

## POLICE/FIRE BRIEFS

### Dover man arrested on burglary charges

DOVER — Police have arrested a suspect in connection with eight burglaries in Dover since Jan. 4.

Dover Police Department spokesman Capt. Tim Stump said officers responded to an alarm at the U.S. Gas station at 461 N. Du Pont Highway in Dover at about 3 a.m. on Wednesday. He said police saw a man on a bicycle carrying large garbage bags which contained an assortment of cigarettes he apparently had just stolen from the business. Capt. Stump said the man arrested was



**James E. Smith**

responsible for seven additional burglaries in Dover at the following locations: Jan. 4, Stop and Shop, 1102 White Oak Road; Jan. 30, Happy Harry's, 261 N. Du Pont Highway; Feb. 6, Driftwood Spirits, 153 S. Bradford St.; Feb. 7, McKee Crossing Liquors, 10005 College Road; April 6, U.S. Gas; April 13, U.S. Gas; May 17, Driftwood Spirits. James E. Smith, 42, of 62 S. New St., Dover, was charged with eight counts each of third-degree burglary, theft and criminal mischief, and a single count each of wearing a disguise during commission of a felony and possession of burglar tools.

### Judge: Suspect OK to be held without bail in shooting

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A judge has found that the state has enough evidence to continue holding a suspect in the fatal shooting of a Georgetown police officer without bail.

A Superior Court judge made the ruling Wednesday after a proof positive hearing in Georgetown for Derrick Powell of Cumberland, Md.

Powell is charged with first-degree murder in the death of officer Chad Spicer.

Powell's trial is scheduled to begin Oct. 11.

### Fire in vacant Milton house ruled arson

MILTON — Investigators have determined a fire in a vacant Milton-area house Wednesday morning was set on purpose.

Chief Deputy Delaware State Fire Marshal Randall Lee said no injuries were reported, and damages were estimated at \$10,000 at the house on the 16000 block of Shingle Point Road.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 847-3333 or the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office at 856-5600.

# Groups help promote mentoring

## Greater Dover Committee joins nonprofits; project in Capital district this fall

**By Jamie-Leigh Bissett**  
Delaware State News

DOVER — Three nonprofit organizations and the Greater Dover Committee have decided to join forces towards a common goal: providing a mentor to every young person in the state who wants and needs one.

On Wednesday, the GDC officially agreed to help Communities in Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware and Connecting Generations with their Youth Mentoring Program, which will be implemented in the Capital School District starting this fall.

"We believe that together, we can pool our resources and provide more services and better services for the kids in the Capital School District," said Joe Duffy, executive director for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

He said in the past the nonprofits have, in a way, competed against one another by trying to recruit the same people to be mentors for their respective programs.

Now, by collaborating, Robert Macleish, co-chair of the GDC Youth Committee and past president of GDC, said each organization can use their strengths and establish a coordinated effort to recruit and sustain a strong mentoring program.

Ed Dulin, treasurer for the GDC, and president of Independent Newspapers, Inc., the parent company of the Delaware State News, said the goals of the program are as follows:

- increase the number of young people with mentors in the Capital School District;
- increase the resources in the community dedicated to mentoring;
- promote quality standards for mentoring programs;
- improve student success;
- provide opportunities for high school students to give back to their communities by mentoring younger elementary students.

Mr. Dulin said the collaborative effort will allow each organization to reduce the cost of supporting mentors by sharing

"This is a great opportunity for our students to have access to a mentor."

— **Dr. Tina Huff,**  
**assistant superintendent,**  
**Capital School District**

each other's resources.

Rich Kapolka, executive director for Connecting Generations, said the eventual goal is to expand the mentoring program to every school in Kent County, and eventually the entire state.

Dr. Tina Huff, assistant superintendent for academic services for the Capital School District, which has been involved in a mentoring program for many years, said she could see why other school districts would be interested in participating in the youth mentoring program.

She added that she believes the collaboration between the three nonprofits and the GDC is a "great partnership" because "everyone has a lot to offer."

"This (program) will give us an opportunity to make our mentoring program larger and stronger across all 12 schools in the district," she said. "This is a great opportunity for our students to have access to a mentor. It's a no-brainer to be involved."

Being involved with the mentoring program is a no-brainer for many reasons, according to statewide statistics provided by Connection Generations and Mr. Kapolka.

During the 2008-09 school year, 92 percent of parents surveyed saw an improvement in their child because of mentoring, while 93 percent of those mentored said they enjoy school more because they were mentored.

Teachers also saw mentoring have a positive impact on their students, with 98 percent of them recommending that their students continue to be mentored the following year.

Mentors also found satisfaction with the program with 72 percent saying they felt more productive when they returned to work after mentoring.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters school-based mentoring program also saw posi-

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tive results when a student participated in the program.

Surveys revealed that 66 percent of mentored students improved academically, while 65 percent showed an increase in class participation.

In addition, 70 percent of students showed improved self-confidence as well as improved trust toward the teacher.

Students who were mentored also were more likely to graduate from college, less likely to use drugs, were satisfied with their relationships and family in general and more likely to engage and volunteer in their community.

And now that three nonprofits and the GDC have decided to partner up and provide more mentors for the Capital School District, Mr. Kapolka said the "hard work can begin."

"Our next step is to put together a recruitment campaign and set up training sessions for mentors," he said. "We also need to fully develop the application and the process the potential mentor will go through."

Mr. Kapolka said Connecting Generations will be largely responsible for the recruitment and training of the mentors, while Big Brothers Big Sisters will match the mentors with the mentees and supervise the process thereafter.

He said those interested in mentoring can fill out an application on Connecting Generations' Web site at [www.connecting-generations.org](http://www.connecting-generations.org).

In addition, he said two new initiatives will kick off in the near future, both also piloted in the Capital School District, including a program where high school students will mentor elementary students, as well as an e-mentoring initiative, where mentors will have the ability to engage youth through social networking sites and e-mail.

"We're really excited about this," Mr. Kapolka said.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### McKenna files for third term as Recorder of Deeds

DOVER — Betty Lou McKenna recently filed for a third term as Kent County Recorder of Deeds. A Democrat, Ms. McKenna was elected to the post in 2002 and re-elected in 2006.

The office is responsible for receiving and indexing for recording all legal documents pertaining to land, liens of mortgages, powers of attorney, and other items.

### Biden says son 'doing great'

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. says his son is "doing

great" three weeks after suffering a mild stroke. Biden said after an event in Manhattan on Wednesday that Delaware Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III is "100 percent recovered."

Beau Biden left Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia on May 18, a week after the episode.