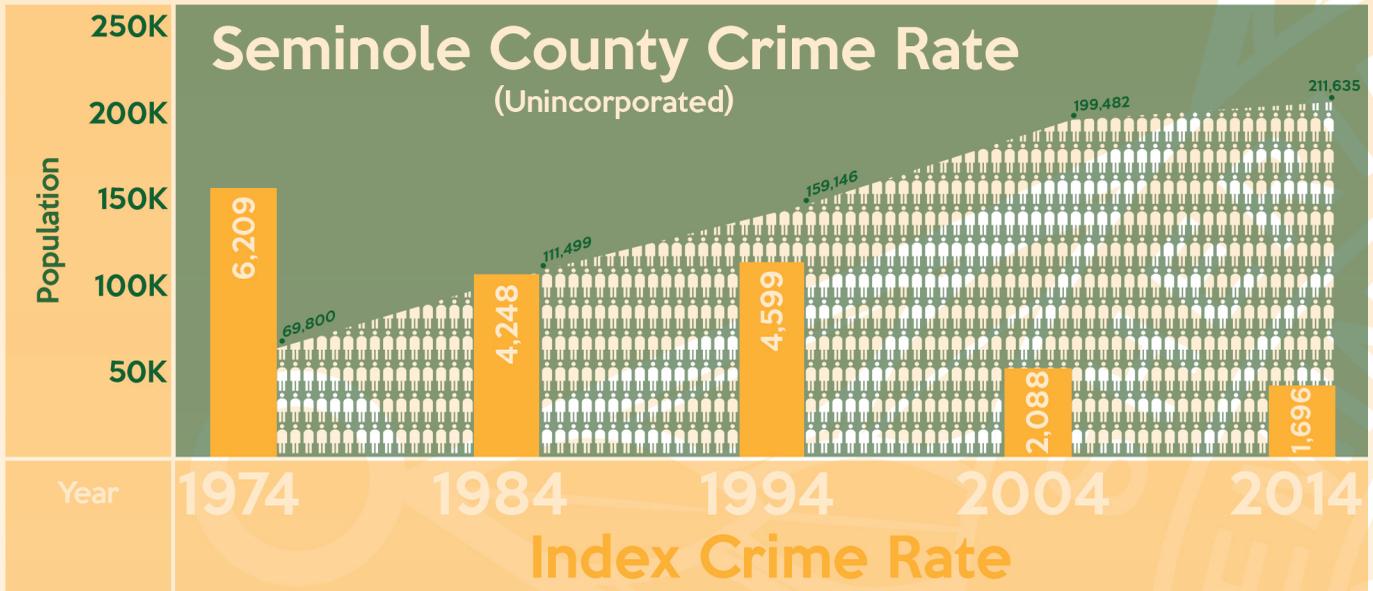


# 2014

ANNUAL REPORT



***SHERIFF***  
*SEMINOLE COUNTY*



Index Crime Volume

# -7.5%

## Reported Offenses

- Murder
- Forcible Sex Offense
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Larceny

\$1,039,962

Stolen property recovered

# 2014

6,961

Arrests

# Dear Seminole County residents:

I'm pleased to present the 2014 Seminole County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. We are proud to share that our county continues to have one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida. During 2014, unincorporated Seminole County experienced a 7.5% decrease in crime. The volume of index crime (the number of reported murders, forcible sex offenses, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts) was 3,590 offenses, which was 293 fewer reported offenses than the previous year. Last year, the Sheriff's Office made 6,961 arrests and recovered more than a million dollars in stolen property for victims. Between 1974 and 2014, even with the unincorporated population of our county more than tripling, the crime rate has dropped 73%.

Despite crime rates at historically low levels, we continue to address a growth in offenses perpetrated through online and digital technology, specifically child exploitation. In 2014, we expanded our Child Protective Services Division, adding four new investigators to address internet crimes against children. An additional 14 child protection investigator positions were state funded through our service contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families. These positions will enhance our ability to respond to initial allegations of abuse received through the state's hotline.

This year we piloted the use of body worn cameras for our enforcement personnel, and plans are in place to permanently outfit deputies with this technology in 2015. Body worn cameras will supplement the in-car cameras we already use, and we believe they will provide increased evidentiary value and enhance our accountability and transparency.

In 2014, we were again re-accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, earning "Excelsior" status for the second time. And, in conjunction with Seminole County's Office of Emergency Management, we received our first accreditation from the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program. These distinctions reflect our continued commitment to meeting the highest standards for operations and service.

Additional highlights from 2014 are found in this report. We hope that in 2015 you will connect with us - through our safety programs, our special events, and our social media - as we work to enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout Seminole County.

Sincerely,



Donald F. Eslinger



# HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY - JUNE

## Synthetic drugs stripped from Seminole store shelves



In January, SCSO's City-County Investigative Bureau executed search warrants at several businesses suspected of selling synthetic drugs. Synthetic drugs are marketed under a variety of different names and brands and are commonly known as "bath salts," and "K2" or "Spice." These drugs are frequently labeled as being "all natural" or "a safe alternative," but can be powerful stimulants that can cause psychotic episodes, hallucinations, seizures, paranoia, tremors, and other serious medical reactions. Agents arrested 10 subjects and seized packages of synthetic drugs and drug paraphernalia from several convenience, liquor and tobacco stores throughout the county, ensuring harmful synthetic drugs are not made available for sale.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

## SCSO cybercops target online child predators

In March, SCSO announced the results of a weeklong, multi-agency, undercover operation targeting individuals 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 traveled to and within Seminole County believing they would meet children aged 11 to 15, or meet adults willing to allow children to engage in sexual acts. Of the 26 individuals arrested, ages ranged from 19 to 51 and included a postal worker, security guard, pizza delivery men, landscapers, and a variety of other professionals.





## School Crossing Guard Program takes top honors!

In February, SCSO's School Crossing Guard Program was selected as the top program in the state by the Florida Department of Transportation, a distinction earned for the second time in three years! The SCSO program received the honors for exceptional performance, proactive community outreach, and innovative educational programs. Sheriff's Office crossing guards implemented a new initiative entitled "Carl's Safety Program" which utilizes their mascot, Carl the Crossing Bear, to teach students safe crossing techniques. Guards also hosted monthly sign-waving campaigns in school zones to remind motorists to slow down and use caution. The guards also made giving back to the community a priority, collecting cold weather clothing and providing 270 bicycle helmets to local students in need.



APRIL

MAY

JUNE

## Deputies drive teal wheels for cancer awareness

Teal wheels! Deputies and Sheriff's Office personnel drove a teal-wrapped patrol car throughout the county as they carried out their daily duties. The vehicle, which made appearances at dozens of community events, was designed to promote cancer awareness and was sponsored by the Women's and Girls' Cancer Alliance.



## Boy Scout builds playground for PAL camp kids

When Boy Scout Garrett O'Malley inquired about completing his Eagle Scout project with the Sheriff's Office, the Police Athletic League (a non-profit partner) jumped at his offer to help. Garrett has an interest in law enforcement and wanted to do something to give back to youth programs. PAL leaders suggested a playground for their camp, and Garrett took the lead - researching the project, soliciting proposals from various companies and raising money to pay a portion of the playground costs. His mission was accomplished, and in May he celebrated the playground's opening with members of the SCSO, PAL and his family.

# 2014 STATISTICS

## 67,550

### HOURS OF SERVICE

Given by agency volunteers (Citizens on Patrol, reserve deputies, chaplains, jail volunteers and administrative volunteers)

## FULL SERVICE K9

- 243** deployments
- 105** narcotic searches
- 80** area tracks
- 31** building searches
- 16** apprehended subjects

**BLOODHOUNDS** responses to requests for assistance both in and out of Seminole County **69**

Civil Section



**\$59,300+**  
court papers served or processed by field service officers

- 2,000** writs of possession
- 847** injunctions for protection
- 379** ex-parte orders
- 28** writs of execution
- 26** writs of replevin
- 369** criminal summons



**21,978** hours of training delivered to employees and agency volunteers

**7,476** citations

**1,337** traffic crashes



SHERIFF

- 1,051** prescription pills
- 715** pounds of marijuana
- 531** marijuana plants
- 263** grams of crack cocaine
- 35** grams of heroin
- 183** grams of meth
- 34** pounds of K-2 (synthetic marijuana)

City County Investigative Bureau Seizures

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER **761** Youths housed **8** days  
Average length of stay:

**1,324** Prohibited items intercepted by deputies as they ensured safe passage for **482,561** visitors to Seminole County's three courthouses

**\$35,526** VALUE OF WORK

for Seminole County taxpayers through weekend community service activities for youth violating their terms of probation or release



Victim Advocates **2,215** victims and families assisted

## Communications Center

Total calls for service  
**750,390**  
from citizens and field units

**97.05%**  
answered within 10 seconds or less

**221,539**  
Calls to 911

## Traffic Safety Unit

**2,364** warnings

**175** arrests

## Juvenile Assessment Center

**2,216** arrestees  
**132** runaways  
**205** truants  
**114** transfers or remanded by the court  
**2,667** total youths received

**14,097** inmates booked

## John E. Polk Correctional Facility

Average daily population  
**859**

## Inmate Education



**53,295** classroom hours  
**6,238** faith based worship service  
**19,743** Bible class hours  
**63** GED testing sessions  
**121** Goodwill job class workshops

## Forensics Lab

**11,694** pieces of evidence  
**2,101** latent print evaluations and comparisons  
**222** crime scenes processed  
**608** latent print cases processed  
**117** ballistics requests completed  
**41** DNA screening exams  
**56** courtroom testimonies  
**9** pieces of impression evidence examined (footwear and tire tracks)

## Tactical Air Unit



**603** responses to calls for service  
**102** arrest assists  
**21** stolen vehicles secured  
**11** lost or missing persons found

## Correctional Facility Greenhouse



**14,736** heads of lettuce  
**825** pounds of collards  
**164** pounds of tilapia



**90** Stolen vehicles recovered

## City County Auto Theft Bureau

## Domestic Security Division

**3,829**

arrest warrants served

# HIGHLIGHTS

JULY - DECEMBER

## Middle school students go behind the scenes

In July, 26 local middle school students graduated from the Sheriff's Office's first ever weeklong Youth Academy. The Youth Academy is a new community program designed to give a behind the scenes look at operations and provide youth with information to help keep themselves and their families safe. The students learned about internet safety, bullying, decision-making, substance abuse, and character development. They also heard presentations on neighborhood policing, investigations, training, and traffic safety. They toured the Forensics Lab, the John E. Polk Correctional Facility, the 911 Communications Center, and the Criminal Justice Center, saw demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit, participated in an exercise in the Emergency Operations Center, performed basic Honor Guard techniques, and even served as jurors in a mock trial hosted by the State Attorney's Office.



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

## Investigators topple theft ring

In July, SCSO investigators worked with Volusia County Sheriff's Office investigators to conduct a joint investigation which revealed an online business that was thriving from its sale of stolen merchandise. The ringleader had four accomplices on his payroll, using them to hit local retail stores where they stole an estimated \$500-\$2,000 worth of products at a time, and then turned the goods over to him to sell online. Investigators discovered a warehouse full of merchandise that included high-end fishing line and fishing lures, teeth whitener products, razor blades, tools, chain saws, remote control cars, dog shampoos, vacuums and gift cards. All five suspects were charged with racketeering.

## Youth in need shop with the Sheriff

In August, Sheriff's personnel teamed up with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida to give a boost to approximately 180 children as they headed back to school. The youth were treated to breakfast before going to local Wal-Mart stores where they were paired with a Sheriff's deputy, employee, or volunteer and received a \$100 gift card to purchase shoes and clothing. Shop with the Sheriff is an annual event designed to provide area youth with supplies, help them establish positive relationships with law enforcement, and ensure they begin the school year with the resources and confidence necessary for their success.



## Deputies take new state-of-the-art policing system on the road

What if a deputy could drive through a neighborhood and immediately “see” on a map everything of interest to them? Things like recent incidents on a street, calls for service, area patrols, or where registered felons and sex offenders live. In September, that vision became a reality with the launch of “Sherlock,” a web-based application developed by the Sheriff’s information technology team that delivers crime and intelligence information to all employees in an easy-to-understand and visual format. Sherlock can be accessed by patrol and investigative personnel to help identify hotspots, execute crime prevention initiatives and enhance law enforcement capabilities. Sherlock also interfaces with SCSO’s automated vehicle locator system; the location of units in service, including those of neighboring police departments, is viewable on the map. This functionality improves the ability of deputies to set up perimeters in a breaking incident, and boosts interagency coordination in joint responses.

## 31 arrested in holiday safety operation

SCSO ended the year with a series of coordinated holiday safety operations designed to stop retail theft and economic crime, and prevent burglaries. The operations took place during November and December in various commercial and residential areas across the county and resulted in 31 arrests. During the commercial operations, deputies patrolled retail establishments and plain clothes investigators embedded themselves inside stores. Working in conjunction with merchants and loss prevention teams, deputies arrested shoplifters as they left stores with stolen items. The operations resulted in 12 arrests for theft, hundreds of dollars of merchandise recovered, and a number of drug possession charges. In the residential operations, crime analysts forecasted possible locations for burglaries and SCSO upped patrols in those areas. Crime prevention teams supplemented the enforcement efforts by distributing door hangers and greeting cards with seasonal safety tips at stores and in neighborhoods.

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



## Christmas Village brings holiday cheer for families

SCSO worked to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in our community by again hosting an annual "Christmas Village" to serve local children and their families in need. 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 for victims of abuse, children in foster care, and other youth from underserved or high-risk neighborhoods. A variety of community service providers, businesses, and civic groups assist the Sheriff’s Office in delivering the event.

## Attend our CLEA class

Get a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office through our exciting 15-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 in which deputies are trained. 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.



# CONNECT

## Secure your business

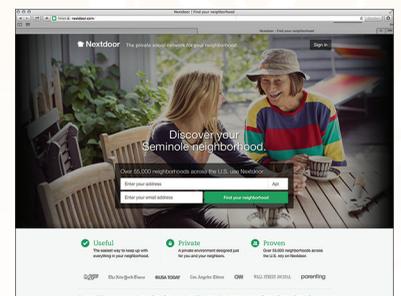


Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the “neighbors looking out for neighbors” concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership among businesses, law enforcement and others that represent business interests. Business Watch participants provide emergency contact information so owners can be reached by the Sheriff's Office after hours, if necessary. Each business is provided with a Sheriff's Office decal that warns criminals that the business is part of an active watch community.

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.

## Join Nextdoor.com

Nextdoor.com allows neighbors the opportunity to create a trusted, private neighborhood website where they can interact by asking questions, exchanging local advice, making recommendations, and discussing their community concerns. The Sheriff's Office often uses Nextdoor to update residents about crime trends in their neighborhoods, and share information on events and programs. Learn more and register at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).



## Safeguard your home



Going out of town? The House Watch program adds an extra layer of security to your home while you're away. At your request, deputies will check on your home, driving by to look for anything that might be unusual, and walking around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, call us to request this service.

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.

## Get active with Neighborhood Watch

Join your Neighborhood Watch Program or take the lead in creating one for your community. The program promotes neighbors looking out for neighbors, and encourages citizens to work with law enforcement to prevent and report criminal activity. Call our Neighborhood Services Unit to get started.



# WITH US

For more information about these services contact us at: **407-665-6650**

## Take a women's self-defense class

**SELF-DEFENSE  
AWARENESS  
AND FAMILIARIZATION  
EXCHANGE  
SAFE**



Self-Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (SAFE) is a free personal awareness and crime prevention 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. Participants must be at least 13 years of age; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



## Safely dispose of medication

Drug disposal boxes are available at each of the SCSO's offices. Drop off your unused, expired, or unwanted medication between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The service is free, and all medications (except for hypodermic needles or lancets) are accepted.

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



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