

InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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August 2019

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"Making a Difference"

A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

All deputies in the Sheriff's Office participate in mandatory training several times a year, including pistol and rifle qualification. Extensive training is not only meant to maintain skill, but is required to reinforce actions in specific situations, especially those situations which are stressful.



Today, law enforcement is trained to go into danger, most often before knowing any specific details and before backup arrives. There is very little room for mistakes, and training in all fields of law enforcement evolves as circumstances occur. It's difficult to imagine a time when training required that an officer stand down until radioing his or her position and then waiting for

help to arrive. Active shooter training simulations are now commonplace in law enforcement training.

Unfortunately, we are at the beginning of an era where a different kind of threat is becoming more common. Riots, demonstrations, and disrespect for law enforcement instances are escalating. While these types of situations might not begin with a mindset toward physical harm, a strong, one-sided emotion is present at the outset. Each instance that crosses a line that law enforcement can't address, for whatever reason, only emboldens the next person or group to move that line ever closer to public lawlessness.

As a community, we need to stand behind the law and the individuals sworn to uphold the law in time to curb the next threat already on the horizon... a fact being realized by the Berks County Sheriff's Office and all surrounding law enforcement agencies – finding qualified individuals willing to enter the field of law enforcement.

Scott Reeser

Richard "Scott" Reeser has been a deputy sheriff with the Berks County Sheriff's Office since December 2013. He is currently assigned to the Courts' Division and is being recognized for outstanding work conducted in the background investigations of those who have applied for the position of deputy sheriff. Scott spends countless hours requesting information, verifying that information, and cross-referencing that information in an applicant's background to include education; employment; military; civil, criminal and motor vehicle; personal and home/neighborhood visits.



BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Star Of The Quarter

Scott has a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice from Penn State University and has worked for Chesterfield County (Virginia) Police, Lebanon County Adult Probation, and as a security officer for Reading Hospital. In May 2014, Scott received the American Red Cross Hero Award in Law Enforcement for saving a life while working as a security officer for Reading Hospital. Outside of law enforcement, Scott sold Harley Davidson motorcycles for nearly ten years. In his spare time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, playing bass guitar, and spending time with his wife and twin daughters.

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.PRETZELCITYSPORTS.COM/ONLINE-REGISTRATION

Features



**Kyle D. Pagerly
5K Run/Walk**

**Sunday
Oct. 6, 2019**

9AM

Shillington Park

**REGISTRATION OPEN
(DEADLINE 9/22
FOR T-SHIRT)**



**Proceeds Benefit
KYLE PAGERLY
MEMORIAL
FUND
(SEE INSERT FOR
MORE INFORMATION)**

Most Wanted

**Applicants for
Deputy Sheriff**

Pg. 6



Be Alert, Be Safe and Have a Great Year!

TRAINING

AN ONGOING REQUIREMENT

By: Sergeant John Parsons

To become a sworn member of the Berks County Sheriff's Office, there are two options available which provide the accreditation required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The certifications are through Act 2 and Act 120. The Act 2 certification comes through Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) that requires the cadet to successfully complete 19 weeks at the Deputy Sheriffs' Academy located at State College, Pennsylvania. The Act 120 certification can be obtained by attending 22 weeks of training through a Municipal Police Officers Training Academy. If certified through Act 120, a newly hired deputy will need to attend the Deputy Sheriffs' Academy for two additional weeks of training in civil process.

Certification as required by the Commonwealth does not mean an end to training. In fact, the Berks County Sheriff's Office looks at certification as only the beginning of ongoing training, both in-house and out.

In today's climate, which can sometimes lead to criticism by "Monday morning quarterbacks," there will never be enough training, especially for those who expect unrealistic outcomes for every difficult situation law enforcement may potentially encounter. Training for a deputy sheriff is on-going and never-ending. Instructors look for ways to provide training consistency and raising the bar to achieve higher levels of performance. And because we should be our own worst critics, we are never satisfied and, as a result, we continue with more training.

The BCSO has in-house certified instructors who are required to complete additional training to maintain certification:

- Firearms = 6
- Defensive Tactics = 4
- Taser = 2
- First Aid & Emergency Medicine = 2

Below is a synopsis of training requirements for deputies in the Berks County Sheriff's Office (with varying time periods on updates):

- Handgun, Shotgun, Rifle
- American Heart Association First Aid/Cpr/Aed & Trauma First Aid
- Mental Health First Aid Through National Council for Behavioral Health
- Defensive Tactics (to Include Physical Fitness) and Taser
- Use of Force and Use of Deadly Force
- Handling Firearms
- Decision Making Under Pressure & Shot Placement/Accountability
- Daytime And Dim Light Firearms/Shotgun Qualifications
- Legal Updates
- Riot/Crowd Control
- Active Shooter
- Simulated Laser Shot Decision Making

LEAD FAUCET TACTICAL



Owner and instructor of Lead Faucet Tactical, Dan Brokos, has an extensive military background in Special Forces and firearm training lasting over 25 years.

This past July, the BCSO hosted Lead Faucet Tactical, a leading firearm training company. Area law enforcement attended Faucet's Accelerated Rifle and Pistol course which focused on the "ever changing contingencies of a gunfight." Using both carbine and pistol, continued practice shooting from stationary and non-stationary positions as well as shooting in and around positions of cover was emphasized.





Remembering More Than a Man – Deputy Sheriff Kyle Pagerly

A prayer for the fallen . . . Sergeant/Chaplain Brian Boyer spoke at a remembrance gathering held outside the Berks County Services Center on June 28 in recognition of the 8 year anniversary of the June 29, 2011 line-of-duty death of Deputy Kyle Pagerly.

“As the years roll by, I often wonder what will happen when there are no longer deputies in the Sheriff’s Office who worked alongside Kyle? Or when the future blurs memories of those who were alive that tragic event eight years ago when Deputy Kyle Pagerly was killed in the line of duty?

“Today, we can remember Kyle because of who he was; a man of character, service, and sacrifice. Tomorrow and beyond, we will always remember Kyle as one of a team of men and women who put on the uniform for the Berks County Sherriff’s office each day with the quiet understanding that they are putting their lives on the line for the people of Berks County.

“Kyle’s death will forever remind us that he was the first Berks County Sherriff’s Deputy killed in the line of duty, and that by the grace of God, he will be the last.”
~ County Commissioner Christian Leinbach



Kyle Pagerly
11/12/82 - 6/29/11
(Dedicated to Service)



Explorer Volunteering Honors Memory of Kyle Pagerly

All things related to Kyle Pagerly are supported by both the Sheriff’s Office and the Pagerly Explorer Post. Several events each year honor Kyle’s memory and dedication to service. The Berks County Sheriff’s Office is always on the lookout for ways its young Explorers can volunteer to benefit community, school, and office outreach programs. Many opportunities were offered this year, and the majority of Explorers stepped up to help out. In addition to what’s below, past years volunteering include Senior Expo, holiday parades, food bank collection, and introduction to technology for seniors, among others. If your organization can benefit with a charity event or outing, please contact tmedaglia@countyofberks.com to discuss.



Kyle Pagerly Highway Cleanup

Under the Pennsylvania Adopt a Highway Program, Explorers, family and friends of Kyle Pagerly clean the 7.2 mile section of Route 422 from Sinking Spring to Robesonia known as the Kyle D. Pagerly Memorial Highway.



Kyle Pagerly Hero Ride Held Annually Each June



OPERATION BADGE 27

Operation Badge 27 is a Corps Fitness program offered in memory of fallen Berks County

Sheriff Kyle Pagerly and was started through partnership between Alecia Pagerly, Kyle’s wife, and Chris Kaag, owner of Corps Fitness and a former Marine Corps Sergeant. Corps Fitness is a local fitness facility in Wyomissing where Kyle pushed his physical and mental limits regularly before his untimely death. Corps Fitness gives the opportunity for all Berks County 1st responders, Law enforcement, fire, prison and EMS to partake in the physical benefits for a low monthly cost. Visit <http://corpsfitness.net> for more information.



Work Out with Kids in Corps Fitness Inclusive Fitness Program



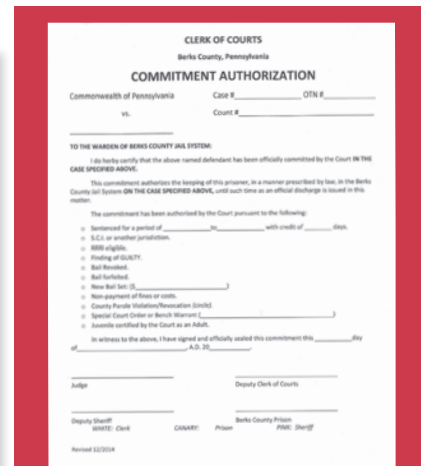
County Connections - Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Courts prepares and maintains the records for the Criminal Division of the Court of Common Pleas in Berks County.

All criminal matters start at the office of a magistrate who establishes whether a criminal matter should proceed. When a matter proceeds, the Clerk of Courts Office becomes the gate-keeper of all the documents relative to that case, from being assigned a new court docket number to final disposition of the matter which could proceed as far as the Supreme Court. The Clerk of Courts is probably one of just a few entities, whether government office or private business, that still requires physical paperwork and a signature in its day-to-day operations. In today's world of technology, a photocopied, scanned or faxed physical document to commit or release an inmate is required. It is also crucial that the Clerk of Courts Office have a working relationship with all Judges, their staff, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, private attorneys, defendants and the general public to ensure that no violations take place of an individual's civil rights.



James P. Troutman, Clerk of Courts



An original signature is required on the Commitment Authorization, Discharge Authorization and a Release of Prisoner form.

Sheriff Office transport deputies must ensure that the Commitment Authorization (to jail) and Discharge Authorization or Releases (from jail) provided by the Clerk of Courts accompany the defendant at entry and release.

With Sadness and Gratitude...



K-9 Blitz w/ handler Deputy Kevin Freed
In service: Spring 2012 / Retired 2017
Breed: German Shepherd
Origin: Germany
Specialty: Narcotics and Patrol



It was nearly two years ago that this publication announced the retirement of two of its K-9s.

Blitz and Storm began with the Sheriff's Office in 2012, and both honorably carried out their duties in the five years they were a part of the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.

Sadly, both Blitz and Storm passed away from separate illnesses each could not overcome.

It has been 10 years since the Sheriff's Office began its K-9 Unit. Blitz and Storm were the third and fourth K-9s behind Jynx (retired to the Pagerly family following Kyle's death) and Arius (retired to his handler shortly after Kyle's death). The most recent K-9 team to join the Sheriff's Office is its ninth.

Law enforcement K-9s give their all to the job, including, sometimes, their lives. With gratitude, Blitz and Storm got to live out their lives in brief retirement with their handlers.



K-9 Storm w/ handler Deputy Scott Henry
In service: Summer 2012 / Retired 2017
Breed: German Shepherd
Origin: Germany
Specialty: Explosives and Patrol

The Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 fund is a component fund of the Berks County Community Foundation. The Community Foundation is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to develop, manage, and distribute funding to meet existing and emerging community needs. Tax deductible contributions to the K-9 fund can be made by check payable to "Berks County Community Foundation" and mailed to 237 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601 with "Sheriff K-9 Fund" in the memo line.

...IN A CONSTANTLY INCREASING CONNECTED WORLD

It is very easy to find any information you need in today's connected world. Have you ever Googled yourself to see what information about you is online? A search can often provide your address history, phone number, age, birthdate, employment information, public records, and social media accounts. Consider what can be done with Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from the perspective of a cyber-criminal looking to commit identity theft or other crimes.

Children, teens, and senior citizens are all groups who especially may not realize how vulnerable they are to being a victim of cyber-crime. Senior citizens may be more trusting of the material that is presented to them online. Children and teens are growing up with technology, and may be using it to communicate with each other with only a recreational level of understanding. They may not realize that once you post online, it rarely goes away.

In order to keep information safe or private, we need to take care in sharing it, and teach cyber hygiene to those who may not understand its importance. Here are examples of how we are asked to provide information, or how people share information that should be kept private:

- **Store loyalty and other accounts online** – When you sign up for a store loyalty program or other online accounts, you are asked to provide information such as name, address, phone number, birthdate, email address, etc. By providing this, you can get discounts on the merchandise they are selling, or can receive promotions by email. However, is that information you provide kept private, or is it sold to other companies so they can market to you? Read the terms of use and privacy policy before signing up for such a program.
- **Phishing Emails** – Cyber criminals will offer false and unbelievable deals to get you to click on a link and provide them with your information. You may hear about a loan offer, or a notification that your order shipped and that you need to log in by clicking their link to track it. Criminals seek your information in an effort to steal your identity and use it to open up fraudulent accounts in your name. Always shop with trusted vendors, and never follow an unsolicited link in an email asking you to log in to an account. Instead head to the website you normally use by typing it into your browser to check on your account.



- **Fraudulent phone calls (Vishing)** – Criminals may call saying they are from Microsoft or another device/software company, telling you that your software has expired or your device is infected with malware. They may ask for money to renew a license, as a method to complete the fraudulent activity. Other criminals may pose as the IRS, pressuring you into paying taxes. Never offer payment information or personal information to someone calling you unsolicited. Always end the call and attempt to contact the organization through a publicly listed phone number that is legitimate, then see if you need to work with them on a problem.
- **Social Media Sites** – These sites provide a relaxed atmosphere where you can chat with friends and family. The issue is that anything you post or share is likely a permanent submission that many others can access online. Oversharing on social media may lead to you voluntarily giving up answers to account security questions, like the color of your car or the town where you were born. Also, posting about being on vacation sends a signal to criminals that your home may be unoccupied and a great target for a robbery! With all this information about you on social media, be sure to set your account privacy settings so only friends can view your content. Lastly, consider deleting old, unused social media accounts to cut down on your digital footprint.

Whenever communicating with people or posting online, avoid sharing too much. When receiving emails, mail or calls asking for sensitive information (birthdate, social security number, credit card, etc.), always contact them at the legitimate address or phone number you normally use for that organization. Do not share information if you do not initiate the communication!

(Source: Center for Internet Security at <https://msisac.cisecurity.org>) via Berks County employee newsletter.

Sheriff's Office Expands Storage Area for Relinquished Firearms/Weapons

ACT 79 - Effective April 10, 2019

Defendants in Protection from Abuse (PFA) cases who are required to give up their guns can no longer hand them over to a friend or family member. Instead, they will have 24 hours to hand over their guns to a law enforcement agency, a licensed firearms dealer, an attorney or commercial armory. If the PFA order is upheld, the weapons remain in holding until the PFA is dismissed or expired. PFA matters are civil matters.

In criminal matters, and because a defendant is innocent until proven guilty, only upon conviction of a domestic abuse charge must the defendant relinquish his or her weapons. The time period to relinquish firearms by an individual convicted of domestic abuse is now 24 hours, rather than the previous 60 days. Those refusing face additional charges, fines and possible additional jail time. Once confiscated, those weapons are never returned to the defendant and are indefinitely held. Presently, the sale of a confiscated weapon has not occurred, but should storage in the Sheriff's Office reach near maximum capacity, it's a topic that will need to be addressed within the laws that allow for the sale of confiscated weapons.

The Sheriff's Office, upon law and court order, has been storing relinquished/confiscated weapons for decades. Weapons are identified, tagged, and placed in a temperature-controlled room on County property. The weapons' holding area can house over 5,000 weapons. The longest period a weapon has been in storage with the BCSO dates to the 1980's.



Local law enforcement who receive surrendered weapons for PFA cases and domestic violence convictions and who don't have the storage capacity to house those weapons can bring them to the Sheriff's Office for safeguarding.

BILLBOARD ADVERTISING NETS AN INCREASE IN INTERESTED APPLICANTS

The Berks County Sheriff's Office maintains an open application process for the position of deputy sheriff.

Those interested in applying can complete an application (found on the Sheriff's Office website at Countyofberks.com/Sheriff and either mail or email it to the Human Resource's Department at "County of Berks, Office of Human Resources, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601" hr@countyofberks.com.

Those with applications on file are notified by mail of the next testing date.

With thanks to *Lamar Outdoor Advertising*, the number of applications received has significantly increased for upcoming testing, so much so that we are likely to offer an earlier test date in October as well as November. Those interested can check the Sheriff's Office website for updated testing information.

The County of Berks is an Equal Opportunity Employer. M/F/D/V



The position of Deputy Sheriff is a law enforcement position requiring advanced education, training and/or experience. The position requires the Deputy to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America as well as the Constitution of the United States of America.

Candidates for the position of Deputy Sheriff with the Berks County Sheriff's Office must successfully complete the deputy sheriff hiring process which includes a physical agility test, written test, background investigation, computer voice stress assessment, personality test, and oral interview. Visit Countyofberks.com/Sheriff for specific details and requirements.