



**Chatham County
Sheriff's Office**

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Sheriff's Note:

It's going to be a very interesting couple of years watching the jail expansion project take shape. I am very pleased that the contractors have jumped right on the project and I am pleased with the early progress.

Everyone at the Sheriff's Office will likely be inconvenienced at times during construction, but everyone needs to remember in the end this will make life better for all of us.

-Sheriff Al St Lawrence

The Sheriffic News

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Clearing the Way for a Mega Jail



Left: Most of the construction will take place on the south side of the existing jail. Contractors say the expansion project will take about 30 months to complete.

What was once a swampy pond is now being filled with thousands of truckloads of dirt. Between 250 and 300 loads of dirt are being dumped each day. Jason Hammond with Hunt Construction Group says crews will start working on the utilities next week—that means they will be digging trenches and laying pipes for water and sewer lines.

On the opposite side of the complex crews have been clearing the land for a new video visitation center and two new parking lots. After all of the trees and stumps are removed, dump trucks will haul in dirt to that site too.

Hammond says it will be several months before they'll start tearing up any existing parking lots. "I think it's going good, they are really moving quickly on this thing and they are cooperating with all the security require-

ments.," said Cpt. Thomas Gilberg.

Gilberg is heading up the security team for the expansion project. "I hope in 2 years and 10 months, or less, we have a new facility. "

Gilberg says there are going to be inconveniences in terms of parking and access to the building. And it's going to get noisy.

Once crews finish leveling the ground, they will start driving huge steel piles into the ground.

"It's important that everyone remember that we are working towards a better day with a lot more room and more options in terms of inmate housing," Gilberg said.

Article and photos by Michelle Gavin



Above: Construction crews cut down dozens of trees near the booking area to make way for a new video visitation center.

Deputy Blanton Saves Woman From Fallen Tree



Photo by: Deputy Warren Blanton

A Chatham County Sheriff's deputy's quick thinking may have saved a woman's life.

On March 28, the morning after strong storm swept through Savannah, Deputy Warren Blanton was driving southbound on Waters Avenue.

He noticed a power pole rocking up ahead. When he approached the pole he saw that a giant Oak Tree had fallen on a home. At that time a woman came out of the house onto her front porch. Deputy

Blanton yelled for the woman to run back inside and go out the back door.

A moment later the tree crashed through the front of the woman's home and on the front lawn.

Deputy Blanton then waited with the woman until her family arrived.

The woman was not hurt. Her two dogs also got out of the home without a scratch.

Article by:
Michelle Gavin

Appreciating Our Administrative Professionals

Sheriff Al St Lawrence says the Administrative Professionals are the backbone of this department, they are the ones who keep things going.

There are currently 19 administrative professionals working for the CCSO.

"I am tickled to death with the admins who work for me, they are the unsung heroes," the Sheriff said.

In 1952, National Secretaries Week was created to encourage more people to consider careers in the secretarial/administrative support field.

Many of the admins at the Sheriff's Office still remember manual typewriters, carbon paper, mimeographs, and erasers with the brush on the end. There was a time when everyone was excited about white out!

Now almost 60 years later, it is computers, email, multiline phones, text messaging, and super copiers.

The week was renamed to Administrative Professionals

Clockwise seated: Sharon Aikens, Veatta Cargill, Jill McCall, Jayda Jackson, Rosetta Ross, Beverly Rowe, Juanita Johnson. Clockwise standing: Diane Sasser, Janell Rhett-Belton, Stephanie Bush, Sheriff St Lawrence, Dottie Wilcher, Gretchen Derryberry, Stephanie King, Cathie Griffin, Beverly Hardee, Jennifer Smith, Stephanie Parker and Sherran Johnson. Not pictured: Wanda Cotton



Week in 2000 to encompass the expanding responsibilities and wide-ranging job titles of administrative support staff. The name might have changed but their relevancy to the organization has not.

Security admin Beverly Rowe has been with the CCSO for 19 years. "I take pride in being a part of this well organized, professional and proud organization."

Lt. L. Lovett said her admin, Cathie Griffin, is a loyal asset. "No task is too difficult for her to handle."

Lt. I. Orr said, "My responsibil-

ity as Unit 5 manager is very multiple, but Mrs. Cargill always had my best interest in making sure my mountains became mole hills. She's highly respected by the staff and management."

Admin Sherran Johnson is assigned to Housing Unit 2. Lt. J. Mitchell said "Ms. Johnson has proven that she can meet and stay ahead of the challenge. We appreciate her dedication."

Cpt. Kim Middleton said her admin, Jill McCall is a perfect fit to the Professional Standards Unit. "She is helpful,

tactful, flexible and energetic. Jill is a perfect fit for the unit," Middleton said.

Article by: Gretchen Derryberry
Photo by: Cpl. F. Williams

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Always be nice to secretaries. They are the real gatekeepers in the world."

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

It's All About the Kids

Major John Wilcher likes to tell everyone when he came up with the idea of holding a Poker Run as a means to make money for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes I told him he was crazy. Crazy like a fox.

Since its inception more than a decade ago, the Poker Run has raised nearly \$330,000 and has grown from 342 riders in 2001 to more than double that in 2010.

Now in its 11th year, the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Poker Run is an event that many people look forward to participating in. On May 1, 2011 riders from all over Georgia, Florida, and the Carolina's will once again be coming to Savannah to ride for these children.

The money raised is used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children and funds a recreational trip each summer.

The boys and girls living in the youth homes across Georgia

range in age from four to 18. Some of the children have been abused, others have parents with substance abuse problems or are incarcerated.

"I love helping kids that can't help themselves," said Wilcher. "I like to see them smile and laugh when they get a present or get to do something that otherwise wouldn't have happened."

The local riders, businesses, and volunteers are the backbone of the Poker Run and have made this event so successful.

Crazy idea, yeah probably, but a great idea all the same.

Note: If you would like to get involved and make a difference contact Major Wilcher, Michelle Gavin, Deputy Ron Robinson, Gretchen Derryberry, Stephanie King, Janell Rhett-Belton, or Diane Sasser.

Article by:
Gretchen Derryberry

GEORGIA SHERIFFS' BOYS RANCH



POKER RUN 2011



Above photos taken during 2009 CCSO Poker Run

Annual Poker Run

11th Year

May 1, 2011
(RAIN DATE May 8, 2011)

FIRST BIKE OUT 9 AM
LAST BIKE OUT 11 AM
LAST BIKE IN AT 2 PM

\$15.00 per Hand
or
\$25.00 per Couple

GEORGIA SHERIFFS' BOYS RANCH
POKER RUN 2011

Door Prizes

AND
(7) DRAWINGS @ \$100.00 Ea. TICKETS \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00

Tee Shirts Available \$10.00 ea.

REGISTRATION 8 AM
NAPA AUTO PARTS
220 EISENHOWER DR
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

STRAIGHT POKER POKER HAND WINNERS

| | |
|-----|----------|
| 1st | \$500.00 |
| 2nd | \$400.00 |
| 3rd | \$300.00 |
| 4th | \$200.00 |
| 5th | \$100.00 |

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

COMMEMORATIVE PINS \$1.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
MAJOR JOHN WILCHER @ 652-7609
GRETCHEN DERRYBERRY @ 652-7632
WRITE P.O. BOX 10026, SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31412

www.chathamsheriff.org

Courthouse Security Officers Bring a Wealth of Experience to the Job

In June 1995, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Al St Lawrence realized the value of utilizing Courthouse Security Officers at the Judicial Courthouse.

A small group of six men along with one x-ray machine and one walk-thru magnetometer secured the courthouse lobby. Juvenile Court was added in 2004.

Over the past 15 years, this unit has increased to 29 Security Officers. More than 30 security cameras are monitored by Courthouse Security Officers and deputies.

Everyone entering is screened for illegal contraband. This includes everything from pocket knives and scissors to cork screws and forks. You'd be surprised what folks carry in

their pockets and purses!

In 2010, approximately 718,000 people entered our courthouses with over 1200 items being confiscated during the security screening process.

On any given workday, about six items are confiscated. Supervision of the "Blue Coats" is under the direction of Captain (Ret.) Richard Hood.

Courthouse Security Officers not only perform security work but help citizens with court-

house information, city directions, wheelchair access, and other public service assistance.

Every day, these men and women are the face of the Sheriff's Office to many folks who may never have contact with any other law enforcement agency.

**In 2010
Courthouse
Security Officers
confiscated more
than 1,200 items**



Above: Martha Rogers monitors the security cameras from the control room at the Chatham County Courthouse.



Above: Eddie Johnson mans one of the x-ray machines at the Chatham County Courthouse on Montgomery Street.

Well over half of the officers have prior law-enforcement experience and many are retired CCSO deputies.

Joyce Baker has been a Courthouse Security Office since 2009. "I like working with people who come in the courthouse every day, our 'customers'," she said.

"Personalities, appearances, issues, attitudes—it's a smorgasbord of humanity. On any given day you never know what you will be served. A sense of humor is a necessity and the endless surprise is the payoff."

Article by Diane Sasser
Photos by Diane Sasser and Michelle Gavin



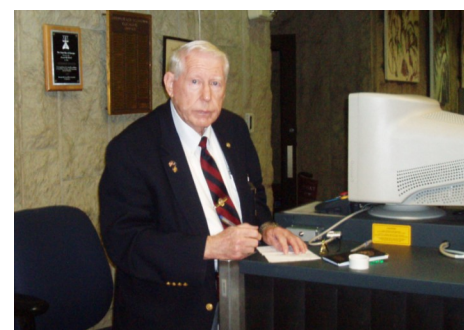
Above: Shift Supervisor Jack Drossolopoulos, Jack Willis and Barbara Edwards are part of the security team at the Chatham County Juvenile Courthouse.



Above: Shift Supervisor Tom Miller wands a courthouse visitor.



Top right: James Hieronymus and Howard Crosby make sure everyone passes through security. Bottom right: Bill Burrows is a Shift Supervisor at the courthouse downtown.



Blue Coats Recall Their Most Memorable Moments

“The look on a man’s face when he realized that he had just put a bag of marijuana in the bowl in front of me.”
— George Walker

“I was working one morning in ‘A’ position when a lady came in with her gown and PJs on.”
— Martha Rogers

“Seeing a live iguana come through the x-ray.”
— Bill Burrows

“A woman came through security and I saw a meat cleaver in her purse. I said, ‘Ma’am did you know there’s a meat cleaver in your purse?’ She said ‘Yes, I was cutting up BBQ earlier.’”
—Barbara Edwards

SAY WHAT?!

“The strangest thing I see everyday is the number of people who stand at the Exit doors of the courthouse looking at the ‘Exit Only’ sign, waiting for someone to exit so that they can enter.”
— Leander Brown

“A person came in under the influence and wanted to know where DUI court was.”
— Eddie Johnson

“I observed one young lady bring what appeared to be all her worldly possessions in a suitcase as she propelled herself by shuffling her feet while seated in a wheelchair. We tried to accommodate her by allowing her to leave her suitcase with us, but she insisted on taking it into the courthouse with her. She insisted she needed her suitcase when she was going to be ‘taken’ by aliens.”
— Warren Onken

“The strangest thing I’ve seen is the look on a man’s face when I pulled a 16” sword out of a walking stick he put on the x-ray machine. His wife bought it for him at a gun show as a novelty. It was obvious he had no idea what he had.”
— Robert Gay

A Touch of Brown in a Sea of Green

Dozens of deputies helped maintain law and order along the parade route at this year's Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out to watch, many claiming their spots as early as 5 a.m.

Sheriff Al St Lawrence, the Honor Guard and members of Explorer Post 876 were among the more than 300 entries in the parade.

Sheriff St Lawrence has been riding in the parade for the past 42 years. He said this was one of the biggest crowds he has ever seen.

Advanced Deputy Harold Singleton has been working the parade for the past 18 years. He spent seven years at Habersham and Bay streets. "I saw little kids grow up to be big kids," Singleton said. This was the first time he's been assigned to Bull Street. "I enjoy being with the people and the group I had this year was really good." Singleton said the secret is



identifying one person in each group and asking them to help keep everyone in check. While deputies on the street didn't encounter many problems during the parade, the officers working in the jail were extremely busy. More than 500 people were arrested by local law enforcement agencies and brought to the Chatham County Detention Center during the four-day celebration.



Article by Michelle Gavin
Photos by Cpl. F. Williams and Cpt. Herb Harley

Upper left: Advanced Deputy Harold Singleton salutes for the camera while providing security along the parade route near Wright Square.

Upper right: Sheriff Al St Lawrence waves to the crowd in Calhoun Square.

Lower right: Deputy Melvin Ray was spotted with a lipstick stained cheek at his position on Bull Street.





Top left: Pvt. Sharleen Simmons, Pvt. Kenderly Wise, Pvt. Lester Ellerbe, Deputy Ayanna Cooley and Cpl. Patricia Garden gathered pre-parade for this photo op.

Middle left: Chaplain Fr. O'Brien is always a favorite with the ladies on St. Patrick's Day.

Bottom Left: Advanced deputies Marshall Rawl and Curtis Rewis kept the crowd in check at Broughton and Price streets.



Top right: Cpl. Gregg Rhode was assigned to the family-friendly crowd in Oglethorpe Square.

Middle right: Cpt. Herb Harley brought his grandson along to watch the parade.

Bottom right: Lt. Shawn Taber donned a kilt as he represented the Police Emerald Society.

In Other News....



Top Left: Cpl. Nathaniel Holmes teaches a group of new jail volunteers during the Super Saturday Training day on January 20th. Close to 100 volunteers attended.

Bottom: Col. McArthur Holmes, Judge James Bass and Judge Patricia Stone posed with a girls from Delta Academy and Delta Gems of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc at the jail March 2nd.



Above: Cpl. Daniel Mares fingerprints middle school students from Savannah Country Day School. More than a dozen teens toured the jail and spoke with deputies as part of their Law and Order week.



Above left: CCSO Deputy Jason Hardaway evaluates a K-9 team from the Federal Reserve. K-9 Blek and his handler Agent Oscar O'Neal learns how locate hidden explosives in vacant rooms at the Ramada Inn in Pooler. They were among the 27 teams from across the Georgia in town for the training March 21-25.

Above right: CCSO Deputy Jason Livie observes a K-9 team from the U.S. Marshal Service. K-9 Wanda and her handler Deputy U.S. Marshal Jeremy Smith search for hidden explosives at Southeastern Auto Auction.

Photos by: Michelle Gavin

Deputies Train Out-of-Town K-9 Teams to Sniff Out Explosives



Welcome to Our Team



Meet the newest members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office! Front row: Ana Marija Black, Leroy Scott and Michelle Vasquez. Back row: Jerry Williams, Jr., James Barbee, Tony Singleton and Lorin Young, Jr. Their first day on the job was March 28th.

Photo by: Cpt. Herb Harley



Above: Cpl. Jurgen Mauras and Deputy Alexandria Clayton participated in the Teen Maze at Jenkins High School for Chatham County 9th graders. Students were put through real life scenarios—including going to jail.

SPOTLIGHT

Employee



Pvt. Ricky Wright Night Sanitation Officer

- Pvt. Wright works from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- He plays a huge role in the cleanliness and upkeep of the building. He oversees inmate workers who paint, wax floors, clean windows and much more.
- Pvt. Wright says he likes his late hours and he enjoys training the inmates who help him. He says it gives him a sense of pride to know he can teach someone a trade that they may use one day.
- He joined the CCSO in 1999 and is a member of the Honor Guard.
- Pvt. Wright won first place in the Florida Law Enforcement Games Power lifting contest in 2002.
- He enjoys spending time with his 8 grandchildren and working on cars.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

April 2011

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 Tosha Arrington | 5 | 6 Samuel Richardson Willie Tyler | 7 Brian Lee Terry Voisine Rhonda Bryant-Elleby Jurgen Mauras | 8 | 9 James Hardy Jasmine Lovett |
| 10 | 11 Anthony Stephens Rickey Watkins Roger Brown | 12 Robert Lewis David Carpenter | 13 Diane Hooper | 14 | 15 Anthony Alston Lashawnda Campbell | 16 |
| 17 Corey Harper Earl Milliken Sarge Orr | 18 Anthony Davis | 19 Passover Darren Sheppard | 20 | 21 Reginald Easterling Nicole-Jeannine Meyers Sharon Crittenden | 22 Earth Day Joyce Baker Judith Tyree Lewis Lane | 23 Sand Gnat's Hometown Hero Day Jason Livie |
| 24 Easter Yolanda Russell Walter Kent | 25 Carlisia Stoner | 26 Jesse Wilson | 27 Administrative Professionals' Day Beverly Hardee | 28 Kurt Lewis | 29 | 30 Glenn Moye |

BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------|--|
| 1 CCSO's Poker Run | 2 | 3 Lonney Clark | 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo Gina Ferreira | 6 Esha Webster | 7 Horace Harn, Jr. John Biggs |
| 8 Mother's Day | 9 Sammie Caruthers | 10 Jimmy Woods | 11 Stephen Darnstaedt Gwendolyn Young Tommy Tillman Valerie Gaines | 12 Joni York | 13 | 14 Christopher McLaughlin Bobby Jones |
| 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day | 16 Marshall Rawl | 17 Shanterria Wright Stephen Kaskel Sonya Jenkins | 18 Kenneth Cochran O'Neil Young, III | 19 Betty Robertson-Lang Lanisha Hunter Samuel Williams David Jones Paul Sibilio | 20 | 21 Kim Middleton Nicole Meyers |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Angela Dorsey | 25 | 26 Sheila Allen | 27 Shasta Hart | 28 Katrese Adams |
| 29 | 30 Memorial Day Joel McDaniel Ricky Wright, Sr. | 31 | <h1>May 2011</h1> | | | |

Who am I?

(Hint: They are all on the birthday calendar!)



I am originally from St. Paul, MN but we moved to Georgia when I was 3. My favorite foods are pepperoni pizza and wings. My favorite TV shows are "Ghost Adventures" and "The First 48." My favorite actors are Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Mariska Hargitay. I've worked for the CCSO for 13 years. I have a lot in common with Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" which is why Lt. Rogers nicknamed me "Toto." Who am I?

I was 6 years old in this picture. I was born in Jacksonville, FL and am an avid Jaguars fan. I enjoy contact sports such as football, wrestling, boxing and taekwondo. I joined the CCSO four years ago after serving 24 years in the Army. Someday I would like to vacation in Costa Rica and Brazil. Some people hear me say "that dog ain't huntin'" when I see something that is not right. Who am I?



I was 18 months old in this photo. I was born in Albany, GA. My favorite place to eat is Jalapeno's and my favorite TV show is Law and Order SVU. My most memorable vacation was my honeymoon in the Bahamas and one day I hope to go to England. I joined the CCSO 18 years ago and I have worked everywhere except R&D and Court Services. Dispatch labeled me the "10-46" king because I stopped to assist so many motorists. Who am I?

"Who Am I" answers from last edition



Cpt. Elijah Powell
Court Services



Andrea McPher-son-Gray
Transport



Cpt. Herb Harley
Training

Anniversaries

25 Years

Lt. Shawn Taber
Sgt. David Walker

20 Years

Rhonda McCullough

10 Years

Deputy Richard Hall
Pvt. Valerie Gaines
Pvt. Yolanda Russell
Thomas Hodges

5 Years

Pvt. Nathaniel Smalls
Pvt. William Warren
Debbie Freeman
Monica Johnson

Employees of the Month

January

Pvt. Charlesetta Hawkins (Booking)
Deputy Ron Robinson (Community Relations)
Janell Rhett-Belton (Enforcement-Admin)
Jennifer Buffington (Records Specialist)

February

Investigator Rhonda Bryant-Elleby (S.O.R.T. Unit)
Pvt. Kenderly Wise (Lobby and Control)
Latoya Lawrence (Programs)
Gabrielle Lewis (S.O.R.T. Unit Analyst)

March

Investigator Warren Blanton (S.O.R.T. Unit)
Pvt. Alicyn Whaley (Classifications)
Kendra Crawford (Programs)
Jimmy Woods (Courthouse Security)

Lest We Forget

2011 Police Memorial

Wednesday, May 11th
10 a.m.

Police Officers Monument
Oglethorpe & Habersham
Streets

CCSO Deputies, Officers and
Staff are invited



- **The Sherifffic News** is a publication of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and is produced by Public Information Officer Michelle Gavin.
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Cpl. L. Swinton at 651-3715
Diane Sasser at 652-2712 or dsasser@chathamcounty.org
- Check us out on the web!
www.chathamsheriff.org

IN SEARCH OF MENTORS

The Sheriff is looking for deputies and civilians to volunteer as Lunch Buddy Mentors. Garden City Elementary and Haven Elementary schools are our participating schools in the Lunch Buddy Program.

I want to share an experience of mine from Haven Elementary School that I think highlights why our involvement in the schools is so important.

During a recent visit at the school Deputy Alexandria Clayton and I were just in time to help with a situation in a second grade class. A boy had come to the counselors office and said that he was being "picked on" in the classroom and he wanted to tell someone about it. I asked the counselor if we could address the class on bullying and she agreed.

When we got to the room, the teacher was practically yelling to get the students' attention. There was a young girl who was crying. The teacher showed me a metal pistol that she found in the girl's purse. I took the pistol from her and then talked to the class about their behavior and about bullying. They listened attentively.

When I was done, we escorted the young girl to the principal's office to address the situation with the pistol. After a thorough interview with the child, we found out she got the gun from a 15 year old friend who spent the night at her home the past Friday night. The principal was grateful that we were there at that point in time to intervene in the situation.

Although I am sure that we helped in many ways during that situation, most of the mentoring connections are not that serious. Having a deputy in uniform, a positive role model who will listen to them is usually all a child needs to help them continue on the right path. If you think you can be that person and want to give a little time back to help change a young person's life, please sign up to mentor and be an agent of positive change in a child's life.



—Deputy Ron Robinson

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