

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



*Behind the
Badge
Newsletter*

*JULY to
SEPTEMBER
2017*



Eric Oliver Way

On Monday, July 31, 2017, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for Eric Oliver Way. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, County Staff, elected officials, public safety professionals and citizens gathered near the Target Shopping Center and Courtney Isles Way for the ceremony honoring Deputy Eric Oliver, who was killed in-the-line-of-duty on November 22, 2016.

“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.



Attendees paid tribute to Deputy Oliver who made the ultimate sacrifice for our community and voiced their appreciation for all those who currently serve on the front lines of the battle against crime.

Thanks go out to KIMCO Realty for allowing the road to be re-named in honor of Deputy Oliver, the Nassau County Professional Fire Fighters Local 3101 for purchasing the signs, County Manager Shanea Jones and her staff for putting the program together and the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners for their support of public safety.

Sheriff Leeper also thanked the dedicated

men & women of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and all public safety professionals who work tirelessly every day to protect our community. Without them, we would not enjoy the quality of life that we all do.

Deputy Oliver died doing what he loved to do serving and protecting our community. He will never be forgotten by our agency, by those who worked with him, by his family, by his friends and now, all those who pass Eric Oliver Way will remember him as well.

Deputy Oliver's Father, Mother and Grandmother cut the ribbon to open Eric Oliver Way.



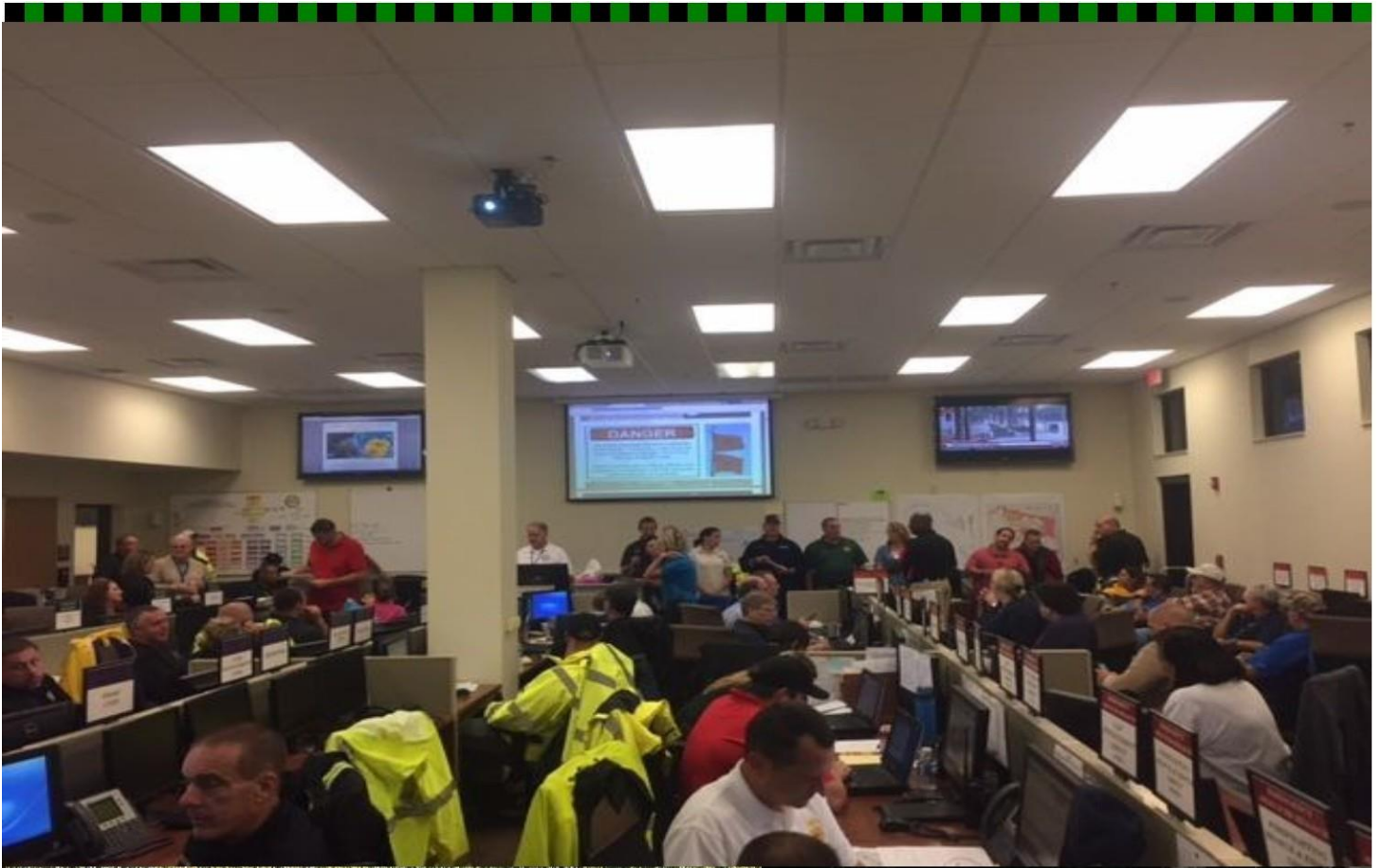
Hurricane Irma

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma came up the southwest coast of Florida through the middle of the state bringing severe tropical storm force winds to Nassau County. The county also saw tornados, torrential rains and severe flooding, particularly on the west side of the county. Once again, employees of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office were thrust into action before, during and after the storm to protect our citizens. They worked tirelessly day and night to make our county as safe as possible. They also worked very long hours, in the most severe weather conditions, responding to hundreds of calls for service and to assist and rescue folks in need. NCSO employees



are also citizens of our community who have families to worry about and take care of, as well as homes to protect during the storm too. When you call for help they respond to assist no matter what. Preliminary reports show over \$9 million dollars worth of damage occurred to homes, businesses and infrastructure.

HURRICANE IRMA



NCSO Deputies Capture Shooting Suspects

NCSO received a report of a shooting in Fernandina on South 17th Street. Several suspects fled in a silver colored 4-Door passenger vehicle. NCSO deputies spotted the vehicle heading westbound on A1A west of Chester Road in Yulee. The suspects turned north onto Gene Lasserre Blvd and then turned into the Catholic Church parking lot. Deputies captured 4 individuals at the car and one suspect fled into the woods west of the church. Deputies set up a perimeter around the wooded area and utilized a K-9 tracking dog to trail the suspect and also utilized a drone to fly overhead to visually observe movement in the woods. Deputies were able to capture him as well. All five suspects, three black males and two white males, were taken into custody and turned over to FBPD Detectives. Deputies also found a rifle inside the vehicle and a handgun was found on the roadway.



NCSO Safe Kids Academy

Westley Rice knows when a situation calls for emergency responders.

The 6-year-old met with representatives from the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and Nassau County Fire Rescue while attending the NCSO Safe Kids Academy July 8.

Rice learned "that you don't call 911 willy-nilly," he said, adding information about the Jaws of Life. "They have gear in the fire trucks to tear down cars."

He and 16 other children ages 5 to 8 met at Callahan Elementary School from 9 a.m. to noon to learn playground and bicycle safety, self-defense techniques, firearm safety, stranger awareness, internet safety, how to be a buddy instead of a bully, how to call 911, and fire safety drills.

NCSO Deputy Lisa McCumber oversees the program. She is also a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer.

"This is the sheriff's Safe Kids Academy to equip children with necessary life skills to help them help community helpers like firemen, police officers, for anywhere from minor to lifesaving events in their homes, communities and schools," she said.

Addison Collins practiced how to "stop, drop and roll so, that fire won't get on you," the 5-year-old said.

Mom April Collins attended the class for the first time with her daughter. She wanted Addison to have an opportunity "to learn how to do 911 and to know that police officers are there to help them and that firefighters are there to help them even though they might look scary to children," she said. "I'm very blessed that they have a program where people are blessed to teach them."

NCSO 911 Dispatch Supervisor Marcelia Robinson has served the county since 2008.

"(I) come and help (to) talk about 911 and safety, talk about how to find parents if children are lost, fire safety, downed power lines, how to call for help and what dispatchers need if children are in an emergency situation," she said. "I find great pleasure in giving them the correct information. A lot of kids don't know what to do unless they've been through the D.A.R.E. program. Just to give them the expectancy of what's going to happen, because they're so young, they don't know what to expect when police and fire rescue show up. We just want them to remain calm and answer all the questions, and be great listeners and follow directions."



NCSO Marine Agricultural Unit Det. Ken Clements spoke to the kids about boat safety.

"I get to teach them safety items like life jacket safety, firearm safety," he said. "I love interacting with the kids, giving them a positive experience at a young age. There's a lot of negativity toward law enforcement, so we try to give them positive interaction while they're young."

Reagan Smith, 5, expressed her joy at meeting firemen.

She and her peers toured emergency vehicles and looked at a Sea-doo and other equipment onsite at the school. Joining in the academy were NCFR Station 50 Lt. Dan Weideman, engineer Scott Roberts, engineer Jonathan Hannah and firefighters Luke Davis and Jeremy LaTraverse.

NCSO 9-1-1 Communications Officer Helps Deliver Baby Over the Phone

Yulee, Fla. – 911 dispatchers have to be calm under pressure. Even in the most extreme situations, they have to communicate clearly between the public and the public safety workers charged with their protection.

Nassau County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Communications Officer Kimberly Miner wasn't sure what was in store for her as she began her normal 6PM-6AM evening shift on Tuesday, August 22, 2017.

However, at approximately 12:07 AM, Wednesday morning Communications Officer Miner received a frantic 9-1-1 call from a man whose girlfriend was about to deliver a child in their Royal Inn Motel room located in Callahan. The 37 year old mother was 7 ½ months pregnant with twin boys. The panicky father was lost on knowing what to do as she started to go into labor prematurely and he and the mother could be heard screaming for help.



After Communications Officer Miner gathered pertinent information as to the couple's whereabouts and mother's condition, Nassau County Fire/Rescue (NCFR) was dispatched to their location. Communications Officer Miner then stayed on the phone and calmly directed the father, walking him step-by-step through what was needed in delivering the first child (Jayden) at 12:11 AM, making sure the baby was breathing while telling the father to wipe the bloody baby's face and body clean with a towel. She could hear the child crying over the phone, which she knew was a good sign, before NCFR arrived and helped deliver the second child (Brayden) at 12:20 AM. The mother and both infants (weighing 4 pounds each) were transported to UF Health Hospital in Jacksonville in healthy condition.

"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 and they do a tremendous service for our citizens every day," said Sheriff Bill Leeper.



Communications Officer Miner, a mother of two children herself, remained professional and calm throughout the entire labor & delivery ordeal and kept assuring the father and mother that everything was going to be fine all while literally witnessing a miracle happen. "I've had weird calls, tragic calls and sad calls," Miner said. But hearing a baby cry for the first time in the background was one happy call that I will never forget."

According to Leeper, a 911 dispatcher can go their entire career and not have a call like this, where they actually stay on the phone to assist in the delivery.

This delivery was successful because NCSO Communications Officer Miner and the Nassau County Fire/Rescue Department worked together on this critical call.

777 ROBBERY

Yulee, Fla. – On Monday, August 28, 2017, at approximately 1:48 AM, a robbery occurred at the Vegas 777 Internet Café business located at 850425 US HWY 17 in Yulee.

Two adult black males wearing hood-ies entered the building brandishing a handgun in an attempt to rob the business. As one suspect brandished the weapon at all of the patrons inside, the other suspect kept watch at the front door. The suspect with the gun then went to the cash register and grabbed the currency drawer and moved toward the front door. While attempting to exit the building the suspect dropped the

cash drawer spilling the contents on the floor. The suspects then picked up as much money as they could then fled north on US 17 in a small 4-door vehicle at a high rate of speed.



As NCSO units were responding to the robbery, a description of the vehicle was given out and a deputy observed a vehicle matching the description speeding northbound on US 17 just north of SR-200. The NCSO Deputy caught up to the vehicle just before it entered onto I-95 north and stopped the vehicle at the Florida Agricultural Station on I-95. The deputy observed \$218 of currency on the floorboard and on the seat of the vehicle around both occupants, as well as observing a handgun inside the vehicle.

Both suspects were arrested and booked into the Nassau County Jail.

Arrested for Robbery with a Firearm were:

John Derrick Kitchen, BM, 29, from Saint Marys, Georgia.

Dwight Andra Dasher, Jr., BM, 29, from Folkston, Georgia.



National Night out



On Tuesday, August 1, 2017, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Nassau County Emergency Management and the Florida Forestry Service partnered with Target to participate in National Night Out in the Target parking lot in Yulee. Citizens, young and old, came together to interact and get safety information, as well as police vehicles available for kids to explore. Target employees were also on hand to serve free hot dogs.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

"It allows our deputies to interact with the community in a non-traditional setting and allows citizens to see our officers care for what they're doing and interact in a different way," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "My favorite part is seeing all the kids enjoying themselves."



National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office furnishes School Crossing Guards during the school year to assist children to safely cross roadways going to and from school. The Guards recently completed re-fresher training for the upcoming 2017/2018 school year.

School Crossing Guards are responsible for the safe crossing of thousands of students who walk or ride bicycles to and from school each day. The School Crossing Guards work in the best and the worst weather conditions ensuring the safe crossing of the children in Nassau County.



Although the school zones are clearly marked, many drivers fail to observe the safety regulations within the school zone and the children rely on the School Crossing Guards to stop the traffic flow in order to travel to and from school.



NEWS CORNER

Winn-Dixie in Yulee Robbed

On Saturday, September 2, 2017, the Winn-Dixie grocery store in Yulee was robbed. A man walked in to the store and told one of the cashiers that he had a gun and wanted all of the money in the cash register. After receiving the money he left the store. Nassau County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded and after further investigation found the suspect at the Nassau Holiday Motel located at 850857 U.S. Highway 17 in Yulee.

Suspect Arrested:

Daniel Shawn Thrift, 40, from Tampa, Florida

Robbery with a Firearm

Theft over \$300

Dwight Andra Dasher, Jr., BM, 29, from Folkston, Georgia.



In August 2017, NCSO Lieutenant Hank Martinez traveled to Bakel, Africa with NCSO Chaplain Todd Carr on a church mission trip. While there Lt. Martinez conducted a basketball camp with 70 local students. Although the court was full, there were another 100 sitting outside the fence that enclosed the court watching them play in the 115 degree heat. Lt. Martinez and Chaplain Carr really connected with the students and developed a positive relationship with many of them.



NEWS CORNER

When Nassau County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Renee Graham and Deputy Dallas Palecek heard about the theft of a small child's toy play car they decided to do something about it. They went and purchased a small toy police car and delivered it to the child's home surprising Judah and his mother Nitra Stokes. The look on Judah's face when he saw his new car was absolutely priceless. Judah was a preemie when he was born and he was also a twin, but his twin didn't survive. Lieutenant Graham and Deputy Palecek didn't purchase the car for recognition, they did it because they wanted to help a child. Good deeds like this go unnoticed all the time, but shows the caring hearts of Nassau County deputies who work hard every day to keep us safe and who truly care about our community.

Picture: Deputy Palecek, Lieutenant Graham, Judah's Mother Nitra Stokes and Judah.



CVS Pharmacy robbery suspect captured

On Sunday, September 24, 2017, at approximately 11:30 AM a robbery occurred at the CVS Pharmacy located at 542325 US HWY 1 in Callahan, Florida.

An elderly white male suspect with facial hair, wearing a straw hat with a dark jacket and blue jeans entered the store and walked up to the prescription counter. The suspect told the Pharmacist to give him fentanyl patches and showed her a handgun that he had in his right front pocket. Once the suspect received the patches he fled the scene in a blue dodge truck with a Florida Gators sticker on the back window.



After interviewing witnesses the suspect was identified as a frequent customer of the store, Walter Kevin Whiddon, 60, from Callahan. NCSO deputies went to the suspect's home located at 615835 River Road where they recovered the fentanyl patches and arrested the suspect for Robbery with a Firearm and Theft of a Controlled Substance. He was booked into the Nassau County Jail.

Awards and Recognitions

NCSO Sergeant Robin Patterson graduates from the Florida Leadership Academy

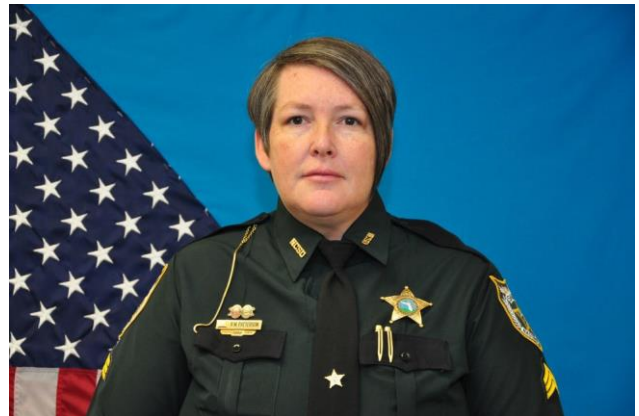
Sergeant Robin Patterson graduated from the Florida Leadership Academy in Gainesville, Florida on August 8, 2017. The Florida Leadership Academy meets one week a month for a total of four consecutive sessions.

The Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute has graduated 39 classes of the Florida Leadership Academy with more than 1,170 graduates. Participants of this program include sworn and non-sworn representatives from Police Departments, Sheriff's Offices, State agencies and Correctional facilities.

The Florida Leadership Academy is designed to prepare first line supervisors in criminal justice organizations to exemplify the character and integrity expected of criminal justice professionals. Graduates understand leaders as role models, and the importance of leaders as coaches, teachers, and mentors to other members of the organization.

Participants in the Florida Leadership Academy learn the skills necessary to support the technical and administrative needs of their agency. These skills include proactive problem solving, effective communication, and related leadership skills.

The four sessions include classes on Leadership & Management, Effective Communication, the Accountable Leader, and the Professional Leader.



On August 15, 2017 at 7:12pm, former Jacksonville Firefighter David Sallette, suffered a medical emergency in Nassau County on CR 200. His wife frantically called 911 seeking assistance.

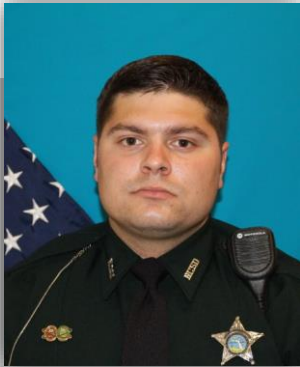
First on the scene were Nassau County Sheriff's Office Deputies Lezandro Deleon, David Douglas, and Mark Hunter. The deputies used an Automated External Defibrillator on Mr Sallette while fire/rescue was enroute. Once on scene, rescue personnel took over, continued CPR and transported Mr Sallette to UF Hospital North in Jacksonville. There, Mr. Sallette made a full recovery.

In an effort to recognize those involved in saving Mr. Sallette, Jacksonville Fire/Rescue Department wanted to honor the first responders that actually participated in saving Mr. Sallette.



On October 3rd, 2017, at a joint ceremony, Jacksonville Fire Rescue recognized NCSO deputies and Nassau County firefighters at the sheriff's office for their efforts, presenting each with a lifesaving certificate from Chief Powers with Jacksonville Fire/Rescue Department.

Welcome **OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS**



Seth Creel
Patrol Deputy



William Terry
Patrol Deputy



TC Edwards
Reserve Deputy



Carri Jackson
Dispatcher



Brittany O'Berry
Dispatcher



Sara Winkle
Dispatcher



John Hailey
Inmate Officer



Donna Wiggins
Payroll Clerk



Kayla Golden
Dispatcher

Second Quarter Awards

Service anniversaries

Supervisor of the Quarter
Sgt. Billy O'Leary



25 YEARS

Renee Graham, Lieutenant/
Special Operations



Deputy of the Quarter
Brandon Schmidt

15 YEARS

William Wettstein, Sergeant/
Patrol

James Drury, Bailiff

Detention Deputy of the Quarter
Paul Bobola



Investigator of the Quarter
Daniel Corbitt

10 YEARS

Adam Bennett, Bailiff

Philip Crews, Sergeant/Patrol

Asa Higgs, Bailiff



Communications Officer of the Quarter
Henry Holmberg

5 YEARS

Nicolas Thornton, Detention
Deputy



Civilian of the Quarter
Angela Conboy



Employee Birthdays

October

Trevor Zittrower	10/03
Stephen Jones	10/03
Melissa Edwards	10/03
Chauncey Mason	10/03
George Knight	10/04
Grace Conway	10/04
Liz Seagraves	10/05
Nick Gaskill	10/06
Debbie Riley	10/06
Rex Randolph	10/14
Donna Altimore	10/18
Kimberly Miner	10/22
Joseph Livingston	10/22
John Hailey	10/22
Wayne Holt	10/22
Danielle Shough	10/24
John Anstett	10/25
Dallas Palecek	10/25
Virginia Green	10/27
Peggy Wilson	10/29
Victoria Sharkey	10/31
Catherine Webb	10/31

November

Kellam Paolillo	11/01
Brandon Schmidt	11/04
Daniel Jones	11/04
David Gray	11/05
Jon Slebos	11/06
Ray Eslinger	11/07
Chelsea Beazley	11/08
Mark Hunter	11/08
Shaniesa Hollimon	11/08
Allan Reynolds	11/11
Jonathan Booth	11/11
AL Kelly	11/11
Joy Edgy	11/12
Cole Woolard	11/13
Caleb Delacruz	11/14
Larry Boatwright	11/14
Cedric Arline	11/15
Wilson Faricloth	11/16
David Williams	11/17
Magan Clardy	11/19
Tim Cooper	11/19
Ralph Revels	11/20
Robert Westberry	11/21
Linda Starr	11/21
Diane Rosenberg	11/22
Bobby Smith	11/23
Teresa Carter	11/26
Orival Thompson	11/26
Thomas Kelley	11/27
Michelle Mellecker	11/28



Employee Birthdays

December

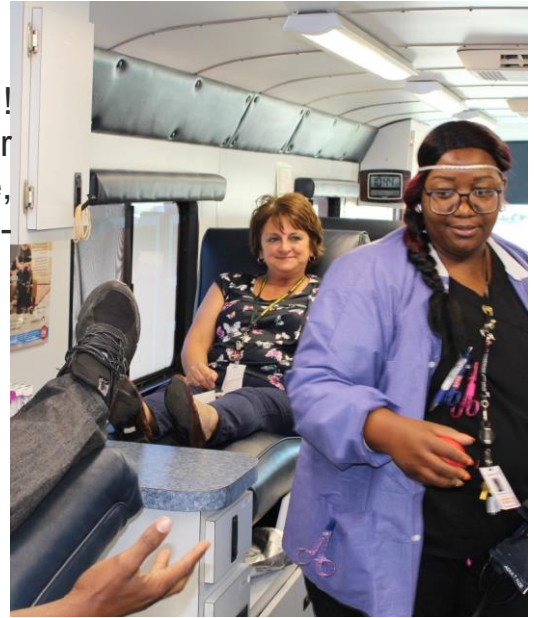
James Ballard	12/04
Henry Holmberg	12/06
John Galloway	12/07
Carri Jackson	12/14
Robert Burns	12/15
James Hickox	12/16
Brianna Crews	12/17
Juan Garcia	12/17
Sidney Lopez	12/18
Nicolas Thornton	12/22
Marcelia Robinson	12/27
Robert Jackson	12/28
Lorrie Morgan	12/28
Jacob Tolosi	12/29
Deanne Campbell	12/29
Daniel Johns	12/31
Angela Conboy	12/31



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!







BEHIND THE BADGE

Newsletter



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 Ashleigh Harris at 904-548-4012 or by email at awharris@nassauso.com

As always, please stay safe!

