

# InForce

A quarterly publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Department

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Fall 2012

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"Making a Difference"

## A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

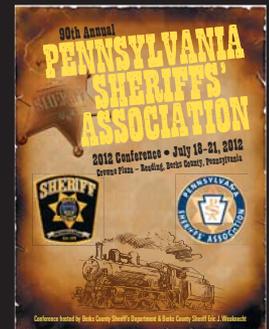
The Berks County Sheriff's Department was host to the 90th Annual Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference held July 18 through the morning of July 21 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wyomissing. Over 250 attendees made their way to Berks County from all areas of the state to take part in various meetings, training sessions, demonstrations, and activities. Presenters spoke on topics of Department of Homeland Security investigations, high-profile trial security, domestic violence, and threat and illegal drug investigations. A K-9 demonstration and SWAT team demonstration highlighted the special skills of expert law enforcement officers.



The president's banquet, traditionally held on the last night of the conference, was especially poignant this year for me and members of the Department. The keynote speaker, U.S. Marshal Service Director Stacia Hylton, spoke of the courage and dedication of fallen Deputy Kyle D. Pagerly, whose efforts on the night of June 29, 2011 are credited with saving the lives of fellow officers. Kyle's wife Alecia accepted the U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart award on his behalf. We in the Department will continue to honor the memory and sacrifice of Deputy Pagerly and will forever miss his presence.

The conference was a huge success, and I thank Jennifer DeFrees of the Berks County Sheriff's Department and her planning committee for their tireless efforts to ensure all attendees were taken care of during their stay in Berks County. Our sponsors are also very much appreciated for their generous donations of snacks and beverages, exciting door prizes, and transportation during the conference.

## Features



2012 Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference - pg. 2

**BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

*Star Of The Quarter*

## Deputy Sheriff Steve Hatfield

Deputy Sheriff Steve Hatfield was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by President Judge Jeffrey L. Schmehl following a July 12, 2012 assault on Hatfield while on duty during a court proceeding. Hatfield received personal injuries as he struggled to subdue the assailant and place him in handcuffs.

Deputy Hatfield is a Veteran of the United States Army, and his law enforcement background includes that of detective for Allentown Police

Department, and a police officer for the Easton Police Department. Deputy Hatfield has been with the Berks County Sheriff's Department since April, 2008. Past duties include service of Protection from Abuse Orders and assignment to juvenile court. Currently, Deputy Hatfield provides security for custody and support masters in the Domestic Relations Division.

Deputy Hatfield serves as a Deacon at his church in Allentown, likes to play golf, and rides his R.V. in his spare time. He's been married for over 30 years and has one son.



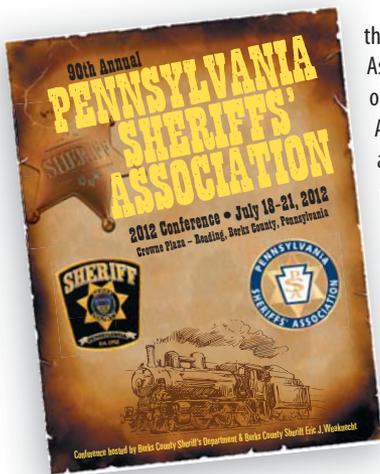
Berks County Sheriff's Department K-9 Division - pg. 5

### Help Us Update

If you received this copy of our newsletter via U.S. mail, please check your mailing label and indicate any changes/corrections that may be needed next to your name and address. Please send the revised mailing label to: Teresa Kwitkowski, Berks County Sheriff's Department, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601.

- Remove my name from your mailing list.     Change name or address as I indicated on label.
- I am receiving duplicate copies; please remove one from your mailing list.     Please save postage and email my copy to: \_\_\_\_\_

# Berks County Host To 2012 Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference



Beautiful Berks County was host to the three day 2012 Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference which began on July 18. The Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association (PSA) is in its 90th year serving and supporting the 67 County Sheriffs of this Commonwealth. The Association is governed by a president, two vice presidents, a secretary/treasurer, and an executive director. Berks County Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht was elected secretary/treasurer and assumed duties related to this office following the oath of officers that took place during the president's banquet held the last evening. An eight-member executive committee

and a solicitor also help with the management of the association and provide guidance and support where necessary.

The PSA works tirelessly to create and establish objectives to ensure on-going training for deputies, including continuing education courses and certifications; to communicate changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure which dictate processes for carrying out the duties of the office; and, perhaps most importantly, to draft language

to support legislation that clarifies the authority of the office of Sheriff. Positive efforts toward improving relationships among fellow law enforcement agencies working to serve and protect the citizens of this Commonwealth also remains a primary goal.

The PSA reported a two-thirds increase in annual membership for the year 2012. Every county in Pennsylvania increased membership over 2011. In Berks County, membership increased from 132 in 2011 to 395 in 2012, a 199% increase. For information on becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association (or to renew membership), please contact the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association at 717-236-7336.



## Law Enforcement Officers Recognized

Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian D. Hicks received the Robert Forsyth Act of Valor Award, the highest honor given by the U.S. Marshals Service, for his efforts on the night of June 29, 2011 to protect Berks County Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly. Hicks rushed to the aid of Pagerly during the exchange of gunfire and began resuscitation efforts after Pagerly was shot. The award, named for the first marshal to be killed in the line of duty in 1794, was presented to Hicks by Stacia Hylton, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service at the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association Conference's president's banquet.

Also receiving awards were State Troopers Adam Kasheba and Tim Flickinger.



Each received the U.S. Marshal Service Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award for their quick response on the tragic night of June 29, 2011. Sergeant Kasheba shot and killed the assailant and, together with Trooper Flickinger and other officers, carried Deputy Pagerly over a half a mile from the scene to a police car.



## Alecia Pagerly accepts U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart Awarded to husband, Deputy Sheriff, Kyle D. Pagerly

Berks County, host of the 90th Annual Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association conference, was a fitting venue for the U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart Award presented to Alecia Pagerly, wife of fallen Berks County Sheriff Deputy Kyle D. Pagerly, at the conference's annual president's banquet. Deputy Pagerly was sworn in as a member of the U.S.

Marshals Task Force Team in November, 2009. The U.S. Marshals Task Force combines the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to locate and arrest the most dangerous fugitives. The prestigious U.S. Marshal Service Purple Heart is awarded when an officer is wounded or killed while in the line of duty.



U.S. Marshal Service Director and keynote speaker Stacia Hylton paid tribute to Kyle Pagerly's dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice in a speech that highlighted the dangerous situations law enforcement officers encounter on a daily basis. On behalf of the U.S. Marshal Task Force Team, Hylton praised Deputy Pagerly's actions as life-saving when, on June 29, 2011, Pagerly, aided by his K9 partner, Jynx, forced an ambush-awaits assailant out of hiding. Fellow officers who were unaware of the assailant's location and intent were able to then locate and return fire killing the assailant, but before Deputy Pagerly was mortally wounded.

Alecia Pagerly attended the banquet with the couple's daughter, Savannah, and accepted the award during a standing ovation. Also in attendance were Kyle's mother, Michelle Moyer, and father, David Pagerly.

# Special visitors to Berks County Sheriff's Department



Christopher Carswell, 13, of Brunswick, Georgia, and his best friend, a service dog named Bronx, visited the Berks County Sheriff's Office in June. Christopher loves canines and was especially interested in meeting Jynx, the K-9 partner of fallen Deputy Kyle D. Pagerly. Christopher learned about Jynx and the Pagerlys in December of 2011 and felt a connection to the Pagerly family. An opportunity for everyone to meet became possible as part of Christopher's travels to Lancaster to attend a K-9 conference.

Christopher's medical problems began in October of 2007, and he subsequently was in and out of hospitals for weeks at a time. Christopher and his mother Janet began searching for a service dog in January 2010 and Bronx joined their family a year later. One highlight of Bronx's abilities includes seizure alert, just one of Christopher's medical issues. Christopher and Bronx are inseparable and, together, they make an amazing team. Bronx protects Christopher and Christopher's love for Bronx has inspired him to want to help protect other K-9s. Christopher operates a foundation to raise money for vehicle alarms that alert police officers if the temperature inside a vehicle approaches the dangerous level for a dog. He also helps to find service dogs for children who need them. More information is available at [www.1boy4change.org](http://www.1boy4change.org).

Christopher is now an official member of the Friends of Berks County Sheriff K-9, an organization established by Sheriff Weaknect to help with the costs of the department's K-9 Division and to educate people about the use of K-9s.

## BCSD Explorer of the Quarter



My name is Stacy Sowers, and I am a junior at Hamburg Area High School. In my spare time, I play tennis for the Hamburg Area High School tennis team, enjoy the pool, horseback riding, and spending time with my family and friends. I am a strong advocate of animal welfare and have been employed at the Hamburg Animal Hospital the last three years.

I became a member of the Berks County Sheriff Explorer Post because I knew it would help me greatly in the future. As long as I can remember, I was always interested in the law enforcement field. It's the only genre in books that I read and TV shows that I watch on a regular basis. So far, the Explorer Post has shown me how physically fit you have to be in order to work in this field, along with a behind-the-scenes look at the opportunities available to us in this career field. The Explorer program is outstanding, and I have enjoyed participating.

My career goals in life are becoming an Animal Cruelty Investigator and/or a K9 officer. I have always been interested in animal cruelty since Animal Planet started a show about preventing animal cruelty, and bringing criminals who abuse animals to justice. Being a K9 officer would be a wonderfully fulfilling career choice. I have grown up with dogs all my life, and I think going to work every day with your best friend would be amazing.



## Kyle Pagerly Memorial 5K Run

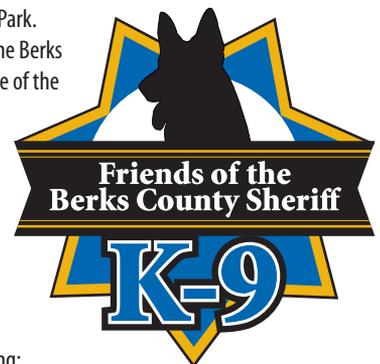
The 2nd Annual Kyle Pagerly Memorial 5K Run will be held Sunday, October 7, 2012 at the Shillington Memorial Park, East Broad Street, Shillington. The race starts off at 9:00 a.m. with a 21 gun salute. Register for the 5K run or 1 mile fun walk by September 21 to receive a free T-shirt. T-shirts distributed while they last for all registrants after September 21. For more information and to download registration form (or to register on-line), go to [www.kylepagerly5k.com](http://www.kylepagerly5k.com). All proceeds support the Kyle Pagerly Memorial Foundation.

## First Annual Friends Of The Berks County Sheriff's K-9 Picnic

The first annual Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9 picnic will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Mohnton Memorial Park.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will help the Berks County Sheriff's Department off-set some of the costs of maintaining its K-9 Division.

Advance reservations are required and can be made by sending \$15.00 per ticket request (children 5 and under are free) to: Berks County Sheriff's Department, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. Admission cost includes an all-you-can-eat buffet, beverages and K-9 demonstrations. Deadline for Ordering: September 26, 2012



# Weaknecht Appointed as Member of the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board

Sheriff Weaknecht was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett to the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board on June 20, 2012 and was administered the oath for that position before the Honorable Linda K. M. Ludgate on June 26, 2012. The Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board advises the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the development, implementation and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, through the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Program, provides certification and re-certification training to all active deputy sheriffs in the Commonwealth. The Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board also determines the training needs of the deputy sheriffs and provides for the administration of these training programs.



## Berks County Sheriff's Department K-9 Division

### K-9 Division Training Facility

The Berks County Sheriff's Department K-9 Division is currently in the beginning stages of designing and building a state-of-the-art law enforcement K-9 training facility near the Berks County prison. With the advice and input from county law enforcement K-9 teams and trainers, the goal is to have a training site that is second to none. The Department feels very fortunate to have some equipment donated and monetary contributions through local businesses, the community and organizations that have seen K-9 training demonstrations and want to help make their goal a reality. The training facility, named after Deputy Kyle D. Pagerly who was shot and killed in the line of duty on June 29, 2011 while serving a felony warrant with his K-9 partner Jynx, is located on property donated by the Berks County Commissioners. The K-9 training facility is in a rural area with a landscape that provides unlimited potential to construct diverse settings for all types of K-9 training. It will be made available to all law enforcement K-9 teams from Berks and surrounding counties. Kyle's wife Alecia has offered to help fund the training facility named for her husband and will be very active in the design and the daily operations.



### K-9 Deputy Scott M. Henry

Scott M. Henry has lived in Berks County his entire life. A 1988 graduate from Governor Mifflin High School, Scott obtained an associate's degree in architectural design and drafting from Berks Technical Institute in 1990. Some of Scott's design work can be found in and around Berks County, in New York and in New Jersey. Local examples of Scott's work include helping with the design and layout of the entire GoggleWorks Art Building, including the theater, glass blowing studio, and floor plans for the numerous artists' studios; he also helped design the recently-completed GoggleWorks Apartment Building at 2nd and Washington Streets and was Project Manager for the new G.L. Public Services Building located at 3rd and Washington. Outside of Berks County, Scott was part of the revitalization project team that re-designed the building exterior where the infamous Howard Stern radio show is broadcast in New York, and he was a key designer in the exterior of The Borgata Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey.



After 18 years in the architectural field, Scott designed a new path for himself when he became a Deputy Sheriff for Berks County. He attended the Pennsylvania Sheriff's Academy at Penn State University, was voted president of his class, and graduated in the fall of 2011. After a short stint working in the patrol division for the Berks County Sheriff's Department, Scott was chosen as the newest member of the K-9 Division. He and his K-9 partner, Storm, a 2 1/2 year old German Shepherd, graduated from the Al Gills Von Der Haus K-9 Academy in Wapakoneta, Ohio in the spring of 2012 and are now a part of the Berks County Sheriff Department's Explosives/Patrol Team. Scott will soon be sworn into and become a member of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

# Safety Tips

## Play it Safe this Halloween

The Berks County Sheriff's Department prints and distributes a brochure setting forth the following tips for playing it safe on Halloween:

**Costumes** – Keep costumes simple. Long and fancy costumes could cause children to trip. When buying costumes, look for a label stating the costume is made of fireproof materials. At a minimum, nothing less than a flame resistant label should be worn by a child. Although flame resistant does not mean a costume won't catch fire, it does indicate the item will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

Costumes should also be made of white or light colored materials to be easily seen at night. If possible, add reflecting patches or strips. Regular street shoes should be worn as opposed to fancy "clown" or "pirate" shoes, high heels, etc. Props such as guns or swords should be made of Styrofoam or cardboard and, if jack-o-lanterns are carried, a flashlight should be inside instead of a candle.

Hats and masks should fit securely to prevent them from slipping over the eyes. Better yet, instead of wearing masks, paint faces with make-up. Applying a thin coat of cold cream before adding make-up will result in easier make-up removal.

**Treats** – All fruit should be cut and washed before eating and NOTHING should be eaten until a parent or responsible adult examines it first. Be sure that children know this rule BEFORE they leave to go trick-or-treating. Specifically, a responsible adult should check the wrappers of commercial treats for signs of tampering. Throw away ANYTHING that is unwrapped, and notify law enforcement if harmful items are found.

**Tips for Parents** – Do not leave your home unattended on Halloween night. Leave your porch light on so children will know it's okay to visit your home. To avoid encouraging children to enter a stranger's home, never invite trick-or-treaters into



your own home. Remove any hazards from your own yard, steps and porch to avoid injury on your property. Place jack-o-lanterns and candles where they cannot be knocked over or reached by children. Be certain that children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager or, at a minimum, know which friends your children will be with. Keep all pets inside (house, garage, shed) on Halloween night.

**Trick-or-Treating** – Tell your children to NEVER trick-or-treat alone! A responsible adult or teen should accompany each group, and at least one person in each group should carry a flashlight. Carry trick-or-treating bags that have handles in order to keep arms free. Try to limit the group size to four or five and trick-or-treat when it is still light outside. Parents should know exactly what route their children are taking.

Children should walk and not run while trick-or-treating, should never run between parked cars, and should only cross the street at the corner (after looking BOTH ways). Walk facing traffic if there is no sidewalk. Stay in your own neighborhood and only go to houses which have porch lights turned on. Never enter a stranger's house, even if invited.

If you belong to a group or organization that would benefit by having copies of the Berks County Sheriff's Department Halloween safety brochure which sets forth the above safety tips, please contact 610-478-6240 ext. 3262. Have a safe and happy Halloween!!!

## A Ride to School

Kindergartners Nathan Hnatchishon and Francesca Ditsky did not ride a bus on the first day of school this year; they didn't walk or get a ride from mom or dad, either. Nathan and Francesca's first day of school began when they hopped into Sheriff Weaknecht's patrol car and, with lights flashing, rode to Sacred Heart in West Reading. Nathan and Francesca's parents won the unique ride to school for their children by being the highest bidder at a Sacred Heart fundraiser held earlier this year.



## BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Most Wanted



**Brian Franqui-Santiago**  
5ft 6in 175lbs  
2/14/1984 28yo  
300 Block of Moss St. Reading  
**Wanted for:** Aggravated Assault



**Timothy Harper**  
5ft 6in 160lbs  
7/20/1983 29yo  
800 block of Elm St. Reading  
**Wanted for:** Possession of a Controlled Substance



**Barry Mohn Jr.**  
6ft 4in 220lbs  
7/19/1986 26yo  
1300 block of East Philadelphia Ave.  
Boyertown PA  
**Wanted for:** Theft by Unlawful Taking



**Jesse Castillo-Gomez**  
5ft 10in 195lbs  
3/22/1988 24yo  
1300 block of Church St. Reading  
**Wanted for:** Aggravated Assault

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

*All your information will be kept confidential.*

It's not too early to start thinking about holiday presents for family and friends! The Berks County Sheriff's Department is selling merchandise to raise funds to help support the department's K-9 Division and Honor Guard Division. These popular items sell quickly at fundraising events held throughout the year. Animal lovers, especially, enjoy purchasing items that display the K-9 logo or K-9 likeness and/or K-9 paw prints. There are choices of styles and colors available in T-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball hats. Please take a moment and log onto [www.countyofberks.com/sheriff](http://www.countyofberks.com/sheriff) to view all merchandise available and to complete the order form. The order form and check made payable to Berks County Sheriff Benevolence Fund should be mailed to Jennifer De Frees, Berks County Sheriff's Department, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601. All proceeds benefit the K-9 and Honor Guard Divisions.

**\$20** Short Sleeve T-shirt DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211

**\$20** Short Sleeve T-shirt DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211

**\$20** Hat with Embroidery DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211

**\$20** Short Sleeve T-shirt DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211

**\$40** Vintage Hooded Sweatshirt DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211

**\$20** Hat with Embroidery DESIGNED BY: *WCB*

TO PURCHASE VISIT:  
[www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff](http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/Sheriff)

OR CALL:  
610-478-6240 ext. 3211



## American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards to be held October 6, 2012.

The MRB Productions crew out of California was recently on site to interview the Sheriff; Alecia Pagerly, Kyle Pagerly's wife; and members of the Berks County Sheriff's Department in preparation for the October 6, 2012 taping of the 2012 American Humane Association Hero Dog Award announcement. Jynx, the K-9 partner of fallen Sheriff Deputy Kyle Pagerly, was voted top-dog in his category [law enforcement] and is now one of the eight finalists to be named American Hero Dog for 2012 by the American Humane Association. Jynx and his collar-leagues (colleagues) will each be presented with \$5,000 for a designated charity partner on October 6 during a ceremony in Beverly Hills, California.

Jynx's charity partner is K9s4Cops. Should Jynx be chosen American Hero Dog for 2012, K9s4Cops will receive an additional \$10,000. The nonprofit K9s4Cops has a mission "to ensure that every law enforcement officer in need of a K-9 has one at their side, well trained and ready for action."

"We in law enforcement believe K-9 heroes are a breed above other canine heroes because K-9 heroes bravely allow their human partners to send them into life-threatening situations and will sacrifice themselves to protect the lives of their human partners and the public at large", said Sheriff Eric Weacknecht. "It's what Jynx did on the tragic night of June 29, 2011." During a routine warrant delivery, Jynx alerted Sheriff Deputy Kyle Pagerly to a hill where an assailant lay, armed and waiting to ambush. That alert is credited with saving the lives of other deputy sheriffs on their way to assist. Jynx charged the hill as the sniper rose and began firing. Jynx's actions not only flushed out the assailant -- thus adding precious seconds as assisting deputies arrived -- but he also desperately worked to drag Deputy Pagerly and another officer out of harm's way during ensuing gunfire that ended when the assailant was killed. Deputy Pagerly died later that night, but if not for the swift and heroic efforts of K-9 Jynx, many other officers would have also been killed.

The American Hero Dog winner will be selected by the number of on-line votes received. To vote for Jynx to become American Hero Dog for 2012, log onto [www.herodogawards.org](http://www.herodogawards.org) and cast your vote. One vote per e-mail address per day is permitted through October 5. The American Humane Association 90 minute special will be televised on November 2 on the Hallmark Channel.

