

Chatham County Sheriff's Office

March
2015



Sheriffic News

News letter

Happy St Patrick's Day





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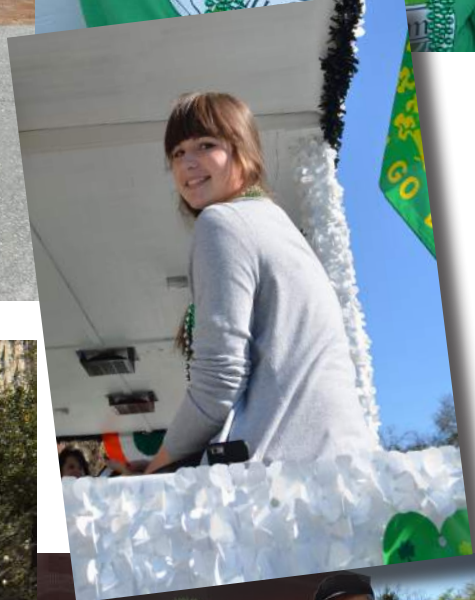
See these stories and more on FB or online at www.chathamsheriff.org



St Patrick's Day Events



Chatham County Sheriff's Office once again participated in the St Patrick's Day celebration. This year we added something new, a float. Our float was hand built with seized drug money. We asked command staff, civilians and officers of the month to bring their families and ride along with us. It seems it was a big success and we hope to get many more years and parades out of our float. Its always an honor to take part in the St Patrick's day celebration, this year was just as special and mother nature blessed us with beautiful weather. The CCSO participated in the greening of the fountain as well as the Tybee and Savannah St Patrick's Day parades. The CCSO Honor Guard and Explorer Post 876 marched in the parade; Sheriff St Lawrence rode in a red convertible while Chief Deputy Harris rode on the float along side Col. Gilburg and his family along with Civilians of the month Makisha Hampton and Cartier Williams. Public affairs was also represented as well as Valor recipient Kendal Duff. It was another one for the record books with great crowds and a wonderful festival.



DEPUTIES VISIT THE CLASSROOM



02.06.2015

Chatham County Sheriff Deputy Medsker visited the George Washington Carver School and talked to the kids about safety, staying off drugs and taking their studies seriously. Deputy Medsker also taught the kids about fingerprints and had each of them look at their own print and identify which kind of print they had. Deputies visit classrooms all over Chatham County throughout the year.



Deputy Blanton was asked by leadership of Cub Scout Pack 691 to conduct two separate presentations in reference to "Law Enforcement is a Big Job" and "Safety". Both are Achievements Cub Scout "Wolves" and "Bears" must complete before they can be promoted to the next level in Scouting. The Scouts were very attentive and enjoyed learning about the job law enforcement officers do. The Chatham County Sheriff's Office provided treats for the scouts to include, pencils, pencil sharpeners, bracelets, badges, and more. Blanton's two sons, Will and Wyatt, are part of Pack 691 and enjoyed having their dad teach the class.

CCSO PARTICIPATES IN MLK PARADE

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office participated in this years annual Martin Luther King Parade. Major Gloria Wilson represented the department as well as the CCSO Honor Guard and Explorer Post 876.



CCSO'S NEW PARADE FLOAT

A ton of hard work and dedication went into the latest edition to the CCSO fleet for 2015. Corey Harper along with Cpl Crowder worked some great deals to get us the truck and flatbed needed to start our float, then Harper went to work fabricating the float by hand. It comes equipped with lights, stereo, fans and even seating. This is the mack daddy of floats and it didn't cost tax payers a dime! Our first official appearance was in the 2015 St Patrick's Day Parade. Riding on the float were members of the command staff, officers and employees of the month and their families. We are proud to have this float to use for parades throughout the year. Typically the CCSO participates in 5-7 parades to include St Patrick's Day, Stand Up America, MLK, Christmas, Veterans Day, Pirate Fest and when time permits Mardi Gras. Special Thanks to Major Smith, Capt Cotton, Wayne Wermuth and Gena Bilbo.

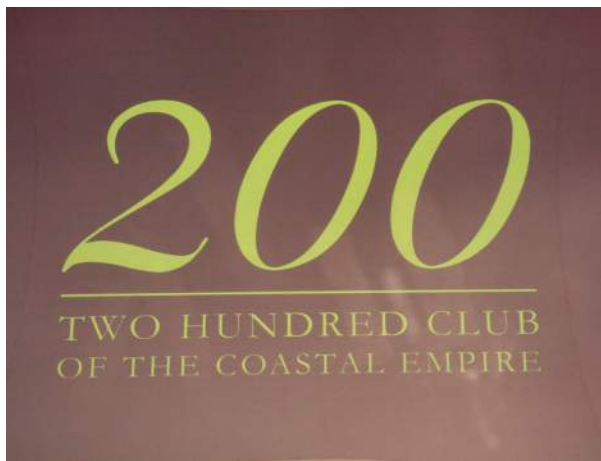


200 CLUB VALOR AWARDS

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office was proud to have an officer being honored at the 200 Club of the Coastal Empire's Valor Awards. Correctional Officer Kendal Duff was honored as well as four officers from the Glynn County Police Department, February 19th at the Charles H. Morris Center. Officer Duff was honored after an incident that occurred on June 1st 2013. Officer Duff witnessed an armed robbery as he was pumping gas at the Parkers Gas Station on Abercorn. Officer Duff called 911 but was not able to get through; so setting his own safety aside he chased the armed subjects as they ran away. Officer Duff was able to apprehend and hold one of the suspects until police arrived on scene. The weapon used in the robbery as well as the stolen property was all recovered thanks to this officer's bravery.

Officer Duff started in 2010 as an intern and went on to help establish the Cadet Program; he has since become an officer. Kendal Duff also received a BS Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Homeland Security and proudly serves as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Reserve.

The Valor Awards are held every year to honor first responders who have acted with courage. Valor: to show great courage in the face of danger. First Responders act with courage daily, but when the need arises they act with valor and these are the acts we will be honoring. An award and a beautiful plaque are presented to the winners.





EXPLORERS AT WINTERFEST 2015

On February 5th thru 9th the Chatham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 876 travelled to Gatlinburg, TN to compete in Winterfest 2015. The post Advisors and Explorers loaded up the Sheriff's bus with Class A Uniforms, healthy meals and excitement. With over 3,400 participants from twelve states, Explorer Post 876 had to embrace all of their training sessions to showcase their knowledge. Once the Winterfest Law Enforcement Staff selected the eight events for our post, they were ready to excel. Of the eight events Post 876 participated in, they proudly placed 1st in Talent Show, 2nd in Caving and received Certificate of Achievement in Class A Uniform Inspection. Explorer Post 876 truly did an exceptional job, as this was the first time for many of our explorers!

We would like to make a noteworthy acknowledgment to all the Advisors who volunteer their expertise and time to Explorer Post 876. Thank you, Post Coordinator Cpl. Rhonda Bryant-Elleby, Col. Counihan, Helen Counihan, Lt. Eichenlaub, Lt. Moore, Lt. Hill, Lt. Micheal, Cpl. Crowder, Cpl. Harvey, Cpl. Blount, Cpl. Anderson, Cpl. Murphy, Pvt. Deloach, Pvt. Rollins and Pvt. Wermuth.

Photos and article by Wayne Wermuth



A DAY IN THE LIFE.... *ENGINEERING*

A Day in the Life with the Engineering department was an enlightening learning experience. Roger Martin is the Engineering Manager who is responsible for the administration, maintenance personnel and efficiently prioritizing work orders. This department has twelve committed staff members who ensure that all maintenance aspects of this complex are in working order. The twelve committed staff members in the Engineering department are; James Baker-Field Supervisor, John Riner-Assistant Supervisor, Aaron Price-Coodinator, & Sharon Akiens-Administrative Assistant. The maintenance mechanics are; Marcus Smith, Lee Brown, Lewis Walker, Chris Wing, Justin Nease, Donald James, Billy Williams and Paul Hoffman.

This skilled team services electronic devices, electrical systems, kitchen equipment, & plumbing needs. Continuing education classes provide essential information for the staff members. We can thank the engineering department for keeping us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The engineering department also services the fire suppression & security systems on a regular basis.

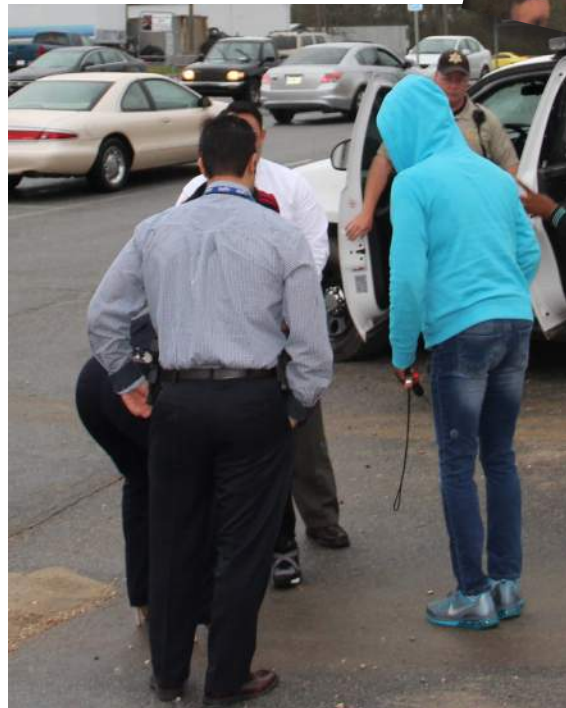
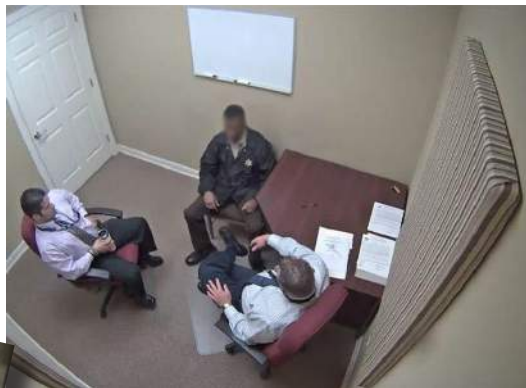
When a maintenance issue arises, please utilize the work order system on share point to ensure the proper amount of time is allotted for a job, & that attention is provided in a timely manner. The more detailed information you provide on the work order will be appreciated & evaluated.

As always, if you experience an engineering emergency please contact extension 7799.

I want to say, "thank you" to everyone in the Engineering for providing insight into this well organized & integral department.

Photos and article by Wayne Wermuth





A DAY IN THE LIFE.... INTERNAL AFFAIRS

I recently got to spend some time with the crew over at Internal Affairs and was surprised by how quickly their day changed. One minute we were headed to the facility for an interview the next minute a call came in and we were headed out to make an arrest. According to the investigators a normal day is not the "norm". The Chatham County Sheriff's Office of Internal Affairs consists of two supervisors, five investigators and two civilians. This very busy office handles all the background investigations for new employees and investigates all complaints on CCSO employees from traffic incidents to criminal complaints. Some of their additional duties are coordinating off duty requests and paperwork as well as assisting the Criminal Investigation Unit. The Internal Affairs office will also conduct investigations for outside agencies upon request. Lt. Gregg Rhodes really wants to dispose of the stigma that IA holds, he stressed that his office is not trying to "get" anyone; their goal is to get the facts, all the facts and make sure everyone gets a fair shake. According to Rhodes telling the truth is paramount; he says "the truth might not set you free but lying may get you run off". It's not all arrests and interviews over at IA; they have their version of fun too. Investigators Delatorre and Young have challenged each other in the upcoming Jail Break Mud Challenge... whoever wins will get the cushy new office, may the best man win!

L-R INV. YOUNG, SGT BLANTON, LT. RHODE, INV. MYERS, INV. DELATORRE, PAM BLANKS, INV. DESAUTELS AND CPL. HALL



LOCKUP FILMS AT CCSO

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office had some special guests arrive last September and stay with us through January. MSNBC's TV show Lock Up Extended Stay was filming right here in our facility. The crew spent long days and nights here getting to know staff and inmates alike. After a couple of months they became like family. We all had mixed emotions they day they left but we are all excited to see the outcome.

The crew from 44 Blue Productions was professional and did an amazing job. We are told the show will air toward the end of the year, so keep watching your local listings for Lock Up Extended Stay SAVANNAH!!!



CCSO OPENS PROGRAMS TO FEMALES



February 13 Operation New Hope, the jail dogs program where inmates at the Chatham County Jail are paired with dogs from the Humane Society for Greater Savannah, celebrated two milestones. Not only did we have our first-ever graduating class of dogs trained by female inmates, we also had every single dog from the male handler's class adopted in one day. Actually, in a matter of a couple of hours on the very day they returned to the shelter, every dog was adopted into a new home. A large part of this success came from our Facebook followers sharing the videos and pictures of these dogs while we documented their progress throughout the 4-week class. Thanks to everyone who liked and shared the stories of so many of the ONH dogs. Watching the transformation produced a connection with these dogs, even without meeting them - See more at the humane society's face book page or on www.chathamsheriff.org. We are working on the next class with our female inmates and its going well.



Special thanks to the Savannah Morning News

ANNIVERSARIES



December

10 Years- Derek Johnson & Demetrius Jelks

25 Years- Thomas Tillman

January

10 Years- Hugh D'Anna

5 Years- Ernest Brinson

15 Years - Terry King

February

25 Years- Patricia Gardner

10 Years- Howard Crosby

5 Years- O'Neil Young & Willie Wallace

Employee of the month

CORRECTIONS OFFICER OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER- OFFICER RAYMOND ALSTON

JANUARY- OFFICER ANDERA BELL

FEBRUARY- OFFICER DANIEL OSORIO

CORRECTIONS CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER --MARCIA WRIGHT

JANUARY - CATHIE GRIFFIN

FEBRUARY- NATASHA KING-HILLS

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER- DEPUTY JOHN WARENZAK

JANUARY- CHRISTOPHER BLOUNT

FEBRUARY- SHANIA GARDNER

ENFORCEMENT CIVILIAN OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER- RUDY GOSYNE

JANUARY-DEBORAH GEORGE

FEBRUARY-MAKISHA HAMPTON

GET LEAN CHALLENGE



Five corrections officers from the CCSO joined together to participate in the 2015 " Memorial Get Lean Challenge" Teams losing the most weight can win cold hard cash!!! WISH THEM LUCK!!!

...IN OTHER NEWS

Victim Witness Adopts ONH Dog



The District Attorneys Victim Witness Office recently paid a visit to the Chatham County Detention Center with a mission to find a new advocate. They visited the Operation New Hope Program and it was love at first sight when they met Buddy. He is sweet, gentle and loves everyone. The folks at victim witness thought Buddy would be a great addition to the team and might bring some comfort to some of their clients during tough times. Buddy lives with Victim Witness Director Cheryl Rogers and she brings him to work every day! Simply put he is there to help victims relax a little. He is available for child victims to love on while they talk to ADA's and advocates. He is available to help the witness that is just nervous about being there. The hope is that just by being in the office people that come in will feel a little more at ease.

<http://sheriff.chathamcounty.org/Corrections/Inmate-Information/Inmate-Programs/Operation-New-Hope>

Pedigree Awards Grant to ONH

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office and The Humane Society for Greater Savannah are pleased to announce that we have received a \$23,278 grant from The Pedigree Foundation in support of the highly successful Operation New Hope program. Starting this month, Operation New Hope is expanding to include female inmates, and the number of dogs in each 4-week class will increase from six to 16. Ninety-percent of the 189 dogs that completed the Operation New Hope program have found new loving homes. And, the recidivism rate among ONH inmate participants is more than 75% lower than that of the general jail population.

The Pedigree Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping dogs in need find loving homes, expressed enthusiasm for Operation New Hope and awarded this grant to help the program grow and serve as a model for other shelters around the country.

Operation New Hope graduate dogs available for adoption can be viewed at www.humansocietysav.org, and www.chathamsheriff.org. Operation New Hope is funded by the Humane Society and community donations.



The PEDIGREE Adoption Drive



CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JAIL BREAK CHALLENGE

1ST ANNUAL

FREEDOM IS ONLY 30 OBSTACLES AWAY...

JUNE 13, 2015

COMING SOON....The CCSO will be hosting the 1st Annual Jail Break Mud Challenge on June 13, 2015. This will be our fund-raiser for the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Ranch. Wanna get involved? Think you're up to the challenge?? Contact gmbilbo@chathamcounty.org or wfermuth@chathamcounty.org



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

or at www.jailbreakmudchallenge.com

Get your shirt NOW!!!!



A NOTE FROM THE SHERIFF...



Spring is here and it can only mean one thing, the fundraising event for the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. This year the event has changed. It's still a run, however, it involves MUD! Lots of it. Plus, a whole lot of fun! The 1st Annual Jail Break Mud Challenge is a grueling 4.2 mile course with over 40 challenging obstacles and extremely tough terrain. I'm asking staff to participate themselves or form teams. Make it a personal or a group activity. For staff that want to participate, but aren't sure they want to get dirty and wet, VOLUNTEER, we need everyone's support to make this event successful. However, there are no guarantees volunteers won't be in on part of the action. Many of you are aware that each year the staff of the Sheriff's Office sponsors an event to raise money for the children of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes. These children are placed in the homes through no fault of their own, but for circumstances beyond their control. For more information, see Colonel Counihan, Major Smith, Captain Cotton, Lieutenant Moore, Gena Bilbo, P.I.O. Director or go to our website at <http://jail-breakmudchallenge.com> or

WWW.CHATHAMSHERRIFF.ORG.

ASL

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