



**Chatham County
Sheriff's Office**

The Sheriffic News

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Sheriff Fills the Ranks, Promotes 24 Deputies

Sheriff Al St Lawrence honored the department's outstanding deputies and staff at the Winter Awards Ceremony on January 24.

More than 200 honorees and guests attended the ceremony held at the Coastal Georgia Center. Guests included Chatham County Commission Vice Chair Dr. Priscilla Thomas, County Manager Russ Abolt and Asst. County Manager Michael Kaigler.

The Sheriff promoted 24 deputies, six deputies retired and administrative assistant Cathie Griffin was recognized for her 25 years of service.

Members of the Construction Design Group, the Sheriff's United Way campaign co-chairs, participants of the American Diabetes Associations Step Up: Walk to End Diabetes, and the CCSO Honor Guard were also honored at the ceremony.

The Sheriff said one of the reasons there were so many promotions at this ceremony was because he wanted to wait until after the election.

"I didn't want to give you something and then have it taken away," he said.

The Sheriff praised all the honorees for their hard work and dedication to the department.

Chief Deputy Roy Harris told the promoted deputies, "Now, I challenge you to become outstanding leaders, not managers, who take



Above: Sheriff St Lawrence and Chief Deputy Harris congratulated Cpt. Dixie Barbour on her recent promotion. Barbour was joined by her son Matthew and friend Gail Oyler-Cox.

Lower Left: Sgt. Inga Castain-Smith got a big hug from her daughter.

Lower Right: Col. Brian Counihan received his new epaulets from Col. John Wilcher and his wife Helen Counihan.

Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams

care of processes, policies and procedures, but leaders: those who actually lead. And, you must lead by example."

"You must be prepared to make the harder right decision, rather than the easier wrong decision. Our people are our most pre-

cious commodity, and we are entrusting them to you. Remember, it is an honor and privilege to lead people. True leaders stick to the job, they do walk the walk, and know that training is a lifelong experience," said Harris.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Sheriff's Note:

I am pleased to announce that I have been elected to serve as the Chairman of the State Retirement Board for the Georgia Sheriff's Association. Members of this board are appointed by the Governor to manage money for 159 active sheriffs and past sheriffs. My biggest honor has always been to be your Sheriff. It was a great pleasure promoting many of you at the Winter Awards ceremony. Anyone who works hard and continues to advance themselves in training and education has a bright future in this organization.

-Sheriff Al St Lawrence



Winter Awards Ceremony 2013

Above: The newly promoted deputies gathered for a group photo with Chief Deputy Roy Harris and Sheriff St Lawrence.

Right: Fellow CERT members Lt. Robert Brooks, Lt. Col. Tom Gilberg and Sgt. Lamiles Hill.

Lower Left: Cpl. Lutricia Kelly-James was happy to have her son and granddaughters at the award ceremony.

Lower Right: Retired Sgt. Fannie Small posed with the Sheriff one last time after 25 years of service.



Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams and Michelle Gavin



PROMOTIONS

- Col. Brian Counihan
- Lt. Col. Tom Gilberg
- Major Robert Lamb
- Major Russell Smith
- Cpt. Dixie Barbour
- Cpt. Monica Bryant
- Lt. Robert Brooks
- Lt. Tyrone Warren
- Lt. Iris Wheeler
- Sgt. Nelson Hall
- Sgt. Lamiles Hill
- Sgt. Lonnie Hollinger
- Sgt. Bobby Irvin
- Sgt. Trey Leggett
- Sgt. Inga Castain-Smith
- Cpl. Octavius Anderson
- Cpl. Warren Blanton
- Cpl. Richard Brome
- Cpl. Charlesetta Hawkins
- Cpl. Julius Johnson
- Cpl. Joan Joseph
- Cpl. Lutricia Kelly-James
- Cpl. Brian Lee
- Cpl. Gary Murphy

RETIREMENTS

- Lt. William Thomas, Ret.
- Sgt. Fannie Small, Ret.
- Cpl. John Elder, Ret.
- Cpl. Rufus Powell, Ret.
- Cpl. Rickey Watkins, Ret.
- Cpl. Ricky Wright, Ret.

25th ANNIVERSARY

Cathie Griffin



Above: Lt. Iris Wheeler received her new epaulets from husband Millard and friend Van Johnson.



Top Right: Members of the CCSO Construction Design Team were recognized by Lt. Col. Gilbert.

Far Lower Right: Major Kim Middleton put new epaulets on Cpl. Charlesetta Hawkins' uniform.

Lower Right: Cpl. Octavius Anderson received his new rank from Sgt. Mark Eichenlaub and Cpl. Darrin Harvey.

Photos by Sgt. Felicia Williams



Staley Honored for Arresting Escapee

One of Chatham County's finest was awarded a Certificate of Merit at the Winter Awards Ceremony for apprehending an inmate who recently escaped from the Chatham County Detention Center.

On December 11, Deputy Andrew Staley went above and beyond his duties. He reported to work sick, then organized and effected the re-arrest of an inmate who scammed his way out of the jail by assuming the identity of another inmate and was erroneously released from the Detention Center.

Major Russell Smith said, "Deputy Staley displayed courage involving personal hazard and was directly responsible for the arrest of the suspect."

Deputy Staley is a 19 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and has been assigned to the U.S. Marshal Service Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force since 2010.

"It was indeed an honor and privilege to be recommended for a certificate of

merit by Major Rusty Smith for the capturing of an escaped inmate from the Chatham County Jail," Staley said.

"Although this award was presented to me as recognition from the Sheriff's office, by no means could I have completed this task alone. It

was a team effort. It was because of the hard work and dedication of those

Task Force officers who work alongside me every day. When I get up early they get up early, and when I work late, they work late. Again, I thank you Major Smith for the recognition and also to the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force officers for their support," Staley added.



Above: From left to right, Major Russell Smith, Chief Deputy Roy Harris, Deputy Andrew Staley and Sheriff Al St Lawrence.

Photo by: Michelle Gavin

The inmate who escaped is now facing additional charges and the Chatham County Sheriff's Office has taken additional security measure to make sure no other inmates are able to scam their way out of the jail.

Article by: Michelle Gavin

Sheriff Selects 2012's Employees of the Year

Two men and two women from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office were honored by the Sheriff and named Employees of the Year.

Cpl. Maxine Evans was named Corrections Officer of the Year, Cpl. Ernest Frazier was named Enforcement Officer of the Year, Billy Lappin was named Corrections Civilian of the Year and Marva Gresham received the Enforcement Civilian of the Year honor.

Cpl. Evans is a 12 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and is currently assigned to Housing Unit 5. In October 2012, Evans saved an inmate's life. She performed the Heimlich maneuver on an inmate who was choking and was able to dislodge a piece of meat that was caught in his throat. The inmate reportedly said, "If it hadn't been for her, I thought I was going to die."

"Not on my watch," Cpl. Evans replied.

Cpl. Frazier joined the Sheriff's Office in 1994 after serving 21 years in the U.S. Army. Frazier is currently assigned to the court services division where he serves as the primary deputy for Superior Court Judge John Morse, Jr.

"I count myself to be fortunate to work with Cpl. Frazier," said his supervisor Lt. Tommy Tillman. "He is extremely knowledgeable about the operation of the courts and the Court Services division. Our staff truly respects him and appreciates the job he does."

"He is an excellent supervisor that treats all his personnel fairly. He always has a smile on his face which lifts the spirits of those around him. Cpl. Frazier is the type of supervisor that inspires those around him to do their best," Tillman added.

Lappin has been with the CCSO for less than three years and is already earning the praises of the top brass and his supervisors. Lappin joined the Sheriff's Office in 2010 as a Maintenance Mechanic.

Housing Unit 4 Manager Lt. Wanda Williams says whenever she has called him in to work to repair something, he always responds in a timely manner.

"Most of all he's professional," Lt. Williams said. "He has a sense of humor and doesn't complain about receiving calls. Billy works for the betterment of the organization and is a valuable asset."

On January 22, Lappin was promoted to a Network Service Technician in the Telecommunications Unit.

"To be recognized is not just flattering, it means a lot," said Lappin. "In the short time I've been here I'm proud to be noticed and acknowledged. I think it also says a lot about the people I work with."

Gresham is assigned to dispatch as an Emergency Communications Officer. She joined the Sheriff's Office in September 2009.

Street operations officers said she is always pleasant over the radio and remains cool headed.

Gretchen Derryberry, the Sheriff's Administrative Assistant said Gresham is a real go-getter. "She has the tough job of being the president of the Chatham County Sheriff's Employee Association and Marva works hard to booster morale with the staff."

"It means a lot that your peers see the work that you do," said Gresham.



Cpl. Maxine Evans



Cpl. Ernest Frazier



Above: Billy Lappin and Marva Gresham were recognized by the Sheriff.

Article by: Michelle Gavin

Largest BJOT Class Graduates, Helps Staff New Jail Facility

Thirty-seven new corrections officers graduated from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Basic Jail Officer Training Course on February 8. As far as anyone can remember, it's the largest class in the department's history.

The graduates were joined by more than a hundred family members, friends and CCSO employees for the ceremony at the Armstrong Center auditorium.

The new graduates range in age from 22 to 60 years old and half of them are women. Several of them have prior military experience, others have held other law enforcement jobs and for many, this is a brand new career change.

Class president Gary Bowser said the most valuable part of his training was going inside the jail to watch the officers on their shifts. "At first the smell, sounds and atmosphere of the jail gave my senses a shock," Bowser said. "But the more I shadowed, the more I realized that working with the CCSO was the right career move."

Bowser said this class formed a strong bond during their five weeks of training.

A bond he says he hopes will continue throughout their careers.

These 37 graduates will spend two more weeks with a Facility Training Officer. Then they will help staff the new medical, kitchen and laundry facilities.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: Basic Jail Officers Training Class 01-13 graduates were sworn in as corrections officers by Sheriff St Lawrence in the Armstrong Center auditorium on February 8.

Below left: Sheriff St Lawrence congratulates new officer Edna Simmons. She was pinned by training unit officer Deputy Ron Robinson.

Below right: The Sheriff watches as officer Lauren Wannamaker's daughter pinned the badge on her uniform.

Photos by: Michelle Gavin and Sgt. Felicia Williams



Far left: Lt. Robert Brooks recognized officer TaLisa Carter for having the highest test score.

Left: BJOT Class 01-13.

Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams





Above and Right: Four members of Explorer Post 876 competed in the Cell Extraction event at Winterfest. Explorer Cpt. Zachary Brooks, Cpl. Mary Margaret Tarsitano, Sgt. Scotty Carlson, and Malcolm Davis had to take down an unruly inmate in the role playing scenario.

Photos by: Helen Counihan



Explorers Impress at Winterfest

Members of Explorer Post 876 and a dozen members of the Sheriff's Office traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for the Winterfest Exploring and Venturing law enforcement competition in early February.

The Explorers, the board of advisors and trainers have put in countless hours over the past several months preparing for this event.

"We train all year on twenty or more different scenarios—everything from felony traffic stops, bomb disposals, crime scene investigations, cell extractions, the list goes on and on," said Explorer Post advisor Cpl. Rhonda Bryant-Elleby. "We don't know what events we will be competing in until we get there."

The Explorers competed in Cell Extraction, Active Shooter, Uniform Inspection and Unknown Trouble.

"I thought the cell extraction was their best event," said Lt. James Moore. "They placed eighth out of 25 teams. The team thought quickly on their feet and reacted to a dynamic situation that would have caused confusion with most of our adult corrections officers. I am very proud of their success and I look forward to taking it up a notch with our kids, not only with cell extractions but all of their law enforcement training."

"I thought the cell extraction competition was really fun," said Explorer Cpt. Zachary Brooks. "This Winterfest event will prepare us for future competitions."

While the Explorers did not place in the top three in any of their events, Cpl. Bryant-Elleby said they have a lot to be proud of.

"We were competing against 3,000 other explorers and this is our team's first major competition. Everyone did a great job," Bryant-Elleby said.

The Explorers ended their weekend on a high note. After the law enforcement competitions were finished, Explorer Lt. Andrea Stokes competed in and won the talent show. She sang "Down in New Orleans".

Explorer Malcolm Davis said, "It was a fun event. It was cool meeting all the explorers from different places."

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: Deputy Darrin Harvey huddles with the Explorers before the competitions began on February 9.



Above: Deputy Gary Murphy helped Explorer Lt. Andrea Stokes, Cpt. Zachary Brooks and Sgt. Scotty Carlson get ready for the Uniform Inspection event.



Left: Explorers Paris Wineglass and Jada Cooper watched the Winterfest Talent Show together.

Right: Explorer Paris Wineglass arrested a female subject during the Unknown Trouble event.





Unit 6 Tent Comes Down

Housing Unit 6 at the Chatham County Detention Center was erected in 2005 as a temporary solution to ease jail overcrowding. It was built inside the security fencing, nestled between units 4 and 5 and was designed to hold 300 medium and minimum security inmates.

“We needed it to get inmates off the floor,” said Lt. Col. Tom Gilberg.

The current detention center holds 1,224 inmates and in recent years the inmate population at the jail has risen as high as 1,900 inmates.

Now that the new inmate towers are nearing completion, it was time for Unit 6 to come down. In January crews dismantled the heavy duty tent and hauled it away.

Sgt. Felicia Williams was assigned to Unit 6 for a year and photographed the tent’s dismantling.

“I remember when it was built we lovingly called it ‘Tent City’. In the winter it was freezing cold, in the summer it was very hot. Due to it being outside, we had to keep vigilant for critters, especially when it rained. We had mice, snakes, even rabbits,” she said.

While the tent served a very necessary void, Williams was happy to see it go.

“When I was watching it be taken down it felt good. It means we are moving to the next level and the opening of the new inmate towers is just a short time away.”

The tent was not a cheap fix to the overcrowding problem. It cost approximately \$460,000 every year to rent and maintain it.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Photos by: Sgt. Felicia Williams

CCSO's Account Tech Ready to Race

A member of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, who was once set to compete in the 1980 Olympic Games, is now raking in the medals at local races.

Deborah George is an Account Tech III and has been employed with the CCSO for 16 years. Nearly four decades ago she was one of Germany's most promising young runners.

"My mom tried to put me in all kinds of sports—swimming, basketball, gymnastics, but I didn't like it. Then I ran a race at school and did really well and that's how it began," George said.

At just 12 years old George was running in women's races to hone her racing technique and increase her speed. In 1978, when George was only 14 years old she was considered a shoe-in for Germany's Olympic Team. But she injured her knee and never made it to Moscow.

George tried to return to competitive running but when she got married and moved to the United States, running was put on the back burner. George didn't

run at all for 23 years. Then last November George said her friend asked her to walk in the Enmark Savannah River Bridge Run. Two weeks before the event George started training.

"The morning of the race my friend wasn't there and I didn't know if she was going to make it. I was feeling good so I decided to run the 5K race," she said.

To her amazement she placed 33rd in her division and finished in the top third overall in the grueling race.

Since the Bridge Run, George has started running in more races—the Savannah Reindeer Run 8K race, the Richmond Hill Resolution Runz and the Critz Tybee Run 2.8 mile beach run. In the last two races she placed 2nd in her division.

"I feel good, I am proud of myself. I am amazed I am able to accomplish this again at my age," George said.

George plans to run in one race a month and compete in the Rock N Roll Marathon in November.

Article by: Michelle Gavin



Above: Deborah George was called to the medal table after placing second in her division at the Critz Tybee Run 2.8 mile beach run on February 2.

Below: Deborah George was featured in a German newspaper when the aspiring Olympian was just 12 years old.



Left: Deborah George placed 33rd in her division at the Enmark Savannah River Bridge on December 1, 2012 after only two weeks of training.



Right: George competed in the Critz Tybee Run 2.8 mile race on the beach.

Photos courtesy of: vpbphoto.com



BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<h1>February 2013</h1>					1 LaDonna Wright Sharleen Simmons Ida Belzer	2 Lorraine Lovett
3	4 Steven Cobb	5 Jack Drossopoulos	6 Darryl Hilton Precious Smith	7	8 Shawn Taber Alice Walker Fr. Patrick O'Brien	9 David Lamb Seth Massie Jill McCall
10	11 Mark Carpenter Julie Hauser Kelly Newcomer	12 Ivy Orr	13 Rusty Smith Ronday Bacon	14 David Clayton Shakeem Jefferson David Frazier	15	16 Toby Hodges Raymond Smith
17 Stephen Robbins	18 President's Day Stephanie Bush James Patterson	19 Tyrone Warren Tom Sexton	20	21	22 Gregory Enoch Stephen Williams	23 David Wilcox Gregory Williams Dustin Medsker
24 Linda Williams	25 Rick Hall Eva Hicks-Perkins Craig Morton	26 Jo McCutchen Serafina Wright-Walker	27	28 Daniel Mares Larry Morris Patrick Coiner	(29) Marcus Smith, Jr.	

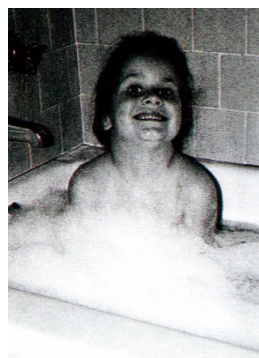
<h1>March 2013</h1>					1	2 Janell Rhett-Belton
3	4 Hugh D'Anna	5 Patrick Lowe	6	7 Ed Garvin Isaac Johnson	8 Deon Gibson Raymond Alston	9
10 Rossie Williams	11 Beverly Rowe	12	13 Denise Brown Margaret Miles	14 Herbert Murphy	15 Angelina Jackson	16 St. Patrick's Day Parade Felicia Williams Louis Vasquez
17 St. Patrick's Day Ronald Rogers Benjamin Smith	18 Inga Castain-Smith	19	20 Nathaniel Gibbons Cynthia Kight Kendall Newton	21 Edward Gray	22	23 Dustin Dahm
24 Elijah Powell Lavon Lowe Octavius Anderson Bobby Irvin Linda Jenkins Tracy Thomas	25	26	27 Paul Folsome	28 Herb Harley Patricia Phipps Bobby Ancrum	29 Franklin Rollins, Jr.	30 Ava Lucas
31 Ruth Brown Brian Anderson Denise Chisolm-Suggs						

Who am I?

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



I am nine months old in this picture. I am originally from Columbus, GA via Phoenix City, Alabama. I love to eat anything that can be cooked on a grill. I love watching The Food Network and HGTV. My two favorite shows are "Unwrapped" and "Love It or List It". I am a diehard New Edition fan and I love to take photographs. I have been with the CCSO for almost 19 years. My most memorable vacation was a cruise to the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. Who am I?



I am three years old in this photo. I am a native of Savannah. Before I joined the Sheriff's Office three years ago I worked for a chain of comedy clubs. I got to match my sarcasm against some of the greats like Jeff Foxworthy, Ron White and Steve Harvey. I am married with three children. My favorite movie is "13th Warrior" and my favorite actor is Robert Duvall. My favorite restaurant is Belford's in City Market. I am planning to visit Monteponee, Italy this fall. Who Am I?



I am 17 years old in this picture. I was born in Savannah. My favorite food is center cut Pork Chops! My favorite restaurant is Longhorn Steakhouse. I enjoy watching any movie or show with Tyler Perry. My favorite movie is "Taken". I have worked for the CCSO for 22 years. My most memorable vacation was a cruise to Jamaica. I am a LA Lakers fan and I enjoy old school music. I love to do any BUS STOP DANCE, not just the traditional style! Who Am I?

"Who Am I" answers from last edition



Deputy Charles Hunter
Construction Security



Cpl. Patricia Gardner
Juvenile Court



Deputy Warren Blanton
Internal Affairs

Anniversaries (February/March)

25 Years

Cathie Griffin

10 Years

Dottie Wilcher

Deputy Deon Gibson

Daniel Mares

5 Years

David Clayton

Reginald Lovett

Margaret Miles

Ella Murchison

James Patterson

Jason Pentecost

David Strobert

Gregory Williams

Employees of the Month

December

Deputy Freddie Hall (Street Operations)

Cpl. Darren Sheppard (Housing Unit 4)

Marva Gresham (Emergency Communications)

Billy Lappin (Engineer)

January

Deputy Ava Lucas (Juvenile Court)

Cpl. Nathaniel Towns (Housing Unit 4)

Stephanie Stevens (Accounting Tech II)

David Lamb (Corrections Counselor)

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

—Thomas Jefferson,
3rd U.S. President



• **The Sheriffic 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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• Check us out on the web!
www.chathamsheriff.org

In Other News....



Top Left: On February 1, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit graduated five local law enforcement officers from the Basic Explosive Handlers Course led by CCSO Deputy Jason Livie.



Bottom Left: Five law enforcement officers from across Georgia graduated from the Basic Narcotic Handlers Course led by CCSO Lt. Ralph Salas. The graduation ceremony was held in the Sheriff's Muster Room.

Photos by:
Michelle Gavin



Above: Members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard marched down Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd during the annual MLK, Jr. Day Parade on January 21. Members of Explorer Post 876 also marched in the parade and were accompanied by Jail Administrator Col. John Wilcher. Photo by: Sgt. Felicia Williams