

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties. All defendants are considered innocent until convicted in a court or until pleading guilty or no contest. Information in this report is from law enforcement agencies and court documents, which are public records.

Bradford

Ivan Alexander, 20, of Brooker, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 27 for probation violations.

Martin Altman, 24, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 31 for intimidation.

Brandy Chavers, 40, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Andria Corneal, 33, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 25 for DUI.

Katelynn Crawford, 19, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 28 for larceny.

Ernest Dyal, 62, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 28 for larceny and burglary.

Evan Fraser, 40, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 25 for failure to appear.

Heather Lamb, 39, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 26 for battery and child cruelty.

Brittney McIntosh, 34, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 25 for DUI.

Kenny Moore, 61, of Douglas, Georgia, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 27 for an out-of-county warrant.

Omar Ramirez, 30, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 26 for battery and resisting an officer.

Zachary Rogers, 48, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 26 for DUI.

Rebecca Sellars, 43, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 31 for child neglect and resisting an officer.

Cindy Wells, 60, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 31 for disorderly intoxication.

Union

None reported.

Clay

Archie Damon, 37, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 31 for felony domestic battery by strangulation.

Noah Goodin, 42, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 30 for possession of drug equipment and possession of a firearm or ammunition by a convicted felon.

William Parker, 29, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 29 for a probation violation.

Luke Tassell, 21, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on January 26 for domestic battery.



Vince Esson of the Keystone Heights RV Resort cuts the ribbon on the station expansion. Also pictured are Danny Riddick, Joel Haas, Cody Johnson, David Weeks, Ben Carter, Wayne Clemons, Peyton Brown, Matthew Kimball, Scott Kornegay, Colin Traylor, David Jackson, Jeremy Loomis and Kevin Mobley.

Bradford opens Speedville fire station

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Telegraph

On Jan. 31, Bradford County officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of Station 10 in Speedville. The fire department bays, constructed in 2017, now feature new living quarters for full-time firefighters.

The Keystone Heights Fire Department ceased operations in 2014, as Clay County Fire Rescue took over emergency response in the southwestern part of Clay County. In 2020, Bradford County replaced its collection of volunteer departments with a countywide paid department.

Many fire departments have made similar transitions, from being strictly volunteer to a combination of paid and volunteer personnel or establishing fire stations with all paid staff.

County Commissioner Danny Riddick credited the Keystone volunteers for jumpstarting the Station 10 effort. He thanked businessman Vince Esson for continuing the momentum.

In 2016, the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department signed over \$1.2 million worth of equipment to Bradford County Fire Rescue. That came with \$75,000 towards the new building. Riddick said Santa Fe College donated the land, and Vince Esson from the Keystone Heights RV Resort donated \$150,000 to complete the station with the new living quarters.

“I also wanted to thank everyone who contributed, and I cannot thank you enough,” added Riddick, who represents District 4, which stretches from southern tip of Bradford to west of Hampton Lake. “You have

helped us with this project from the start, and today this station is complete and sitting in the fastest-growing area in the county.”

“This is a milestone for Bradford County and a significant step in strengthening fire and EMS services in our southeast region,” said Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter. “With this station, we are officially adding 24-7 fire response and advanced life support services, ensuring a faster, more effective emergency response for our residents.”

“This station is here today because of the efforts of so many individuals and businesses,” he continued, “and to the men and women of Bradford County Fire Rescue, you’re the heart of this department.”

Bradford satellite office closing temporarily

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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At the same time Bradford has opened Fire Station 10 in Speedville, the courthouse satellite office that had been operating there is closing.

The Bradford County tax collector’s satellite office will be temporarily closed starting Wednesday, Feb. 5, due to scheduled training and staffing issues. The office will remain closed until further notice.

In a statement, Teresa Phillips, Bradford County tax collector, apologized for any



inconvenience the closure may cause and thanked residents for their understanding as efforts are made to improve services.

The office serves the southern end of the county, providing a convenient way for citizens to renew their licenses, pay their taxes, purchase permits and more. Many services, however, are now available online.

For assistance during the closure, the public is encouraged to visit the Bradford County tax collector website at www.bradfordtaxcollector.com or contact the office by phone at

904-966-6246 or 904-966-6235 for further information.

Residents who require immediate assistance can always visit the main office in the south wing of the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phillips expressed appreciation for the community’s patience.

Players, sponsors needed for golf tourney

Madison Street Student Ministry is planning golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 15. Enjoy the challenging Quail Heights Country Club golf course in Lake City and support the students of Madison Street Baptist Church as they head to

camp this summer. Registration for the four-person team scramble begins at 7:30 a.m. and the tournament begins at 8:30. Lunch and prizes are at 1:30 p.m.

Registration is \$300 per team of four (\$75 per person), which includes fees, carts and lunch. Team and tournament sponsorships are appreciated. For more information, please call 904-964-7557.

BUDGET

Continued from page 7

Alachua County line to County Road 18) for \$4.25 million. The third state-funded project is a sidewalk on County Road 100A from Lincoln City Park to U.S. 301 for \$1.04 million. Additionally, work on Northeast 219th Street will be funded by \$164,000 in gas tax funding.

This year also includes multiple chip seal projects, the cost of which will be added when those numbers are received. Those projects will be funded by gas tax revenue as well.

Next year, a \$2.3 million state grant will fund resurfacing on County Road 21B (from Southeast 43rd Street to Southeast Eighth Avenue.).

The two-year total, minus the unknown cost of chip sealing, was nearly \$12.4 million.

The Capital Improvement Plan for solid waste incorporated mosquito control and included requests for new truck mounted spray units this year and next totaling \$50,000. Replacement trash compactors and trash containers for this year and the third and fifth year of the plan totaled \$450,000. Next year also included a \$300,000 request for a grapple truck to load limbs and debris, with the same amount requested in Fiscal Year 2028 for a roll-off garbage truck.

The five-year total was \$995,000.

Courthouse improvements in the current year included \$32,500 for roof replacement and \$95,925 for the design of accessibility improvements to comply ADA requirements, totaling \$128,425 in county funds. The county is seeking state funding of \$1.83 million to construct those improvements. If received, that would bring the total to nearly \$1.96 million, according to the plan.

County Manager Scott Kornegay also pointed out the that under parks and recreation was the \$59,850 in vessel fees

that will pay for the design of the Cypress Run boat ramp this year and the \$367,000 grant that will pay for the construction next year.

This was a draft report and will evolve as budget meetings continue. During the discussion of budgeting county funds, for example, Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden suggested costs such as the \$500,000 estimate for purchasing the brush trucks for fire rescue be spread over several years leading up to the purchase. In case the state does not appropriate funding, this would give the county time to build up that amount.

Fire Chief Ben Carter was present and discussed the schedule and need to replace aging vehicles in his fleet, including vehicles that date back to the early 2000s or before. Some of the ambulance replacements would be remounts, not new vehicles, he said. He also explained the \$2.5 million request for courthouse headquarters is high based on the increasing costs of construction. As for the need, he said they are “busting at the seams” in the current building.

“But again, this would certainly be something that we would seek appropriations for or alternative funding sources. And that’s the good thing with us, as we have multiple grants that we could apply for,” he said, referring to it as more of a want than a need right now. “I would never expect the county to foot the bill for two and a half million dollars for a new headquarters over there, or a remodel for that headquarters.”

Commissioner Chris Dougherty suggested the project be split into phases, paid for by state requests over multiple years, which Carter and Kornegay agreed was the better idea.

After questions about the need for another grapple truck in the solid waste budget, Rhoden clarified the truck purchased several years ago was paid for with accumulated reserves in

mosquito control funding from the state and with state approval. That reserve is building up again and could be used to fund an additional equipment purchase, which Public Works Director Jason Dodds later confirmed. As for the garbage truck, it would replace one in the fleet, two of which are from 1995.

After a detour into workforce and litter problems (see related story), the workshop wrapped up with the courthouse renovation. The county manager suggested the \$2 million requested from the state also be spread out over several years in the Capital Improvement Plan so the county can begin budgeting to cover the project in the absence of state funding.


Dougherty suggested the portion of out-of-county inmate

housing revenue the board keeps in a set-aside fund be considered for this purpose. If it turns out the county does not need the money for the courthouse, then it

could be used for a future capital project, perhaps at the jail.

Staff will continue to work on the Capital Improvement Plan and the budget. The next

workshop is set for March 4 at 10:30 a.m. alongside the commission’s regular meeting when a finalized plan could be approved.



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