons called 911 to report "shots fired" in the area of the 3100 block of New Castle Avenue. Officers detained a number of people who were later released after they were found to be unarmed. No casings/damage/victims were located. Report documented as a miscellaneous investigation.

### **Beaver Brook Plaza Area**

**Wednesday 4/7/10 2130**

**District 12-Bell**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 20 year old male victim was waiting at the bus stop for a ride to work when he was confronted by the two suspects. One pulled a BB gun from a bag he was carrying and threatened to pull out a "real gun" if the victim did not turn over his property. The suspects then assaulted him and took his backpack prior to fleeing into the Castlebrook Apartment complex.

### **Sparrow Run**

**Wednesday 4/7/10 2330**

**District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Attempted rape) A 63 year old female victim was savagely attacked by an acquaintance who was visiting at her Heron Court home. During the assault the suspect, Kenneth Coble, attempted to rape the victim and beat her unconscious. She suffered numerous fractures in her face and was hospitalized. The suspect was later located at his home and taken into custody.

### **Christiana Landing**

**Friday 4/9/10 1900**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two adult male victims advised that they were going to the community parkland to see a girl "Stephanie" and parked near the dead-end, in the area of the park. When the victims stopped, they were approached by the two suspects, one of which was armed with a sawed off shotgun. The victims turned over cash and an iPhone and the suspects fled. The victims did not report the incident until the following day.

**Knollwood****Friday 4/9/10 2000****District 8-Cartier**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 28 year old male victim advised that he was confronted by "New York" at a home in the unit block of Balfour Avenue over a debt. The victim told "New York" that he didn't have any money at which time he and another male pulled him into the house. Inside the residence, "New York" beat him with a wooden walking stick while the other suspect choked him and stole his cash. Warrants were signed for one of the suspects. The other, has not yet been identified.

**Hamilton Park****Sunday 4/11/10 0230****District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 29 year old male victim advised that he had just returned to his North Street home from a party in the City of Wilmington and was inside getting undressed when he heard a knock at the front door. When he opened it, he found three unknown males standing there who started shooting at him. The victim was struck in the left leg. He then responded back inside and told his wife who took him to the hospital by private vehicle.

**Llangollen Estates****Monday 4/12/10 1900****District 12-Bell**

**Summary:** (Attempted robbery) Two adult male victims parked their car on Park Avenue and exited their vehicle. Two subjects simultaneously approached them and displayed a handgun while demanding money from the victims. One of the victims relinquished cash as one of the suspects jumped in the driver's seat of the vehicle and started same. The other victim grabbed the suspect in the car and began to fight with him as the other suspect fled on foot. The victims were able to restrain the 18 year old male subject until police arrived. The cash was recovered and the suspect was charged with attempted robbery.

**Rosegate****Monday 4/19/10 1630****District 10-Street**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) During the daylight hours, numerous persons called 911 to report a series of shots fired in the area of Rose Lane and Revis Avenue. It appears as though the shooting is a result of a dispute between two groups within the community of Rosegate. The witnesses advised that one of the guns sounded like it was an "automatic." No victims have come forward, however, detectives were able to identify several potential suspects.

**Wellington Woods****Monday 4/19/10 2000****District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) An adult male victim responded to County Police HQ on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to report the robbery. The victim advised he had arranged to meet a friend to purchase an in-car DVD system near Three Rivers Drive at Wellington Drive. During the meeting, the suspect held a black handgun to the victim's head and stole the DVD player. Warrants are currently on file for the suspect.

**Kirkwood Gardens**

**Tuesday 4/20/10 2125**

**District 9-Sheldon**

**Summary:** (Shooting investigation) A 22 year old male subject and seven of his family members were inside their home in the 2300 block of Hammond Place when a suspicious vehicle passed by. An occupant of the vehicle then fired several shots at the home striking it multiple times narrowly missing several victims. The vehicle, a maroon in color sedan with a rear spoiler, then fled the area at a high rate of speed.

**William Penn Village Thursday 4/22/10 1415**

**District 12-Bell**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 16 year old male victim advised that he was approached by the suspects while walking home near Tulip Lane. The victim advised that he knows the male suspects from school and added that they were members of the "Black Angels" gang. The victim advised that he was assaulted and the suspects stole his gold chain and iPhone. The suspects were identified and arrested. The suspects were charged with robbery and related offenses.

**Christine Manor**

**Thursday 4/22/10 2240**

**District 5-Diller**

**Summary:** (Reported home invasion) The 33 year old female victim advised that she was sleeping inside her home on Georgian Circle when a male suspect entered via an unsecured rear door. The suspect then came into the victim's bedroom and attempted to remove her prescription medication from her pillow case. The victim was struck in the face numerous times by the suspect, causing a black eye (medical attention refused). The victim's roommate heard the commotion and responded to the victim's bedroom and observed the suspect fleeing out a window.

**Sparrow Run**

**Friday 4/23/10 2220**

**District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Home invasion) A 22 year old male victim advised that he was standing outside of his residence on West Plover Drive when the three suspects approached him and began assaulting him while trying to get into his house. The victim was able to crawl inside his living room and attempted to hide under a table. Two of the suspects, who had entered the residence, picked a glass coffee table up and threw it on the victim. As the suspects fled the victim heard what he thought was a gunshot. A bullet hole and projectile were recovered on Sunday.

**Sparrow Run**

**Saturday 4/24/10 0115**

**District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Home invasion) A 25 year old female victim reportedly observed three males at her rear door (Raven Turn) who were attempting to get in. The victim called her male cousin who responded to the home and as he entered the front door, he was confronted by the group of subjects. One pointed a revolver at him and stole his cash before they fled.

**Gender Woods**

**Saturday 4/24/10 0300**

**District 11-Tackett**

**Summary:** (Reported home invasion) A 38 year old female victim awoke to find a male subject standing over top of her with a silver handgun in her face. The victim was ordered to the ground and a sweatshirt was placed on her head. The two suspects ransacked the victim's bedroom and kitchen area while demanding money. The victim's 11 year old daughter was also in the house but not contacted/harmed by the suspects.

**Raven Glen**

**Sunday 4/24/10 1700**

**District 6-Powers**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Officers were called to an abandoned address in the 100 block of Hawk Drive regarding a trespassing complaint. Upon arrival, a male subject was contacted and taken into custody regarding an outstanding Family Court Capias. As officers exited the residence with the subject, two victims were walking by and began yelling that the subject in custody had just robbed them at gunpoint. The firearm was recovered (loaded with 9 rounds) following a search warrant of the residence. The subject was arrested and charged with robbery and related offenses.

**Brack Ex**

**Sunday 4/25/10 0035**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 21 year old male victim met with another male in the area of the 300 block of Brighton Avenue for the purpose of purchasing drugs. An argument ensues between the two and the suspect began assaulting the victim while wearing brass knuckles. The victim suffered a broken nose and eye orbital. A canine track led from the scene directly to the back door of a nearby home. The suspect was found inside and arrested.

**Mill Creek Village**

**Monday 4/26/10 2125**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) A 47 year old male victim arrived home at 21 Scarborough Park Drive and was confronted by two suspects who demanded that he turn over his property. The suspects brandished a handgun and went through the victim's pockets removing cash. The suspects then fled in a newer dark blue SUV.

**Alban Park**

**Tuesday 4/27/10 0043**

**District 1-Reda**

**Summary:** (Reported robbery) Two adult victims were standing outside the residence on Coleman Street talking when they were approached by a male subject who brandished a gun and told them "give it up". The female victim advised that she didn't have anything as a second suspect emerged and began patting the victim's down. The male victim attempted to chase the suspects who dropped the purse during the pursuit.