

Chatham County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriffic News

News letter

June 2014



14th Annual Poker Run

The 14th annual Poker Run had all the usual suspects. Retired Colonel John Wilcher organized the event that went off without a hitch. Nearly 500 motorcyclists attended the event. Raffle prizes were handed out at the luncheon afterwards.

The many prizes available were made possible through donations from more people than I can fit in this article. The motorcycle Poker Run started at Napa Auto Parts on Abercorn and ran just over a hundred miles, ending up at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. Dozens of volunteers helped make the event run smoothly.

The money raised will be used for the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Home. The CCSO takes the kids from the home on a trip each summer and provides them a wonderful Christmas.





Hometown Heroes Day

The fourth Hometown Heroes Day was held April 5th. HH was created in 2009 as a way for the general public to meet and get to know their communities public servants. It was held at Daffin Park. The event sponsored by the Savannah Sand Gnats attracted big crowds and great participation from military, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel. Free lunch, tickets to that night's sand gnat game, face painting and bouncy houses made for good crowds. The Sand Gnats have hosted the event for four years. The event is always held the opening week of the season.



EXPLORERS PRESENT TO COUNTY COMMISSION

On April 28, 2014, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 was recognized by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for their outstanding achievements during Winterfest 2014. Explorer Post 876 placed in four out of six competitions they competed in during the event. The team members took first place in Uniform Inspection, Bomb Threats and Caving, and second place in the Talent Show Competition.

Explorer Post 876 is presently training for Summerfest 2014 with the assistance of members of the Sheriff's Office and guest instructors. Explorers are training in everything from cell extractions, crime scene and felony traffic stops. **Summerfest 2014 will be held at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office (range) on July 18th (6pm-8pm meet and greet) July 19th 8:30a.m-1:30p.m. competition).** Summerfest 2014 is hosted in conjunction with the Boys Scout of America.

The CCSO Explorer Post is made up of young men and women between the ages of 18 and 21. The mission of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 is to educate young men and women who are interested in a career in the law enforcement field. This serves to enhance their future by mentoring, motivating and preparing them for their roles as productive citizens and possible law enforcement officers in the Coastal Empire. For more information of becoming an Explorer please visit: <http://www.chathamsheriff.org/Community/Explorer-Post-876>

Article by Rhonda Bryant-Elleby-

Photos by Dep Wermuth



Explorer Troop 876 and Advisors at the County Commission



County Commission Chairman Al Scott with Explorer Post 876



Sheriff St Lawrence and Cpl Rhonda Bryant Elleby at County Commission



STAND UP AMERICA PARADE

The Stand Up America Parade is a parade that celebrates our troops and public servants. Held in Port Wentworth the parade is followed by a full day of celebrations and topped off with fireworks at sundown. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office was proud to participate in this tradition. Chief Deputy Roy Harris walked in the parade and the Sk8 City Sirens Jr Roller Derby Team skated behind the Chief Deputy's vehicle handing out CCSO goodies. Sheriff St Lawrence always encourages kids to stay off drugs, the Sirens carried that message to the spectators watching the parade.

DEA DRUG TAKE BACK

April 26th the Chatham County Sheriff's Office participated in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The event aimed to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Deputies set up at three Wal-Mart locations around Savannah and collected medication from 10-2 p.m. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office has participated in this event for a number of years and maintains a permanent "drop off box" at the Chatham County Court House.

Article and photos by Wayne Wermuth



BJOT Class 04-2014

Top row- left to right- Brian Dunn, Kristopher Withem, Dorian Jackson, Gerald Sanders, Jairshino King & Freddie Jones.

Bottom row- left to right- Tamak Hendly, Eureka Thomas, Marshall Gills, Allegra Rogers, Adjhilla Johnson & Bennett Wison.

Photo By Doug Curry

CCSO CADET UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM



From right to left: Programs Coordinator II Kendra Crawford, Lt. Brooks, Captain Davis, Chief Harris, Cpl. Darnstead, and Programs Manager Angelia Dorsey. Honorees seated in the front, from right to left: Evangelist Willie Mae Mason (age 92) and Mrs. Laura Mae Daniels (age 87).

Super Saturday

A Super Saturday Special Awards ceremony was held March 28. The ceremony was a way to recognize dedicated volunteers.

Mrs. Laura Mae Daniels, retiring from volunteer service at the age of 81 years old. She officially retired in January of this year.

She volunteered with the department for 15 years, starting July 17, 1999. Mrs. Daniels assisted Evangelist Mason in providing Worship Services to the female inmates every 1st and 3rd Saturday.

Ms. Willie Mae Mason, retiring from volunteer service at the age of 92 years old. She officially retired in January of this year.

She has volunteered with the department for 22 years, starting downtown at the Montgomery Street Jail in 1992.

Ms. Mason provided Worship Services to the female inmates every 1st and 3rd Saturday. Rain or shine, Ms. Mason never missed a service in the 22 years as a volunteer.

Article and photo by Angela Dorsey



Chief Deputy Harris and Major Middleton address the college counselors in attendance.

This year the Chatham County Sheriff's Office started the Cadet Undergraduate Program in an effort to hire college students that qualify for the program. The Mission of the Cadet Program is to provide college students a quality educational and leadership development program while creating qualified professional employees for the Chatham County Sheriff's office. Counsellors from numerous colleges attended a lunch and learn April 29th. For more information about our Cadet Undergraduate Program go to <https://sheriff.chathamcounty.org/Careers/Cadet-Program>.



DEPUTIES ATTEND S.A.L.T. LUNCH

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office proudly participated with the 14th Annual Consumer College 2014 sponsored by the Chatham County S.A.L.T. Council. The members of the Chatham County S.A.L.T. Council represent

law enforcement, AARP, aging professionals, and seniors in the community. The council acts as an advocacy group and provides a forum for the exchange of information for the purpose of crime prevention and safety of seniors. The Sheriff's Office provided nutritious breakfast bags for approximately 250 attendees. The event organizers indicated they had goose bumps while watching the Honor Guard. Lastly, during the Panel Presentation a deputy spoke to the audience about recent Fraud Alerts and Project Lifesaver. The consumer college was a perfect forum to inform citizens about the reports of continuous phone SCAMS being conducted in Chatham County, concerning the caller who states that you missed jury duty and demands payment on a Green dot or credit card. The attendees learned that the Sheriff's Office would never demand money over the phone. During the panel presentation the project life saver equipment was demonstrated. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office welcomed the opportunity to support and participate in the educational event.

A special thank you goes out to all the Sheriff's office staff, and S.A.L.T. Volunteers who worked so hard to package the breakfast bags. Also, the attendees provided kind words of appreciation to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard for presenting the flags

Article and photos by Wayne Wermuth



The Chatham County Sheriff's Office participated with the 14th Annual Doggie Carnival on 5/4/14 at Forsyth Park. The Sheriff's Office interacted with the families and four legged friends at the carnival by explaining Project New Hope, while Deputies also show cased their K-9 partners.

The fun filled fundraising event benefited the Humane Society of Greater Savannah by providing food, games, and contests for attendees to enjoy.

Article and Photo by Wayne Wermuth



Doggie Carnival

WORKING THE DRIVE THRU FOR CHARITY

The week of April 7th the McDonalds on Ogeechee Road had a few local celebrities working the drive thru. Sheriff St Lawrence and Chief Deputy Roy Harris worked the counter and drive thru on Thursday, April 10th. Chatham County Sheriff's staff, as well as then County Manager, Russ Abolt and PIO Pete Nichols, all stopped by for lunch. After a very busy lunch hour, McDonalds donated a \$1000.00 to the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Ranch.



SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE

Sgt Lamiles Hill

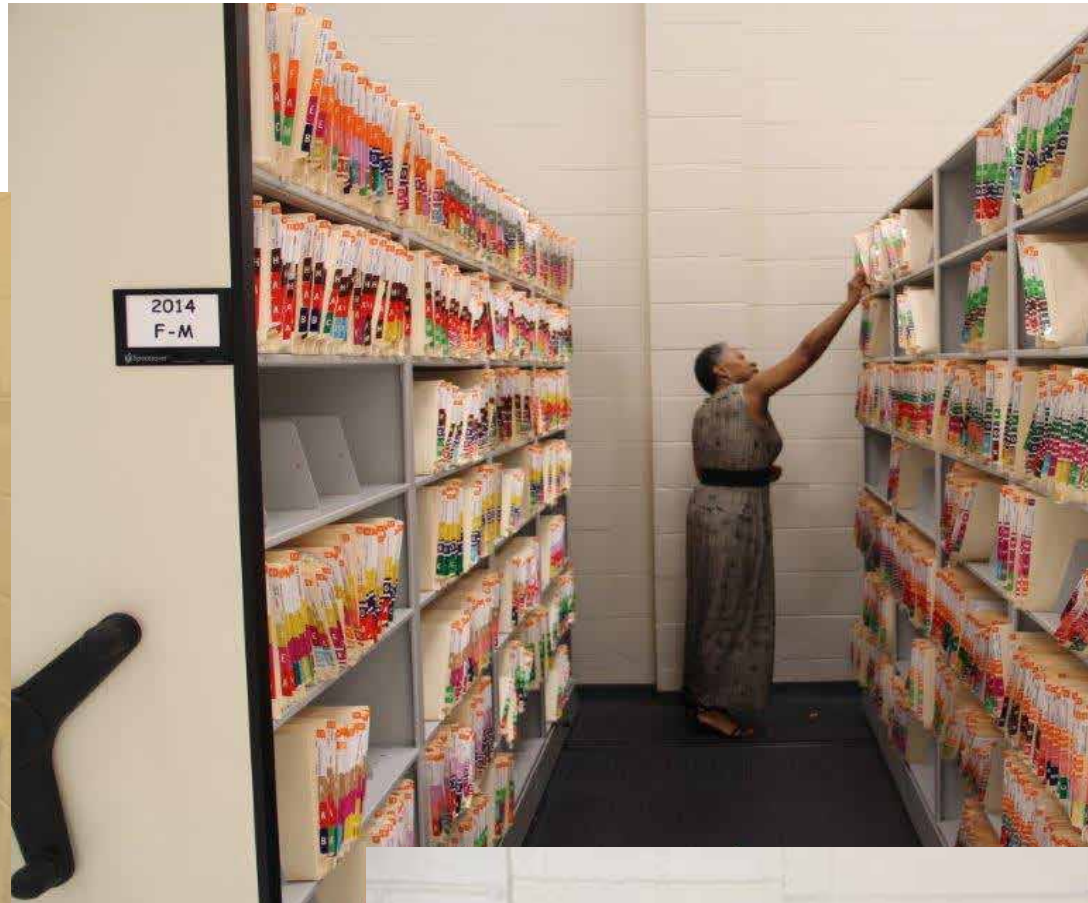
Lamiles Hill has been with the Chatham County Sheriff's Office for 10 years, and is presently assigned to Corrections Administration Office as Sergeant. During his career with the Department he has served in multiple capacities from those of a Floor/Wing officer to his present position. He has proven in his service that his abilities are valued in the technology areas. He has and continues to teach and learn all aspects of the camera and in-house security control system computer. His present assignment lends him to multiple projects, such our accreditation, and research of incidents occurring within the facility via video. Additionally he maintains contractor contacts in the areas of monthly and yearly inspections of safety equipment. He is also responsible for the monthly inspection of all exterior doors, hatches and elevators, in conjunction with the Engineering Department. He performs these tasks as well as a multitude of others under the direction of the Administrative Captain.



A DAY IN THE LIFE.... RECORDS



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I recently had an opportunity to spend some time in our Records Department. You might ask yourself what type of records are recorded & how many are in the office. Well, I can say it was truly a learning experience to get a snapshot of the types of record keeping which is tasked to this office. Jean Myles, who serves as a Law Enforcement Records Specialist, provided me a details on how many are kept, such as inmate bonds, processing all sentences for courts to reflect time served, and transfers to Department of Corrections.

Furthermore, the Records Department may at times receive subpoenas from court to testify that the information which has been reported is true & correct. Also this department has two employees who are GCIC certified to work with other counties. This department even handles record keeping for the Twenty Eight Day Program. The courts assigns inmates to this program to help them in the areas of substance abuse & anger management.

I want to say, "thank you" to everyone in records for taking time to explain this busy department to me.

Photo and Article by Wayne Wermuth



Kelly Fields



Deborah Grant

Shalene Brown-Williams

CERT poses for S. Morton



Hometown Heroes



CERT at Hometown Heroes



A DAY IN THE LIFE...C.E.R.T.

The members of C.E.R.T. are a group of highly trained staff that volunteered for this specialized training. Their primary duties as a member of this team are to maintain peace and order in the facility. They prevent attacks and injuries to staff, other inmates, and prevent escapes. These staff train monthly and have annual training events. They are often asked to provide demonstrations and participate in community events. The team has 31 members.

Special thanks to the C.E.R.T. members for all of the work on the new recruitment video. No matter how many takes to get the scene just right for our director, all staff showed nothing but professionalism.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office and the students of SCAD recently completed a NEW recruitment video. SCAD students wrote and produced the video which took seven days to film, as well as weeks to edit, and complete. Original music was composed for the video by students. The video was produced as part of a student project at no cost to Chatham County. A big THANKS to the students of SCAD. Scan the QR code to see our new recruitment video including our CERT members.



Recruitment video shoot



Mock Riot at Sand Gnats Stadium



Anniversaries And Congratulations

March

25 yrs- Ruth Brown, Monica Bryant, David Morgan, John Jones, Steve Robbins, Rusty Smith, Debra Johnson

10 yrs -Kenol Mompremier, Luis Vasquez, Savon Herrington, Lamiles Hill, Jack Willis, George Mascunana, Charles Hadwin, Jimmy Woods

5 yrs - Gabrielle Lewis

April

20 Years- Felicia Williams

15 yrs- Rick Fisher

10 Yrs- Thomas Miller

5 Yrs - Larry Johnson, John Biggs

Congratulations!!!

Deputy Robert Solomon, Court Services Division: daughter, Ashanti Solomon is graduating with honors from Cass High School in Cartersville, GA. She is headed to Dalton State College in Dalton, GA.

Deputy Robert H. Lewis, Court Services Division: son, Robert Lewis, III is graduating from A.E. Beach High School and looking at Savannah State University or Shaw University in Raleigh, NC.

Deputy Aaron Gonzalez, Court Services Division: son, Aaron Gonzalez is graduating from Georgia Military College and starting at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA. Daughter, Julia Gonzalez is graduating from Effingham High School with honors. She is headed to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, GA.

Cpl. Nicole Scott, Court Services Division: son, Nicholas Scott is graduating from Bryan County High School with high honors. He is headed to Albany State University in Albany, GA on a full athletic scholarship.

Elaine Patterson's God Daughter Jadah-Elaine Ebone' Stripling, graduated with honors and a year early from Alfred E. Beach High School on May 24, 2014. She will be attending Savannah State Univ on an academic scholarship.

Sgt. S. Allen Son, Demetrius J. Allen graduated with a Bachelor's Degree Arts and Humanities Mass Communication, from Albany State University

...IN OTHER NEWS

Its been a sad few months. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office lost two of its K-9 Deputies since our last edition.

Cpl. Rekky was a German Sheppard certified as a narcotics detector dog. Cpl. Rekky came to the CCSO in August 2001. He was partnered with Cpl. Stephen Darnstaedt. Rekky conducted over 5,200 searches and re-covered 3 tons of marijuana worth approximately five million dollars. Rekky retired in 2008 and went home to live with his partner and his family. Rekky died April 15. He was deeply loved and will be dearly missed.



Cpl Rekky

Cpl. Aldo was a nine year old Black Lab and was one of Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explosive K9's (retired). He had been in service from August 10, 2006, until he officially retired in November of 2013. Aldo passed May 9, 2014. Aldo had over 3200 searches while working for the Chatham County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit. Cpl. Aldo had assisted in many searches for the Secret Service for VIP, such as President Clinton, Bush and Obama. Cpl. Aldo had also assisted the ATF at several large venues such as Superbowl XLI (Miami) and XLIII (Tampa), The Daytona 500 50th Anniversary and the 2008 American League Championship.



Cpl Aldo



See this story and more on FB or online at www.chathamsheriff.org



Gabe Gildan SCAD student/ producer with CERT member



The Chatham County Sheriff's Office has recently completed a NEW recruitment video. SCAD students wrote and produced the video that took seven days to film, and weeks to edit and complete. Original music was composed for the film and all of the services from SCAD were part of a student project. To see our recruitment video please go to our Youtube channel.



SCAD SHOOTS RECRUITMENT VIDEO

A NOTE FROM THE SHERIFF...



During the first 50 years of my time in this profession I learned that the only constant is... change. Our agency has grown tremendously in recent years. We have many new employees staffing posts. They deserve the support and on the job mentoring from the more seasoned members of the staff. The best method to manage an organization this size is to push the decision making levels down the chain of command as far as possible. I realize many supervisors have not had the opportunity to use their firsthand knowledge of their areas and personnel to make decisions, however, you are now getting that ability. We do not need, nor do we want, micro-management. What we do need, and want for the future leaders of the agency is for them to begin developing as leaders early on.

Therefore, employees will be getting additional training in this area, and the encouragement to become more involved in the process. The best lesson I have learned in the arena of leadership is that you have to model the behavior to expect of your subordinates. My challenge to each all of our supervisors is to do just that: model, mentor, support, and yes, challenge those you are charged with leading! Dr. John Maxwell, a highly regarded author on leadership says: Value people, praise effort and reward good performance! This too, is our mission. Together, we can make it happen.

Thank you for all that each of you do to make this a great place to work.

ASL



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