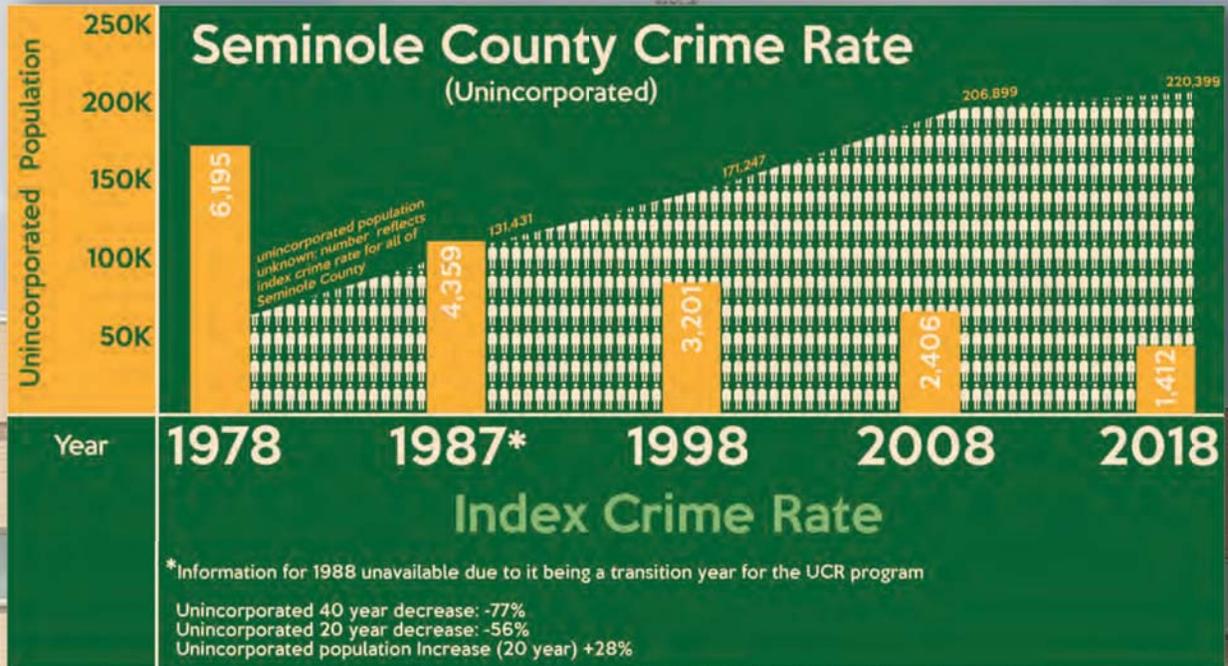


SEMINOLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

# HONORING COMMITMENTS



**2018**  
**15% DROP**  
**IN PART 1 INDEX CRIMES**

Seminole County

**NEW INTERACTIVE FEATURE**

This year we are introducing an interactive component to our annual report. Throughout this document, you will see black and white QR codes like the one pictured below. Simply open your camera app on your smartphone and hold it in front of the image. A link will pop-up, and clicking on it will take you to a page on our website, Facebook, or a Flickr album with videos, photos, or additional information about the specific topic featured.

## Dear Seminole County residents and supporters,

I am pleased to present to you the 2018 annual report of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). Our agency had an incredible year in 2018 reducing crime and the fear of crime in Seminole County.

In fact, Seminole County experienced a 15 percent year-to-year decrease in the most serious crimes that affect our quality of life, even though our population continues to grow. Nearly half a million residents now call our beautiful county home. Part of the decrease in crime can be attributed to our commitment to countywide community policing and building relationships in the communities we have the privilege to serve.

We honored another one of our most sacred commitments again and again: saving lives. In dozens of instances, our deputies deployed the opioid inhibitor NARCAN<sup>®</sup> to save people who were overdosing. With the emergence of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is often used as an additive to illicit street drugs like heroin and cocaine, fatal overdoses continue to be a challenge. In 2018, Seminole County experienced 82 fatal overdoses, compared to 83 in 2017. In November, we took down two criminal networks dealing fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine locally.

We are charging drug dealers with homicide when we can link them to fatal overdose cases. In 2019 and beyond, the opioid epidemic will be our number one public safety concern.

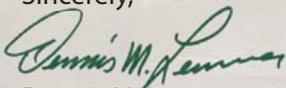
In the wake of Hurricane Michael and the massive devastation it brought to our Panhandle region in October, we deployed a team of 30 deputies to patrol the streets and provide food, water, and clothing to residents in Calhoun County. During the holidays, we organized a toy and school supply drive for the children of that region. When two deputies were shot and killed in Gilchrist County, we sent personnel to patrol the streets and help plan the funeral for the two fallen heroes.

Closer to home, we committed to taking on public safety dispatch services for residents in the city of Lake Mary. We are now dispatching for six of seven local municipalities. With the support of the Board of County Commission and Seminole County Public Schools, we added an extra school resource deputy at each of our largest public high schools. Events like Shop with the Sheriff and Christmas Village ensured that our underserved children received the clothing and school supplies they need. We also introduced the SCSO Community Foundation's Snow Patrol at dozens of community events, and the Halloween Spooktacular brought positive interactions with thousands of local adults and children as well.

We honored our commitment to local history by unearthing the story behind a century-old deputy sheriff badge returned to us by a resident who'd found it. It turns out the badge had been issued to the second man ever deputized in Seminole County, Aubrey Augustus Moran. It is now on display at the Museum of Seminole County History. The video we produced earned the Seminole County Sheriff's Office its first regional Emmy award in our 105-year history!

Thank you for helping us honor our commitments to public service, reducing crime, and curbing the fear of crime in our community.

Sincerely,



Dennis M. Lemma  
Sheriff



# COLLABORATIONS

## Hurricane Michael relief efforts

With support from each of Seminole County's municipal law enforcement agencies, SCSO assembled a team of thirty deputies to deploy to the panhandle to assist with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. The team was deployed to Blountstown, a city located in Calhoun County where the eye of the storm had passed over on October 10th. The team helped residents deal with widespread devastation and assisted local authorities to ensure safety.



## Christmas toy drive for Hurricane Michael victims

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Lake Mary Police Department and Centennial Bank in Lake Mary, hosted a supply and toy drive to support the children and citizens of Calhoun County. SCSO collected clothing, toys, and back-to-school supplies for kids in grades K-12 to help make Christmas special for our Calhoun County neighbors.



## Sheriff Foundation supports food drive

The Seminole County Sheriff Foundation was formed in 2018 to bring charitable donors, community leaders, and organizations together to support SCSO employees and their families, as well as to support innovations in fighting crime. In 2018, they graciously donated \$2,500 towards the purchase of supplies for the citizens most affected by the storm in the panhandle. Our partners at Wal-Mart were terrific hosts and assisted volunteers in gathering the items. The donated supplies were delivered following a Hurricane Michael collection drive that was held at The Barn in Sanford.



# DRUG PREVENTION

## Operation Sundown

Two organized drug rings responsible for distributing up to 750 bags a day of fentanyl-laced heroin were dismantled after an extensive investigation by the City-County Investigative Bureau (CCIB). The investigation, called "Operation Sundown", began after receiving tips from citizens about possible drug activity. Nineteen arrest warrants were issued for members of the organizations on a myriad of charges. In unincorporated Seminole County, 37 people died of drug overdoses in 2018, compared to 34 in 2017.



## Drug Court

SCSO is proud to partner with the 18th Circuit Court and Honorable Judge Jessica Recksiedler to offer Drug Court - a rigorous, voluntary diversionary program for people with substance abuse disorder. The aim of Drug Court is to help people who suffer with addiction to get well through drug treatment rather than incarceration. Only 6% of those who successfully complete the program re-offend. Drug Court gives them the opportunity to have their charges dropped, earning them a drug-free restart on life.



SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
DRUG COURT



## City County Investigative Bureau Seizures



1,011 pounds of marijuana  
362 grams of powder fentanyl  
54 firearms  
17 marijuana plants  
6 vehicles  
2 kilos of cocaine  
1 pound of heroin

# OUTREACH

## Halloween Spooktacular

October 30th was a Boo-tiful evening for our first-ever Halloween Safety Spooktacular! Over 2,000 community members and their families were treated to outdoor Trunk-or-Treating in the parking lot and Trick-or-Treating indoors around the Sheriff's Office building. This free family-friendly event was open to the public and provided a safe opportunity for kids to participate in Halloween festivities.



## Snow Patrol introduced

The inaugural deployment of the "Snow Patrol" trailer took place on June 14th at our PAL Summer Camp and provided a cool refreshment for the kids after their mini-color run. Sheriff Lemma joined the fun to serve treats to the campers. The Snow Patrol was fully funded and donated to SCSO through private donors to the SCSO Community Foundation. Their purpose was to create a unique way for kids to interact with deputies and other law enforcement personnel. We appreciate the support of the donors and vendors of the trailer who made this possible at no cost to our agency. Be on the lookout for the Snow Patrol at a community event near you!



and other law enforcement personnel. We appreciate the support of the donors and vendors of the trailer who made this possible at no cost to our agency. Be on the lookout for the Snow Patrol at a community event near you!



# OUTREACH



SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
SHOP w/SHERIFF



## Shop With The Sheriff

In July, members of our agency had a great time shopping with local children at our annual "Shop with the Sheriff" event. More than 250 children from the Midway Safe Harbor Center, area Boys and Girls Clubs, and other community organizations were treated to breakfast and then transported to one of four area Wal-Mart locations where they were paired with a Sheriff's deputy or agency member and received a \$100 shopping experience. The annual event is designed to provide youth the opportunity to establish positive relationships with law enforcement and ensure they begin the academic school year with the resources and confidence necessary for their success. The event is supported by the SCSO Community Foundation and was presented by CFE Federal Credit Union (now Addition Financial).



## Tom Buehler Memorial Scholarship

With the support of the Buehler Family, the Community Foundation created a fully-endowed scholarship at Seminole State College. The "Tom 'Pops' Buehler Memorial Endowed Scholarship" allows for future generations of law enforcement officers to receive financial support to attend the academy while learning more about the life and legacy of "Pops", his passion for law enforcement, and his influence on the members of our agency. "Pops" served as a volunteer with the agency for 12 years. Gifts to the endowment can be made to the SCSO Community Foundation or directly to Seminole State College.



## Christmas Village

SCSO worked to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in our community by hosting its annual Christmas Village event to serve local children in need. In December, more than 500 children and their families 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. Funds for the event are raised through the SCSO Community Foundation.

**SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
CHRISTMAS  
VILLAGE**



# CORRECTIONS

## Mailroom employee foils mail fraud

Thanks to the vigilance of a John E. Polk Correctional Facility (JEPCF) employee, a career criminal who tried to defraud the courts is instead back in prison. Mailman Joe Savlan sensed something wasn't right when an inmate seemed unusually talkative as he attempted to mail a number of court documents. Savlan's sharp eye noticed details on the envelopes that looked suspicious and alerted jail investigators. In October, Manfredi pleaded guilty to simulating the legal process and received a six year sentence. Sheriff Lemma praised Savlan for thwarting a career criminal's scheme to get out of jail by fraud and deception.



## Re-Entry Symposium helps inmates

The JEPCF hosted its second Re-Entry Symposium to prepare inmates for a successful reintegration back into the community upon their release. The symposium was available for inmates with release dates within 30 days of the event. Participants had the opportunity to meet with various community care providers who offered advice and resources to improve their chances of a positive transition back into society and reduce their chances of re-offending.



## Inmate art contest

In December, we invited each of the housing units in the JEPCF to participate in our annual "Holiday Poster Pod Challenge". The housing units competed to create the best holiday poster using provided materials, and they were judged on creativity, originality, and festivity. The winner received bragging rights and a candy prize for the entire housing unit! This year's winners were displayed around various JEPCF locations.



## Inmate Education



|        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 29,505 | Classroom hours                 |
| 23,925 | Bible & faith based class hours |
| 4,491  | GED & TABE testing sessions     |
| 194    | Re-entry seminars               |

## John E. Polk Correctional Facility

**13,618**

**inmates booked**



**Average Daily Population**

**970**

## Smart Jail Mail System and Kiosks

In January, the JEPCF implemented Smart Jail Mail, an electronic system using portable kiosks for inmate communication. The System allows inmates to file and respond to all requests electronically and provides communication with a messaging system. The goal is to provide increased communication avenues and to assist inmates with re-entry after incarceration. It also eliminates the need for excess visitors at the correctional facility. Smart Jail Mail successfully achieves the goal of becoming paperless and making the facility as safe and secure as possible.

### Inmate Healthcare Services

**14,190** Intake Medical/Mental Health Screenings

**9,459** Nurse Sick Calls

**6,725** Psychiatric and Mental Health Assessments

**5,533** Physician Encounters

**4,870** History and Physical Assessments

**41** Baker Acts to the Crisis Stabilization Unit

# DID YOU KNOW?

Correctional Facility  
Greenhouse

**\$7,312.82**

TOTAL  
AMOUNT SOLD



FINANCIAL

1,908



CASES

CRIMES

Forensics  
Lab

89,520  
end of year inventory  
of evidence & property

12,688  
items of evidence &  
property received

1,246  
latent print evaluations &  
comparisons

376  
latent print processing  
cases

232  
crime scenes processed

107  
NIBIN entry cases  
received

23  
testified in court (15  
depositions & 8 trials)

20  
DNA biological screening  
exams



EVIDENTIARY DATA



EXAMINED BY  
DIGITAL FORENSICS

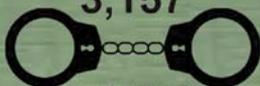
**\$29,882**

VALUE OF WORK

for Seminole County  
taxpayers through the  
Sheriff's Work Ethic and  
Training program (SWEAT)

Domestic  
Security  
Division

3,157



arrest warrants  
served

Communications  
Center

Total calls  
for service  
860,382  
from citizens  
and field units

- 95.2% -  
Answered within  
10 seconds  
or less

193,688  
calls to 911

Traffic  
Safety Unit

4692 citations

2444 warnings

1515 traffic  
crashes

## Civil Section

- 4,935 criminal summons
- 1,488 writs of possession
- 1,050 injunctions for protection
- 393 ex parte orders
- 40 risk protection orders
- 15 writs of execution
- 9 writs of replevin



FULL SERVICE



- 156 deployments
- 95 detection deployments
- 61 patrol deployments
- 50 apprehended subjects without bite
- 3 apprehended subjects with bite

HANOVER HOUNDS  
responses to requests for assistance both in and out of Seminole County

**45,714** 

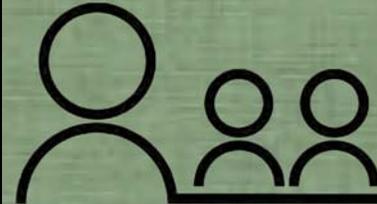
HOURS OF SERVICE given by agency volunteers (Citizens on Patrol, reserve deputies, chaplains, jail volunteers and administrative volunteers)

These hours are equal to the value of **22** full-time positions and

**\$750,000** in salaries

## JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

**750** Youths Housed  
Average length of stay **13** days



**106,986**

hours of training delivered to employees and agency volunteers

## Juvenile Assessment Center

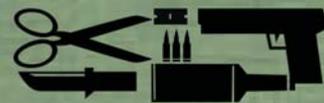


## Victim Advocates



8,268 victims and families assisted

## Prohibited Items



**1,391** Prohibited items intercepted by deputies as they ensured safe passage for

**406,639**

visitors to Seminole County's three courthouses

# DOCUMENTARIES

## SCSO wins 1st Emmy® for documentary

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office marked another incredible milestone in 2018. We can now add the title of "Emmy® Award Winners" to the list of our credentials. Public Information Administrator Bob Kealing and Senior Multi-media Coordinator Rick McClelland were each presented an Emmy® Award from the Suncoast Regional Emmy® Awards in the Historic/Cultural News category for their video documentary piece we shared with you over the summer titled "The Buried Badge". The video documents an SCSO badge that was found in a wooded area in Seminole County and traced back to the second-ever sworn deputy in our agency.



SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
THE BURIED  
BADGE



## Cow video goes viral

Our Aviation Section Alert team assisted the Sanford Police Department on August 6th, tracking down two suspects who crashed a stolen car, bailed out and ran. A herd of cattle provided law enforcement a big assist, repeatedly following and helping corral one of the fleeing suspects who strayed onto their turf!



SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
COWS CHASE  
SUSPECT



SCAN TO  
WATCH  
ADDITIONAL  
FACEBOOK  
VIDEOS



## Deputy saves child left in hot car

NARCAN® isn't the only way SCSO saves lives in our community, and we're proud to highlight the bravery and other actions taken this year to save lives. Deputy Bill Dunn had a special reunion with this precious three-year-old girl he found unresponsive after being left in a hot car overnight on Father's Day. When responding, he pulled her out of the car, placed her under air conditioning in his cruiser and immediately rushed her to the hospital. Deputy Dunn's quick decision-making not only saved this little girl who has made a full recovery, but it also earned international attention for the heroic and life-saving response.

SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
LIFE SAVING



# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Hosted our 5th annual Youth Academy for middle school students

This year marked the fifth year of SCSO's Youth Academy, a unique educational program designed to give middle school students a behind the scenes look at Sheriff's Office operations. Throughout the months of June and July, dozens of students participated in three one-week-long classes, learning about internet safety, bullying, decision-making, and substance abuse. Class members toured the John E. Polk Correctional Facility, the 911 Communications Center, and the Criminal Justice Center. They saw demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit and Forensics, 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.





# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Elite Ladies

In an effort to bridge the gap with youth in our communities, the Elite Ladies of the Police Athletic League (PAL) fill a need by mentoring at-risk young women within Seminole County. The goal of the program is to reduce the risk of criminal activity while positively impacting the lives of girls within the county and instilling a positive self-image that will enable them to be confident, successful, and productive members of society.

SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO  
ELITE LADIES



## Teen Court

SCAN TO  
WATCH  
VIDEO

TEEN COURT



Teen Court is a program that gives first-time juvenile offenders between the ages of 10 and 17 a second chance while holding them accountable for their actions. Defendants must stand before a jury of their peers, plead guilty and accept the sanctions given by the jury. Teen volunteers ages 13 to 17 act as defense and prosecuting attorneys, bailiffs, clerks and jurors. The only participating adult in the courtroom is the Judge.



## Youth Explorers

The SCSO Youth Explorer program promotes community service and law enforcement career exploration through training and hands-on interaction. In 2018, the Explorers completed approximately 2,500 hours of community service, and their Competition Team achieved impressive results at the Boy Scouts of America Winterfest in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Out of 3,500 competitors, they took home second-place in the Use of Force and Unknown Trouble categories, and third-place in Bomb Threat Response and Honor Guard Unit.



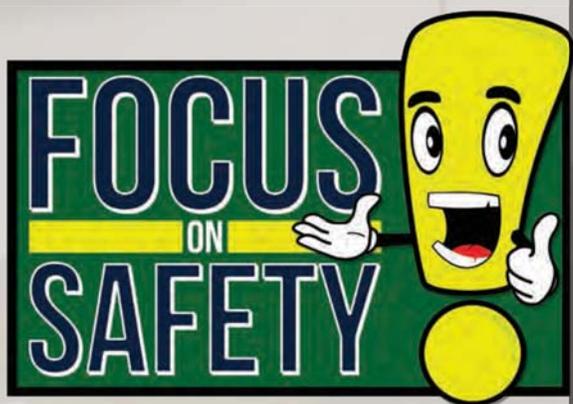
# SCHOOL SAFETY

## Deputies added to largest high schools

Providing Seminole County children with a safe and secure school environment continues to be of paramount importance to the Sheriff's Office. Throughout the years, our extremely close and collaborative partnership with Seminole County Public Schools has enabled us to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Long before there were state mandates requiring deputies and officers on school campuses, Seminole County had personnel on each public school campus. In 2018, with the support of the Board of County Commissioners, we committed to staff an additional Deputy Sheriff on the largest high school campuses in the county.

## Focus on Safety

The Focus on Safety program is a curriculum designed to educate students on topics such as substance abuse, gang and violence awareness, bullying (including cyberbullying), and internet safety. First introduced in 2013 and validated by the University of Central Florida in 2017, the goal of the program is to ensure that our youth are prepared for the challenges they will face in middle school and beyond. In 2018, there were 4,992 graduates of the program.



## Drug Free Red Ribbon Art Contest

During Red Ribbon Week at the end of October, all 5th through 8th grade students in the county were invited to design posters illustrating the importance of healthy, drug-free living. This year, 34 participating schools submitted 159 posters. The first place artwork from each grade and the overall grand prize winner is now proudly displayed on the back windows of five of our school resource deputies' patrol vehicles.



# AGENCY NEWS

## Aviation Section featured in magazine

We're proud of our Special Operations Division's Aviation Section for being featured on the cover of June's *Vertical Magazine*, an international helicopter publication. With consistent training and cutting-edge aircraft, the SCSO Aviation Section is well equipped to support the men and women on the front lines in Seminole County, and to protect those who call Seminole County home.



### AVIATION SECTION



|     |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 960 | responses to calls for service |
| 128 | arrest assists                 |
| 23  | stolen vehicles secured        |
| 16  | lost or missing persons found  |





## SCSO adds dispatch for City of Lake Mary

On March 27, 2018 at 7:00 a.m., the Seminole County Sheriff's Office began dispatching services for the city of Lake Mary. We're proud of this new partnership along with the other cities we already serve: Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Longwood, Oviedo, and Sanford.

## SCSO offers Community Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA) classes



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. The academy is offered to participants at no cost three times a year and is held once a week from 6:00 to 9:30 pm.

SCAN FOR  
MORE  
CLEA  
INFO



## Gilchrist County tragedy

A team of Seminole County Sheriff's Office deputies was dispatched to cover patrol functions in Gilchrist County as their agency mourned the loss of two of their deputies who were killed in the line of duty. We also assisted in planning the funeral for the two fallen heroes.

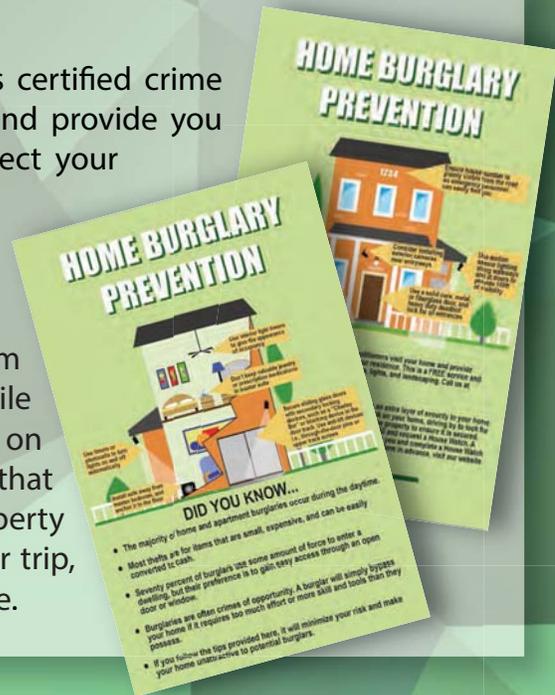


# CONNECT WITH US

## 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, deputies will check on your home, driving by to look for anything that might be unusual, and will walk around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, contact us at 407-665-6650 to request the service.



## 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 that they are part of an active watch community.

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



## Introducing the S A Program

This year, SCSO launched the Safety Tactics and Awareness Response program, a new women's self defense initiative that has been designed from the ground up by SCSO deputies. The class is offered free of charge and focuses on teaching women in Seminole County how they can defend themselves against an aggressor.



## Safely dispose of medication

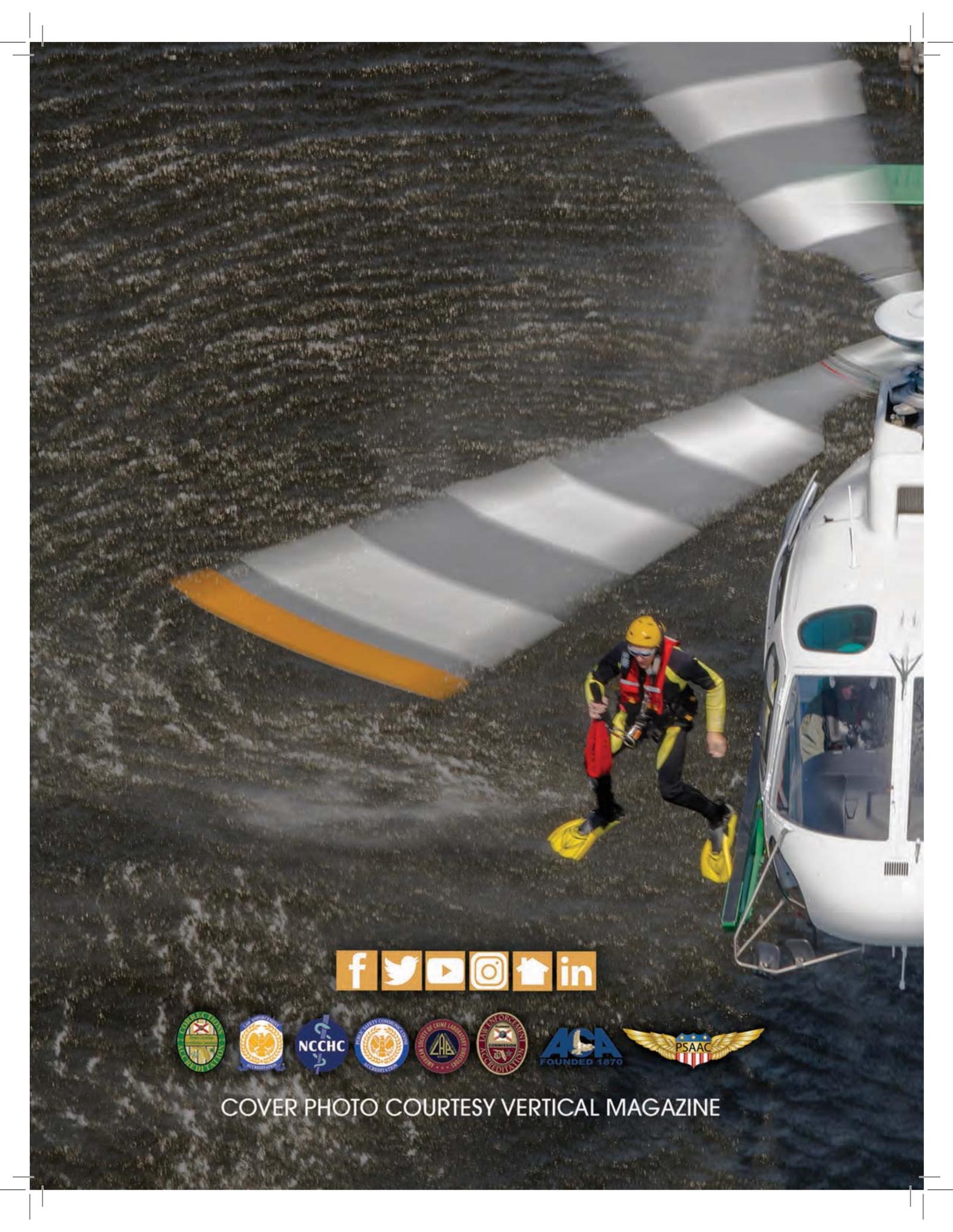
Drug disposal boxes are available at each of the SCSO's offices. Drop off your unused, expired, or unwanted medication at any time. The service is free, and all medications (except for hypodermic needles or lancets) are accepted.



## Join us on 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).





COVER PHOTO COURTESY VERTICAL MAGAZINE