

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Officer of the Month

PATRICK A. BODINE

In five years as a Homicide Detective, Patrick Bodine has earned a reputation for excellent work and dedication to ensure justice is served. From the beginning of last year to September when his nomination was submitted, Pat was the lead investigator for seven homicide cases. Under his leadership, his team solved six of the cases and the remaining case is still active.

On April 23, 2008, 15-year-old Dejuan Graham was playing basketball with friends in the Panama Park area when he was shot and killed by an unknown suspect who fled the scene. Responding to the crime scene, Pat and the rest of Homicide Team 6 began interviewing witnesses and learned that the suspect might be known as "Monkey," later identified as Marquis Mcgruder. Pat created a photo spread and presented it to several witnesses who identified Mcgruder as the killer. He had taunted Dejuan which led to the young men having words, and as Dejuan was walking away from the fight, Mcgruder shot him in the head.

Homicide detectives work long hours, especially when a case is still fresh, in an effort to locate killers and remove them from the streets. It took Pat just two days to solve this murder. In addition to working nine homicide cases in 2008, he also was assigned to more than 15 other non-criminal cases, such as suicides and accidental deaths.



Civilian Employee of the Month

MICHELLE V. BING

Last September, Fingerprint Technician Michelle Bing was working in the Identifications Unit radio room, taking calls from officers and verifying identities of individuals. Zone 2 Officer Joseph Bruce called concerning Marc Clifton Bryant, who had three possible warrants in Utah but no local arrest record on file. The officer had picked Bryant up after he was featured on America's Most Wanted, which generated a joint FBI and JSO effort to locate the suspect.

Because Bryant had no local record, his fingerprints were required to confirm he was still wanted in Utah. Bruce took the suspect to the PTFD to be fingerprinted, sent the prints to Michelle and she determined the suspect in custody was Marc Bryant, wanted in Utah for Parole Violation, Failure to Appear on the charge of Kidnapping a Minor, and Unlawful Flight to Avoid Persecution. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) also had Bryant listed as an armed, dangerous and violent sexual predator.

Michelle's strict adherence to procedure ensured that the subject in custody was, in fact, the high-profile wanted suspect, Marc Bryant.



Police Supervisor of the Month

MICHAEL S. WHITE

Sgt. Michael White has worked in Zone 3 since April of 2007, distinguishing himself as a leader among his officers, peers and supervisors. Last January he coordinated a three-person tactical unit to address violent crime in areas experiencing increased crimes and varied crime trends. During the first two weeks, White's officers were responsible for 15 felony and 9 misdemeanor arrests, writing 42 citations, recovering one stolen vehicle and three firearms, seizing \$1891 in cash and various drugs.

During the first six months of 2008 his Tactical Unit (officers hand-picked to work on special crime problems and conduct high intensity patrols and stakeouts in the zone) made 44 felony and 93 misdemeanor arrests, responded to 245 calls for service and wrote 400 traffic tickets. The Unit also seized the following items: 21 vehicles (either stolen or used in a felony), \$3,291 cash, 10 firearms, 76 grams of cocaine, 250.9 grams of marijuana, 95 Ecstasy pills, 100 Xanax pills and 10 Oxycontin pills.

White is also a Field Training Officer (FTO) Sergeant (a leadership role in the JSO). In the FTO program recent Academy graduates work in patrol with seasoned officers who are hand picked for the job. White is responsible for tracking and reporting the progress of new recruits in Zone 3, he is also the Zone Coordinator for the Sexual Offender program in Patrol and is responsible for tracking 12 sexual predators and 14 offenders who claim to reside in the zone.



Six Pillars of Character Award

SHARON M. SCOTT

When Sergeant Sharon Scott, Crime Scene Unit, learned in January 2008 that one of her previous police recruits was diagnosed with cancer, she immediately encouraged the personnel in Zone 3 (where the officer was assigned) to donate leave. When individuals use up their leave time, they don't get paid, so co-workers will often "donate" their leave time to make sure fellow employees get the time off they need.

By the fall of 2008 the officer had undergone several surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation, and still had a long way to go to be considered in remission. Sharon visited him in the hospital and kept in contact with loved ones during this time, and to assist with medical bills, she coordinated a basket raffle for the officer and his family. She either purchased items for the baskets OR got the items donated. Three baskets, filled with such items as a Nintendo Wii Game System, foursome to Eagle Landing Golf Course, and a Romantic Getaway stay at a B&B in Savannah, Ga., were raffled in October, raising more than \$4500 for the officer and his family.

Any JSO employee who demonstrates one of the Six Pillars of Character is eligible for this award. Those characteristics are: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring or Citizenship. The Six Pillars Award is given in partnership with Character Counts! in Jacksonville.



Corrections Officer of the Month

MARK F. BELTON

Officer Mark Belton, a 20-year veteran of the JSO Corrections Department who currently serves at the Community Transition Center, is known for his knowledge, skills and professional manner with everyone, whether he is interacting with inmates, fellow officers, supervisors or members of the public.

Last August, Mark was working at CTC Building B when Building A (which houses 150 inmates – half the population of CTC) suffered a complete loss of power.

Tropical Storm Fay was producing heavy wind gusts and pouring rain, and the inmates became restless. Officers using flashlights worked to mitigate any disturbances in the dorm. Mark offered to assist and while on his way to Building A, he realized the emergency generator had not automatically turned on when the power went out. Unable to reach the maintenance department, he took the initiative to check out the generator and realized the breaker controlling the automatic start had tripped and the generator was not getting the signal to start. After trying to flip the breaker back to on, Mark realized he would have to manually restart the generator.

Mark, who served 8 1/2 years as a Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard, was trained in operating and troubleshooting field generators and knew his task could be dangerous. He had to make sure he was not grounded in any way while restarting the generator, as there were several puddles of water on the floor from the storm. Uncomplicated repairs can become dangerous when dealing with that kind of voltage in storm conditions, and Mark exercised extreme caution and acted wisely to restore power to the facility.



Reserve Officer/Volunteer of the Month

WILFRED L. WARD

The Community Posse Program consists of 20 trained volunteers who represent JSO at community events and talk to members of the community about crime prevention.

Last November 15, Civilian Lt. Will Ward participated in three outreach programs on behalf of the JSO: Mandarin Public Library – crime prevention information to 10 participants, Lakeshore Methodist – drug safety tips and child fingerprinting to more than 300 attendees, resident's home – crime prevention presentation to 12 people.

An outstanding member of the Community Posse for 10 years, Will volunteers in the community with St. Vincent's Medical Center as a Eucharistic Minister, AARP as a Fraud and Personal Safety Advocate, and at his church, St. Matthews, where he works with unwed mothers.

Well respected by the JSO and others in Jacksonville, he has received numerous accolades for his volunteer work including the Mayor's "Outstanding Male Citizen of the Year" for 2007 and the 2006 President's Silver Volunteer Service Award.



Corrections/Civilian Supervisor of the Month

AUSTIN M. STEELE

Sergeant Austin Steele, a 28-year veteran of the JSO Corrections Department currently working in the Pre-Trial Detention Facility, conducts daily searches or shakedowns in the inmate living areas and organizes larger searches as needed to control contraband in the PTFD – a full-time, serious job.

On Sept. 15, 2008, Steele conducted a shakedown and located two lighters and tobacco along with other nuisance contraband. Homemade weapons such as shanks and knives can cause serious injury or death to other inmates or officers. Lighters and cigarettes are nuisance contraband and can cause disturbances in the carefully controlled environment of the PTFD, a smoke-free building.

During shakedowns, anything inmates are not specifically allowed to have in their possession is taken as contraband and either disposed of, or in the case of extra linen or uniforms, returned to supply for reissue. Hard contraband, such as drugs or some handmade weapons, can bring additional criminal charges.