

SHERIFF 100th

SEMINOLE COUNTY

ESTABLISHED APRIL-25, 1913

ANNIVERSARY





Dear Seminole County residents:

I'm pleased to present the 2013 Seminole County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. I'm proud to share that crime reports for the last year again indicate we continue to have one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida. During 2013, unincorporated Seminole County experienced a .9% decrease in violent crime (murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, and aggravated assault) and a slight increase (1.5%) in non-violent crime (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft). The Sheriff's Office made 7,870 arrests and recovered more than \$1.3 million in stolen property for victims.

Last year our community became the center of the national spotlight during the State vs. George Zimmerman trial. Our role was to ensure a safe environment for the Criminal Justice Center, those visiting it, and the county as a whole. I am grateful to the men and women of the Sheriff's Office who worked extremely hard to plan and prepare for this event. As a result of their hard work and the community's support there were no trial-related incidents.

During 2013, in furtherance of our community policing philosophy, we enhanced the utilization of intelligence and data to better identify crime "hotspots," crime patterns and trends, and prolific offenders. The end result is more proactive policing, better crime prevention, and ultimately more effective enforcement strategies.

Last year we expanded several key areas of the agency, adding new investigators to focus on elder services, increasing investigations into online child predators, and bringing more personnel to our domestic violence unit. Ten school resource officers were brought on board to teach our new Focus on Safety

Program in our elementary schools, and we implemented a new neighborhood services unit to better address crime prevention and interdiction. We also partnered with the city of Oviedo to assume responsibility for 911 and dispatch services for the police department.

In 2013, we leveraged technology to bring real-time incident-mapping capabilities to our patrol units, and enhanced crime mapping to our intelligence analysts. These systems ensure critical crime information is at the fingertips of those who need it to respond and to allocate resources.

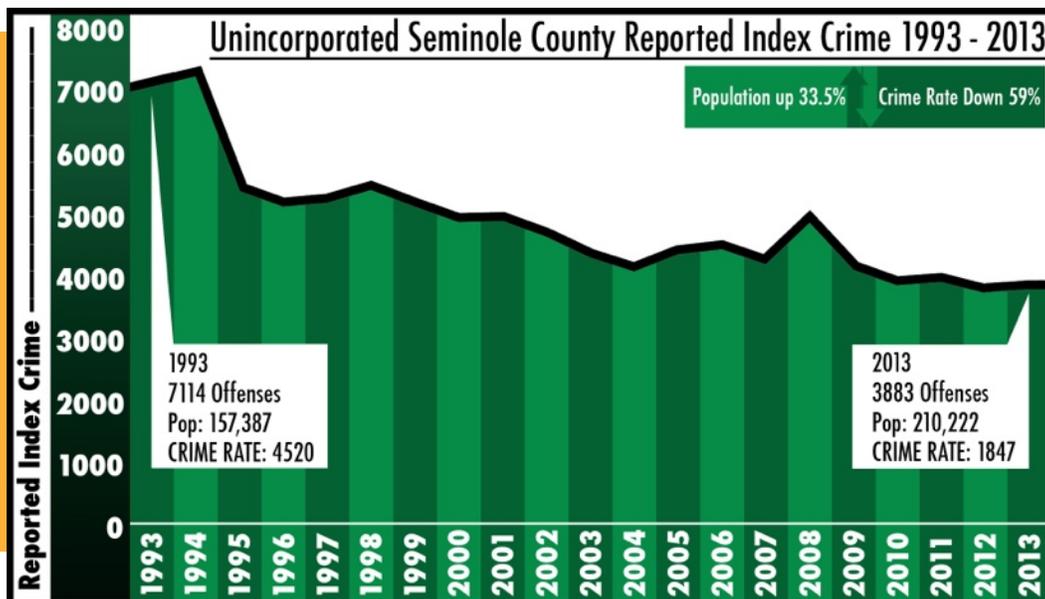
"I'm proud to share that crime reports for the last year again indicate we continue to have one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida."

Finally, I'm proud to report that the John E. Polk Correctional Facility received the American Correctional Association's "Core Jail Standards" accreditation for the first time, we were again reaccredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, and our 911 Communications Center accepted reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. These distinctions are in addition to the accreditations we hold from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Board. They reflect our continued commitment to the highest standards of operations and service.

As we move into 2014, we will continue to focus on establishing new partnerships with the community, harnessing the power of technology to investigate and solve crimes, and implementing new tools to enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout Seminole County.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Eslinger

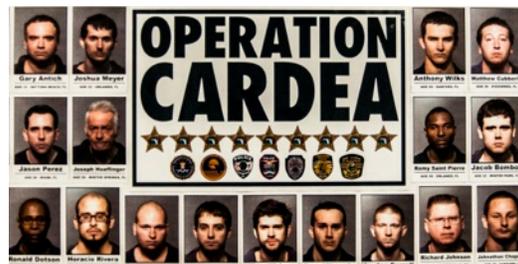


Stopping crime and safeguarding our community

50 internet child predators arrested in Operation Cardea

In January, SCSO held a weeklong, multi-agency, undercover operation that resulted in the arrest of 50 subjects who used the internet to sexually exploit children. With the assistance of law enforcement from 16 agencies, undercover officers chatted

online, emailed, and spoke on the phone with subjects who travelled to a home in Seminole County, believing they would meet children aged 11 to 15, or meet adults willing to allow children to engage in sexual acts. Those arrested ranged in age from 19 to 60 years old and included professionals, students, and tourists.



\$300,000,000

illegal gambling and fraud enterprise dismantled

In a case that garnered national attention and prompted state law changes to address internet cafes, SCSO's "Operation Reveal the Deal" dismantled a sophisticated illegal gambling operation that was deceiving the public and government. Working with local, state, and federal law enforcement in multiple states, SCSO spearheaded a three-year

investigation that yielded the arrests of 57 individuals for their role in the \$300 million conspiracy, which was orchestrated by Allied Veterans of the World. The group ran 49 illegal gambling centers which operated under the guise of "internet cafes," and claimed they were a veterans organization. In actuality, less than 2% of profits benefitted veterans.

Cold case solved: the murder of Jackie Sheehan



Fifteen years after her body was found off North Street in Longwood, justice was finally served for Jacqueline "Jackie" Sheehan. The vivacious mother of two was murdered in April 1998, and her case had grown cold until investigators picked up a new lead in 2013 and began conducting additional interviews. Their persistence paid off when a witness offered the critical information needed to arrest Rodney Bice, Sheehan's boyfriend at the time of her murder. Bice was arrested in Canandaigua, New York and extradited to the John E. Polk Correctional Facility where he awaits trial.

Communications Center answered 747,110 calls for service from citizens and field units (law enforcement and first responder units). Of these calls, 213,048 were 911 calls, and 96.11% were answered within 10 seconds or less.



Operation Save Christmas nets 48 arrests



SCSO wrapped up the year with a series of coordinated holiday safety operations designed to remove drunk drivers from the roadways, stop retail theft and economic crime, and prevent burglaries. The operations took place over a 10-day period in various commercial and residential areas across the county and resulted in 48 arrests. The Motor Unit conducted traffic safety operations on some of the county's most trafficked roadways, issuing 165 moving violations and arresting seven people for driving under the influence, five for driving on a suspended or revoked license, two for driving with no license, and two for narcotics violations. During the commercial operations, deputies patrolled retail establishments and plain clothes investigators embedded themselves inside stores ready to arrest shoplifters as they walked out with stolen items. In the residential operations, crime analysts identified communities recently victimized and deputies and investigators began proactive patrols in areas forecasted for additional burglaries.

The Domestic Violence Unit investigated 300 cases and made 173 arrests.

Investigators in the City County Auto Theft Bureau recovered 330 stolen vehicles

The Seminole Financial Crime Task Force worked 1,902 cases.

Victim advocates assisted 3,591 victims and their families.

The Digital Forensics Unit processed 68 terabytes of data. This is the equivalent to 64,386,100 reams of paper! Stack the reams and they would be equivalent to 35,786 football fields.

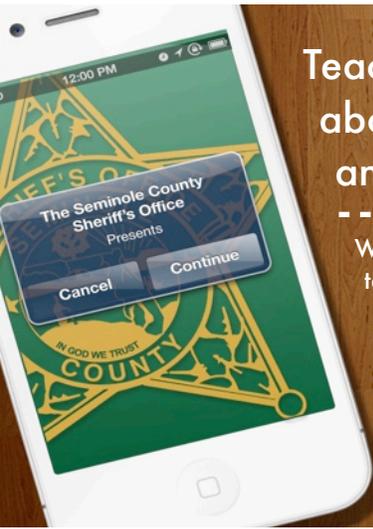
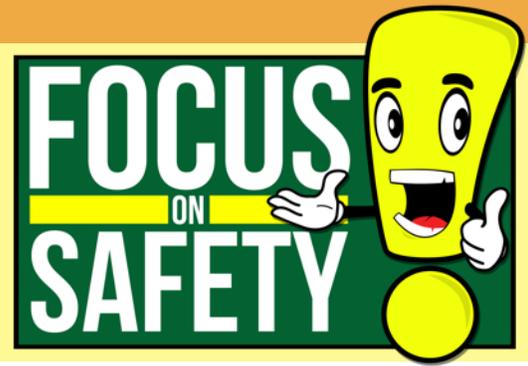
SCSO's forensic lab took in 14,041 pieces of evidence and processed 235 crime scenes. Scientists also completed 2,139 latent print evaluations and comparisons, conducted 35 biological screening examinations for DNA, completed 130 ballistics requests, examined 14 pieces of impression evidence (footwear and tire tracks), and testified in court 71 times.

Helping children succeed

Focus on Safety Program

Working in conjunction with Seminole County Public Schools, 10 new, full-time, school resource deputies were assigned to 22 public elementary schools, ensuring every school in the county has an assigned deputy. The school resource deputies serve as standing law enforcement liaisons to the school, handle potential criminal activity,

and deliver the Focus on Safety program to students. This 10-week, interactive program for 5th graders includes topics such as: substance use and abuse, gang and violence awareness, bullying, and internet safety. The addition of these deputy sheriffs adds another layer of security to our classrooms and ensures local students receive contemporary safety information.



Teaching parents about teen sexting and digital abuse

With the growth in technology and the use of mobile phones and digital devices, investigators in SCSO's Crimes Against Children Unit wanted to reach parents and teens alike with information

about the dangers - and criminal implications - of sexting and digital abuse. The team presented a series of community classes on the topic, focusing on the potential dangers for middle and high school students, techniques for parents to share with their kids, and the resources available through phone providers. SCSO also hosted the agency's first Facebook chat on the topic, giving members of the online community the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

The Child Protective Services Division received 5,103 cases of reported child abuse. Of these, 127 investigations resulted in the removal or sheltering of 224 children (2.5% of the total cases).

Investigators in the Crimes Against Children Unit investigated 369 criminal allegations and worked 61 cyber tips (online exploitation complaints referred from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children).

Providing positive programs to help reduce recidivism

New initiatives offer resources and support to prepare inmates for release

In April, members of the Correctional Facility implemented a new Inmate Programs Team, dedicating staff and resources to improve the chances of success for inmates during re-entry and beyond. On a weekly basis, detention deputies run release reports to identify returning citizens then develop a comprehensive release plan designed to assess - and address - those inmate's specific needs. Deputies provide information on resources available to inmates when they return to the community, connecting them with services ranging from job skills training, interim housing, veteran's programs, counseling, or other services.

Largely mirroring the Correctional Facility's new initiative, this year the Juvenile Detention Center also added an extra layer of assessment and upped efforts to ensure released juveniles receive appropriate aftercare services. Youth entering the Juvenile Detention Center undergo a personalized assessment that helps identify strengths, needs, and goals. Upon release from the Juvenile Detention Center, youth and families are provided with a road map of local services to meet the identified needs. The information is also relayed to the Department of Juvenile Justice probation officers responsible for ensuring that these youth receive appropriate services.

Girls' mentoring program targets teens at risk

In conjunction with a partnership with the Police Athletic League, the Department of Youth Services began a mentoring initiative for at-risk females, aged 11 to 18. The program's goal is to provide traditional mentoring and life skill guidance while positively impacting the lives of girls and reducing the risk of criminal activity. Girls are referred through schools, safe houses, counseling centers, and youth organizations. Trained female transitional officers provide guidance on: sex education, career planning, financial planning, etiquette, parenting, physical fitness, safety, self-esteem, communication, life skills, cultural diversity, and community involvement.

The John E. Polk Correctional Facility booked 14,435 inmates and had an average daily inmate population of 798. Inmates in the facility participated in 47,282 classroom hours, 6,682 faith based worship service hours, and 24,395 bible class hours. The JEPFC held 13 GED testing dates and conducted six Goodwill job class workshops.

The greenhouse at the Correctional Facility produced over 18,525 heads of lettuce, 225 pints of cherry tomatoes, 121 pounds of eggplant, 55 bushels of collards, 60 peppers, and 210 pounds of tilapia fish.

The Juvenile Detention Center housed 699 youth, each having a 10-11 day stay on average. The Center operates under a Direct Supervision Model which involves staff being directly embedded in the juvenile housing areas and results in closer supervision and fewer incidents.

The Juvenile Assessment Center received 2,629 youth. Of these youth, 2,079 had been arrested, 98 were runaways, 86 were truant, and 112 were transfers or remanded by the court.

Improving operations through advanced technology

Real-time incident mapping system gives deputies a birds-eye view

Deputies now have a new tool to improve their ability to respond to incidents taking place across the county. Each patrol vehicle is already equipped with an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) which uses GPS technology to pinpoint the location of any vehicle at any given time. This year, SCSO added real-time event mapping which allows for calls for service and the responding vehicles to be plotted and viewed on a map. Deputies, the Communications Center, and others can now see current calls and their distance from one another as they come in. The tool helps supervisors more efficiently direct responding units, identify related calls, and establish perimeters. The end result is an improved and more coordinated response.

Expanded crime mapping

The Sheriff's Office Information Technology team expanded the agency's records management system (CAFEweb) to provide enhanced crime mapping capabilities that can be accessed in an instant by deputies, crime analysts and support staff. The system enables members of the agency to quickly map reported crimes like burglaries or robberies in any given area. The maps help identify patterns or trends and guide policing teams on where to focus enforcement and prevention efforts. The enhancements allow road units and investigators to conduct their own queries directly – giving them easy access to information needed to make resource decisions.

Smarter technology brings tighter security to jail

The Correctional Facility also implemented additional technology to improve security. An X-ray machine was purchased for the inmate intake area to enhance the detection of contraband. The machine scans bags, back packs and shoes coming into the facility to identify drugs and weapons. Additionally, the Facility added new fingerprint readers at the admission and release points. The readers provide rapid and positive identification of inmates at these key check points, ensuring detention deputies and staff at the facilities have accurate information about each inmate at both entry and release. The Facility also incorporated new technology into the daily headcount procedure, adding an additional layer of verification to ensure inmates are physically accounted for.

The Motor Unit wrote 9,570 citations, issued 2,572 warnings, made 250 arrests and worked 1,130 traffic crashes.

SWAT served 7 high risk warrants and responded to 4 barricaded armed subjects.

EOD responded to 20 calls for service, rendering safe 10 suspicious packages/devices, assisting on two SWAT calls, managing three bomb threats, and recovering five potentially explosive items (such as found grenades or TNT).

Range and Water deputies conducted 835 vessel inspections, an increase of 200 inspections over the previous year.

Full service dogs in the K9 Unit were deployed 285 times - conducting 118 area tracks, 26 building searches, 109 narcotic searches and apprehending 27 subjects.

Bloodhounds in the K9 Unit responded to 82 requests for assistance both in and out of Seminole County.



Taking drugs out of our community

Agents dismantle local trafficking organization

In April, SCSO announced the dismantling of a local drug trafficking organization and the arrest of 32 individuals involved in the sale and purchase of prescription drugs and other narcotics. Agents with the City County Investigative Bureau began investigating the group, which referred to themselves as the "A-team," in September 2012 after receiving complaints about drug activity in local communities. Agents then conducted a series of undercover operations, and made controlled purchases to identify the persons involved with the drug deals, identifying the five people primarily responsible for the trafficking as well as those conducting the street level purchases and sales.



Agents in the City County Investigative Bureau seized 2,980 prescription pills, 429 marijuana plants, 708 pounds of marijuana, 30 pounds of cocaine, 123 grams of crack cocaine, and four pounds of meth. Agents also removed 144 grams of K-2 (synthetic marijuana). The unit executed a total of 124 search warrants and made 327 arrests.

The Domestic Security Division served 3,829 arrest warrants and registered/monitored more than 2,800 sexual offenders, sexual predators and convicted felons.

The Professional Development Section delivered 27,418 hours of training to employees and agency volunteers.

Christmas Village brings holiday cheer for families

SCSO's "Christmas Village" held in December ensured an estimated 500 children in need and their families had assistance during the holidays. Participants were treated to rides and games, live entertainment, food, and "Santa's Toy Shop," where parents and guardians selected gifts to give to their children on Christmas Day. SCSO conducts the event annually for victims of abuse, children in foster care, and other youth from less advantaged, high-risk neighborhoods. A variety of community service providers, businesses, and civic groups assist the Sheriff's Office in delivering the event.



Shop with the Sheriff gives a back-to-school boost to local youth in need

In August, more than 180 children from area Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida were treated to breakfast before heading to Wal-Mart stores where they were paired with a Sheriff's deputy, employee, or volunteer to purchase back-to-school clothes. This annual event was designed to ensure area youth could begin the academic school year with supplies and resources, and provide them with an opportunity to establish positive relationships with law enforcement.



Agency volunteers (Citizens on Patrol, reserve deputies, administrative volunteers) gave 47,751 hours of service.

Helmet heroes

SCSO's School Crossing Guards helped make the ride to school a little safer for 300 students who were provided with new bike helmets last year. Helmets are required to be worn by children aged 16 and under. The guards identified children in need through their crossings and fitted them with helmets donated by the Florida Department of Transportation.



Deputies go on pink patrol for cancer awareness

In October, SCSO unveiled a pink-wrapped patrol vehicle, designed to cross the county as a mobile sign of support for cancer research and survivors. The vehicle made dozens of public appearances at community events, including the Susan G. Komen walk, a biopsy clinic opening at a local hospital, and on the field at the popular University of Central Florida's "pink" game.



In the Juvenile Justice Division, deputies managed 569 youth on electronic monitoring, graduated 335 youth from Operation Right Track, supervised 83 youth on probation, and served 105 youth through the Eugene Gregory Memorial Youth Academy.

A total of 216 youth participated in Project SWEAT (Sheriff's Work Ethics and Training), which provides supervised weekend community service activities for youth violating terms of their probation or release. Youth performed \$33,652.80 worth of work for the taxpayers of Seminole County. An additional 155 youth offenders participated in the Consequence Alternative Sanctions program where they received education and life skills training and conducted 4,262 hours of community service.

Graffiti abatement responded to a total of 72 sites and utilized 33 gallons of paint and 347 bottles of spot remover/degreaser to clean up vandalized properties.

CONNECT WITH US



Safeguard your home

Want to reduce your risk of a break in? SCSO's certified crime prevention practitioners can visit your home and provide you with recommendations on how to better protect your residence. Our free, 45-minute home security assessments involve a review of entry and exit points, locks, lights and landscaping.

Going out of town? The House Watch program adds an extra layer of security to your home while you're away. At your request, sheriff's personnel will check on your home, drive by to look for anything that might be unusual, and walk around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, contact us at 407-665-6650 and request a House Watch.



Secure your business

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership among businesses, law enforcement and others that represent business interests. Each business is provided with a Sheriff's Office decal that warns criminals they are part of an active Business Watch community, and is used to contact business owners in case of an after hours emergency.

SCSO also provides free on-site security assessments, providing businesses with site-specific safety tips on how to reduce the risk of robbery or burglary. SCSO also provides safety training for employees at no cost.



Take a women's self-defense class

Self-Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (SAFE) is a free personal awareness and educational program designed to teach women basic safety and awareness skills. Instructors focus on crime prevention techniques and best practices for reducing the risk of being a victim. There is little physical activity required of participants. Participants must be at least 13 years of age; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Attend our Community Law Enforcement Academy

Get a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office through our exciting 14-week educational academy. Taught by Sheriff's Office personnel, the academy includes presentations on topics such as: neighborhood policing, investigations, child protective services and forensics. Class participants also see demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit (SWAT, Range and Water, K9 and EOD), have the opportunity to fire Sheriff's Office weapons at the gun range, and drive a patrol car in similar conditions that deputies are trained in. The academy is offered three times a year and class size is limited. The class is held one night a week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and there is no cost to attend.



Stay in touch

Want to receive news, safety and event information? Join our mailing list by visiting our website and signing up for The Dispatcher.

Seminole County Sheriff's Office
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