



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew Assists Florida Department of Transportation and City of Flagler Beach to Restore Sand Dunes

On Monday and Tuesday, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Inmate Work Crew is assisting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and City of Flagler Beach with restoring the sand dunes on Flagler Beach from weather damage.



Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew filling in the dunes at Flagler Beach.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Flagler County, FDOT had scheduled ninety dump trucks full of sand to replace sand that had been washed away during recent Nor'easters in Flagler Beach. This sand will effectively re-cover the newly installed sea wall on North Oceanshore Boulevard, which had been washed away.

FDOT typically utilizes the Tomoka Corrections inmate work crews, however, they remain on lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As a result, Flagler Beach Police Chief Matthew Doughney requested the use of the Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew and Sheriff Rick Staly immediately authorized it. The Inmate Work Crew is helping to distribute the sand and restore the sand dunes. Detention Deputy Shannon Cowen is supervising the Inmate Work Crew during his normal shift so that there is no additional cost to taxpayers.

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“We have a great partnership with Flagler Beach and Bunnell Police Departments and as soon as Chief Doughney asked for assistance, it was approved,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “When I started the Inmate Work Crew it was with tasks just like this in mind. The Inmate Work Crew has previously assisted residents filling sand bags for approaching hurricanes and work five-days a week keeping various parks and county facilities in shape. And, it saves taxpayers money and inmates learn a trade they can use when released. In this case, I’m sure they enjoyed being near the beach while helping FDOT and Flagler Beach repair damage to the dunes.

The Sheriff’s Inmate Work Crew was organized in August of 2018 by Sheriff Staly and is a voluntary initiative designed to help rehabilitate low-risk offenders and teach them skills they can use when released. The Inmate Work Crew is mainly responsible for cutting grass, pulling weeds, trimming hedges and other landscaping projects throughout Flagler County. Additionally, the Inmate Work Crew has assisted Flagler residents with hurricane preparations and has saved taxpayers more than \$100,000 by completing the work without having to hire a service company.

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