

NEWS

You Can Use...

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

January 2023



Greetings All,

Through outstanding investigative efforts by Patrol Officer Shane Jarman, Marcela Marabelli was arrested on January 26th in Missoula, Montana, on a felony warrant for Exploitation of the Elderly and Theft from a person over 65. Officer Jarman's relentless efforts in this case uncovered Marabelli defrauded our victim, a disabled 83-year-old male, for approximately \$140,000. Protect yourself by planning ahead to safeguard your assets and to ensure your wishes are followed. Talk to an attorney, your financial advisor, or someone at your financial institution about the best options for you (see Facebook).

The 26.2 with Donna will be running through our city on Sunday, February 5th. Even though the route is mainly on 1st and 2nd Street, North all avenues east of 3rd Street, North between Beach Boulevard and 20th Avenue will be limited to vehicular traffic. We will have officers stationed at intersections and will move vehicles across as runner traffic allows (see Facebook).

The Jacksonville Beach Police Department and Fourth Circuit State Attorney's Office announced an arrest in the February 2022 murder of Jared Bridegan. On February 16, 2022, Jared Bridegan was driving home from a planned "date night" with his children. On Wednesday nights, Jared would take his then-9-year-old twins to dinner with their 2-year-old half-sister. He had just dropped his twins off at their mother's home and was driving to his own home on dark area of Sanctuary Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach. Jared came upon a tire blocking his travel route. That tire was purposely placed there to make him stop. After putting on his hazard lights and placing his car in park, he opened his door to presumably move the tire out of the road. It was then that he was gunned down in cold blood. His 2-year-old daughter remained strapped in her car seat in the back. Nothing was stolen from him and this was a planned and targeted ambush and murder. For almost a year we have investigated the case, seeking to answer the many questions surrounding Jared's murder and most importantly, to answer the question "who killed Jared?" Henry Tenon, was arrested for the following crimes: Conspiracy to Commit Murder; Second-Degree Murder with a Weapon; Accessory After the Fact to a Capital Felony; and Child Abuse. He did not act alone and the case continues (see Facebook). This is a link to one of the news stories: https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2023/01/25/jacksonville-beach-police-state-attorney-announce-significant-development-in-jared-bridegan-murder-case/utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=snd&utm_content=wjxt4&fbclid=IwAR01hZipprrpYKUAemI74h0F_ezv6EzOjAEfnLsgLo9BdhYYvOulZO5V8-w

In January, 42 of our officers attended annual Mobile Field Force training. Mobile Field Force is responsible for providing a rapid, organized response to events requiring specialized techniques to restore civil order and public safety. We continue to train our officers and supervisors to ensure they have the skills and knowledge necessary to be prepared for any incident they may face in today's ever-changing environment (see Facebook).

We responded with JFRD to a structure fire which was fully involved. There was a fatality in this fire where one resident perished. A General Investigations Detective worked with the state fire marshal to investigate the blaze. We are still waiting on the results of the investigation, but initial findings indicate the fire was accidental (see Facebook).

Our final rotation of officers returned from Sanibel Island after spending their Christmas assisting in the recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian. Officer Kuusela who deployed with the last group wrote: "There are signs of total devastation throughout the island. You see cars with buckets of sand all over the floor board, dashboard, and rest of the interiors. There were mangled fences and buildings everywhere. In some cases all that remained where a home once stood is a piece of it's foundation or a handle from a water faucet. The devastation was far greater than you could imagine." It's been an honor to assist in the relief efforts for Sanibel PD. Our officers have worked with so many wonderful agencies across the state over the prior six weeks (see Facebook).

Senior Communications Officer (dispatcher) Rachael Bennett and Officer Homer Morodomi retired after 20 and 25 years of service respectively. We currently have three vacant officer positions and four vacant communications officer positions. We have a few viable candidates for each position. One police officer washed out of the training program, one resigned in the first phase of training (was having problems performing), and the third position was from the retirement mentioned above. In addition, I have received two formal notifications reference retirements in 2023 with another two possible this year. We continue to perform much better than most agencies, but recruiting qualified applicants continues to be challenging. I am especially concerned about recruiting for Communications Officers, which is a nationwide problem.


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