

# THE GUARDIAN

Volume 14, Number 2

April - June 2007

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

## Park Police Members Honored at Awards Ceremony

On March 14, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, held its Annual Awards Ceremony. This year we were pleased to have Captain Dan McNickle host the ceremony. Dignitaries such as Royce Hanson, Vice Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Director of Parks Mary Bradford attended and spoke to the audience.

A number of Division members, volunteers, and Parks Department members received a Teamwork Award for selflessly sacrificing to keep citizens and park patrons safe during the torrential rains of the summer of 2006. Park patrons had to be evacuated from a recreational center when flooding occurred and horses had to be

moved to higher ground. The constant rainfall flooded park roadways and nearly caused the Lake Needwood dam to breach. The performance of all involved during this trying time was commendable and deserving of this Teamwork Award.

Several people received Chief's Commendations. The employees of Exhibit Central (Supervisor Irven Harris, Francine Bethea, Sarah Tolford, and John Yanson) were recognized for their excellent customer service. Commander Thomas Didone and Captain Luther Reynolds of Montgomery County Police received Chief's Commendations for the spirit of cooperation that they demonstrated in 2006. *(Continued on Page 2.)*



*Photo by Francine Bethea*

Captain Dan McNickle emceed the Awards Ceremony.



# Park Police Members Honored at Awards Ceremony *(Continued from Page 1)*



*Photo by Francine  
Bethea*

Royce Hanson, Vice Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, addresses the audience.

Officers Christopher Gayle and Thomas Mock received Chief’s Commendations for their exceptional action in addressing gang-related crime/issues in the parks. Assistant Chief Jake Bise was awarded a Chief’s Commendation for overseeing the day-to-day functions of all Park Police operations units while Assistant Chief Dan McNickle was recovering from a medical condition. Sergeant Kevin Bridgeman was also recognized for his hard work with the Park Police Ranger Program with a Chief’s Commendation.

Officers Howard Battle and Neita White, Lead Dispatcher Chuck Nash, and Dispatcher James Butts were awarded a Field Citation for their quick action and bravery in dealing with a dangerous suspect. Sergeant Rick Pelicano received a Commander’s Award for organizing and conducting a ten-week Horse Mounted class.

Tricia McCourt received the Civilian of the Year Award and John Stinson was honored with the Dispatcher of the Year Award for 2006. Detective Brent LaMere was awarded the Investigator of the Year Award. Officer Bernard Kohan received the Patrol Officer of the Year and Officer Megan Lau received the Special Operations Officer Award. Volunteer Geneva Loczi was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2006.

A number of people received service awards for five, 10, and 20 years of service. Chief Nathaniel Barber celebrated 20 years of service along with Sergeant Dan McCort, and Officers Howard Battle and Russ Scott.

Congratulations, one and all, for an outstanding year. Thank you to all the Park Police members who serve the community with honor and distinction every day. **G**



## Carl Moore Receives Volunteer Award at MRPA Conference

Volunteer Carl Moore was recently recognized at the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) conference in Ocean City, Maryland, for his outstanding contributions to the Park Police volunteer program. As a Park Police Volunteer, Carl has taken on a number of responsibilities.

In 2006, Carl gave 694 hours of volunteer service. He completed 427 calls for service and mailed 637 warning

letters for speeding. Carl completed a class and is now a Certified Child Safety Seat Technician, participating in numerous community safety seat checks. He also became certified in fingerprint taking and has fingerprinted hundreds of volunteers and staff.

Thanks go to Carl for his exceptional commitment and support of the Park Police. **G**



*Photo by Francine Bethea*

Volunteer Carl Moore wins MRPA Volunteer Award.



## Park Police Adopts New Bi-County Badge and Patch

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, is proud to announce the adoption of a new badge and patch (below). All sworn personnel in both counties will wear the new badge and patch on their uniforms. This is the first time the same badge and patch will be worn by both counties. In addition, all of the Park Police cars will carry the same insignia and markings.

As the law enforcement arm of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Park Police was founded in 1953 to protect and serve the residents of both counties. Accredited through The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), the Park Police secure and protect park property in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, Maryland, on a 24-hour basis.

At the time of its inception, the Park Police consisted of three officers, working six days a week. They were paid the princely sum of \$3,000 a year with a \$300 uniform allowance. These officers attended the Police Academy on their own time, while working as police officers. Since then, the Park Police has evolved into the second largest police force in both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. **G**



New Park Police Badge



New Park Police Patch



## Officer Chris Gayle Leaves to Serve in Iraq - Godspeed and Hurry Home

**D**ivision members came together for a cookout to wish Officer Christopher Gayle good luck and goodbye. After training in Fort Dix, New Jersey, Officer Gayle leaves for Iraq in August. He will be stationed north of Baghdad. Officer Gayle and his wife are the proud parents of twin boys. Stay safe and hurry home, Chris. **G**



Officer Gayle's squad says goodbye.  
L-R: Officers Joshua Scully, Tom Mock, Nicole Adams,  
Sergeant Dan McCort, Officer Chris Gayle,  
Lieutenant Harvey Baker, and Officer Johnie Fennell

*Photo by Ofc. Lauryn McNeill*



## Gaywood Garden Club Dedicates Trees to Park Police and National Guard

**G**aywood Garden Club members held a ceremony to honor the Maryland-National Capital Park Police and a local National Guard Unit. Two trees were planted at the entrance of the Gaywood neighborhood located at the intersection of Baughman Drive and Layhill Road. Gold plaques were placed underneath each tree: one honoring the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and one honoring Park Police officers.

Sergeant Pam Skaife and Officer John McIntosh, along with two National Guardsmen, attended the ceremony. Thanks to the Gaywood Garden Club and the Gaywood community for their support and appreciation for those who serve their country. Please keep these brave men and women in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to keep us safe. **G**



*Photo courtesy of  
Gaywood Garden Club*

Members of National Guard with Officer John McIntosh  
and Sgt. Pam Skaife in front of memorial tree.



# Park Police Receives Award in St. Patrick's Day Parade




Photo courtesy of <http://www.dcstpatparade.com/>

Bi-County Mounted Color Guard

L-R: Officers Amy Sheehan (PG) and Howard Johnson (PG), Sergeant Rick Haas, Officers Nancy Jones, Jeff Coe, Dennis Benden, and Kelley Hagen

**C**ongratulations to the bi-county Mounted Color Guard for receiving the James Patrick Noonan Memorial Award for the Best Equestrian Unit in the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade. Held on March 11, the St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the best-attended parades in Washington.

Members of the unit included Sergeants Rick Haas and Mike Murphy (PG), Officers Jeff Adcock, Dennis Benden, Jeff Coe, Greg Ford (PG), Kelley Hagen, Howard Johnson (PG), Nancy Jones, and Amy Sheehan (PG). For more pictures of the parade, visit <http://www.dcstpatparade.com/>. 





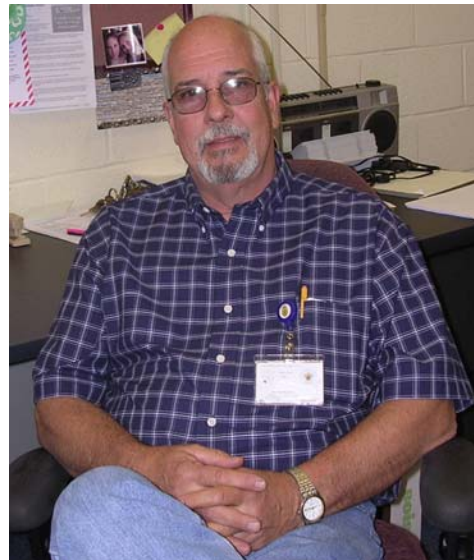
# The Latest Scoop

## Welcome to New Park Police Members Jan Copeland and Gerry Wessells

**W**elcome to our newest Park Police members, Jan Copeland and Gerry Wessells. Jan is retired from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and has been a Park Police Volunteer for 10 years. Gerry Wessells is a retired Park Police Lieutenant who served for 27 years before retiring in 1997. Jan is working in Professional Standards and Gerry is the Fleet Coordinator. Please stop by and say hello when you get a chance. **G**



Jan Copeland



Retired Lt. Gerry Wessells

*Photos by  
Margaret Kingsley*

## Baby News

**C**ongratulations to Sergeant Chris Tippery and his wife, Brandi, on the birth of their son, Aidan, on April 5, 2007. All are fine and well. Best wishes to the Tippery's! **G**

**C**ongratulations also to Officer Charles Spitzner and his wife, Elyssa, on the birth of their son, Chason Graye Spitzner, on May 11, 2007. Best wishes go to the Spitzner's. **G**

## Other News

**C**ongratulations to Dispatcher Jimmy Butts on his 31 years of service and to Lead Dispatcher Chuck Nash on his 30 years of service. Thanks to both of you for your dedication and commitment to the mission of the Park Police! **G**