

Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM

Sheriff Susan Benton



VISION

Our vision is a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together; the rights of all persons are respected; and community values are reflected.

MISSION

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting life, property, and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

Goal 1:

Create safer neighborhoods by reducing criminal activity and conditions that foster crime and fear within the community.

Goal 2:

Enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety of Highlands County roadways through education and enforcement.

Goal 3:

Assure accountability by effective and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and technology.

Goal 4:

Provide a professional work environment that attracts and retains a diverse group of quality applicants, rewards employee excellence, and promotes leadership through education and training.

Goal 5:

Assure effective Judicial and Detention processes and services.

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HIGHLANDS COUNTY OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET SUCCESS

A special thanks to all of the local law enforcement agencies, Drug Free Highlands and the community for making Operation Medicine Cabinet such a huge success. The event was held on Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 10 a.m. and 2p.m. and collected nearly 1,000 pounds of unwanted medication. Across the state more than 120 local government, community, public health and law enforcement groups partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration's *Pill Take-Back* campaign in setting up over 140 collection sites throughout Florida. The national event was initiated by the Drug Enforcement Administration to discard unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications anonymously. Operation Medicine Cabinet illustrates our agency commitment to keeping our citizens safe, protecting our youth from the potential harmful effects of misusing prescription drugs, while also addressing the environmental im-

plications related to improper disposal. Incidents of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisoning and overdose deaths due to these drugs. "The proper destruction of tons of unwanted, unused drugs results in a safer medicine cabinet and a cleaner environment," said DEA Supervising Agent in Charge of the Miami Filed Division Mark Trouville. "When these drugs are disposed of properly, they cannot end up in the hands of abusers or our youth." Nationwide, 121 tons were collected and destroyed. Over 4,000 collection sites were

set-up throughout the United States and its territories. The proper disposal of unused prescription drugs is the first step at preventing misuse and the potential of unnecessary deaths. A large percentage of teens surveyed between the ages of 12-17 say they obtain prescription drugs from their homes or the home of a relative or friend. As a community we have to do all we can to assure that these unused drugs do not end up in the hands of our youth. We can applaud our community's participation in this event, and for removing these unnecessary sources from the homes in our community.



1,000 Pounds of Disposed Prescriptions

Alcohol Compliance Checks

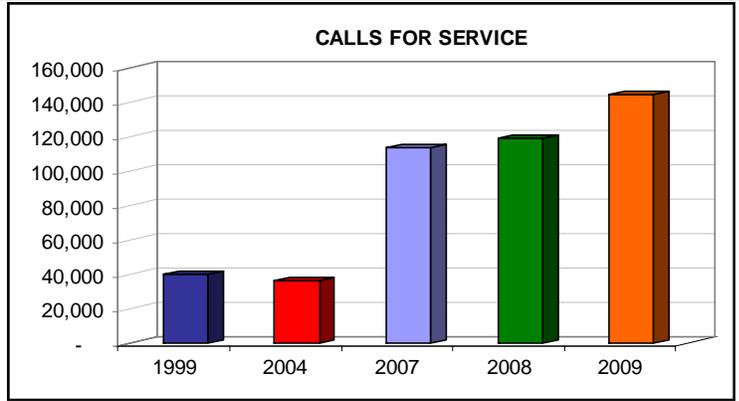
Efforts continue by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, supported by Drug Free Highlands, to monitor and police alcohol sales to minors, as well as enforce underage alcohol possession and use in the county. This was evident by a recent Alcohol Compliance Check conducted by the agency's Operation Safe Neighborhood. A compliance check is a tool used by law enforcement to identify licensed retailers that sell alcohol to underage purchasers. If the party serving the youth asks for identification and refuses the sale, the establishment passes the compliance check. However, if the party completes the sale, even after identification has been observed, the outlet has illegally sold alcohol to an underage person and therefore, fails the check. Sellers are aware of the fact that selling alcohol to underage individuals is a criminal offense punishable in that capacity. With a nearly 89% percent pass rate for this set of checks, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office is proud of the steps taken by local businesses to detect and deter underage drinking. Alcohol consumption by our underage population is something we, as a community, must ban together in an attempt to prevent. These establishments proved they are taking the mandated steps to prevent the purchase of alcohol by this group. If you suspect a business is selling alcohol to underage individuals, please contact your local law enforcement agency or 1-800-226-TIPS.



Alcohol Vendor Training
June 2010

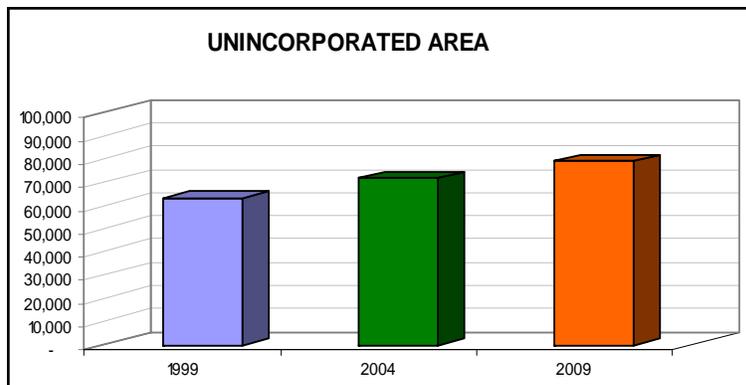
Calls for Service Up; Population and Daily Inmates Steady

While 2009 showed a minimal jail population increase of only 1.9%, we have remained relatively steady for 2010 with a decrease in the uniform crime rates. This is in stark contrast to the calls for service in the unincorporated area. In 2009 there was an increase of over 21% and for 2010, within the first three quarters it appears we will see another increase. The stabilization of inmate populations is no surprise considering across the United States municipal and county jail facilities have reported, as of June 2009 according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a decrease in female inmates of 6% and a decrease of male inmates of 1.7%. This drop in the total number of inmates housed in local jails is the first decline in



the U.S. jail population since 1982. While this is good news for local jails, this could have contributed to the growth in federal prison population which experienced a 3.4% growth during that same time period. There could also be some correlation with regard to the way our judicial partners and detention staff are working together to help move the cases more efficiently through the court system. Thus allowing for more

timely transfer of inmates to the state institutions. The in-house drug treatment programs and the attention to the needs of our mentally ill inmates is helping to provide more stabilization for folks upon release from jail with less reincarceration. Taking all of this into consideration, there is a sharp increase in the calls for service. Many factors could be attributed: increased public confidence in law enforcement response; calls are more preventive in nature, before things go wrong; and the central dispatch model of efficiency. Overall we are pleased with steady inmate counts, decreased crime rate, and strong public confidence, while working through economic difficulties.



Sheriff's Office Continues Outreach for Alternative Funding

Despite dwindling funding for governmental agencies, Highlands County Sheriff's Office has identified and applied for over 1.6 million dollars in grant funding. To date the Sheriff's Office has received awards of \$421,544 and

notification of at least an additional \$200,000. This is great news in these difficult economic times. As part of our Strategic Plan, the Sheriff's Office continues to seek alternative funding for equipment,

services and life safety supplies for our members in order to pursue our vision of a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together, the rights of all persons are respected and community values are reflected.

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT

New Member Hires:	Court Related Services:	
Civilians	4 Cases In Court	6947
Sworn	3 Inmates Taken to Court	1155
Applications Received this Qtr.	55 Arrests by Bailiffs	103
Applications Processed	53 Persons thru Security Station	39,519
Payroll Checks Processed	Pre-Trial Release Services:	
Payable Checks Processed	749 First Appearance Attendance	565
P-Card Purchases	441 Pre-Trial Release Cases	180
Citizens Fingerprinted	461 Inmates Referred for Treatment	20
Information Services Requests	604 Cost Effectiveness Savings	\$95,726

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Calls	49,409	Number of DUI's	5
911 Calls	10,585	Items into Evidence	2,596
Computer Aided Dispatch	34,656	Evidence Items Disposed	4,722
HCSO	18,342	Judicial/Civil Process Services:	
SPD	4,486	Received/Processed	2,565
LPPD	1,859	Served	2,491
APPD	5,027	Active	74
FIRE	1,647	Crime Scene Lab Cases	126
EMS	3,295	Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	289
Offense Reports	2,173	Investigations Open (Total)	163
Traffic Citations Issued	896	Special Investigations Unit Cases	100
K-9 Searches	141	SIU Narcotic Arrests	66
Warrant Numbers:		SVU Cases Received from DCF	423
Received/Processed	750	SVU Cases Open	32
Served	703	Business Security Surveys	0
Active	4034	Neighborhood Watch Presentations	13
Number of Arrests By Patrol	662	Crime Victims Served	145
		Victim Advocate Services	577

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

Inmates Booked into Jail	1,475	Alcohol Breath Tests	22
Inmates Released from Jail	1,328	Average Daily Population	401
Instructional Program Hours	2,020	Staff Meals Purchased	\$8,136
Inmate Transport Miles	34,417	Net Commissary Earnings	\$5,477
Transports to State Prison	94	Medical Fees Charged	\$120,417
ICE Picked Up	14	Medical Fees Collected	\$10,524
Detainer's Placed	29	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$55,692
CMP Participants	71	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$13,368
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$49,068	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$23,221
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$4,230	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$9,680
Inmate Meals Served	110,780	Labor Hours by Trusties S/O	30,925
Average Cost per Day Per Inmate	\$1.78	Labor Hours by Trusties Other	4,793
Inmate Farm Produce (lbs)	497	Dollars Saved in Labor	\$258,955

National Teen

Driver Safety Week

October 18-25, 2010

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is highlighting risks associated with teen drivers during the month of October with **National Teen Driver Safety Week**.

With motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of death for U.S. teens there is a need to emphasize the importance of parents supervising their teen's driving and establishing and enforcing rules of the road. Especially since this risk is higher among 16-19 year olds than any other age group. In 2007, more than 4,200 teens age 15-19 were killed and almost 400,000 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes. In fact, per mile driven, teen drivers age 16-19 are four times more likely than older drivers to crash. Overall, younger drivers lack experience on the road and are less likely to recognize risky situations. Male drivers, teens driving with teen passengers and newly licensed teens are listed as the most susceptible to encounter a crash. In taking these staggering statistics into consideration The Highlands County Sheriff's Office has taken steps towards implementing a "Teen Challenge Program" aimed specifically at reducing the frequency and severity of teen crashes. The program, intended to launch in early 2011 as an objective in the Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan, is a 12 hour course implemented through the Florida Sheriff's Association that will be administered by certified members of this agency with the hope of better equipping our teen drivers. For more preventative measures and to find out about Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems look on the back of this report for a link to the CDC's website.

Detention Hosts On-site Mock Assessment for Accreditation

The Detention Accreditation Team members and Detention staff have been working diligently over the past year and a half in an attempt to attain accreditation status from the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC). The FCAC was created with the purpose of improving the delivery of correctional services. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority to document that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Before the detention facility participates in the official assessment to determine if we meet accreditation standards they have been busy preparing for an on-site mock assessment to assess the Highlands County Sheriff's Office detention facility. A team was assembled by the FCAC for the purpose of conducting the assessment. The team was comprised of Team Leader, Lt. David Parsi, Assistant Bureau Commander, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Amanda Tipping, Jail Accreditation Specialist, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, and Isaiah Dennard, Retired Lt. from the Orange County Correctional Facility. The team was tasked with evaluating our facility's operations against the standards developed by the FCAC. There are approximately 240 standards with regard to the Florida Corrections profession. This process allows the administration to remedy deficiencies and upgrade the quality of services required by the correctional facility if any are found to be sub par. All aspects of correctional operations are addressed through the standards, including: Admission, Classification, Housing, Sanitation, Food Service, Personnel Issues, Fiscal Activities, Security, Training and Medical. The anticipated official inspection is scheduled for December of this year and we intend to be in compliance with the mandated standards thus attaining the accreditation designation.



Mock Assessment team: Lt. David Parsi, Isaiah Dennard and Amanda Tipping joined by Detention Major David Paepflow and Captains Booker Johnson and Bobby Green.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For more information on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Teen_Drivers/teendrivers.html





CRIME PREVENTION

Insert for Volume 6 , Issue 3

Alert for Suspicious Activity

From time to time things are brought to our attention from neighboring counties that may have value for our residents. We have recently been notified about subjects selling meat door-to-door out of various vehicles. After gaining access to the victim's residence to deliver products, their checks, wallets and credit cards are stolen. Credit cards are then used for on-line purchases. Checks are often written to cash and subjects cash the checks at the victim's bank. Some checks are given to other subjects to cash. This activity has been documented in Volusia, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Sarasota and Pinellas Counties. No current cases are known in Highlands County, however as a general precaution, please limit access to your home to those persons that you personally know or who you have specifically called to your residence. Anyone with information regarding this particular door-to-door meat sales operation is requested to contact the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 402-7249 and speak to Crime Analyst Sharon Burch. This is the type of activity residents are encouraged to report to law enforcement. Any suspicious persons or activity that may be observed at any time can be reported to Central Dispatch at 402-7200. **To report a crime in progress, dial 911.** If calling from a cell phone, even if the cell phone is from out of state, your call will go through the Highlands County 911 switchboard, however you will need to advise the 911 operator of your location. If you have placed a call to Central Dispatch or to 911, please do not hang up until the operator advises it is alright for you to do so. We can often determine your location, even if you are calling from a cell phone.



Highlands County Hosts Crime Prevention Conference



Every Crime Prevention Officer has the same goal; to stop crime from happening. When crime prevention is successful everyone saves, the police, the courts, and the community all while making the community a safer place to live, work and visit. This goal in mind, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office is pleased to say that the Florida Crime Prevention Association, the United States *oldest* crime prevention association, has chosen Highlands County as the meeting venue for its 41st Annual Training Conference. This annual training conference will take place in Sebring at the Four Points by Sheraton from October 18-22. It is a great setting for crime prevention officers and staff, school resource officers, volunteers, crime watch participants who are interested in learning more about crime prevention and the issues that face our communities every day. This informational

training conference is the perfect opportunity to discuss crime prevention skills, resources and knowledge through an intensive schedule of break out courses, specialized training, and networking opportunities. With the help of the local Tourism Development Council and tri county Chambers this year's conference is shaping up to be one of their largest conferences. Attendees for the conference are coming from as far away as Nebraska within the United States and even a couple of crime prevention officers flying in from Canada. At last count approximately 75 people have registered to attend. Historically the conference has had at least 100 delegates from across the state of Florida with around 50 agencies represented. With such topics on the agenda as Internet Safety, Securing Houses of Worship, Communicating with Different Generations, Disaster Planning for Child Care Facilities, Distracted Drivers and Gangs this is sure to be a great training event to benefit all communities. An event such as this is a great opportunity for all crime prevention specialists to take even more ideas back home to protect and serve their citizens. Their representing agencies are showing great commitment to the safety of their communities by attending this conference. We sincerely hope for a wonderful conference and are delighted that Highlands County was chosen as the venue of choice.

New Neighborhood Watch Groups

Once again I'm happy to report that we have two new Neighborhood Watch groups in Highlands County. Esther Soehner has been the driving force behind the organization of Leisure Acres on US 27 in Sebring. There were fantastic turnouts for all three meetings of the group, especially considering the efforts took place in the off season. A preliminary organization structure has been set up that will be augmented as the seasonal residents return. Congratulations! The second group that has completed the Neighborhood Watch process is Frances I, located just behind Walgreens at US 27 and Lakeview in Sebring. Buddy Chambers, Cindy Volpe, Greg Kingery and Ray McCart have taken the initiative in this mobile home community. This group also completed the Neighborhood Watch Patrol training and has set up both daytime and nighttime shifts. Once again, they have put a tentative structure in place which will be strengthened with the addition of seasonal residents later in the year.



One of the two groups who recently completed the Neighborhood Watch process. If you are interested in starting one contact Nell Hays at 863-385-0024

Crime Prevention Specialist Paul Hinman Retires

Retired Major Paul Hinman, Crime Prevention Specialist, has retired....again! This is Paul's third attempt at retirement, but since his wife has also retired this time, possibly he will enjoy his new found freedom!! Paul has been an integral part of the Crime Prevention Unit for the past several years doing presentations on all aspects of prevention but specializing in Frauds and Scams. In addition Paul taught each year in all three county high schools addressing students in the Driver's Education program about the dangers of drunk driving. He also attended the monthly Highlands County Homeowners' Association meetings and was a regular presenter at the Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce, as well as other speaking engagements. Law Enforcement Bureau Commander Major Mark Schrader presented Paul with his certificate of retirement. In addition to the certificate, Paul received gifts, cake and balloons at his retirement party held at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Community Service Center at the Lakeshore Mall.



Paul Hinman receiving his retirement certificate from Major Mark Schrader

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the passing of Whispering Pines Neighborhood Watch Chairperson Linda Sorenson during the past quarter. Mrs. Sorenson was the first Chairperson of this group and did a great job organizing the telephone tree for the park. We pass our condolences on to her family as well as her

Neighborhood Watch Reminder

If you want to schedule a presentation for your group or organization, or if you need to plan your annual Neighborhood Watch meeting, please contact CPS Nell Hays as soon as possible at 863-385-0024