As we welcome the year 2020, it would be a missed opportunity if I did not express gratitude for all 2019 offered our community, and the staff of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. I truly feel privileged and blessed to be able to serve in a community-focused manner providing the highest level of service to Charlotte County.

We are committed to bringing the community and law enforcement closer together by creating positive and productive relationships; working together to improve the quality of life and safety of this beautiful community. Crime prevention is a priority and it takes teamwork between citizens and well-trained deputies to make a positive impact against crime.

To maximize the efficiency and ease of communicating with citizens, we were able to launch the new CCSO App which is available for download on all smart phones. This app makes it easy to report tips and access other important information such as recent arrests, press releases, and road closures.

I recognize that good people can sometimes make mistakes; which is why with participation from the Punta Gorda Police Department, State Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, and the Clerk of Courts, I implemented the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program back in May. This program allows Law Enforcement discretion to offer diversion for misdemeanor offenses to certain adults with no prior record. It also provides an alternative to in-custody arrests. Those who qualify can answer for those mistakes without the stigma of having an arrest record for the rest of their lives.

Another addition to the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office is the collaboration with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care to initiate the Mental Health Unit. The goal of this Unit is to stabilize and provide resources for those who may benefit from mental health intervention and redirects individuals with mental illness to mental health professionals.

As we look forward to 2020, my hope is that our growing community remains one of the safest and most enjoyable places to live and visit in the State of Florida. I hope for the continued support from the community, as we meet the challenges of the future and pursue excellence in the service and protection of Charlotte County. Lastly, I hope for respect and kindness to and from all.

Be Safe.

Bill Prummell
New Mental Health Unit Enhances Law Enforcement Response to Those in Crisis

This newly formed Mental Health Unit by Sheriff Bill Prummell has been in development since October 1 of last year and is a partnership with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care. The Mental Health Unit is a collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals to help redirect individuals with mental illness from the judicial system to the health care system. The development of this unit does not replace deputies continuing to receive Crisis Intervention Training. For more click the link:

[https://ccsoblog.org/2019/01/16/mental-health-unit/](https://ccsoblog.org/2019/01/16/mental-health-unit/)

February 2019

Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Announces New Mobile App

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell is pleased to announce the launch of the agency’s new mobile application. This mobile app will serve as a new way for the Sheriff’s Office to connect with Charlotte County residents and visitors, providing information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone. For more click the link:

[https://ccsoblog.org/2019/02/19/new-mobile-app/](https://ccsoblog.org/2019/02/19/new-mobile-app/)

Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission Presents the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office with Excelsior Recognition

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office has been awarded Excelsior Recognition through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. This accomplishment, presented by the Commission, marks the 6th consecutive recognition for the agency. The award was presented this week to Sheriff Bill Prummell, Bureau of Detention Captain Melissa Turney and members of the Professional Compliance team. For more click the link:

[https://ccsoblog.org/2019/02/21/fcac-excelsior/](https://ccsoblog.org/2019/02/21/fcac-excelsior/)
Canine Alert Leads to Felony Drug Charges During Traffic Stop

A traffic stop on Wednesday evening led to the arrest of two suspects after a drug detector canine alerted to the vehicle. Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana, Methamphetamine and pills were located in the vehicle during the search and investigation. Matthew Nero (3/9/96) and Alexa Powers (9/7/00) were arrested on felony charges related to the investigation. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/04/18/canine-alert/#more-4935

Registered Sexual Predator Arrested at the Ann and Chuck Dever Regional Park Swimming Pool

A sexual predator was arrested on Friday, March 22, at the Ann Dever Regional Park swimming pool after his behavior drew complaints from concerned parents. Timothy Rice (DOB 10/30/77), a registered sexual predator, is charged with Loitering or Prowling by Certain Offenders in Close Proximity to Children, a first degree misdemeanor. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/03/25/timothy-rice/

Florida Elks Award Recipient

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office is proud to announce that Corporal David Musgrove was honored by the Florida Elks as their 2019 Enrique Camarena Award recipient. Each year, the Elks present the Enrique S. Camarena Award to a member of law enforcement who best exemplifies the qualities and principles for which Agent Camarena gave his life. Enrique S. “Kiki” Camarena was an 11 year veteran agent of the DEA, who was kidnapped, brutally tortured and then murdered in Mexico in 1985. Prior to serving with the DEA, Agent Camarena was a firefighter, a criminal investigator and a narcotics officer. He was a loving husband and a father of three children. His death has inspired millions of Americans to lead a drug-free life and the Elks celebrate his commitment to this effort with an annual award. Corporal Musgrove was nominated for this award for several reasons; his dedication to the agency, his squad and the citizens he has sworn to protect, his commitment to performing at the highest levels at all times, his self-initiated activity and his passion for drug enforcement. His nomination letter, submitted to the Elks by Lieutenant John Heck, is posted to the Elks website. For more click the link:  

https://www.floridaelks.org/enrique-camarena-award."

“Corporal Musgrove is an asset to our agency,” stated Sheriff Prummell. “We are very proud of his earning this recognition and anticipate his continued success at the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office.”

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/05/14/cpl-musgrove/
Charlotte County Implements Pre-Arrest Diversion Program

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell is announcing the implementation of an Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion Program (APAD) with full participation from stakeholders in Charlotte County. This includes the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, Punta Gorda Police Department, State Attorney’s Office, Office of the Public Defender, and the Charlotte County Clerk of Court. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/05/30/apad-program/

Florida Sheriff’s Association Task Force Operation School Zone Safety

During the last week of April, forty Sheriff’s Offices throughout the State of Florida participated in the Florida Sheriff’s Association Task Force "Operation School Zone Safety." Our mission as local law enforcement was to provide a high level of patrol in school zones to ensure our children's safe return to school from spring break. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/05/14/operation-school-zone-safety/#more-5354

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Aviation Unit Awarded Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant

Office Aviation Unit is now better equipped to assist with fire suppression thanks to a grant recently awarded by Firehouse Subs Port Charlotte. The grant allowed for the purchase of a Cargo Hook for the AS350 Helicopter. The cargo hook enables the attachment of a Bambi Bucket to the AS350 Helicopter to assist the Charlotte County Fire Department with fire suppression. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/06/07/aviation-cargo-hook/

Operation Knot Lit Results

Operation Knot Lit, a Florida Sheriff’s Association strategic DUI/BUI initiative with 33 Florida counties participating, ran from July 3rd through July 7th. This initiative focused on education and enforcement of Florida’s roads and waterways to ensure the safety of our commuters. This operation resulted in the issuance of 3,105 warnings, 3,144 traffic/boating citations being issued, 8,596 dedicated hours of enforcement and 892 arrests on various charges were made. Community notification and citizen education was the focal point. For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/07/19-operation-knot-lit-results/#more-6586
Charlotte County Jail Partners with Habitat for Humanity

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to provide jail detainees the opportunity to learn new job skills by participating in home builds with the organization. Through a new program, detainees are able to receive on the job training with the Habitat for Humanity construction managers. For more click the link: https://ccsoblog.org/2019/09/25/habitat-partnership/

Body Scanner continues to intercept Contraband at the Charlotte County Jail

It has been one year since the Charlotte County Jail introduced a new tool to help prevent the introduction of drugs and other contraband – the RadPro SecurPass, which uses transmission imaging to conduct a virtual body scan. For more click the link: https://ccsoblog.org/2019/09/04/body-scanner/

Family First Prevention Services Act; Editorial Authored by Sheriff Bill Prummell

Published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 13th, was authored by Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell in his capacity as Chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Board of Directors. Sheriff Prummell touches on concerns shared by many Florida Sheriffs about stripping away funding from high quality residential group homes when a shortage of foster homes exists. He highlights the work and mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches and urges members of Congress to support the State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act. For more click the link: https://ccsoblog.org/2019/09/16/family-first-prevention-services-act/

CCSO Adopts Automated Secure Alarm Protocol; Program Reduces Response Times in Emergencies

Charlotte County is one of the latest communities to go live with Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP), a technology that automates communication between alarm monitoring central stations and 911 centers, resulting in improved accuracy and speed of emergency response. The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office is the 5th Emergency Communications Center in the State of Florida to adopt this program. The ASAP program allows alarm companies to send alarm call information via computer system rather than relaying information by telephone. For more click the link: https://ccsoblog.org/2019/10/07/automated-secure-alarm-protocol/

CCSO Partners with Ring Neighbors App

The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office has partnered with the Ring Neighbors App to enhance communication between investigators and residents. This free app is a way for residents to provide each other alerts in real-time about suspicious or crime-related events in their neighborhood. For more click the link: https://ccsoblog.org/2019/10/07/ring-neighbors-app/
Motor Unit Competes in Skills Challenge; Brings Home Top Awards

Members of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Motor Unit competed in the 5th Annual Volusia County Sheriff’s Office Motorcycle Skills Challenge this weekend, earning top awards for their efforts. Deputy First Class Leamon Combs and Deputy First Class William Weisspfennig placed 1st and 2nd (respectively) in their division, which was for all non-Harley motorcycles.

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/11/04/motor-unit/

November 2019

Murder Indictment

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell and State Attorney Amira Fox announced today that the Charlotte County Grand Jury indicted Ryan Clayton Cole for First Degree Murder, First Degree Burglary and Burglary of a Dwelling. Cole is formally charged with murdering a 15 year old boy during the commission of a burglary of a Port Charlotte... For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/12/06/murder-indictment/#more-8218

International SWAT Awards

Members of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Special Weapons and Tactics team recently attended SWAT Round-Up International (SRI), which is a competitive training event hosted by the Florida SWAT Association (FSA) in Orange County, Florida. This event is open to certified police SWAT teams, 58 teams from around the world participate. SRI is a week-long event of comprehensive classroom lectures and presentations, with three (3) days of intense job-related range training and competition. Throughout the week, SRI also hosts individual events for members to showcase their skills. Corporal Michael Talbot accepted the challenge and competed in two very grueling events; Super SWAT Cop (50 competitors) and FSA Firearms Challenge (75 competitors). For more click the link:

https://ccsoblog.org/2019/12/04/international-swat-awards/

December 2019

SWAC aka Shop with a Cop 2019

Check out the smiles on the faces of the children selected to participate in the program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Award Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2019</td>
<td>Sgt. Craig Brando and DFC Jason Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CDFC Bobby Judd</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Corporal Mark Schaible &amp; DFC Joshua Lindsey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deputy Christina Craft &amp; DFC Vincent Ursitti</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deputy Ryan LaRosa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Retired Sgt. Joe Shock &amp; CDFC Michael Zamora</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DFC Vincent Ursitti</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2019</td>
<td>DFC Joe Newton &amp; DFC April Rondinone</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
<td>Sgt. David Gensimore &amp; Lt. Jon Waterhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2019</td>
<td>DFC Mark VanderWaag</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lt. Tom Christensen</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>DFC Steven Sella</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cpl. Dave Stefanini, DFCV Kevin Katsarelas and Operator Alexis Sears</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Carl Joseph</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sgt. Sean Griffin &amp; Lt. Jon Waterhouse</td>
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### Employees of the Year

**PSAN**

Celebrating the hard work and dedication of all who serve. On August 3, 2019 Sheriff Bill Prummell honored our employees of 2018. Deputy First Class Adam Herrey (left) Law Enforcement Member of the Year, and Beth Mitchell, Civilian Member of the Year received their awards from Sheriff Bill Prummell and were honored for their exceptional work at the Sheriff’s office.

Not in attendance Lt. Jeffrey Sisk, Detention Bureau Member of the Year was honored at a separate event.
Neighborhood Watch

Neighbors Looking out for Neighbors

Crime can create a climate of concern and can lower the quality of life for you and your neighbors. A Neighborhood Watch is a powerful force against crime. By uniting with your neighbors, you can take back your neighborhood. A Neighborhood Watch creates a network of people who work with the Sheriff’s Office to spot problems and report crime. Neighborhood Watch members work with Community Policing Officers to stay informed about what is going on in and around their neighborhood. There are many Neighborhood Watch groups established throughout the county. Click on the link below to see a full-sized interactive map set up by the Charlotte County Community Development Department of Neighborhood Watch groups. See if there is a Watch group for your area. If your neighborhood doesn't have an established group, maybe you want to start one. Contact the Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit to help you get your group up and running. They will provide your group with statistics and crime prevention tips, and share information on how to spot and report suspicious activity safely.

https://www.ccso.org/PublicInterest/NeighborhoodWatch.cfm

Did you know that we have this programs available to Charlotte County Residents...

- Citizens Police Academy
- Take me Home
- Teen Driver Challenge
- Alarm registration / False Alarm Prevention
- Availability of professional speakers
- Volunteer Opportunity
- C.A.T. Program
- Bat Program
- Drug Initiative
- Fresh Start Program and Adult Diversions

For more details check out:

www.ccso.org or our APP

These are just a few initiatives that we offer.
Join the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
For a Night of Dinner, Dancing, Music, FantaSea Fishing, Silent Auctions, Fun, Prizes and More!
February 29, 2020, 5:00pm at TT's Tiki Bar located at 33 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 on the water at Four Points by Sheraton

Come ready to FantaSea Fish!
Two largest combined fish weight wins

$1500 Top Prize

Tickets available to purchase at any CCSO District Office
Ticket price: $50 single/$90 couple
Seating is limited, FantaSea Fishing begins at 5pm
Cash bar or $10 Draft Beer Drink Bands available to purchase on night of event.

For questions and inquiries please contact:
(941) 613-3245 or CCSOFantaSeaFishing@gmail.com
All prizes based on event entry fee
Office Locations

Main Numbers

**Emergencies**
Non-Emergency Business - Punta Gorda & Port Charlotte
Non-Emergency Business - Englewood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>William H. Reilly Administration Building</strong></td>
<td>(941) 639-2101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7474 Utilities Road</td>
<td>(941) 613-3245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punta Gorda, Florida 33982</td>
<td>(941) 613-3246 (fax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Englewood District 1 Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11051 Willmington Boulevard</td>
<td>(941) 613-3245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood, Florida 34224</td>
<td>(941) 258-3900</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>District 2 Office</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>992 Tamiami Trail Suite A</td>
<td>(941) 575-5370 (business)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Charlotte, Florida 33948</td>
<td>(941) 258-3901 (fax)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Promenades Mall District 3 Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3280 Tamiami Trail Suite 505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Charlotte, Florida 33952</td>
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<td><strong>District 4 Office</strong></td>
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<td>7474 Utilities Road</td>
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<td>Punta Gorda, Florida 33982</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charlotte County Jail</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>26601 Airport Road</td>
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Year in Review