



# Nassau County Sheriff's Office Newsletter

## "Behind The Badge"

July-September 2013

### Special points of interest:

- Sheriff Leeper's Message to All Employees
- The first Nassau County Sheriff's Office Female Motorcycle Deputy
- Technology Upgrade
- Back to School Safety Tips

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## Sheriff's Message

Welcome to our first *NCSO Behind the Badge* newsletter. We hope to keep you informed on what is happening here at the Sheriff's Office and around our county.

When I was elected Sheriff my commitment to this community was to make the Sheriff's Office more accountable, responsible and transparent while maintaining a professional, efficient and effective workforce.

While any organization can only be as good as its members, this is especially true for law enforcement. Citizens have the right to expect the highest standards of integrity and commitment from those who take the oath to protect and serve. Law enforcement officers have the responsibility to earn the trust and respect of our community each day.

On Thursday, May 16, 2013, Gov. Rick Scott announced that Florida's crime rate was at its lowest point in 42 years and down 6.5 percent in 2012 from the year before. In Nassau County, we experienced a 6.4 percent reduction in reported index crimes last year compared with 2011.

A number of initiatives are working in concert to effect this remarkable crime reduction, the cornerstone of which is our new intelligence-led policing philosophy, which we are moving toward. The overall goal is to enhance pro-active policing

efforts and further the positive outcomes of law-enforcement actions to reduce crime and protect the community. This concept involves analysis-based direction for the operators in the field and the detectives working cases, but includes all members of the agency in the even bigger task of consistent, quality information sharing. Information that can be analyzed and made "actionable" for crime reduction, disruption or prevention is the essence of Intelligence-led policing.

Crime will always occur when there's opportunity and there's someone willing to commit the crime. The key is eliminating the opportunity through education and reducing the number of individuals who are willing to commit crimes through tough laws and penalties for their actions. No matter what the numbers show (high or low), all law enforcement agencies must continue to share information and work together in order to make our community as safe as possible.

To realize positive results requires widespread commitment from the men and women of law enforcement, the members of the local judicial system with whom we work, and the citizens of this community. We are committed to expanding on these initiatives and plan to do so by sustaining a well-educated, multifaceted professional workforce.



Bill Leeper, Sheriff

This agency greatly appreciates the support of our County Commission, the local legislative delegation and the citizens and businesses that have formed a crime prevention partnership with law enforcement.

By working together to make public safety a priority, hopefully this crime reduction trend can continue and we will maintain the quality of life we expect in Nassau County.



## Featured Unit of the Quarter- "Civil Unit"

The statutory requirement for the Sheriff to serve civil process enabled NCSO to create the Civil Unit. The untold story of the Civil Unit, led by Sergeant Scott Gearis, will expose the silent work performed, by its dedicated members, on a daily basis.

Before we delve into the statistical information, let's examine the individuals who make this unit a success. Mrs. Linda Starr brings 25 years experience as a Certified Deputy with the Osceola Sheriff's Office. She has served 7 years with NCSO and is currently a Civil Clerk; handling financial trans-



actions, coordination of Sheriff's sales, organization of civil process and working with walk-in citizens. Mrs. Starr recently coordinated and handled one of the most expensive parcels of property NCSO has ever levied, valued in excess of 12 million dollars.

Another member of the team, Mrs. Latresa Carroll, has over 20 years clerical experience in the private sector and she currently serves our agency as a Warrants Clerk. She handles all warrant processing, protection orders, inmate extradition, and is responsible for coordinating information with multiple law enforce-



ment agencies. Mrs. Carroll utilized her private sector experience to examine potential cost saving practices to better serve Nassau County. She was instrumental in negotiating details to expand the area of the inmate transport by USG7. Due to Mrs. Carroll's cost benefit analysis, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office has, thus far this year, generated in excess of \$12,000.00, in revenue savings.

The leader of the Civil Unit, Sergeant Scott Gearis, has developed a cohesive team willing to carry out any assignments they are given. Sergeant Gearis adds to the team by handling service on a daily basis. The team of deputies, Deputy Mark Delacruz, Deputy Bubba Chancey, and Deputy Dee Gaston, serve NCSO with pride.

(continued on page 2)



**Local VFW donates teddy bears to Sheriff's Office Yulee, Florida.**  
The Eyrd Wallace Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4351 has established a partnership with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office *Bears on Patrol* teddy bear program to provide bears to Patrol Deputies. The teddy bears will be used throughout the year to give to children in need who Deputies encounter when responding to emergency calls.  
*For more information visit their website at [vfwpost4351.org](http://vfwpost4351.org) or call 904-432-8791.*

## N.C.S.O. Develops Bears on Patrol Program

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is establishing a *Bears on Patrol* teddy bear program to provide bears to Patrol Deputies to be used throughout the year to give to children in need they encounter when responding to calls.

Often times, children are present in homes where domestic violence or other traumatic incidents have occurred that would be scary to a child. The teddy bears will give the children something warm and cuddly to hang on to and thus

calm their fears a bit.

In addition to the patrol deputies, the Detective Division will also utilize teddy bears when interviewing young victims of sexual/physical assault and domestic violence.

Sheriff Bill Leeper said "These warm and fuzzy friends are one way to ease the fears of young children who are caught in difficult situations, often bringing a sense of security to a child who is overcome with anxiety."

If you would like to know how to contribute teddy bears to the *Bears on Patrol* program, please contact the Sheriff's Office at 904-225-0331.



*"four Harley-Davidson motorcycles sat idle in a storage shed for the past two years just gathering dust"*

## N.C.S.O. Motors Return...

Sheriff Leeper has reinstated the motorcycle division within the Nassau County Sheriff's Office after a two year hiatus and in the process made history as well.

The four Harley-Davidson motorcycles sat idle in a storage shed for the past two years just gathering dust when Sheriff Leeper decided to bring them back on the road. The bikes will be utilized part-time on patrol, at special events and during parades. Deputies trained for two weeks at the North Florida Law Enforcement Training Center in

Jacksonville with the Florida Highway Patrol before being allowed to work on the motorcycles.



After completing the training, Deputy Robin Patterson becomes the first ever female motor officer for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

**Pictured left to right:**  
Deputy Mark Murphy,  
Deputy Robin Patterson  
Deputy Jimmy Nettles  
Deputy Thomas Kelley



Civil Unit

## Featured Unit of the Quarter, Civil Unit (Continued from Page 1)

On a daily basis they handle visitations, school zones, civil process and warrants. During their shift they assist patrol when needed and are ever cognizant of traffic violators.

Recently the unit developed and coordinated a dignitary visit by Governor Rick Scott. The detail required pre-coordination conferences with other law enforcement agencies, Nassau County Fire Rescue, local businesses and site reconnaissance. After the successful arrival and departure of the Governor, a display of cooperation was exemplified in the completion of

the after action paperwork in accordance to Incident Command System (ICS) requirements.

Statistically, the Civil Unit generates impressive numbers as related not only to work assignments, but also in bringing in revenue for the Board of County Commissioners.

The following is a summary:

Revenue Generated:	
Civil Papers 2012	\$ 84,336.00
Civil Papers 2013	\$ 49,820.00
	\$134,156.00

Mrs. Carroll has handled, to date:  
5,929 Warrants.

The Sergeant and Deputies have handled, to date:  
4,133 Civil Papers.

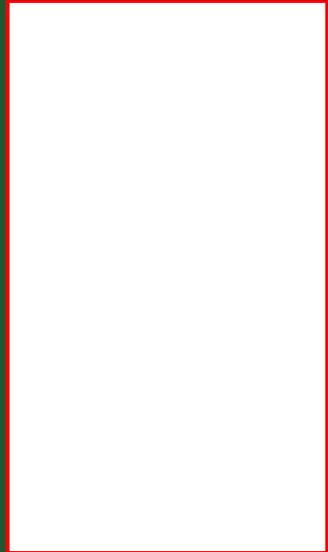
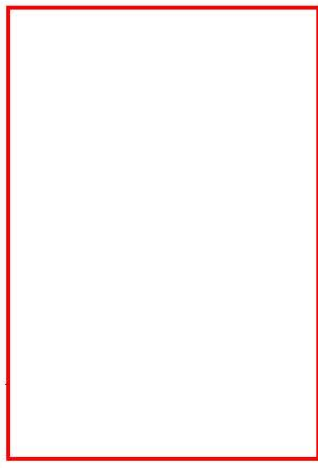
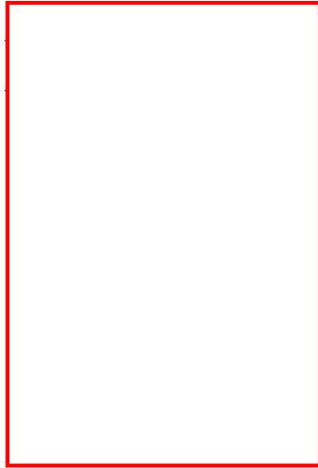
Elderly In-home Visits:  
3,005

The success of these accomplishments have been possible because of cohesive dedicated teamwork fostered by each member of the Civil Unit.



## Sheriff's Office Announces Retirement of Vital Partner

Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper is pleased to announce the retirement of K-9 Zora.



## Sheriff's Office announces new jail inmate rehabilitation program ...

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is tasked with housing individuals who have been sentenced by the court to serve up to one year in the Detention Facility.



A number of these inmates are repeat offenders that come in to the criminal justice system over and over again. Our goal is to provide them with the necessary skills and confidence so they can lead a better life outside of jail and not burden the system by winding back behind bars.

Sheriff Bill Leeper has authorized a new program designed just for women called ELITE (Education Leads into Excellence) to help those individuals become productive members of society. ELITE's mission is to assist offenders/ex-offenders to successfully reintegrate back into the community with the strength of character, education and training.

ELITE's vision is to provide ser-

vices, such as mentoring, educational and employability skills opportunities, job training & placement services, and emotional/social counseling to address the multiple and layered issues of inmates & ex-offenders so they may successfully change their lives and reduce their rate of recidivism.

At the present time there are limited assistance/services available for helping them overcome the issues that led to their offenses and to prevent their re-offending upon release.

ELITE's program's goals are to offer intake assessment & planning, education, career & employment, goal planning, counseling, parenting classes, substance abuse education, support groups and employability skills workshops. The program will also provide General Educational Development (GED) tuition and testing fees when possible to students.

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office also offers other programs that are offered to all male inmates at the Detention Facility which are taught by community volunteers. In addition to faith-based church services, these programs are Alcoholics Anonymous, The Godly Man, and

Courage to Change Program. We are currently working to provide GED classes to male inmates once we locate qualified volunteer instructors.



The NCSO Jail staff also provides other training opportunities within the Detention Facility like food preparation, cooking, carpentry, painting, auto detailing, and landscaping.

"By offering training & educational opportunities to inmates while incarcerated at the Nassau County Detention Facility, we hope to provide some skills that will allow them to be productive citizens, avoid returning to their former lifestyles, and most of all lessen the possibility of returning to jail, which will reduce the cost to taxpayers" said Sheriff Bill Leeper.



## A Few Agency Accomplishments since January 2013...

### Did you know since January 2013...

- ◆ The need for recurrent and up-to-date training has been identified and NCSO employees have attended in excess of 4,300 hours, with a considerable amount of training hours donated by other law enforcement agencies and schools.
- ◆ All laptop computers have been upgraded advancing the ability for NCSO to serve the community more efficiently.
- ◆ Hired additional Dispatchers
- ◆ Filled vacant positions in patrol
- ◆ Internet Access and email was

provided to all Patrol Deputies as well as Dispatch.

- ◆ Re-instated School Resource Officer Contract with the NC School Board.
- ◆ Signed MOU 's with Fernandina Beach City Police Department, Nassau County Fire Department and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.
- ◆ Restructured Evidence and Property area.
- ◆ The Records Department has created a Public Request



form with procedures, a weekly Records Request Log, and established an updated Fee Schedule for public records. Since January 8, 2013, NCSO has had 1,076 Public Records Request.



## Laptop Computers Upgraded...

Over the past several years the advancement of technology has progressed so rapidly that computers and programs become obsolete after just a few short years.



In the early 2000's the computer system for NCSO patrol and investigations was replaced utilizing gaming software and a less than standard reporting program.

The industry standard today is such that rapid communication and wireless technology is a must in the business of public safety; in fact, it has become a necessary requirement in order to serve our community in the most effective and efficient manner.

Sheriff Leeper, recognizing the importance of community service and understanding that, as the lead steward of Nassau County's law enforcement agency, made a promise and commitment to every citizen, that he would provide the good men and women of the Sheriff's

Office the best tools possible to serve our community. That commitment has delivered new laptop computers to every Patrol Deputy and Investigator within the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

Information Technology Manager, Gary Gaskill, was tasked with conducting a cost benefit analysis to developing the specification requirements necessary to select computers, software, and programs.

This resulted in the simplest capabilities such as, for the first time in the history of the Sheriff's Office, every employee is able to send and receive email.



The new computers will have the capability to print reports and scan driver licenses, in the field, reducing time, saving money while more rapidly serving the citizens.

The operating system utilized today is Windows 7 with Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. This technology allows the users to send and receive vital legal

bulletins, photographs, and maps in the field, processes that were not previously possible. Most importantly, the upgrade brought the entire laptop program into Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance.

Sheriff Leeper, his staff and employees are continually searching for avenues to save the county money while bringing the Sheriff's Office into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



### Crime Fighting Advancements...

When you think back to the 1970's most of us can recall the popular words "stun gun" which brings to mind the handheld electrical shock mechanisms. As time progressed the evolution of the "stun gun" has changed face in so many ways from a bulky rectangular shape to sleek geometric devices.

In 2000, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office was one of the first law enforcement agencies in the nation to deploy the Conductive Electrical Weapon (CEW) department wide.

Today the CEW is commonly known by its brand name Taser, from the college student to the violent criminal on the street.

The original Taser issued to Deputies at NCSO was the M26, and for

its time a very functional device. It packs a punch with the unmistakable sound that law enforcement has come to count on in the time of need.

Recently, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office upgraded from the 2000 version of the Taser to a more compact, versatile and accurate X26P. It is a more rugged and durable tool that has had tremendous technological advances to date. There is no need to recharge the device as was required in the past. The X26P offers a more detailed usage report and has increased the lifespan to twice its subordinate M26.

Moreover, the CEW has a more concentrated electrical delivery rendering it more effective when deployed.

Again, NCSO is on the leading edge when it comes to departmental wide issuance. NCSO Sergeant Jon Slebos is the in-house trainer and has had the opportunity to not only be shocked several times, but has also delivered the shock to many Deputies while training with the X26P.

While negotiating the change out of the Tasers, an emphasis was placed on the need to maintain the commitment to being fiscally responsible, resulting in a trade-in credit in excess of \$16,000.00 for trading in the old M26 units.

The X26P Taser is the latest piece of equipment provided to Deputies and weapons qualified Corrections Officers allowing Nassau County to stay on the cutting edge of technology with the finest safety equipment.



### Sheriff's Office Announces Year-Round Medicine Drop-Off Site...

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office has begun a free medicine-collection program for residents to safely dispose of unwanted, expired or unused medicines.

The drop-off site accepts prescription and over-the-counter drugs, as well as pet medicines. Medicines from households are accepted Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Sheriff's Office, located at 76001 Bobby Moore Circle Yulee, Florida.



"The drop-off program is a free, anonymous, no-questions-asked initiative that prevents pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Medicines

that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Unused medicine left in the home poses health and safety threats, and improperly disposed of medicines can end up in our water system and streams, and harm wildlife," Leeper said.



More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to a national survey on drug use and health. Nationally, every day approximately 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

"Most teens who abuse prescription drugs get them from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet," said Sheriff Leeper. "Painkillers, depressants, stimulants, and over-the-counter cough medicines are the medicines most often abused. These are the most important drugs to remove from your home if they are unwanted, expired or unused."

Medicines from households are accepted in any form, including prescriptions, over-the-counter and pet medicines. Individuals are asked to keep medicines

in their original container, use a marker to cross out their name if they wish, and then place the medicines in a clear plastic bag. Medicine that is no longer in its original container should be placed in a clear plastic bag with the name of the medicine written on the bag.

Note: The drop box cannot accept liquid or syringes.



Sheriff Bill Leeper and Dell Hodges show how easy it is to dispose of unwanted medicines.

## Camp Cadet...

Camp Cadet is a regional collaboration of law enforcement personnel from Bradford, Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties. Camp Cadet is a week-long tuition free program that was developed to provide youths, ages 12 through 15, with the tools necessary to overcome challenges, while instilling discipline and confidence with an atmosphere similar to a police training academy. The week long camp is located in Middleburg, Florida at the Northfork Leadership Center. This year's camp was from June 16th through the 22nd and had 34 Cadets participate of which 9 were from Nassau County.

**Pictured from left to right:** Communications Manager Ricky Rowell who serves as the Vice President for the Northeast Florida Camp Cadet, LLC, Cadet J. Waters 2013 Male Honor Graduate, Cadet J. Lueders, Esprit De Corps Award, and Cadet O. Merwarth with the Distinguished Cadet Award.



## Crime in the County...

### Dish Network Scam...

Recently, Nassau County has experienced a crime spree involving individuals who have shown no concern for the hard working citizens of our county.

Two individuals, Anthony and Crystal Gerhold, were traveling through six surrounding counties, including Georgia, scamming citizens out of their hard earned money.



They falsely represented themselves as Dish Network sales associates, wrote contracts, and collected funds for services they knew they could not deliver.



NCSO Detective Jeff Stull, utilizing his investigative skills, realized shortly after receiving this case there was a pattern of criminal activity. He communicated with his counterparts in patrol, developing the clues of which led him to contact several counties, including Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Suwannee and Union, when he discovered additional connections. The information also led him to Charlton County, Georgia.



The defendants were arrested with the male suspect receiving "no bond" and the female suspect having a bond set at \$50,000.00. In Nassau County alone they scammed citizens for approximately \$38,000.00.

The success of this case could not have been realized without the cooperative efforts of multiple units, good relationships with other law enforcement agencies and the committed work ethic of Detective Stull.

### Hilliard Arsonist...

Over the past several months we have all heard about the recent arsons at the Eastwood Oaks Apartment Complex in Hilliard.



NCSO Detective Joshua Bass spent countless hours searching for clues that would lead to the capture of this arsonist. Through the efforts of Detective Bass and the needed assistance of the media, multiple victims and a witness, leads were developed which led to the discovery of valuable information.

Detective Bass, working with the State Fire Marshall's Office, verified the newly obtained information and developed the probable cause necessary to make an arrest.



Ryan D. Wilson was arrested and charged with three counts of arson and two counts of burglary and was booked into the Nassau County Jail.



## Crime Tips to Go...

- ◆ Collect cardboard packaging from gifts you receive and take to the transfer station. Please do not put outside for all criminals to see what cool items they can steal!
- ◆ Garage door openers should not be visible when your car is parked outside your home or in parking lots. Criminals may break into your car and use the opener to gain access to your garage and home.
- ◆ Make sure all doors into your home are locked both when you're in your home and when you leave. Consider investing in high quality bolts or at least replace short screws with 3" ones for more stability.
- ◆ Invest in programmable timers for the lights inside your home and be sure to leave lights on outside your home to deter criminals.
- ◆ Use "Charlie bars," dowels, and/or safety locks in all your windows and sliding doors.

The Communication Center has recently seen a number of needed enhancements to their equipment, enabling them to perform their duties more efficiently. As with the uniformed and investigative divisions each Dispatcher has been given the capability of email. Additionally, they have received internet access, new job specific seating, headsets and a modern printer.

The Shift Supervisors have been given an office area so that they can work on confidential assignments without interruption. The need for training Dispatchers was identified which resulted in a total of eight currently on staff for the first time in years. Most importantly, there is a goal afoot, to hire more Public Safety Telecommunication (PST) personnel to not only handle the workload but also reduce the amount of overtime necessary to operate twenty-four hours a day. When you see your Dispatchers, thank them for the great job they are doing!



August-September 2013 Birthdays...

<p><b>August 1</b></p> <p>Eraina Butler <i>911-Mapping</i></p> <p><b>August 4</b></p> <p>Royce Mixon <i>Evidence Technician</i></p> <p><b>August 5</b></p> <p>Cynthia Carter <i>Dispatch</i></p> <p><b>August 6</b></p> <p>Damon Baxley <i>Patrol Deputy</i></p> <p>Grace Mason <i>Dispatch</i></p> <p><b>August 7</b></p> <p>Austin Mathis <i>Corrections</i></p> <p>Caleb Roy <i>Fleet</i></p> <p><b>August 9</b></p> <p>Theresa Walker <i>Control Room Operator</i></p> <p>Richard Daines <i>Volunteer</i></p> <p><b>August 10</b></p> <p>Michelle Christensen <i>Sergeant Investigations</i></p> <p>Charles Greene <i>Civilian Bailiff</i></p> <p><b>August 11</b></p> <p>Zandra Hooper <i>Grants</i></p>	<p><b>August 13</b></p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Benita Hubbard <i>Deputy First Class</i></p> <p><b>August 15</b></p> <p>Bruce Freeman <i>Chaplain</i></p> <p><b>August 17</b></p> <p>Mark Murphy <i>Deputy First Class</i></p> <p><b>August 18</b></p> <p>Clifton McDonald <i>School Resource Officer</i></p> <p>Shawn Mortimer <i>Deputy Patrol</i></p> <p><b>August 20</b></p> <p>Clyde Osborne <i>Captain Patrol</i></p> <p>David Hughart <i>Chaplain</i></p> <p><b>August 21</b></p> <p>Mark Lipinski <i>Reserve</i></p> <p><b>August 23</b></p> <p>Leon Woolard <i>Sergeant Patrol</i></p> <p><b>August 24</b></p> <p>Jason Jones Jr. <i>Correction Officer</i></p> <p><b>August 29</b></p> <p>William Leeper <i>Sheriff</i></p>	<p>Richard Seale <i>Correctional Officer</i></p> <p><b>August 31</b></p> <p>Cheri Fisher <i>Sergeant Corrections</i></p> <p>Keith Whaley <i>Lieutenant Patrol</i></p> <p><b>September</b></p> <p><b>September 3</b></p> <p>Michele Schwartz <i>Dispatch Supervisor</i></p> <p><b>September 4</b></p> <p>William Wettstein <i>Deputy Patrol</i></p> <p><b>September 5</b></p> <p>Jimmy Nettles <i>Deputy Patrol</i></p> <p>Harvey Owen <i>Control Room Operator</i></p> <p>Ricky Pope <i>Volunteer</i></p> <p><b>September 7</b></p> <p>Phillip Silcox <i>Lieutenant Patrol</i></p> <p><b>September 8</b></p> <p>Celeste Fair <i>Purchasing Agent</i></p> <p>Robert Herrington <i>Investigations</i></p> <p>Joshua Reed <i>Dispatch</i></p>	<p><b>September 10</b></p> <p>Michael Edwards <i>Director of Administration</i></p> <p><b>September 11</b></p> <p>Harry Graves <i>Corrections Officer</i></p> <p>Don Hubbard <i>Reserves</i></p> <p><b>September 15</b></p> <p>Josh Hyers <i>Correctional Officer</i></p> <p>Linda Ottinger <i>Dispatch</i></p> <p><b>September 16</b></p> <p>Nathan Boyd <i>Control Room Operator</i></p> <p><b>September 18</b></p> <p>Melissa Boyd <i>Deputy First Class</i></p> <p><b>September 19</b></p> <p>Amanda Lewis <i>Victim Advocate</i></p> <p>Kevin McNeil <i>Corrections Officer</i></p> <p><b>September 20</b></p> <p>David Bright II <i>Corrections Officer</i></p> <p>Laura Herndon <i>Control Room Operator</i></p> <p>Terry Nye <i>Lieutenant Corrections</i></p>	<p><b>September 21</b></p> <p>Arminta Hodges <i>Clerical</i></p> <p>Michael Lachapple <i>Reserves</i></p> <p><b>September 22</b></p> <p>Tracy Williams <i>Dispatch Supervisor</i></p> <p>September 23</p> <p>Lisa McCumber <i>DARE Deputy</i></p> <p><b>September 24</b></p> <p>Roy Henderson <i>Director of Operations</i></p> <p>Charles Lucas <i>Deputy Patrol</i></p> <p><b>September 25</b></p> <p>Joshua Courchene <i>Corrections Officer</i></p> <p><b>September 28</b></p> <p>Steven Boatright <i>Evidence Custodian</i></p> <p>Ricky Rowell <i>Manager Communications</i></p> <p>Curtis King <i>Volunteer</i></p> <p><b>September 29</b></p> <p>Ryan Vantassell <i>Sergeant Patrol</i></p>
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### NCSO Gun Range Upgraded...

Recently, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office firing range has received needed repairs utilizing revenue generated from other law enforcement agencies use.



Agencies like U.S. Customs utilizes the range to conduct their quarterly re-qualifications while providing their own certified instructors for the process. The funds collected were used to purchase materials while inmate labor, supervised by employee Phil Davis, performed the repairs and added benches.

Ultimately, our goal is to provide better range facilities for our employee's, as well as offering gun safety classes to the general public.



### Evidence Undergoes a Facelift...

You may have noticed all of the county facilities workers in and around our complex. This is due to the renovations taking place in the old jail to convert it into usable evidence storage space.

The scope of work entails adding HVAC, door access and secure gate openers. In the near future you will find access control, not only to the fuel pump entrance, but also as you approach the old jail intake parking area.



Additionally, the front glass door, where public visitation was once held will become the place where the public can once again access for the purpose of claiming evidence/

property. There will be a designated area for privacy so that when citizens need to meet a Deputy and have a report written, they do not have to sit in the busy lobby.



BEFORE

The evidence and property room of the Sheriff's Office (old jail kitchen) was in deplorable condition, overcrowded and had no air conditioning for the evidence/property custodians who had to work inside the room. These upgrades will provide better working conditions, more room and help keep evidence in a temperature controlled environment.



The Evidence personnel, Supervisor Jeff Stull, Sr., Custodians Melissa Sutton and Steven Boatright have not only reorganized the evidence section, they have also gathered, centralized and inventoried all of the NCSO uniforms and supplies while accommodating the work schedule of the county workers.



### August-September Anniversaries 2013...

#### 15 Years of Service August

Sergeant William O'Leary- Patrol



#### 5 Years of Service September

Dallas Palecek-Deputy Patrol  
Charles Greene-Civilian Bailiff  
Johnny Carter-Corporal Corrections  
Lisa McCumber-DARE Officer  
Riccardo Quiles-Deputy Patrol  
Dell Castleberry-Corrections Deputy  
Robert Westberry-Deputy Transportation



#### 10 Years of Service September

Jeff Stull, Jr. - CID Detective



**Congratulations!**



## Sheriff Offers Back to School Traffic Safety Tips...

Anyone behind the wheel should drive attentively and watch for children on sidewalks, along roadways, and at all crosswalks and intersections.

"This is a great time of year to pledge to yourself and your family that you will not engage in distracted driving," said Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Focus on your responsibility to drive safely and use additional caution – especially near buses and in school zones" added Leeper.

The Sheriff's Office offers these tips for motorists, parents, and children:

### Motorists:

- Reduce speeds in and around school zones.
- You might consider changing your route in



order to avoid school bus traffic.

- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and curbs.
- Be prepared to stop for the school bus.
- Enter and exit driveways, parking lots, and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Do not engage in distracted driving. Put down the phone and focus on driving. Texting while driving is against the law in Florida.
- Watch for pedestrian traffic and prepare to stop if a pedestrian is approaching the intersection.

### Review with school children:

- Never run out into the street or cross in between parked cars.

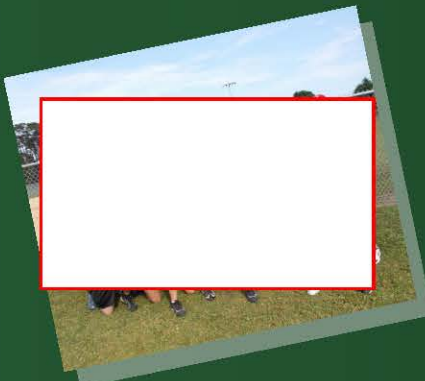
- Create a morning schedule that allows plenty of time to arrive to the bus stop at an appropriate time. It's not safe for children to run into the street because they are worried about missing the bus.
- Make sure children walk 5-10 steps in front of the bus where the driver can see them.
- Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place – not on the street or curb.
- Parents should remind children about appropriate behavior on the bus in order to allow the bus driver to concentrate on driving.

### School children & safety tips for walking to school:

- Parents should walk the route to school with students before the start of the year and select a course with the least number of traffic crossings.
- Cross only at intersections or crosswalks and obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Do not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is too close or moving too fast to stop.
- In general, children under age 10 should cross the street with an adult.



**Next quarterly issue (October-December)**  
**Remember to send all items of interest that you would like posted in the Newsletter... "Behind the Badge" to**  
**mterry@nassauso.com by December 13, 2013**



**New and Improved Website**  
**COMING SOON!**  
[WWW.NASSAUSO.COM](http://WWW.NASSAUSO.COM)

Nassau County Sheriff's Office  
 76001 Bobby Moore Circle,  
 Yulee, Florida 32097

Dispatch: Emergency—911  
 Non-Emergency  
 904-225-5174 / 904-879-3853

Information Number: 904-225-0331  
 904-879-3853