Quarterly Report of the

HIGHLANDS COUNTY *SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM

Sheriff Susan Benton

January-March 1st Qrt 2016

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.

Sebring Historical Society Luncheon Honoring Sheriff Susan Benton

Sheriff Susan Benton

The Sebring Historical Society's January Quarterly Luncheon took place on January 23, 2016 and featured Sheriff Susan Benton the honored guest speaker.

Meeting was called to order at 12:15pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, brief announcements and blessing for the meal. Moderator and retiring president Gary Lamperelli and board member Marvin Kahn made several announcements. Allen Altvater introduced and welcomed our guest speaker with a brief PowerPoint presentation that was put together with pictures provided by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and Katara Simmons, local photographer.

Sheriff Benton shared with approximately 70 in attendance, highlights during her career in law enforcement as well as her historical background and her calling into law enforcement. Sheriff Benton spoke about many of the programs and responsibilities of the Sheriff's office and emphasized the success in many of these was due to the connection of the community and Sheriff's Office as illustrated in the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Vision, Mission, and Values Statement to include the Strategic Plan.

Nursing Students Open House at Highlands County Sheriff's Office

The Medical Department hosted a job fair on February 25, 2016. Twenty-eight students and one instructor from South Florida State College were in attendance. Speaking at the job fair were Sheriff Susan Benton, Major Booker Johnson, Capt. Paul Blackman, Dorothy Reed, Lena Lyall and Kathy Fluharty. Capt. Bobby Green and Crystal Parker assisted in taking the students and instructor on a tour of the facility.

Dorothy Reed and Lena Lyall met with Dr. Michelle Heston, the Director of Nursing Education at SFSC and discussed the needs at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office's medical department and the new nursing students. Recently, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office and South Florida State College made arrangements for nursing students to do clinical hours required in their training at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office's medical department.

Correctional nursing is not an employment opportunity that students hear about during their nursing programs, although it is a recognized specialty by the American Nurses Association. Head RN at the Jail, Dorothy Reed says "it is important that all aspects of nursing are considered when deciding which field to pursue.

Many of the students had questions that were addressed by both medical and detention security staff. Most common concern was the safety of being a nurse in a jail facility. The medical department is hopeful that taking students on a tour of the facility and answering their questions will increase their interest and help with recruiting to fill needed positions.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

In its fourth year, the educational workshop in conjunction with the Heartland Educational Consortium and members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office was presented at South Florida State College. Crime Scene Unit members and students from six area counties attended the annual Crime Scene Investigations day on February 13th. Under the sponsorship of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program, CSI team members presented four work stations dealing with various aspects of crime scene investigations. These stations included fingerprint analysis, shoe impressions, a mock crime scene, and exploration of the crime scene vehicles including the numerous pieces of equipment used for crime scene investigations.

Each demonstration was connected for the students to realize the skills needed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. There were approximately 76 students who took part in this year's event.

Citizens Receive Good Citizen, Heroism Awards

Ayanah Castillo and D/S Dewayne Proctor

On the afternoon of October 21, 2015, School Resource Deputy DeWayne Proctor received a call from Park Elementary School indicating a six year old special needs kindergarten student was missing from campus. While enroute to the school, Deputy Proctor received a call from Central Dispatch indicating the child had been located and was at a residence on East Adams Street in Avon Park.

Deputy Proctor spoke with the residents on Adams Street where he learned that Ayanah Castillo, a fifth grade D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) student at Park Elementary School had located and recovered the missing child. Ayanah told Deputy Proctor that while walking home from school she saw a child standing alone in the parking lot of the Avon Mini Mart who was crying and visibly upset. She said other children walked by the child and did not appear to know the child nor were they concerned about the child's safety. Ayanah also determined that the child was not in the company of an adult at which time she took the child home with her and made contact with her parents who called 911.

Due to Ayanah's quick thinking and selfless act of kindness, the missing child was recovered and returned to the parents unharmed. Ayanah's caring attitude, awareness and putting others before herself demonstrated everything it means to be a D.A.R.E. role model. For this Ayanah was awarded a Good Citizen Award from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office with a big thank you for a job well done!

On the morning of January 8, 2016, Highlands County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 5312 Erie Drive, Sebring in response to a subject having attacked a woman in her garage. The 75 year old victim entered her garage to see if Donald Vineyard, a friend of the family, had arrived for breakfast. While in the garage, the victim saw a suspect dressed in dark clothing, sunglasses, kerchief over his face and something also covering his face. As the victim tried to flee back into the home, the suspect grabbed her from behind by placing his hand around her face and taking her to the ground. The victim advised while on the ground she had to twist her body from side to side in order to breathe. The suspect continued efforts to cover the victim's nose and mouth which impeded her breathing and made her think she was going to die. The victim thought if she could fight long enough that Donald Vineyard would be coming soon. She was literally "fighting to stay alive" and when she caught sight of Mr. Vineyard she managed to say "someone's here!". At this time Donald Vineyard removed the suspect from the victim and began to escort the suspect from the garage. The suspect told Vineyard he had a gun and would shoot him. Vineyard told the suspect "go ahead" at which time the suspect struck Vineyard in the stomach causing him to fall and allowing the suspect to flee the incident location. The suspect was ultimately located and taken into custody after Taser deployment. As a result of the suspect's actions, Donald Vineyard suffered several rib fractures during the incident.

As a result of the quick and selfless actions of Donald Vineyard, it is believed that he saved the life of the 75 year old victim. For his actions, Donald Vineyard has been awarded the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Heroism Award.

Mrs. Carol Muir, Chief Deputy Schrader and Donald Vineyard

Highlands County
Sheriff's Office
CRIME PREVENTION

Neighborhood Watch Groups Growing!

Country Walk is Newest Neighborhood Watch Group

On March 3, 2016, Highlands County proudly welcomed another community into the Neighborhood Watch program! The residents of Country Walk, a community located within the Leisure Lakes area of Lake Placid, had their third organizational meeting and met the criteria for Neighborhood Watch. This community is located near Lake Carrie and is a small, self-contained area of single family homes. Meetings are held in the clubhouse situated on Lake Carrie—a great venue for events! We are pleased to have this community in our Neighborhood Watch fold, and are looking forward to their participation!

Planning Starts Now for National Night Out!

National Night Out is August 2, 2016

Get ready for those great hot dogs! And how about those wonderful Highlands County Sheriff's Office members who cook them! And let's not forget the K-9 members who entertain us! Yes, it's National Night Out in Highlands County. In keeping with the national date, this year's event will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd. This event takes various forms around the country from all-day celebrations to picnics and parades. The purpose of National Night Out is to emphasize the good people in our communities and encourage them to be proactive in the prevention of crime. In Highlands County, several locations are selected where participants in Neighborhood Watch are active and making a difference in their quality of life.

To be considered for a National Night Out celebration, you first must have an active Neighborhood Watch organization. Next, you must contact Crime Prevention Specialist Nell Hays to get your community's name on the list. Around the end of June, six to eight locations will be selected where we will bring hot dogs, chips, iced tea and lemonade. Members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office will be on hand to cook the hot dogs and to provide information and entertainment. K-9 participation is also anticipated. Who knows—we might have something else up our sleeves by then too! So if you want to participate, please contact Nell at 863-402-7369. There is no cost to the community however we do need a grill to cook the hot dogs on. Thanks!

We want to give thanks to Dot Overbey for 10 years of service as Chairperson of the Lake Sebring Neighborhood Watch. Dot is retiring from this volunteer position and we thank her for her many years of dedication to her commun ity!

Bicycles Have Rules of the Road Too!

We have received several requests lately for information regarding bicycle riders. Most of the inquiries have come because of riders who are impeding traffic flow. While a brochure addressing these issues is in the works, I thought a few pertinent facts may be helpful in the meantime:

The Florida State Statute that regulates the operation of bicycles is 316.2065. Here are the key points of the statute:

- Every person propelling a vehicle by human power has all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle regulated under Chapter 316.

- A person operating a bicycle may not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to it.
- A bicycle may not be used to carry more persons than the number for which it was designed except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his or her person in a backpack or sling.
- A child passenger under 4 years of age or who weighs 40 pounds or less must be carried in a seat or carrier designed for that age and size child, and that secures and protects the child from the moving parts of the bicycle.
- A bicycle rider may not allow a passenger to remain in a child seat when the rider is not in immediate control of the bicycle.
- A bicycle rider or passenger who is under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted and fastened securely upon the passenger's head by a strap.
- Law enforcement officers and school crossing guards may issue a bicycle safety brochure and a verbal warning to a bicycle rider or passenger who violates this subsection.
- No person riding upon any bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle may attach the same or himself or herself to any vehicle upon a roadway.

- Any person operating a bicycle upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway except when overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection.
- Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Any person operating a bicycle shall keep at least one hand upon the handlebars.
- Every bicycle in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a lamp and reflector on the rear each exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of 600 feet to the rear.
- A person propelling a vehicle by human poser upon and along a sidewalk or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

- A person propelling a bicycle upon and along a sidewalk or across a roadway upon and along a crosswalk, shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian.

Except if otherwise noted, a violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction, punishable as a pedestrian violation as provided in chapter 318. We hope these notes will clear up any confusion you have regarding bicyclists and riding safely. Enjoy!

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT

New Member Hires:	
Civilian	5
Sworn	3
PT Sworn	0
Applications Received	37
Applications Processed	37
Payroll Transactions Processed	1,989
Payable Checks Processed	606
P-Card Purchases	720
Citizens Fingerprinted	211
Information Services Requests	422

Court Related Services:	
Cases In Court	6,958
Inmates Taken to Court	1,031
Arrests by Bailiffs	96
Persons thru Security Station	27,304
Judicial/Civil Process Services:	
Received/Processed	1,864
Served	1,825
Active	39

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Calls	55,941
911 Calls	14,164
Computer Aided Dispatch	35,262
HCSO (57%)	20,173
SPD (15%)	5,317
LPPD (8%)	2,721
FIRE (7%)	2,508
EMS (13%)	4,543
Offense Reports	2,742
Traffic Citations Issued	573
K-9 Searches	181
Warrant Numbers:	
Received/Processed	590
Served	487
Active	1,680
Number of Arrests By Patrol	826
Number of DUI's	14

Items into Evidence	3,086
Evidence Items Disposed	1,563
Crime Scene Lab Cases	128
Crime Scene Call Outs	100
Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	167
Investigations Open (Total)	91
SOU Cases	98
SOU Narcotics Arrests	191
CST Arrests	110
SVU Cases Received from DCF	412
SVU Cases Open	38
Business Security Surveys/Residential	1/0
Neighborhood Watch Presentations	54
Crime Victims Served	131
Victim Advocate Services	800

Inmates Booked into Jail	944
Inmates Released from Jail	834
Instructional Program Hours	1,531
Inmate Transport Miles	24,502
Transports to State Prison	58
ICE Picked Up	0
Detainer's Placed	1
CMP Participants	10
Dollars Saved in Labor	$11,592
Dollars Collected in Fees	$918
Inmate Meals Served	94,067
Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate	$1.93
Alcohol Breath Tests	24

Average Daily Population	$344
Net Commissary Earnings	$18,019
Medical Fees Charged	$(11,982)
Medical Fees Collected	$4,822
Subsistence Fees Charged	$45,474
Subsistence Fees Collected	$13,471
Inmate Per-Diem Charged	$18,815
Inmate Per-Diem Collected	$9,902
Labor Hours by Inmates S/O	$11,040
Labor Hours by Inmates -Other	$2,045
Dollars Saved in Labor	$105,334

Tips for Safety Online

Cyber Safety Tips

Keep your children safer online by being familiar with the technology and applications that they use to talk with one another.

Know who your child is communicating with online.

Open a family e-mail account to share with younger children.

Work with your child to brainstorm screen names and e-mail addresses that do not contain information about gender, identity, or location, and that avoid being suggestive.

Teach your child never to open e-mails from unknown senders and to use settings on IM programs to block messages from people they do not know.

Be aware of other ways your child may be going online-with cell phones, laptops, or from friends' homes or the library.

Tell your child not to share passwords with anyone but you to help avoid identity theft and cyberbullying.

Familiarize yourself with popular acronyms, see what the words really mean at sites like:

www.netlingo.com
www.noslang.com/

VFW Post 4300 Honors Deputy Of The Year

John Geddes, Sheriff Benton, Judy Love, D/S Chad Douberley, Commander Jim Van Houten, Bonnie Smart

On Monday, February 29th, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4300 gathered at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office to present the annual Deputy of the Year award to Deputy Chad Douberley.

Nominated by Lieutenant Curtis Ludden, Douberley was cited for his dedication to his profession as a senior member of his squad. In this role he assists with the field training duties and regularly shares his knowledge with younger, less experienced deputies on his squad. In addition he was noted as being a selfless leader, always first to volunteer his assistance to any squad or unit in need.

As he goes through his day, Deputy Douberley regularly performs thorough investigations ensuring the fairest outcomes to victims and suspects alike. One case in particular comes to mind in this regard. A young woman, concerned for her elderly mother stopped Deputy Douberley during his regular duties. Upon learning the story behind the young woman's concern, the death of her husband, Deputy Douberley took the time to visit the mother and reassured her that better times were on the horizon. In addition he recommended some community resources to assist her continued healing process.

This is but one example of Deputy Douberley going the extra mile for the citizens of Highlands County. Sheriff Benton added, "Deputy Douberley consistently demonstrates the core values of integrity, quality service and professionalism that our agency is based upon. We are very proud of him and thank the VFW Post 4300 for honoring him for his service."

On hand to present the award for VFW Post 4300 were Men's Auxiliary President John Geddes, Award Coordinator Judy Love, VFW Post Commander Jim Van Houten and Lady's Auxiliary President Bonnie Smart.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Susan Benton, Sheriff

434 FERNLEAF AVENUE
SEBRING, FL 33870

OFFICE: (863) 402-7200

For tips on how to keep our kids safe see the Florida Sheriffs Association Child Safety Page @ www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety