

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Serving the Park Law Enforcement Community for over 26 Years

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE TO PLEA

by Steve Newsom, PLEA President

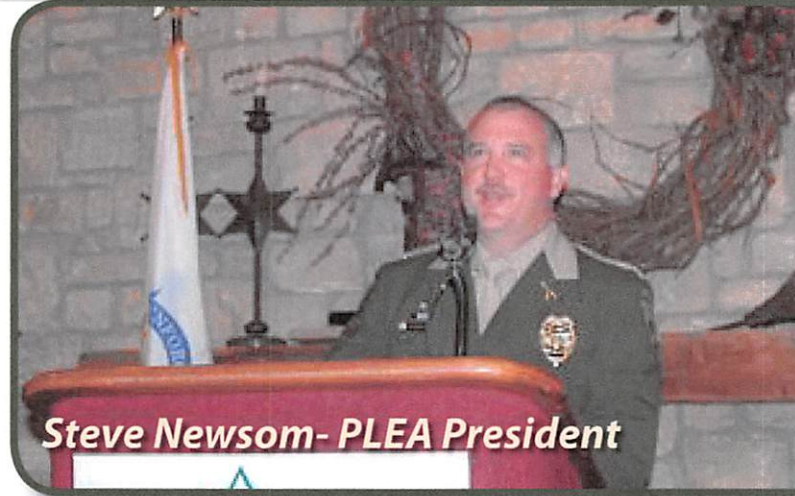
Greetings, PLEA Members and Park Law Enforcement Professionals.

I was thinking recently about my past year as PLEA President and couldn't believe a full year has gone by. Where has the time gone? I'm not really sure, but I can see that it's been a good year for PLEA. I really believe this organization is on the move. I speak with Executive Director, Carl Nielsen, at least once a week and he is banging our drum around the country.

The first news I want to report on is the upcoming conference in Chicago which will be hosted by the Illinois PLEA Association; Forest Preserve District of Dupage County, Illinois; Forest Preserve District of McHenry County, Illinois. They have put together a team of instructors and vendors that will provide some outstanding training opportunities. Please check out this conference by clicking on the website registration form at www.parkranger.com. This is the first time PLEA has stepped out of the box and did a training conference in the summer. I think it's great and I hope to see as many park law enforcement professionals from around the country as possible. I guarantee you'll learn something, share something, and have a great time. The Illinois team is working hard to put on an excellent conference.

Secondly, our organization has attracted new interest in PLEA from officers, sponsors and administrators alike. I've received many calls in my office about PLEA and have explained our mission and purpose. We added new members to our Board of Directors - Gary Dodson from Oregon and Ray Castro from San Antonio. It's good to see involvement in our organization from these areas of the country. New sponsors have jumped on board because of our persistent phone calls and attendance at trade shows. PLEA has formed a Speakers Bureau and is soliciting members to be a part of it. If you want to be involved, please contact us. With this bureau we will be able to offer quality park law enforcement training in our field around the country.

This is an exciting time for PLEA and I believe in this great organization. We need more of you out there to join us. We have a new fee structure for agencies thus allowing an agency to include all their officers as members of PLEA for one price. It's really a great deal because it's based on the size of your agency. Many professionals from around the country use our website for information and networking. If you use the website and have never attended a conference,



or participated in PLEA, I challenge you to get involved. Please join online or in person at this year's conference. As always, if you have ideas for PLEA, don't hesitate to contact one of our board members. Also, if you want to contribute to our newsletter please contact our editor, Mike Burko, from Lake County Metro Parks in Ohio. Contact info is posted on the website. Please share your experiences and knowledge with other professionals in your field.

In closing, your input and suggestions on what PLEA can offer to its members are always welcome. It seems that where budgets are concerned, an agency is likely to make its first cuts in their law enforcement divisions. The knowledge we bring back to our administrators from our conferences will, hopefully, have positive impacts on their decisions. We all know that successful parks, preserves and natural areas need us now more than ever.

Finally, I hope as you prepare for the upcoming spring and summer everyone stays safe by being alert, smart and professional about the decisions you make. Remember we are all in this together and we reflect our image of each other by our actions and doing the right thing.

Keep up the good work and be safe

Steve Newsom- PLEA President

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PLEA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



- June 5th** PLEA Board Meeting (9 AM)
Vendor Booths open (5 – 7PM)
- June 6th** EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS
Featured Presenter – *Gordon Graham*
Topic: *Why Things Go Wrong – Why Things Go Right*
Vendor Booths Open (9AM – 5PM)
- June 7th** General Membership Meeting (9AM)
Behind the Scene Tours of the Chicago Park District's "Soldier Field" Home of the NFC Champion Chicago Bears and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources & the Chicago Police Department Marine Unit Facilities (Buses leave the Hotel at 11AM)
- June 8th** Morning Educational Session (9 – 11AM)
Featured Presenter – *Tom Mefferd*
Topic: *Developing and Implementing Disaster Plans*



There will be networking sessions both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings
On Thursday, for spouses & guests, there will be a bus trip to Michigan Ave.



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2007 Conference Banquet:

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(Additional fee of \$100 for spouse/guest)



2007 Conference Registration

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY BELOW:

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Agency: _____
Agency Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Position: _____ Department: _____
Contact Phone Number: (____) _____ Fax#: (____) _____

Second Registrant Information (also use this area for spouse/ additional guest)

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
Agency: _____
Agency Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Position: _____ Department: _____
Contact Phone Number: (____) _____ Fax#: (____) _____

Conference Fees:	Prior to April 30	After May 1st	Number	Total
Conference Registration:	\$300.00	\$350.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
Dinner Cruise Fee for extra guest		\$100.00 x _____	=	\$ _____
Total Registration				\$ _____

•Full Conference Registration fee includes educational materials, access to vendor booths, bus transportation and guided tours of Soldier Field and Marine Unit facilities, Wednesday lunch and Thursday conference banquet.

Will need a shuttle from the airport? Yes ____ No ____ (Shuttle service will be available Tuesday and Friday afternoon only)

If Yes, Arrival time, airline, FLT # _____

Will be attending Stadium & Marine Unit Tours? Yes ____ No ____

I am interested in purchasing a PLEA Conference Shirt? Yes ____ No ____

The cost for the shirt will be \$25.00, paid at the conference. Size L ____ XL ____ XXL ____

To Register by Fax:

Please complete this form and fax to

(815) 334-2879

ATTN: Chief Jeff Diedrick

[click here to register and pay for conference online](#)

To Register and Pay with check by mail please complete this form and mail to
McHenry County Conservation District
18410 U.S. Hwy 14
Woodstock, IL 60098
ATTN: Chief Jeff Diedrick

Please make all checks out to "IPLEA"
If you will require any special accommodations please contact
Deputy Chief Rick Haake at 630- 871-6417.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS



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Lisle, Illinois, USA
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Fax: 630 852 1260

From O'Hare International Airport (22 miles):

Follow the Signs Out Of the Airport to 294 South. Take 294 South To I-88 West. Follow I-88 West To Route 53 South. Exit Route 53 South and Go Through the First Stoplight. The Hyatt Lisle Driveway is On the Right Hand Side

From Midway Airport:

Take Cicero Avenue (Route 50) North to I-55 South to I-355 North. Follow I-355 North to I-88 West to Route 53 South. Exit Route 53, proceed South past Warrenville Road and turn right into the hotel.

From the Western suburbs/Iowa:

Take I-88 East To Naperville Road Exit. Make A Left at the Light. Make A Right At The Immediate Light - Warrenville Road. Go 4 Stoplights and Then Turn Right Into the Hyatt Lisle. The Hyatt Lisle Is Located At The Intersection Of Warrenville Road And Route 53.

From the near South suburbs:

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From the North suburbs:

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EDITORIAL

by Mike Burko

I have noticed a development in Ohio that at first glance appears to be troubling to park law enforcement. Within the last few years, at least three agencies, Elyria City Parks, Anderson Township Park District and most recently Hancock County Park District have all abolished their Ranger Department.

Although it may be too early to call this a trend, it is unsettling for the park law enforcement community in the Buckeye state.

I had the opportunity to discuss these closures with two of the above agencies. Although both admitted they enjoyed having Rangers, it became no longer financially advantageous to maintain them. They admitted that they could contract their law enforcement needs to other agencies and save money. I found this surprising given the specifically tailored services that a Ranger Department gives to a larger agency.

There seems to be a point where either an agency is too small or there are too many agencies to contract with that makes it unfeasible. From strictly a law enforcement perspective, another concurrent agency (Sheriff, local police department) may be able to enforce state law as it applies to parks, but protection of natural features and visitor safety and education cannot be easily replicated.

We have heard a lot about regionalization in this post 911 environment. Many agencies are exploring the possible financial implications of regionalization. I have always felt that Ranger Departments bring too many inherently specific qualities to the table to make them vulnerable in such a way.

If there is a silver lining to be found in these events, for me it would be that our agency continues to evaluate the quality and quantity of services provided.

I know in financially tightening cycles tough decisions may need to be made, but I also know that Rangers are completely dedicated to providing a safe and enjoyable place for individuals to recreate, a quality that is not easily replaced.

PLEA needs your help! Visit our discussion board at www.parkranger.com and contribute your ideas and experience. We want to know how you think PLEA can grow as an organisation and how we can best fulfill our mission of helping the park law enforcement community. There is a forum topic set up for this, so please contribute and let us know how you think PLEA can add value to its members and continue to fulfill our mission.

CRIME PREVENTION IN PARKS USING CPTED

"CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment which may lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement of the quality of life." - National Crime Prevention Institute

The use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to examine existing and planned park facilities goes back many years, although in many cases, it is still considered a new approach to an old problem; how can we prevent crime. The perception of an unsafe park environment has a huge impact on the use and satisfaction communities have in their parks and recreational facilities.

The Prince George's County Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Park Police began in earnest a couple years ago, when we began directly applying the principles of CPTED to make changes to physical environments specifically to make them safer, and to also apply these principles to plans and blueprints of future facilities

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) developed out of the realization that a constructed environment effects both crime and the fear of crime. CPTED is defined as the proper design and effective use of the built environment that reduces the incidence of crime and the fear of crime.

Beyond this definition has grown a greater reality. Target groups, local demographics, specific uses and conflicts of uses in any given area can result in problems. We must consider the intended and unintended impacts on adjacent areas and local services when one changes the environment. CPTED is a process that involves the review of site plans, and evaluates the physical environments. Implementation of its principles enhances natural surveillance, access control and territoriality. All designs must focus on these three principles.

CPTED places an emphasis on these areas:

- *Physical Environment*
- *Behavior of People*
- *Productive use of Space*
- *Crime / Loss Prevention*

We utilize five basic principles of CPTED in our park system. They are: Territoriality, Surveillance, Activity Support, Access Control and Maintenance. Let's take a look at each one of these principles.

TERRITORIALITY

It is natural for humans to take more interest in something they own. Designing an environment that clearly delineates our private space does two things:

1. *It creates a sense of "ownership" which fosters behavior that challenges abuse of that space or unwanted acts in that space. Owners have a vested interest and are more likely to report intruders to the police.*
2. *It also creates a sense of "my space", and designs an environment where strangers or intruders stand out and are more easily identified.*

EXAMPLE: Many of our communities mark their territory with signage at the entrance, identifying the community on a wall or fence. Use of "Neighborhood Watch" signs is another way to designate space or territory. Territory can also be further marked with the proper use of hedges, or fences around the property.

To reinforce the sense of transition from public to semi-public to private space in a rental community the use of gardens in front of the buildings should be encouraged. Another way to demonstrate the same transition would be to create a change in elevation from the sidewalk to the main entrance walkway.

SURVEILLANCE

Most criminals do not want to be observed while committing crimes. Environments need to be created that provide people with an opportunity for people to observe the space around them.

EXAMPLE: A parking lot that is in plain view of the structure it serves and is easily observed by employees or people walking or driving by significantly reduces thefts and other crimes. It has been noted that parking lot users feel safer within an unobstructed environment. Office buildings can be made more observable by using landscaping and motion sensitive lighting. Trimming existing landscaping to

create open spaces around doors and windows also increases visibility and can be accomplished while retaining shade and attractiveness.

ACTIVITY SUPPORT

Activity support involves placing activity where participants can become part of the "natural surveillance" system.

EXAMPLE: Placing baseball fields, soccer fields, volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts in a community park will attract active people from within that community. This helps to displace or discourage criminal activity or other undesirable behavior. (It is also important to make sure there is no "user conflict" when placing activities in a park. For example: a basketball court adjacent to a children's tot lot is not desirable because of the wide range of users in the same area. Small children in the tot lot and inappropriate language from the basketball court are not appropriate). Locating office windows in a clear view of outdoor rest or smoking areas is a prime example of providing both natural surveillance and activity support, since the office is usually staffed throughout the work period.

ACCESS CONTROL

Most criminals enter through areas that are not easily observed. Limiting access and increasing natural surveillance keeps them out altogether or helps mark them as intruders.

EXAMPLE: Businesses can control access of visitors by placing a receptionist or security guard in the lobby of the building to monitor who enters and leaves. Another way to control access is by natural landscaping around fences or boundary markers such as barberry or pyracantha whose thorns discourage anyone from climbing over or across the barrier.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance serves as an additional expression of territory or ownership. Adequate maintenance prevents the reduction of visibility or natural surveillance from overgrowth and identifies inoperative or obstructed lighting. The overall effectiveness of the original CPTED survey would be compromised without scheduled maintenance of the property involved.

EXAMPLE: Regular scheduled maintenance should be performed to keep landscaping from becoming a factor in reducing natural surveillance of an area. Scheduled maintenance is also important for lighted facilities in making sure the lamps are working properly and regular cleaning is performed on the lens cover of the lamp.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, (CPTED) is not just for architects and planners but is intended to include everyone: employees, neighbors, business owners, service organizations, professional groups students, residents and police.

The use of these principles to guide construction, renovation, and maintenance of parks and park facilities has greatly enhanced our division's relationship with the Park and Planning Commission by being an example of our commitment to crime prevention as well as response. This has also had a positive effect on our relationship with the communities we serve, affecting both the perception of our agency and the safety of the park system.

Capt. Ron Pierce

Director, Investigative Operations
MD. -National Capital Park Police
Prince George's County Division

Ohio OPRA LE /PLEA

Ohio CART (Child Abduction Response Team) is a coordinated response for the safe and quick return of abducted children. It is a network of trained individuals from various agencies, jurisdictions and disciplines who are prepared to respond to specific at risk missing, endangered, or abducted children. CART uses all available resources to assist the jurisdiction in which the incident occurred the search and rescue of the victim

Ohio CART is divided into 8 Regions in the state of Ohio. Park Law Enforcement is and could play an important role in the CART Operations Section with regards to search and rescue operations. At a recent CART training in Region 2 that is made up of a five county area (Northeast) there was several Park Law Enforcement personal in attendance. Each agency there is committed to this program and hopes to work together with "Bring Them Home Alive".

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police supports Ohio CART, along with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio AMBER alert Steering Committee.

PARK OFFICERS IN THE NEWS

Youngstown park officer shoots, wounds attacker

By JOE GORMAN *Tribune Chronicle*

YOUNGSTOWN — Joe Morley said his first thought after learning park police officer Jerry Stanley shot somebody Monday afternoon is that the person deserved it.

Morley, who was walking his dog Wheezie in Wick Park shortly after Stanley shot Bienvenido Carmona in the hand about 3:20 p.m., said if someone cannot get along with the officer, they cannot get along with anybody.

Police say the shooting was the result of Carmona attacking the officer with a pipe.

"If he shot the guy, he had it coming," Morley said.

At 9:30 p.m. Monday, nursing staff at St. Elizabeth Health Center reported Carmona was in surgery.

Stanley was also taken to the hospital for treatment of scratches on his face, bruises on his back, a swollen right hand and possible internal injuries, a police report said. Lt. Rod Foley said Stanley will be re-interviewed again today because he was very shaken up Monday.

Foley, head of the police department's Internal Affairs Division, said Stanley, 52, works for the city Park Department but has a commission as a police officer, which means he has the same powers and privileges as a member of the city's police force.

His supervisor is the head of the Park Department, Foley said.

Foley said he is handling the investigation because a city employee is involved. The Internal Affairs Division is responsible for investigating whenever a police officer fires a weapon.

Foley said Stanley was working at Wick Park when he saw Carmona approach the park from Illinois Avenue carrying some type of pipe, which may have been copper.

When Stanley asked Carmona what he intended to do with the pipe, Carmona began hitting Stanley with it, Foley said.

Stanley was fending off Carmona and thought of going for his gun, but instead reached for his asp, a baton-type tool, reports said. However, Carmona knocked Stanley's gun to the ground, and the pair wrestled for it, Foley said.

Stanley managed to wrest the gun away from Carmona and was getting ready to put it back in its holster, but

Carmona would not stop the attack.

Stanley, at that point, feared for his life, Foley said. A police report stated that Carmona was charging again and ignoring orders to stop when Stanley shot him.

"He said, 'I had to shoot him, he's going to kill me,'" Foley said.

After Carmona was wounded, he ran away with pipe in hand with Stanley bellowing on the police radio that he was chasing a man. City police officers caught Carmona, 41 of 314 North Garland Ave., a short time later and took him to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Jimmy Howie, who lives in one of the group homes around the park, said he saw the incident.

"He (Carmona) beat the hell out of him," Howie said.

Howie, who spoke to police, said he was sitting on a bench when he heard a commotion and saw Stanley being beaten. He said he saw Stanley's gun on the ground and Stanley pick it up and fire it.

Morley was at the pavilion in the park a couple of hours after the shooting and said he learned about it from a television reporter who was at the park. He said Stanley is one of the main reasons he walks Wheezie in the park.

"He just seems to know everyone who comes in here," Morley said. "He's a very down-to-earth good guy."

Morley said he has walked his dog at the park regularly and has never experienced any problems. He said part of the reason for that is Stanley, who he said seems to notice someone who may not belong but has such a disarming way about him that he is able to find out what they are doing without agitating them.

"I think that's why people come here," Morley said. "He'll just go and talk to them."

Last year, city police officers were forced to use their weapons twice. In the first instance, an officer shot a man in the buttocks following a brief vehicle chase on the East Side. In the summer, a city officer and a Boardman officer were involved in a shooting where a man robbing a Walgreens just outside the city limits on the South Side was killed.

jgorman@tribune-chronicle.com

Reporters Bill Rodgers and Marly Kosinski contributed to this article.

PARK OFFICERS IN THE NEWS

Naperville Parks officer to be honored

By Amy Boerema

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Posted Friday, January 19, 2007

When he spotted an empty prescription bottle, Naperville Park District police officer David White knew something was wrong. When the teen in the car began shaking and vomiting, he knew something was really wrong.

White, 50, was doing a last-minute check of Knoch Knolls Park on Sept. 6, telling visitors the park was closed, when he spotted the boy in his car.

After the youth got sick, White called 911 and paramedics took the boy to Naperville's Edward Hospital.

Turns out, White's call saved the boy's life. White will be honored for his actions by park commissioners at their Feb. 8 board meeting at city hall, 400 S. Eagle St.

White said he didn't immediately know anything was wrong, but it became clear after he tried to talk with the boy.

"I found out he was there because he had (an argument) with his parents," he said. He also noticed the empty bottle of prescription pills.

"In the middle of (talking) he began to get sick, he began to throw up," White recalled. "He had chills and almost went into convulsions."

Instincts kicked in: White called authorities and then followed them to the hospital.

After he was stabilized, the boy told a doctor he had overdosed on prescription medication with an intention "to not wake up," White said. "My first thought was, 'I was glad I was there,'" he said. "Being a father of a teenager ... I was glad I was able to help him."

Work for White, who lives in Lisle, isn't usually that eventful. Besides his part-time job with Naperville, he also is a ranger at the Morton Arboretum.

Naperville Parks police Lt. Mike Harrington said he's glad to have White aboard.

"He is a very thorough individual," he said. "He likes to talk to people. He could've easily dismissed it and not looked into it. We're thankful he did."

The boy's family has pledged to start a scholarship fund in White's name for educational opportunities for the children of park police officers.

White said he has since heard the boy is doing OK. The family did not wish to talk about the incident for this story.

In December, White received a Park Police Life Saving Award at a park district staff meeting, given to him by the boy's mom, who also gave a short speech.

"It was very nice," White said. "I appreciated it as a parent."

PLEA would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors and encourage our members to patronize these Fine Companies that stand behind us and support the Park Law Enforcement community!



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PLEA Calendar of Events

June 6-8

2007 28th Annual PLEA Conference in Chicago

For room information- www.hyatt.lisle.com

Banquet, speakers, workshops, training, fellowship, spouse activities.

See page 2 for details.

Become a PLEA Member!

Just fill out this application and send it in with your check, money order, or credit card number! You'll be supporting this newsletter, the conferences and our mission to serve our parks and the public in the best possible way by sharing information and resources within the park law enforcement community.

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