



In this month's issue:



Page 3
HCPD puts its new helicopter on display at the 16th annual Police Pace.



Page 4
National Night Out brought Howard County citizens and police together to fight back against crime.



Page 5
Bear Trax participants spend some time breathing in HCPD values.

TRAFFIC SAFETY MARKETING PLAN AIMS TO EDUCATE, REDUCE CRASHES & FATALITIES

Traffic safety remains a top priority for the Howard County Police Department. Crashes involving alcohol, speeding, young drivers and unbelted occupants continue to be a concern countywide.

In response, the HCPD kicked off a new traffic safety marketing plan over the summer. The plan is being implemented initially with funding from The Horizon Foundation.

The goal of the plan is to create a singular look and unified message for distribution to the public. With recognizable designs and repeated slogans, the campaign will focus on saving lives of drivers and passengers through repetitive messages.



ing elements of the campaign and fact sheets. The traffic enforcement section helped create fact sheets with localized information about speeding, occupant protection and driving under the influence.

Also in July, Chief William McMahon submitted a letter to the editors of the local newspapers addressing the issue of traffic safety.

The department has created a series of poster designs addressing speeding, occupant protection and driving under the influence. The signs are being displayed in schools, libraries, government buildings and shopping centers. The department also plans to reach out to faith-based locations, banks, movie theaters and liquor stores.



The police department held a news conference in July announcing the first phase of the campaign. The launch included a press kit on the issue of traffic safety, including market-

The posters already are being displayed at Howard County schools, Howard County General Hospital, Howard Community College and the Columbia Mall.

see SIGNS page 7



CHIEF'S MESSAGE *by Chief William McMahon*

This month, as kids start a new school year and the weather begins to change, the police department is experiencing new changes as well. Our recent announcement of a reorganization takes effect early next month, and will include not only new people in new positions, but physical moves as well. We will now have a deputy chief in three of our buildings—northern district, southern district and the Gateway building.

I know that widespread change throughout the agency can be unsettling. New supervisors, changing roles, different shifts...these challenges can impact an employee's work environment and home life.

But with these challenges comes an opportunity for growth. It can be a chance to learn new things, work with new people and expand your ideas of what police work can be. I truly believe that it won't be long before everyone is settled into their new positions and we are all moving forward with new ideas and fresh perspectives.

We also plan to open our new Public Safety Training Center next month. This is a project that has been in the works for many, many years and we are happy to see it finally coming to fruition.

Our new helicopter has arrived and it is a big, positive change for the aviation unit and the entire police department. With upgraded equipment and improved technology, the new helicopter will help us be even more effective in the air.

We also have received our new command post, which we are sharing with the fire department and other county agencies. It is truly state-of-the-art, with wireless capability, camera equipment and multiple monitors for viewing everything from outdoor images to news coverage. In situations where the command post is needed, it can now truly serve all of our needs.

Change is good, and I think we will see that first-hand over the next few months. Thanks for all your work over the summer and I look forward to a great fall season.

CHIEF CREATES NEW POSITION, MAKES 16 PROMOTIONS

The Howard County Police Department announced the promotions of 16 officers on Aug. 15, including the appointment of Kevin Burnett to the rank of major. Burnett's appointment adds a third deputy chief of police to the police department's command structure.

Chief William McMahon also promoted seven officers to the rank of corporal, four to the rank of sergeant, three to lieutenant and one to captain.

"These are always difficult decisions," said Chief McMahon. "We have a truly outstanding workforce and it is not an easy task to select only a few from such a talented pool."

The department will maintain one deputy chief position as the administrative major, but will split the other position, currently the operations major, into two. Under the new structure, Major Gary Gardner will be assigned to a new patrol command and Major Merritt Bender will manage the new investigations and special operations command. Major Burnett will oversee the administrative command.

"This will be an ideal role for Kevin, who has a significant background in the administrative side of police work," said

Chief McMahon.

Burnett most recently served as the commander of the southern patrol district. He has been the commander of the management services bureau, human resources bureau and internal affairs division. He was a supervisor in the high school liaison program, a criminal investigations detective and a patrol officer. Burnett joined the department in 1984.



Newly-promoted Major Kevin Burnett will be taking on the role of deputy chief of police for administration.

"Kevin's 23 years of dedicated service to the department and to the people of Howard County make him extremely qualified to step into this new position," said County Executive Ken Ulman.

Other promotions include the appointment of Ellsworth Jones to Captain; Daniel Coon, Donna Rowlette and Robert Wagner to Lieutenant; Matthew Brennan, Scott Magee, Timothy Wiley and Cory Zirk to Sergeant; Marty Johnson, Pete Monti, Amy Meek, Robert Rauch, Jennifer Reidy-Hall and Tanya Riffle to Corporal; and Perry Thorsvik to Technical Corporal.

HCPD WORKS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE

As the new school year kicked-off late last month, Howard County Police were working to ensure that students, parents and teachers arrived safely. Through a continuing back-to-school program, officers focused on enforcing speed, seat belt and child safety seat laws in school zones.

The H.A.S.T.E. program (Helping Arriving Students Through Enforcement) was implemented several years ago by the Howard County Police Department to raise awareness about traffic safety in school zones. Targeted patrols have been in place on roadways surrounding elementary, middle and high schools throughout the first few weeks of the school year. During this operation, officers use Radar and other methods to identify drivers who are speeding in those areas. The

police department also uses a speed camera to issue warnings with photos to speeders in school zones.

“We hope that police presence around the schools sends a message to drivers to slow down,” said Police Chief William McMahon.

In addition to keeping pedestrians from harm, police are working to keep those in vehicles safe as well. As parents and high-school students drive to school, officers are checking for seat belt and child safety seat use to ensure that all children, teenagers and adults are properly restrained.

“This is a time of year when everyone should be especially cautious on the roads,” said Chief McMahon. “We are working to raise awareness and



Sgt. von Briesen operates a laser to catch speeders. Laser and radar units, as well as speed cameras, will be in force to curb speeding in school zones over the next month.

help avoid a potential tragedy before it happens.”

The police department will continue to conduct traffic safety education and enforcement efforts throughout the school year.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS 16TH ANNUAL POLICE PACE

The police department’s 16th annual “Howard County Police Pace” fundraiser, a 5K run and one-mile walk, set a record this year with more than 1,000 participants. The Sept. 9 event raised nearly \$28,000 for the Howard County Police Foundation’s charitable programs. This year, money from the Foundation went to assist the family of fallen officer Cpl. Scott Wheeler.

The event recognizes winners by finish time and age group and awards other participants in specialty categories, such as “Top Cop.” Awards also go to the fastest male and female firefighters, teachers, police recruits and Howard County Striders, a local run-

ning club that shows support for the Police Pace each year.

PFC Andrew Brown and PFC Meghann Holloway were recognized as the HCPD male and female Top Cops.

The event this year showcased the police department’s new helicopter and the new command post the HCPD shares with the fire department. The event’s Official Hospitality Host was Outback Steakhouse in Ellicott City, a continued supporter each year of the Police Pace effort.

Proceeds from the event will benefit a number of charitable initiatives, including a college scholarship program to ensure that the children of fallen Howard County police officers can receive a good education. The Foundation also sponsors educational awards,

including one given to a Howard County high school senior each year.

The group also offers support services to officers and their families whenever tragedy strikes. This was seen most recently in the death of Cpl. Wheeler, whose loss the department continues to mourn. Cpl. Wheeler’s family, including wife Tracy, parents Fred and Janet, and brother Mike, attended the event and shared in the police family’s day of both fun and remembrance.

The day included displays of the police cars and motorcycles, as well as members of the K-9 and tactical teams. All participants had the opportunity to win prizes, including a mountain bike from Princeton Sports.

The police department thanks everyone who contributed to make the day such an overwhelming success!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BRINGS COMMUNITIES & POLICE TOGETHER TO FIGHT CRIME



(Above) Police joined a community party for National Night Out on Aug. 7. (Right) Wayne Kirwan of the State's Attorney's Office served community members hot dogs at the Oakland Mills Village Center NNO event.

In an evening of fun and camaraderie, Howard County police officers visited communities throughout the county during the 24th annual National Night Out celebration August 7. The purpose of the event was to send a message to criminals that communities around the nation are banding together to fight crime. The police department and community groups planned more than 30 events, including block parties, fun runs, cookouts, pool parties and dessert socials throughout the county.

Police hosted events in the Community Policing offices in North Laurel, Long Reach, Harper's Choice and Oakland Mills. Those parties included music, food and fun for many local participants. National Night Out was a great success, thanks to the efforts of police officers, HCPD civilians, volunteers and community groups.



HCPD GRADUATES NEW AUXILIARY ACADEMY

The Howard County Police Department's Auxiliary Officer program graduated a new class July 17. Six new auxiliary officers joined the ranks, bringing the volunteer program's total to 18 members.



New auxiliaries Darryl Bowles, Michael Teerlink, Michael Heinmuller, Mark Kelley, Paul Bertulis, Nicholas Shearman joined HCPD in July.

The auxiliary officers provide a variety of services that alleviate police officers' already heavy workloads. The auxiliaries handle situations such as motorist assists, property recovery, checks on senior citizens, residential security surveys and abandoned motor vehicles. Their assistance helps to ease the call volume for patrol officers.

The new members have been trained in such skills as directing traffic, operating the S.M.A.R.T. board, appropriately issuing parking citations and submitting property and evidence.

Since the inception of the auxiliary officer program in 1995, the members have volunteered more than 95,785 hours of service to the community and have proven to be a valuable asset to the police department.

The department welcomes new auxiliary officers Paul Bertulis, Darryl Bowles, Michael Heinmuller, Mark Kelley, Nicholas Shearman and Michael Teerlink. It also thanks auxiliary officers Randy Allen, Tom Aston, Michael Baxter, Frank Derby, John Farmer, Jon Johnson, Pieter Lucas, Herb Michael, David Miller, Paul Turner, Ed Wallace and Kenneth Wood for their continued volunteer efforts.

AS RECRUITS GRADUATE, ANOTHER NEW CLASS BEGINS

The Howard County Police Department continues to see new faces, with the graduation of Academy 30 on Aug. 8. The 14 Howard County probationary police officers are now in the field training program and are scheduled to start their new patrol assignments in November.

Graduates include: Christopher Alexander, Matthew Bauer, Phillip Champagne, Christopher Cromwell, Demetrius Fortson, Stephen Hennessey, Kristopher Knutson, Roberto Lopez, Darshan Luckey, Ryan McCrone, Joshua Mouton, James Tippett, Laura Wilson, Adam Wood, Jennifer Sarver (Laurel PD) and Mark Schmidt (Laurel PD).

Academy 31 kicked off July 30, complete with 20 HCPD recruit officers and one recruit officer from the Hyattsville Police Department. Those recruits are scheduled for a Feb. 2008 graduation, which will be followed by the four-month field training program.



Stephen Hennessey and Demetrius Fortson wait for their names to be called at the graduation ceremony Aug. 8. Sixteen new police officers, including two from Laurel City Police, comprised Academy 30.

BEAR TRAX BETTERS LIVES

The Howard County Police Department hosted its fifth annual Bear Trax day camp in June and overnight camp in July. Thirty-one fourth and fifth grade students participated in the program, which was held at Running Brook Elementary School and Hashawha Environmental Center.

Participants in the camps took field trips to the Columbia Soccer Dome, Laurel Skating Rink, Cascade Lake and Hershey Park. Back on camp grounds, they played field games, learned archery, went canoeing and were awarded prizes for winning a scavenger hunt. They also participated in pool relay races, swimming, a birds of prey demonstration at the Bear Branch Nature Center and the Junior Firefighter Challenge - a Department of Fire and Rescue Services obstacle course.



(Above) Major Bender joins Bear Trax participants for lunch. (Left) The campers had the opportunity to explore the APC and check out some of the equipment used by police.

The most valuable information gained by the campers was the time they spent with police and camp volunteers, helping them learn how to make good choices and translate those practices into their everyday lives.

SCOTT WHEELER UPDATE

On Aug. 18, members of the Howard County Police Department joined Tracy Wheeler, along with her husband Scott's friends and family, to celebrate his life "Scott-style." It was an afternoon of sharing stories and laughter about our fallen comrade who touched the hearts of everyone he knew. The event, which went into the night, drew hundreds of people whose lives were touched by Scott over the years.

Scott has received several awards since his death and is scheduled to receive several more in the near future. Upcoming awards include the Chief Fred Chaney Award at the Chiefs' Challenge luncheon in September and an award at

the Smooth Operator event in October. Scott also has been named the HCPD Officer of the Month for June 2007, an award that will be covered in the next issue of *The Beat*. Scott appeared on the "In the Line of Duty" segment of America's Most Wanted on September 8 on Fox.

A golf tournament to raise money for the Scott Wheeler Memorial Fund will take place Oct. 19. The Howard County Police Officer's Association is looking for corporate and individual sponsors. Questions can be directed to Det. Jim Daly at 410-313-4768. HCPD employees should look for future e-mails for participation information.

PFC DAVID METZLER AWARDED APRIL P.O.M.



Chief William McMahon selected PFC David Metzler as Police Officer of the Month for April 2007. Metzler was proactive in combating illegal drugs along the Rt. 1 area near the truck stop. He had several insight reports and numerous criminal arrests and traffic contacts.

During the month of April, Metzler served two search and seizure warrants. One of the warrants was obtained after information was received from a subject on a business check. Service of the warrant led to the arrest of the primary target, who was charged with possession of narcotics.

The second search and seizure warrant was obtained after Metzler interviewed a suspect who was under arrest. The incident resulted in the seizure of brass knuckles and approximately 10 grams of suspected cocaine.

Metzler also responded for a burglary report in April. During the investigation, he learned that friends of the victim's daughter had been invited into the residence, where \$20,000 worth of property had been stolen. Metzler interviewed and obtained written statements from everyone present at the time of the burglary. Two partial names were obtained due to the investigation, but Metzler was able to conduct computer checks and determine the information necessary to obtain warrants for both suspects.

April was an outstanding month for PFC Metzler and the police department is grateful for his effort.

OFFICER JASON ESKRA NAMED P.O.M. FOR MAY



Chief William McMahon selected Police Officer Jason Eskra as Officer of the Month for May 2007. During the month of May, Eskra handled numerous calls for service, had 11 insight reports, 10 arrests, one DWI, and numerous traffic contacts.

Eskra conducted computer checks of various tags in a motel parking lot in May. One check identified a registered owner as wanted for assault with a deadly weapon. Investigation revealed the subject was staying at the hotel and he was subsequently arrested without incident. Drugs were recovered from inside the hotel room where the subject was arrested.

Eskra was conducting similar computer checks when a vehicle was identified displaying stolen registration plates. He canvassed the area and located a female subject who was acting suspicious. Eskra stopped the subject and during their conversation, she admitted to owning the vehicle which displayed the stolen registration plates.

Eskra responded to a strong-arm robbery of a subject who was mentally challenged. He was able to calm the victim and obtain valuable information. Checks of the area revealed two subjects. Eskra interviewed the subjects and determined their stories did not match. A one-on-one was conducted and the subjects were positively identified. Eskra had to speak to one of the juvenile's parents, who insisted their son was not involved. Eskra was able to obtain a voluntary consent of the suspect's room, which recovered the proceeds from the robbery. A post-Miranda interrogation of the suspects resulted in signed confessions from both suspects.

Congratulations to Officer Eskra on a great month of work!

NEW ARRIVALS

Gianina Rose, daughter of Cpl. Victor Broccolino and his wife Tracy, joined the HCPD family on Sept. 1. Gianina, who is the Broccolino's third child, weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19.5" long.

Sgt. Cory and PFC Chad Zirk welcomed their first child, Hannah Riley, to the world on Sept. 7. Hannah weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and is doing great. Congratulations!



CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER: THERESA THOMPSON

Theresa Thompson was selected as the Outstanding Civilian employee for the Second Quarter of 2007.

Theresa, who works as administrative staff support in Southern District, distinguished herself by working well outside the scope of her current job description. Her professional work ethic and her willingness to assist others outside of the administrative office were noteworthy. During the quarter, Theresa fulfilled all of her essential duties including the preparation of office correspondence; consolidating reports; screening and directing incoming phone calls; maintaining files; creating, updating and maintaining criminal information and monthly reports; and scheduling Southern District meetings and seminars. Theresa also has primary responsibility for the preparation of payroll.

Additionally, Theresa routinely offers guidance to those in need. The district was recently assigned seasonal cadets over the summer and Theresa quickly assisted them with work schedules, answered their questions or directed their needs to the office staff or a higher authority. She routinely extends herself to assist other civilian personnel and runs computer requests for authorized persons. She checks late

reports and utilizes other available CAD services for officers requesting assistance.

Theresa recently assisted PFC Jason Kindel during his transition to community service officer in Harper's Choice. She helped ensure a smooth transition by gathering the needed files, keys and other documents and information. Theresa also was instrumental in streamlining new monthly reporting procedures for the watch commanders and worked closely with computer operations to implement a computerized patrol staffing program.



A true part of the Howard County police family, Theresa returned early from vacation to assist the district office with the funeral preparations for Cpl. Scott Wheeler. This selfless act exemplifies Theresa's dedication to fulfilling not only her duties, but in achieving the broader goals of the agency.

POLICE FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Howard County Police Foundation recently awarded two high school students with \$1,000 each to put towards their continuing education in college.

Joshua Austin, who started at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County this year, is a graduate of Long Reach High School. He is a Meyerhoff Scholar and plans to major in mathematics, with future aspirations to go on to obtain a master's degree. He plans to minor in art or music performance.

Jerome Linkins, Jr. started at the University of Maryland, College Park this year. He is a graduate of Henry E. Lackey High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society and Mock Trial Team. He is involved with the HCPD Explorer Post 1952 and is a mentor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Jerome's plans for the future include studying physics and philosophy at College Park and eventually enrolling in law school.

Congratulations to these two well-deserving recipients!

SIGNS *from cover*

The money for the initial phase of the campaign, \$10,000, is coming from a grant from The Horizon Foundation.

To supplement DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols, the HCPD will produce handout cards that can be given to drivers. The cards will be similar in look and message to the posters and road signs.

The department also plans to produce stickers that can be affixed to vehicles whose drivers want to show support for traffic safety.

The HCPD Web site now includes a link for the traffic safety campaign on the home page. All campaign-related marketing materials are available on the site. For more information, visit www.HCPD.org.

LEOSA UPDATE

The Howard County Police Department invites retirees to obtain or renew their LEOSA certifications. Available dates to renew include Sept. 12, 13, 17 and 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sept. 15 and 29 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. To schedule a time and date, contact Sue Klein in Education and Training as soon as possible, as class sizes are limited!


Additional information and the required application for a background investigation are available online at www.HCPD.org under "Training Division."

For any questions or concerns, contact Lt. Bob Wagner or Cpl. Rob Dell'Erba at Education and Training at 410-313-6080.

FIT TESTING

Could you use an extra \$400? Starting this month, the Education and Training Division will begin facilitating the annual physical fitness evaluation, also known as the voluntary PT test, for all sworn HCPD members. Participants will be rewarded \$100 for each test they pass - up to \$400 for passing all four.

The evaluations will consist of a free weight bench press, sit-ups, a sit and reach test and a one-and-a-half mile run. Participants must be off-duty to take the test, which will be held at River Hill High School and the Gateway School. Contact Cpl. Mike Johnson at 410-313-6080 to set up a time to test.



The logo for the Howard County Maryland Police is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, it says "HOWARD COUNTY" in yellow. Below that, "MARYLAND" is written in red across a blue banner. The word "POLICE" is in yellow at the bottom. A central figure is a white knight on a red horse, holding a shield. Below the shield is a yellow banner with the words "INTEGRITY PRIDE COMMUNITY".

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