



**Jo Ann Graves**

*Mayor*

**CITY OF GALLATIN, TENNESSEE**  
Gallatin Police Department

**Donald W. Bandy**

*Chief of Police*

Press Release

For immediate release  
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For additional information  
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Officer Chris Vines was named the Officer of the Year for 2013 at the annual Gallatin Police Department Awards Ceremony held Thursday, April 3, 2014. The event recognized employees of the department and citizens of Gallatin for outstanding achievement during 2013. Officer Vines was selected by his fellow employees for outstanding job performance during the year. Officer Vines exhibits dependability, excellent job knowledge, high moral character, and leadership abilities. He has a positive attitude and cares about the citizens of Gallatin. He currently serves as an FTO for the department and has excelled in that capacity. He teaches during in-service and frequently prepares lesson plans and other informational documents for the department. He accepts any assignment and gives 100 percent all the time. This officer has served with the force since 2007 and actually was a Reserve Officer prior to being hired full time. We congratulate him for this tremendous accomplishment.

Crystal Morgan, Public Safety Coordinator and a Communications Training Officer for the department, was selected as Civilian Employee of the Year for 2013. Crystal was recognized for outstanding performance of her duties and was selected by her fellow employees. Crystal has been with the Gallatin Police Department for 16 years and has a multitude of assignments that she completes on time and without complaint.

One individual employee and one unit earned Meritorious Service Awards. Sgt. Jeff Wright, the department information and technology officer was recognized for his outstanding job performance for his wide array of duties and for keeping all of the department computers and software running and updated accurately. The newly formed FLEX unit also received a unit meritorious award for its success in addressing issues of violence and quality of life while working odd hours and frequently being called to work on short notice. They made many drug arrests and seized a large amount of cash and 7 vehicles during 2013.

Chief Bandy also recognized 3 officers and two groups with Commendations. Investigator Charlie Harris was recognized for his hard work as the department's representative with the FBI Violent Task Force where he has worked several high profile cases. AS a result of his work, Investigator Harris was nominated by Special Agent Matthew Dunn of the FBI for the TOP COP award given by the National Association of Police Organizations and was one of two officers to represent the State of Tennessee. Inv. Harris was selected for an honorable mention and will receive his award in Washington D.C. in May. Officer Zach Graves and Officer Charles Cook were also selected for Commendations for their work in the department's

Traffic Unit where both have proven to be very adept in their duties. Officer Graves is also certified in Drug recognition Enforcement and is in the process of completing accident reconstruction training. Officer Cook is on the departments Fatality Accident Reconstruction team and led the Traffic Unit in citations issued in 2013. The Criminal Investigation Division was recognized with a group Commendation for their success as a unit having a high clearance rate of 78% compared to a national average of only 47%. CID investigated 619 felony crimes in 2013 including 2 homicides. The department has three Lieutenants. Lt. Lamar Ballard, Lt. Rickey Troup and Lt. Billy Vahldiek were recognized with commendations for their hard work and contributions that kept the department running and for their contributions to better the department. All of them take on many varied assignments, overseeing a wide array of responsibilities and personnel.

In addition to those employees of the department, one member of the community was recognized with a Citizen Commendation. Eight year old Kelly Garcia was recognized for her reporting the physical assault of a family member while remaining calm and her ability to give the dispatcher accurate information about the location of the suspect and the weapon used in the assault. Kelly demonstrated bravery and maturity beyond her years in obtaining help for her family.

All who were recognized with an award this year, are to be congratulated for their contribution to the City of Gallatin and all they have done and continue to do to make Gallatin a great safe place to live.

For additional information please contact the Gallatin Police Department at 615-452-1313.



Officer of the Year  
Chris Vines



Officer Vines with Chief Don Bandy



Civilian Employee of the Year  
Crystal Morgan



Sgt. Jeff Wright



The FLEX UNIT  
Sgt. Jeff Tarkington, Officer Bandon Trout  
Officer Jonathan McGuire, Officer Michael Tinker  
Officer Bobby Harris



Investigator Charlie Harris

Officer Zach Graves

Officer Charles Cook



Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigator Charlie Harris, Investigator Christian Booth  
Investigator Tony Wrinkle, Investigator Emily Renz  
Investigator Daniel Soto, Investigator Chad Harrison  
Investigator James Kemp, Sgt. Chris Shockley



Lt. Billy Vahldiek, Lt. Rickey Troup, Lt. Lamar Ballard