

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Reserve Officer of the Month

KEITH SEAMANN

Keith Seamann volunteers more than 30 hours a month in JSO's Narcotics Unit where he helps with "buy operations" about three times a month. Each operation lasts about 10 hours. Police work by nature can be dangerous, and working in the Narcotics Unit is especially so. Details of his undercover work cannot be detailed, but he is courageous and tenacious in carrying out each

and every assignment given to him.

Seamann is married, has two teenagers and owns Independent Glass Distributors, and yet he finds the time to volunteer 360 hours per year for dangerous assignments to help rid our streets of drug dealers and other criminals.



Police Supervisor of the Month

SERGEANT JERRY STANG

"Sgt. Stang is considered a leader among leaders and an expert in economic crimes," Lt. George Grant wrote in his letter nominating Jerry Stang for Supervisor of the Month. In February 2008, Stang was the organizer and tactical leader in the successful operation "To Catch a Contractor" which targeted unscrupulous and unlicensed contractors. He and his men worked closely with the Department of Business and

Professional Regulation, the City of Jacksonville Building and Inspection Department, the Northeast Florida Roofing and Sheet Metal Contractors, and the Jacksonville Master Electricians Association to locate and gather evidence about the illegal contractors. At the conclusion of the intricate operation some contractors were cited for using illegal advertisements and 18 others were arrested for unlicensed contracting. All were issued Cease and Desist Orders and four were taken to jail because of other charges, such as drugs, or failures to appear in court.

These excellent results were made possible because of Stang's ability to lead his officers and manage a successful operation. Stang also lobbied the U.S. Secret Service to provide specialized computer training for one of the Economic Crimes detectives, Trey Taylor. Because of this, the ECU has received \$25,000 worth of computer lab equipment to conduct computer forensic examinations. In November 2007 he received a "Special Deputy" appointment from the U.S. Marshals Service and the next month he was also elected to the board of the Financial Institution Association of Northeast Florida. He spends a great deal of his time conducting ID Theft and related Economic Crime classes for businesses, ShAdCo members, local churches and civic organizations.



Corrections Supervisor of the Month

SERGEANT KENNETH R. WESTBERRY II

For many of the 14 years Ken Westberry has been with JSO he has been assigned to the Releasing/2nd floor area of the Pre-Trial Detention Facility. He has developed an extensive knowledge of the releasing process, court documentation and, most importantly, criminal behavior. In his nomination Corrections Capt. Toni Owens wrote,

"There have been many instances where Sgt. Westberry has used his keen sense of intuition, but the situation that occurred last February is worth recognition."

Westberry learned through a confidential informant about an inmate (housed on the 2nd floor of the PTFD) who was planning an escape. The inmate was facing 14 charges, several of which included burglary and possession of burglary tools. Westberry searched the dorm quiet room and found shattered glass by a window and a stool that had been removed from the floor of the inmate housing area. He and his officers also searched the dorm where the inmate was housed, interviewed other inmates and ultimately located and apprehended the potential escapee. The inmate received additional felony charges for attempted escape and was eventually transported to Florida State Prison where he is now serving an 18-year sentence.

On a separate occasion Westberry recovered a handcuff key from an inmate who was planning to escape from the courthouse.

An excellent supervisor, he ensures that his officers are thoroughly versed in releasing policies and procedures by conducting routine squad quizzes. At the same time, he understands the importance of team building and fosters an atmosphere of camaraderie in his employees.



Civilian Employee of the Month

W. FRANK BASS

Journeyman Plumber Frank Bass, a 20-year JSO veteran currently assigned to the Montgomery Correctional Center (MCC), oversees the MCC water supply plant and the facility's plumbing systems. He also saves the Center money by working as a locksmith, a trade he took upon himself to learn.

In July 2008, the MCC was completing the final stages of replacing the outdated and failing water plant. During the project the contractor and consultants could not determine how to connect the existing wellhead and piping to the new water tank. The subcontractor wanted the new tank to be refitted and re-piped which would be expensive and require an extensive change to the original purchase order. Frank showed them how to perform a simple redesign of the existing wellhead and valve system, thereby eliminating the need for additional and expensive re-engineering fees, parts, and labor. He also performed some of the work himself so the agency would not incur additional costs. He saved the City of Jacksonville a lot of money and time, as he also did in 2007, when he personally re-keyed the entire MCC Complex with "unpickable" high-security locks, giving the MCC, for the first time in recent history, an effective master key system.



Corrections Officer of the Month

MARK M. PARROTT

Mark Parrott is an 11-year Corrections Department veteran, currently a releasing officer assigned to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility where he is a conscientious officer who pays attention to every detail. While working one day last March, Parrott called to his counter the next inmate waiting in line to be released and realized the picture in the inmate's file did not match the man

standing before him. The inmate claimed that he had been in jail for quite a while and that was why the photograph no longer matched his current appearance.

Parrott asked the inmate personal questions which he properly answered; however, Parrott still felt something was wrong with the situation, so he continued to dig deeper and determined that the inmate was an imposter, NOT eligible to be released. The correct inmate was located; both men were re-fingerprinted and properly identified. Then, both inmates were charged with attempted escape. Why one inmate agreed to stay in jail for the other is not known; neither inmate offered an explanation, but "if they were smart, they wouldn't be criminals."



Police Officer of the Month

MARK E. GORSAGE (RET.)

Retiring after serving 30 distinguished years with JSO, Mark Gorsage is honored for the 15 years he worked in the Canine Unit. His former supervisor, Lt. Steve Mullen, considered him "one of the unit's top producers, and his work ethic was an example for all officers to follow."

Last March Gorsage and his K-9 partner, Dutch, were dispatched to a burglary in progress in Mandarin. Just prior to their arrival at the scene, three of the burglars fled from the home, leaving one suspect behind. Gorsage announced the presence of his dog and deployed Dutch to locate the criminal, who surrendered immediately and was taken into custody. The team then began a "leash area search" for the remaining three suspects, who were located a short time later hiding in the back yard of a home located two full subdivisions south of the burglary. Investigators

learned that the four suspects had committed five additional burglaries that day in Zone 3. Because of the pair's excellent training and teamwork, Gorsage and Dutch captured four criminals that day.

During his time with in the Canine Unit, Gorsage assisted in the apprehension of more than 800 felony suspects wanted for murder, armed robbery, carjacking, armed burglary, firearm offenses and felony narcotics violations. He also assisted in arresting more than 400 misdemeanor suspects. And during these years he and his three canine partners helped in the seizure of 120 pounds of marijuana, 20 pounds of cocaine and \$630,000 from the sale of narcotics.

In addition to his time spent in the Canine Unit, Gorsage also served three years in Patrol, three years in Traffic, and six years in Narcotics.