



Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff News

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696

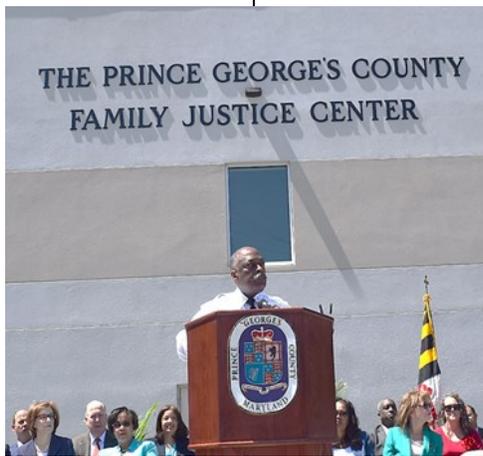
A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

The Sum of the Choices We Make

Every day we make choices to manage the routines of life – work, home, health, relationships, and play. Some choices we make so easily that we may not even notice but they set the rhythm of our lives. As we continue to deliver effective results to our citizens, I am ever mindful that our work is the sum of the choices our members make to keep our community safe.

All our work requires that we make choices - in the Bureau of Court Services to keep courthouse personnel and visitors safe; in the Bureau of Field Operations to fulfill our responsibilities as the law enforcement arm of the courts; and, in the Bureau of Administration to build on and maintain the highest

standards of professionalism. Some of the choices our members make are routine, while others may demand some accommodation, but all our choices require that we stay alert with a focus on personal safety, integrity and the safety of the public and persons in their care.



Beyond our daily choices, we also sometimes get to make choices that address our connection as a society and a community. I consider the Family Justice Center (FJC) that kind of choice. The Center, a one stop

resource center for victims of domestic violence, including victims of human trafficking and senior abuse, was opened with support from county government and is a collaboration between county government, the county court...*cont. p. 2*



Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

PGSO Takes a Red Nose minute on "Red Nose Day"

Good sports all around, PGSO members joined in for fun and charity by taking photos wearing the Red Nose from the charity Red Nose Day USA which supports projects that are devoted to the safety, health and education of kids, not only in the USA but in some of the poorest communities in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.



Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff

5303 Chrysler Way
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

(301) 780-8600

sheriffinfo@co.pg.md.us
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Follow us on Social Media:



www.facebook.com/pgsheriff
www.pgsheriff.blogspot.com
www.twitter.com/pgsheriff_pio

SHERIFF,
Continued from p. 1

system, county social service agencies, law enforcement, and professional private service providers. The Center's existence says that in Prince George's County we believe that if we work together we can end domestic and family violence. I believe we can.

We also announced three new Melvin C. High Scholarship winners and opened our 5-week Positive Deputies Assisting Youth (D.A.Y) Summer Camp. Our three new scholars – Helen Cordero, Omar Green, and Janelle Collier - are outstanding county high school graduates who are going on to academic careers in Social Sciences, Environmental Studies, and Neuroscience and Genetics, respectively. Imagine how pleased we were to have a 2013 winner, Dariya Brown, a rising senior at the University of Maryland, as keynote speaker for the awards ceremony.

With this year's Summer Camp, our Community



Partnership Division, kicked off on June 27th at Thurgood Marshall Middle School with 45 young people. The deputies have a packed schedule of athletics, academics, field trips and more planned for the young people and we'll keep you posted on their activities through our social media.

The Family Justice Center, the Melvin C. High Scholarship Award, and the Positive D.A.Y. Mentoring Program's Summer Camp are investments in our community. They are choices we made – to help people who are hurt, to build strong children, and to support our young people's academic aspirations.

These were right choices which add up to a better community.

Sheriff Melvin C. High

Retirements

Regina Taylor ~ Francine Steadman

New Hires

Academy Graduates: Lavern Hall ~ Marie Mejai-Paz~ Keith Wooten

In the Academy: ~ Juan Melendez~ Christian Suite~ Kiyana Graham ~ Elio Perdomo~ Giovanni Romero~ Rhodesia Jones~ Daniel Minchella

EPOs: Derick A Waring~ Anthony Bynum~ Winchester Banton~ D'Jonn Drake~ Malik Hedges, Erik Chapman

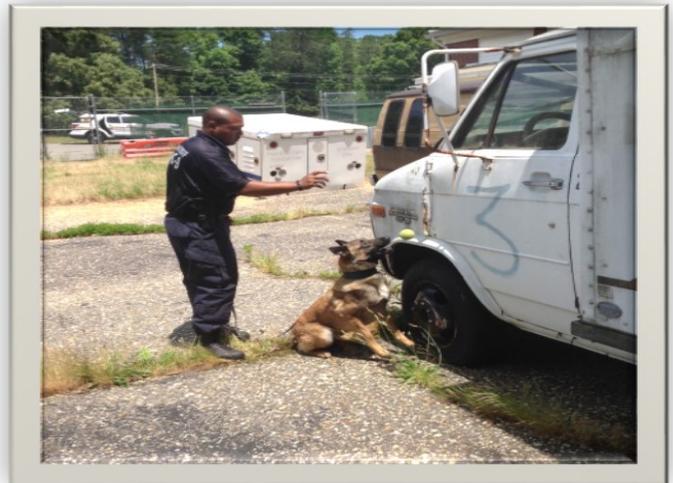
Civilian: Andrew Bashoor~Veronica Drew~ Jami Gambles~Brooks~ Dean Jones~ Tracye Malcom~ Janet Overton~Toria Roberts~

Promotions

Lt. Colonel	Ronald Terry
Captain	Joyce Bowers
Sergeant	Darrick Martin
Administrative Aide I	Kayla Durrett

Meet Diesel

New K-9 member Diesel is a sixteen month old Belgian Malinois who was imported from Slovakia by Shallow Creek Kennels. Belgian Malinois are working dogs for



tasks that include detection of odors such as explosives, accelerants and narcotics; tracking suspects for apprehension in police work, and search and rescue missions.

Sheriff's Office Adds New Rescue Vehicle

The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office added a new rescue vehicle to its fleet. The rescue vehicle that can shield first responders and save lives that might otherwise be lost when citizens and law enforcement are under fire.

The vehicle is a "BearCat" Armored Rescue Vehicle that was partially funded by an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security Grant. The vehicle, in service to law enforcement, is designed to provide protection and aid in the recovery and evacuation of individuals and law enforcement personnel in harm's way.

A recent example of local law enforcement's use of the BearCat is the role it played in the tragic mass-shooting in the Orlando nightclub shooting when it was used to break through the club's exterior wall, enabling officers to subdue the shooter and rescue the hostages. In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the tragedy of 9-11, Columbine, Aurora, Sandy Hook, Charleston and now Orlando, increasing concerns about domestic and international terrorism, multiple mass shootings and individual incidents of gun violence, the BearCat has become a valuable piece of rescue equipment for special

operations teams. "This vehicle is designed to provide cover under dangerous circumstances such as against active shooters and armed suspects in a hostage or barricade situation, such as in Orlando," said Chief Assistant Sheriff Palmer. "In any number of situations, the vehicle is a shield for officers attempting to communicate with a suspect and negotiate their peaceful surrender."



The BearCat, made by Lenco Armored Vehicles, is fashioned from a Ford F550 and comes standard with half-inch steel armor and 2 1/2-inch thick windows capable of withstanding rounds fired from most weapons. Additionally, the BearCat can transport 12, has standard features like heat, A/C, AM/FM radio with a CD

player, and four 360 degree spotlights to facilitate visibility as well as run with flat tires.

Chief Assistant Sheriff Palmer said the dangers law enforcement face today are far different than what it faced just a decade ago. "With active shooters in our courthouses, schools, shopping malls, and anywhere the public gathers and believes themselves to be safe, the threat is ever changing and we have to change with it to keep the public and our members safe."

Proof of the Power To Change Lives

In the early 1990s, a group of 13-15 year old teenage boys hung around together on 69th Place in Seat Pleasant. The 69th St. Crew were neighborhood kids wasting time and getting into trouble. The young men faced challenging life circumstances that didn't include a lot of encouragement or positive interaction with adults. As they got into more trouble, suddenly they became known as a "gang".

The adult with the patience and understanding for these teens was our own Lt. Sean Davenport and



other officers who were Seat Pleasant police officers at that time. The time they spent with the "crew" began to help shape how they saw their lives and ultimately helped to keep them out of jail. "He was really a community police officer who handled every situation with tact," said George Queen, who was a member of the 69th St. Crew and still lives in Seat Pleasant.

Mr. Queen, now a Metro Rail Station Manager also helps...*cont. p. 4*

Proof of the Power To Change Lives Continued

young people through his work at the Prince George's Community College Diverse Male Student Initiative, a year-long program empowering men toward leadership roles. He says Davenport had been known for keeping things on the straight and narrow, and for sharing his brand of wisdom with the neighborhood kids.

The relationship between the officers and the crew changed when they lost two childhood friends who were playing recklessly with a loaded gun – one was killed and the other was sent to prison. Recognizing that something had to change, the teens' relationship with Lt. Davenport grew and became more positive. "We nicknamed him "Pac-man" because his blond hair and blue eyes reminded us of Sean Penn who played a cop in the 1988 film "Colors" about the gang ridden neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

The latest chapter in this story was written this year on Seat Pleasant Day when members of the 69th St. Crew came from near and far, from Florida and Tennessee, to present awards to the officers who helped them through their teens. Lt. Shawn Davenport and Sgt. Myra Lucas were presented awards for the positive impact they had on these young men's lives. "Of all the awards I've received this one means more to me than any of them," said Lt. Davenport. Today, they are husbands and fathers, homeowners and business owners, and deacons in the church. The retired US Air Force veteran with 23 years of service lives in the state of Florida; they work in Marine Supply Procurement and IT Support.



Threatening Petitioner with a Gun Raises Red Flags!

The fatal shootings, allegedly by Eulalio Tordil, including of his wife Gladys Tordil in May after being served a Protective Order and turning in seven firearms raised the question: What action can deputies take when a respondent violates a final protective order? That's an important question that deputies had to answer when they learned that a petitioner who'd been granted a protective order that had been served was afraid she might be in danger.

The respondent harassed and threatened the petitioner even after he was served the order which instructed him to stay away from her and included the judge's instructions to turn in any firearms he had. He violated the order by sending the petitioner a threatening photo of himself with a gun, and destroyed and vandalized her property. The photo frightened the petitioner and greatly concerned the deputies who had served the protective order and who he told that he didn't own any firearms.

Fortunately, the respondent knew to contact the Sheriff's Office and reached out to the deputy who had previously assisted her. The deputy judged the photo a threat and notified his supervisors. The threatening photo with the gun was a violation of the protective order.

What action could deputies take? Being served a protective order is a civil action, not criminal, but deputies could not overlook a potential threat to the respondent's safety. The Specialized Services Team asked the court for a search and seizure warrant to enter the residence of the respondent to search for firearms. Although he said he didn't own any firearms, Maryland State Police records later indicated that there had been at least one handgun registered to him.

Deputies quickly applied for the search and seizure warrant in order to attempt to locate the handgun that he had not surrendered to the Sheriff in accordance with the Protective Order. The search and seizure warrant is required under the 4th Amendment.

When deputies spoke with the respondent he told them that he did own a registered handgun, but that it had been seized by Georgia police officers three weeks earlier. A Sheriff's supervisor contacted the Dooley County Georgia's Sheriff's Office which confirmed their possession of the firearm after which he sent them a copy of the protective order to ensure they wouldn't return the weapon to the respondent. No additional firearms were located in a search of the residence.