



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

December 8, 2009

ARREST MADE IN SEPTEMBER HOMICIDE OF ELDERLY MAN

New Bern police have made an arrest in the murder of an 83-year-old man in September. **Stephen Leroy GATHERCOLE, 12/12/1948**, of 3001 Westminster Drive, Apartment C, was taken into custody Tuesday afternoon around 3 p.m.

On September 21, 2009, a maintenance worker called 911 after finding, **Edwin Banks Yarbrough, 03/08/1926**, of 3004 Westminster Drive, Apartment D, suffering from a head wound in his residence. **Yarbrough** later died at Pitt Memorial Hospital, and police began a homicide investigation following preliminary autopsy reports.

The final autopsy determined the cause of death to be blunt force trauma.

New Bern detectives had been interviewing witnesses and neighbors as part of an ongoing investigation since September. **Yarbrough** and **GATHERCOLE** both lived in the Westwood Arms Apartments on Westminster Drive.

GATHERCOLE was charged with an open count of murder and placed in the Craven County jail without bond. He is expected to make a first appearance in court Wednesday morning.

The investigation is on-going and anyone with additional information should contact police at 252-633-2020.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a **"Partner in Policing,"** by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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