

# THE GUARDIAN

Volume 13, Number 2

April - June 2006

[www.parkpolice.net](http://www.parkpolice.net)

## Six Park Police Officers Receive Public Safety Awards

Six Maryland-National Capital Park Police officers received awards at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Montgomery County Public Safety Awards Ceremony. Recognizing acts of heroism and community service by public safety personnel, the Public Safety Awards Ceremony is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. More than 1,000 people attended the ceremony including notable public figures such as Lt. Governor Michael Steele, Representative Chris Van Hollen, and County Executive Douglas Duncan.

Officer Alfredo LaPorte was on the Capital Beltway on December 15, 2005, when a woman in an SUV lost control, struck a barrier, careened across three lanes, struck Officer LaPorte's car and another vehicle, and

burst into flames. Trapped by the steering wheel and running out of time, Officer LaPorte pulled the woman out of the car with the help of a tractor-trailer driver. For his quick, selfless actions, Officer LaPorte received a Silver Medal of Valor.

Officers Gregory Worsley and Thai Giang evacuated about a dozen people from a burning building on Shorefield Court in Wheaton. Despite heavy smoke, the officers raced to the source of the fire, checked for victims, and escorted people out of the building. For going beyond the call of duty, Officers Thai Giang and Gregory Worsley were awarded Bronze Medals of Valor. *(Continued on Page 2.)*



Chief Nathaniel J. Barber (left) and Officer Alfredo LaPorte

*Photos compliments of KevinKennedy.com*



# Six Park Police Officers Receive Public Safety Awards (Continued from Page 1)

Officer Heather McLaughlin rescued a woman from drowning after she became trapped in the limbs of a fallen tree in a Seneca Stream Valley creek. Even though she is terrified of water, having almost drowned as a child, Officer McLaughlin waded into the cold, thigh-high water to the woman and held her head above water until she could untangle her clothing and pull her to safety. For her act of bravery, Officer Heather McLaughlin was awarded a Bronze Medal.

Lieutenant Brian Smith and Officer Jeffrey Coe received a Community Service Award for their work in coordinating the NFL/Pepsi Punt, Pass, and Kick Program for area youth. Donating hundreds of their own hours over the last  
*(Continued on Page 3.)*



L-R: Officer Gregory Worsey,  
Chief Nathaniel J. Barber, and  
Officer Thai Giang

*Photos compliments of  
KevinKennedy.com*



# Six Park Police Officers Receive Public Safety Awards (Continued from Page 2)

five years, Lt. Smith and Officer Coe coordinate competitions which reach 300 to 400 youth each year, instilling confidence, pride, and a feeling of accomplishment in these children.

Congratulations go to all who received awards this year and thanks go to all Park Police members for their dedication, commitment, and service to our community. **G**

*Photos compliments of  
KevinKennedy.com*



Chief Nathaniel J. Barber (left) and  
Officer Heather McLaughlin



L-R: Officer Jeffrey Coe, Chief Nathaniel J. Barber,  
and Lt. Brian Smith



# Wheaton Regional Park and Park Police Host Pepsi Pitch, Hit, and Run Competitions

Recently, Park Police members have participated in a number of Major League Baseball/Pepsi Pitch, Hit, and Run competitions. Sponsored by Pepsi, Pitch, Hit, and Run is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball and includes local, sectional, team, and national finals for children ages 7-14. Pitch, Hit, and Run encourages youth participation in baseball and emphasizes the fun of the sport.

competition where they will have the chance to qualify for the team championship and then onto the national finals.

At the Wheaton Regional Park Pitch, Hit, and Run Competition, Park Police officers conducted a bike rodeo where kids learned and practiced new bike riding skills. Horse-mounted and all-terrain vehicle officers provided demonstrations and visited with the children.

Contestants competed in three events: pitching for accuracy; base running for speed; and hitting for distance. Children competed in one of four age groups and the winner in each age group attends the sectional

Thanks go to all Park Police members who participated in these events and made them so successful! Your dedication and commitment to area youth is appreciated. **G**  
*(Continued on Page 5.)*

Eddie Rivera visits with Officer Paul Christ and Major.



*Photo by Tricia McCourt*



# Wheaton Regional Park and Park Police Host Pepsi Pitch, Hit, and Run Competitions (Continued from Page 4)



Future Little Leaguers receive some instruction.



Participants try to “hit it out of the park.”

Community members  
enjoy horse-mounted  
demonstrations.



*Photos by  
Tricia McCourt*



# Park Police Run for Charity


by Lt. Harvey Baker

Thanks go to all the Park Police officers who participated in the Seventh Annual National Police Challenge 50 K Relay held on May 12 in Beltsville. Running to raise money for special law enforcement charities, this year's team consisted of officers from both Divisions (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties).

It was an excellent day for running and 815 runners participated. Each runner was responsible for running a 5 K leg on the certified course. The event was a huge success raising \$40,000. The Park Police team did an outstanding job for a very worthwhile cause.

Team members and running times are listed below:

Sarah Mikalauskas	21:30
Eric Rojas	24:53
Brian Waters	25:34
Harvey Baker	26:57
Ron Pierce	29:47
Thomas Bloom	30:33
Anna Von Schwerdtner	30:41
Brian Smith	32:24
Gordon Norwood	32:42
William Dau	37:32

We are planning to field a team again next year - so mark your calendars for May 11, 2007, lace up your shoes, and start running. 



Front Row (L-R): Ofc. Anna Von Schwerdtner, Ofc. Sarah Mikalauskas  
Back Row (L-R): Lt. Gordon Norwood, Ofc. Thomas Bloom , Lt. Scott Dau, Capt. Ron Pierce,  
Ofc. Eric Rojas, Lt. Brian Smith, Ofc. Brian Waters, Lt. Harvey Baker



# Habla Espanol?

**C**ongratulations go to 31 Park Police Officers who successfully completed Parts One and Two of Command Spanish for Law Enforcement!

Consisting of two-hour classes for 20 weeks, Command Spanish focuses on Spanish that the officer would use on the street to aid victims and control offenders in potentially dangerous situations. A brief overview of Hispanic culture and cultural differences between several different Spanish-speaking countries is included as well.

Upon completion of the class, participants are able to use Spanish to disarm a suspect; make arrests and identify individuals; stop and search a vehicle; conduct field sobriety tests; issue warrants; assist in emergencies; read the Miranda Warning; render aid to victims; and manage prisoners and bystanders.

Participants who completed the class include:

- Officer Justin Andrews
- Officer Todd Archer
- Officer Dennis Benden
- Detective Levon Ellian
- Officer Keith Gentry
- Officer Clay Goldston
- Sergeant Rick Haas
- Officer Nancy Jones
- Officer Bernard Kohan
- Detective Brent LaMere
- Officer Megan Lau
- Officer Brandy Malocha
- Officer Troy Mason
- Sergeant Dan McCort
- Officer William Newman
- Officer Sabrina Oglesby
- Sergeant Rick Pelicano

- Officer Shibu Philipose
- Officer Rich Roberts
- Officer Ron Salmon
- Officer Russ Scott
- Officer Adam Sengbusch
- Sergeant Pam Skaife
- Lieutenant Brian Smith
- Officer Michael Snoots
- Lieutenant Lisa Vasco
- Officer Cindy Weisman
- Officer Rosemary Whelan
- Officer Noell White
- Sergeant Mike Young
- Officer Chris Ziegler

Well done everyone! Thank you for your dedication and perseverance in completing this challenging course. Look for the next Command Spanish class to begin in early 2007. **G**





# The Latest Scoop

## Welcome to New Park Police Member

Please welcome new Park Police member Leslie Joyner who will be working in the Communications Unit. Before joining us Leslie worked for a mortgage company in Elkridge, Maryland. Her dream is to become a police officer. In her spare time, Leslie likes to travel and spend time with her seven-year old son. Please stop by and say hello when you get a chance. **G**



Dispatcher Trainee  
Leslie Joyner

*Photo by Margaret Kingsley*

## Goodbye and Good Luck

Goodbye and good luck go to Sergeants George Coleman and Michael Paulk. Both have transferred back to the Prince George's Division to continue their service with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police. Best wishes to both of you! **G**

## Baby News

Congratulations also go to Sergeant George Coleman and his wife on the birth of their son, Caleb Michael. Caleb was born on March 17, 2006, and everyone is doing well. Best wishes to the Colemans! **G**