

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Officer of the Month

KELLEY BURROUGHS

Officer Burroughs volunteered for the newly created Zone 3 Apartment Task Force in January 2005 and immediately embraced this new responsibility, becoming an informal leader in his squad. Motivated and productive, he conducts aggressive proactive patrol as well as covert surveillance. His efforts have led to the development of information and numerous arrests, including many drug dealers supplying illegal drugs and fostering property crimes in the Baymeadows area.

Last January he was a primary officer in the surveillance, takedown and arrest of an armed carjacker who had just taken a car by pointing a gun at a young female, threatening to shoot her, and forcing her to exit and run from her car.

In March 2005, he volunteered to infiltrate a high school party advertised as the "biggest party of the year and all-you-can-drink alcohol for \$5." Three agencies participated in this case, but single-handedly, amid the chaos of several hundred juveniles attempting to flee the area, Burroughs not only identified and arrested one of the main organizers and alcohol providers but somehow got back into the large crowd and captured the second organizer.

During the summer of 2005, he and Officer Davis spent several weeks researching, investigating and arresting a major economic crimes suspect who was responsible for the manufacture, production and sale of counterfeit checks, U.S. currency, postal money orders, travelers checks, multi-state identification cards, Social Security cards, voter registration cards, and numerous forgery and identity items. A search warrant of the suspect's apartment yielded the seizure of all of the listed items as well as more than 27 different identification cards from several states for him alone. The economic impact of this case is likely in the hundreds of thousands.

Last August Burroughs received a commendation for observing and contacting a suspicious individual near a Baymeadows hotel. This contact resulted in five arrests and the discovery of a meth lab, a shotgun with more than 100 rounds of ammunition, as well as the seizure of two cars, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia. The responding Narcotics detective and DEA agent said this suspect had been eluding their capture by constantly moving around the city and state.

These cases are just a few examples of Burroughs' commitment, dedication and tenacity. He goes above and beyond the call of duty and deserves being recognized as Police Officer of the Month.



Corrections Supervisor of the Month

WYNETTE JOHNSON

Sgt. Wynette Johnson, assigned to the Department of Corrections Jails Division Training Unit, is responsible for training more than 100 employees, including FTO recruits, and for conducting emergency drills. These drills are time consuming and require meticulous planning and attention to detail. She has developed lesson plans for upcoming in-service FTO training and also volunteered to participate in the Sheriff's Advisory Council Annual Safety Fair. During this fair, she provided information

to the community about our Department and the various positions and training required for employment.

As a qualified Criminal Justice Instructor, Wynette taught an in-service CPR session for students to re-qualify and maintain their skills. Additionally, after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, she coordinated distribution of supplies and food from our Department for the needy on the Gulf Coast. Her knowledge, skills and abilities, coupled with her initiative and dedication to our Department, have been an inspiration to others. She is the consummate professional and a great asset to the JSO.

Congratulations on being selected Corrections Supervisor of the Month.



Reserve Officer of the Month

JAMES MERRIHEW

RO Merrihew graduated from Fletcher High School and earned a BS degree in Business at Jacksonville University. He is retired from the US Army and Florida Army National Guard, where he specialized in Nuclear Biological and Chemical Warfare Defense. He is also qualified to work as a mechanic on the Blackhawk and Huey military helicopters. After his military retirement he spent many years in the sales industry and for the past 11 years has driven a semi for a local trucking company.

A JSO Reserve Officer for more than 23 years, with his military and work experience he is a vital asset to the agency. He works at special events, including the Super Bowl, Jaguars games, Arena and Metro Park events. He says working security is just one aspect of the assignment; the other is watching folks enjoy themselves. He also volunteers at the Police Athletic League.

Always professional in performance and appearance, he is always eager to help with these events when the need arises. He works well with his fellow officers who hold him in high esteem, excels at any task assigned to him and deserves recognition for his exemplary service to this community.



Civilian Employee of the Month

ANGELA BINDEL

Last October 22, Fingerprint Technician Angela Bindel received a radio call from Officer Doug Johnston requesting a name and/or warrant check. She found a possible hit out of St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana - a charge of aggravated sexual battery on a juvenile - which reflected a different DOB and fingerprint classification, but the DL and SS numbers matched.

Ms. Bindel informed the officer of the discrepancies and started trying to obtain fingerprint records from the originating agency. Because St. Bernard Parish was completely destroyed by Katrina, Jefferson Parish, the new point of contact, could only verify the outstanding warrant and recommended the subject be released for lack of documentation.

A dedicated law enforcement employee as well as a mother, Ms. Bindel refused to accept this solution. She could not, with a clear conscience, allow this person to be released to possibly attack another child. She notified her supervisors and probed further, finally contacting the local FBI, which verified the prints matched and that the subject in custody was the person wanted on the warrant.

Through the FBI in New Orleans, Ms. Bindel was referred to Lt. Mendel of the St. Bernard Parish who was very familiar with the case and had been trying to apprehend this criminal for five years. He told her not to release him under any circumstances, that he would find a way to reproduce the warrant. Due to the extenuating circumstances, Sgt. Homme at the PDF agreed to hold the subject pending confirmation of the warrant. To ensure JSO received the necessary documentation, Mendel drove 45 minutes on his day off to the nearest law enforcement department with teletype access. Subsequently, the subject was extradited back to Louisiana where he faces several felony charges for life-threatening assault on a 6-year old over a two-year period. Detectives are hoping for a life sentence or death penalty.

This is a prime example of teamwork and cooperation within many components of the law enforcement community, and Angela Bindel was the catalyst that brought it all together. She is to be commended for her persistence, attention to detail and ability to utilize her experience and common sense to ensure that this man could not have the opportunity to harm another child.

Congratulations for being selected Citizen Employee of the Month.



Police Supervisor of the Month

SERGEANT JOEL WEEKS

Last August, The Jacksonville Leadership Coalition (JLC) and The Baptist Ministers Conference (BMC) conducted a protest regarding The Jacksonville Urban League's Head Start program and, in particular, its Forest Park Head Start Center. The JLC and BMC threatened to prevent teachers, students, parents, and other persons from entering the school during the first week of school. These threats, if carried out, would deny access to the Head Start program for more than 700 students who attend the center and who look to Head Start to obtain vital school readiness skills.

In response to the protest, a 67-officer field force was assembled, staged at the DOT Training Center for the week to address any concerns arising from the protest. Weeks played an integral role in making the assignment a successful learning experience. Arriving early and staying late, he organized and equipped seven separate teams and conducted training on a daily basis.

Possessing natural leadership characteristics and a commanding presence, Weeks set a positive example for his superiors, peers and subordinates, which helped to keep morale high throughout the operation. Much of the preparation (i.e., van loading, weapons checks, site scouts, mapping, inventories, and team organizing) was done on his own time, with no complaints.

Weeks is a grenadier, well versed in high risk tactics, crowd control, chemical and less lethal munitions, and defensive tactics; however, his greatest strengths are perhaps his patience and ability to teach others. He is a team player and a truly invaluable resource for not only the monthly field force training, but for Operation Head Start.

Weeks is commended for a job well done and worthy of recognition as the Police Supervisor of the Month.



Corrections Officer of the Month

ERIC MUENCH

Officer Muench, an outstanding officer from the beginning of his service, brings 12 years of military training and experience to the JSO. He is patient and diligent, easily understood by others and accomplishes his job goals while working toward his AA degree. His area and personal searches are highly productive in finding contraband. He takes time to investigate anything suspicious and keeps a guarded eye on the inmates as well.

Muench found marijuana on one inmate, resulting in his arrest, and another incident occurred that displayed his insight and training. When an inmate displaying signs of bizarre behavior had to be restrained, Muench suggested to the nurse that the inmate be evaluated for excited delirium syndrome. This situation could have easily resulted in a very serious medical situation if not for his observation and clear thinking.

An excellent officer, Muench deserves recognition as the Corrections Officer of the Month.

Information on this page prepared and submitted by Melissa D. Wilder, Meritorious Awards Coordinator, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office