

InForce

A quarterly publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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Winter 2013

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"Making a Difference"

A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

A subtle change is taking place within the Sheriff's Office. The change may seem insignificant as it does not affect daily operations, nor will it cost money to implement. Those aware of the change have asked, "What does it matter?" Hopefully, this message will explain why the change is taking place and the reason why it does matter.

In 2008, I was sworn in as Sheriff of the Berks County Sheriff's Department. At that time, the term "Department," incorrectly identified the Office of Sheriff. To explain, the Berks County Sheriff is an elected position, as are the Commissioners, Register of Wills, Clerk of Courts, Recorder of Deeds, Prothonotary, Coroner, Controller and District Attorney. Those elected to serve in these positions are elected to Offices.

In a constitutional reference,

the term "Office" implies an authority to exercise, execute, or administer the laws. An "Office" is fundamentally different from a "Department" as a Department derives limited authority from whatever is delegated to it. The Office of Sheriff is not a "Department" of county government as its internal operations are the sole responsibility of the Sheriff (the same authority given to any office holder). A Sheriff is an elected official who works for the people within the jurisdiction of the County where he or she holds office. An office holder's duties are derived from the power conferred on him or her by the government and is therefore one of public trust. In that respect, a Sheriff answers to the people, not to county managers, officials, or commissioners. The exclusive powers and authority given to the Office of Sheriff have been exercised for hundreds of years.

At some point in the past, the Berks County Sheriff's Department replaced the Berks County Sheriff's Office, and although it may seem an unimportant distinction, I believe it necessary to restore "Office" as it was originally designated and will slowly reinstate the correct term every time we renew or reorder materials and merchandise to correctly identify this office as Office of the Sheriff or Berks County Sheriff's Office.



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**BERKS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*Star Of
The Quarter*

Deputy Sheriff Pamela Gaspari

Deputy Sheriff Pamela Gaspari was awarded the 2013 Thomas J. McGinley Meritorious Award from the PA Deputy Sheriffs' Association this past September. The McGinley award is presented annually to an outstanding member of the Association who has gone above and beyond in his or her duties in serving the goals of the Association (see pg. 2 for additional information on the Deputy Sheriffs' Association).

Deputy Gaspari began working as a Deputy Sheriff in the Berks County Sheriff's Office in December of 1992. She worked in Firearms' Licensing before transferring to the Courts Division and, eventually, to the Central Booking Division where she is currently assigned. She joined the PA Deputy Sheriffs' Association in 1994 and has served the last two years as Secretary on its Board of Directors.

Deputy Gaspari is considered a major asset in the Association's efforts to recruit new members and volunteers her time at every convention. Her experience with large conferences was also an asset to this Office when Berks County hosted the annual PA Sheriffs' Association Conference in July, 2012.

Deputy Gaspari has three sons and enjoys spending her free time with family, friends and helping out wherever she is needed.



Deputy Sheriff Pamela Gaspari with PA Deputy Sheriffs' Association's Executive Director, Jim Lee (Philadelphia)



READING
ROYALS

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE K-9 FUNDRAISER

March 8th at 7:05 pm vs The Evansville Icemen

To purchase tickets go to: <https://tickets.royalshockey.com/order/group/k9fundraiser>

Proceeds go to the K-9 Division of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

Security Expanded in Preparation for Investiture of District Court Judge



U.S. District Judge
Jeffrey L. Schmehl

All eyes were on Courtroom 5A on September 27, the day of Investiture of Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl, former President Judge of Berks County, now a U.S. District Judge. Over 500 spectators attended the event, including state and local politicians and judges from Berks and surrounding counties. Because an event of this magnitude makes it a possible target for harm, many Berks County Sheriff's Deputies were re-assigned to security, and additional manpower was engaged from outside law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety

of the Courthouse and surrounding areas. Security K-9 sweeps of the garage, hallways, stairwells, and courtrooms in the Courthouse and Services Center were conducted, and dignitaries making their way to Courtroom 5A had to pass by Deputies stationed at all building entrances, outside every elevator bank, and in every hallway and stairwell. A reception following the Investiture took place at the Federal Courthouse where heightened security was also present.



Sheriff Weaknecht and members of management teams take part in increased security to ensure safety of outside parameter on day of Investiture of U.S. District Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl. Photos also highlight areas in the Courthouse and Services Center where security was ramped up to ensure the safety of dignitaries and invited guests.



PA DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



The Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Pennsylvania was established in 1975 and has over 1,500 members today. Membership is open to any deputy sworn in by a Sheriff in any of the 67 Counties in Pennsylvania. Its members uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Members are encouraged to assist in educating the general public on the duties of deputy sheriffs and "to cooperate with all duly constituted law enforcement agencies and officers and the general public in all matters of mutual interest, and to exchange and disseminate ideas and information to assist in the detection and prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals and to strive for the highest degree of respect for law and order and the maintenance thereof" [source: dsap.org].

The Association also provides its members with training opportunities and helps to pass legislation that benefits all deputy sheriffs in Pennsylvania. Associate memberships are available to civilians wishing to support the Association.

For more information, log onto www.dsap.org

Explorers Visit Deputy Sheriffs' Training Academy

A highlight of this year's Explorer Post program is the Deputy Sheriffs' Training Academy at Penn State in State College, Pennsylvania.



The PA Deputy Sheriffs' Academy is mandated by act of the Pennsylvania Legislature and by direction of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) which work in conjunction with the Training Academy to provide rules, regulations,

policies, and procedures for Deputy training (known as Act 2 training). The 19 week interactive training program prepares Deputies for a full range of law enforcement and court-related duties.

Members of Explorer Post #027 got a glimpse into different aspects of what a Deputy candidate experiences during a full day tour this past July. The Explorers first visited a mock courtroom where training is videotaped to be used as a teaching tool. Candidates can evaluate individual reactions as courtroom scenarios are played out, all meant to improve decision making, response time, and prisoner control. During this portion of the tour, Explorers learned a tactical maneuver to subdue a prisoner refusing to obey instructions during a court proceeding.

Creating high stress environments for training purposes provides opportunities for Deputy candidates to become accustomed to thinking and acting under pressure. One example of a high stress training exercise is a home or building search -- with unfamiliar doorways, blind corners, in pitch-black rooms with loud music blaring. Deputies wear protective gear for all home and building searches, and Explorers were permitted to walk through a makeshift

home and handle the equipment worn during real-life situations and training exercises.

After lunch, the Explorers were invited to sit in on a classroom lecture about security that ended with a hands-on exercise



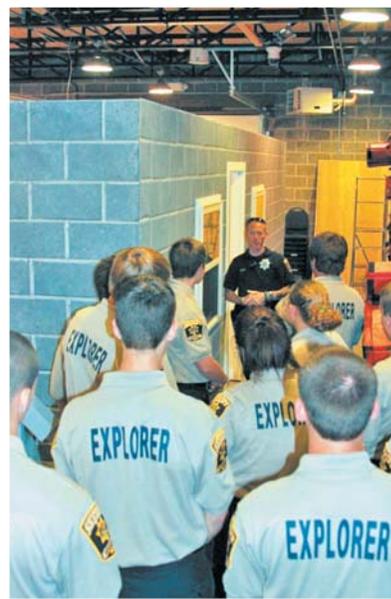
Deputy Gorel helps to demonstrate a tactical maneuver.



Explorers take part in classroom lecture on security.

to evaluate security vulnerabilities in the Penn State HUB building (Penn State's central community and student activity building). In separate groups, each Explorer helped to present information to the rest of the class

on where each believed security could be tightened in and around the facility.



Explorers preparing to enter the SIM (simulation) house.

The Deputy Sheriff Training Academy at Penn State in State College, Pennsylvania is the only Deputy Sheriff training academy in the Commonwealth. Unlike the various Police Academies in Pennsylvania, a Deputy Sheriff candidate must first be hired by a Sheriff's Office before

attending the Academy, and all costs associated with attending the Academy are funded through service fees collected on every civil service by Sheriff Deputies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Training through a Police Academy, on the other hand, is often paid for by

Training Academy at Penn State

... was a tour of the
... State College, Pennsylvania.

... the individual wanting to work as a police officer. Upon graduating from a Police Academy, that individual must then apply to a Police Department and be hired before being able to work as a police officer. In situations where a newly hired Deputy Sheriff has already received training through a Police Academy (known as Act 120 certification), he or she need only attend the Deputy Sheriffs' Training Academy for two weeks of instruction in civil law.

Exposing Explorers to various aspects of law enforcement is the primary objective of the Program, and an annual tour of the Deputy Sheriffs' Training Academy provides young men and women in the program with a better



Explorers team up with Deputy Sheriff Cadets to conduct a security analysis check of the building.

... understanding of the training required to become a Deputy Sheriff in Pennsylvania.

Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division "Grand-Pawent" Contest Winners!



Sheriff Weaknecht writes for Berks Encore News at least three times a year in an article entitled "Ask the Sheriff." Those articles provide the Sheriff with an opportunity to address safety issues cared about by Berks County seniors. But safety concerns aren't always the first questions asked! Seniors often want to know more about the Office's



Deputy Troy Wolf with K-9 Rokk and Jane Hetrick of Fleetwood



Deputy Melissa Seidel with K-9 Knight and Jeannette High of West Reading

K-9 Division and the K-9s themselves. So, members in the office thought it a fun idea to invite seniors to enter a contest to be named as "Grand-Pawent" to one of the Division's K-9s. Entries were collected and the names of the winners were announced at the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff

K-9 annual picnic this past September.



Deputy Perry Taglienti with K-9 Blitz and Robert Rampolla of Reading



Deputy Scott Henry with K-9 Storm and Ron Glovich of Wyomissing



Deputy Alicia Angstadt with K-9 Roxy and JoAnn Bechtel of Exeter

Safety Tips



KEEPING SAFETY IN MIND WHEN ALCOHOL IS AT HAND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Most people have long holiday to-do lists that include gift buying, decorating, travel plans and/or hosting holiday get-togethers. Whether or not stocking up on alcoholic beverages makes its way onto your list of items to check off may not matter, as you are more likely to cross paths with someone

who has had too much to drink during the holiday season than at any other time of the year.

Because the holiday season is one of the most dangerous times of the year for alcohol-related accidents and death, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and remain on guard for common indicators of drivers who may have had too much to drink. Some common indicators include weaving, stopping without cause or constant braking, abrupt or illegal turns, slow response to traffic signals or signaling that is inconsistent with driving actions, straddling the center lane marker and/or driving in and out of traffic lanes. If you observe these types of behavior:

- Stay as far away from the other vehicle as possible keeping it in front of you.
- Do not try to pass the vehicle or signal the driver to pull over.
- Pull over and call 9-1-1 to report the location of the vehicle, including the name of the road or cross streets. Provide as many details as you were able to observe, such as license plate number and make, model, and color of the vehicle and direction of travel.

More holiday parties mean more opportunities to drink. Those who don't drink often can have a lower alcohol tolerance and often underestimate when to stop, and those with a high tolerance for alcohol can consume large amounts before showing the effects of being intoxicated. Add in winter road conditions when driving after drinking, and the odds of being involved in an accident or arrested for DUI increase.

Take a few moments to consider some safety tips when alcohol is part of your holiday plans:

- Designate a driver before the party begins. This may seem like old news, but designating a driver can not only save the lives of those who have been drinking, but also the lives of innocent drivers and pedestrians who cross paths with the driver who has been drinking.
- Know your limits. If you are going to drink, be responsible and decide ahead of time how many drinks you will have and stick to it. The number of drinks one can consume depends on that person's body weight and height. No matter which website you consult to calculate the number of drinks you can consume, any more than one drink places you in danger of being impaired to drive. Impairment begins with the first drink.
- Mix it up by drinking a nonalcoholic beverage yourself or offering nonalcoholic beverages to your guests.
- If you feel you've had too much to drink, then don't drive. Call a cab or ask someone to drive you home. It's just not worth the risk of injury to yourself or others.

Please ensure your holiday season is a relaxing, enjoyable and peaceful by remembering to drink in moderation and
NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE!
Insist those celebrating with you do the same.

Sheriff's Office Sells Advertising Space



Example image as displayed on monitors

As a way to generate revenue, the Berks County Sheriff's Office now sells advertising space intermittently displayed on two television monitors in the hallway on either side of the Sheriff's Office.

These monitors, which previously just displayed the photos and names of wanted persons on a continual loop, now include advertising messages for legal services.

The monitors are observed by persons waiting to apply for license to carry permits and those waiting with fingerprint orders.

**For more information contact
 Brenda Hein, 610-478-6240 ext. 3206**

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Most Wanted



Name: Jose E. Sanchez
Ht/Wt: 5'08, 225
DOB: 1/27/1991
LKA: 1033 Pershing Blvd.
 Reading, Pa 19611
Charges: Simple Assault



Name: Jonathan Rivera
Ht/Wt: 5'11, 175
DOB: 10/1/1992
LKA: 735 Spring St.
 Reading, Pa 19608
Charges: Simple Assault



Name: Michael B. Jones
Ht/Wt: 6'01, 190
DOB: 6/27/1993
LKA: 207 W. Penn Ave.
 Robesonia, Pa 19551
Charges: Possession of Drugs



Name: Julio Ortiz-Lugo
Ht/Wt: 5'8, 180 lbs
DOB: 7/14/1983
LKA: 1123 Franklin St.
 Reading, Pa 19602
Charges: Murder

If you have information that can help apprehend any of the fugitives in this publication, call the Berks County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Tip Line at 610-478-6390 or Crime Alert Berks at 1-877-373-9913.

All your information will be kept confidential.

Sheriff's Office Recognized by Children and Youth Services for the R.O.L.E. it Serves

Children and Youth Services presented members of the Sheriff's Office with its R.O.L.E. (Recognizing Our Law Enforcement) certificate.

Pat Murray, CYS Emergency Duty Caseworker, nominated the Sheriff's Office for the award following its help with a young boy who was uncontrollable and refusing placement into a foster home. Deputies spent time talking with the child who eventually calmed down. Murray credited the Deputies with going above their normal job duties to help defuse a hectic situation which eventually resulted in the willingness of the child to be safely transitioned into foster care.

At the request of CYS, the Sheriff's Office will assist with emergency removal of an at-risk child (or children) from a dangerous environment. Murray states, "CYS can't do what it needs to do without the assistance of the Sheriff's Office."



(L-R) Sheriff Eric Weaknecht; Deputy Tim McFarland; Pat Murray, CYS Emergency Duty Caseworker; Captain Eric Seidel; Sergeant Keith Neiswender and Deputy Ryan Swartz. Not pictured: Deputy Guy Lehman and Deputy George Lessig

Congratulations to Captain Matthew Green



Congratulations to Captain Matthew Green who was promoted from the rank of Sergeant effective November 20, 2013.

Captain Green graduated from the Allentown Police Academy in 2003 and worked as a Deputy Sheriff for both Lehigh and Carbon Counties prior to joining the Berks County Sheriff's Office in April of 2008. In 2011, he was promoted to Sergeant of the Central Booking Division. As Captain of the Court Division, Green will oversee the 30 deputies assigned to the Court Division and be responsible for courtroom security and inmate transport to and from court and housing facilities throughout Pennsylvania.

Administrative Sergeant Position Announced



Sheriff Eric Weaknecht with Sergeant Adam Fell

Sergeant Adam Fell joined the Berks County Sheriff's Office in April of 2013 as Administrative Sergeant, a newly created title that replaces one of the three sergeant positions of warrants. Rather than focusing on the management of one specific division, Sergeant Fell's duties will manage office policy, internal affairs, training, and employee relations. His primary focus will be working to complete the necessary qualifications and mandatory requirements to obtain Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation, a process that can take years to complete.

Sergeant Fell earned a degree in Business Information Systems and Human Resource Management from Bloomsburg University in 2007. He has worked for the Department of Revenue and for the County of Berks in recruiting, employee and labor relations, audits, and policy and procedure review. Following hire with the Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Fell attended the 19 week Deputy Sheriffs' Training Academy (where he was voted as class president) and graduated in September, 2013.