When I last addressed you through our quarterly newsletter, we were approaching the Thanksgiving holiday. I covered some serious topics, such as the introduction of our Domestic Violence Unit, an increase in school threats via social media, and the stress many of our residents face during the holiday season. Over the holiday, I announced the addition of our Mental Health Unit, and our mental health clinician provided tips for managing stress as well as resources for help on our blog. I hope this information was helpful to you if you were in need.

It seems as though these months flew by, and now it is almost Spring. More so than any other time of the year, many of us feel that we have extra energy and focus to get physically active, take action, and create change. I am excited to see the amount of interest our community has in volunteering and advocating in the name of drug prevention and recovery. You have likely heard me mention my Drug Recovery Initiative, a partnership with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care to provide free addiction treatment to those who request it. Drugs are a root piece in many crimes that we respond to; however, we are not without compassion. As first responders, we see far too often how drugs hurt people, families, and our community. Just since January 1, my deputies have responded to 18 overdose calls, two of which were sadly fatal.

A woman named Lauri Ray, who came and spoke to me in 2016 after losing her son Johnny to an opioid addiction, inspired the Initiative. Private donors and the fundraising efforts of community organizations support the Drug Recovery Initiative. Lauri Ray founded Johnny’s Dream in her son’s memory, actively raising funds providing scholarships and money for rehab facility assistance for families who are struggling with addiction and who would otherwise never be able to afford it on their own for their loved ones.

The Archway Institute is another organization that is active in our community, raising funds to help treat addiction. They host local fundraisers for the Drug Recovery Initiative, including an upcoming Tennis Mixer and Golf Tournament in the month of March. We are also grateful for local businesses and community partners who continue to support our vision to keep Charlotte County a safe and enjoyable place to visit and live.

Shifting the focus from recovery to prevention, there are several opportunities for you to become involved in advocating healthy choices to our youth. Drug Free Charlotte County is hosting their 2nd Annual Over the Edge for Prevention event in April. I have signed up for the event, raising funds to support Drug Free Charlotte County and rappel over the side of the Charlotte County Center in Murdock! You can support my efforts by clicking this link. Drug Free Punta Gorda just wrapped up their first 5k fundraiser, and our Englewood Community Coalition is very active in West Charlotte County. These organizations are always in need of volunteers to support their education efforts in our schools.

Spring naturally invites us to let go of the old to make room for the new. In that spirit, encourage someone you know to seek help with his or her addiction. If you do not already volunteer in the community, consider one of our local drug prevention coalitions.

Prevention and recovery are both important to a healthy and safe community. Let us "spring" into action to continue to make Charlotte County the best place to live and visit.

Be safe.

Sheriff Prummell
Our Community Affairs Unit hosted another successful Speaker Series event. Keynote Speaker Emily Reese, Program Manager, Alzheimer’s Assoc. Florida Gulf Coast Chapter educated those in attendance Tuesday, February 19th at the Cultural Center. Over 100 residents came to ask questions and see how the Sheriff’s office can help them. Keep watch our Facebook page and other social media on what is next of the informational circuit.

**Get Fit 2018 Challenge**

**WEIGHT LOSS GROUP Winners**

1st Place - CRUISE VOUCHER(S)
Timothy Knopick

2nd Place - TABLET
Mark Henshaw

3rd Place (Tie) – FITNESS TRACKER
Thomas Laux
Diane Barton

**BODY FAT REDUCTION GROUP**

1st Place (Tie) - CRUISE VOUCHER(S)
Jillian Reich
Thomas Laux

2nd Place - TABLET
Timothy Knopick

3rd Place – FITNESS TRACKER
Shelly Havel

CCSO event photos can now be found on SHAREPOINT. CHECK IT OUT!
**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**Sgt. Nicole Crews and Cpl. Michael Kern**

Throughout the last several months, Sergeant Nicole Crews and Corporal Michael Kern were assigned to coordinate and manage the Bureau of Detention’s F.C.A.C. Audit. This audit occurs every 3 years and unlike previous audits, the Charlotte County Jail was up for Excelsior status. Sgt. Crews and Cpl. Kern worked as a team to schedule for the Bureau’s facility beautification with each shift Watch Commander and began completing "mock" inspections with the officers. It was discovered that many of the FCAC standards had been changed due to recent updates, creating many discrepancies throughout written policy. Sgt. Crews and Cpl. Kern went through every Detention procedure to ensure not only that the correct standard identification was listed within the policy, but also that we remained in compliance with all verbiage changes. They both completed these monumental tasks while still assigned to squads and bearing the burden of their normal job duties as well. Sgt. Crews and Cpl. Kern often worked dayshift, nightshift, and both rotations to complete their objectives. During the week of December 13th, Sgt. Crews and Cpl. Kern personally escorted three auditors throughout the facility and provided their experience and expertise to answer questions. During the audit any issues were immediately addressed, and all auditors commended them on their professionalism. The Bureau of Detention successfully passed the FCAC Audit in part thanks to the diligence, dedication, and drive of Sgt. Crews and Cpl. Kern to meet the agency’s goals and objectives. Both Cpl. Kern and Sgt. Crews exemplify leadership and professionalism in all that they do. We thank you both for a job well done.

**Volunteer Clif Burritt**

On November 23, 2018, DFC Ed Trentacosta responded to an agency assist call for an ATV crash in District 1. On scene, he made contact with the ATV driver and passenger. Both males were lying flat on the ground with obvious injuries secondary to crashing into a galvanized metal gatepost. Both the males were ejected from the ATV upon crash impact, and neither were wearing safety helmets. The ATV driver, non-responsive and unconscious, sustained a critical head injury and the passenger sustained a serious open compound lower leg fracture. The passenger was conscious and alert and described the crash in detail. DFC Trentacosta also made contact with citizen Clif Burritt, a CCSO volunteer who was off-duty at the time. Clif, who had heard the ATV crash while bicycling on a nearby bicycle path, responded to the scene and removed his shirt to apply a pressure dressing (tourniquet) to the heavily bleeding leg of the ATV passenger. It was with his help, that DFC Trentacosta was able to render medical care until EMS arrived. Both the driver and passenger were taken by ambulance to awaiting medivac helicopters and flown to area hospitals for treatment. Contact was made with the family later that weekend, and both ATV riders are alive with a favorable prognosis for a healthy recovery for both. Today, we recognize Clif’s willingness to go above and beyond his duties as a fellow citizen and CCSO volunteer. His swift actions of providing care to the ATV passenger allowed DFC Trentacosta to focus his efforts on the more serious injuries of the driver. Clif, we thank you for your service to our agency and the community and commend you for a job well done.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

On December 29, 2018, Dispatch received a call from the CCSO Project Lifesaver coordinator Tammy Wilkie. Tammy reported there was a white male walking near a busy intersection without shoes. Tammy reported the male appeared to be dazed and might need help. DFC Vincent Ursitti and DFC Kaylee Miller heard the call for a person in need and responded to assist. Ursitti and Miller made contact with the subject who was just out taking a walk. The male advised that he did not have any shoes because the soles had worn off the only pair he had causing them to fall apart. He stated he only receives $50.00 a month and needed that money to eat. Besides needing a pair of shoes, the male was not in need of any medical or mental health services. DFC Ursitti and DFC Kaylee Miller heard the call for a person in need and responded to assist. Ursitti and Miller made contact with the subject who was just out taking a walk. The male advised that he did not have any shoes because the soles had worn off the only pair he had causing them to fall apart. He stated he only receives $50.00 a month and needed that money to eat. Besides needing a pair of shoes, the male was not in need of any medical or mental health services. DFC Ursitti and DFC Kaylee Miller then took it upon themselves to go to Beall’s Outlet, purchased a $40.00 pair of sneakers, and delivered them to him. He was reportedly extremely thankful stating he had needed a pair of shoes for a long time. The actions taken by DFC Ursitti and DFC Miller are commendable and a show of their commitment to the CCSO Core Values. They both prove to be role models through showing their benevolence, goodness, and compassion to a citizen of Charlotte County.

LIFE SAVER AWARD

In March of last year, Deputy Josh Cote responded to a call in reference to a subject not breathing. Upon arrival, he made contact with the sister of the subject not breathing. Dep. Cote made entry through the front door of the residence and made his way to the back bedroom where he observed the male subject lying on the bed face up. Dep Cote immediately checked for a pulse but found that the subject was unresponsive and had no pulse. Dep. Cote then repositioned the male subject onto the floor and began life saving measures and chest compressions. He conducted three rounds of chest compressions and after administering life saving measures he was able to locate a pulse. At that time, Charlotte County Rescue 14 arrived on scene and took over lifesaving measures. Rescue 14 advised the subject did have a pulse and transported him to a local E.R. Dep. Josh Cote performed his duties in an exemplary manner. Dep. Josh Cote’s initiative, resourcefulness and swift action was instrumental in saving this man’s life that day. Dep. Josh Cote’s distinctive efficiency and commitment towards this successful mission reflects the Charlotte County Sheriff Office core values of Integrity, Professionalism, and Trust. Today, we recognize Dep Josh Cote with a Life Saving Medal.
The third annual Fashion Show Fundraiser netted over $4300.00 for the benefit of young women of Charlotte County. The models were volunteers (voluntold) to participate but if asked they would tell you that they were proud to represent CCSO. The event was held January 19th at Visanis Restaurant and Comedy Theater.

The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce presented a check today to the The ARCHway Institute for use as scholarship funds for the Sheriff’s Addiction Recovery Initiative, a partnership with Charlotte Behavioral Health Care. Dan and Jan Stuckey (of ARCHway) spoke at this week’s Punta Gorda Chamber meeting, along with Chrissie Salazar from Drug Free Punta Gorda. The chamber members were so moved by the presentation they raised almost $2,000 in the name of recovery during the meeting! In addition to the $1,500 presented today for the recovery scholarships, ARCHway is providing a $500 grant to Drug Free Punta Gorda for education and prevention programs. We are grateful for all of our community partners who work with us to make Charlotte County a healthy and safe place to call home.

READ OUR BLOG for more up-to-date happenings!

https://ccsoblog.org
What will you do on April 6th?

Sheriff Bill Prummell has just signed up to “Go Over the Edge” for drug prevention! Drug Free Charlotte County is hosting the Over the Edge event on April 6th, during which participants will be rappelling off of the Sun Trust building in Port Charlotte while raising funds and awareness for the organization. This is the second year for the event. Last year, Sheriff Prummell was awarded the “Ultimate Edger – Law Enforcement” Award for his fundraising efforts.

The Sheriff’s Office supports Drug Free Charlotte County’s mission to engage and empower our community to prevent substance abuse, specifically in our youth. Passionate about prevention and recovery, the Sheriff launched his Drug Recovery Initiative Program in 2016, focusing on a fresh approach to the problems of drug addiction in our community. Strong partnerships between law enforcement and organizations such as Drug Free Charlotte County build and sustain a healthy community.

Help Sheriff Prummell grow the important work of preventing substance abuse in our community. Click the link below to support his efforts, and thank you for your support!

Our safe community is a team effort!

More information on the event can be found here: https://give.overtheedge.events/CCSOSheriff

HELP ATTACK CANCER IN OUR COMMUNITY

Beating our biggest rival takes more than breakthrough research. It takes things like our 24/7 cancer help line and free rides to chemo. Most of all, it takes you. Join Relay For Life. And help attack cancer in our community.

Register Today!
Everyone Welcome - Family Friendly Event

RELAY FOR LIFE OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
-Relay Around The World-

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH, 2019
12PM-10PM

LAISHLEY PARK
120 LAISHLEY COURT, PUNTA GORDA

RelayForLife.org/CharlotteCountyFL
The CCSO Volunteer Unit celebrated a great year by holding a luncheon hosted by Cheney Brothers on January 31st. The Volunteer Service Unit (VSU) provided 24,162 volunteer hours to the Sheriff’s Office in 2018. The following members volunteered 1000 hours or more to the CCSO Volunteer Unit. Jack Mehl, 1,728 hours, Denise McGee 1,701.25 hours, John Harnden 1,183 hours, and Gene Rhoad 1,142.50. These volunteers were honored by being presented with a 1000+ commendation bar to proudly display on their VSU uniform. John Harnden also received a meritorious commendation bar. The following nine members volunteered over 500 hours during the year and were honored by receiving a 500+ commendation bar to display on their uniform. Bob Church 815 hours, Barry Slosberg 772.25 hours, Terry Frey 730 hours, Neil Brussard 711 hours, Mike Reardon 589.50 hours, George Pish 575 hours, Jerry Lyn Rosensteel 550.75 hours, Ken Baus 528 hours, and Frank Hokenson 510.80 hours. The unit also had 14 members that each contributed over 300 volunteer hours in 2018. They were presented with a certificate of appreciation. The Volunteer Unit is proud to be part of the CCSO family.

Major Mike Anderson has been selected to serve as part of the Final Leg team, serving as a Guardian of the Flame as they run the “Flame of hope” throughout the United Arab Emirates in March, leading up to the start of the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi, UAE. For more details check out the ccsoblog.
A-Rod has been busy

Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant Andres Rodriguez, AKA A-Rod, is a recent graduate of the FBI National Academy. He and 248 other Law Enforcement Professionals representing all 50 States, the District of Columbia, 23 international countries, five military organizations and 7 Federal civilian organizations attended the 11 week FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers extensive training in advanced communications, leadership and fitness conditioning for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions. Lt. Rodriguez is pictured here with FBI Director Christopher A. Wray.

Judge Don Mason came to HQ to swear Arod into the Florida Bar on Monday, December 17th.

Quarterly Award Winners Luncheon

American Heart Association Results

Fundraising winner CCSO (Badges)
Dart Competition winner CCSO (Badges)

Thanks to our team’s hard work the 2019 Charlotte County Heart Walk raised more than $134,000 overall, February 9@ Lashley Park
Bob "Carp" Carpenter served at the Sheriff’s Office from Feb. 2003 to Mar. 2013 as the CCSO PIO. In his own words, this is Carp’s story. After working 52 years of my life, I told Sheriff Bill Cameron “it was time” as I would be almost 70 at the end of his term. I agreed to stay on until the end of March 2013 at the request of Sheriff Bill Prummell when he was elected; my replacement Debbie Bowe couldn’t start until April 1, 2013. I couldn’t stay any longer as my wife Kaye and I had a 23 day “retirement” cruise from Ft. Lauderdale to Northern Europe that included Ireland, France, Germany, Estonia, Russia, and the Baltic countries. Kaye and I have worked hard all our 47 married years together. She was a teacher at Meadow Park Elementary School for over 25 years and a substitute a few years after that. Locally, we got here in 1979 from Maui and I became General Manager for Fishermen’s Village which opened in Feb. 1980, until 1991. I started my own marketing company, Executive Directions, and that turned into 11-years as executive director of the Punta Gorda Business Alliance, now the Punta Gorda Chamber. When I left to retire, Sheriff Bill Clement contacted me to do a project. Charlotte County Commissioners cut his CCSO budget request by $1.2 Million and in Florida, a Sheriff can appeal to the Governor. He asked me to help and I put together a 164 page booklet of data comparing five like sheriff agency counties. I met with Governor Jeb Bush three times and the last time the full Cabinet. They ordered Commissioners to put $1.2 Million back into Sheriff Clement’s budget, mostly for pay raises. When I returned from Tallahassee, the Sheriff told me his PIO was leaving and asked me to sit in until he could find someone. That lasted for 10 years and it was one of the most rewarding and fun jobs of my careers. My background was an Intelligence Analyst for the USAF Security Service and National Security Agency, serving in Crete, Greece; DaNang; and Saigon (1963-67). I graduated on the GI Bill from Kent State University with a Broadcasting Degree in 1971. I was News Director of WKSU and WKNT for several years, and DJ on KNUI Maui. I believe my intelligence background was perfect for the job dealing with media as CCSO PIO.

Kaye and I knew back in 1995 when we took our first cruise that it was what we wanted to do. When we paid off the home mortgage we put a like sum into a special bank account just for cruising. We’ve completed a total of 36 cruises now and have been all over the world. We enjoy cruising together so much and have spent 353 days on cruise ships. I also love to help people plan their cruises and give them tips on the best times to cruise and ways to save money.

Words of Wisdom: TRAVEL: The only thing you buy that makes you richer!

Thanks Carp!
Till next time,
Sherman Robinson, Major CCSO Retired.

Meet Willow
Willow is almost 4 years old. The name Willow suits this beauty. She is small, perfect lap size and her big round eyes and unusual nose markings make her uniquely attractive and easy to identify.

Meet Minnie
How can you resist that face? Minnie is a sweet 7 years old who is looking for her forever home. Minnie loves to be close to you and would easily become a devoted companion. She is friendly and affectionate, she needs a person who will take the time to help her grow her confidence. A more lovely girl you would be hard-pressed to meet!
**Office Locations**

**Main Numbers**

**Emergencies**
- Non-Emergency Business - Punta Gorda & Port Charlotte: (941) 639-2101
- Non-Emergency Business - Englewood: (941) 474-3233

**William H. Reilly Administration Building**
- 7474 Utilities Road
- Punta Gorda, Florida 33982
- (941) 613-3245 (business)
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00PM

**Englewood District 1 Office**
- 11051 Wilmington Boulevard
- Englewood, Florida 34224
- (941) 475-9005 (Business)
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00PM

**District 2 Office**
- 992 Tamiami Trail Suite A
- Port Charlotte, Florida 33948
- (941) 613-3245 (fax)
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00PM

**Promenades Mall District 3 Office**
- 3280 Tamiami Trail Suite 505
- Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
- (941) 258-3900 (fax)
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00PM

**District 4 Office**
- 7474 Utilities Road
- Punta Gorda, Florida 33982
- (941) 575-5370 (business)
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00PM

**Charlotte County Jail**
- 25601 Airport Road
- Punta Gorda, Florida 33982
- (941) 833-6300

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We are on the Web @ www.ccso.org

Do you have the new app downloaded yet?