



Montgomery County
Office of the Sheriff

Russell J. Bono, Sheriff



SHERIFF'S ROUNDUP

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First Quarter 2015

Happy spring! Our office is as busy as ever with the joint DUI Task Force, new security measures at the courthouse, training and community events. You may also follow us on social media for the latest news on Sheriff's Office activities. – *Russell J. Bono, Sheriff*



JOINT DUI TASK FORCE RECEIVES PORTABLE BREATHALYZERS FROM MADD

– Following an overnight raid of DUI offenders earlier this year, the joint DUI Task Force consisting of a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office DUI Unit, has received the support of Mothers Against

Drunk Driving (MADD). "Our part is to make sure that those who have been avoiding the court system are brought in and held responsible for their actions, and to hopefully avoid additional fatalities due to these drunk drivers," said Sheriff Bono. In April, the family of Pennsylvania State Trooper Kenton Iwaniec, who was killed by a drunk driver while on his way home from work, donated portable breathalyzer testers to be used in the courthouse. Defendants who show up drunk to their hearings may face harsher penalties or be required to sober up before their appearance.

MCSO HELPS UNVEIL ARCADIA UNIVERSITY'S NEW CRIME SCENE HOUSE

– Bomb Unit Commander Lt. Allen Stewart is an adjunct professor at Arcadia University where he teaches students how to conduct crime scene investigations. His relationship with the university has given the MCSO the benefit of using the campus and crime scene house for emergency preparedness training exercises, as well as giving the students hands on investigative experience.



BOMB THREATS AT THE COURTHOUSE - Two bomb threats to the courthouse over the past few months forced the evacuation of hundreds of employees, jurors and visitors. "This is a very huge complex with many, many places where a device could be hidden," said Sheriff Bono during a press interview. Both times, the courthouse was cleared within two hours. It's a job that could have easily taken several more hours depending on resources, which highlights the importance of collaboration with other agencies. K9 Unit Commander and Bomb Unit member Cpl. Richard Miles was able to call on K9 Units that were off-duty to help out. Having these special relationships is critical not only for good response times but better outcomes. "I just want people to know that when they call on any of our K9 Units that they are getting professional and educated handlers that have worked and trained well together," Cpl. Miles said.

TIGHTER COURTHOUSE SECURITY INCLUDES EMPLOYEES

- New security procedures require everyone entering the courthouse, including employees, to go through the screening checkpoints at entrances. These new rules were based on months of research findings by top Montco officials who had been evaluating security measures.

A NEW LOOK FOR THE MCSO!

Our deputies, corporals and sergeants have traded in their white shirts for dark blue ones. Sheriff Bono said, "This change helps sharpen the image of our office and enhances the professionalism of our staff by making them more identifiable as highly trained officers, who can handle any dangerous situation." The new shirts also help with another problem. "White shirts are hard to keep clean and professional looking. This change will help keep our staff looking good at all times."



CERT TEAM TRAINING - Twenty-five deputies turned out to join the reorganized County Emergency Response Team training on February 4, 2015. Sheriff's Office CERT members assist with high risk trials, high risk warrants, emergencies within the courthouse and cell extractions. In late December 2014 the CERT team assisted Upper Merion Police Department and the Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) by providing arrest teams, less lethal grenadiers and CUT teams during protests at the King of Prussia Mall.

SHERIFF BONO COLLECTS CELL PHONES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS – Do you have an unwanted cell phone and charger? Bring it in! “We just hope to help these victims feel a little safer, knowing that they have a phone to use in the event of an emergency,” said Bono.



Purple collection boxes are in the following locations:

- Montgomery County Courthouse Main St. and Swede St. entrances
- Youth Center, 540 Port Indian Rd., Norristown
- Human Services Center, 1430 DeKalb St., Norristown

TASER TRAINING IN FEBRUARY – Taser guns are serious weapons. They require a full day of training to make sure our law enforcement staff knows how to use them safely and effectively. Sheriff Bono said, “Safety is always our highest priority.” “Ideally, we don't want to have to use force. But, our officers who get tasered will have a better vantage point from which to base their decision on whether to use the weapon or not.”



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Sheriff Bono and Chief Richet are members of the MCBLEOA, whose mission is to bring excellence to the law enforcement profession. Several local government officials attended

the event including District Attorney Risa Ferman, who won the Oscar Vance, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring speech by the City of Philadelphia District Attorney R. Seth Williams (center in photo).



BIENVENUTI! ITALIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS INVADE THE COURTHOUSE TO BEGIN THEIR U.S. TOUR



Sheriff Bono hosted 27 high school honors exchange students from Montella, Italy in April. The Norristown Sister Cities Student Exchange program, which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year, is part of a 20-year sister cities relationship between Montella and Norristown.

While they were here, the students got a tour of the courthouse with Cpl. Edward Mesunas, who showed them the kinds of hidden weapons that people attempt to bring into the courthouse talked about other daily courthouse activities. Judge Thomas C. Branca opened his courtroom to explain how U.S. and county courts work and District Attorney Risa Ferman talked about her experiences as a prosecutor. Commissioner Chair Josh Shapiro also stopped in to explain how county government works.