

# THE BEAT



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## HOWARD COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

The Howard County Child Advocacy Center (CAC), also known as "The Listening Place," is celebrating its 15th anniversary this month.

The Listening Place was created in 1991 to address a need to approach cases of child physical and sexual abuse in the most efficient and thorough way possible, while lessening the amount of trauma for the victim. A multi-disciplinary approach was developed to provide a child friendly environment that allows for early intervention, expedient investigations and swift prosecution.

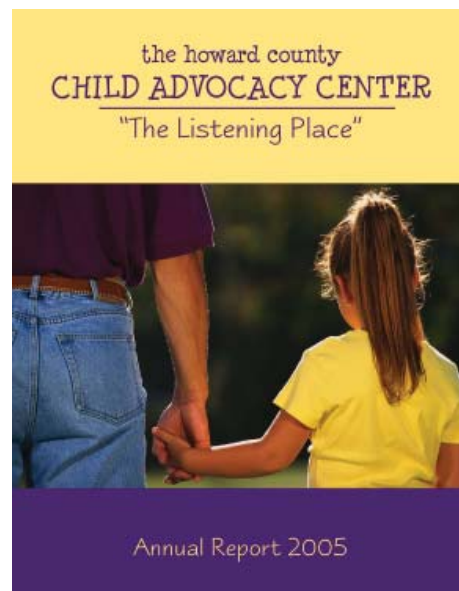
The center has helped reduce the anguish of the investigative process for hundreds of victims each year by providing this coordinated team effort. The center meets the needs of victims within the development of a well-trained and compassionate team. The team continues to find the most efficient manner in which to investigate these crimes while always placing the needs of the child first.

The CAC currently has 25 staff members from multiple agencies that are dedicated to investigating and prosecuting cases of child physical and sexual abuse, child neglect and child and adult sex offenses. The center is a collaboration between the Howard County Police Department, Howard County State's Attorney's Office, Howard County Child Protective Services, Howard County Health Department, Sexual Trauma, Treatment, Advocacy and Recovery (STTAR) Center and Domestic Violence Center.

The team's goal is to provide timely screening and comprehensive investigations of child maltreatment allegations, as well as appropriate interventions for victims and their families.

The CAC's services include providing a child-friendly environment for child abuse interviews,

*see CAC, pg 4*



*The redesigned annual report will be unveiled at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.*

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE *by Chief William McMahon*



Later this month, HCPD sworn and civilian members will receive the in-service training catalogs for 2007. Several years ago, we moved to a menu selection system for our training program, which offers more options and flexibility to our members.

Training is a critical part of a career at HCPD. It offers employees the opportunity to grow and be exposed to new ideas. Of course, as the world has changed around us, our training needs

have changed, too. We are continuing to seek input for training opportunities that fit all employees; civilian, sworn and volunteer.

We continue to emphasize management and computer training for officers and civilians. We also are offering electives like wellness training, retirement information and an introduction to our new training facility to provide a wide array of choices for our members.

Classes also will include information about the workings of the internal affairs division and refreshers on accident investigations, Miranda warnings and laws regarding carrying a concealed weapon.

I think you will find that this new training catalog offers a well-rounded selection and I hope you will take advantage of the many options available. So take a close look at your new catalog when it arrives and perhaps consider signing up to learn something new!

## HOWARD COUNTY POLICE CELEBRATES ANIMAL

The Howard County Animal Control facility held its official grand opening celebration Oct. 23 after two years of renovations.

The changes to the facility were not just a face-lift, but a true transformation that suits the work that takes place inside. Chief McMahon commented, "I am proud of this new place and of the people inside. Their compassion and dedication has always made this a great place for animals in this community. I'm happy to see that the building now better reflects their needs."

The facility added ten indoor/outdoor dog runs to the main adoption kennel, increasing the adoption capacity to 42 dog runs. The added space has allowed the shelter to help surrounding facilities with the "Share a Life" program, which was created by the shelter's administrator Deborah Baracco and her staff.

"This program allows unwanted animals from rural communities that would likely have to be euthanized to be transported and kept at Howard County's animal control facility until they are adopted," said Police Chief Bill McMahon. "Ms. Baracco was recognized as a 'Hometown Hero' by the American Red Cross this summer for this life-

saving effort and I couldn't echo more strongly our pride in her work."

The renovated building now has two public dog-visiting areas and two large outdoor dog play areas. The dog isolation and quarantine areas were doubled, giving new arrivals time to settle into the shelter environment and increasing the likelihood that frightened dogs can be placed into the adoption kennel.

The facility added 26 new adoption cages for cats and a new cat "play room" and outdoor exercise area. It now has a separate area for cat isolation with an additional 26 cat cages, which is critical for disease control in a shelter environment. The cat quarantine area was expanded from 12 cages to 36, allowing the staff to comfortably house mother cats and kittens, shy or frightened animals and orphaned kittens, until they are ready for adoption.

There is now a separate room for small and furry pets, such as guinea pigs and rabbits. Before the renovations, these animals had no designated area.

They added a large new exam area for processing incoming animals to the facility, giving animal handlers a safer

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THIS A GREAT PLACE FOR ANIMALS...I'M HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE BUILDING NOW**

## HOWARD OFFICERS WINNING AWARDS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

A handful of Howard County police officers found themselves on stages throughout the state this October, accepting awards for their exceptional work throughout the year.

On Oct. 1, PFC Mark Heron was one of only three officers in the state of Maryland that was recognized by the State Highway Administration for having made over 100 individual DUI arrests during 2005. He, along with Officer Derek Bowser of the Baltimore County Police Dept. and Officer John Romack of the Montgomery County Police Dept., were honored with a special plaque known as the "Ace Award."

On Oct. 6, PFC Ryan Saulsbury was recognized with a certificate of recognition from the Maryland State Police for

his assistance in the apprehension of a murder suspect during a traffic stop on Jan. 14.

Congratulations also go to retired Lt. Tim Branning, who currently works for HCPD as a contingent employee. He was awarded the 2006 Stellar Program Award by the Maryland Highway Safety Office during a training conference in Ocean City this month.

Lastly, the American Legion announced their 2006 Public Safety Officers of the Year on Oct. 26. Thirteen fire, police and sheriff's personnel were recognized, including PFC Rocco Sovero for his outstanding work as the North Laurel Initiative officer. *J. Reidy*

## CONTROL GRAND OPENING

place to evaluate and work with the animals in their care.

The office area also was expanded and a large classroom was added. This has had a tremendous effect on the services that Animal Control can offer to the public, which now includes weekly rabies vaccine clinics.

Every Tuesday night the staff holds dog obedience classes, which increases the chances that an adopted dog will remain in its adoptive home. Tours of the facility are no longer just visits to the facility to view the animals. The staff conducts educational presentations for the children and tries to teach them how to be responsible pet owners and how to stay safe around animals.

Also at the event, Animal Control unveiled a new quarterly newsletter that will offer helpful pet care information, training tips and animals available for adoption.

"I am very proud of the efforts of everyone involved in the renovation project and the support that I have received," said Administrator Baracco at the event. "I am most proud and thankful for my dedicated staff and our outstanding volunteers. They persevered through the growth of the facility and have embraced many changes and new programs. I could not have done this without them." *S. Llewellyn*



*County Executive Robey, Deborah Baracco, Ann Selnick and Chief McMahon cut the ribbon to officially open the renovated animal control facility. Afterwards, those in attendance toured the facility and visited with the animals, including this group of four kittens.*



**SION AND DEDICATION HAS ALWAYS MADE BETTER REFLECTS THEIR NEEDS."**

- Chief William J. McMahon

## HCPD HOSTS ANOTHER DIFFICULT BUT SUCCESSFUL SWAT SCHOOL



On Oct. 13, the Howard County Police SWAT School graduated 17 officers from 12 agencies around the area. Officers from Charles County, Montgomery County, Frederick City, Taneytown, Annapolis, Washington County, Hagerstown, Gaithersburg, Laurel and the U.S. Marshals Service joined officers from Howard County as they labored together through three weeks of intense training that involved team building, physical fitness, classroom work and practical exercises in weapons and tactics.



HCPD's SWAT School is well-known as competitive to enter and difficult to complete. Trainees were often found running miles on end, carrying logs through rivers, rappelling down walls and completing difficult obstacle courses.

Congratulations to everyone who successfully completed the school, and good luck to each of you back at your home agencies! *J. Reidy*

## CAC CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

*(from cover)* on-site medical examinations, on-site crisis counseling, referrals to other appropriate community agencies, an extended forensic assessment program, and support services through our victim support liaison.

The past year has been a significant one for the CAC, with 532 citizens served. The center received its first national accreditation in December and is one of the first centers in Maryland to accomplish this goal. The team also focused efforts on the sex offender registry in 2005, with a verification detail in July and the recent addition of a full-time sworn position to concentrate solely on the registry in Howard County. *S. Llewellyn*

## HCPD ADDS POSITIONS, MOVES OTHERS

Changes abound at the Howard County Police Department! It's not only promotions that are opening up opportunities for the rank and file, but the addition of new positions - several in fact! These new offerings are something to keep in mind as you contemplate where you want to spend the next few years within HCPD:

- A new domestic violence section has been formed, operating within the family crimes unit.
- A position as a sex offender compliance officer has been created, also operating within the family crimes unit.
- Southern district's captain can no longer claim exclusivity to his captain's squad--he now shares that privilege with the northern district, which will soon have its own captain's squad.
- The computer forensics section has been moved from the family crimes unit to the forensics services section. *J. Reidy*

## 148 OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN HCPD *FIT* TEST

In the department's continued initiative to achieve the highest level of health and wellness for every employee, HCPD *FIT* held a voluntary fitness testing during September and October, open to all sworn police officers. As an added incentive to complete the testing, those who took part were paid \$100 for each component that they successfully completed, making the test worth a maximum of \$400.

This year, 148 officers participated in the testing, slightly more than last year's number. Of the 148, 74 percent, or 110, successfully completed all four components of the test, compared to 68 percent in 2005. Minimum standards to pass each of the components—which included sit-ups/crunches, sit and reach, bench press, and a 1.5 mile run—were based on each participant's gender and age group.

While the biggest challenges this year were the 1.5 mile-run and the bench press, 95 percent of those who opted to test this year passed at least three components of the test.

Congratulations to all those who participated and earned a little extra spending money!

In order to prepare for next year's testing, and to assist employees in obtaining a better overall fitness level, the education and training division encourages everyone in the department to take advantage of the special opportunities and trainings it provides.

HCPD *FIT* routinely brings in professionals to provide wellness screenings, including checks on blood pressure and cholesterol levels. It has also purchased upgraded equipment for the exercise rooms, sent five officers to be certified as personal trainers, and provides tips and guidance through The Beat.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of the personal trainers within HCPD, or looking for HCPD *FIT* tips should contact the education and training division at 410-313-6080.

*J. Reidy*

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## CALLING ALL CROSSING GUARDS!

The police department is looking for additional school crossing guards to help our children safely cross intersections near schools in Howard County. Crossing guards are reliable and responsible adults who interact well with children and are committed to their safety. The department is hiring more guards because there currently are openings at some schools in the county.

Interested? Crossing guards must be available for a half-hour in the morning before school and a half-hour after school, five days a week during the school year. These are paid, part-time positions with the police department. Guards are assigned to specific posts for the duration of the school year and must provide their own transportation to and from their posts.

Applicants must successfully pass a background investigation prior to employment, and must be capable of standing for one to two hours at a time, if necessary, in all weather conditions. Crossing guards must be 18 or older, but no experience is necessary and all training is provided. The department is seeking people who will be pleasant, courteous and helpful to any member of the public at all times.

Parents, grandparents, retirees, neighbors and friends all are welcome! Remember, the crossing guards have all weekends and holidays off and all uniforms and equipment are provided by the police department.

For more information, please contact Carol Bess, school crossing guard supervisor, at 410-313-4754. Join this team of dedicated public safety professionals and help ensure the safety of the children in your community!

*S. Llewellyn*



# upcoming EVENTS

DECEMBER  
13

Bear Trax Holiday Party

6:00 p.m.

Oakland Mansion

(contact Ms. Ann Roach)

DECEMBER  
16

Shop With A Cop

9:00 a.m.

Columbia Crossing Toys-R-Us

(contact Sgt. Mary Levy)

DECEMBER  
16

HCPOA/FOP Children's Party

1:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church,

Ellicott City

(contact Cpl. Jason Baker)

DECEMBER  
18

Centurions for Justice

Holiday Party

6:00 p.m.

7120 Oakland Mills Rd.

(contact Ofc. Stephanie Wall)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY PROMOTED

Words of congratulations and encouragement were heard throughout the agency's districts on Nov. 2, when Chief McMahon announced six promotions. Those words were answered with thanks by those promoted: new corporals Bill Block, Aaron Dombrowsky, Mike Proviano; and new sergeants Gordon Carpenter, Paul Fiscella and Ricky Lee.

While promotions often mean that one section must give up an excellent officer, it also means that other sections will gain a new supervisor with new skills to teach. We wish everyone the best of luck in your new assignments!

*J. Reidy*

## VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY KUMAR LEAVES HCPD AFTER 3 YEARS

A familiar face will no longer be present at Howard County Police traffic details. Lynne Kumar, an auxiliary officer with the department since November 2003, resigned from her position in late September.

Kumar, a native of Scotland, was always willing to lend a hand, especially on details with the traffic enforcement section (TES).

"She was a hard worker, always willing to work an extra detail, and she volunteered for a great many Special Events," said TES supervisor Sergeant Fred von Briesen.



Kumar left the agency to pursue a career as a loss prevention officer at Lord & Taylor. The police department thanks her for her service and wishes her the best in the future. *J. Myers*

## New Satellite Office Opens

The Adam and Baker cars gained some new territory out in the western end this October with the addition of a satellite office inside of the newly-built Glenwood Center on Route 97. Prior to this addition, patrol officers had to traverse the county in order to print out reports. Now they have the convenience of a fully equipped, comfortable suite.

Western end residents are equally happy with the addition, which will allow police to remain in their beats throughout their shift and provide for a nearby location where citizens can contact or meet with police. *J.Reidy*

## OFFICER OF THE MONTH: PFC PATRICK McDONALD



Police Officer First Class Patrick McDonald was selected by Chief William McMahon as the Police Officer of the Month for August. McDonald exhibited leadership, and commitment to the profession throughout the month. He demonstrated his support of the department's goal to traffic safety through diligent enforcement efforts.

During the month of August, McDonald handled more than 40 calls for service, 20 of which were insight reports. During one 12-hour shift, McDonald had three insight motor vehicle violations, one of which resulted in an arrest. He also wrote 69 pieces of traffic, of which 35 were state citations and made seven arrests.

Of note, McDonald observed that there was an increase in Pennsylvania temporary license plates being displayed on vehicles in the area of Stevens Forest Road. McDonald began conducting traffic stops on vehicles displaying these tags for various traffic violations. He learned that these tags were fraudulently issued by a car dealership in Pennsylvania. McDonald contacted the auto theft unit, which in turn contacted the Pa. State Police and Pa. Department of Transportation. Using the evidence that PFC McDonald collected, the Department of Transportation closed down the car dealership.

McDonald did not stop there. He continued to notice an unusually high number of vehicles in his beat displaying Pennsylvania temporary tags. He continued to take enforcement action when appropriate and as a result, he was able to develop an informant. The investigation led him to a second car dealership in Chambersburg, Pa. McDonald contacted the Pa. Department of Transportation, which closed down the second dealership.

McDonald's tenacity in this case resulted in several unlicensed drivers, and unregistered or uninsured vehicles, being taken off the road. McDonald is commended for his diligence.

In other cases, McDonald showed that he is a team player by assisting his squad members in fraud cases. McDonald's expertise in this area led to the capture of a fraud suspect who had attempted to run down D/Sgt. Yodzis on the parking lot of the Mall in Columbia. The suspect was found to have written thousands of dollars in bad checks at numerous stores throughout the mall.

PFC McDonald's efforts during the month of August have made Howard County a safer community. *J. Myers*

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## NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to PFC Brian Kile and his wife Lisa on the first addition to their family! On Oct. 20, Lisa gave birth to a daughter, Victoria Gabrielle, who weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. Everyone is doing well and enjoying time with their smallest family member!

PFC Chad Myers and his wife, Linda, also brought a new addition into their family on Nov. 1. Benjamin Clifford weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 oz. and is looking forward to spending time with his big sister, 2-year-old Alexandra. *J. Reidy*



# FLU SEASON IS UPON US: IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES

With flu season knocking on the door and the first confirmed case of the flu already behind us, we are offering these tips from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to improve your chances for avoiding illness this winter.

**Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.** Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away. Then, clean your hands and do so every time you cough or sneeze.


**Clean your hands often.** Wash your hands with soap and warm water, then rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces. Wash for 15 to 20 seconds. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs can live for two hours or more on surfaces like doorknobs, desks and tables.

**Stay home when you are sick and check with a health care provider when needed.** When you are sick or have flu symptoms, get plenty of rest and call your doctor. Remember: Keeping your distance from others may protect them from getting sick.

**Practice other good health habits.** Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious foods. Practicing healthy habits will help you stay healthy during flu season and all year long.

*From the CDC Website,  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).*



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