



ISSUE

2

SPRING 2011

theAUTHORITY

PENNSYLVANIA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

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ATPA says “goodbye” to Julia K. Hearthway, Board Chairperson

After 16 years of service to the Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA), Ms. Julia K. Hearthway is leaving her post as ATPA Board Chairperson. Julia was appointed to the board in 1996 as the Attorney General’s designee, as the Deputy Attorney General in charge of the office’s Insurance Fraud Section. Governor Corbett nominated her in April to take over as Secretary for the Department of Labor and Industry.



Julia is credited with being the second chairperson, one of its longest standing board members and a true advocate for the reduction and prevention of auto theft in Pennsylvania. Julia took over the role as chairperson from the founding board member and first chairperson, Mr. Ronald Price. Julia’s tenure on the ATPA Board includes participation in the Legislative Committee, Grant Review Committee, and Public Relations Committee. In a related role, Julia served as Vice President of the Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft Committee, which is one of the founding member organizations of the ATPA.

The ATPA would like to express sincere appreciation for the leadership and dedication Ms. Hearthway has contributed. As the ATPA set out to recognize Julia’s achievements, it became clear that the memoirs of her service also tell the story of the growth of the organization—the history and success of the ATPA is intimately tied to her participation. The ATPA thanks Ms. Hearthway for her years of service and for the insight and determination to challenge convention and define new partnerships which have led to a reduction of auto theft in Pennsylvania. Julia will be formally recognized at the ATPA’s Grantee Conference this Fall.

Message from the Executive Director



In this issue of our newsletter, we recognize the contribution of Julia K. Hearthway, Chairperson of the ATPA Board of Directors. Ms. Hearthway has been nominated by Governor Corbett to Secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry. Julia will be leaving our board of directors after 16 years of service.

Ms. Hearthway joined the board of directors in 1996, and became the chairperson in 1998. Julia served on the legislative, grant review and public relations subcommittees, and was quite active in all aspects of the ATPA's efforts. Her insight, guidance and determination has directly impacted auto theft in Pennsylvania.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Julia's service, wisdom and dedication. It has truly been a pleasure to work with her, and she will be deeply missed.

Also in this issue, we present our 2010 statistics, which were recently published in the ATPA's Annual Report to the governor, legislature, and insurance industry. Since the inception of the ATPA, auto theft has declined by 68% in PA. Our grantees continue to work efficiently and effectively to combat auto theft in PA.

As we all enjoy the beautiful flowers and warmer weather that Spring has to offer, please don't forget to take the simple steps to protect yourself from becoming a victim of auto theft—lock your car, take your keys and never leave your vehicle running unattended. Along with the season of renewal, renew your commitment to travel smart and stay safe.

Michelle L. Staton
Executive Director
PA Auto Theft Prevention Authority

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THE AUTHORITY

is published by the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority. The Authority and its grantees receive operational funding from nearly 400 insurance companies operating in Pennsylvania. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us at:

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The ATPA continually strives to find new ways to combat and prevent auto theft in Pennsylvania. Here are a few note-worthy highlights.

ATPA Highlights

ATPA Hosts Defeating Anti-Theft Technology Training for Law Enforcement Grantees

The ATPA once again worked with expert, Earl Hyser, from State Farm Insurance, to present the latest in anti-theft technology and the ways thieves are defeating it. Mr. Hyser spoke to members from every grantee unit at a training event in New Cumberland. Earl updated the group on the technology that is out there which allows thieves to compromise, defeat and steal even the high-end vehicles with sophisticated anti-theft systems. Oftentimes, the technology the thieves are using goes undetected through the vehicle's high-tech on-board computer systems. It is amazing the technology that is out there, and how easily and cheaply it can be obtained. It is information sharing sessions such as this that keeps auto theft investigators up-to-date and allows the good guys to stay one step ahead of the bad guys in Pennsylvania. Thanks again to Mr. Hyser and State Farm for sharing the very valuable information with auto theft investigators.

ATPA Co-hosts VIN Etching Event with the Philadelphia Phillies

As part of the ATPA's partnership with the Philadelphia Phillies to educate vehicle owners in Southeast PA to protect themselves from becoming a victim of auto theft, the groups co-hosted a VIN etching event in May at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. The event was an opportunity to share the ATPA's auto theft prevention messaging, as well as provide a proven theft deterrent to vehicle owners in Southeast Pennsylvania.



THE AUTHORITY'S GRANTEEES

- Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
- Delaware County District Attorney's Office
- Good Shepherd Mediation Program
- Lancaster City Police
- Lehigh County District Attorney's Office
- Northeast Regional Task Force
- Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Central Region)
- Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Eastern Region)
- Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Western Region)
- Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
- Philadelphia Police Department
- Pittsburgh Police Department Auto Squad

Mark Your Calendars

June 12-16, 2011

Southeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (SE-IAATI) Conference
Pigeon Forge, TN



For more information, visit www.seiaati.org

August 14-19, 2011

Northeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft investigators (NE-IAATI) Conference
Atlantic City, NJ



For more information, visit www.neiaati.org

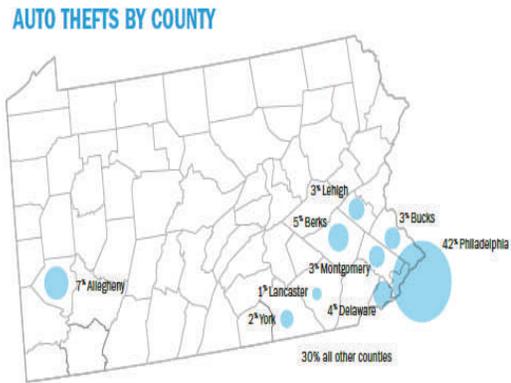
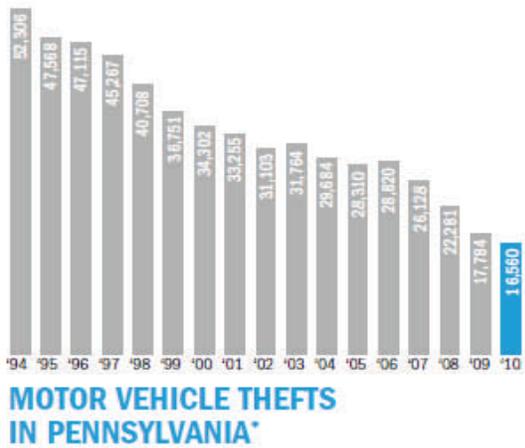
2010 Annual Report Released

In April, 2011, the Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) published their annual report for 2010. The report, designed to highlight another year of a success, also carried the theme of separating fact from myth throughout. Each year, the ATPA uses the annual report as their official communication to the Pennsylvania law makers who enacted the legislation that created the organization.

In 2010, the ATPA was able to celebrate another year of reduced auto theft rates, with the reduction in auto theft in the Commonwealth since our inception reaching 68%! This achievement is the direct result of the coordinated effort in Pennsylvania investigating, prosecuting and preventing theft. The report contains valuable statistics that illuminate the issue of auto theft in Pennsylvania – number of individuals arrested and convicted, types of arrests and the value of recovered vehicles and parts.



The full annual report is available on our website, www.watchyourcar.org. If you are interested in receiving a printed version of the report, please contact us at 717-591-7097.



3 children hurt as car rams into block party

A drunk driver in a stolen Volvo plowed through a North Philadelphia block party, injuring three young children—one seriously—who were playing in a moon bounce, police said.

The driver, a 54-year-old man, barreled down the 2600 block of Myrtlewood Street about 4:30 pm, police said. The car first crashed through picnic tables and a parked car, slightly injuring a 19-year-old man. The driver then hit the children and kept on. At 26th and Master Streets, the Volvo crashed into a BMW.

An off-duty officer at the scene pursued the driver and blocked the Volvo after it crashed on the 2600 block of West Sergeant Street. The driver backed up into the officer's vehicle in an attempt to flee, but the officer was able to apprehend him.

A 9-year-old boy who suffered a serious head injury was in critical condition at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. A 2-year-old girl and another 9-year-old boy were treated for injuries that were not life-threatening.

The driver is facing DUI and aggravated-assault charges.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Pizza driver carjacking teen suspects arrested

Three teenagers who police said carjacked two pizza delivery drivers have been captured.

An adult from Knoxville, and two teenagers (one of Beltzhoover and the other from Allentown) were arrested. Each was charged with robbery, conspiracy and receiving stolen property.

Police began searching for the young men about 10:22 pm, when a Fox's Pizza driver told them he had been robbed in the 300 block of Jucunda Street in Knoxville. He said he was delivering a pizza to an address when a man flagged him down. The driver got out of the car, pizza in hand, and walked toward the man, who punched him in the face, police said. He fell to the ground, and two other men repeatedly kicked him before they took the food and fled the scene in the driver's car.

The homeowner where the pizza was being delivered told police he had placed no such order.

The second attack happened at 11:09 pm in the 100 block of Millbridge Street in Allentown, where a Domino's driver said his car was stolen. He said he made a delivery and was returning to his idling Nissan Maxima when a man ran past him, got inside the car and took off toward Warrington Avenue.

An officer about 1:30 am spotted the Maxima and stopped it in the 900 block of Saw Mill Run. The second delivery driver was able to identify his assailants at the scene, said police, who also recovered the stolen Saturn.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Stolen car a poor Mother's Day 'gift'

A teenager was charged with stealing the car of a man who was dropping off Mother's Day gifts at his mother's home in Whitehall Township.

The 17-year-old of Allentown is being charged as an adult in the carjacking in the 200 block of First Avenue. He was arrested after leading police on a brief pursuit and then crashing in an alley in Allentown, police said.

According to court records: The victim told police he pulled up to the rear of his mother's house at 7:20 pm Sunday and began to unload Mother's Day presents, which were in the back seat. As he took out the gifts, two men approached him in the alley. One of the men asked him for a cigarette, but the victim said he didn't have one. The victim looked down on his cellphone to get the time, and when he looked up, the man had a handgun on him.

The man with the gun grabbed the victim's car keys and drove off in his car. The other man walked away. The victim called 911.

Dispatchers broadcast a description of the gunman and the vehicle. A Whitehall police officer spotted the car and activated his emergency lights and sirens and tried to stop the vehicle.

The driver went through a stop sign and a red light heading into Allentown. The car crashed in an alley behind the Little Apple Market in Allentown. The driver fled on foot, but was arrested in the 500 block of Park Street. Police said they found a black air pistol on the passenger-side of the vehicle.

The 17-year-old was charged with two counts of robbery of a motor vehicle, and one count each of theft, receiving stolen property, terroristic threats, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, fleeing or attempting to elude police, reckless endangerment, simple assault, driving without a license, reckless driving, and failing to stop at a red signal. He was sent to Lehigh County Prison under \$100,000 bail.

The Morning Call

Vehicles stolen from car lots

The three vehicles stolen locally were among 40 vehicles found in shipping containers in Elizabeth, NJ, on May 10, police said. The containers, recovered by the New Jersey State Police, were bound for Sierra Leone and South Africa.

Investigators determined that all of the vehicles were stolen along the East Coast. Among them were: a 2011 Honda Accord Cross-over stolen from Lehigh Valley Honda on Jan. 14; a 2008 Acura MDX stolen from Lehigh Valley Acura on March 18; and a 2011 Honda Pilot stolen from Lehigh Valley Honda on April 12.

The Morning Call

