

Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM



Sheriff Susan Benton

April-June 2nd 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.

Distinguished Citizen Award



Mayor John Shoop and Sheriff Susan Benton

On Tuesday, April 12, 2016, the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts of America held their Highlands County Friends of Scouting Dinner. This dinner is a fund raising event to support the scouting programs of Highlands County. In addition, the dinner recognizes those leaders who have made a substantial impact in the Highlands County community. During this event, Sheriff Susan Benton was presented with the 2016 Distinguished Citizen Award and Soaring Eagle Award, additionally a Proclamation establishing April 12, 2016 as Sheriff Susan Benton Day for her many years of public service and community leadership. Some of the previous recipients of the award include Kevin Roberts, Alan Jay Wildstein,

Jeffrey Roth and Doris Gentry-Hawthorne to name a few. During her acceptance speech, Sheriff Benton congratulated the Boy Scouts organization for their positive contributions to the youth in our community. She made special note of the comments made by Eagle Scout Ethan Hughes who related how being involved in Boy Scouts has made a positive influence in his life. The Gulf Ridge Council serves over 26,000 youth and has over 4,000 registered volunteers. Last year 204 boys earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Through their various projects throughout the year, the scouts collected over 60,000 pounds of food for the hungry and donated over 100,000 hours of service to the Highlands County community.

For information on Scouting go to: gulfridgecouncil.org

United Way Day of Caring



On May 18th several members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office participated in United Way's Day of Caring. Our members were assigned the Highlands County YMCA to do some painting in one of the activity rooms and on the basketball courts. Jeannine West, Jenny Edwards, Amber Kelly, Lindsey Worden and Crystal Parker took on the task of using long rollers to put a clear seal coat of paint on the basketball courts. It was very warm but that did not deter these ladies! They did a great job and completed the task beautifully! Inside, experienced painters Christine Kolhoff, Dorothy Marrero, Ellie Ramos, Ashley Shotts and Tekesha Augustine took to the walls to paint the activity room a fabulous shade of pink! Yes, the indoors assignment was cooler however the attention to detail made this area a challenge as well. Everyone had a good time giving service to the YMCA and of course they enjoyed the lunch which followed the event at Buttonwood Bay. This event is held each year and we are looking forward to more participation in next year's Day of Caring. Keep your calendars open for the third Wednesday in May!



Peace Officer Memorial



Charles H. Wiggins and Sheriff Susan Benton

Mr. Charles H. Wiggins was a special guest at the Peace Officer Memorial which was held on May 16, 2016. Mr. Wiggins is a 90 year old Navy World War II veteran. He joined the Navy at age 18 and was assigned to the battleship, USS Wisconsin. He served 2 1/2 years aboard the ship in the far Western Pacific supporting General McArthur's landings to retake the Philippines. They assisted the landing at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. They were in Tokyo Bay when the surrender was signed September 2, 1945. He was discharged from the Navy in 1946. He then began his 32 year employment working for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. He was a hydrographic surveyor mapping ship channels, harbors and waterways in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Wiggins was married to his wife Terry for 66 years when she passed away July 2015. They have a daughter, Sandy Ferguson, who brought Mr. Wiggins to the ceremony. He has been a resident of Sebring since 1988. Back on August 7, 1989 Mr. Wiggins wrote a poem "What Old Glory Means to Me" and was asked to recite it at the memorial service.



"What Old Glory Means to Me"

By Charles H. Wiggins

August 7, 1989

That Grand Old Flag - waving proud
Is beautiful to see
But what a price that has been paid
To keep it high and free

Its the cherished symbol of the land
We all love and hold so dear
Its the banner we all looked to
When our hearts were full of fear

Its what bound us all together
In those dark days of the war
Its what brave men fought and died for
On some far and distant shore

Its a constant reminder
As it streams atop the mast
That we must honor and protect it
Or our freedom will not last

Its our beloved America
Waving there for all to see
Its total sum of Our Great Land

*On behalf of Sheriff Susan Benton and the
Highlands County Sheriff's Office
we thank you!*



**Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Honor Guard**

Highlands County Sheriff's Office *CRIME PREVENTION*

July—August—September 2016



SIGN UP NOW!!



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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. As in previous years 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! 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



Lieutenant Kenny Johnson serves hot dogs while joking with residents at Tropical Harbor during National Night Out 2015.

active and making a difference in their quality of life. If your Neighborhood Watch group would like to host National Night Out, you must contact Crime Prevention Specialist Nell Hays to get your community's name on the list. At this time we have Adelaide Shores, Reflections on Silver Lake, Tanglewood, Leisure Lakes, Buttonwood Bay, Tropical Harbor and Camp Florida confirmed. 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!



Lieutenant Keith Starling, Chief Deputy Mark Schrader and Detective Sergeant Brian Kramer cook hot dogs at Tanglewood in 2015.



Summer Time Prime for Drowning Incidents

Every summer we go through a parent's worst nightmare—the drowning death of a child. As we approach the heart of the swimming season, please keep these tips in mind: First, never leave a child unattended in a pool or spa, even for a moment! As a matter of fact, watch your children closely around all bodies of water. In Florida we must stay alert for snakes and alligators around any body of water, and they can be deadly for children and pets. If you designate a "Water

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Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Initiative



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 1, 2016

CONTACT: ALEXIS BAKOFSKY
(850) 617-3102

THIS HURRICANE SEASON, BE PREPARED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

~ Peace of mind when every second counts ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –As Floridians prepare for the 2016 hurricane season and create disaster preparedness plans, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is urging citizens to make sure law enforcement knows who to notify in an emergency situation by enrolling in Florida’s Emergency Contact Information (ECI) system.



“By registering emergency contact information, an individual’s family and loved ones can have peace of mind that they can be reached in the event of an emergency,” said Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes. “DHSMV encourages all those with a driver license or ID card to register their emergency contact information today and make sure information is up to date.”

Florida was the first state in the nation to implement the ECI program, giving millions of Floridians since 2006 security in knowing in the event of a hurricane, crash or other emergency someone would be notified. Anyone with a valid driver license or identification card can enter up to two contacts into the system’s secure database. The information can be accessed by law enforcement nationwide only during times of emergency. Individuals can register or update their designated contact information at no cost on the DHSMV website and in local driver license and tax collector offices.

Currently, 65 percent of Florida driver license and ID card holders have registered emergency contact information. To learn more about Florida’s ECI program, including the real-life situation that inspired its beginning, visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/emergency-contact-information-history/>.

During the hurricane season, motorists are encouraged to monitor the changing weather conditions and adjust their driving as necessary. As Floridians update family emergency plans, visit the DHSMV website to learn more safe driving tips during inclement weather along with hurricane evacuation preparedness instructions.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov, follow us on Twitter @FLHSMV or find us on Facebook. For safe driving tips and techniques, download the official [Florida Driver License Handbook](#).

(Continued from page 1) Summer Time

Watcher”, that person may not read, text, listen to music, etc...their ONLY function is to keep an eye on people in the pool. Lastly, if you don’t already know how to swim, learn! And teach your children how to swim also. In addition, learn how to perform CPR on both children and adults. The local YMCA can give you further information on these classes. Also you might check with the local high schools—some have free swimming classes during the summer months. Everyone should know the basics of swimming, especially in Florida where we have so many bodies of water! Have a wonderful, safe, fun-filled summer!



QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| New Member Hires: | | Court Related Services: | |
| Civilian | 6 | Cases In Court | 6,691 |
| Sworn | 4 | Inmates Taken to Court | 1,130 |
| PT Sworn | 1 | Arrests by Bailiffs | 92 |
| Applications Received | 50 | Persons thru Security Station | 29,305 |
| Applications Processed | 44 | Judicial/Civil Process Services: | |
| Payroll Transactions Processed | 691 | Received/Processed | 1,803 |
| Payable Checks Processed | 2,336 | Served | 1,743 |
| P-Card Purchases | 777 | Active | 60 |
| Citizens Fingerprinted | 245 | | |
| Information Services Requests | 544 | | |

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Administrative Calls | 57,789 | Items into Evidence | 2,899 |
| 911 Calls | 13,727 | Evidence Items Disposed | 2,386 |
| Computer Aided Dispatch | 33,464 | Crime Scene Lab Cases | 135 |
| HCSO (58%) | 19,488 | Crime Scene Call Outs | 134 |
| SPD (15%) | 5,127 | Criminal Investigation Unit Cases | 217 |
| LPPD (7%) | 2,444 | Investigations Open (Total) | 114 |
| FIRE (7%) | 2,347 | SOU Cases | 48 |
| EMS (13%) | 4,054 | SOU Narcotics Arrests | 21 |
| Offense Reports | 2,778 | CST Arrests | 78 |
| Traffic Citations Issued | 630 | SVU Cases Received from DCF | 493 |
| K-9 Searches | 189 | SVU Cases Open | 38 |
| Warrant Numbers: | | Business Security Surveys/Residential | 1/0 |
| Received/Processed | 554 | Neighborhood Watch Presentations | 43 |
| Served | 492 | Crime Victims Served | 190 |
| Active | 1,685 | Victim Advocate Services | 878 |
| Number of Arrests By Patrol | 958 | | |
| Number of DUI's | 13 | | |

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Inmates Booked into Jail | 980 | Average Daily Population | 382 |
| Inmates Released from Jail | 795 | Net Commissary Earnings | \$19,786.19 |
| Instructional Program Hours | 1,536 | Medical Fees Charged | \$305,517.49 |
| Inmate Transport Miles | 35,555 | Medical Fees Collected | \$3,193.26 |
| Transports to State Prison | 37 | Subsistence Fees Charged | \$52,188.00 |
| ICE Picked Up | 0 | Subsistence Fees Collected | \$10,737.05 |
| Detainer's Placed | 1 | Inmate Per-Diem Charged | \$19,540.00 |
| CMP Participants | 9 | Inmate Per-Diem Collected | \$9,470.90 |
| Dollars Saved in Labor | \$7,856.80 | Labor Hours by Inmates S/O | 12,928 |
| Dollars Collected in Fees | \$738.00 | Labor Hours by Inmates -Other | 1,454 |
| Inmate Meals Served | 105,128 | Dollars Saved in Labor | \$117,517.10 |
| Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate | \$1.88 | | |
| Alcohol Breath Tests | 37 | | |

**Tips for Parents:
Going Out Checklist**

Heading out for some family fun at an amusement park, movie theater, mall or any other public place? Use this checklist to make your outing safer.

Review the KidSmartz rules
Make sure your children understand the basic rules of safety—check first before going anywhere; take a friend everywhere you go; tell people “NO” if they try to touch or hurt you; and tell a trusted adult if anyone makes you feel sad, scared or confused.

Plan for emergencies
Look at a map of the facilities and locate information booths or customer service centers. Carry recent pictures of your children in case they get lost. You can even take a picture of them on your cellphone just before leaving.

Charge your cellphone
Check that your cellphone is charged and your children have the number memorized. Consider giving older children a cellphone of their own so you can reach them more easily.

Pay attention to clothing
Remember what your children are wearing so you can describe their clothing to staff members in case they are lost. Tip: If your children are wearing bright colors, they will be easier to spot in crowds.

Identify adults who can help
Teach younger children to look for people like security officers, store employees or park staff members who can help them look for you in case you are separated.

Choose a meeting spot
Instruct older children to go directly to a designated spot, like a store or an information booth, to meet you. They should never leave or go to the parking lot to try and find you.

Plan for bathroom breaks
You should always go with younger children to the restroom. Make sure older children take a friend; it's safer than going alone.

JROTC and SWAT Obstacle Course Challenge



JROTC and SWAT

On Wednesday, May 18th, members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) from each high school participated in the first annual JROTC SWAT Obstacle Course Challenge. Each high school fielded a team of 5 members, one of which had to be female. The teams competed on the obstacle course and the team with the fastest time was the winner of the event. Highlands County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team members acted as judges, spotters and encouraged the teams throughout the course. MidFlorida Credit Union sponsored the event providing the

trophy which will be housed at the winning school. Members of the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented the colors and the Lake Placid Morning Rotary furnished the ice cold beverages. This year's event was won by **Avon Park High School**, followed by Lake Placid High in second place and Sebring High in third. These young students were excited to compete in the event and it looks like this will be a highlight for these squads each year. Many thanks to our SWAT team members, Lt. Jack Bailey, SWAT Team Leader, the School Resource Deputies and all who supported this event. The next challenge is on!



AVON PARK HIGH SCHOOL WINNING TEAM



HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Susan Benton

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**