

InForce

A publication of the Berks County Sheriff's Office

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April 2016

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"Making a Difference"

A Message from Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht

In 2015, a number of NRA-supported Right-to-Carry Reciprocity bills were introduced in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. The passage of such a bill would allow any person (with a valid conceal carry permit) to carry a concealed firearm in any other state that does not prohibit concealed carry. Simply stated, should such a bill become law, then any individual who possesses a concealed carry permit from his or her home state (or who is not prohibited from carrying concealed in his or her home state) would be able to exercise conceal carry rights in any other state that does not prohibit concealed carry, in accordance with the restrictions of each state. As an example, New Jersey refuses to recognize conceal carry permits from any other state. Therefore, Pennsylvania conceal carry permit holders are



unable to cross over into New Jersey while carrying. The passage of a Right-to-Carry Reciprocity bill would require that New Jersey recognize Pennsylvania conceal carry permit holders (and any conceal carry permit holder from any other state with right to conceal carry laws).

Although the passage of this law would allow gun owners to carry concealed weapons more easily across lines with states that also have right to conceal carry laws, it's important to remember that not all states are right-to-conceal-carry states and, until such a passage does take place (and even after such law would take place), conceal carry permit holders must always take care to follow the gun laws of any state he or she plans to visit (or even drive through en route to a destination that does acknowledge the right to conceal carry from other states).

You can contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative by phone at (202) 224-3121, or by using the "Write Your Lawmakers" tool at www.NRAILA.org to ask them to cosponsor and support these measures.

Features



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Deputy Terry Ely

It's not an uncommon annoyance to find yourself "stuck" behind a stopped car on any given street at any given time in the City of Reading. Terry Ely will tell you that he, along with most law enforcement, will simply 'hit the horn' to get those motorists to move along. But rather than 'hit the horn' behind a cabbie stopped at a green light on 10th Street in the City on March 7, Ely followed gut instinct, turned on the red and blue lights, got out of the patrol car, and carefully



approached the cab car. As he got closer, he could hear what he thought was, "Please don't shoot me." He could see the backseat passenger, with money in one hand and a black object in the other, leaning over the front seat near the cab driver. Seconds later, the robber was on the ground outside the cab car and cuffed. The entire incident was caught on camera from inside the cab, and the incident and video made national headlines.

It's not the first robbery suspect detained by Ely. In September, 2013, Ely nabbed a suspect who had just robbed a gas station on Lancaster Avenue. That one wasn't caught on video, but Ely, a strong believer on building community relationships, has been known to spend his own money during the holidays on gifts for children he comes across while working and, unbeknownst to Ely, was videotaped while on duty playing dodgeball with city children (view on YouTube by searching "berks deputy playing dodgeball with kids").

Deputy Ely has worked in the Sheriff's Office for 8 years in Warrants, Courts and, currently, Patrol. He has twice been recognized with Commendations, the first while employed with Reading Police Communications for outstanding work performance during a domestic disturbance call which led police to the location of a stabbing victim and arrest of the perpetrator, and the second as a member of the Berks County Sheriff Warrants team for a 110% increase in warrants service over a one year period.



BCSO - 240 Years Ago (July 8, 1776) Page 6

Register for the 5th Annual Ride to Remember Kyle Pagerly @ <http://kylepagerlymemorial.com/events/ride-to-remember>

What It All Means

LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

CPIN -

Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network (CPIN). Captures and stores up to eight digital photographs of a suspect's face, tattoos and distinguishing markings (such as scars and birthmarks). These images are uploaded to the JNET system and are available within minutes to all law enforcement.

JNET -

The Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET) is the Commonwealth's primary public safety and criminal justice information broker. JNET's integrated justice portal provides a common online environment for authorized users to access public safety and criminal justice information. This critical information comes from various contributing municipal, county, state, and federal agencies. JNET interfaces with CLEAN to access criminal history information, arrest data, and protection from abuse information.

CLEAN -

The Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) is used by the Commonwealth's criminal justice agencies to access driver license and motor vehicle information, state criminal history record information maintained in the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository, the Commonwealth's central registry for Protection from Abuse orders, "hot" (stolen and wanted) files, law enforcement messaging capabilities, and a host of other services.

AFIS -

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) automatically matches and analyzes fingerprint data against a database of known and unknown prints using digital imaging technology.

Spotlight on Central Booking Division

Suspects arrested by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are transported to the Central Booking Division of the Berks County Sheriff's Office following arrest. A Criminal Complaint (arrest warrant) is prepared by the arresting authority and delivered with the suspect who is then processed by deputies in Central Booking. Suspects are searched, photographed, and fingerprinted. The photographs are immediately made available to all law enforcement agencies via CPIN (Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network). The fingerprints, electronically captured, are submitted to the PA State Police Central Repository, automatically checked for prior criminal history, and searched through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFSIS). A Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) criminal history rap sheet is produced and made available to the Magisterial District Judge at the time of the suspect's arraignment (a formal court proceeding where the accused is officially charged).

The Central Booking Division began operating in March of 2003 as part of the services the Sheriff's Office offers to surrounding law enforcement agencies, including the City of Reading. It's a valuable time saver to law enforcement who can deliver an offender to Central Booking and return to the streets rather than wait for the lengthy booking process to be complete. Central Booking is the only Division in the Sheriff's Office that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Over 80,000 offenders have been processed through the BCSO Central Booking Division since operations began in March of 2003.

Captain Matthew Green oversees the duties of the Central Booking Division's four sergeants and 18 deputies. 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 first to Sergeant of the Central Booking Division and then Captain of Courts in November, 2013 before transferring to Central Booking as Captain in April, 2014.



Captain Matthew Green



Sergeant Brian Boyer



Sergeant Eric Heckman



Sergeant Frank Cataldi



Sergeant Chris Strunk



Norma Alicea, CBC Clerk

Active Shooter/Active Threat Training

All deputies in the Berks County Sheriff's Office recently completed active shooter/active threat training by BCSO deputies certified to teach the course.



The first "active shooter" incident in the United States occurred on August 1, 1966. On that day, a single gunman killed 15 and wounded 31 from a sniper position atop the clock tower at the University of Texas at Austin in an incident lasting just 90 minutes. Two police officers and an armed citizen teamed up, attacked the sniper's perch, and killed the gunman. Dramatic changes in police training and response followed, including the development of SWAT teams.

Fast-forward to April 20, 1999, the day two Columbine High School students killed 13 and wounded 23 in just 13 minutes of the first call to police. SWAT's response was 45 minutes. Following Columbine, and despite the substantial increased risk to responding officers, waiting for SWAT to arrive is no longer the standard protocol in an active shooter/active threat situation. Rather, most law enforcement agencies believe that lives will be saved by a more immediate rush into an active shooter situation, as was first demonstrated 50 years ago by the unorganized takedown of the clock tower shooter in Austin, Texas.

Explorer Experiences Expand Beyond Boundary Lines

Semenza, who lived in New Jersey, was on his way to his Manhattan office, just three blocks from the Twin Towers, when the first jet hit the North Tower. He was on the Verrazano Bridge and witnessed the second plane hit the South Tower. Hours later, he was part of the search and rescue team and, as a military special agent in the Coast Guard reserves, was activated that same evening and spent the next year in charge of intelligence.

Explorers learned of the events, over a decade in the making, which led to 9-11 and how law enforcement has had to evolve to combat the threat still present. Semenza's experience with the US Marshals and Coast Guard gave Explorers an inside look into two federal sides of law enforcement outside the boundaries of state, county and local law enforcement.

Members of the Kyle Pagerly Explorer Post #027 have spent January, February, March and April with topics that involve more in-depth explanation. Some have been a part of mock interviews, been logistically challenged with the service of civil service documents throughout the city and county, sat in classroom discussions on active shooter training, played victim during actual active shooter training for deputies in the sheriff's office, learned in detail the complexities and circumstances surrounding the service of a warrant, and got the benefit of hearing first account recollections on September 11, 2001 from Chief Deputy Bryant Semenza.

Chief Semenza was a supervisory deputy with the US Marshals on that horrific day in New York City, Washington DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.



Chief Deputy Bryant Semenza shares his experiences on the day of 9-11 and following.

A 24/7 Operation...

Kudos to several members of the Berks County Sheriff's Office Booking Division for the outstanding duty to service performed during the late January 2016 blizzard that dumped more than 2 feet of snow in Reading and surrounding areas. The deputies not only maintained their watch and kept the Booking Center open, but they also assisted the County in driving medical personnel to Reading area hospitals while most of Berks County was closed, roads were impassable, and a state of emergency was issued. Thanks to their efforts, the Berks County Sheriff's Office was able to maintain operations.



Front: Deputy Angela Gibson, Deputy Phil Bentz
Back: Deputy Michael Stough, Deputy Kyle Fritz, Sergeant Eric Heckman

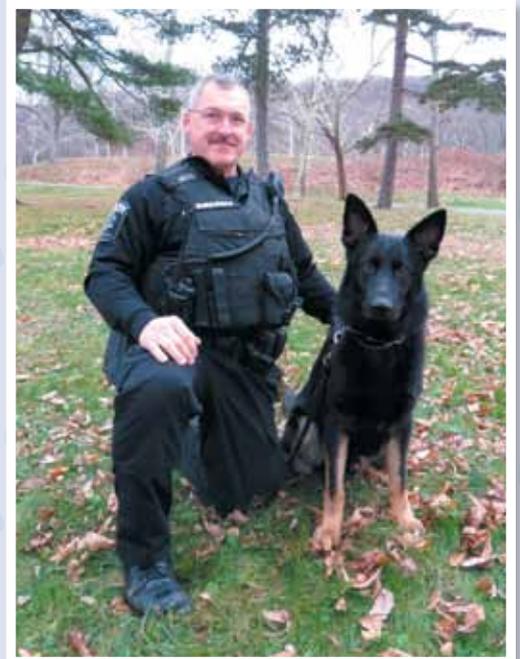


(L-R): Deputy Ryan Tully, Sergeant Christopher Strunk, Deputy Madeline Gregory-Lopez, Deputy Mark Vandermartin, Deputy Derrick Klopp and Deputy Ethan Darion

K-9 Division Welcomes New K-9 Team!

Deputy Guy Lehman is a 1990 graduate of the Reading Police Academy and worked as a police officer for the City of Reading and Franklin & Marshall College before joining the Sheriff's Office as a deputy assigned to the Courts Division in October, 2011. In November, 2013, Lehman was selected to become a member of BCERT (Berks County Emergency Response Team) as a tactical operator. In March, 2014, he was reassigned to the Warrants Division and sworn in as a member of the US Marshals Task Force. Lehman is also a certified firearms training officer. In October, 2015, Lehman became the newest member of the Berks County Sheriff's Office K-9 Division and was partnered with Max, a two-year-old German Shepherd from northern Germany. The team completed basic training in Wapakoneta, Ohio in November, 2015.

Max is not Lehman's first K-9 partner. While an Officer with the City of Reading, Lehman spent five years as a handler in Reading's K-9 Division before being promoted to K-9 supervisor and Sergeant of Reading's criminal investigation unit. Today, Lehman and K-9 partner Max, specializing in narcotics detection and patrol, will work together as members of the BCSO K-9 Division (and as the only K-9 team on BCERT).



Meet Deputy Lehman and K-9 Max at this year's Friends of the Berks County Sheriff's K-9 picnic on Saturday, September 24. To become a member of the Friends of the Berks County Sheriff K-9, contact tmedaglia@countyofberks.com. Membership includes a discount on cost of 2016 picnic tickets.

Safety Tips



An increase in the number of Pennsylvania permits to carry a concealed firearm has more than doubled the first quarter of 2016 compared to the first quarter of 2015 in Berks County. There are several factors to explain this marked increase, but only one factor that must be a primary focus when it comes to gun ownership and while carrying a firearm -- Safety.

1. **Always** keep your gun pointed in a safe direction (meaning that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage).
2. **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. **Always** keep your gun unloaded until ready to use.

4. **Always** engage the safety device (and be aware that safety devices can (and sometimes do) fail).
5. **Always** know your target and what is beyond your target.
6. **Always** know how to safely operate the gun you are using (how to safely open and close and how to remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine).
7. **Always** ensure your gun is safe to operate through regular cleaning after each use and after prolonged storage.
8. **Always** use only the correct ammunition for your gun and be certain it is unloaded before cleaning.
9. **Always** refrain from alcohol and drug use of any kind while carrying or while practicing.
10. **Always** wear eye and ear protection during shooting practice.
11. **Always** store gun so it is not accessible to unauthorized persons.

For a more thorough understanding of basic firearm safety, possession and while carrying, log on to the Sheriff's Office website and click on the "Firearms" tab at www.countyofberks.com/Sheriff or the National Rifle Association at www.training.nra.org.



Did you know...

That it is unlawful to display a license plate which is so dirty so as to prevent reading of the numbers at a reasonable distance or is otherwise illegible at a reasonable distance or obscured in any manner.



Pa.C.S. Title 75, §1332 (b1 and b3)
 FINE: \$25 + 103.50
 (Minimum Costs) = \$128.50

BERKS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Most Wanted



Name: Amberlee Rudy
DOB: 07/31/1991
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 910 N. 2nd St. Reading, PA 19601



Name: Benito Perez
DOB: 08/09/1982
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 706 Franklin St. Reading, PA 19602



Name: Marc Spearman
DOB: 7/22/1989
Charges: DJ Warrant
LKA: 307 McKnight St. Reading, PA 19601



Name: Wilfredo Arocho
DOB: 08/02/1971
Charges: Bench Warrant
LKA: 441 Minor St. Reading, PA 19602

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.

6th Grade D.A.R.E. Essay Contest Winners from Kutztown Middle School



On February 25, approximately 150 sixth grade students from Kutztown Middle School graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. Deputy Herb Carter, a certified D.A.R.E. instructor, met with students once a week to provide instruction over a 10 week period. The interactive, in-

school D.A.R.E. program gives kids the skills they need to deal with peer pressure that may lead to involvement in drugs, gangs and violence. Each student in the program signs a pledge not to use drugs or join gangs.

For information on bringing a D.A.R.E. program into your school district, contact the Berks County Sheriff's Office at 610-478-6240 ext. 3262.

D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives. Source: www.dare.org



Deputy Herb Carter with Sheriff Weaknecht and 6th grade D.A.R.E. essay contest winners from Kutztown Middle School



A Bit of History – 240 Years Ago... Happy 4th of July!!!



Visit the Berks History Center, 940 Centre Avenue, Reading, site of the Berks County Liberty Bell. This bell rang on July 8, 1776 (by a deputy sheriff) to call the people together to hear the public reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Court House on Penn Square by Sheriff Henry Vanderslice.

"After the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the task still remained to actually tell the people of the American colonies what had been declared on their behalf. In Reading, Pennsylvania, the public reading of the Declaration of Independence was undertaken by Henry Vanderslice, the sheriff of Berks County. Vanderslice must have been eager to undertake the task, for soon after he would volunteer for the Revolutionary Army at the ripe old age of 51.

Henry was born in 1726 to Anthony and Martha (Pannebecker) Vanderslice, and trained to be a surveyor with his grandfather Hendrick Pannebecker (also the ancestor of Pennsylvania Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker). In 1774 he was appointed Sheriff of Berks County, and it was in that capacity that he publicly read the Declaration of Independence to the county on July 8, 1776. During the Revolutionary War Vanderslice served under General Muhlenberg as wagon master (in the equivalent of today's Quartermaster Corps), provisioning troops as far away as New Jersey and including Valley Forge. After the war Vanderslice returned to surveying, working as Deputy Surveyor and then Surveyor for Berks County. He died in 1797."

*NOTE: The above historical information was copied verbatim from the Berks County Historical Society (now the Berks History Center) and can be further explored at <https://hsp.org/blogs/archival-adventures-in-small-repositories/1770s-wagon-master-journal-at-hs-of-trappe>. The journal of Sheriff Henry Vanderslice is preserved at the Berks History Center, 940 Centre Avenue, Reading, Pennsylvania.