

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Nassau County Police Memorial May, 2017

Behind the Badge Newsletter



**April - June
2017**

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

As we are getting settled in our new facility, we have moved property & supply over and will soon begin the transition for evidence. We are still finishing up with projects and goals such as installing a roof over the fuel pumps for more shade and protection from the weather while re-fueling vehicles and putting in a picnic area on the grass island just west of our Law Enforcement Memorial Plaza. These two projects will be done if we have enough money left over in our building construction budget.

We are working on getting easements signed so we can access the forty acres off of CR-108 at our new public safety training center site. Once that is done, we will start developing our plans there. It is exciting to be able to develop something that will move public safety in Nassau County to a higher level than ever before. Thanks to Senator Aaron Bean and Representative Cord Byrd, the Florida Legislature has graciously put \$500,000 in their budget to help us with construction costs, pending approval of the Governor.

We finished up our budget request for the next fiscal year starting October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, and turned it in to the County Manager's office as required by June 1st. Our goal for the next fiscal year is to continue keeping up with the growth of our county, as well as making sure we have the technology and resources necessary for our personnel to do their jobs efficiently and effectively.

I am very proud to announce that our agency is only the 5th law enforcement agency in the state of Florida that's accredited in all three divisions of Law Enforcement, Corrections and Communications. Job well done!

Please stay safe!

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Nassau County Law Enforcement memorial

Our Nassau County Law Enforcement Memorial Service was held on Wednesday, May 10th, 2017 in a combined service for the Sheriff's Office, Fernandina Beach Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol. This will be our first ceremony at our new facility.

"Every day, public safety officers work tirelessly to protect our citizens, enforce our laws, and keep our neighborhoods safe. We owe a profound debt to all those who have worn the badge, and to the families whose care enables them to serve with courage and pride" said

Sheriff Bill Leeper. "When the unthinkable happens and officers give their lives or are seriously injured in the line of duty, we have an obligation to give their loved ones the support they deserve" continued Leeper.

The ceremony included a special unveiling of the plaque honoring Deputy Eric Oliver who died in the line of duty on November 22, 2016.

The following Fallen Officers were honored:

Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Eric J. Oliver (November 22, 2016): Deputy Oliver died in the line of duty while assisting Border Patrol pursuing an individual who fled on foot going across A1A and Deputy Oliver was struck by a vehicle and sustained fatal injuries.

Chief Bailiff Lewis Hailey (September 15, 1992): Chief Hailey was killed in a automobile crash on State Road 200, between Yulee and Callahan.

Deputy Jeremiah Mattox (March 13, 1954): Deputy Mattox was shot and killed after responding to a domestic dispute in Fernandina Beach.

Deputy Everett E. Johns (December 6, 1905): Deputy Johns was shot on the south end of Amelia Island attempting to apprehend an individual for an outstanding warrant for theft.

Deputy Jasper N. Higginbotham (July 21, 1895): Deputy Higginbotham was shot in the Callahan area while attempting to arrest an individual on a warrant.

Deputy Joseph W. Robinson (May 16, 1891): Deputy Robinson was the first NCSO Deputy killed in the line of duty. He was fatally shot while apprehending a violent fugitive in the Fernandina Beach area.



Nassau County Law Enforcement memorial

Fernandina Beach Police Department

Chief James Surrency (December 8, 1930): Chief Surrency was shot while responding to a murder call in Fernandina Beach.

Florida Highway Patrol

Trooper Charles Parks (February 6, 1973): Trooper Parks was shot during the apprehension of two armed robbery suspects on I-95.

Hilliard Police Constable

Constable Alfred H. Crews (November 1, 1952): Constable Crews was killed in an automobile crash on US-1 north of Hilliard.



NCSO earns triple accreditation

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office earns reaccreditation in Corrections & Law Enforcement and initial accreditation in 911 Communications becoming only the 5th law enforcement agency in Florida to hold accreditation in all three divisions.

On June 20, 2017, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Jail & Detention Facility was re-accredited for the third time by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC). On June 21, 2017, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Operations was re-accredited for the second time by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). On June 22, 2017, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Division obtained their initial accreditation by the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition (FPAC) at the Florida Accreditation Commission Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is only the 5th law enforcement agency within the state of Florida to be accredited in all three divisions.

Sheriff Bill Leeper accepted all three accreditation certifications on behalf of each member of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, which is good for the next three years. "Maintaining accreditation status ensures the Nassau County Sheriff's Office meets the highest professional standards set by the Commission," said Sheriff Leeper. "As Sheriff of Nassau

County I will continue to work tirelessly to meet, and exceed, the high standards set by FCAC, CFA and FPAC to provide the citizens of Nassau County with professional, accountable, effective, and efficient public safety services."



Picture:

Picture Left to Right: Sheriff Bill Leeper, Patrol Deputy B. Schmidt, Detention Deputy J.R. Witt, Communications Officer Linda Ottinger and Accreditation Manager Lawanna Ware.

NEWS CORNER

NCSO Lieutenant Graduates from FSA Commanders Academy

Sheriff Bill Leeper announced today that Nassau County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Lynda Graham along with sheriff deputies and personnel representing 30 Florida sheriffs' offices graduated from the fifth Florida Sheriffs Association's prestigious Commanders Academy in Tallahassee on Friday, June 9, 2017. The Commanders Academy is an exceptionally informative and educational experience that is essential for the next generation of public safety leaders. The Commanders Academy provides a comprehensive curriculum and offers programs on leadership skills, business and personal ethics, management training and other topics that relate to the law enforcement profession.

"The Commanders Academy has been recognized as the premier course of executive study for mid to upper level criminal justice leaders," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "This training program prepares individuals for senior leadership in 21st Century American policing."

In addition to successfully completing this two-week training course, Commanders Academy Class 5 also raised \$17,054.64 for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. This generous donation will help support the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches in preventing delinquency and to develop lawful, resilient and productive citizens.



Sergeant Robin Patterson was nominated for entry into the Florida Leadership Academy. The Florida Leadership Academy is designed for Florida's first-line supervisors that illustrate potential for growth as a leader in their respective agencies and in the criminal justice field. Sgt. Patterson will represent the agency as a future leader in the law enforcement profession.

NEWS CORNER

OPERATION MARCH SADNESS

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office announced the results of *Operation March Sadness*, which was an operation to reduce illegal drug activity within Nassau County.

Over the past several months the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division has conducted numerous undercover drug operations throughout Nassau County. Based on these operations 34 individuals have been arrested and one other is wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant.

"The people who were involved in this operation are not your casual drug user," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "These are drug dealers and repeat offenders. If we successfully remove the drug dealers and repeat offenders crime goes down."

A total of 35 people were involved for various drug-related charges during *Operation March Sadness*. Items seized were 149 pills; 37.0 grams of Cocaine; 87.7 grams of Methamphetamine; 375.2 grams of Marijuana; \$3,077 cash; 3 handguns and 1 shotgun.

"During 2016, twelve people died as a result of drug overdoses in our county, which is a 50 percent increase over 2015," said Leeper. "People who buy illegal drugs are playing Russian roulette with their lives. They have no idea what the drugs are cut with, or their potential potency."

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is continually seeking the community's help in reducing illegal drug activity and asks anyone who knows someone dealing illegal drugs to please let them know.

Operation
MARCH SADNESS

ZACHARY VERDIER JAMISON SALE OF MARIJUANA	XAVIER DWIGHT JAMISON ARMED SALE OF COCAINE	WESLEY EUGENE PARKER SALE OF COCAINE	WADE ERNEST TURNER SALE OF METH	VICTORIA BROUSSARD POSS OF METH	TINA WILLIAMS TRAFFICKING METH	RYAN JAMELL PETERSON SALE OF COCAINE
RANDALL GREY JONES SALE OF METH	PAUL DOUGLAS GEORGE JR SALE OF METH	NICOLE ELAINE SUTTON SALE OF METH	MILES ROYCE THOMPSON SALE OF A COUNTERFEIT SUBSTANCE	MICHAEL ALLEN WALKER SALE OF METH	MICHAEL KEITH GOGGINS SALE OF METH	MICHAEL HUNTER POTTS SALE OF METH
MELISSA LORRAINE AGRICOLA SALE OF CONTROLLED SUB	MARTY RAYSON GODWIN SALE OF COCAINE	MARK ALAN CURRIE SALE OF COCAINE	LISA MARIE FERGUSON SALE OF CONTROLLED SUB	KIMBERLY ROCHELLE WHITE SALE OF COCAINE	KENNETH CARLOS GAMBLE SALE OF COCAINE	KELLY DEAN LARIKANG JR SALE OF METH
KARA MICHELLE FERRELL SALE OF METH	JOYCE ANN ALLEN SALE OF METH	JENISIA LYNN BURNAN SALE OF METH/CONTROLLED SUB	JARED DONNIE BEAZELL SALE OF METH STILL AT LARGE	GARY NORMAN MONTGOMERY SALE OF METH	GARY LAMAR MEERS CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA	FRANK MALIK DRUMMOND SALE OF COCAINE
ERIC CHAUNCEY GREENE SALE OF CONTROLLED	DUSTIN STEPHEN GERACI SALE OF METH	CHERRILLE MONIQUE HOLCY SALE OF COCAINE	ANTONY JEVON BROWN SALE OF COCAINE	ALLEN JOHN LEMOS TRAFFICKING METH	ADAM PETER BELL SALE OF COCAINE POSS OF COCAINE	BOBBY SHANE SNIPE SALE OF METH

"If you are selling illegal drugs in Nassau County, your next sale could be the one that sends you to jail," Leeper added.

CORRECTION NEWS

The implementation of a ten person Tactical Response Team (T.R.T.) at the Jail occurred during 2016. This included numerous hours of training, as well as the purchase of specialized equipment. The additional TRT Team assists in the reduction of uses of force, as well as potential injury to officers and inmates.

The team has completed outside training certifying them in the equivalent of what a basic SWAT class would be but it's for corrections.



The T.R.T. mandate is maintain order, security and safety for all civilians, deputies, staff and inmates within NCSO corrections division. They train for the safe and effective resolutions of barricaded inmates within their cells thus conducting cell extractions, pod dominations/riot operations, high risk/profile/value inmate transports, contraband control, active shooter in correctional setting, escape inmate recoveries, in-custody tactical hostage rescue and any other tactical emergency that may occur within the confines of the corrections facility.

Another unit which is newly formed is the Corrections Intelligence Team (C.I.T.). The main function is monitoring of gangs, related materials and any other intelligence issues related to the Jail of as dictated by the office.



OPERATION DEADBOLT

The Florida Sheriffs Task Force and the Nassau County Sheriff's Office today announced "Operation Deadbolt," which is a program designed to provide public awareness and prevention of home and automobile burglaries. The operation will also share information and coordinate with other law enforcement agencies around the state of Florida in order to provide assistance if needed. The campaign kicks off on June 12, 2017 and continues through August 5, 2017.

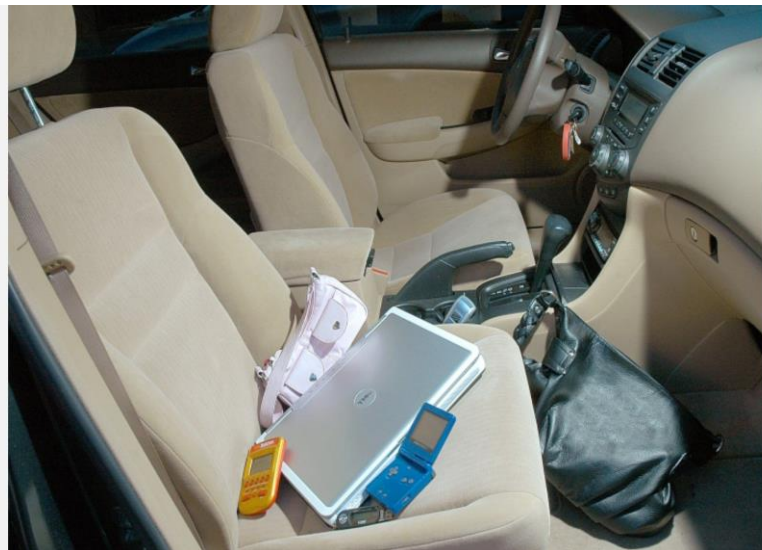


Home and automobile burglaries continue to occur throughout the state of Florida. Many of these home burglaries occur during weekday daytime hours in rural areas where neighbors are further away. Thieves target jewelry, firearms and other items of value they can sell or pawn quickly. Sheriffs have noted that in some cases these individuals target large events where several vehicles will be parked for hours at a time looking for valuables inside.

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is reminding residents to help crack down on home and vehicle burglaries – a crime of opportunity that can be stopped in a few simple steps.

Here are a few simple suggestions that will help deter a potential thief from targeting your home:

- Start by walking around your property looking for possible ways in which an intruder might get in. Check to make sure window latches and door locks are working properly. Keep them closed and locked at all times.
- Keep curtains closed and blinds shut.
- Keep the exterior of your property well-lit at night. Without the cover of darkness, home invasion becomes much more risky, and less attractive, for a would-be thief.
- Stay in communication with your neighbors. Communication among residents provides extra security to your neighborhood. Any information you can share is crucial to law enforcement working to prevent crime in your community.

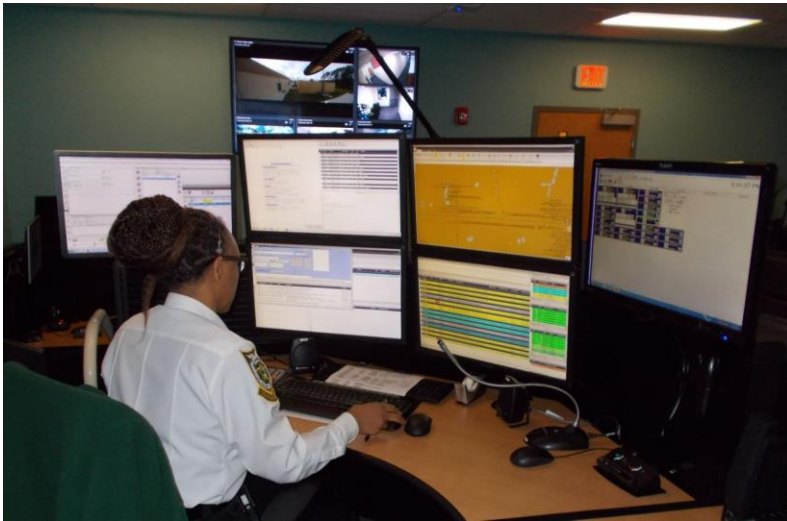


The top five common sense tips to prevent vehicle burglaries are:

- Keep windows closed and doors locked.
- Hide your valuables. Stash your things out of sight, preferably in a locked trunk.
- Stow your items before you park. Experienced thieves stake out parking lots to watch for people putting items in their trunk.
- Trust your instincts. Avoid parking in unlit or overly concealed areas.
- If you see someone suspicious, tell security or contact local law enforcement.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK 2017

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office recognized and commended the deserving women and men in our 911 Communications Center for the job they do each and every day during National Telecommunications Week



April 9 through April 15, 2017. The week is designated as a time when we all can thank public safety men and women who respond to emergency calls and dispatch emergency professionals and equipment during times of crisis. We can show gratitude to 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers that maintain radio and emergency phone systems, communications staff trainers, communications center personnel, and other public safety telecommunications staff who work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to help you during emergencies.

"The real first responder to any incident is the 9-1-1 communications officer. They are the person

picking up the phone and saying "9-1-1, where's your emergency? Our Communications Officers become the first contact for people who are in a crisis of some kind. They are the link that brings the Police, the Deputy Sheriff, the Firefighters, or the Paramedics and EMTs. They are the "first" First Responders," said Sheriff Leeper.

Many times these "unsung heroes" are overlooked or taken for granted. "Our Communications Officers and Supervisors do a tremendous job for the public safety community and are the lifeline between our deputies, officers, and fire/rescue personnel and their safety," Leeper said.

These telecommunications officers are known as the "voice without a face" to the motoring public and are normally the first to receive the call when assistance is needed.

Most of the time, the Communications Officer doesn't see the end result of the call. They've moved on to the next 9-1-1 call, and then the next. It's rare that they get to know the final outcome of the emergency, but the satisfaction of doing an important job to help the public is what drives them.

The satisfaction of helping in times of need is a prime motivator of 9-1-1 Communications Officers. They'll be back again tomorrow, to start all over again. "9-1-1, where's your emergency?"



Back The Blue Rock

Sheriff Bill Leeper finds a “Back the Blue” painted rock by the U.S. Post Office on Centre Street in Fernandina Beach.

Last year, the Pokémon Go craze made headlines for a brief spurt, but the latest treasure hunt trend to sweep the nation involves a lot less technology - in fact, it inspires a return to the basics. Painting, hiding and finding rocks has become a huge activity across the country, even right here in Nassau County, combining artistic creativity with the simple premise of a scavenger hunt.

Some people choose only to paint and hide rocks, while others opt to paint, hide and find, and in many cases, re-hide their findings. The creative rock project initially began in Memphis, Tennessee.

While the process of painting the rocks as well as finding the rocks can be an introspective process, the goal was simply to inspire others - both through the art on the rock and through the random act of kindness. Anyone who finds a rock is encouraged to share a picture on Facebook, then keep it or hide it again.



Welcome **OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



Kimberly Malott
Records Clerk



John Galloway
P/T CRO



Orival Thompson
Bailiff (p/t)



Thomas Crowder
Fleet Mechanic



Henry Holmberg III
Dispatcher



Darin Baine
Patrol Deputy



Ryan Schmidt
Reserve Deputy



Michelle Mellecker
EM Fiscal Specialist



Robert Jackson
Patrol Deputy



Deshonna Bagwell
Detention Deputy



Kady Southworth
Dispatcher



Barbara Ramirez
School Crossing Guard

Second Quarter Awards

Supervisor of the Quarter
Sgt. Cedric arline



Deputy of the Quarter
Jeremy Hyers



Detention Deputy of the Quarter
Matthew micah morgan



Investigator of the Quarter
Mark murdock



of the Quarter
Peter mctague



Civilian of the Quarter
Lawanna ware



Service anniversaries

25 YEARS

Shawn Mortimer, civil deputy

5 YEARS

Latressa carroll, civil/warrants

Caleb roy, fleet mechanic

Tracy williams, communications

Wisdom
Is knowing the
right path to
take . . .
Integrity
Is taking it

NCSO Blood Drive

Thanks to all you have come out and given blood! Your donation matters! You are saving lives! For those who didn't get a chance to give this last time, please come out next time and donate! Your donation can save up to 3 lives!

Thank you!



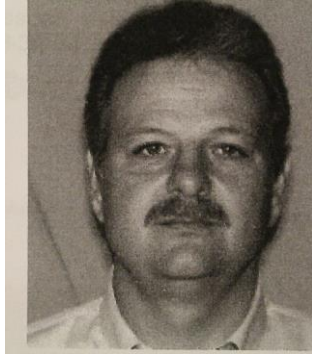
who?

Answers on page 20

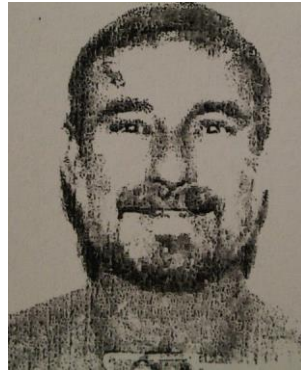
GUESS



1



2

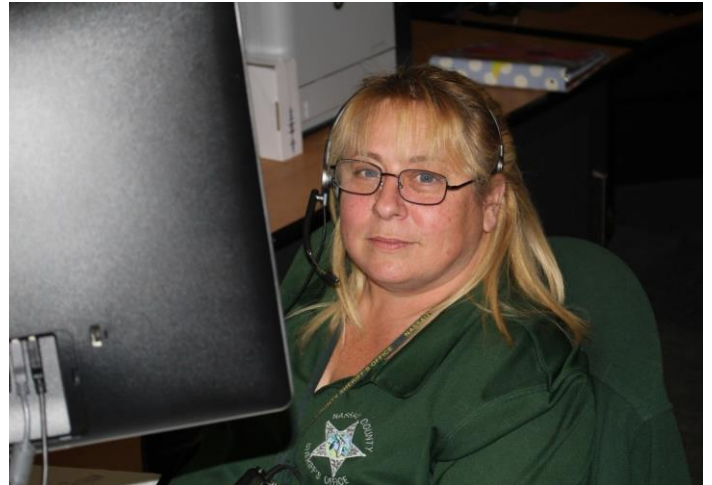


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BEHIND THE BADGE

Newsletter



Answers:

1. Doc McDonald

2. Sgt. Ken Davis

3. Don Brewer

4. Harry Fouraker

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office *Behind the Badge* Newsletter! If you have articles or information for the next newsletter, please contact Diana Crigger at 904-548-4063 or by email at dcrigger@nassauso.com

As always, please stay safe!

