

Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Behind the Badge Newsletter



Law Enforcement Memorial



April - June

2015

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

The last three months has seen a lot of activity going on at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office. With the dedication of many of our staff members and the participation of other agencies such as the Fernandina Beach Police Department and Nassau County Fire and Rescue, the implementation of the New World CAD system took place on June 17th, 2015. If you have been by the construction site of our 911 Call Center and new Administration Building you are seeing a flurry of activity. This is an exciting time for the future of NCSO, not only in the way we conduct business, but our working conditions as well.

Also, I had the honor to be able to represent the Nassau County Sheriff's Office at the FBI National Academy 26th Session in Quantico, Virginia.

It was a long journey with the tough academic work and physical training, but I was able to network with the other 218 law enforcement leaders from each state in the U.S. and 20 foreign countries. It was a rewarding experience. As I got to know each one of them, I realize we have a lot more in common than not. Each one of our agencies may be

larger or smaller and in different regions of the world, but we share many common issues that we all have to deal with. Hearing some of them talk, I am truly blessed to be able to work with so many great individuals in Nassau County who are truly dedicated in serving and protecting our community with pride and professionalism. I was proud to share the many good things you are doing in Nassau County with everyone there.



Remember to count your blessings, practice acts of kindness, savor life's joys, take care of your body, learn to forgive, and as always PLEASE STAY SAFE!

Sheriff Bill Leeper

Law Enforcement Memorial Service



Three local law enforcement agencies honored the men and women who died in the line of duty while protecting the public in services on May 6, 2015 at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office in front of the Law Enforcement Memorial.

A memorial service was held in a combined service for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, Fernandina Beach Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol.

"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.

It's also important for officers to know the job is dangerous and we don't want you to be recognized like this every year," Leeper said.

The following Fallen Officers were honored:

Nassau County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Joseph W. Robinson (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.

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

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

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

Chief Bailiff Lewis Hailey (1992): Chief Hailey was killed in an automobile crash.

Fernandina Beach Police Department

Chief James Surrency (1930): Chief Surrency was shot while responding to a murder call.

Florida Highway Patrol

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

Hilliard Police Constable

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



Operation Dry Spring

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Florida Sheriffs Task Force, has concluded a five week operation aimed at protecting youth in Florida. Operation Dry Spring 2015, focused on preventing underage youth from purchasing and using alcohol, tobacco and various forms of synthetic drugs. This operation was timed to coincide with the Spring Break season, when many youth experiment with drugs and alcohol.

From March 16 to April 12, 2015, Nassau County Sheriff's Deputies targeted underage youth in possession of alcohol, tobacco or synthetic drugs as well as businesses selling these substances to underage youth. This operation resulted in 12 arrests.



"Through Operation Dry Spring, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Sheriffs Task force has addressed an important issue in our state; the safety of our youth," said Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper.

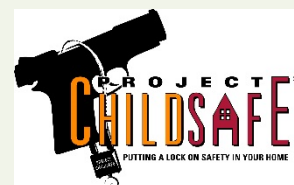
The Nassau County Sheriff's Office conducted operations targeting businesses who sell alcohol, tobacco, and synthetic drugs to underage youth. This was conducted through random, undercover business checks. Initiatives were also conducted during Spring Break activities. "This initiative sends a clear message that we are committed to the wellbeing of our children – our most precious resource," Leeper said.

The Florida Sheriffs Task Force pools resources from the 67 Sheriffs' Offices to address specific areas of concern. The Florida Sheriffs Task Force also is the point of contact for statewide initiatives, including helping to staff the State Emergency Operations Center and coordinating Sheriffs' offices responses to storm-ravaged communities during hurricanes and other disasters.

Free Gun Locks

In an effort to promote safe firearms handling and storage practices among firearms owners, Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper has announced the distribution of a limited number of free gun locks to Nassau county residents.

Gun locks are available while supplies last to county residents by visiting the Sheriff's Administrative Office at 76001 Bobby Moore Circle in Yulee Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The cable-style gun locks are being provided through Project Child-Safe in an effort to promote safe handling and storage of firearms, and protecting children from being injured by securing firearms with a gun lock when guns are stored in the home.



"We encourage residents to pick up a Project Child-Safe safety kit so that they can store their firearm," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Each kit contains a safety curriculum and a cable-style gun lock. The locks fit on most types of handguns, rifles and shotguns. The goal is to prevent a child or any other unauthorized person from accessing a firearm in your home."

Project Child-Safe is a nationwide program to help ensure safe and responsible firearms ownership and storage. The program was developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and supported by a U.S. Department of Justice grant.

Firearm accidents in the home often result from an unauthorized individual, often a child, finding a loaded and unsecured firearm in the home.

"If we can prevent just one accidental shooting it is well worth our effort to distribute gun locks to our community," Leeper added.

Top 10 Reasons to Wear Your Seat Belt!

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office participated in the National *Click It or Ticket* Campaign held from May 18 through May 31, 2015. Some of our employees came up with the Nassau County Sheriff's Office . . .

NCSO's Top 10 Reasons to Wear Your Seat Belt:

- #10 Because your phone is an accessory, but your seatbelt is a necessity. (Deputy Clements)
- #9 Because sitting in Santa's lap is OK. Sitting in your passenger's lap is not. (Dispatcher Ottinger)
- #8 It's one less thing for your mom to nag you about. (Deputy McCumber)
- #7 For the price of a seat belt ticket, you could buy 101 items at the Dollar Tree. (Deputy Dopson)
- #6 Because seat belts help you defy gravity when you decide to turn your car upside down like a rollercoaster. (Undersheriff Lueders)
- #5 Because the only Smashing Pumpkins in your car should be on the radio. (Sgt. Patterson)
- #4 Because broken glass and road rash are not the latest fashions. (Deputy Lewis)
- #3 Because the view without one is literally breathtaking. (Deputy Murphy)
- #2 "Click it or Ticket" is not the latest single by Taylor Swift. (Deputy Walton)



And the # 1 reason to wear your seatbelt is.....

Because it's the law, so please wear it from meow on!!! (Deputy Walton)

Everyone here at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office hopes you and your loved ones have a safe and happy summer! And please remember to buckle up!



Communications Week

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office honored the Communications Division the week of April 12 through April 18, 2015 for the National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.



The Dispatchers in the Communications Center were honored by different events throughout the week. They were served dinner provided by the Chicken House in Callahan as well as received many

donated door prizes from a variety of businesses in Nassau County.



The Communications Center personnel serve as a lifeline to the public who call 911 for an emergency or non-emergency call, and to the officers in the field; as well as answer and dispatch calls for all of Nassau County Fire and Rescue, Fernandina Beach City Police and Nassau County in general.

They are the voice behind the scenes that holds all the pieces of the puzzle together. They are to be commended for their professionalism and dedication to the service that they provide to the public of Nassau County.

Even though we were unable to obtain pictures of all dispatchers, we wanted to recognize you for a *Job Well Done!*

Communications Staff: *Ricky Rowell, Communications Supervisor; Supervisors Tracy Williams, Paula Stuart, Marcelia Robinson, and Cindy Carter. Dispatchers – Peggy Wilson, Susan McDonald, Joyce Fisher, Magan Collins, Jacquelyn Adams, Grace Mason, Linda Ottinger, Alexis Crawford, Brianna Crews, Shawn Conner, Victoria Sharkey, Carie Gatlin, Ginny Earick.*

The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners made a resolution in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. A resolution was read at the BOCC Meeting Monday, April 13th, 2015 designating April 12th thru the 18th as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.



Pictured (left to right) is Communications Personnel Linda Ottinger, Tracy Williams, Lisa Jones, Lexi Crawford, Susan McDonald and Ricky Rowell.



PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

Warm weather means activities and fun under the sun! Whether you love warm outdoors, or find it hot and sticky, everyone must be careful not to let a heat-related illness spoil the day.

The American Red Cross urges you to follow these tips to prevent a heat-related illness:

1. NEVER leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles. A closed vehicle can reach over 140 degrees F within minutes.
2. Dress for the heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy.
3. Drink water. Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.
4. Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.
5. Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
6. Stay indoors when possible. Air conditioning provides the safest escape from extreme heat: Install window air conditioners snugly. Check air-conditioning ducts for proper insulation. Vacuum filters weekly during periods of high use to provide more cool air.
7. Take regular breaks when engaged in physical activity on warm days. Take time out to find a cool place. If you recognize that you, or someone else, is showing the signals of a heat-related illness, stop activity and find a cool place. Remember, have fun, but stay cool!

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEAT INDEX

Based on the latest research findings, the National Weather Service (NWS) has devised the "Heat Index" (HI), (sometimes referred to as the "apparent temperature"). The HI, given in degrees F, is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when relative humidity (RH) is added to the actual air temperature.

HEAT WAVE: A MAJOR SUMMER THREAT

In a normal year, about 175 Americans die as a result of summer heat. Among family of natural hazards, only the cold of winter-not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes-takes a greater toll. In the 40-year period from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the United States by the effects of heat and solar radiation.

HEAT DISORDERS: SYMPTOMS & FIRST AID

SUNBURN: Redness and pain. In severe cases swelling of skin, blisters, fever, headaches.

First Aid: Ointments for mild cases if blisters appear and do not break. If breaking occurs, apply dry sterile dressing. Serious, extensive cases should be seen by physician.

HEAT CRAMPS: Painful spasms usually in muscles of legs and abdomen possible. Heavy sweating.

First Aid: Firm pressure on cramping muscles, or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use.



**American
Red Cross**

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Heavy sweating, weakness, skin cold, pale and clammy. Fainting and vomiting. First Aid: Get victim out of sun. Lay down and loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan or move victim to air conditioned room. Sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use. If vomiting continues, seek immediate medical attention.

HEAT STROKE (or sunstroke): High body temperature (106° F. or higher). Hot dry skin, no longer sweating. Rapid and strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness.

First Aid: HEAT STROKE IS A SEVERE MEDICAL EMERGENCY. SUMMON EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OR GET THE VICTIM TO A HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. DELAY CAN BE FATAL.

Move the victim to a cooler environment. Reduce body temperature with cold bath or sponging. Use extreme caution. Remove clothing, use fans and air conditioners. If temperature rises again, repeat process. Do not give fluids.

Source: American Red Cross and NOAA's National Weather Service

Provided courtesy of www.wellnessproposals.com

FAVORITE RECIPES FROM OUR EMPLOYEES



CHOCOLATE DELIGHT by Jan Stokes

Ingredients: 1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup 4X (confectioner's sugar)
1 ½ sticks butter, melted
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup chopped nuts, your choice
3 T. sugar
2 small boxes Instant chocolate pudding
4 cups milk (regular or 2%)
Garnish; Grated Chocolate or chopped nuts
1 large Cool Whip

Layer 1/Crust: Mix together flour, butter, sugar and chopped nuts. Mix well and spread into a 9x13 baking pan. This is a little sticky but just keep pressing into pan – believe me it's worth it. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 15 minutes. Cool completely.

Layer 2: While crust is baking, blend together an 8 oz. cream cheese, 1 cup 4X sugar and 1 ½ cups Cool Whip. Spread over "cooled" crust.

Layer 3: Prepare "Instant" Chocolate pudding mix according to package directions and pour over layer 2.

Layer 4: Top with remainder of Cool Whip, cover and refrigerate overnight for best results.

I like to garnish with some grated chocolate. Just a few more "small" calories, but who's counting calories at this point! Enjoy. This recipe works great with other pudding mixes!



EASY ICE CREAM DESSERT by Diana Crigger

Ingredients: 2 boxes of Ice Cream Sandwiches
2 Big Containers of Cool Whip
1 package of Butterfinger Candy Bars (the ones with 10 small bars)

- Take a 9 x 12 rectangle pan or Pyrex glass pan.
- Set out Cool Whip – so it is easier to work with.
- Unwrap ice cream sandwiches and fill the bottom of the pan.
- Put a layer of cool whip on top of ice cream sandwiches.
- Smash a few of the Butterfinger candy bars and sprinkle on top of cool whip layer.
 - (Rolling Pin works really well – leave candy bars in wrapper – smash and then empty contents onto cool whip.)
- Now repeat layers
- Finish off with sprinkling more of the candy bars on the top layer of cool whip
- FREEZE!

Bring dessert out a few minutes before serving so it is easier to dish out! ENJOY!



bon appétit

Improvements Made to Rifle Range

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office made improvements to the gun range with the addition of a Rifle Range. This will enable local law enforcement agencies to enhance their firearms skills.



MADD Recognition

Officer Josh Paetsch of the Fernandina Beach Police Department (pictured left) and Deputy Dallas Palecek (pictured right) of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office were recognized by the Northeast Florida chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) at a ceremony held June at the Thrasher Horne Conference Center in Orange Park, FL. Both officers were recognized for their tireless effort and commitment to MADD's mission to stop impaired and drugged driving, and to prevent underage drinking through prevention, enforcement and victim support.



Wear It Life Jacket Campaign

Deputy Jenny Wright's son, Charlie, is featured on the Florida Wildlife Commission's "Wear It" campaign designed to get kids to wear their life jackets!



Charity Softball Game

On Saturday April 4th, the Nassau County Sheriff's Office and Nassau County property Appraiser's Office squared off in a softball game to help raise awareness and funds to benefit Nassau County charities. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), Katie Ride for Life, United Way, and the James Page Scholarship Fund all benefited from the event's proceeds. The game was played at the Yulee Sports Complex at the second annual Nassau County Government Day.

This second annual sponsored by Farm Events also included a kids, an Easter egg activities. The Easter members of the featured over 1,000

Besides NCSO and the participating, other roles. County Danny Leeper, Steve as umpires, Tax Commissioner Junior Foster served as game Senator Aaron Bean



affair included refreshments Bureau Insurance and Coca-Cola. bounce house and activities for hunt, and many other exciting egg hunt was coordinated by Nassau County School Board and eggs with prizes inside.

Property Appraisers Office county officials served in various Commissioners Pat Edwards, Kelley, and George Spicer served Collector John Drew, Boatwright, and Judge Robert announcers, and Florida State served as the emcee.

The game was stopped in the bottom of the 3rd inning due to severe weather with the Sheriff's Office in the lead 4-3.

New Law Enforcement Memorial Design

Sheriff Bill Leeper revealed the new design for the Law Enforcement Memorial for the new Administrative Building.



Below 100

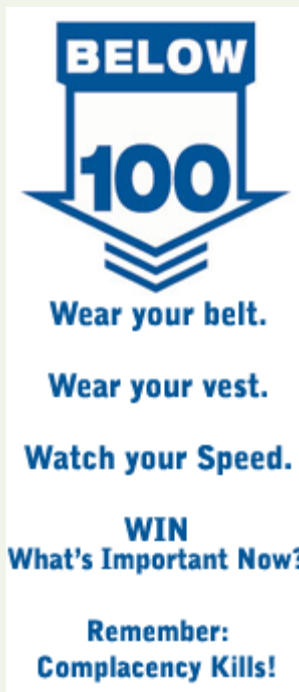
"Driving is one of the most dangerous things people do each day and we need to make sure all of our employees arrive to work and back home safely," said Sheriff Bill Leeper. "Providing this safety information reminds all of us that we need to focus on the driving task while we are behind the wheel, which will hopefully reduce the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities that occur in Nassau County."

The goal of the Below 100 training is to get the number of police officer deaths in the United States below 100 each year by holding accountable those who stray outside of what is considered common sense.

The main focus of the Below 100 program is to encourage law enforcement officers to wear their bullet-proof vests and vehicle seatbelts and be mindful of their speed while driving. If officers focus on those three things the line-of-duty deaths throughout the nation should drop below 100 each year.

There were 126 law enforcement officers killed during 2014 in the U.S. That's a 24 percent increase from 2013, when 102 officers were killed. The number of police officers killed by firearms increased 56% in 2014 and about 46% of the officers who died were killed in vehicle crashes.

Also attending the training seminar was Kim Schlau, who's two daughters were killed in a traffic crash involving an Illinois State Trooper, who lost control of his patrol car while speeding and driving distracted. She is speaking out to let other law enforcement officers know what can happen if they are careless behind the wheel.



Word Search



Find words that are part of a police investigation.

1. ABUSE
2. INVESTIGATE
3. PEN
4. COMPLAINT
5. INVESTIGATOR
6. PENCIL
7. DECISION
8. MEDIATION
9. PHONE
10. FORCE
11. OFFICER
12. PICTURES
13. INTERVIEW
14. PAPER
15. RESEARCH

Upcoming Citizen Academy

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for the upcoming Citizen's Academy to begin August 20th, 2015. NCSO's Citizen Law Enforcement Academy is an educational and informative program that allows Nassau citizens the opportunity to learn about the issues that face law enforcement in our community. The program also helps citizens better understand police work in their community, and develops stronger ties between our community and the Sheriff's Office.

"The Citizen Academy program is yet another mechanism for law enforcement to inform the public of what we do, improve communication, and obtain citizen input, assistance, and support throughout the community by sharing information" said Sheriff Bill Leeper.

The 9 week program gives adults a behind the scenes look at Sheriff's Office operations through hands-on participation and expert speakers. It's conducted in a classroom setting, as well as "in-the-field" utilizing instructors from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.



The Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy is free of charge and is held on consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and one Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. until noon at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office, located at 76001 Bobby Moore Circle, Yulee, Florida.

Class size is limited and all applicants will be screened through a routine criminal background check prior to their acceptance into the program. Deadline for applications is two weeks prior to the beginning of the class.

The 4th class will be starting on August 20, 2015. For further information, contact the Nassau County Sheriff's Office Human Resources Department or Larry Boatwright (Volunteer Coordinator) at (904) 548-4027 or lboatwright@nassauso.com.

Citizen's Advisory Team News

The Citizen Advisory Team (CAT) meets in the five major geographical areas of the county, to advise the Sheriff's Office on community concerns with crime.

The five geographical areas that have a Sheriff's CAT are: **Hilliard, Callahan, Bryceville, Yulee, and Amelia Island.**

The teams meet once a month to discuss issues pertaining to their area of the county and to plan solutions with the Sheriff's Office staff.

For more information on CAT Teams in Hilliard, Callahan and Bryceville, contact Mitch Kinsey at (904) 548-4056 or email at mkinsey@nassauso.com

For more information on CAT Teams in Yulee and Amelia Island, contact Larry Boatwright at (904) 548-4027 or email at lboatwright@nassauso.com



Cindy Moore Retirement

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office honored Cindy Moore with a surprise retirement party. Cindy has served the citizens of Nassau County for over twenty seven (27) years as a Dispatcher in the Communications Division.



We wish Cindy a Happy Retirement! Her years of expertise will be missed! Thank you for all that you have done for the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.

Employee Years of Service

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES

5 YEAR

Troy Gill – Corrections
Joseph Reynolds – Corrections
Kenneth Davis – Bailiff Sergeant
Stephen Jones - Deputy
Theresa Walker – Control Room Operator
Roberta Burch – Control Room Operator
Josh Hyers - Corrections

10 YEAR

Hope Herrin - Deputy
Juan Garcia – Food Service

15 YEAR

Kenneth Clements - Deputy
Peggy Wilson - Dispatcher
Celeste Fair – Purchasing Agent
Cedric Arline - CID

20 YEAR

Debra Gaston - Deputy

25 YEAR

David Williams – Lieutenant Corrections

30 YEAR

Margaret Skipper – School Crossing Guard

On June 12, 2015, Sheriff Leeper completed the 10-week training session at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Sheriff Leeper was awarded the "Yellow Brick" and "Blue Brick" for successfully completing a 6.1-mile obstacle trail built by the U.S. Marine Corps and swam 34 miles.



"I came home with a tremendous list of resources now available to the sheriff's office specifically and to our community as a whole." – Sheriff Leeper



Sheriff Leeper at Graduation Ceremony

Welcome!

The Nassau County Sheriff's Office welcomes our new employees to the organization!



Sheena Hobbs
Human Resources Clerk



Daniel Johns
Detention Deputy/Corrections



Johnny Nolan
Patrol Deputy



Collin Hill
Patrol Deputy

First Quarter Awards

Congratulations to our employees of the 1st quarter (January to March 2015):



DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

Tim Beazley
Patrol Deputy

CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER

Celeste Haddock
Property Clerk



DISPATCHER OF THE QUARTER

Marcelia Robinson
Communications Dispatcher

SUPERVISOR OF THE QUARTER

Lt. Ryan VanTassell
Patrol



DETENTION DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

Joshua Hyers
Corrections Division



Behind the BADGE

Newsletter

76001 Bobby
Moore Circle
Yulee, FL 32097

904-225-5174



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 Sheena Hobbs at 904-548-4012 or by email at sshobbs@nassauso.com

As always, please stay safe!

