

# THE GUARDIAN

Volume 14, Number 4

October - December 2007

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

## Park Police Host North American Police Equestrian Championships

**R**oughly 120 horse-mounted police officers and volunteers from around the country and Canada competed in the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Police Equestrian Championships. Held at the Montgomery County fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, the competition was the largest ever with over 28 mounted units represented. Hosted by the Maryland-National Capital Park Police and the United States Park Police, the event included obstacle courses and demonstrations on saddling, shaving, and bathing a horse.

On Saturday, the riders competed in dress inspection and equitation competitions designed to show basic horsemanship. Sunday, the rider and horse teams navigated a timed course that consisted of 10 obstacles in about four minutes. Sixteen riders from the Park Police's Montgomery and Prince George's County Divisions participated: Sergeant Rick Haas, Officers Jeffrey Adcock, Dennis Benden, Jeff Coe, Marc Fanelli, Kelley Hagan, Nancy Jones, Alfredo LaPorte II, and Sean Thomas from

*(Continued on Page 2.)*



*Photo by  
Christa Mohr*

Sergeant Rick Haas and his horse, Roman, negotiate a turnstile on the obstacle course.

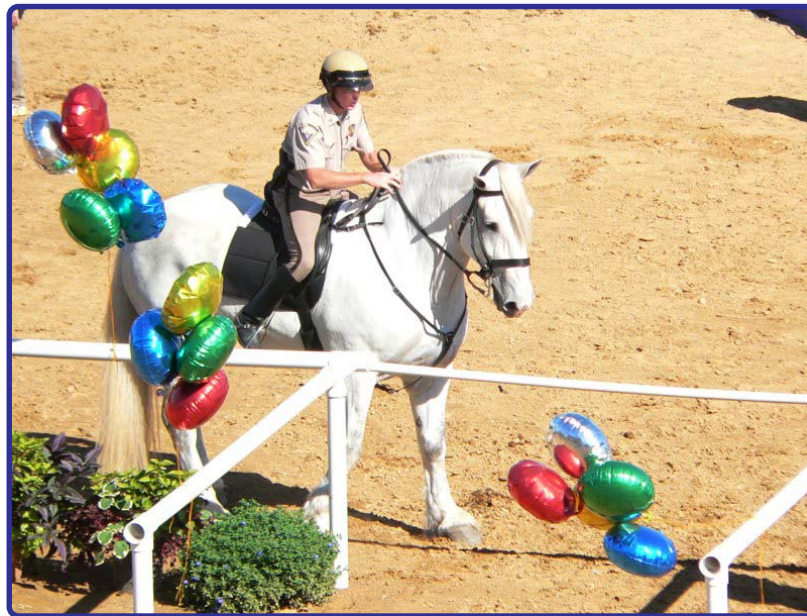


# Park Police Host North American Police Equestrian Championships (Continued from Page 1)

Montgomery County; Sergeant Mike Murphy and Officers Myrical Biddle, Yasmin Brown, Greg Ford, Howard Johnson, James Lawrence, and Amy Sheehan from Prince George's County. Officer Biddle won a fifth-place award for uniform inspection.

Sergeant Rick Pelicano, who chaired the event's organizing committee, said mounted police training includes "bomb-proofing" a horse. "Horses are flight animals, so they are inclined to run when they are scared," Sergeant Pelicano said. Course challenges included balloons popping to simulate gunfire or firecrackers, riding by a loud moon-bounce, and dealing with bubbles. Bubbles blown from a carnival machine stopped Sergeant Haas's huge horse in his tracks. "My horse didn't do too well," Sergeant Haas said after riding his horse Roman. "He got frustrated, flustered, which made each obstacle more difficult."

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated. A special thanks to Sergeant Rick Pelicano, 2007 Organizing Committee Chair, and the committee members who worked so hard to ensure a successful event. Committee members included Officer John Ardovini and Sergeant Glenn Jones (Prince George's Division); Officers Paul Christ, Megan Lau, and Sergeant Rick Haas (Montgomery County Division); Officers Pancho Gonzales and Paul Padberg from the United States Park Police; Stephen P. Joseph, Executive Director, and Taylor Martin, Office Administrator, from Montgomery Parks Foundation; and Ellie Trueman from Trueman Communications Group. **G**



*Photo by  
Christa Mohr*

Officer Sean Thomas and Tucker complete the obstacle course.



## Santa Visits Jesup Blair

Once again, Santa made his annual visit to Jesup Blair House on December 19th. Santa, played by Raymond (Roxie Bushby's son), was a big hit with the children as he passed out gifts and took Christmas lists. Thanks to all who contributed and helped wrap the gifts. Our gratitude goes to the Red Hat Ladies who contributed the majority of the gifts for the children. Thanks also to Roxie Bushby, Lieutenant Tony DeVaul, Officers Lauryn McNeill, Steven Burroughs, and Keith Gentry for attending the pizza party (pizza donated by Domino's Pizza). Thanks to everyone who participated to make a special holiday for the children. **G**

*Photo by Margaret Kingsley*



L-R (Back): Roxie Bushby, Officer Lauryn McNeill,  
Lt. Tony DeVaul, Officer Steven Burroughs, and  
Officer Keith Gentry  
(Front): Jesup Blair children with Santa



# Park Police Receive Target Grant

by Lt. Karen Petrarca



*Photo by Lt.  
Karen Petrarca*

L-R: Dana Brassell, Detective Bill Kellogg, and Jerry Amato, Target District Assessts Protection Team Leader, District 448

**T**he Maryland-National Capital Park Police received a grant of \$1,000 from the Target Corporation in recognition of its crime prevention work. The grant will be used to purchase crime prevention materials such as magnets imprinted with the Park Police's emergency number. These crime prevention materials will be distributed to community groups and large gatherings throughout the county.

Target has proven to be a valuable resource to the Park Police in our pursuit of criminals who use stolen credit cards. Their valuable assistance in helping detectives to track video surveillance as well as their exceptional training of their associates lends to the making of an effective team.

This grant is part of Target's ongoing efforts to strengthen families and communities throughout the country. Since opening its doors, Target has given five percent of its income to organizations that support education, the arts, and safe families and communities. Today, that translates to \$3 million every week!

"At Target, we are making a real difference every day through our grant-making program," said Laysha Ward, Vice President of Community Relations. "We're proud to partner with The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, as part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the communities where our guests and team members live and work." **G**

(Editor's note: Thanks to Lt. Karen Petrarca for initiating and applying for this grant.)




# Park Police Host Baton/Handcuffing Instructor Class

**T**wenty participants from all different police agencies and military organizations participated in an ASP Baton/Handcuffing Instructor class in early December. Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) is the largest manufacturer of Tactical Batons® and Tactical Handcuffs™ in the world. The company supplies impact weapons and restraints to major police agencies in over 60 countries.

Participants who completed the class are now certified to teach other law enforcement personnel how to use the batons and handcuffs. For three days, the officers

received classroom instruction as well as practical, hands-on practice. Detective Mau Ly and Officer Greg Worsley attended from Montgomery County Division and Officers Russell Chick and Eric Rojas attended from Prince George's Division.

Thanks to ASP and ASP Technical Support Manager Jim Horan for providing the training free of charge. In addition to the training, the participants also received free handcuffs and other equipment. Everyone learned a lot and several officers felt the training was one of the best they had ever attended. 



*Photos by Margaret Kingsley*

Park Police Officer Russell Chick (Prince George's Division) practices his moves.



Park Police Officer Eric Rojas (Prince George's Division) battles the "bad guy."




# Good Teamwork Catches the Bad Guy

by Detective Mau Ly

Officers from Park Police and Montgomery County Police (MCP) responded to Aspen Hill Park this past fall after getting a call about a man having a gun at a youth football game. The suspect, one of the football coaches, was using abusive language and making threats towards a referee when several people called 911. The suspect was then observed retrieving a bag that contained a gun out of a truck.

Observing police cars arriving, the suspect stashed the bag in the bed of a friend's truck and fled the area. Park Police Officer Sabrina Oglesby arrived on the scene. The suspect's friend was taken into custody along with the gun. Detective Bill Kellogg began an investigation, along with MCP Firearms Investigation Unit members Detective/Sergeant Berger and Corporal Zacharek.

Subsequent information was obtained, the suspect was identified, and charging documents were issued. A Maryland State Police Trooper arrested the suspect in Baltimore, Maryland. Park Police Officers Donald Brew and Thai Giang transported the defendant back to Park Police Headquarters where Detective Kellogg and Corporal Zacharek interviewed him.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was notified and decided to pursue federal charges on the defendant based on his past criminal history. The United States Attorney's Office has been working closely with Detective Kellogg and the MCP Firearms Investigations Unit to prosecute the defendant. Because of a well-done job by all involved, a potentially dangerous person is out of the game. 





# Detective Cindy Weisman Honored at Awards Ceremony

by Lt. Karen Petrarca

**O**n October 22, the Target Corporation honored Detective Cindy Weisman at the Group 499 Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon for her efforts in the theft cases at Beach Drive. Detective Weisman received a plaque from Target recognizing her partnership with the Silver Spring and Wheaton Assets Protection Teams.

According to the award, “Detective Cindy Weisman of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police was able to catch two suspects and close the credit card fraud case, in which the total losses amounted to \$175,000.” Detective Weisman stated that the former Target member Scott Rackley of Silver Spring and Aaron Raabe of Wheaton, “went above and beyond their responsibilities.”

Detective Weisman and the Target members exchanged information, photos, and videos of the suspects’ actions. Target representatives stated, “The District Group 499 would like to thank Detective Weisman along with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police for all their support and we would definitely like to continue building our partnership.” Congratulations, Detective Weisman, on an excellent job. **G**





# The Latest Scoop

## Welcome to New Park Police Members Ezell Breedlove and Sandra Petersen

**G**reetings to new Park Police members Ezell Breedlove and Sandra Petersen. Ezell is a former Park Police Officer who has come back as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Please stop by and welcome Ezell back. Sandra Petersen has joined the Park Police as the Administrative Specialist in the Chief's office. Sandra brings a wealth of office management experience with her. Please stop by and introduce yourself and meet her. **G**

*Photos by Margaret Kingsley*



Volunteer Coordinator Ezell Breedlove



Administrative Specialist Sandra Petersen

---

## Baby News

**C**ongratulations to Dispatcher Leslie Joyner on the birth of her son, Jayden, on October 3, 2007. Jayden weighed in at seven pounds, 13 ounces and is doing great! **G**

**C**ongratulations to Officer Sarah Mikalauskas and her husband, Ben, on the birth of their daughter, Audra Sloane. Born on October 21, 2007, Audra weighed seven pounds, six ounces. All are doing well. **G**

**C**ongratulations also to Detective Bill Kellogg and his wife, Michelle, on the birth of their son, Alec Reno. Alec arrived on December 5, 2007, weighing in at six pounds, five ounces. **G**