



# THE SHERIFF'S POST

APRIL 2022





## HI EVERYONE,

These last several months have been a very busy time for us at the Indian River County Sheriff's Office. We have made, and continue to make, improvements to the complex, including installing gates, revamping the lobby, and outfitting a new gym.

We have created our own peer support group to help our folks deal with the traumas they witness on a regular basis. The Sheriff's Traumatic Advocate Response (STAR) Team provides accessible, confidential mutual peer support to all sworn and non-sworn members of the agency.

Due to the changes to the complex, we moved our annual Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Barbecue to the county fairgrounds and it was a tremendous success, helping to raise \$60,000 for the program. Thank you to everyone who met us out at the fairgrounds for great food, fun and fundraising.

Our detectives have been busy investigating cases throughout the county and continue to work to make our community safe. We are especially proud of the multi-agency work done

on Operation Weeping Willow, which netted the arrests of more than a dozen suspects on various drug trafficking related charges.

Our team continues to investigate crimes which include missing persons and homicides. We encourage anyone who has information regarding any such case to call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 1-800-273-8477 to remain anonymous and eligible for a cash reward.

Looking ahead, we have our inaugural Fishing with Flowers fishing tournament coming in June to benefit the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. We hope to see you out at the Sebastian Mulligan's Beach House June 18 – the mandatory Captains meeting is the night before.

Fish to be targeted include trout, redfish, snook, jack crevalle, and lady fish. Prizes will be awarded according to weight and/or length with separate categories for Junior and Lady anglers and cash prizes range from \$100 to \$500.

To register, visit [www.IRCSheriff.org/fishing-with-flowers](http://www.IRCSheriff.org/fishing-with-flowers).

**YOUR SHERIFF, ERIC FLOWERS**



JIU-JITSU MASTER RENATO TAVARES LEADS A CLASS FROM THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

## JIU-JITSU A WORKOUT FOR BODY & MIND

It's not about being the biggest, or the strongest, or even the fastest. Jiu-jitsu is all about teaching its students how to utilize their body weight, pressure, and leverage, allowing them to control subjects that might otherwise outclass them. And, along with the physical training that goes with it, students are trained mentally and emotionally, remaining calm and moving with purpose.

Jiu-jitsu provides more than a workout for the deputies. It's a great way to learn and hone new skills to safely apprehend those suspected of doing wrong. New hires recently went through in-service training and all

deputies can attend a weekly class, all led by 6th degree black belt Jiu-jitsu Master Renato Tavares.

Last year, the Sheriff's Office contracted with Tavares to provide in-service jiu-jitsu training for all new hires. Tavares took it a step farther and offers a weekly class – one in the morning and another in the evening – for all deputies to acquaint themselves with the art and continue refining their skills.

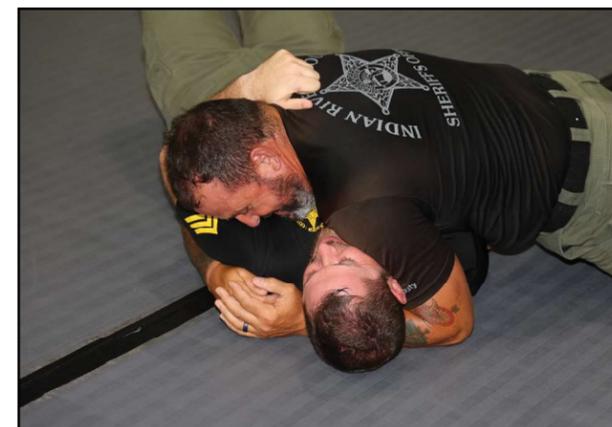
"I'm always looking to help the community," Tavares said, explaining that providing jiu-jitsu training to law enforcement can help them conserve energy and decrease the chance of injuries to both deputies and subjects.

In the few months the agency has been undergoing the training, deputies are already seeing results.

Sgt. Michael Dilks credits at least two injury-free apprehensions to jiu-jitsu.

"I could be calm and be confident in what I was doing," Sgt. Dilks said, because of the training. Using his weight and leverage, he was able to bring a suspect to the ground and keep control until his partner arrived to assist in the transfer to the patrol car.

Prior to jiu-jitsu, training involved methods that elicited compliance through strikes – such as hits or kicks. Strikes and kicks are highly ineffective, which leads



MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY PUT INTO PRACTICE THE DISCIPLINES THEY'RE LEARNING.

cont'd on next page

(CONT. JIU-JITSU)

the fight to last longer and can increase the chance of injuries and an escalation of force. Along with providing deputies an alternative method to gaining control of combative subjects, jiu-jitsu assists with mental conditioning.

Trainees learn to better read the combatant, using tactics to help de-escalate the tension and stress.

The Sheriff's Office took up jiu-jitsu after word got back to the Sheriff that Sgt. Joanna Fricke was taking classes and seeing results.

He tasked her with researching the benefits of the practice, which she did. Her research led her to another law enforcement agency in Georgia, which fully embraced jiu-jitsu. The Marietta Police Department started jiu-jitsu training for its officers and has since seen a dramatic decrease in use of force and injuries needing medical clearance.

Sgt. Fricke, and the rest of the Sheriff's Office, hopes to see similar results as the program develops further.

Sgt. Fricke picked up jiu-jitsu after a poor round of grappling during a scenario training.

"I was severely displeased with my performance," she said, explaining she thought she knew how to fight – "I thought I was strong. I go to the gym. I'm scrappy."

After asking around for suggestions, she landed on jiu-jitsu, and specifically Master Tavares.

Sgt. Fricke said jiu-jitsu is very unforgiving. It doesn't care who you are – it requires the same from everyone. "You're not going to be good at that" right away.



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS PRACTICE DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AS INSTRUCTED BY MASTER TAVARES.

For months, now, she's been training in jiu-jitsu and seeing her own results when it comes time to grapple – whether in training scenarios or out on the road.

Going through jiu-jitsu training helps the deputies build muscle memory and provides additional tools that are quickly accessed. Sgt. Fricke agrees with Sgt. Dilks that jiu-jitsu is more than just physical training, adding that it's mental and emotional, too.

"It's like human chess," she said, being engaged in the moment, noticing subtle changes in the subject's demeanor and being able to respond in a way that preserves energy.

"Ultimately, we're not trying to hurt anyone," Sgt. Fricke said, and jiu-jitsu has the potential to help achieve that goal.



DEPUTIES SPAR DURING THEIR JIU-JITSU CLASS, HONING THEIR SKILLS.



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

[www.EmergencyProfile.org](http://www.EmergencyProfile.org)





Create a FREE profile



Call 911 in an emergency



RapidSOS sends 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, herewww - <https://bit.ly/3CnXniu>

## Indian River County Sheriff's Office




Download our **FREE** mobile app today!

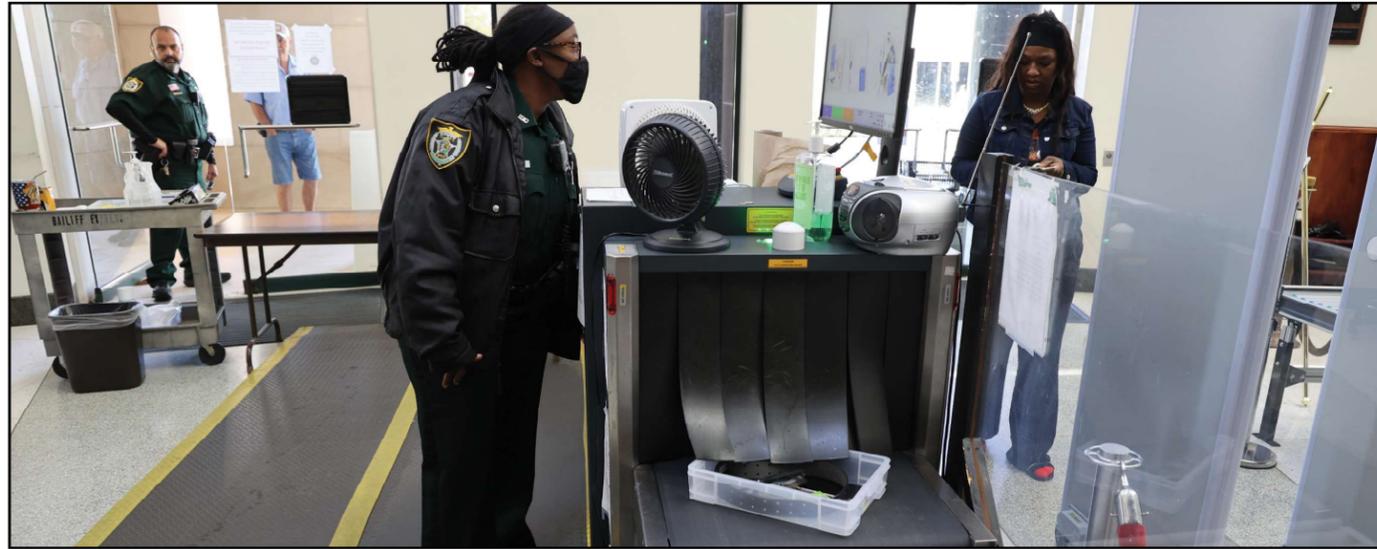


SCAN to download!



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 events

we'll be at. 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.



DEPUTIES GREET VISITORS AT THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND SCREEN THEIR ITEMS WITH AN X-RAY MACHINE AND METAL DETECTOR.

# COURT SERVICES

## PROTECT & SERVE AT COURTHOUSE

The deputies at the Indian River County Courthouse are the first people the public sees upon entering the building. They are also the ones who greet criminal defendants upon their arrival for a court hearing.

In years past, the Sheriff's Office staffed the Courthouse with Law Enforcement (Road) deputies. However, Sheriff Eric Flowers made a decision to swap the road deputies for Corrections Deputies, bringing them over from the jail to handle security and other functions.

"It's different," said Dep. Will Lewis. "It's less stress, but there's a lot to learn."

Dep. Lewis explained that the deputies who are assigned to courtrooms must observe courtroom etiquette and enforce the judges' individual rules.

The jail, by comparison, is more clear-cut, policy and procedure doesn't change.

"It's mentally stimulating," said Dep. Michael Korda. While it can be challenging working for different judges, it keeps the deputies on their toes.

Dep. Korda said the courtroom deputies have to keep tabs on what's being discussed. They have to be ready to handle evidence, to take it from the attorney to the witness or to the judge.

They also have to be prepared in the event a courtroom observer, the suspect or plaintiff, or even a juror begins acting out.

Those who work in the courtroom, too, get to see the justice system from another angle.

Many deputies see law enforcement from the road – they're the ones responsible for many of the arrests. The corrections deputies see those arrestees in the jail, ensuring their safety and the safe function of the facility.



BAGS GO THROUGH AN X-RAY MACHINE TO MAKE SURE NO DANGEROUS ITEMS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE COURTHOUSE.

Courthouse deputies see those who were arrested and accused of committing crimes get their day in court – sometimes they beat the charges, other times they don't.

Dep. Korda said if the hearing is in front of a judge only, he can call the outcome 95 percent of the time. If the decision is up to a jury – forget it.

"I can never tell," he said.

Along with making sure all remains safe and orderly in courtrooms, the Judicial Services Unit screens courthouse visitors, placing bags and items on the X-ray machine and having them walk through a metal detector.

Those at the front door often help point visitors to the appropriate office – be it to the cashier, records, Clerk of the Court, or just finding the right courtroom.

"There are many different entities in this building," said Lt. Michael Raia. "They all work together, but they're all independent."

The Sheriff's Office sometimes has to serve as a liaison between all the moving pieces.

Judicial Services also facilitates jury selection. Potential jurors are directed to the waiting room where either the Sheriff or his designee address those gathered, setting their expectations and helping to put them at ease.

"No one wants to be here," Lt. Raia said of the jurors.



DEPUTIES SCREEN VISITORS TO THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY.

"We know that, and try to make it a little less stressful for them."

Behind the scenes, the deputies operate a miniature jail where inmates are held to either return to the county jail or go before the judge. A secure elevator moves the inmates from the intake area to a secure courtroom corridors.

Dep. Michelle Beck is one of the deputies who works in that area, overseeing the transport of the newly-sentenced to the county jail.

"A lot of people are surprised they have to go to jail," she said. Dep. Beck said she and her co-workers treat them respectfully and talk them through the booking process.

"It makes it easier for intake" if they have an understanding of what is going to happen, she said.

And, having been reassigned from the jail, Dep. Beck and many of the others know first-hand what the inmates can expect. They also get a sense as to how the inmates are going to react.

"It's a real advantage," Dep. Beck said.

Transitioning from a third-party security firm to Sheriff's Office deputies has helped forge a stronger relationship with the various agencies that operate out of the courthouse, including the Public Defender's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the various judges, and the County Clerk of the Court, to name a few.

"We're here for the people," Lt. Raia said.



THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE COURTHOUSE, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL COURTROOMS.

# ★ STAR SCENE



SHERIFF ERIC FLOWERS PRESENTS A \$60,000 CHECK TO THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES DURING THE ANNUAL BBQ.



MEMBERS OF THE MARINE UNIT ATTEND A HANDS-ON COURSE IN ST. AUGUSTINE, TRAINING IN THE MANY ASPECTS OF MARINE ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS.



CSI BROOKE ROLLANDO LEADS A CHILD THROUGH THE FINGERPRINTING PROCESS AT STEAMFEST.



VESTED INTEREST IN K9S, INC. DONATED TACTICAL VESTS TO FOUR MEMBERS OF THE K9 UNIT.

(BELOW) SGT. ROBERT NEWMAN (ON RIGHT) LEADS A TOUR OF FORENSICS FOR IRSC'S COLD CASE INSTITUTE.



IRCSO'S BASKETBALL TEAM TAKES ON CROSSOVER MISSION IN A CHARITY GAME.



SHERIFF ERIC FLOWERS PRESENTS TROPHIES TO MARK THE END OF THE INAUGURAL AGENCY CLAY SHOOT BENEFITTING THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES.



THE EXPLORERS TOUR THE COURTHOUSE WITH JUDGE MENZ.

# EXPLORERS POST 556 PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

They come to the agency as young as 14, ready to learn how they can make a positive impact on their community. They are Explorers Post 556 – a group of high school and college students who are learning first-hand the challenges and rewards a career in public safety can offer.

Sixteen-year-old Blake Fabiano is one of the newer

members of the Explorers, though he's no stranger to law enforcement. He has family members and good friends who are in the field. And ever since elementary school, he knew law enforcement was the path for him.

Still, joining the Explorers was cause for a slight pause before taking that step.

"It was a little nerve-racking at first," Fabiano said of joining an established group. "But we're like a family."

Det. Rebecca Hurley, one of the facilitators, said Explorers is about showing those who are interested what's available.

"We're all here to make communities stronger and safer," she said.

Pearl Flores has been with the Post for five years and hasn't wavered in her determination to enter law enforcement.

"This is the field I'd like to go into," she said.

Explorers who eventually age out of the program at 21 often attend a law enforcement academy or decide to go into fire rescue or another public service field.

For Deputy Nicholas Hatton, Explorers gave him a leg up in the police academy. He was already proficient in the policies and procedures. He knew the ropes.



PEARL FLORES (FROM LEFT), DAIMARYS LOPEZ, AND LANDON RICHARDS.

"I had a head start," he said. "It definitely helped out."

Explorers get an up-close behind-the-scenes lesson in all things law enforcement, from taking ride-alongs with the Road Patrol to undergoing less-than-lethal trainings, to reviewing forensics and more.

The crew works on mock scenarios, learning how to handle various instances, including felony traffic stops and domestic violence situations.

"It was just a wild experience," Dep. Hatton said of his time with the Explorers.

Tactical Flight Deputy Jonathan Lozada spent about six years with the Explorers, starting at age 14. He had considered a career in the military but wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to do.

Explorers exposed him to a multitude of options.

While aviation isn't covered under Explorers, having the exposure at the Sheriff's Office helped Dep. Lozada figure out what he would pursue. It also gave him the edge in both the academy as well as his field training.

"It's been a wonderful experience," he said. "It's a great program. It paid off for me."

Fabiano, Flores and the others currently in Explorers are the next generation of potential law enforcement officers.

Daimarys Lopez, 19, has been with Explorers off and on over four years.

"I can't really get away from them," she said. "I love them."



2021 LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY GRADUATION DAY WITH DEP. BRIAN AGUIAR WHO SERVES AS ONE OF THE ACADEMY'S DRILL INSTRUCTORS.

She has been through the leadership academy – what most people would call bootcamp – a week of sweltering heat in the middle of July in the middle of nowhere.

"It's a very challenging week," Det. Hurley said. Getting through that week, the Explorers are "very proud of themselves."

"It changes your perspective," Lopez said of the leadership week.

Landon Richards, 18, also went through the bootcamp and has somewhat of a love-hate relationship with it.

"I hated it, but I can't wait to do it again," he said. The others agreed.

Even Dep. Lozada remembers his days at the leadership academy. He recalled the first two days were the worst and he just wanted to go home. But by day five, he had made friends and began to enjoy it.

"It's a lot of discipline, a wakeup call," he said.

The Explorers fall under the Learning For Life program of the Scouts BSA – formerly known as Boy Scouts of America.

D.J. Blackman has been with Explorers for three years. "I want to help the community," he said. Having difficulty hearing, himself, he especially wants to help the deaf community – and if there is a way to do that and connect it to K-9, all the better.

Explorers Post 556 is always seeking new recruits. For more information about the Post and how to join, visit <https://www.ircsheriff.org/explorer-program>.

Flores's advice to anyone even remotely considering getting into Explorers is to just do it.

"If you want to do it, don't let anyone stop you," she said. "The mind is stronger than feelings."



EXPLORERS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND ENERGY DURING THE ANNUAL DAY OF CARING.



# STARWORTHY MILESTONES

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office congratulates its slate of employees who have served this agency with honor and dignity for at least 10 years.

An organization benefits from the longevity, stability and

wealth of knowledge and skill accumulated by its employees.

These are the Indian River County Sheriff's Office longest serving employees since our last issue. Thank you for your continued service.



Deborah L. White, 34



Lumaine B. Owens, 37



Kent D. Campbell, 34



Carl M. Rozier, 34



Doug MacKenzie Jr., 33



Michelle L. Jones, 33



Elise R. Bruce, 32



Kimberly K. Emmons, 33



Kyle B. King, 32



Michael L. Pierce, 31

## MILESTONES

(CONT.)



Teresa B. Hansen  
Tommy Harrington  
Ronald L. Bair  
Shaun J. McGinnis  
Rebecca E. Etter  
Patrick A. White  
Deborah A. Morris



Candace E. Carter  
Arthur D. Cirino  
James L. McCoy Jr.  
Anthony J. Civita  
John J. Kane Jr.



Mark D. Bradshaw  
Katheryn Gibson  
Angela Rosado-Jones  
Kevin McLaughlin  
Carrie A. Gielow  
Mark A. Kantorski  
Judy L. Parramore  
Christine E. Harp



Justin Moskowitz  
Wayne T. Vonada  
Allen R. Zaret  
Andrew T. Dean  
Emilie L. Enzmann

## NOW HIRING GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

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 \$31,000, which increases to \$40,000 upon the completion of training. Civilian Corrections Assistants can expect to start at \$27,450.

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](http://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 emergency and non-emergency calls for service 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 of \$31,000; Salary increased to \$40,000 upon completion of training.

### 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 \$27,540 per year.

### Other Positions Available

- Law Enforcement Deputy - starting \$46,800
- Corrections Deputy - starting \$46,800
- Victim Advocate - starting \$30,600
- Maintenance Technician - starting \$37,740



# STARWORTHY RETIREMENTS



**Capt. Kent Campbell**  
*Oct. 5, 1987 – Dec. 31, 2021*  
He began as a deputy and served in a number of roles including Sergeant of K9 and M.A.C.E. Criminal Investigations. Later he served as a Lieutenant and ended his career as Captain of L.E. Operations and then Corrections. He earned a number of commendations, including Going the Extra Mile, Exceptional Duty, and the Combat Cross.



**Adrienne Raulen**  
*March 22, 1989 – Nov. 1, 2021*  
She served in Public Safety Dispatch, spending many of her years as a dispatcher and shift supervisor. During her time with the agency, she earned several commendations, including Going the Extra Mile, Life Saving Award, Grand Cordon Award, and Dispatcher of the Quarter. She helped mentor many call takers and dispatchers.



**Kimberly Dean**  
*Aug. 22, 1988 – Oct. 20, 2021*  
She began her career in Reception and later moved to Records. She also served as a clerk in Investigations, Intelligence Analyst, Investigative Services, and then Medical. Dean ended her career as an Offender Tracking Specialist. She earned Grand Cordon, Going the Extra Mile, and Exceptional Duty.



**Dep. George Benson**  
*Oct. 9, 1995 – Oct. 19, 2021*  
He served in Road Patrol, Court Services, and later as a School Resource Deputy. He earned the Going the Extra Mile and the Technical awards. He also received numerous letters of commendation from members of the community highlighting his teamwork and efficiency, his professionalism, and simple appreciation.



**Dep. Lesley Matranga**  
*Sept. 22, 1997 – Oct. 29, 2021*  
During her 24 years with the agency, she served in both Corrections and Court Services. She received the Going the Extra Mile and Technical awards, as well as several letters of commendation for conducting courthouse tours, helping other agencies, and professionalism.



**Chris Cosner**  
*Nov. 15, 1999 – Dec. 16, 2021*  
He spent 22 years in both the Fleet and General services units, ending his career as the warehouse technician. He received numerous accolades and commendations, including the Exceptional Duty Award in 2003 and a nomination for the Grand Cordon Award.



# STARWORTHY FEATS

## Quick response leads to quick recovery

★ I called [the Sheriff's Office] after I got an anonymous tip via text. They sent a deputy directly to my house within 5 minutes. The response time shocked me. I gave the deputy the evidence provided to me via text from the anonymous source.

He then took the information to Dep. Blake Giordano, who called about a half hour later explaining that they picked up my vehicle and were taking it to the Sheriff's impound lot for processing. I was shocked that they recovered the vehicle so quick. I have the utmost respect for these guys. This just added to that sentiment.

From: James Pennington

## Compassion in crisis goes a long way

★ Deputy Daniel Hoffman and the Indian River County Fire Department answered my emergency call in December, regarding me finding a deceased dear friend. Everyone that came was very professional and sympathetic to our feelings.

Dep. Hoffman stayed the entire time searching to find the nearest kin and making sure property was secure and in order until the funeral home was able to pick up the body. We appreciated his concern for our feelings too. Just wanted to say Thank You to Dep. Hoffman.

Signed, Patricia Ford

## Simple lock-out has big impact

★ Ms. Elizabeth Wakeman, called to compliment and praise Civilian Traffic Patrol Anthony Consalo's professionalism from his interaction at the Fresh Market during a lock-out call. She requested his supervisors be notified of how polite and professional he was the entire time.

Ms. Wakeman said Consalo is a "good representative of the department."

She said she tried to compensate him and he refused. She was grateful for his service and wanted to thank him again.



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