

NEWS

You Can Use...

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

March 2023



Greetings All,

We made a second arrest in the nationally publicized Bridegan homicide in March (see Facebook photo). The current husband of the ex-wife of the victim was arrested for 1st Degree Murder among other serious charges. The case is still under active investigation, and the search for justice continues.

Paid parking began this month with additional paid parking areas towards the north end of the Central Business District. Details of the program are on the City and Police Department website, including the resident parking program.

This month, we received numerous parking complaints. One complaint specifically was concerning illegally parked cars in the Downtown area. We had already been increasing enforcement in the area. Parking tickets from January 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022, numbered 198 citywide, not including paid parking lots. During the same period in 2023, 491 tickets were issued citywide with most issued in the Downtown area. For example, over St. Patrick's weekend, 107 tickets were issued citywide with 88 issued in the Downtown area. This effort will continue indefinitely.

Our officers assisted Governor Ron DeSantis' protective detail during his visit to Jacksonville Beach (see Facebook photo).

Two part-time officers are progressing well through training. If they finish training, the department will employ three part-time officers, the most in 15 years. They are an incredible, cost-effective asset for us.

Citizen Police Academy Class 48 began this month.

As most of you know, Corporal William "Bill" Eierman was shot in the line of duty in August of 2018. He returned to full duty this month. We are so happy to have him back! (See Facebook post.)

Our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office's countywide task force (JSO CPR Team) conducted another Airbnb raid. There were approximately 40 people, many of them juveniles, holding a house party at the rental property. We recovered 10 guns and made numerous arrests. SIU and JSO CPR are now integrated to coordinate efforts and enforcement countywide.

We now have two civilian, full-time property/evidence officer positions (instead of one full-time and one part-time positions). This move will allow us to have more property-room coverage in this high-liability area. Also, we have reclassified the property room positions to also include full Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) duties. This will give much needed relief to sworn Crime Scene Unit (CSU) personnel year-round. Their duties will include alternating on-call status, full crime scene processing, and additional response capabilities to major crime scenes!

We currently have five officer vacancies, with one candidate processing. Police departments nationwide are now feeling the effects of very low applicant pool. We have been insulated from this problem for a few years, but as I discussed in the past, applicant shortages have caught up with us.


Gene Paul N. Smith

Contact Us



904-270-1661



www.jacksonvillebeach.org



@jaxbeachpd



@jaxbeachpolice

Follow Us