As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important as a community to reflect on things for which we are thankful. I am drafting this letter in the midst of an emotionally demanding week for the agency. Our deputies continue to recover from the recent officer-involved shooting, School Resource Officers are diligently working to ensure their students feel safe on campus, and we are all focused on preparing the community for the crimes of opportunity we often see during the busy holiday season. In spite of what seems like many hurdles, I am thankful for the partnerships we have that continue to develop and support new programs to overcome these obstacles and achieve our vision of a safer community.

I frequently circle back to the Marine Corps mantra "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome" when faced with complex situations, and encourage my staff to use this model when developing solutions to problems we face as a community. I most recently addressed you in regards to a concern over rising assault numbers in Charlotte County. At the beginning of October, our grant-funded Domestic Violence Unit launched to reduce the prevalence of violence both in and out of domestic situations. By taking a more holistic approach and working with our community partners to provide services to both offenders and victims, we hope to drastically reduce the number of domestic-related incidents in our community.

In light of recent threats to our school campuses, we recognize that parents in our community are all asking the same question; “What can I do to keep my child safe?” Many of our own deputies are also parents, and we struggle with the same concerns when waving goodbye at the bus stop or drop off. Ahead of this year’s change in legislation, CCSO has had a School Resource Officer assigned to each school in the County. Our deputies inside the schools have attended advanced education training pertaining to working in the school environment. Our Juvenile Unit works closely with the Charlotte County Public School’s Security and deputies assigned to districts that contain a school are familiar with the campus layout and campus-specific hazard plans. Detectives are assigned to investigate threats made to the security of our schools, and no threat is ever taken lightly.

As the weather begins to cool, we welcome home our seasonal residents and prepare for the busier months in our community. Holiday crime prevention messaging will begin on our social media channels and at neighborhood watch meetings. I have also launched a Speaker Series, providing residents the opportunity to meet their Sheriff’s Office personnel, learn about what is happening in their community, and ask questions. The first presentation in the series, covering identity theft and scams, is scheduled for November 20th at the mid-county library.

Looking ahead to the holidays, agency members are preparing for our annual Shop with a Cop event, community service commitments, and developing programs to address the needs of our growing community. I am thankful for the members of the Sheriff’s Office family who infuse our core values of Integrity, Professionalism, and Trust into their everyday life, both on- and off-duty.

I am also thankful to serve as your Sheriff, and look forward to continuing to partner together to make Charlotte County a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Sheriff Prummell
Series of Presentations: What we want you to know!

On Tuesday, November 20th at 2:00 p.m. Sheriff Bill Prummell invites the citizens of Charlotte County to hear Sgt. Diane Young speak about Identity Theft and current scams. This event is being held at Mid County Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd. Port Charlotte.

The first 100 people to register on our Eventbrite site and bring their free ticket to this event will receive a coupon from one of our restaurant partners. We expect this informative seminar to fill up fast don’t miss out.

See what else we have in store for the future:
- Introducing our new Domestic Violence Unit
- Alzheimer’s and our CCSO programs
- Internet and Social media awareness

Citizen’s Police Academy

Would you like to learn what is happening behind the scenes at the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office? The Citizens’ Police Academy is a 9 week (includes graduation) program designed to give the public a working knowledge of the Sheriff’s Office. Each session consists of nine consecutive weekly night classes at Sheriff’s Office facilities. The instruction is comprehensive and each week separate areas of the Sheriff’s Office are covered.

Major Crimes, Use of Force, K-9, S.W.A.T., Forensics, Recruiting and meeting the Sheriff are examples of some of the topics that are covered. Instruction consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and ride along with a deputy.

We hope the graduates of the Citizens’ Police Academy become more aware and better informed about how the Sheriff’s Office operates, and will encourage friends, coworkers and families to join the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office in this rewarding program. There is no cost for the program.

To apply go to: https://www.ccso.org/News

Get Fit 2018 Challenge is coming to a conclusion!

Friday, December 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Branscome Training Facility 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Final weigh in.
Did you make it all 9 months?
Good for you, you are already a winner.
Sergeant Terry Cochran has been assigned to Court Security, tasked with leading daily operations of all activities within the Charlotte County Justice Center and Murdock Administration Building. During the month of September, Sgt. Cochran was also tasked with numerous additional activities. Human Resources requested that Sgt. Cochran speak at the Charlotte Technical College, assisting the Criminal Justice students. Sgt. Cochran provided detailed lectures to supplement the textbook sections for the court system, the juvenile justice process, as well as state and federal courts/probation, and patrol.

He was also tasked during the month with creating a lesson plan and personally training members in Legal Updates and Courtroom Testimony during Block Training. Sgt. Cochran was further tasked with helping in the implementation and was a "train the trainer" for the new Tri-Tech RMS system. Terry completed multiple training sessions throughout the agency, assisting Road Patrol in learning the new system.

Sgt. Cochran has been able to successfully multi-task Court construction, multiple Block training obligations, RMS training, teaching at the technical college, and continuing his demanding schedule as a law student. He should be commended for his dedication and continued striving to meet the agency goals and objectives. Sgt. Cochran is a mentor to numerous members of the agency, and a continued asset to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

In order to embrace our Core Values, it requires us to think outside the box to enhance our efficiency, as well as staying within our budgetary obligations. With that being said, the trailer that safely secures and transports the necessary equipment for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) recently needed some important repairs. After receiving quotes from surrounding businesses, we decided to reach out to Mr. Ken Skupien at the Bureau of Detention to see if his team could handle the project.

During my conversations with Ken, he never blinked an eye to deflect the assignment elsewhere. He inspected the trailer and provided a detailed list of required materials. Upon receiving payment, he accompanied a member of ERT and they obtained the necessary materials from the Home Depot.

As the work started, he continuously kept me posted on its progress until completion.

The final product was more than expected. He went above and beyond to ensure the work was completed to its highest standards, which in turn provides ERT with a safer vehicle for deployment. We can't express in words our sincerest appreciation to Ken and his team for their hard work and dedication to this project.

However, this is just one more accomplishment in Ken's illustrious career. Ken Skupien began his career by working with County Facilities Maintenance at the Jail. Within a year, he was hired with the Sheriff's Office in 2002 when our only maintenance man, Dean Cornwell, retired. This is where Ken's multi-tasking and "Jack of All Trades" knowledge really came into play.
Ken was responsible for the maintenance and repair of all kitchen equipment, inmate phones, and all washers and dryers. His skills and craftiness saved us time and money several times. One particular instance was when we needed a part for the dishwasher machine. Due to the age of the machine, the necessary part to repair it was no longer being made. Ken studied the situation and was able to fabricate the part in order to get the machine running. Had he not been able to do that, we would have had to spend unavailable funds to purchase a new machine.

In 2009, the Hydroponics and Fish Program originated. Ken took on this project with gusto. He studied the fish and learned their eating and mating habits. When it became clear we would have to find another vendor to get our catfish fingerlings from, Ken began experimenting with breeding them. He was successful his first try and has done so for the last two years, thus offsetting the cost of having to purchase them. In addition, he also grew our beautiful oak trees along airport road from acorns and they now provide a barrier between the roadway and us.

When our Inmate Flower program began a few years ago, Ken decided to add color to our Training Building. He utilized materials on hand to have the inmates build a concrete planter in front of the Training Center. Inmates were allowed to plant whatever plants they wanted. This is now completely maintained by the inmates and they are proud of their work.

When Ken is not saving the Sheriff's Office money or solving organizational issues, he enjoys spending time with his wife of 20 years, Elizabeth. He also enjoys working on old cars and fishing.

Throughout this process, Ken has upheld the epitome of our Core Values (Integrity, Professionalism, and Trust). Thank you for your commitment to the department and your excellent work ethic.

Detention Member of the Quarter

Today we honor Lt. Jeffrey Sisk as the Detention Member of the Quarter. He has been with the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office for over 26 years and is currently in DROP. Lt. Sisk is a dual certified officer assigned to the Bureau of Detention as a Squad Watch Commander. During this quarter, Lt. Sisk has diligently worked to mentor staff and impart his numerous years of knowledge and experience to the up and coming leaders within the Bureau.

While traveling to work, Lt. Jeffery Sisk witnessed a single vehicle accident near the corner of Washington Loop and Duncan Road. The vehicle left the roadway and flipped several times before coming to rest. Lt. Sisk pulled his personal truck into the grass area and shined his lights on the vehicle. Lt. Sisk noticed that the vehicle was occupied by three juveniles. One of the occupants immediately exited the vehicle and yelled to Lt. Sisk: "Don't call the cops." The juvenile noticed that Lt. Sisk was in a CCSO Class A uniform. He then began to act nervous and his behavior was suspicious. Knowing something was wrong with the situation, Lt. Sisk attempted to keep a calm rapport, while it became obvious that one of the occupants was attempting to "draw him away from the car" and isolate him from the other 2 juveniles at the scene.

Road Patrol Officers arrived quickly and took over the scene. It was learned that the juveniles had just come from committing numerous car burglaries in Desoto County. Desoto County Sheriff’s Office identified them and notified us that one of the burglaries included a stolen firearm. While securing the scene, a plastic baggie with a green leafy substance was found along with a ski mask, multiple cell phone boxes, and black gloves. The missing Taurus .22 cal. pistol was also recovered.

Lt. Sisk is commended and being recognized as the member of the quarter for not only his continued dedication to the agency and maintaining the core values, but also for his actions during this incident of stopping to assist a would-be citizen in need, having the ability to recognize the situation he was in, and for maintaining scene safety and security until road patrol arrived. Congratulations!
In August, Sergeant Sean Griffin responded to a call referencing a well-being check of an elderly resident. Sgt. Griffin made contact with the 84-year-old female who advised that someone from Meals on Wheels was supposed to bring her some food. They had not arrived, and she was hungry and wondering what had happened.

Sgt. Griffin checked the refrigerator in the residence and noticed it contained beverages, but very little to eat other than two unknown premade meals. Sgt. Griffin was advised that DCF was assisting her, and she gets help and food from Meals on Wheels. He made some phone calls and discovered that Meals on Wheels does not provide service on Saturdays and Sundays. At that time, Sgt. Griffin went to the Publix where he bought more than enough food to last the female through the weekend until Monday when she could get assistance. Sgt. Griffin also notified additional Community Services to get her assistance.

Sgt. Sean Griffin is commended for his actions, which included using his own money to make sure a citizen in need within our community was cared for. He made sure there would be follow up with additional Community Services and took the time to make a difference in our community for someone in need. Sgt. Griffin’s compassion and actions reflect distinguished credit, not only on himself, but the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office. Congratulations and well done.

In May, members of the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Records Department went on a weekend getaway to St. Augustine to celebrate the retirement of a fellow co-worker. During their time, they attended a cookout where one of the weekenders started to choke. With quick action, Deborah Maikowski leaned on her lifesaving training and immediately started to perform abdominal thrusts. This quick action proved to be successful and the airway was cleared of the offending obstruction allowing the full recovery of her fellow weekender. We honor Deborah today with a lifesaver award. Congratulations.
On September 29, Operator Steve Perkins answered a 911 call regarding a 40-year-old female not breathing. Operator Perkins utilized the EMDQ protocol for instructions on performing CPR. He remained on the phone talking to the caller and the son, while providing the CPR instructions and updating the narrative of the call for those responding. Operator Perkins continued CPR efforts and completed the EMDQ protocol, which calls for 600 compressions. Usually Fire, EMS or LEO arrives on the scene prior to the completion of 600 compressions in CPR, but he continued instructions well above that mark. Eventually the patient regained consciousness, was breathing on her own, and was heard saying she was "okay". Operator Perkins remained on the line for 21 minutes until the first EMS responder arrived on the scene for the patient.

The next day Operator Perkins received a phone call from the son of the female patient, thanking him for his help. He is commended for his life saving efforts and his outstanding performance and dedication to helping our citizens. Operator Perkins has proven he is an asset to Communications and the CCSO organization.

In April, DFC David Brooks was dispatched to a call, in reference to a one-year-old male not breathing. Upon his arrival on scene, DFC Brooks witnessed a white male holding a small child while running down the driveway towards the roadway. The white male said his girlfriend’s one-year-old son was not breathing.

DFC Brooks took the child and placed him in a grassy area on the ground. He was not able to detect any breath coming from the child’s mouth, and he did not have a detectable pulse. DFC Brooks swabbed the child’s mouth with his finger for any foreign objects but did not detect anything in his mouth. He then began CPR on the child, starting with chest compressions. After several compressions, DFC Brooks observed the child was moving his arms. He listened for breathing, and heard the child begin to struggle to breathe. DFC Brooks gave the child two rescue breaths, at which time the child took a deeper breath and started moving.

The child attempted to sit up, but then passed out. He appeared to be breathing softly but continued to go in and out of consciousness. DFC Brooks attempted to keep the child conscious and monitored his breathing until Charlotte County Fire/EMS arrived and took over life saving measures. His quick thinking under pressure, as well as his training and experience, was instrumental in saving the life of this child. The child has made a complete recovery and shows no signs of any permanent physical or mental disability.

At the conclusion of my investigation, I arrested the suspect, who was holding the child when DFC Brooks arrived, and charged him with Aggravated Child Abuse. He pled No Contest to the charge and was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison with 5 years’ probation to follow.

For these actions, DFC David Brooks is receiving a Life Saver Award. Congratulations and well done.
In September, the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a missing suicidal juvenile, a 15-year-old female, in the District 3 area. Central Communications was able to ping the juvenile’s phone to a large wooded area. As numerous deputies searched the area, a resident directed Deputy Matt Chandler toward a wooded area across from his residence where he thought he had seen someone walk into the woods but could not be sure due to the darkness. Deputy Chandler checked the area and located the juvenile approximately 40 feet into the woods. The juvenile was lying on the ground, unresponsive with her cell phone charging cord around her neck. Her face was blue, she was not breathing, and the cord was tied tight around her neck. Deputy Chandler was able to remove the cord from her neck and start CPR. A moment later, the juvenile began to breathe and cough. Deputy Chandler was able to carry the juvenile out of the woods to the nearby roadway where EMS was able to treat her.

If not for his quick actions, this incident may have had a different outcome. We commend Deputy Matt Chandler for his lifesaving actions that day. Congratulations. Well done.

In September, Sheriff Prummell received an email from Mr. Russell Jones. Mr. Jones reported that on August 31, he was bowling during a Friday night league when a member of the opposing team started having some sort of breathing distress. One of his teammates, AJ Ursomanno, recognized this distress as a blocked airway. Moving quickly, Ursomanno performed abdominal thrusts to dislodge the obstruction. Mr. Jones was happy to report that the subject quickly recovered. He wrote to Sheriff Prummell to commend Detective Ursomanno for this quick action to save a life. Mr. Jones also noted, "The world can use more people like this. He is a proven asset to us and the (Sheriff’s Office)".

We agree and commend Detective Ursomanno on his quick thinking, assessment, and use of his training with life-saving measures. Thank you and well done.

Thank you to our sponsors Integrity Employee Leasing, Integrity Insurance Agency and Danny Nix Jr. with Nix & Associates Real Estate. Congratulations to all our winners.
Cops and Goblins 2018

November 2018

THE CCSO Star

CHARLOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
Life after CCSO Retirement

Ed Ellinwood was originally from Rhode Island and move to Port Charlotte 30 years ago. After hearing an ad on the radio looking for reserve deputies he checked into it and joined. Ed would volunteer as often as possible and was hooked. After 2 years as a reserve deputy he knew this is what he wanted to do. He put himself through the police academy and was hired shortly later. His career with CCSO was rewarding as he advanced to the rank of lieutenant. Ed retired in 2016 after 25 years of service. Since then he has been enjoying traveling the world with his wife, Susan. This past year alone they visited Germany and Ireland. When they are not traveling, they enjoy the summer months at their beach house in Rhode Island.

Nothing like going to get fresh clams every day from your front yard. Be safe, enjoy life.

Carpe Diem!

Submitted by Sherm Robinson, Retired Major CCSO

Greetings from the Volunteer Unit

Greetings from the Volunteer Services Unit. Every day our talented and generous volunteers make the difference in support of our mission of excellence to our community. Besides our daily duties of road and marine patrol, mail runs and helping the agency run smoothly, we have had several V.E.R.T (Volunteer Emergency Response Team) call outs. V.E.R.T has responded to several serious vehicle crashes and even provided scene security for a death investigation. In addition, our volunteers assisted with our annual Cops and Goblins 2018. The event was held at the Charlotte Sports Park and was a fun for all, volunteers included! Community Affairs conducted another Citizens Police Academy with the assistance of volunteers Jack Mehl, Denise McGee, Mike Reardon, Ruth Vital-Hebert and George Pish. Thank you for your help. In addition to some of the perks of being an CCSO volunteer, giving back to our community is attributed to living a long and fulfilled life. I would like to welcome the following individuals who have joined our team in helping make Charlotte County a safer place. Please welcome them to our family.

D-1
- Mike Riggs COP
- Sally Lutz COP
- Thomas Mohr COP
- Judy Prummell Admin.

D-4
- Tom Gorman COP out of D4.
- The dynamic duo Terry and Ren Cochran Admin.
- Leo Hebert and Robert Webb, Admin and assigned to help Rodney Yeargin, Community Affairs Video Production Specialist. (Say that fast three times!)

From all of us in the Volunteer Services Unit, we would like to wish you and yours a very happy & healthy holiday season!

Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County
3519 Drance Street, Port Charlotte
(941) 625-6720

Meet Wynken
Lots of cuteness and check out those whiskers. Wynken is a Domestic Shorthair mix. She is 5 months old and ready to show you some love. Come meet her. All she asks for is a loving home...oh...and some food, water, toys, and litter box!

Meet Snook!
Snook arrived at the AWL as a stray two months ago. He loves being petted and loved on and enjoys social events. He will play with a ball if you stay engaged with him. Snook seems to enjoy children. Main descriptor of Snook include being happy, calm, and sweet. Come meet Snook at the Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County!
November 15, the 8 and under Softball team the “Little Mustangs” finished the Tri-County Championships as the runner-up, beating all the other 8 and under teams from Port Charlotte, North Port Venice, Englewood and Desoto. DFC t. Mings is assistant coach. Go girl power!

Parents of Murdered Children Memorial Garden at the Charlotte County Justice Center Refresh

We would like to thank our community partners:
Powell’s Nursery in Punta Gorda who provided the plants at and below their cost. Lowe’s in Port Charlotte for donating two pallets of red mulch (72 bags per pallet). We would also like to thank the people, who wished to remain anonymous, who donated to the project in honor of the victims.

Finally, we thank all the volunteers who came to help with the project on Saturday. They made quick work and we got all of the work completed in record time.

SHOP WITH A COP 2018
Celebrating 14 years of Shop with a Cop!

We are hoping to supply 100+ children from Charlotte County to pair up with local Law Enforcement. Children are supplied with $100.00 gift cards to purchase gifts for family members and themselves. A gift wrapping table will even be set up to assist the children in wrapping their gifts. This year the following Walmart stores in Charlotte County will be participating in this worthwhile event.

December 4th — Englewood Walmart
December 5th — Murdock Walmart
December 11th — Kings Highway Walmart
December 12th — Punta Gorda Walmart

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our youth!
Thank you for all you do!
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) 639-2101 (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
(941) 613-3246 (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
(941) 258-3901 (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

We are on the Web @ www.ccso.org

Watch for our new app coming out soon!