



**Chatham County
Sheriff's Office**

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Sheriff's Note:

I recently had the pleasure of welcoming the Chatham County Youth Commission to the Sheriff's Office. I really enjoy getting a chance to meet the young people of this community and instilling upon them the importance of staying in school and staying out of jail. It is my responsibility as Sheriff to house the people our local law enforcement agencies are arresting—and most of them are charged with serious felonies. But I believe it is also my responsibility, and the responsibility of my deputies, to give students tours of the jail, go to their schools, and talk to them in hopes of making a positive impact in their lives.

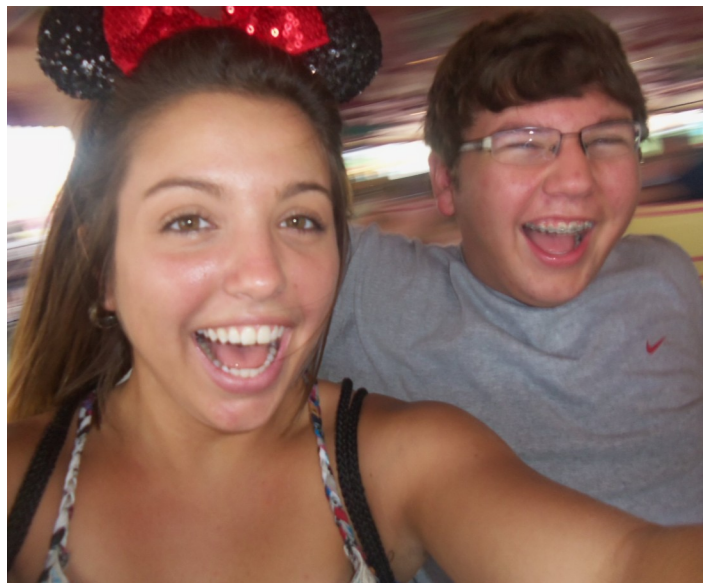
-Sheriff Al St Lawrence

The Sheriffic News

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CCSO Takes Youth Home Children on Magical Vacation



Above: Two of the teens from the Boys and Girls Ranch in Hahira were all smiles on the Mad Tea Party ride at Magic Kingdom.

For the boys and girls living at the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Youth Home in Hahira, GA, going on vacation to Disney World was a dream come true. That dream was made possible by Sheriff Al St Lawrence, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and a few local businesses.

In June the CCSO took 28 youth home children, their house parents and 10 members of Explorer Post 876 on a two day trip to Orlando.

The trip was paid for by the Poker Run fundraiser and other financial contributions, including a \$1,500 check from Coca-Cola, \$500 from Budweiser and \$500 from Patrick's Uniforms.

A majority of the children, ranging in age from 5 to 20, had never been to Disney. They spent the first day at Hollywood Studios and the second day at Magic King-

dom.

It poured down rain for most of the second day, but that didn't dampen the fun. All the kids and chaperons skipped a chance to go back to the hotel and stayed at Magic Kingdom for 14 hours straight.

Cpl. Mike Crowder has been the designated and favorite bus driver for the youth home children for years.

"They really enjoyed it, this was their first adventure there and they were so excited," Crowder said. "I ran into different groups of them a lot during the two days. They were always having a great time and trying to ride every ride and see every site."

The trip took months to plan and there was a lot of coordinating with the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Youth Homes. The smiles on everyone's faces at Disney made it all worthwhile.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: The kids couldn't wait to board the CCSO bus for day one at Disney World's Hollywood Studios. Photo by: Michelle Gavin

Youth Home Disney Trip!



Above and left: The Chatham County Sheriff's Office took 28 children and teenagers living in the Georgia Sheriffs' Association Youth Home in Hahira, GA and 10 members of Explorer Post 876 on a two-day vacation to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida in June.

Officers Become Sheriff's Deputies



Left: Cpl. Nathaniel Holmes and Lt. Monica Bryant (in red) joined Chief Deputy Harris (right) in congratulating new graduates Charles Hunter, Reginald Scott and Michael German. Above: Academy class president and CCSO Deputy Charles Hunter received the class flag from GPSTC training manager Harlan Proveaux. Photos by: Michelle Gavin

Operation New Hope Boasts 100 Percent Adoption Rate for Dogs

It has only been a few months since the creation of the Operation New Hope program at the Chatham County Detention Center, but it is already a tremendous success.

So far, all 18 dogs that have graduated from Operation New Hope have been adopted and the corrections officers say they have noticed a positive change in the inmates who are participating.

Inmates are carefully selected to be a part of the program and train the dogs. The dogs, chosen by the Humane Society for Greater Savannah, live and train with the inmates 24/7 for four weeks.

The inmates are crate-training the dogs so they are house broken and teaching them basic commands like how to sit and stay. Some of the participants are taking it a bit further and are putting the dogs through obstacle courses.

Sheriff St Lawrence said he is proud of this new program that is helping dogs and inmates alike. "This has already become a very popular program and I hope it stays that way. It's

a small way the Chatham County Sheriff's Office can do something for this community."

Anyone interested in adopting one of the dogs can contact the Humane Society at (912) 354-9515.

You can learn about the dogs up for adoption by going to the CCSO website at www.chathamsheriff.org or by checking out the CCSO's Facebook page.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: Shilo was adopted by a family in May, just days after graduating from Operation New Hope.

Programs Unit Sponsors 'Suited for Success' Event at Bamboo Farms



Looking good, feeling good, and knowing how to put your best foot forward can go a long way in landing a new job. That's why on May 30 the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Programs Unit sponsored a work release collaborative called "Suited for Success" at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens.

The goal of this event was to help former Chatham County Detention Center inmates who were currently enrolled in one of Chatham County's treatment courts get a job and stay out of jail. The treatment courts include: Drug Court, DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Family Dependency Court and Veteran's Court. Participants who fail to adhere to all the guidelines and meet all the requirements in these courts are ordered to return to jail.

More than 100 participants had the opportunity to pick out a new or "like new" suit, receive training on how to successfully interview for a job, learn how to fill out job applications and attend several motivational sessions.

CCSO Programs Manager Angelia Dorsey said, "We have had an overwhelming response from the community to support this event. Some of the businesses have even offered to employ our participants."

Hundreds of suits, skirts, dress pants, and dress shirts were donated to the CCSO for this event.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Check out these stories and more on the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

"Like" the page and you'll receive news and photos about Chatham County's finest at work and at play!

www.facebook.com/chathamcountysheriff.com

Street Ops' New Digs are Complete

The Street Operations Unit, Quartermaster and other enforcement personnel have just moved into their new building.

As of Monday, August 6, Quartermaster Julie Hauser will be temporarily located in the break room of the Enforcement Building next to the new Muster Room.

Major Tom Gilberg, who is overseeing the construction and expansion project, said hopefully officers will be able to start using the new Muster Room for briefings by September 1.

As for parking, CCSO employees are

no longer allowed to park at Sasseen Bonding and will be allowed to park by the new Enforcement Building once they receive a security card to access the building.

Gilberg said the next area to be completed will be the Receiving and Discharge Unit and inmate property area. They are scheduled to be ready by late August.

Top right: Workers recently furnished the new Muster Room.
Bottom right: Cubicles are now in place in the new Street Ops unit.
Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams



Youth Commissioners Tour CCSO



Above: Lt. Shawn Taber put special goggles on Youth Commission candidate Justice Bosco to simulate the effects of being intoxicated.

Right: The youth commissioners met the Sheriff. Below: CERT officers talked to the teenagers about the dangers in the jail. Photos by: Michelle Gavin and Dep. Rhonda Bryant-Elleby.



Nine Chatham County Youth Commission candidates and six returning members took a tour of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office on July 26 and joined the Sheriff for lunch.

The youth commissioner candidates were blindfolded and were surprised to find themselves in Sheriff Al St Lawrence's office. After meeting the Sheriff they participated in a DUI simulation with Lt. Shawn Taber, went on a tour of the jail with Deputy Rhonda Bryant-Elleby and then

Sgt. Robert Brooks led a CERT demonstration.

Youth commissioner candidate Asia Coles said, "Our tour of the jailhouse was very eye opening and it allowed me to see how inmates live on a day to day basis."

Candidate Kentrel Johnson added, "When I was there I learned that I will do everything thing in my power to stay out of jail."

Article by: Michelle Gavin

Construction Security Team Essential to Jail Expansion Project Staying on Track

The mission of the Construction Security Team is to provide overall security, allowing only authorized personnel to enter the site.

Each morning the team is tasked with unlocking all of the gates, and securing them at the end of the day.

Throughout the shift, the officers conduct perimeter checks to maintain visibility and deter unauthorized people from entering the site. Pvt. John Biggs said being on the construction team means you have to pay attention to detail and be flexible.

The deputies are the liaison between the Sheriff's Office and the contractors. The high level of visibility that is maintained has allowed the staff to get to know the contractors and sub-contractors well. It allows them to

troubleshoot any problems that may arise.

Pvt. Charles Hunter likes being part of the expansion project. He said being on the team has made him a more effective communicator.

On any given day at least one of the 10-member Construction Security Team may be on the facility grounds as early as 6 a.m. Each person authorized to enter must have their CCSO issued ID scanned at the gate.

Approximately 300 workers may be on the grounds at any given time.

Pvt. Joan Joseph says she likes to begin the day with a smile for everyone arriving at the gate to generate positive energy.

Sgt. Iris Wheeler said, "Teamwork and communication are very important. I want my team to know and do their job effectively. I have high expectations of my crew."

Article by: Sgt. Felicia Williams

Left: Pvt. Joan Joseph makes the daily assignments.
Below: Pvt. Kendal Newton and Deputy Hunter prepare to inventory contractors' tools.
Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams



Above: Pvt. Alfred White scans an ID badge outside the inmate towers. Right: Sgt. Iris Wheeler and Cpl. Raymond Smith go over the day's security plan.



Middle Right: Pvt. Toby Hodges monitors workers installing new electrical wiring in the Receiving and Discharge Unit. Bottom Right: Pvt. John Biggs talks to a contractor in the new programs unit.





Explorers Showcase Their Skills at Savannah Summerfest

On July 23, Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 competed against six other Explorer Posts from the Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida in Summerfest 2012.

Summerfest is a fun-filled competitive event for Explorers, Boys Scouts and Ventures between the ages of 14-20.

This year was Explorer Post 876's first year participating in Summerfest and the advisors and supporting staff said they were extremely pleased with their performance.

The Explorers placed first in the Cell Extraction competition and third place in the Felony Traffic Stop, Room Search and Accident Investigation competitions.

Explorer Andrea Stokes also placed first in the individual EMT Trauma Assessment competition.

During the Cell Extraction Competition the explorers were under command of their team Captain Mary Margaret Tarsitano. She said, "I am so proud to have received first place for Chatham County, but even more proud of how the guys and I performed as a team."

Several local law enforcement agencies served as evaluators and role players for the competitions including the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, Georgia State Patrol, U.S. Marshals

Service and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

CCSO Lt. Shawn Taber said, "I would like to thank all the agencies, parents and volunteers because without their participation and support Summerfest would not have been possible."

Since Summerfest, five Explorers were promoted on August 2. Zachary Brooks

became a captain and will now lead Explorer Post 876. Andrea Stokes was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. William "Scotty" Carlson was made a sergeant. Mary Margaret Tarsitano and Avery Williams are now corporals.

The explorers will now start preparing for Winterfest 2013, held in Gatlinburg, TN.

Article by: Deputy Rhonda Bryant-Elleby



Above: Members of the Chatham County's Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 and advisors pose for a group photo on the steps of the Savannah Civic Center before the competitions.



Above: Explorers, (front row) Zachary Brooks and Mary Margaret Tarsitano, (back row) Malcolm Davis, William "Scotty" Carlson and Taleel Mayes stand proudly with the 1st place award for the Cell Extraction event.



Top Right: Members of Explorer Post 876 prepare to start the Cell Extraction competition.

Middle Left: Explorers Taleel Mayes and William "Scotty" Carlson show off their skills in the Felony Traffic Stop competition.

Middle Right: Explorers Jonathan Norman and Christian Crawford speak with State Troopers after competing in the Accident Investigation competition.



Above: SCMPD Officer Jeremy McKnight and Sgt. Robert Gavin evaluated the CCSO explorers on their Crime Scene Investigation skills. Bottom Right: (seated) Cpl. Craig Stanfield, (standing) Dep. Jason Livie, Dep. Roger Browne and Corey Harper squeezed in a quick break in between volunteering as role players and evaluators.

Photos By: Michelle Gavin



Happy Trails Retired Col. Smoak

After 25 years of service with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Colonel Tommy Smoak retired on July 13.

Smoak oversaw the CCSO's budget, the firing range, K9, telecommunications, and the fleet. Sheriff Al St Lawrence said Smoak could crunch numbers better than anyone.

The former University of Georgia football player leaves behind quite a legacy at the CCSO—helping to build the most state-of-the-art firing range in the Coastal Empire and just last year was able to build a new multi-purpose building without any costs to taxpayers.

During Smoak's three decades as a law enforcement officer he worked at the Tybee Police Dept., the former Chatham Co. Police Dept. and was the CCSO's loaned officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: Jail Administrator Col. Terry Enoch, Retired Col. Smoak, the Sheriff and Col. John Wilcher celebrated Smoak's retirement along with several other members of the CCSO and Smoak's family. Photo by: Michelle Gavin

CERT Trains With Local and State Agencies to Stay on Top



Above: On June 26 CCSO CERT officers and deputies from Court Services and Street Operations participated in a bomb threat training exercise at the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center along with several other Chatham County agencies.

Left: CERT officers traveled to Forsyth on June 29 to train with SCMPD, Georgia State Patrol, Dept. of Corrections and the Georgia Nat'l Guard. They were evaluated on team procedures, physical fitness and deployment tactics. Photos by: Sgt. Robert Brooks



Deputies Give it Their All at 200 Club's Savannah Mile Run



Above: Dispatcher Marva Gresham, Officer Cleome Meme crossed the Savannah Mile finish line together. Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams

On Saturday, May 26 several members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office participated in the Two Hundred Club of the Coastal Empire's annual Savannah Mile.

The 200 Club raises money for families of police officers and firefighters in the Coastal Empire and Low Country who have been killed in the line of duty.

The Savannah Mile is a one mile race down Drayton Street in downtown Savannah. The race included heats based on age and gender and a heroes heat for first responders to compete in. This marks the second year the CCSO has participated in The 200 Club event.

Rookie officer Jesse Byrd participated this year along with Cpl. Stephen Darnstaedt, Cpl. Nicole Scott, Courthouse Security Officer Jim Woods, Cpl. Lamiles Hill, Deborah Grant, Johnny Williams, Sgt. Felicia Williams, Officer Cleome Meme, Rene Nethels, Marva Gresham, Damien Branch, Jennifer

Buffington, Officer Gwendolyn Young and Cpl. Yolanda Russell.

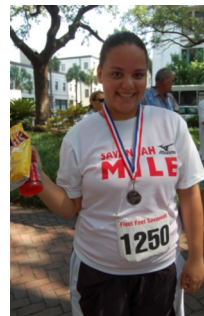
Honor Guard members also led the families of the fallen officers down the race route in a Memory Walk.

Cpl. Hill said he looks forward to running in this event each year. "Giving a little of my time is nothing compared to the sacrifices that have been made by the heroes that this run honors."

Cpl. Darnstaedt said, "I think it is a very good organization. I love the way it supports emergency medical fields and law enforcement agencies."

This year the Chatham County Sheriff's Office raised \$500 for The 200 Club. Since the 200 Club started operating in 2001, the organization has provided benefits to 41 families of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters in 20 Georgia and South Carolina counties. Total benefits paid out have exceeded \$700,000.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: CCSO runners and walkers posed with Col. Wilcher at the finish line.

Left: Record's Specialist Jennifer Buffington showed off her medal.

Below: Cpl. Jurgen Mauras and Lt. Shawn Taber marched with the SCMPD and Savannah Fire honor guards and led the families of fallen officers down Drayton Street.



STEP OUT | WALK TO STOP DIABETES™

American Diabetes Association.

- October 6th on Oatland Island at 10 a.m.
- Register to join the CCSO's team on August 14 & 16th from 7:30-9:00 a.m. in the Muster Room.
- Walk in honor of Deputy Ron Carter.
- www.diabetes.org/savannahstepout

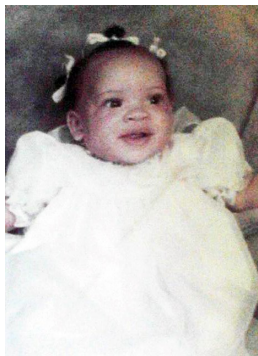
BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 2012			1 Roy Harris	2	3 Brian Counihan	4 Michael Brown
5 Gwendolyn Osborne	6	7 Kimberly Taylor	8 Joe Stanford Shelton Crowder	9 Antonio Moody	10 Richard Brome	11
12 Misty Jordan	13	14 Tonya Roberts-Johnson Lisa Cole	15 Gary Conyers Freddie Hall Darlene Godbee Teffanie Lowe	16 Jean Myles Cary McNeil George Bailey Barbara Edwards	17 Billy Lappin Deborah Freeman	18 Kendra Crawford
19 Richard Hood	20 Latoya Lawrence Laurie Tillman Michelle Vasquez James Steiner Michael Fontaine	21 William West	22 George Enfinger	23 CCSO SUMMER AWARDS 11 A.M. Rhonda McCullough	24 Gregory Agee Damien Branch	25 Lynn Webber
26 Terry Enoch Tony Grant Deneen Knight	27	28 Willie Warren	29 Dixie Barbour Patrick Rountree Meleda Gross	30 Ernest Leonard	31	

September 2012						1 Diana Gubko
2 Mira Fisher	3 LABOR DAY	4 Richard Hall	5	6 Jayda Jackson	7	8
9 Jennifer Moultrie	10 Norma Fabela Nicole Scott Addie Cochran	11 Allen Walden	12 David Gold	13 James Moore	14 Ronald Brontz Thomas Hodges Jr.	15 Hansel Jenkins
16	17 John Burroughs	18 Derek Jones	19 Ron Robinson Thomas Miller John Stephens	20 Clarence Copeland Dana Rice Todd Oliver	21 Trey Leggett Craig Stanfield	22 Robert Lewis Nathaniel Holmes Kindaia Canady
23 Sheena Akins	24 Christopher Reed	25 Jermaine Maxwell William Burrows	26 John Riner, Jr.	27 Donald Wood	28 Howard Crosby John Simmons	29 Gregg Rhode
30 Juanita Johnson						

Who am I?

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



I am three months old in this photo. I was born and raised in Savannah. My favorite food is seafood and my favorite restaurant is The Shell House. My favorite movie is The Tina Turner Story and I enjoy watching The Young and the Restless. My most memorable vacation was a trip to the Bahamas with my family when I was in the 8th grade. I have worked for the CCSO for 9 years. I enjoy watching football and basketball in my spare time. Who am I?



I am two and a half years old in this picture and I am sitting next to my older sister. I am from Austin, Texas and I have worked for the CCSO for 18 years. I love Mexican food and my favorite movie is The Ten Commandments. My favorite actor is Robert Duvall. My most memorable vacation was to Disney in Orlando with my kids. I believe I have a sparkling and easy going personality...ha ha! Who Am I?



I am 5 years old in this photograph. I was born in New York and I love going back there to visit as often as I can. My favorite food is Caribbean food. My favorite TV show is Usual Suspects and my favorite actress is Nia Long. I have worked for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office for five years. I enjoy cooking, shopping and firearms training. Who am I?

"Who Am I" answers from last edition



Geraldine Sheppard
Cashier



Pvt. Eddie Bargeron
Video Visitation



Sgt. Wendy Smoot-Lee
Unit 6

Anniversaries (August/September)

25 Years

Gloria Wilson
Kimberly Middleton
Fannie Small

20 Years

James Moore
Darren Sheppard
Malcolm Hardaway

15 Years

Lester Ellerbe
Larry Morris
Marvin Hill
Ronald Rogers
Betty Jean Robertson-Lang

10 Years

Edward Gray
Rocco Martin
Nicole Walker

5 Years

Ava Lucas	Roland Gibbs
Jill Waclawski	Armanda Palmore
Francis Walker	Keith Walker
Willie Warren	Carlista Stoner

Employees of the Month

May

Cpl. Michael Crowder (Street Operations)
Cpl. Stanley Rucker (Housing Unit #1)
Brian Gorby (Computer Field Tech I)
Corey Harper (Asst. Maintenance Supervisor)

June

Adv. Dep. Roger Browne (K9 Hwy Interdiction)
Pvt. Eddie Bargeron (Video Visitation Center)
Hugh D'Anna (Courthouse Security Officer)
Pamela Miller (Classification Specialist)

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they just make the most of everything that comes their way."

—Karen S. Magee



- **The Sherifffic News** is a publication of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and is produced by the Director of Public Information Michelle Gavin.
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—Sgt. F. Williams at 652-7772 or fvillia@chathamcounty.org

—Diane Sasser at 652-2712 or dsasser@chathamcounty.org

- Check us out on the web!
www.chathamsheriff.org

In Other News....



Above: Sen. Lester Jackson was the guest speaker for the graduating class "Basic Life Skills" in Housing Unit 4B. The class started out with forty-two participants, but because of transfers, relocation and negative behavior a total of twenty-six participants graduated on July 19, 2012. Sen. Jackson, Bishop Farrell, and Lt. Johnson presented each graduate with their certificate.

Right: Reserve Unit Sgt. Wayne Wermuth spoke with a young girl at the "Ready Set Go Back to School Expo" at the Savannah Civic Center on July 21.

Photos by: Michelle Gavin



Left: Chief Deputy Roy Harris, Cpl. Stephen Darnstaedt and the Sheriff showed their support July 26 at the Run to Remember for Savannah Police officer J.J. Brown who was killed in the line of duty in 1981.

Photo by: Michelle Gavin