

# InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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December 2015

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"Making a Difference"

## A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

Thank you, Berks County, for re-electing me as your Sheriff for a third term. As your Sheriff, I will continue to stand firm in my beliefs and convictions that support the Second Amendment of the Constitution and the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. I firmly believe that there has never been a time so important in America for its citizens to have the freedom to defend themselves and their families from harm, both domestic and foreign. Recent terrorist attacks both in California and France, coupled with reports of justifiable shootings here in Berks County, evidence the growing obligation others feel (see page 5) to legally protect themselves.

My plans for the next four years

will be an extension of the past eight with a continued focus on safety. The Sheriff's Office has not increased the number of sworn personnel since I've been Sheriff, but there is a need to do so in 2016 to meet the rising number of arrests, active warrants, and security issues that are stretching current resources. In that regard, I will continue to work with the Board of Commissioners and President Judge and commend them for making decisions that benefit the citizens of Berks County.

I would also like to commend the commitment of sheriff deputies and law enforcement everywhere. Thank you for continuing to be diligent despite the current climate that places each of you at greater risk each day. America sees how law enforcement responds during times of harrowing, tragic occurrences in this country, and it is my belief that support for those who protect American citizens will remain unwavering, despite the negative attention so often portrayed by the media.



## Features

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Next Issue of InForce:  
Kyle Pagerly K-9 Training Center Dedication

## Herb Carter

Assigned to the Patrol Division, Deputy Herb Carter will be with the Sheriff's Office 9 years in January, 2016. He is a graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy and has worked in the Lehigh County Sheriff's Office and as a Patrol Officer for DeSales University. He is a certified firearms, shotgun and rifle training officer and regularly participates in weapons qualifications for deputies in the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Carter is also a certified D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor and has provided annual instruction to students in the Conrad Weiser and Kutztown School Districts since 2009. D.A.R.E. is a series of police officer-led classroom lessons that teaches K through 12th grade students how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Deputy Carter is married with two teenage children. He enjoys hunting and fishing and, most especially, his involvement with Boy Scout Troop 575 (Longswamp, PA) where he has served as an Assistant Scout Master for five years. Deputy Carter recently had the distinct pleasure of awarding the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts' highest honor, to his son on November 10, 2015. Exactly 30 years prior, on November 10, 1985, Deputy Carter, a member of Boy Scout Troop 108 (East Greenville), was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.



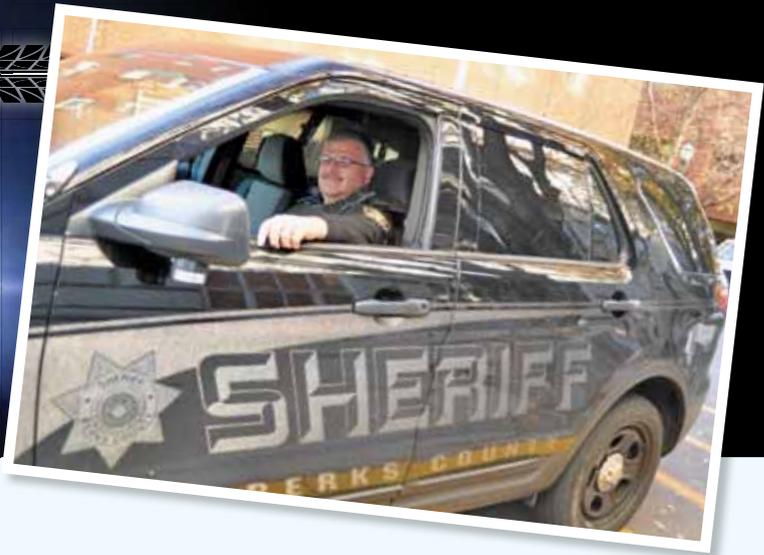
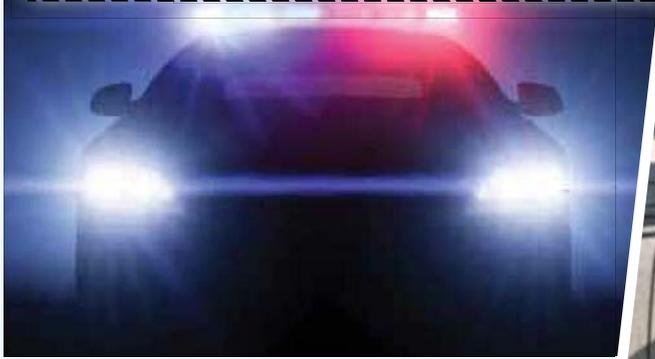
# Peace

The Berks County Sheriff's Office wishes to express its condolences to law-abiding citizens of every country who have lost loved ones in recent terrorist attacks and all violent assaults. May God bless all of them and peaceful citizens everywhere.



# ON PATROL

WITH BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



## On Patrol with Deputy Sheriff Vince Martello

By: *Teresa Medaglia*  
Berks County Sheriff's Office

I have a great job! I am one of just 12 in the sheriff's office collectively known as the "civilian staff." One of my various job duties is as a contributing writer for this newsletter and, as such, I get to report about the intricacies surrounding particular aspects of the office and the duties of law enforcement. Most days, I have come to expect, are adventures in learning. Wouldn't it be fun, I thought, to ride along with a deputy to learn and then write about a patrol deputy's job duties?

Deputy Sheriff Vince Martello has been with the Sheriff's Office 14 years. Currently assigned to patrol, Martello spends his time enforcing the traffic laws throughout Berks County, appearing in court on traffic citation appeals, and assisting other deputies in the Sheriff's Office. On the day of my ride along, Martello, assigned to sheriff vehicle 17-23, gives me a quick tutorial on the patrol car's CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch). Monitored by the County's 911 COM Center, the CAD is "grand central" for call input, dispatch, unit status and tracking, resolution and disposition. In addition, it has the capability to store data and retrieve information on name, license number, and vehicle make and model. Each law enforcement agency in Berks can also dispatch through its own radio channel. In that regard, Martello effectively monitors three different radio transmissions – Reading (city), Berks (county) and Sheriff's Office (internal) – all while maintaining a constant focus on his surroundings.

The marked sheriff's car draws attention as we move along. Cars seem to slow and no one recklessly passes, changes lanes without signaling, or blocks a lane while double parked – all of which

are my experiences when driving in the city. Martello picks a street and monitors traffic on the facing crossroad while telling me about law enforcement needing to know at all times on what street and in which direction they are traveling. At the intersection ahead, a van rolls through the stop sign. Martello turns on the red and blue lights and pulls behind the offender whom he ultimately cites for failing to come to a complete stop. "Berks 17-23 vehicle stop," he radios through CAD. Once acknowledged, he continues, "800 Block – North

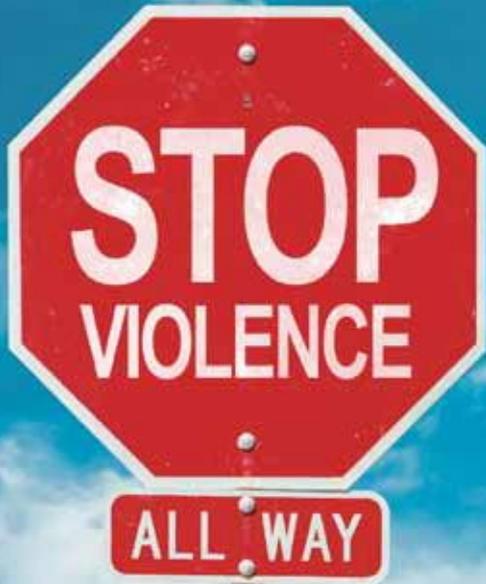
6th Street." He then describes the vehicle and provides the license plate number. Before exiting, he points to and tells me to push the red button under the CAD should things go bad. Is he kidding?! Immediately, I wonder who would push that button on any other day when Martello patrols alone! As I watch him from 17-23's passenger seat, I begin to feel like I'm part of a YouTube video... you know the

one... something goes south – cop shouts commands, shots ring out, someone hits the ground... and suddenly, I'm anxious.

Martello approaches the stopped van from the rear and at an angle to see the driver. On this and the several other stops we will make this day, Martello skims the left tail light with his right index finger as he approaches the driver's window. I want to ask after each stop if he knows he does this, but I think it's irrelevant. What is relevant are Martello's other behaviors, such as respectfully asking for the driver's license, registration, and insurance card; explaining to the driver why he or she was stopped; and patiently answering the questions of those who will be issued a traffic ticket, including the most popular question, "Can you give me a break?" Martello later tells me that although he has the discretion to give a warning rather than a ticket, he basically treats everyone the same.

*"As I watch him from 17-23's passenger seat, I begin to feel like I'm part of a YouTube video..."*

*Continued on page 6*



## Berks County Sheriff's Office Warrants Division Takes Part in National 13th Annual

# DV WARRANT SWEEP

Domestic Violence Warrant Sweep



The Berks County Sheriff's Office took part in the 13th Annual National Family Violence Apprehension Detail (also known as the "DV Warrant Sweep") on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. This annual detail helps raise awareness of the problem of family and domestic violence in communities nationwide and demonstrates to offenders that they will be held accountable for their violence. The SWEEP is a day-long event in which agencies across the United States attempt to serve outstanding family-violence warrants.

The Berks County Sheriff's Office attempted service on 14 domestic violence warrants and apprehended 7 wanted individuals. Nationwide, various law enforcement agencies in 36 states participated effecting service of 1,759 warrants.

Fact sheets compiled by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence are available at [www.ncadv.org/learn/statistics](http://www.ncadv.org/learn/statistics). Additional information can also be found at [www.clackamas.us/Sheriff/dvert](http://www.clackamas.us/Sheriff/dvert); [www.clackamas.us/asafeplace/involved](http://www.clackamas.us/asafeplace/involved); and [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/domesticviolence](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/domesticviolence).

## Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post #027 Fourth Annual Banquet

Learning for Life partners with thousands of businesses and organizations to provide "real-world" career experiences to young men and women through its Exploring programs.



Sheriff Weaknecht (center) with (L-R) Deputy Chris Gorel; Explorer of the Year, Ryan Hurlbrink; Alecia Pagerly; and Sergeant John Parsons. Right, Explorer Bobbi Lee-King, recipient of the Sheriff Leadership Award

Explorer Ryan Hurlbrink was named Explorer of the Year at the fourth annual Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post #027 awards dinner held November 19 at the Berks County Agricultural Center in Leesport. Ryan began as an Explorer the first year the Post was active (2012). Ryan plans to continue with the Post in 2016 while also attending Alvernia University where he is majoring in criminal justice. Ryan is also in the Marine Reserves.

Bobbie Lee King, a first year Explorer, was acknowledged with the Sheriff Leadership Award. King, along with Explorers Jozef Wilczynski and Julian Millikin, were awarded the Chief Deputy Participation Award for collectively attending 9 of the 10 office and community service events held in 2015. Other Explorers receiving awards were Zach Loeb (Fitness for Duty) and Bryce Johnson (Perfect Attendance).



Another special thanks to Berks County Register of Wills Larry Medaglia, who emceed the event for the third year. Edgar J. Hartung and Peggy Bowen-Hartung, both professors at Alvernia University in its Criminal Justice program, were keynote speakers. Colin Romberger, District Director of the Boy Scouts of America (Learning for Life) also spoke about the benefits of all Exploring programs for youth in and around Berks County.

# Applications for Position of Deputy Sheriff Being Accepted for Testing February 27

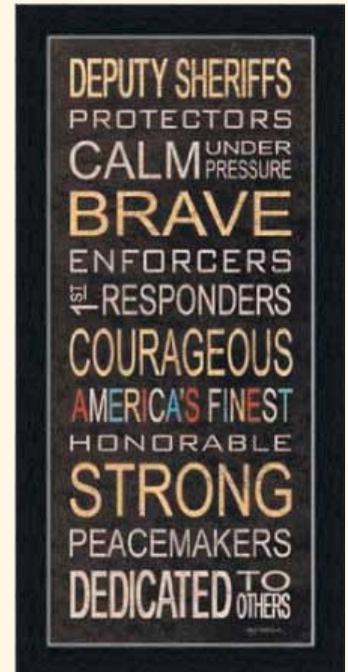
**Date of Testing: Saturday, February 27, 2016**  
**Application Deadline: Monday, February 15, 2016**

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 [www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff/Employment](http://www.CountyofBerks.com/Sheriff/Employment) for specific details and requirements.

Upon hire, the deputy sheriff must attend and successfully complete the state mandated 19 week Deputy Sheriff's Basic Training Academy and be issued an Act 2 certification within one year of date of hire. The Academy consists of 760 hour of training which includes civil and criminal procedures; security; crisis intervention; firearm qualification; safety and proficiency; ethics and professional development, among others.

Those interested in being hired as a Deputy Sheriff can submit an application at any time. Applications are kept on file and notification sent to all applicants when the next testing date has been determined. Testing dates are determined based on hiring needs of the Office.



## Supporters of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 Host Fundraisers to Support K-9 Division



A big thank you to Hamid Chaudhry, owner of Dairy Queen stores in Kenhorst and Exeter. Hamid hosted a fundraiser at DQ's Kenhorst store this past summer to benefit the "Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9." WEEU was on site promoting the four hour event to help raise money for the K-9 Division. The Friends of the Berks County Sheriff non-profit recognized Hamid with a plaque at its annual K-9 picnic this past September.



PetSmart was also recognized at the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 picnic this past September for once again selecting the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division the recipient of its annual award in the amount of \$5,000. In addition to this generous donation, employees of PetSmart organized a separate internal fundraiser to raise money for the BCSO K-9 Division.



Members of the BCSO K-9 teams, along with over 100 participants, could be found on the Rich Maiden Golf Course this past September during the "First Annual Spartaco Open" golf competition. The president of The Spartaco, Rob Marrella, spearheaded this event which raised funds for the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division.

**The Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's annual K-9 picnic next year will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2016.**

**Contact [tmedaglia@countyofberks.com](mailto:tmedaglia@countyofberks.com) to become a member or simply send your e-mail address to be added to the list to receive details in early September next year!**

# Safety Tips



## Winter Car Care

To protect yourself and those you transport, please take time to ensure your car is prepared for winter weather. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends the following:

- Reduce the risk of breakdowns: Visit your car's service center for a tune-up and other routine maintenance. Ensure your mechanic thoroughly checks your car for leaks, worn hoses, and the cooling and belt systems. Your mechanic should also check your car's

battery and charging system. Winter tires should be inspected for proper inflation and tire tread, should be installed before the first snowfall, and should be replaced per manufacturer recommendations.

- Ensure visibility won't be impaired: Check your windshield wipers and defrosters and make sure to fill your windshield washer reservoir before the first snowfall (and then refill it often).
- Do-it-yourself assurances: Remove improperly installed floor mats to ensure they won't interfere with the operation of the brake, accelerator or clutch pedal. Carry supplies in your trunk such as ice scraper, broom, snow shovel, windshield wiper fluid, jumper cables, flashlight, and flares or markers. For longer trips, take along blankets, water, and snacks in the event you become stranded.

Do what you can to avoid any type of distractions while driving and always wear your seat belt. Insist that all passengers also buckle up! Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination safely as roads during the winter months are more hazardous.

## Number of Issued Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms Permits (A comparison)



Berks County Sheriff's Office  
Eric J. Weaknecht, Sheriff

## Most Wanted



**Name:** Elizabeth Sheeder  
**DOB:** 12/19/1985  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 639 N. 9th St. Reading, PA 19604



**Name:** Jayme Dubosq  
**DOB:** 07/12/1990  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 381 Pine St. West Reading, PA 19611



**Name:** Justin Carr  
**DOB:** 07/26/1980  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 77 Oley Road Fleetwood, PA 19522



**Name:** Pedro Gonzalez-Aguilar  
**DOB:** 06/29/1962  
**Charges:** DJ Warrant  
**LKA:** 301 Schuylkill Ave. Reading, PA 19601

*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.*

As he writes the first ticket of the day, he tells me another drilled-in cop credo: "It's important to keep your head on a swivel," he says while periodically looking around. His words remind me of the two New York police officers ambushed this year while sitting in their squad car. Martello appears relaxed, but I'm ready for the day to be done and it's only 9 a.m.! Martello, back on the CAD, confirms that the van driver has no warrants and then returns to the stopped vehicle to hand back the driver's documents and a ticket totaling \$128. This stop, from start to finish, is just over 20 minutes but feels much longer. Procedurally, the COM center requires a verbal confirmation from Martello -- every 5-10 minutes during each stop. I assume this verbal requirement to be the only alternative when there is no partner to push that red button.

Martello appears an expert at knowing Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code and says he has issued citations for broken taillights, cracked windshields, unsecured loads, tinted windows... or "anything in violation" of the Vehicle Code. Texting while driving is a newer Vehicle Code violation, and I learn that day that it's illegal to flash headlights at oncoming motorists to warn approaching drivers of law enforcement up ahead. I also learn that Martello's habit of touching the rear taillight while approaching a stopped vehicle is a relevant part of training officers receive, but I won't divulge the "why" of it in this article.

Martello is a good teacher, and I'm learning a lot; in fact, I would rather we just keep talking as the anxiety I feel at each traffic stop seems to increase rather than diminish -- I'm thinking that the odds against safely completing each traffic stop must certainly be nearing.

Martello writes several other tickets for "rolling stops," tinted windshields, and the last of the day to both the driver for driving with a suspended license and the passenger for allowing him to do so while driving her car. The driver is also cited for unrestrained children in the backseat. As we wait for the CAD to clear the stopped

occupants of any warrants, the radio traffic... -- the constant static and chirping from the start of the day --, now registers a different sound... the high-pitched voice of a Reading Police Officer in apparent trouble. "SHOW ME YOUR HANDS!," and then (to the dispatcher), "I CAN'T SEE HIS HANDS, I CAN'T SEE HIS HANDS!" Through the static, heavy breathing from the officer who is now running -- in pursuit of the suspect who has decided to flee. "I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT!," he screams to dispatch. From a distance, the sounds of multiple sirens grow louder as Reading Police cars race to back up the officer. More back and forth radio communication and then seconds of silence. Dispatch is asking, "Do you have him?" It seems like minutes instead of seconds before dispatch again asks, "Do you have him?"

It's the job of law enforcement to walk into the path of harm. That Reading officer ran after a man who may have had a gun... Martello walks up to drivers' windows several times a day not knowing what may transpire... On any other day, I get to sit behind a desk and feel safer knowing law enforcement is around. My ride along wasn't the fun experience I thought it would be after all; I was exhausted and was glad that my time of observation had ended. When I returned to the office that day, I had difficulty talking about my emotions and the anxiety I felt. Each familiar with the dangers of law enforcement simply nodded in silent acknowledgment. Each had heard the radio communication of the Reading Police Officer who eventually and safely located the suspect.

Back at my work station, I turn my attention to another of my job duties: mailing sympathy cards to police departments that have just experienced a line-of-duty death. On this day, an e-mail in my inbox: "The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund regrets to inform you of the death of Police Officer Dan Webster, Albuquerque (NM) Police Department. Police Officer Dan Webster died as a result of gunshot wounds after conducting a traffic stop on October 21st."



National Law Enforcement Officers  
MEMORIAL FUND  
RESPECT. HONOR. REMEMBER.

**Preliminary 2015  
Law Enforcement  
Officer Fatalities**

January 1 through November 20, 2015  
vs. January 1 through November 20, 2014

|                  | 2015 | 2014 | % Change |
|------------------|------|------|----------|
| Total Fatalities | 113  | 101  | +12%     |
| Firearms-related | 36   | 44   | -18%     |
| Traffic-related  | 49   | 38   | +29%     |
| Other Causes     | 28   | 19   | +47%     |

Please note: These numbers reflect total officer fatalities comparing January 1 through November 20, 2015 vs. January 1 through November 20, 2014