



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

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696

A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

It was a great honor to be sworn in on December 4th for the privilege of serving a second term as Sheriff of Prince George's County. It was a chance to thank the citizens of the county and to let them know that earning their vote is a trust I don't take lightly. I gave them my assurance that we would continue to build on the progress we have made over the last four years.

I know that much of the trust that has accrued to me was earned in large part, due to the hard work of you - the men and women of the Sheriff's Office - both sworn and civilian. With your help and outstanding command leadership, we have produced excellent results for the people of the County.

We can see, looking back on the most pressing challenges we faced four years ago

- reducing the backlog of warrants and reducing the time it took for evictions - that we have been successful. On the need for important technology improvements and growing our agency - we have been focused and had the support of the administration. I know we will stay the course on the work we have begun, but now we must look to the challenges ahead.

In particular, as I said when I took office, I believe that Domestic Violence is an issue, like some, that take their place in time and demand to be addressed. As a result of our knowledge and experience, we are a recognized voice on this issue and we continue to be innovative about how, in the course of our work,

CONTINUED: See SHERIFF, Page 2



Melvin C. High
Sheriff



Colonel Darrin C. Palmer
Chief Assistant Sheriff

"DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH" FILLED WITH ACTIVITY FROM START TO FINISH

The Sheriff's Office made sure that October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month was chocked full of activities. The Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) organized a series of domestic violence information exchanges at Metro Stations and throughout the community. The information exchange kickoff was hosted at Penn Mar Shopping Center



which was followed by events at Kent Village Apartments, the Suitland and Addison Road Metro stations. The Sheriff's Office also supported other events during the month such as the "Family Strong 5K Run" to benefit victims of domestic violence. The Specialized Services Team (SST) represented the agency in the event.

CONTINUED: "Domestic Violence", Page 2

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Retirements

Thomas Ferreira ~ Stan Andrews ~ Phillip Franks
 Cleo Fox ~ Charles McClland

New Hires

Sworn

Academy Graduates ~ Schuyler Green ~ Eric Bell ~ Armagan Patrick

EPOs ~ Eric Douglas ~ Derrick Knight~ Keina Muschette ~
 Reginald Williams ~ Miteka Trueheart ~ David Adams ~ Alec Thomas, III ~ Christopher Cormier

Civilian ~ Tierra Artis ~ Kaila Moore-Powell ~ Ebenezer Akuetteh

Promotions

Sworn

B. Endlich ~ P. Washington	Lieutenant
E. Crumb ~ W. Milam	Sergeant
P. Crawford ~ J. Dedier ~ B. McGaffin ~ M. Sims	Corporal
A. Bynum ~ M. Clay ~ A. Curtis ~ R. Dennis ~ D. Harris	Deputy First Class
C. Heyward Jr. ~ A. Hinds ~ J. Mayberry ~ L. Perry ~ G. Proctor ~ N. Romney ~ K. Wade	

Civilian

C. Shepherd	Administrative Aide I/II
C. Calabrese	Community Developer II

SHERIFF WELCOMES THREE NEW DEPUTIES
Graduates from Police Training Academy Session 127

Deputy Sheriffs Eric Bell, Schuyler Green, and Armagen Patrick takes a moment to share a picture with Sheriff Melvin C. High before they took their oaths of office during the graduation ceremony. We are proud to



welcome these new Deputies. New recruits, as a part of our overall hiring strategy, bring a fresh and contemporary perspective to our agency and the county's public safety family," said Sheriff High. "If their achievement in this very rigorous police academy is any indication of their desire to serve the citizens of this county, then law enforcement in the county will continue to have a positive future." said Sheriff High.

"Domestic Violence" Continued from Page 1

All of the DVID events were sandwiched between the Maryland launch of "Purple Light Nights" and the "Domestic Violence Roundtable and Luncheon"



closing the month. The Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony was held on the walkway behind the County Administration Building and attendees were given purple light bulbs for their windows or porches to symbolize a unified voice in the county against domestic violence. "In the coming years, we hope thousands of households in Prince George's County and all over the state will shine a purple porch light in October," said Sheriff High.

All of the Sheriff's Office events used the national slogan of the newly launched Purple Light Nights campaign – Domestic Violence Has No Place In Our Community. Check out our story on PGSO's results from the Clackamas County Domestic Violence Sweep.

SHERIFF, Continued from Page 1

we can help people impacted by domestic violence and to engage our community in the fight to end it.

I am delighted by the progress we have made toward achieving the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) designation that will certify that our agency is one that implements and operates according to the best practices in law enforcement. And, I will continue to advocate for a sorely needed safe and well-designed facility to house our agency. As well, my commitment to citizens includes my pledge to continue to depend on our Office of the Inspector General and our Office of Communications to be the magnifying glasses through which we demonstrate our willingness to be open and transparent as we build and maintain trust with the community we serve.

Together we have faced every challenge and grasped every opportunity. Thank you for your hard work. I look forward to serving with you again.

Sheriff Melvin C. High

MEET PGSO'S K9 UNIT

Receiving specialized training to become canine handlers, Corporals Garry Yancy, Giuseppe Casarella, Joseph Franklin, and Deputy First Class Derrick Robinson assigned to (*Labrador Retrievers and Belgian Malinois*) Bishop, Sasha, Ty, and Brody all under the direction of Sergeant Corey Thomas respectively make up the PGSO canine unit.

While only dogs Brody and Ty have previous experience as former United States Marine Corps Service Canines, all four canines are specifically trained in explosives detection – with instruction in detection of 14 different classes of explosives.

Under the instruction of Cpl. Casarella, the first PGSO Explosive Detection School course was recently concluded. K-9 Teams Corporal Franklin and Ty, along with DFC Robinson and Brody completed the 12-week school which began in November 2013 and ran through January 2014. With the course's success, PGSO looks forward to making the course available to partner agencies.

Each team certifies annually and is required to attend 16 hours of monthly maintenance training to keep their current certifications. And, handlers are required to undergo an annual physical fitness test with and without their dogs. Post 9/11, courthouses and other government facilities'

In addition to security and other formal duties, the PGSO canine unit also makes appearances in community parades, at community events and at career days. The animals are well-behaved in the public and they are an attraction the public loves, including young people who not only enjoy the animals but get to see another career opportunity in law enforcement that they may not have known about.

“We respond to assist on any call for service where explosives are believed to be present. Recently, there was an eviction where the on-scene deputies found what they believed to be items to create explosives. We went out to check and secure the location,” said Cpl. Yancy “We have a risky but rewarding job. On a daily basis we are bonding and building on our relationship with our canine partner so that we are able to read their signs and signals and responses when we deploy. We rely on each other, we are a team, and that’s what teams do.”



security is a high priority. As a result, PGSO canines are tasked daily with checking the grounds of the Upper Marlboro Courthouse – the busiest courthouse in the state – and the Judicial Administrative Services Building/County Annex. The K-9 Unit has occasionally been dispatched to assist other PGSO units.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE #1 IN NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SWEEP



For the 12th consecutive year, Sheriff's Deputies and members of other local law enforcement agencies participated in the National Family Violence Apprehension Detail (NFVAD) during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. Started by the Clackamas County, Oregon, Sheriff's Office, the initiative combines the efforts of law enforcement agencies nationwide to serve arrest warrants and make other arrests for crimes such as assault, violation of restraining orders, no contact order violations and other family violence related crimes.

Each year NFVAD sends a clear message to offenders throughout the nation that domestic violence is a crime and that law enforcement will work together to hold offenders accountable for their actions. In the recent Detail, nearly 1150 law enforcement personnel from 26 states and the District of Columbia participated, making over 3500 warrant service attempts and serving over 919 arrest warrants. The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff was #1 in the country for arrests during this year's NFVAD thanks to the commitment of 99 members from partner agencies – including Maryland State Police, United States Marshals Service, Metropolitan Police Department, Prince George's County

CONTINUED: See Domestic Violence Sweep, Page 4

MEMBER SCOOP: BILL MILLIGAN DOES IT FOR THE SMILES

"I guess just seeing the smiles on so many faces when we visit the senior homes and the school visits with the pre-K and 1st graders." That's



why after nearly 20 years Bill Milligan, Executive Director of the Public Safety Assistance Program, Inc. is still as passionate about the annual Valor Awards Program and delivering holiday food baskets to people in need at Christmas.

We all know Bill Milligan and the programs that have thrived under his leadership. As executive director for twelve years, the Program produces the annual Valor Awards which recognizes public safety agency personnel for heroic and meritorious action. The Valor Awards has

become one of the main fundraisers for the Holiday Food Basket Program that delivers baskets to county residents in need that are filled with everything a family needs to prepare a good holiday meal.

Quite the Program historian, Milligan says the Program celebrated its 30th anniversary last December. He says it was set up and incorporated by the heads of the public safety agencies in 1984 after learning that deputies, police officers, firefighters and paramedics were spending out of pocket to purchase food stuffs, make baskets and deliver them to the less fortunate in the county. The effort was supported from the beginning by other prominent citizens. Everyone saw the need and what better time to help than at Christmas time?

Bill says he's done everything related to the huge undertaking of

getting ready for the food basket program, from loading produce to making up the boxes to making deliveries, and he gets a great deal of support from his board and agency personnel. He even played Santa for a few years until he had to get a boost from firefighters to get into the fire engine.

"Unfortunately the need for the program will be with us far into the future, and every year we get more and more requests for assistance," says Milligan.



With donations falling off and so much competition from other organizations requesting funds, Milligan says the organization needs to find other ways to raise funds. "These are great programs and we've got some great partners. We want to

continue to be there for so many in need so on fundraising, I'm open to suggestions."

Domestic Violence Sweep Continued from Page 3

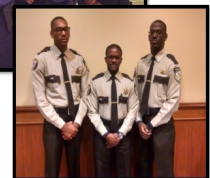
Police Department, Capitol Heights Police Department, Cheverly Police Department, District Heights Police Department, Glenarden Police Department, Seat Pleasant Police Department, Prince George's County Department of Corrections, Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



The Sheriff's Office National Warrant Sweep results were impressive, with teams making 295 warrant service attempts and making 187 arrests to close 217 warrants. The teams also lodged three detainers for individuals found jailed in other jurisdiction, while two defendants were identified as having been deported, and one was reported deceased.

"This operation continues to be a symbol of a national shared commitment against domestic violence," said Captain William Mints, Assistant Bureau Chief Field Operations. "We're certainly delighted to have the highest productivity and we share that with our partners whose resources added capacity to this important effort."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF Explorers Post 1696



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For more information, contact: Explorer Senior Advisor, Daryl Austin (240) 416-5208 Corporal Gibson (301) 780-2574



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