

THE GUARDIAN



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Officer Alfredo LaPorte Pulls Woman from Burning Car

by Sgt. Jamie Burke

On December 15, 2005, around 9:30 in the evening, Officer Alfredo LaPorte was off duty and driving his private vehicle on Interstate 495 when a woman in a sport utility vehicle (SUV) lost control on the rain-soaked pavement and struck him. Immediately bursting into flames, the SUV had the woman pinned in her car and she was unable to get out.

Officer LaPorte, at great personal risk, ran to the woman's assistance and, with the help of a tractor-trailer driver who had stopped for the accident, pulled her from the burning vehicle. She was then placed in the tractor-trailer cab to wait for further assistance from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel.

Trooper Ryan of Maryland State Police witnessed the incident and said that if it were not for the quick, selfless actions of Officer LaPorte, the woman would have perished in the blaze. Officer LaPorte is to be commended for his professionalism and dedication to the residents of Montgomery County. Good work, Officer LaPorte! 

Officer Alfredo LaPorte



Photo by Margaret Kingsley





Detective Mau Ly Receives Instructor of the Year Award

At the Fifth Annual Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission's (MPCTC) Instructor's Conference, MPCTC Executive Director Patrick L. Bradley presented Detective Mau Ly with the Non-Academy Instructor of the Year Award. This award honors outstanding instructors who have made a special contribution to their agencies.

Detective Ly has been employed with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, for more than 10 years. During this time, he has served in a number of capacities including Patrol Officer, Mounted and Motorcycle Officer, GLOCK Armorer, General and Firearms Instructor, and Detective. He has also served as the Division's Firearms Coordinator for the last four years. As a member of our bi-county Training Committee, Detective Ly has been instrumental in designing and delivering quality in-service training for our officers.

Congratulations and thanks go to Detective Mau Ly for his dedication and commitment to the Maryland-National Capital Park Police firearms and training program. **G**



Detective Mau Ly

Photo by Margaret Kingsley



Park Police Capture Drug Dealer

by Sgt. Mike Young

This past summer, Captain Jake Bise saw a large marijuana crop as he was patrolling in a helicopter for the state marijuana eradication program. He notified the Investigative Services Section of the find and the investigation was assigned to Detective Levon Ellian. Once assigned, Detective Ellian began his investigation by using both human and electronic surveillance. A groundhog video camera, designed to record when it senses motion, captured the unknown suspect watering and caring for his crop.

Using the video captured, a still photo was created and distributed within the Montgomery County Police community. The local area press was also notified and News Channel 4 agreed to be present for the harvesting of the crop. In late August, Park Police officers recovered more than 121 plants with a street value of \$121,000. News Channel 4 covered the harvest and

broadcast the suspect's picture to the Washington metro area and provided our anonymous Crime Solvers' phone number. Within days, a tip had been left and Detective Ellian was able to identify the suspect.

In early September, Investigative Services members with the assistance of Patrol personnel executed a search warrant for the suspect's residence yielding additional evidence. The suspect was charged with possession of controlled dangerous substances (CDS), manufacturing and distribution of CDS, and possession of paraphernalia. He is currently awaiting trial.

Congratulations and thanks go to Detectives Levon Ellian, Brent LaMere, Mau Ly, Jeff Price, and Officer Greg Worsey on their dedication and commitment to solving this case. Good work! 🇺🇸



Detective Levon Ellian harvests marijuana crop.

Photo by Ofc. Greg Worsey



Santa Brings Joy to Kids

by Vivian Gardiner, Crime Analyst

Santa's visit to Jesup Blair House on December 14 was another great success! Santa (Martin McCourt, whose wife Tricia works in the Accreditation Unit) was mobbed from the minute he arrived and each child and mom had several photo ops with him.

Thanks go to Sergeant Chris Tippery and Officers Keith Gentry and Cindy Weisman who escorted Santa with sirens and flashing lights to the delight of the children. Many thanks also go to Santa's helpers who wrapped and bagged the mountain of presents and to Margaret Kingsley, the official Jesup Blair photographer.

Very special thanks go to Air Services, our corporate sponsor, who contributed the majority of the gifts and to Susan Nash's (Lead Dispatcher Chuck Nash's wife) Red Hat Ladies who provided for the families as their holiday project. Thank you to all at Park Police who participated and made a very memorable holiday for children who otherwise would have none. 



Santa's helpers wrap and organize gifts.

L-R: Maureen Potter, Roxie Bushby, Vivian Gardiner, Margaret Kingsley, Lt. Karen Petrarca, Dana Brassell

Photo by Tricia McCourt



Santa Brings Joy to Kids

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L-R: Erin, Martin, and Jennifer McCourt



Officer Cindy Weisman (left), Sgt. Chris Tippery (back), and Officer Keith Gentry (right) visit with Santa.



Santa dances with Jesse.

Photos by Margaret Kingsley



Sergeants Complete Tabletop Exercise

by Lt. Lisa Vasco

In late October, the regularly scheduled Sergeants' meeting was partially preempted for a tabletop exercise regarding an unusual occurrence. An unusual occurrence is an incident that does not happen on a daily basis. Designed and facilitated by Lt. Lisa Vasco, the exercise was written so no one knew exactly what the circumstances would be, including the writer. Lieutenants Baker and Manley assisted in moderating the event.

Three choices of day, time, and location were available and drawn from a hat. Likewise, three emergency situations were also selected at random. In the end, the scenario chosen was a plane crash at Fairland Recreational Park on a Saturday in the late morning. A small plane had crashed and was burning in the wooded area just off of the ball fields. The next variable was drawn, and 10 victims were injured, and eight had died in the crash.

Sergeant Jamie Burke was assigned as Incident Commander. Through him, the assignments were made for scribe, resources officer, operations officer, traffic, communications, media, and site security officers. Participants included Sergeants Rick Pelicano, Chris Tippery, Dan McCort, Jim Richards, Mike Young, Mike Paulk, and Communications Supervisor Debbie Hagberg.

Using street maps and parkland plots, the participants worked together to create a plan to handle the accident. Resources were checked and a roll of the die created further variables. For example, the Incident Commander decided he wanted to call the Prince George's County Division for assistance and the roll of the die decided how many they could send. When options arose, a roll between one and three was a yes, four to six - no. For instance, since all officers were responding 'priority' with their lights and sirens on, the question arose, 'Was there a departmental accident?' Roll the die 4. No accident. We all breathed a sigh of relief.

Plans were suggested, rejected, revised, and improved to deal with closing streets, bringing in additional staff, notifying Command Staff, evacuating the neighborhood and the adjoining parklands, dealing with the media, providing breaks and relief for staff, debriefing and reporting. Throughout the scenario, further variables were added. Halfway through, three officers were injured and transported to the hospital. This required replacing them at the scene, accompanying them to treatment - not to mention all the required paper work.

Conversation was lively and brainstorming was creative. The scenario lasted an hour and nearly every issue required by Division Directives was completed and addressed without guidance from the Patrol Commanders. Practices like this ensure that we're ready if an unpleasant incident like this happens. Hopefully, we will never have to use our training. **G**




Park Police Officer Codi Evans Catches the Bad Guy

by Lt. Lisa Vasco

On October 27 at 3 a.m., Montgomery County Police Officer Darren Crandall was responding to a report of an armed robbery at the Hillandale 7-Eleven store in Silver Spring. Officer Crandall observed two men in a 1990s silver Cadillac driving out of a side street behind the 7-Eleven and immediately broadcast a lookout for the vehicle.

Seeing the car on Interstate 495, Montgomery County Police Officer Godoy followed the car and tried to stop it when it turned off onto University Boulevard. The Cadillac failed to stop and continued west on University Boulevard until it made a right turn onto a residential street and increased to a high rate of speed.

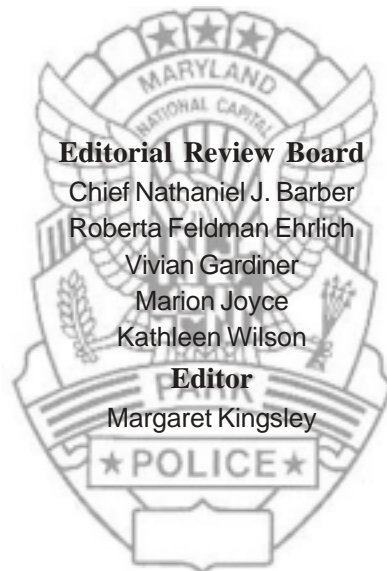
Meanwhile, after hearing the call on the radio, Park Police Officer Codi Evans joined the pursuit. Losing control, the Cadillac collided with a tree and the suspects ran from the car. After a short foot pursuit, Officers Evans and Godoy apprehended one of the subjects and arrested him. The other suspect escaped.

A loaded handgun was found in the car and the cash from the robbery was also recovered. The 7-Eleven clerk positively identified the suspect, and he has been charged with armed robbery and first-degree assault. An excellent job by Park Police Officer Codi Evans and Montgomery Police Officers Crandall and Godoy! 



Officer Codi Evans

Photo by Dispatcher John Stinson





The Latest Scoop

Lt. Darien Manley Promoted to Captain

Congratulations and farewell go to Darien Manley who was promoted to the rank of Captain effective November 4, 2005. Captain Manley is an 18-year veteran with the Park Police, serving the Montgomery County Division in a number of positions. Transferring to the Prince George's Division, Captain Manley will oversee the Support Operations Section. **G**

Welcome Back to Lt. Antonio DeVaul

Welcome back to Lt. Antonio DeVaul who was selected to fill the Lieutenant vacancy in the Montgomery County Division. Lt. DeVaul is an 11-year veteran with the Park Police, serving both Montgomery and Prince George's County Divisions in various positions. Tony will assume the duties of Midnight Patrol Commander. **G**

Officer Pamela Skaife Promoted to Sergeant

Congratulations go to Pam Skaife who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant effective December 21, 2005. Pam is a 17-year veteran with the Park Police, serving the Montgomery County Division as a Patrol Officer. Congratulations and best wishes go to Sergeant Skaife! **G**

Welcome to Marla Greene

Please welcome Ms. Marla Greene who will be working in the Chief's/Administration Office. Marla will be assisting Kathleen Wilson with the daily activities of the office as well as coordinating the annual physicals. Please stop by and say hello to Ms. Greene when you get a chance. **G**

Birth Announcements

Congratulations go to Officer Lauryn McNeill and her husband, Ed, on the birth of their son, Paul Harris Keeler. Born on December 27, 2005, Paul weighed in at eight pounds, 14 ounces. All are doing well! **G**