



County Police Ink

December 2010

New Castle County Police Department

What's Inside

S/Sgt. Sparks Heroic Rescue
"E" Squad Working Together
K-9 Unit
Helping a Family in Need

Senior Sergeant Keith Sparks Rescues Woman From Burning Car

Senior Sergeant Keith Sparks has been credited with saving the life of a 21 year old female who had crashed her car into a tree and was trapped inside while the vehicle was on fire. S/Sgt. Sparks was able to suppress the flames enough to remove the operator from the backseat of the car as parts of her upper body were on fire. He then was able to extinguish the flames on the victim who was later rushed to the Christiana Hospital where she was treated for significant burns about her upper body. S/Sgt. Sparks also sustained burns to his hand during the rescue. On Saturday (12/11) at 2:30 a.m., County Police and Paramedics responded to the area of the unit block of Chestnut Street near the intersections of Marsh and Darley Roads for a report of a single car crash. It was reported a female victim was trapped inside the car which had caught on fire. S/Sgt. Sparks was the first officer to arrive at the crash site and quickly deployed his fire extinguisher into the driver's area where the female occupant was engulfed in flames. After suppressing the fire, S/Sgt. Sparks was able to grab the operator from the back seat and pull her from the burning car. He then had to quickly extinguish the fire about her upper body including her head and face. The victim was admitted in critical condition with burns to over 15% of her upper body. S/Sgt. Keith Sparks was also treated and released for burns to his hand. S/Sgt. Sparks has fully recovered from his injury. The investigation has revealed the operator was traveling on Chestnut Street and failed to negotiate a curve in the roadway. Her 2001 Saturn left the roadway and struck a speed limit sign, a mailbox, and then a tree. S/Sgt. Sparks formally met the victim for the first time on Sunday, January 30th 2011, while at her home. It was reported that she is doing well.



S/Sergeant Sparks was recognized at the January 18th, 2011 New Castle County Council meeting for his heroic rescue.



"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude"

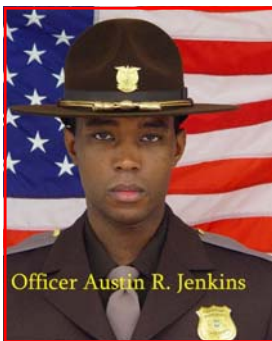
Thomas Jefferson



Officers Execute Search Warrants at a Home in Bear, Man Arrested

New Castle County Police have arrested **Brian Protack**, 24 year old male who resides in the 800 block of Powder Way in Hunters Run Trailer Park in Bear. He has been charged with weapon and drug offenses after officers conducted two search warrants at his home and he was found to be in possession of drugs and a firearm. Protack, who is a convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing guns. On Monday (12/13) at 9:00 a.m., **a team of officers from "E" Squad** executed a search warrant at the aforementioned residence, after receiving information that Protack was living at the home. Protack was wanted by the Division of Gaming Enforcement for robbery and had seven outstanding capiases. As a result of the search, officers found Protack hiding in a bedroom and he was arrested without incident. Officers also observed a baggie containing marijuana residue inside the home. During the execution of a subsequent search warrant, officers found marijuana, drug paraphernalia, two rounds of ammunition and a 9mm handgun that was located under a bed. Protack was charged with possession of ammunition by a person prohibited, possession of a deadly weapon by a person prohibited, resisting arrest and possession of marijuana. He was also charged with robbery in the second degree and other offenses from a warrant that was issued by the Division of Gaming Enforcement. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institute after failing to post \$10, 900 secured bail and \$120 cash bail.

Man Charged with Falsely Reporting a Robbery



Officer Austin R. Jenkins

New Castle County Police have arrested **Ryan Quigley**, an 18 year old male who resides in the 2100 block of Willow Way in the community of Ardencroft in Wilmington. Quigley falsely reported a robbery and assault so he could get his prescription medication filled prior to the refill date. On Tuesday (12/28) at 9:35 p.m., County Police responded for a reported robbery that allegedly took place on Shrewsbury Drive near the intersection of East Boxborough Drive in the development of Ballymeade. When officers arrived, they contacted Quigley who advised that as he was walking on Shrewsbury Drive and heading to a friend's house, he was approached by two male subjects. Quigley told police that the suspects assaulted him and stole an undisclosed amount of money and a full bottle of his prescription medication. During the investigation, **Officer First Class Austin Jenkins** found several inconsistencies in the victim's statements. Further investigation revealed that the incident never occurred, and that Quigley reported the confrontation so that he could receive a police report and have his medication refilled. Quigley was arrested and charged with falsely reporting an incident. He was arraigned and released on \$500 unsecured bond.

Safe Streets Officers Seize Firearm During Search

The New Castle County Safe Streets Task Force has arrested **Paul Hodgkinson**, a 28 year old male who resides in the Villas Apartment complex in New Castle. He has been charged with weapon and drug offenses after officers found marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a handgun in his apartment. On Tuesday (12/14) at 7:00 p.m., officers from the Safe Streets Task Force responded to the 100 block of Villas Drive after receiving information that **Amanda Wooters**, a 28 year old female who is a level I probationer, was living in the apartment with her boyfriend Hodgkinson. Wooters was wanted on several capiases and for violating her probation. As a result, a warrant attempt and administrative search was conducted at the home. When officers arrived, they contacted Wooters, who was immediately taken into custody without incident. Officers also came in contact with Hodgkinson while inside the home. Probation officers conducted an administrative search of the residence that led to the discovery of a small amount of marijuana, two digital scales, a grinder, a .380 handgun and ammunition. The handgun was located in the hallway closet, which was inside a winter hat that was found in a child's Halloween bag. It was also learned that they have a one year old child that lives with them, who had left the home with a relative before the officers arrived. Hodgkinson was charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession with intent to deliver marijuana, maintaining a dwelling for keeping controlled substances, possession of drug paraphernalia and endangering the welfare of a child. Hodgkinson was arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institute after failing to post \$20,000 secured bail. Wooters was committed to the Woman's Correctional Institute for violating her probation.

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole"

Roger Caras

Police Canine Apprehends Burglary Suspect

New Castle County Police have arrested Michael P. Edwards, a 20 year old male who resides in the 700 block of W. 28th Street in the City of Wilmington. He has been charged with burglary related offenses after he was caught inside a New Castle home that he had just broken into. Edwards was later treated and released for injuries he sustained during the canine apprehension. On Tuesday (11/30) at 1:05 p.m., County Police responded to a home in the 300 block of Oregon Avenue, in the Penn Acres community, for a report of a burglary in progress. A concerned neighbor had called 911 after watching a male subject walk into the rear yard of the home and enter the dwelling through an unsecured window. Within moments, Officer Edwin Mousley and his canine partner "Quattro" arrived at the home as additional officers set up a perimeter outside. Quattro was deployed into the home after the intruder failed to respond to the verbal commands of the officers. Quattro searched the home and located Edwards hiding behind a bed in an upstairs bedroom. He was taken into custody after a brief struggle with the canine. At the time of his arrest, police found he was in possession of an I-Phone that belonged to the victim. A canvass of the area revealed Edwards had attempted to break into another home on the same block, but was chased off by the 74 year old female resident. Edwards was charged with burglary, attempted burglary, theft, attempted theft, and resisting arrest after he was discharged from the hospital. He was later arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$12,500 secured bail.



Officer Mousley and "Quattro"

New Castle County Police K-9 Unit

The canine unit averages close to 4,000 K-9 calls for service per year. Last year they had 87 apprehensions, handled 472 narcotic and 65 explosives calls, while seizing \$418,385 dollars in U.S.C. sniffs. They also assisted other police agencies 297 times and were active in the community performing over sixty K-9 demonstrations.

Police Canine Tracks, Apprehends Suspect Involved in Domestic Dispute

New Castle County Police have arrested Justin Amalfitano, a 21 year old male who resides in the unit block of Stevens Avenue in New Castle. He has been charged with felony related offenses after he assaulted his younger brother with a hammer and was later apprehended by a police canine. On Monday (12/06) at 3:50 p.m., County Police responded to the aforementioned residence, which is located in the development of Rambleton Acres, for a report of a physical domestic dispute involving a hammer. When police arrived, they contacted the victim who reported that he was arguing with his older brother when he was pushed against a wall and then struck with a hammer. The investigation revealed that the victim and his brother were arguing over the use of a vehicle that belonged to their mother. During the argument, the victim was pushed into a wall and fell to the floor. As the victim stood up, his brother started swinging a hammer in his direction and struck him about his head and upper body. Amalfitano then fled the home on foot (with the hammer in his possession) in an unknown direction. The victim sustained minor scratches and abrasions to his face, chest and arms. Officer First Class Robert Vasecka and his canine partner "Vasu" responded to the scene and began tracking Amalfitano across the rear yard to an open gate at the driveway. He continued tracking out to Stevens Avenue and along the sidewalk before crossing the road and into the driveway of a residence in the unit block of Holden Drive. Amalfitano was then located in the home and taken into custody without incident. Amalfitano was arrested and charged with assault in the second degree, aggravated menacing and possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony. He was committed to prison after failing to post \$10,000 secured bond.



Officer Robert Vasecka and his canine partner "Vasu"

Verizon Van Located, Two Teens Arrested After Attempting to Flee



Officer Daniel Guzevich

New Castle County Police have arrested two teens for receiving stolen property and related offenses after they were seen occupying a Verizon van that was reported stolen from the City of Wilmington earlier in the day. Both subjects were caught after fleeing from police. On Wednesday morning (12/22) at 8:45 a.m., **Officer First Class Daniel Guzevich** responded to the community of the Woodburne Townhouses after it was reported that a white Chevrolet Astrovan, which was marked with "Verizon" on the sides, had been tracked to the area of 24 Wildfire Lane. When Officer Guzevich arrived, he located the vehicle in the overflow parking lot in the vicinity of 52 Wildfire Lane. As Officer Guzevich pulled his patrol car behind the vehicle, he observed the driver's side door open and two subjects flee. A foot pursuit ensued and the suspects headed into a small wooded area between Wildfire Lane and Elks Trail. Officer Guzevich ordered the subjects to stop, but both suspects failed to comply and continued running until their escape route was eventually cut short by a stockade wooden fence. **James Lawson**, a 17 year old male who resides in the 200 block of Christiana Road in New Castle, stopped running and was taken into custody.

Kenneth Dembey-Brown, a 16 year old male who resides in the unit block of North 35th Street in the City of Wilmington, once again failed to comply with the officer's orders to stop and climbed over the fence. Officer Guzevich was able to reach over the fence and deploy his Taser. Dembey-Brown was then taken into custody. Dembey-Brown and Lawson were charged with receiving stolen property, conspiracy in the second degree and resisting arrest. Dembey-Brown was arraigned and issued a \$4,000 unsecured bail and released to his parents. Lawson was arraigned and issued a \$3,000 unsecured bail and released to his guardian.

Four Teens Caught, Arrested for Multiple Thefts from Cars



Officer Jeffrey Snyder

New Castle County Police have arrested four teens and charged them with burglary and related offenses after police caught them breaking into vehicles in the community of Rambleton Acres. Early Sunday (12/26) morning at 2:30 a.m., County Police responded to the area of Holden Drive in the community of Rambleton Acres for a theft that just occurred. A concerned neighbor called 9-1-1 after they observed several subjects who were reportedly breaking into vehicles in the area. Police arrived within moments of the call and observed the suspects attempting to break into a vehicle on Stevens Avenue. When the officers attempted to contact the subjects, they fled on foot. **Officer Jeffrey Snyder** was able to locate one of the teens hiding under a porch of a nearby residence. A short time later, as **Officer Wesley Neeman** was conducting a property check, he located a suspicious vehicle (1993 Silver Jeep Cherokee) in a nearby parkland. He stopped

the vehicle on Balbach Road and discovered the car was occupied by two subjects. He then found them to be in possession of property that had just been stolen from several cars. Officers were able to locate the other teen that fled, as he was later observed attempting to break into another vehicle in the area. The officers have been able to identify at least four victims so far within the community. The following suspects were each charged with two counts of burglary in the third degree, two counts of attempted burglary, two counts of theft, four counts of conspiracy in the second degree and resisting arrest. They were all arraigned and released to their parents on \$2,750 unsecured bail. **Michael Lynn**, a 17 year old male, who resides in the 100 block of West Franklin Drive in the development of Wilmington Manor in New Castle. **Zachary Robbins**, a 16 year old male, who resides in the 300 block of Pennewill Drive in the development of Leedom Estates in New Castle. **Renee Lightcap**, a 16 year old female, who resides in the 800 block of Seymour Road in the development of Fairwinds in New Castle. **John Morely**, a 17 year old male, who resides in the 300 block of Pennewill Drive in the development of Leedom Estates in New Castle.



Officer Wesley Neeman

New Castle County Police, National Latino Peace Officer Association and Several Other Organizations Help a Family in Need

On December 21st a home in the Village of Windover Apartment complex was burglarized and a 5 year old child's Christmas presents were stolen. Officer Jeffrey Snyder (pictured above) responded to the home and took the report. Officer Snyder also initiated a collection for the family (who had recently lost their home) so that they could procure some gifts that had been stolen. I am proud to say that the Police Department (officers, victim services, dispatchers and others), National Latino Peace Officer's Association, Marine Toys for Tots and the Nemours Foundation made generous donations and contributed to a worthy cause that made for a special holiday season for the family. Officer Snyder, with the assistance of Officer John Piser, responded to the home on Christmas Eve and delivered a new television and Wii game system, \$100 gift card from and several carloads of gifts; all of which were donated. The family conveyed their gratitude for the overwhelming outpouring of support from the agency and the generosity of all involved.



Significant Crime Recap December 2010

Riverside

Thursday 12/2/10 1630

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 18 year old victim called police and reported that he was just robbed at gunpoint by a male wearing a Brandywine High School sweatshirt. The victim added that the suspect held the gun to the back of his head during the incident. Responding officers located the suspect, who was found to be in possession of the victim's cell phone. The defendant later confessed to the incident and advised police of the location of the gun. The gun was located and it was determined to be a BB gun.

Holly Oak

Sunday 12/05/10 1650

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 22 year old victim was walking in the alley behind Hessler Drive from her residence to the Happy Harry's on Philadelphia Pike. While in the alley she was approached by a male suspect who placed a small silver handgun to her head and demanded money. After the victim handed the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash, the suspect fled on foot toward Philadelphia Pike.

Overview Gardens

Friday 12/03/10 2325

District 10-Street

Summary: (Reported Robbery) Police responded to the unit block of Karlyn Drive reference the robbery of a Pizza Hut delivery driver. The 47 year old victim indicated that he was approached by four male subjects who robbed him of an undisclosed amount of cash and four pizzas. Detectives were notified and assumed the investigation.

Hampton Walk

Saturday 12/04/10 1724

District 7-Smiley

Summary: (Reported Robbery) Police responded to the area of the 1600 block of New Jersey Avenue in reference to a robbery. When officers arrived, they contacted the 46 year old victim who advised that three male subjects attempted to rob him as he was preparing his vehicle for his daughter's wedding. The victim indicated that one of the suspects displayed a shotgun and demanded his money. He advised that he attempted to run away, but was surrounded and struck with the shotgun. The victim advised that he yelled for help which caused the suspects to flee prior to them taking his wallet.

Glasgow Court TP

Sunday 12/05/10 2120

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Attempted Robbery) The victim was walking to her trailer from the residence located behind her trailer when she was approached by the suspect who displayed a handgun. The victim immediately started screaming and the suspect fled on foot.

Silver Springs APTS

Thursday 12/16/10 1345

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Attempted Robbery/Assault) The victim advised that he was exiting the apartment complex when a male subject wearing a ski mask approached him from behind. When the victim turned around, he was instructed to turn over his property. When the victim refused, the suspect then punched the victim in the face and the victim fought back. A physical struggle ensued between the suspect and the victim. The suspect then pulled a black handgun from his waistband and struck the victim in the head with the gun, causing his head to bleed. The victim was able to run to Pat's Pizza and request help.

Brandywine Hundred APTS Sunday 12/19/10 2150

District 2-Weiner

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 39 year old victim indicated that after returning home and parking his vehicle, he proceeded to get onto the elevator. As the door was closing, he observed a male approaching the elevator yelling for him to hold the door. As the male reached the elevator, he displayed a handgun and physically pulled the victim out of the elevator and demanded that he empty his pockets. The second suspect held a door to a stairwell within the garage. The victim turned over his property and the suspects fled.

Edgewood Hills

Monday 12/13/10 2114

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 20 year old victim advised that he was walking on Brandywine Boulevard when the suspects approached him. One suspect pulled out a revolver and advised him to turn over his property. The victim told the suspects that he didn't have anything. The suspects then demanded the victim to remove all the items from his pockets and fled. The K9 track led to the area of South Pennewell and Rysing Drives.

Brookside Shopping CTR Tuesday 12/14/10 1927

District 5-Diller

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The suspect walked into the Dollar General store and approached the cashier and demanded that she give him everything in the register. The cashier advised the suspect that she couldn't open the register unless a transaction was made. A woman approached the counter and began handing the items to the cashier. Once this transaction was done and the cash register opened, the suspect again asked for all of the money in the register. The cashier turned over the money and the suspect fled.

Brookside Shopping CTR Sunday 12/19/10 1915

District 5-Diller

Summary: (Attempted Robbery) The suspect walked into the Family Dollar store carrying a plastic bag and approached the cashier and demanded money from the register. The cashier refused to turn over any money, and when the suspect implied he had a gun, the cashier continued to deny the suspect money. The suspect fled and the cashier was able to get the registration number of the vehicle which he fled. The vehicle

was later involved in a pursuit with the Delaware State Police. The suspect was eventually arrested.

Minqudale

Monday 12/13/10 0020

District 10-Street

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 33 year old victim indicated that he was walking home after purchasing a pack of cigarettes at the Wawa store located on Route 13 at Memorial Drive. The victim stated that he was approached by the suspect who displayed a gun and told him not to run. The suspect then patted down the victim's pockets. The victim advised that the suspect then began to walk away and he continued to watch him. The suspect re-approached the victim and a physical altercation between the two ensued. During the altercation, the suspect struck the victim in the head with the gun. After the victim took the suspect to the ground, the suspect broke free and ran to a dark green vehicle and entered the passenger's side and left the area. The victim was treated at Christiana Medical Center for his injuries.

Gordon Heights

Wednesday 12/22/10 1855

District 8-Cartier

Summary: (Homicide) Officers responded to the victim's residence on Wednesday 12/22/10 at 1855 for a check on the welfare and found him deceased with multiple stab wounds. The suspect was identified through investigation and is in custody. It was learned that on December 9, 2010, the defendant was involved in a collision within the jurisdiction of the Wilmington Police while operating the victim's vehicle. The defendant was located and subsequently charged regarding this investigation.

Overview Gardens

Sunday 12/26/10 0100

District 10-Street

Summary: (Shooting) The 17 year old victim advised that he was walking home when he walked past a white pickup truck parked in the area. The victim advised that he believes there were several occupants in the truck, but was unable to describe any of them due to the windows being tinted. The victim indicated that as he walked past the truck, the occupants began yelling obscenities at him. The victim advised that the truck started and he began to run home in fear of being robbed. The victim advised that while he was running he heard one loud "bang" and felt a burning sensation in his elbow. The victim was able to get home and discovered a graze wound to his elbow.

Scarborough Park APTS

Tuesday 12/21/10 0645

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Home Invasion) The suspects entered the apartment and began ransacking the interior of the residence. All of the victims were ordered into a bedroom at gunpoint and told to get onto the floor. The suspects threatened to kill the victims a number of times. The suspects removed a large amount of property from the residence and fled in the victim's vehicle.

Cleland Heights

Thursday 12/23/10 2241

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The suspect entered the Simmi's Food Market and walked behind the counter while pointing a small revolver at the 20 year old clerk. The suspect demanded the money from the register and was given an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect then fled out the rear door of the store. A canine track was conducted.

Chasemont Apartments

Wednesday 12/22/10 0230

District 11-Tackett

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 42 year old female victim had just left her boy friend's apartment when she was approached in the parking lot of his building by a vehicle occupied by acquaintances. She stated that a subject got out of the car while she was talking to her friend. The subject then grabbed her purse and fled into Harmony Woods on foot. She stated that she chased suspect and observed him enter a vehicle that was parked nearby and flee the area. The victim returned to her residence before calling 911.

Rosewood

Thursday 12/23/10 1530

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Reported Robbery) The 63 year old female victim had embroidered a jacket for the suspect. The two suspects had previously expressed that they did not approve of the thread used to embroider the jacket. The victim indicated that she called the suspects and told them to pick up and pay for the jacket or she was going to donate it. Shortly after this conversation, the two suspects showed up at the victim's house and an argument ensued over the jacket. The male grabbed the jacket from the victim and a struggle ensued, before the suspects fled the area in a vehicle.

Woodfield APTS

Tuesday 10/28/10 2110

District 1-Reda

Summary: (Shooting) The 21 year old victim advised that as he was walking back to his apartment, he observed a vehicle pull into the parking lot. The suspect exited the vehicle and began firing shots in the victim's direction, striking an unoccupied vehicle in the parking lot. The suspect was identified and warrants are on file.

Sparrow Run TH

Sunday 12/26/10 1130

District 6-Powers

Summary: (Shots Fired) The 72 year old victim advised that she discovered a small hole in the glass of a picture frame that was broken. Originally, the victim believed that her grandchildren may have caused the damage when they were visiting for Christmas and cleaned up the glass. The following day, the victim discovered a hole in her drapes and a hole consistent with a bullet hole through her screen and window as well and notified police.