

To Protect & Serve

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Civilian Employee of the Month

LUEANN GROSSE

Ms. Grosse is a Police Emergency Communications Officer Two assigned to the Communications Center. Last September when a holdup was reported at a Blanding Blvd Lil-Champ, Ms. Grosse promptly dispatched two units to the site. While the officers were enroute, she informed them that a robbery was in progress at a business near the same location where (now Retired) Officer Deyo was already on the scene.

Ms. Grosse immediately advised all emergency vehicles in the area and apprised the back up officer and his supervisor of the situation. During this time, Officer Deyo reported the suspect had been shot and requested rescue. Ms. Grosse remained calm and ensured rescue was enroute.

When an officer needs or requests help, the situation is taken extremely seriously and Ms. Grosse made certain that the officer received the help he needed. She handled the radio professionally and maintained a calm and reassuring demeanor. She can always be counted on to ensure the safety of our officers and citizens and to address situations with promptness and precision.

Congratulations on being chosen Civilian Employee of the Month.



Correctional Officer of the Month

DEBORAH RILEY

Officer Deborah Riley is assigned to the Montgomery Correctional Center. Last October, she was conducting a thorough security search of a public female restroom when she located a package of contraband behind the trash receptacle. The package contained pills, several small white pieces of an unidentified substance (later identified as cocaine), a razor and a handcuff key wrapped in aluminum foil.

Officer Riley possibly prevented injury to staff as well as inmates by removing the illegal drugs and weapons that were found and also possibly prevented an escape by keeping the handcuff key from the inmate population. Often assigned to the public reception area, she always does a thorough check of the facility, as well as the visitors.

Officer Riley has prevented numerous unauthorized visitors from entering the facility and found warrants on other visitors. She has shown her commitment and demonstrated that she will go the extra mile to ensure the safety and integrity of the staff and facilities. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to this agency.

Congratulations on your selection as the Correctional Officer of the Month.



Police Supervisor of the Month

SGT. JOHN ANDERSON

Sgt. Anderson, a 28-year veteran of the JSO (the two last years assigned to the Vice Unit), has established himself as an effective leader and dedicated employee.

Last summer several nightclubs reported acts of violence in their parking lots, including shootings, some resulting in murder. Sgt. Anderson and his detectives began investigating the illegal activity around a particular Southside club, infiltrated the establishment and developed probable cause for arrest warrants on employees and patrons. He procured the resources

of the DART team, Narcotics Unit, Zone taskforces and the City Fire Marshall.

Finally, on Oct. 24, 30 officers initiating Sgt. Johnson's detailed take-down process encountered more than 100 patrons in the parking lot and inside the establishment. Twenty-three individuals were arrested for possession of cocaine, prostitution-related offenses, and violations of the Adult Entertainment Code.

Along with the arrests, the business itself was closed. Throughout the entire investigation, no injuries occurred to officers, patrons, or the arrested suspects.

Sgt. Anderson is to be commended for his work ethic and for being selected as Police Supervisor of the Month. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.



Lifesaving Award

EDWIN CAYENNE

Last November panicky citizens outside O'Charleys Restaurant in the Regency shopping area flagged down Officer Cayenne. A hysterical mother was holding her three-year-old daughter in her arms. The child was not breathing and no one had performed lifesaving measures.

Officer Cayenne requested rescue then took the lifeless child from her mother. He began gently pushing on her chest and back with his hands, while tilting her head forward. Within 45 seconds he dislodged a piece of food from the child's windpipe and she began to cry. Rescue arrived and assessed the child, who appeared to have suffered no further trauma.

On-scene reports indicate that despite the hysteria of the mother and the crowd Officer Cayenne remained calm while he assessed and reacted to the needs of the small victim. He also spent time with the child and her mother to calm them, then provided the mother with information on first aid training, available through the American Red Cross.

It is with great pride that we present Officer Cayenne with this Lifesaving Award.



Civilian Supervisor of the Month

SGT. LISA JANSON

Sgt. Janson, assigned to the Communications Center, is being honored today, not for a particular incident or action, but for her overall performance as a supervisor. She eagerly takes on new tasks, performing them with confidence and professionalism. Her work ethics have earned her numerous letters of commendation from superiors in the CC, as well as from the Patrol Division.

Her focus on Community Policing is displayed during stressful situations as well as her day-to-day activities. She supports new training officers, providing them with direction as well as materials they need to perform their roles. She knows the importance of self-improvement, has attended numerous classes to improve her own performance, and shares her knowledge with co-workers.

Sgt. Janson helps other shifts with staffing shortages. She has previously taken on major tasks such as monthly scheduling and preparations for overtime and In-Service Training. Sergeant Janson, we thank you for your hard work and dedication. Congratulations on being selected Civilian Supervisor of the Month.



Police Officer of the Month

GREGG MATTSON

Officer Mattson is currently assigned to Patrol, Zone One. Last September a 911 call came in from a man who stated he was going to jump off the Matthews Bridge. Officer Mattson went to Tallyrand Avenue, where the call originated, and observed a man walking up the bridge in the westbound lanes. When the officer turned on his blue lights, the victim ran to the north side of the bridge and straddled the guardrail approximately 100 feet above the concrete industrial facility below. A fall from this height would have killed the victim.

Officer Mattson immediately requested that the bridge be closed. The victim, highly distressed, emotionally distraught and irrational, admitted to being addicted to crack cocaine, had been in and out of rehabilitation facilities, said he was tired of living with his problems and was ready to kill himself.

Trained in Crisis Intervention, Officer Mattson spoke calmly to the victim, showing genuine concern for his well being. Keeping a 20-foot distance, he gave careful, professional assurances without falsely promising anything he could not deliver. He controlled the situation with conversation and positive reinforcement, gained the confidence of the victim, and convinced him to be taken into protective custody.

Officer Mattson's performance during this potentially tragic event saved the life of a citizen. He is to be commended for his commitment to duty and his outstanding professional efforts during this event.



Reserve Officer of the Month

MORRIS NAPIER

Lieutenant Napier, a Bridge Designer in the Public Works Department, has worked for the City of Jacksonville more than 25 years and has been a member of the Reserve Unit for almost 20 years. He has gained the respect of his fellow Reserve Officers and impressed them with his ability to communicate and direct others. Some have commented that if they apply what he has taught them, they can exceed far beyond their original dreams of just becoming a good officer, while others give Lt. Morris the credit for their successes within the Reserve Unit.

Lt. Morris is a man of high standards who expects no less from his peers within the unit. As a supervisor, he has many tasks and responsibilities and inspires confidence in his command. His subordinates, who nominated him for this award, say his accomplishments are too many to list, that he teaches each one of them how to be the best person and officer that they can be.

Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Reserve Unit.

Lifesaving Award

WYNN WINFREY/RUSSELL JOHNSON

Last December 4, Officers Russell Johnson and Wynn R. Winfrey witnessed a one-car crash on Old St. Augustine Road. The vehicle struck a tree, causing severe damage and trapping the seriously injured driver inside. When the vehicle caught fire, it placed the driver and officers in imminent danger.

While awaiting fire and rescue units, Officer Johnson attempted unsuccessfully to free the trapped driver. Both officers retrieved their fire extinguishers and extinguished the fire. Fire and rescue units arrived and had to cut the vehicle open to extricate the driver from the vehicle. The JFRD Captain at the scene expressed his congratulations to these officers for a job well done. It was evident that without their intervention the fire would have quickly spread and consumed the vehicle with the victim still trapped inside.

It is for their actions on the scene that we present each of these officers with the Lifesaving Award.



Officer Russell Johnson, UnderSheriff Hodges and Officer Wynn Winfrey