

NEWS

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

October 2023



Happy Holidays!

Starting October 1, dogs are allowed on the beach at any hour. Just a friendly reminder that they must be leashed, and waste must be picked up and properly disposed.

After months of planning, the Sea and Sky Spectacular was held in our city for the first time since pre-COVID. With increased threat levels due to events overseas, coupled with staff shortages, it was challenging. In our favor was a much shorter show each of the three days than in previous years. The weekend saw the biggest crowd size in our city for any event since before COVID, and I am pleased to report that there were no incidents. We estimated 50,000 visitors both Saturday and Sunday. Traffic was very heavy, especially as the event ended, and JSO officers (assigned to traffic direction) did an outstanding job under challenging circumstances. The roadways we travel on in the beaches were not built to handle that size volume of cars all moving off the island at one time. (See Facebook).

Both K9 Officers Gray and Pfeuffer passed their annual state K9 certifications with flying colors. (See Facebook).

Paid parking in city parking lots has ended for the season. It was another successful year for the program.

Officers Greg Gordon and Tracy Hawes officially retired this month after over 17 years and 21 years of service respectively. Detective Tony Carrillo finished his law enforcement career after five years with Jacksonville Beach (and 30 years with Neptune Beach Police Department); he has resigned into retirement once and for all. All three officers will be missed. (See Facebook).

We held our volunteer appreciation dinner for the best group of volunteers in the country! Detective Sergeant Keith Shackelford prepared the food, so of course everyone showed up to eat. (See Facebook).

We held our always popular annual Halloween Party for children in the community. The event was well attended, and our volunteers and Services Division employees did an outstanding job with planning and executing the event.

Shanna Gardner, the ex-wife of homicide victim Jared Bridegan, was extradited to Florida from Washington state on a first-degree murder charge. She had her first appearance in a Florida court, and the family of the victim and members of our department were present.


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