

# Alexandria Sheriff's Office Bulletin



## SEPTEMBER 2024

### Deputy Receives State-Wide Law Enforcement Award

Congratulations to Deputy Cañas on being selected as the [Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the American Legion Department of Virginia](#)! The American Legion announced the award at their state conference this summer and then Sheriff Sean Casey presented Deputy Cañas with the plaque during our September staff meeting. In addition to his regular duties, Deputy Cañas is active in community outreach and training, serves in the Honor Guard and Civil Disobedience Unit, and is president of two employee organizations. Our thanks to Alexandria American Legion Post 24 for their recognition of Deputy Cañas earlier this year and for nominating him for this state-wide award.



### Sheriff Casey Promotes Two to Sergeant

This month Sheriff Casey promoted two veteran deputies to the rank of Sergeant. Since joining the Sheriff's Office in 2007, [Sergeant Carter](#) has served in the Detention Center and Administration and taken on additional duties as a member of the Honor Guard and a Field Training Deputy. [Sergeant Villatoro](#) began his ASO career in 2010 and has served in the Detention Center and Judicial and Field Operations. Beyond his regular assignments, he is also a Field Training Deputy and active in community outreach. We wish Sergeant Carter and Sergeant Villatoro well in their new supervisory positions!



## ASO Offering Hiring Bonus in Expanded Recruiting Effort

Like many other public safety agencies, the Sheriff's Office is facing staffing shortages. To address this challenge, we are not only recruiting those new to the corrections and law enforcement fields but we are specifically seeking highly-qualified candidates who already have the state-mandated training. To recruit these experienced professionals, [ASO is offering a \\$10,000 hiring bonus to those who are state-certified jail officers and deputies](#). City Council recently authorized funding to extend the bonus for the current fiscal year to hire up to 15 more deputies who are already certified jailors. Deputies assigned to the Detention Center work just 15 days a month and have fixed day or night shifts, rather than rotational shifts, which allows for a better work-life balance.



## ASO Supports Police Enforcement of School Bus Safety

Deputies recently assisted Alexandria police with traffic enforcement to protect children getting on and off school buses. During a week-long operation, officers and deputies followed school buses before and after school to ensure that other drivers stopped when buses stopped to let children on and off. Officers and deputies cited 12 drivers for illegally passing a stopped school bus. [Virginia law requires drivers in all directions to stop](#) when a school bus is loading or unloading passengers, and violators can face up to 12 months in jail, a fine up to \$2,500, potential license suspension, and six points on their driving record. [Learn more about school bus safety](#) and how drivers and others can help keep kids safe.



## Inmates Recognized for Achievements with Luncheon

The Sheriff's Office hosted a special lunchtime event on August 28 to [recognize the achievements of inmates](#) who participated in programs this summer. These programs included educational ones like GED preparation and ESL studies, personal development like anger management and reentry preparation, and professional training with industry certifications that will make them more competitive candidates for employment. During the luncheon, Sheriff Sean Casey congratulated the honorees and thanked them for investing in their own futures and guest speaker, Dr. Ron Garrett, applauded the inmates for their accomplishments and shared an inspirational message.



## ASO Community Outreach Update

From back-to-school events to community engagement efforts, deputies have been very active in connecting with our neighbors. In the past month, ASO has participated in Tons of Trucks, a food drive with Alfred Street Baptist Church, Community Resource Day with Landmark Church and Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, First Thursday in Del Ray, Senior Academy, 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and First Responders Game, Community Cookout at Princess Square, Alexandria High JROTC 9/11 Remembrance, Black Family Reunion with the Alexandria Library (photo at right), Emergency Preparedness Fair at Market Square and welcome back to school events at Lyles-Crouch, John Adams, Naomi L. Brooks and St. Joseph Catholic Church.

