

InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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August 2018

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"Making a Difference"

A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

The Berks County Sheriff's Office was host to the 96th Annual Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference held July 11 through July 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Reading.



Over 250 attendees made their way to Berks County from all areas of the state to take part in various meetings, training sessions, demonstrations, and activities. Presenters spoke on topics of recognizing and assisting with drug addiction, gun rights, and law enforcement trauma. The Berks County Honor Guard won first place in the 4th

Annual Honor Guard Competition, and spouses and children enjoyed offsite fun at The Works, Encrypted Escape, Painting With a Twist, and The Reading Museum and Planetarium.

One of the special highlights was when Sheriff Ray Gerring of Montour County presented Alecia Pagerly Eberly with a framed picture from Savannah's first day of kindergarten. We here in the Berks County Sheriff's Office will never forget Kyle and his sacrifice, and it's always nice to know that others share in that commitment.

The conference was a huge success and I thank Jennifer DeFrees, Sergeant John Parsons and all members of the Berks County Sheriff's Office who assisted Jen and John in their tireless efforts in planning to ensure a successful conference. I also want to thank our sponsors who donated snacks and beverages, exciting door prizes, and transportation during the conference.

Features



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SAVE THE DATE – BCSO K-9 Picnic (Sept. 30) Page 4

Jennifer DeFrees Real Estate Administrator

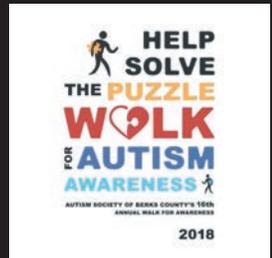


Jennifer DeFrees is being named as this issue's Star of the Quarter. In preparation for the 2018 Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference held in Berks County this past July, Jennifer took charge of the planning and, together with just a few other key players, coordinated the thousands of details required for a successful conference. Specifically, Jennifer gives a great amount credit to the success of the Conference to Sergeant John

Parsons who worked side-by-side with her prior to and during the Conference. Jennifer was also the Committee Chair when the PSA Conference was last held in Berks in 2012.

Jennifer has been the Real Estate Administrator for the Sheriff's Office since 2006. Previously, she worked for the County of Berks as the Assistant Director for the Tax Claim Bureau for a total of 28 years of service with the County.

When not working, Jennifer enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and son who just started kindergarten this year.



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Paws on the Run 2 Mile Doggie Dash

Benefitting: Berks County Sheriff and Reading Police K-9 Units

Saturday, October 6th, 2018

Jim Dietrich Park (Muhlenberg Township)

4900 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Rd., Reading

For More Information/Registration Form:

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff/Documents/K-9%20entry%202018.pdf>



THE PENNSYLVANIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



Training and Information Sessions



Topic: "The Addict in the Street, Your Office, and Your Home"



Topic: "Gun Rights"



Topic: "Law Enforcement Trauma Survival"



Executive Committee: Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association



Volunteers: Members of the Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post



Thank You To All Our Sponsors!

Friendly Competition



Berks County: Winners of the 2018 Honor Guard Competition



Sheriff Shoot



Reading Fightin' Phils Baseball Game



Tour Reading Museum and Ice Cream Treats

Never Forget

A remembrance gathering was held outside the Berks County Services Center on June 29 in recognition of the 7 year anniversary of the line-of-duty death of Deputy Kyle Pagerly. Commissioner Christian Leinbach spoke about the bravery of law enforcement officers everywhere and Sheriff Weaknecht recalled details of that awful day.



LEU Annual Bike Ride to DC Honors Kyle Pagerly

A group of bike riders, all active or retired law enforcement officers or survivors of fallen officers, began the ride to Washington, DC from the FOP Memorial in Bern Township on May 10. Bookending the riders was the escort vehicle, a Berks County Sheriff's car driven by Sergeant/Chaplain Brian Boyer in the front and, at the back, a Berks County Sheriff's car being trailered in tribute of Kyle Pagerly who was killed in the line of duty on June 29, 2011.

This group of riders joined up with hundreds of other riders from all over the country as part of Police Week, an annual event honoring the lives of fallen police officers everywhere. LEU, a 100 percent non-profit, raises money and awareness to benefit two deserving charities: Concerns of Police Survivors© (C.O.P.S.) Kids Summer Camp and the Officer Down Memorial Page© (O.D.M.P.).



Flowers, black bunting, and the words

"Deputy Kyle Pagerly #27 E.O.W.

June 29, 2011"

on a BCSO vehicle trailered at the end of the bike procession from Reading, PA to Washington, DC



Berks County Jail is Not Prison

The Berks County Prison (Leesport) opened in 1933. By legal definition, however, "prison" references a facility which holds inmates with sentences longer than 24 months (such as those housed in State Correctional Institutions). A "jail," on the other hand, is an institution which holds pre-trial detainees and those who have shorter sentences. Jails have a high number of commits and discharges, and prisons have a lower number of bookings, but hold sentenced individuals for a much longer period of time. So, despite the engraving "Berks County Prison" on the exterior's front (and the institution's original name), the Berks County Prison was changed to Berks County Jail to appropriately identify what it does – hold those for pre-trial hearings and those with sentences two years or less.

Thanks to everyone at the Berks County Jail for making the necessary arrangements for the Berks County Sheriff Office Explorer Post to tour the facility.

Sergeant Greg Deiterich (right) with Berks County Sheriff's Office deputies and Explorers following a tour of the Berks County Jail.



Berks County Sheriff K-9 Picnic

September 30, 2018 12 pm to 4 pm



Breneman Park
2914 Reedy Road,
Sinking Spring, PA 19608



Adults \$15.00 | Children 7-12 \$7.00 | Children 6 and under FREE

All proceeds go directly to care, maintenance, equipment and training for K-9's

Meet K-9's Max, Roxy, Vito, Axel and Rizzo!

We will have K-9 Demo's, Merchandize for Sale, Food, Drinks and much more...

Tickets can be purchased online below or call 610-478-6240, ext. 3262.

If you would like to help sponsor our event, please contact Captain Miller, email:
mpmiller@countyofberks.com or at (610) 478-6240 ext. 3247

If you are experiencing issues purchasing tickets through the Internet Explorer browser, please try to access the site through Google Chrome.



Welcome New K-9 Team Deputy Sarah Fetzer And K-9 Rizzo

Deputy Sarah Fetzer graduated from Emmaus High School in 2010. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with Paralegal Studies in 2014 from Kutztown University. Deputy Fetzer has been a Deputy with the Berks County Sheriff's Office since 2015. She spent time working in the court, booking, and warrants divisions and is a sworn member of the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force. In February 2018, she was selected to become a member of the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit. She and her K-9 partner, Rizzo, were teamed together during their 6 week training at Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. K-9 Rizzo is a Belgian Malinois who is certified in narcotics detection. This K-9 team will be working with the warrants division.

Safety Tips

Fall Driving Tips

Knowing what to look for and using the following tips can help you avoid hazardous driving challenges and weather-related car accidents in fall's inclement weather.

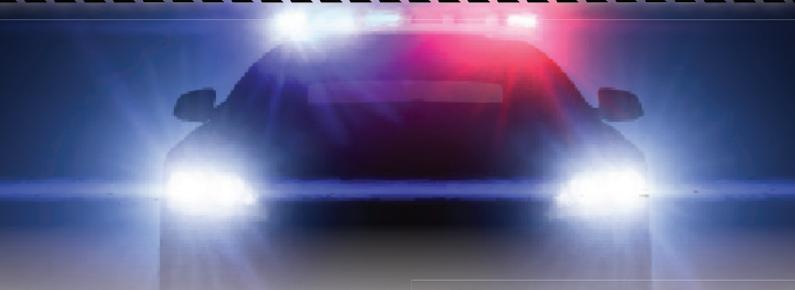
- Watch your speed: Drive a bit slower when faced with fall driving hazards, especially if you're driving around a school bus.
- Keep your distance: Leave a little more space between you and the car in front on rainy or foggy days, during dawn or dusk, and in areas with wet leaves. This will give you more time to react.
- Stick with low beams: Keep your headlights on low when driving in the fog (and rain). High beams will only cause glare.
- Clear frost away from your windows: Frost can reduce visibility and response time on the road.

- Approach traffic lights carefully: Sun glare can make it harder to see traffic lights change, so approach them with more than the normal care.
- Avoid using products that increase gloss: Washing and waxing with these products can magnify the fall's sunny glare and make it hard to see.
- Clean your windshield, inside and out: When your windshield's illuminated by sunlight, dust particles, streaks, and smudges become magnified, making it hard to see the road.
- Watch for wildlife: especially in the early morning and evening hours.
- Check your tire pressure: Since fall weather rapidly changes from warm to cold, your tires will often expand and contract. This can lead to a loss of pressure.



ON PATROL

WITH BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Did you know...

What the penalty is for exceeding the speed limit in a school zone?

When signs are flashing maximum speed limit of 15mph:

If the person exceeds the speed limit by more than 11 mph, the fine shall be \$500.

Pa.C.S. Title 75, §3365(b)

MAX FINE: \$500 + \$115.50 (Minimum Costs) = \$615.500

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Most Wanted



Name: Brandyan Purvis
DOB: 11/29/1985
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 925 Greenwich St., Reading, PA 19604



Name: Corey Mack
DOB: 10/17/1996
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 1343 North 10th St., Reading, PA 19601



Name: Fatima Boumerdassi
DOB: 09/24/1991
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 1548 Mineral Spring Rd., Reading, PA 19602



Name: Wayman Moore
DOB: 08/16/1970
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 113 Highland Glenn St., Lebanon, PA 17042

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.



Berks Deputies Finish First

First place finisher, Damion Ditizio, center, is flanked on both sides from those who finished 2nd through 5th (Mike Jackson, Charlie Parrot, Matt Branham, and Chris Gorel).



On April 27, 2018, Slick Willy's Karts & Eats at the Works in Wyomissing hosted the fourth annual Race Against Crime contest sponsored by Crime Alert Berks County. The top five finishers were all from the Berks County Sheriff's Office! First place winner Damion Ditizio, his second time as a first place finisher, chose to donate the \$1,000 prize money to the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Fund. Over 70 local law enforcement officers and deputies participated.

A Shadowing Experience



Alvernia student, Rachel Smiley, with Sergeant Jeremy Kalis of the Warrants Division

Rachel Smiley, a freshman Political Science/Criminal Justice student at Alvernia University,

spent the day in the Berks County Sheriff's Office observing deputies in courts, patrol, firearms, warrants and booking divisions.

Alvernia's new job shadowing program pairs students for a day with those working in their respective major fields of study. Rachel met with Deputies Ron Uczynski, Ali Matson, Le'Tasha Phelps-Pettit, and Sergeant John Parsons, all former graduates of Alvernia University, among others.



Help Make a Difference - Come out for the Autism Society of Berks Annual Walk



Captain Tim Moore and Slapshot, the Reading Royals Mascot!

The 16th Annual Help Solve the Puzzle: Walk for Autism Awareness will be held on Sunday, September 16 at First Energy Stadium, 1900 Centre Avenue/Rt. 61 South, Reading.

This fun, family-friendly event helps the Autism Society raise funds that directly benefit those affected by autism right here in Berks County. Featured, will be many local organizations offering information beneficial for a loved one with autism, including the Berks County Sheriff's Office with information on Project Lifesaver, a program to locate an at-risk individual who may wander or otherwise become lost.



For more information on Project Lifesaver, contact Captain Tim More at the Berks County Sheriff's Office at 610-478-6240 ext. 3214.

For more information and to register for the 16th Annual Walk for Autism Awareness, go to <http://www.autismsocietyofberkscounty.org/walk-autism-awareness/>

