



THE SHERIFF'S POST

FIRST QUARTER 2024 - JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

On the Scene:

Agency members respond to events with fun and humor while educating the public. **p8-9**

River Farms:

Inmates learn how to care for farm animals and crops while learning to care for themselves. **p10**

Recognition:

Current and recently retired staff members, receive recognition for their dedication. **p12-14**



30TH ANNIVERSARY FSyr BARBECUE

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS TO HELP AT-RISK YOUTH WHILE DINING ON DELICIOUS BARBECUE AND CELEBRATING THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS. **P4**



For those wanting to help when a child or endangered adult goes missing, please register your mobile phone number with A Child is Missing.

The organization is able to do a reverse 911 of sorts,

notifying members within a certain area when a child, elder, or endangered adult has gone missing.

You can learn more and register here:

<https://AChildIsMissing.org>

EMERGENCY HEALTH PROFILE ASSOCIATION

<https://www.emergencyprofile.org/>



RAPIDSOS



Create a **FREE**
Emergency Health profile



In the event of an emergency,
CALL 911



RapidSOS automatically
SENDS your profile to 911

Help Us Help YOU with Rapid SOS! Our 911 Dispatch is using a new tool to help get the right help to you in your time of need. But it's only as good as the information YOU provide.

Sign up for **FREE** with Rapid SOS and when help is on the way, you know emergency crews have all the right information. Watch a video explaining the system, here - <https://bit.ly/3CnXniu>

Indian River County Sheriff's Office



Download our **FREE**
mobile app today!

Download our mobile app and keep up with everything the Sheriff's Office is up to. You'll get notifications when there's a traffic crash affecting your commute, along with notices about upcoming



SCAN to download!



events we'll be attending. From our app, you can submit tips, see where crimes have been reported, and access citizen resources such as Safe Sale Zones, Fingerprinting, Public Records and Victim Services.

FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK



The year is in full swing and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office has been especially busy. We celebrated the 30th anniversary of our annual barbecue to benefit the Florida Sheriff Youth Ranches. We dedicated a classic cruiser to our fallen hero Deputy Richard "Raz" Raczkoski. And we officially opened our new farm, named in honor of former Sheriff, Roy Raymond.

Community members braved less than ideal weather to celebrate with us as we presented a check for \$62,000 to soon-to-retire FSJR President Bill Frye (page 4). With these funds, the Ranches will provide services to boys and girls within our county and across the region.

And while River Farms has been previously highlighted in local media, the public finally had a chance to meet all of the four legged creatures, and the humans that work with them, that make the farm a success. The farm also added a new edition, a calf we've named Love. Love was reported on the loose and needed to be wrangled by the Agriculture Unit to keep her and the public safe. After a public auction, Love found her forever home here on the farm (page 10).

Beyond the dedications and grand openings, the Sheriff's Office has been highlighted numerous times on various television programs, including On Patrol Live and High Speed Chase. Our deputies are working with these crews to give the public a feel for what it is like to do their jobs day in and day out. We hope that by pulling back the curtain a bit, our citizens will continue to put their trust in us to make the community a better, safer place to live and work.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our social media channels as well as our agency app (page 2) for more news to come from the Sheriff's Office. Look for "ircsheriff" to find us on Facebook and Instagram, and keep watching as we expand our presence on Nextdoor.

We look forward to keeping our citizens informed of all the great things to come in the following weeks and months from your Indian River County Sheriff's Office.

YOUR SHERIFF,
ERIC FLOWERS

ANNUAL BBQ

HELPING KIDS FIND A BETTER PATH

For the 30th year in a row, the Indian River County Sheriff's Office invited the public to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches benefit barbecue to help raise money for a worthy cause. For the 30th year in a row, the public enjoyed some great food, great demonstrations, and great vendor displays. But for the first time in 30 years, the largest check ever was presented to the Youth Ranches - \$62,000 to be exact. The most money the Indian River County Sheriff's Office has raised to date.

"I've been a huge supporter of the Florida Sheriff Youth Ranches, well before becoming Sheriff," Sheriff Eric Flowers said, noting that he came in with a plan to lead the agency to be the biggest fundraiser of all the Sheriffs agencies across the state. "It's an incredible organization."

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches President Bill Frye staggered backward, dumbfounded when he glimpsed the dollar amount on this year's check. "It felt really

**"Indian
River has
just been
so special."
~FSYR Pres.
Bill Frye**



(Right) Members of the public peruse the various vendor booths on their way to the event field. (Below) Sheriff Eric Flowers, with Natasha Jenkins and Jennifer Gelesky, present a \$62,000 check to FSYR President Bill Frye to benefit the organization.



marvelous,” he said. Frye added that there just aren’t words to thank those who made this fundraiser a success. “There is so much hard work, a lot of time and effort – that people care enough to come out.”

Back by popular demand, this year’s barbecue was back on the Sheriff’s Office campus which highlighted some of the improvements that have taken shape since the previous events. New construction provided a large covered space for those dining on the BBQ. And the small but peaceful River Farms provided a quiet place to relax amidst the K9 and SWAT demonstrations and hustle and bustle among the vendors. “I was lost!” Frye said. “Everything is new.”

This year’s milestone barbecue also saw the dedication of a classic police cruiser in honor of fallen Deputy Richard “Raz” Raczkoski.

A 1986 Ford Crown Victoria was restored and painted to look just like a cruiser Dep. Raczkoski would

“It’s a great
program
& means a
lot to us.”
~Sheriff Eric
Flowers

have driven at the time of his service to the county.

Former Sheriff Tim Dobeck and Raczkoski’s brother, Marc, were on-hand for the unveiling and dedication.

The vehicle will be used in community parades and other events to serve as a memorial for the agency’s only deputy killed in the line of duty.

“We are keeping his memory alive,” said Sheriff Flowers.

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches was founded in 1957 by a group of Sheriffs from around the state who saw a need to provide better services to youth to help them get back on the right path before they strayed too far. Generations of youth have now passed through the Ranches, many of whom give back to the organization that helped them avoid trouble in their older years. The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches provides summer camp opportunities around the state, and even locally for Indian River County Youth between the ages of 10 and 15 through the Barberville sleep away camp and the Harmony in the Streets day camp. Over the years, Frye estimates several thousand youth from Indian River County have experienced the camps. Each year the camp’s theme is Law Enforcement is Your Friend, and gives a



chance for youth to engage with law enforcement in a fun and positive way.

Frye is stepping down as the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches president after this year, having served the organization in various roles for four decades. Executive Vice President Maria Knapp, who has worked with Frye for the past 23 years, has been tapped to take his place. Frye said he will remain involved for a while as President Emeritus and help Knapp settle in. And, so long as his schedule is clear, he plans to attend next year's barbecue. "They just make it such a fun experience," Frye said of the agency's annual barbecue.

"I'm really grateful to Sheriff Flowers. The agency is such a blessing."

This year's barbecue saw more than 2,000 pork and chicken dinners served with all the typical fixings. Following the March barbecue, the Sheriff's Office has at least two more fund-raising events in the works. This summer, the agency will host its annual Fishing With Flowers In-Shore Fishing Tournament. And, in the fall, there will be the annual Sheriffs Clay Shoot. Both events have raised several thousand dollars for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Check the Sheriff's Office Facebook page for details about how you can continue to support the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.



(Top) Staff have fun while serving up barbecue. (Above) The K-9 Unit puts on an entertaining demonstration. (Left) Hundreds of visitors gather to enjoy their barbecue meals between demonstrations and tours.

ON THE SCENE





RIVER FARMS GROWING INMATE WELL-BEING

We all have our tough days sometimes. And for each one of us, something different can be all we need to improve that day. For some, the feeling of warm sunlight on the face and a gentle breeze on the skin is all that's needed.

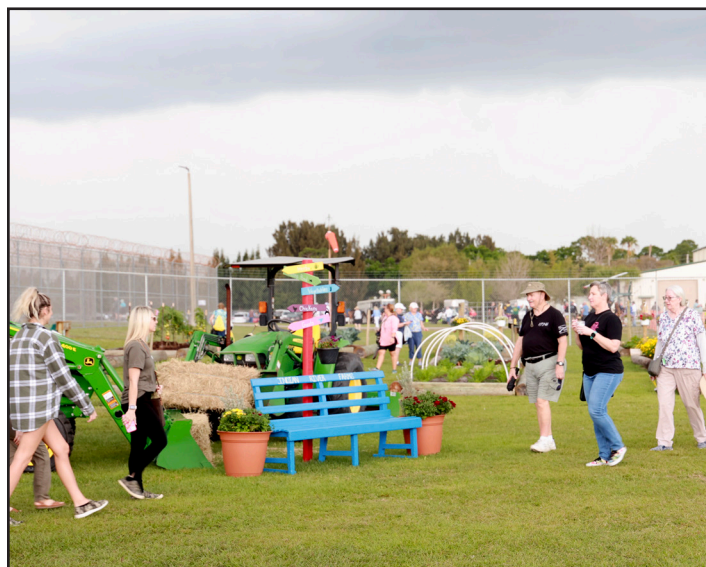
For others, physical exertion and doing a little hard day's work gives a sense of accomplishment about the day. Still, for others, combining that hard day's work in the sun while working with a furry – or feathered – animal is best of all.

And for a select group of female inmates at the Indian River County jail, that is exactly what they get to do nearly every day.

With an inmate population that skews heavily male, many of the jail's inmate programs are filled by male inmates. The female inmates “don't have the same opportunities,” as their male counterparts to participate in programs, explained Captain Angela Jones.

After getting feedback from the female inmates, some of whom expressed doubt they'd leave the jail with any marketable skills, the idea of “River Farms” was born. Captain Jones pitched the idea for the farm operated by minimum-security female inmates, who otherwise might not have an opportunity to participate in a working program.

The farm provides them with an opportunity to learn basic horticultural and animal husbandry skills. They also learn how to use power tools and heavy equipment. Upon release from the jail, the female inmate workers could find work at area landscaping companies or nurseries, and, at the



(Above) Visitors check out River Farms' equipment, raised garden beds, as well as the animals. (Below) Deputy Lilia Godina explains how the farm operates and how it benefits the community.





(Above) Family of late Sheriff Roy Raymond cut the ribbon on his namesake farm. (Right) Visitors at the farm meet Love, a rescued calf given to the program. (Below) The farm, named for Sheriff Raymond, will serve as a skill-building opportunity for inmate workers.

very least, be able to tend a garden at their home if they wanted to.

“I love it because I see how they’re changing,” said Deputy Lilia Godina, who oversees River Farms and its crew. She’s already noted a difference from Day One with inmates. They come in mad at the world and themselves, but by the end of the first week, they start to smile again. And before long, they start to talk positively about their future. Touching grass and reconnecting with nature is beneficial to all, Deputy Godina said. “I think that’s very important.”

Deputy Godina explained that she sees the work the female inmates do in the garden as a metaphor for their lives. The seeds are buried deep in the dirt. But as time progresses, and with a little water and some nurturing, a tiny plant begins to grow and emerges from the soil. These female inmates are a lot like that. They come in buried deep in the dirt. But with some nurturing and time, they grow too. “It’s giving them hope,” Deputy Godina said.

The Sheriff’s Office, at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches benefit BBQ, invited the public to visit the new inmate-worked farm, named for the late Sheriff Roy Raymond, whose memory served as inspiration for the program.

“This farm signifies new beginnings for those who may have lost their way and serves as an opportunity to instill growth in those who may have never cared for anything before,” Raymond’s daughter, Becki Raymond, said at the ribbon cutting ceremony. “Just as Sheriff Raymond prioritized justice, so should those who wear the star of honor who watch over this farm.”

Going forward, River Farms can expect to see more animals arrive, more raised beds of produce and flowers, and perhaps even a fishing dock.



“I see how they’re changing... It’s giving them hope.”

~Deputy Lilia Godina

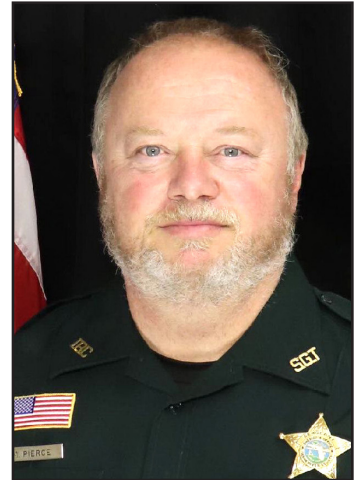
ANNIVERSARIES



Michelle Jones, 35



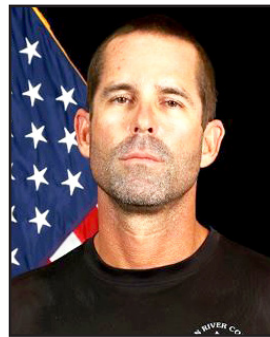
Doug MacKenzie, 35



Michael Pierce, 33



Joseph Abollo



Christian Mathisen



John McNeal



Paavo Minuse



Jeremy Shepherd

ANNIVERSARIES



Matthew Davis



Natalie Christman



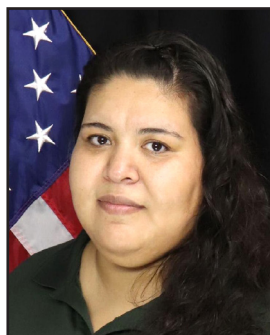
Natasha Glading



Nathan McCollum



Kathleen Minix



Yessika Mosqueda



Jorge Payne



Robert Sunkel

RETIREMENTS

Elise “Lee” Bruce Nov. 29, 1989 - Feb. 29, 2024



Bruce served as a Corrections Deputy from 1986 to 1989 before becoming a Public Safety Dispatcher.

She has also received numerous commendations that include Life Saving, Going the Extra Mile,

Honorable Service, and Exceptional Duty.



Sheryl Granger May 1, 2006 - March 1, 2024



Granger served as a Records Specialist with the agency for more than a dozen years.

During her time, Granger was recognized for Going the Extra Mile in the third quarter of 2016.



ACCOLADES

Deputy Tommy Byrd, Deputy Jonathan Lozada, Sgt. Doug MacKenzie, Deputy Wolf Shaw & K9 Sunny, Corporal Daniel Hoffman, Dispatcher Tiffany Leiva-

IRSC CJI Director Lisa Deleon submitted a memo of recognition commending the planning and implementation of training scenarios to LE 174. “Not only was the planning and implementations of the training scenarios extremely apparent, the debriefing provided upon conclusion of the exercises will truly save lives.”

Deputy Bryce Connolly, Deputy Lawrence Newberry, Corporal Daniel Deighan, Deputy Shane Joerger, Sgt. Jacob Curby-

A few weeks ago Customer Service sent out an email about a father (Matthew Downing) who posted to a facebook neighborhood group a video of someone stealing his daughter’s bike. There was an update

posted by Downing that deputies showed up the next morning because they saw the posted video and were able to locate and return the stolen bike. At the time Customer Service sent the email, the deputies were unknown. We soon found out! The combined efforts of Deputy Connolly, Deputy Newberry, Corporal Deighan, Deputy Joerger and Sgt. Curby made Downing’s daughter very happy. Downing also mentioned that the recovery saved him \$150!

Deputy Alec Munni-

Ms. Linda McCarthy called to express her gratitude to Deputy Munni. She accidentally locked herself out of her vehicle with her puppy inside. She said he saved the day.

Deputy Kevin Christman-

Ms. Lori Windheuser wrote a letter commending Deputy Christman for the professionalism and concern

shown not only for her son who was an inmate, but for her as well. “He was compassionate, understanding, and polite, in a world full of meanness it was nice to speak to someone so caring and kind.”

Det. Kerri Crawford-Martin, Det. Philip Daugherty, Det. Michael Kachele, Det. Craig Thimmer, Lt. Michael Pierce, CSI Amy Ford, Det. Manace Gonzalez, Deputy Christen Moon-

Ms. Carol Tumidiski came to the Sheriff’s Office recently to commend everyone that conducted a search warrant at her property a few days prior. She wished to extend her thanks for your professionalism and kindness towards her. She was impressed by your diligent work over the many hours you were there, and for checking on her several times during the process. “They all made a stressful situation easier to handle.”

NOW HIRING

Come join our team of amazing professionals. We are hiring numerous civilian positions within both the 9-1-1 dispatch center and the county jail, among other divisions and departments.

Dispatch hires can expect a starting salary of \$40,000 - \$53,000 based on experience. Civilian Corrections Assistants can expect to start at \$34,680.

Both posts are great entry points into a lifelong law enforcement related career. Want to be a first responder without having to go out in the field? Consider 9-1-1 dispatch. Interested in working in the jail but not up close with the inmates? Then apply for the Civilian Corrections Assistant position.

Interested applicants may apply online at www.ircsheriff.org. For additional information, applicants may call (772) 978-6355.

Telecommunicator

This position is responsible for screening, entering and relaying/routing calls for service for emergencies and non-emergencies in a 911 dispatch center, including dispatching of Fire-EMS and Police Calls for service.

Applicants for this position must have excellent computer skills, capable of working under stress, and be able to react quickly and calmly and make sound decisions in emergency situations.

Starting salary is based on recent, verifiable experience - between \$40,000 and \$53,000.

Civilian Corrections Assistant

The position of Civilian Corrections Assistant performs a variety of duties, including the following assignments: Security and maintenance of Control Rooms, Booking area and Visitation Center. A competitive starting salary of \$34,680 per year.

Other Positions Available

- Law Enforcement/Corrections Deputy - starting \$50,619
- Contract Administrator - starting \$49,980
- Investigative Support Technician - starting \$37,740



Support our K-9 Unit - take one home today!

www.IRCSheriff.org Email Mindy Mangel - mmangel@ircsheriff.org





**Indian River County Sheriff's Office
Eric Flowers, Sheriff**

4055 41st Ave.,
Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 569-6700
EMERGENCY? Dial 911

www.IRCSheriff.org
www.facebook.com/ircsheriff
www.twitter.com/IRCSheriff