

NEWS

You Can Use...

JACKSONVILLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gene Paul N. Smith, Chief of Police

February 2023



Greetings All,

The 26.2 with Donna marathon held this month was incident free and well attended. The event required a great deal of pre-planning and coordinating with numerous stakeholders and agencies.

The Police Department is once again offering DNA bicycle registration Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. See our post on Facebook or call 904-247-4004 for more information.

We currently have four officer vacancies and four dispatch vacancies; however, there is one viable officer candidate and two viable dispatch candidates processing. We recently swore in two new part-time officers. This increased our sworn part-time workforce to three which is historic for our agency.

We responded to a hostage/barricade incident at Best Western Hotel, and SWAT and Negotiators responded. After of hours of negotiations, SWAT made entry and took the suspect into custody. There were no injuries, and the successful resolution of the incident was a testament to our training and the innovative tactics used. As usual it was a great team effort involving much of the department (See Facebook).

Class 48 of the Citizen Police Academy began March 2, 2023.

The Police Department continues to make numerous illegal gun/drug cases (See Facebook).

The local news story below addresses the challenges all agencies face today in reference to recruiting and retention. We were one of the three highlighted agencies.


<https://www.news4jax.com/i-team/2023/03/01/how-law-enforcement-agencies-are-recruiting-future-officers-in-difficult-climate/>

The following news story is an awesome tale of how a homicide victim's widow turned tragedy into something positive. She is amazing!

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/bexley-box-is-honoring-the-memory-of-jared-bridegan/77-9d684551-ca09-46a5-b788-0e50a19e8214>

Ashville, North Carolina, is a medium-sized city that participated in the 'defund' movement in 2020. Currently, they have a 40% officer vacancy rate! Informative article.

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2023/01/09/asheville-city-police-has-fragile-morale-police-chief-says/69784424007/>


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