

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Civilian Employee of the Month

JOHN R. CHITTY, SR.

Senior Bailiff John Chitty, selected because he is an excellent 16-year JSO employee, is responsible for:

- * receiving more than 70 telephone messages from the State Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office every day,
- * contacting more than 70 Police Officers for court appearances and depositions,
- * locating those officers who fail to appear in court,
- * distributing and accepting court overtime forms and ensuring the officers are "Off Duty" and have received a pay slip after their appearances in court.

Chitty is always willing to stay late to cover for other Court Liaison Bailiffs who are sick or on leave, has never been

late to work, and only recently used sick leave when he became ill AT work and had to go to the hospital.

During the years prior to his JSO employment, John was employed as Division Chief of the City Motor Pool, where he always put officer safety FIRST above all else. Also, Chitty was the fast ball pitcher for the City of Jacksonville Police Department from 1939 to the early 1950s, during which time he won several awards as one of the city's most outstanding athletes.



Corrections Officer of the Month

CHARLES L. KIRK

Charles Kirk, an 8-year JSO employee at PTDF, is recognized for his quick thinking and assistance in helping to catch an armed and dangerous criminal. Last July a man and woman were talking in a car at the Blue Cypress Park on University Blvd N. An argument ensued and the boyfriend got out of the car and began to walk away. The woman stepped out of the car and shot the man three times, striking him in the legs and buttocks, then attempted to run him down with her vehicle. Finally, she chased the man down and shot him one more time before fleeing the scene.

Kirk was in the golf course parking lot next to Blue Cypress Park, heard the gunshots and saw the woman attempt to run over her boyfriend. He also witnessed her exit her car and shoot the man for the fourth time. Reacting immediately to the dangerous situation, he got into his car and followed her as she drove away from the park. He called 911 and gave the suspect's vehicle description and location to the dispatcher, then followed the suspect as she fled through an adjacent neighborhood.

Officers responding to the scene pulled up behind Kirk and he pointed out the suspect's vehicle to the officer, who initiated a felony traffic stop and apprehended the woman. The gun the woman used to shoot her boyfriend was found under the driver's seat, and the shell casings were on the driver's side floor board. Thanks to Kirk's quick action, an armed criminal was quickly removed from the streets.



Corrections Supervisor of the Month

WILLIAM A. SCHNIPPERT

Sgt. William Schnippert, DOC Field Training Coordinator in the Jails Division, is responsible for implementing, coordinating and scheduling the Field Training Officer (FTO) program and other assignments for the DOC. The FTO program must be completed by all recently graduated Corrections recruits before they are promoted to Officers and allowed to work solo in the DOC. Most recently, his training expertise led to the successful promotion of 17 recruits to Corrections Officers, and 20 officers and sergeants graduating from a Field Training Officers class are now FTO trainers.

Three years ago, Schnippert added his expertise with performance evaluations to the JSO's Employee Performance Mastery System (EPMS) during its initial phase of development. In 2008, during the next phase of the project, he was asked to review job descriptions and write measurable performance benchmarks for each position in the DOC. His draft of more than 20 individual PMS evaluations for departmental review were ALL approved and are currently being used by the DOC.

Police Officer of the Month

UNDERCOVER NARCOTICS DETECTIVE

This award recognizes the unnamed recipient's excellent management/ leadership skills in developing an effective team of individuals that brought down an illegal prescription drug operation.

In April 2007 the detective (whom we'll call DL) received a complaint from a pharmacist about the recently opened S&P Medical Clinic, stating that Dr. David Maurer was faxing numerous prescriptions to his pharmacy for large amounts of pain medications. When the pharmacist called the clinic to confirm the prescriptions, he was told that the doctor was unavailable. An investigation revealed that other pharmacists were noticing the same pattern.

The team put the S&P clinic under surveillance and began a thorough background investigation of its employees, medical licenses,

pharmaceutical records and clinic ownership. (A physician's assistant named Sandy Lindstrom was known from a previous investigation.) DL organized an undercover operation using detectives to pose as patients in need of pain relief. The following pattern developed:

* Insurance was never accepted; costs ranged between \$100 and \$140 for each visit.

* Lindstrom saw each patient; Maurer was never at the clinic.

* Patients were never given examinations, nor were they asked for previous medical records that could validate the need for pain medication.

Lindstrom would simply ask patients a few questions and then provide prescriptions for highly addictive narcotics. On some occasions



Reserve Officer of the Month

JAY SPILL

Since becoming a Reserve Officer two years ago, Jay Spill has represented the City of Jacksonville in a professional manner and is a true asset to the JSO - in the first nine months of 2008 he donated more than 600 hours of his own time. Primarily riding "two man patrol" with sworn full time officers and taking part in task force deployments in Zones 2, 3, and 5, he has participated in drug and DUI arrests, robbery stakeouts, and he spent a week with the Fugitive Transport/Warrants Unit transporting prisoners to and from other county and state jails and prison facilities. Spill is also available for call-outs when he is not out riding patrol, his favorite volunteer activity.

A recent arrest involved an inebriated individual who had a previous domestic battery charge. When Spill responded to a call regarding a stolen car at a local bar in Mandarin, he noticed four individuals stumbling through the parking lot and asked if they needed assistance getting home. One extremely intoxicated individual became agitated and loud when Spill tried to explain to him and his friends that they could not drive and should call a cab or a friend. After receiving a verbal warning to calm down, the man forcibly tried to move Spill out of his way so that he could reach his vehicle, but Spill took the man into custody after a brief struggle and he was charged with Resisting Arrest "with violence" and committing "Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer."

Reserve Sgt. J. Smith wrote in his nomination: "R.O. Spill can be counted on to drive, operate the computer, answer the radio, and perform alongside regular officers where he has earned their respect."



Police Supervisor Officer of the Month

"BUSTER" FRENCH

Recently retired Police Sergeant Buster French is honored because of outstanding results he achieved while acting as Police Academy Assistant Director and the agency's Law Enforcement Accreditation Manager. He ensured that JSO maintained compliance with the mandated standards set forth by the accrediting bodies, benchmarks the JSO uses to distinguish it from other agencies.

An accreditation review requires more than 350 files containing proof of compliance for such standards as Organization & Administration, Personnel Structure, Training and Use of Force, just to name a few. During on-site assessments last August, Tropical Storm Fay was approaching Jacksonville, presenting the assessors a unique chance to see JSO and the City of Jacksonville in action. The assessors unanimously recommended re-accreditation WITH DISTINCTION, indicating an evaluation of 100% compliance with all applicable mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

Sgt. French was a driving force behind the two successful re-accreditation visits in August, and many more before that - all while working with a staff of newly assigned personnel and performing his duties at the Police Academy during a period of busy recruiting, hiring, and training.

(The JSO has for many years maintained the "Triple Crown" of accreditation from Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA), American Correctional Association (ACA), and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). JSO has also successfully completed State accreditation through both the Commission on Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) and the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission-FCAC, bringing to five the total number of accreditations held.)



Six Pillars of Character Award

ZANDRIA M. SAMPSON

Fingerprint Technician Zandria M. Sampson is a young adult who has voluntarily accepted the role of primary caregiver for three family members: her mother, grandmother and cousin, who all suffer from various non-curable, treatable diseases. She works the midnight shift so she can remain available for her family during the day and has postponed her college education to care for them. Sgt. Moliea Smith wrote in her nomination: "With all of these personal challenges, Tech. Sampson...reports to work as scheduled and on time, as well as maintains satisfactory performance

and production."

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

she conducted "group visits," crowding up to 10 patients in her office at one time and renewing their prescriptions en masse.

A detective infiltrating the group learned how each patient got the drugs from Lindstrom and engaged her in recorded conversations that would be invaluable to the case. DL sought the assistance of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) analysts, who investigated the large amount of cash (over \$10,000 per day) the clinic processed and helped obtain seizure warrants for bank accounts.

Following months of exhaustive work, on Nov. 6, 2007, a search warrant was served on the Clinic. Dr. Maurer, Lindstrom and Josh

Sherrill (assistant office manager) were arrested for Racketeering and Conspiracy to Traffic Hydrocodone and co-owner/office manager Electus "Pete" Slater was arrested for Money Laundering. Hundreds of patient's files and the clinic's business records were seized, along with office computers equipment, vehicles, cash, bank accounts and narcotics.

The S & P Medical Clinic case was closed on June 2, 2008, with four arrests and the following seizures: \$ 397, 539.95 in bank accounts and office cash, \$114, 720 in vehicles and property, 19,533 pills (to make a total street value in seized narcotics and paraphernalia of \$55,120). The combined seizure total to date is \$567,349.95.