As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important as a community to reflect on things for which we are thankful. I frequently give thanks for our community partners that continue to develop and support our programs that work to achieve our vision of a safer community.

I encourage you this Thanksgiving to be a blessing in some way to those less fortunate. As we enjoy the freedom to spend time with our family and friends, let us not forget the men and women in our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel that will be away from their families for the holiday as they protect and serve our community.

As the weather begins to cool, we welcome home our seasonal residents and prepare for the busier months in our community. Residents and visitors can access information on current events by following the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office on social media and by downloading our free mobile app. The mobile app provides a wealth of information related to our programs, trending news topics, and safety alerts.

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.

Lastly, I would like to remind you to take time to slow down and be courteous to one another. Our commitment to one another is what makes Charlotte County great.

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

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Sheriff Bill Prummell
Civilian Member of the 2nd Quarter:
Dan Ijpkemeule

Dan has been a valued member of the Sheriff’s Office Air Support team since April 2018, but Dan has been maintaining public safety aircraft, including ours, for the last 17 years while working at local aviation shops. While at the Sheriff’s Office, Dan has earned a reputation of being the go-to guy for anything mechanical, electrical, or complicated in any way. He has been so effective at fixing things that Chief Pilot Shane Engelau has a saying when things break:..."It’s ok, I have a Dan". He knows how to fix everything right down to the last detail. In the short time he has been with us at CCSO, Dan has been instrumental in establishing a maintenance plan for our new helicopters, improving our hanger, assisting marine patrol and fleet with installation of specialized equipment. He has developed into one of our best Tactical Flight Officers. I routinely get calls from other agencies asking if Dan can help them out with an electrical or avionics problem. Dan has used his specialized skills to install a new instrument panel in our UH-1 Huey helicopter. This would not have been possible without Dan. The install itself would have cost upwards of $50,000, and we would have had 3 months of down time. As a Tactical Flight Officer, Dan has assisted with the apprehension of suspects, located missing persons, and provided surveillance of search warrants. Because of his specialized skillset Dan has become the in-house FLIR trainer for the TFO’s. During his time away from work, Dan enjoys off-roading with his Toyota FJ Cruiser Club and organizes a "Toys for Tots" drive every year through his off-roading club. He raised over $5,000 in gifts for children last year and is hoping to beat that this year. Dan, thank you for all your dedicated service.

Civilian Member of the 3rd Quarter:
Ayana Hodges

On July 25, Communications Trainee Ayana Hodges answered a 911 call. The caller said her 18-year-old granddaughter was having contractions. Ayana utilized the EMD ProQA software to question the caller and quickly learned that the patient’s contractions were less than 2 minutes apart. Ayana maintained a calm and professional demeanor while continuing to assist the caller. Approximately 6 minutes into the call, the caller advised that "the water broke, and the baby was out". Ayana continued with efficient directions, instructing the caller to provide care for the newborn and the mother. Trainee Hodges remained on the line until Fire/EMS arrived on scene and made contact with the patient. Ayana completed the call wishing "congratulations" on the baby girl. Ayana, we commend you today for a job very well done. You provided guidance in a competent manner, assisting the delivery of a new life into this world. Congratulations.
Detention Member of the Quarter and Lifesaver Award
Lt. Tom Christensen

In the early morning hours of August 18, Lt. Tom Christensen was at Dunkin Donuts in Sarasota County. He was made aware that there had just been an accident out in front of the building, and he observed a motorcyclist that had been hit by a car. The motorcycle had severe damage and the cyclist had significant injuries, causing bleeding on the street. Lt. Christensen immediately left the store and went to the victim who was lying on the roadway. He and a second bystander immediately began providing care to the accident victim, with Tom taking off his belt to be utilized as a tourniquet on the victim's arm. Once Sarasota County deputies arrived, an additional tourniquet was placed on top of the belt to slow the bleeding. Lt. Christensen provided his information to the responding officers and remained on scene until EMS arrived. Deputy Kling, with the Sarasota Sheriff's Office, contacted Lt. Christensen later that same afternoon and advised that the cyclist was alive, and that the use of the belt tourniquet likely saved the victim's life. Lt. Tom Christensen contacted me shortly after this incident and stated that his training on the use of tourniquets in Block Training was a lifesaving measure. Lt. Christensen is commended for his actions in saving the cyclist's life and his dedication to the community. He received the CCSO Detention Member of the Quarter award recently, along with a lifesaver award. Well done.

Sgt. David Gensimore and Lt. Jon Waterhouse

On July 13, a call was received in regard to a male subject not breathing from a possible overdose. The subject was lying on the ground and his girlfriend was doing chest compressions. Narcan was administered by Sgt. Gensimore and Lt. Waterhouse, and after two rounds he began agonal breathing. Respirations stopped again and he was given a third round. His condition was monitored until Fire/EMS arrived and transported him to Englewood ER. Sgt. Gensimore and Lt. Waterhouse are commended for their quick actions and are receiving the lifesaver award.
Lifesaver Awards

DFC Steven Sella

On September 1, DFC Steven Sella responded to a call regarding an agency assist for EMS. The caller was reporting a male who had been in the bathroom for an hour and was not answering the door. DFC Sella arrived on scene and made contact with the complainant. The complainant stated her friend is known to use narcotics and she believed something was wrong with him. The door required a key and the clerk advised they did not have one. DFC Sella was able to use a flathead screwdriver to open the locked door. Upon entry, he observed an unresponsive male face down on the floor. DFC Sella applied sternum rubs and received no response. The male had a faint pulse. The subject’s lips were purple, and his eye area was also turning purple. Two syringes were then located in the subject’s pocket indicating this was likely a drug overdose. DFC Sella utilized his agency-issued Narcan nasal spray into the subject’s nose. In approximately two minutes, the subject regained consciousness and further care was turned over to EMS when they arrived on scene. DFC Sella did an outstanding job assessing the situation and rendering lifesaving measures. He is commended for his actions during this incident and is receiving a life saver award. Good job.

Cpl. Dave Stefanini, DFC Kevin Katsarelas, and Operator Alexis Sears

On September 3, Dispatch received a call for a subject not breathing in Englewood. Cpl. Dave Stefanini and DFC Kevin Katsarelas were dispatched to the location and discovered the male subject unconscious on the pool deck. Family members on scene were following CPR instructions given by Operator Alexis Sears. Cpl. Stefanini and DFC Katsarelas took over CPR from the victim’s family until EMS arrived and prepared to transport the patient. Before going home at the end of his shift Cpl. Stefanini stopped by the hospital to check the patient’s status and discovered he had been transported to Sarasota for further medical treatment. As is with all life-threatening situations, time is a crucial component to a successful outcome. Operator Sears, DFC Katsarelas, and Cpl. Stefanini played pivotal roles in aiding this gentleman and are each deserving of recognition. Well done team.

Deputy Carl Joseph

On September 17, Deputy Carl Joseph responded to a call in regard to an overdose. The caller advised there was a female subject in the residence who was unconscious and not breathing. Upon entering the back room, Dep. Joseph observed the subject laying sideways across the top of a bed with her feet hanging off the side at her knees. The caller was standing at the edge of the bed and was attempting to do CPR. Dep. Joseph checked the subject for a pulse and found she was not breathing. He moved the female from the bed to the floor and performed a sternum rub but observed no response. In the subject’s right hand, a syringe with the plunger depressed was observed, as well as a bent spoon and three more syringes on a nearby nightstand. Based on these observations, Dep. Joseph administered a 4mg dose of Narcan. After a few moments the subject’s body shrugged, she took a shallow breath, and had a weak pulse. A couple of minutes after the first Narcan dose, the subject’s pulse became undetectable and her breathing was no longer noticeable. Dep. Joseph administered a second dose of Narcan. Approximately one minute after the second administration, Dep. Joseph located a faint pulse that slowly strengthened along with respiration becoming visibly apparent. EMS arrived on scene as the subject slowly became responsive. EMS transported the subject to a local hospital where she made a full recovery. We present to Deputy Carl Joseph a lifesaving award for his quick actions.
Lifesaver Awards

DFC Vincent Ursitti

On May 18, a call was received through CCSO Dispatch of an overdose in Port Charlotte. It was relayed by the caller that the 22-year-old subject had overdosed on heroin and was unresponsive. DFC Vincent Ursitti and his trainee, Deputy Christina Craft were first on scene. DFC Ursitti located the subject lying unresponsive in the bathroom and dragged the subject out into the living room where there was more space to begin life saving measures. DFC Ursitti shook the subject with no response; he was not breathing, had no pulse, and was turning blue from a lack of oxygen. DFC Ursitti began chest compressions and Deputy Craft began giving rescue breaths. Sgt. Mann arrived on scene shortly after CPR had begun. DFC Ursitti administered Narcan to the subject. After Narcan was administered, a slow pulse was obtained. EMS arrived on scene moments later and took over medical care. DFC Ursitti and Deputy Craft's quick actions to begin CPR likely saved this man's life. This is a fine example of their commitment to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and to the citizens of Charlotte County. DFC Vincent Ursitti received a Lifesaver Award.

Sgt. Sean Griffin and Lt. Jon Waterhouse

On September 5, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office received a call for a subject not breathing. Sgt. Sean Griffin and Lt. Jon Waterhouse arrived on scene to find a male and female standing in the driveway waving their hands. Lt. Waterhouse asked if the subject had taken any narcotics, and they responded, "Yes, possibly heroin". At this time Lt. Waterhouse grabbed his department issued Nasal Narcan and ran into the residence with Sgt. Griffin. The male subject was lying on the floor in the front bedroom. Sgt. Griffin checked his vitals and advised he was not breathing. Sgt. Griffin began CPR and Lt. Waterhouse administered one Nasal Narcan into the subject's nostril. A few seconds later, the subject began moving slightly and had agonal breathing. After several rubs to the sternum, he began to respond to the pain stimuli by moving and slightly opening his eyes. Charlotte County Fire/EMS arrived on scene and continued with medical treatment. A few moments later the subject woke up and began talking to the Medics. The subject was transported to the emergency room for further medical treatment. Both Lt. Waterhouse and Sgt. Griffin are receiving lifesaving awards due to their quick actions and being able to identify the overdose, as the call did not mention an overdose and was dispatched as a medical call only. Well done, gentlemen.

DFC Mark VanderWaag

On August 31, DFC Mark VanderWaag responded to call in reference to a report of a 48-year-old male who was unconscious and possibly not breathing. Upon arrival, the male subject was located on the bathroom floor of the residence. DFC VanderWaag assessed the subject, locating a pulse, and observing very agonal breathing. It was determined that the subject was known to abuse opiate pain medication and the symptoms were consistent with an opioid drug overdose. DFC VanderWaag immediately administered one dose from his agency-issued Narcan. After observing the subject for a couple of minutes and not detecting marked improvement in his condition, a second dose was administered. The subject subsequently began normal breathing and became responsive. Prior to being transported by EMS, the subject admitted he had snorted heroin. A small baggie containing a powdery substance suspected to be fentanyl was also located in the subject's wallet. The subject was transported to the ER where he made a full recovery. There is no doubt that DFC VanderWaag's quick response, ability to assess the situation, and recognize the need to administer Narcan directly resulted in the prevention of an overdose death and provided the subject with the ability to make a full recovery. We are pleased to recognize DFC Mark VanderWaag with a lifesaver award.
Special Recognition

DFC Adam Herrey

On July 30, Punta Gorda Police Department was dispatched to a bank robbery in their jurisdiction. A BOLO was issued with preliminary information, which included a suspect and vehicle description. A nearby citizen obtained a license plate, which led to a possible suspect. A photo was obtained from the bank and circulated. DFC Adam Herrey recognized the suspect, as he was in DFC Herrey’s pod when he was a detention officer at the Charlotte County Jail. DFC Herrey also knew he drove a green truck mentioned in the BOLO and owned a landscaping business. DFC Herrey knew of an address in Punta Gorda where he had seen the suspect. The residence was checked, but the vehicle was not present. All units cleared the area except for one, which was posted at the end of the street. Approximately 15 minutes later, a dark green vehicle drove into the driveway at the address. DFC Herrey responded back to the scene and a three-man team approached the residence. DFC Herrey attempted to make contact without results. After about three minutes, DFC Herrey identified himself to the suspect, which prompted a response. Using the rapport he had established in the jail, DFC Herrey was able to convince the suspect to exit his residence without incident; this negated any kind of standoff or barricade situation. DFC Herrey successfully overcame any negativity and resistance by showing poise under pressure, which enabled him to effectively handle the conflict and confrontation. DFC Herrey is commended and recognized, for displaying a high degree of honesty, loyalty and integrity to the citizens of Charlotte County, as well as the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office. Great job and congratulations on this recognition.

Mr. Dave Charlton, Gettel Lincoln

Dave Charlton has worked at the Lincoln Mercury dealership for as long as anyone can remember. Dave has a great sense of humor and always greets you with a smile and a few laughs. He is the epitome of professionalism. Not only does he take care of our squad cars he also takes care of us. Dave has dedicated a room strictly for officers for privacy. But more than that, he has equipped the room with all the creature comforts to ensure that officers can be as comfortable as possible during their short time there. He even has a desk set up as well as a movable computer desk so additional officers can work at the same time. Dave is as humble as they come. He does this out of respect and appreciation for the men and women in this profession. Dave most certainly does it for all LEO (CCSO, PGPD, FWC, FHP, even out of town agencies). Getting officers in and out, back on the street as soon as possible is what he does, and he does it better than anyone in the business. Will O’Crotty commented that, "Dave directs his crew to provide us with exemplary service and we would be lost without him." I just want to thank him for all that he has done and more importantly, the way he does it.
The CCSO Star

November 2019

Charlottesville Sheriff’s Office

Special Recognition

Mr. Warren "Corky" Eckman

On September 23, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office received information that a disturbance took place at Dunkin’ Donuts in Englewood. Sgt. Larry Piloto responded to this disturbance and conducted wants and warrants checks on the subjects involved. A short time later, Central Communications advised Sgt. Piloto that one of the adult male subjects had an active felony warrant out of Sarasota County for possession of firearms by a convicted felon. Sgt. Piloto advised on the radio traffic that the wanted subject had taken flight on foot prior to being taken into custody. A description was provided, and additional patrol and support units established a perimeter, to include the air unit. The subject, being chased behind homes and having no place to escape on land, elected to jump into the canal. Sgt. Griffin, DFC Carley and Deputy Vaughan were some of the members on the perimeter team that responded to this location to establish a tighter perimeter around the waterway and to build a rapport to attempt to have the subject exit the waterway on his own accord. The subject refused to exit the waterway, advised he had medical conditions, but still would not comply with lawful orders to exit the water. A citizen of Mobile Gardens, Mr. Corky Eckman made contact with Sgt. Griffin and allowed CCSO members (Sgt. Griffin, DFC Carley and Dep. Vaughan) to board his boat while he captained his vessel. Sgt. Griffin organized and formulated a plan to successfully apprehend the subject from the middle of the waterway without causing injury to the subject and/or damage to the vessel. The subject was placed into custody, and after being cleared medically, he was transported to the Charlotte County Jail. Mr. Eckman, you are commended for going above and beyond to actively support Law Enforcement in the successful completion of an apprehension of a convicted felon. The Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office is grateful for your support and willingness to assist. It is because of relationships like this that we have the support of the community. Thank you

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

Look who stopped by headquarters on Monday, November 4th, Senator Rick Scott. The Senator addressed a large group of employees, thanking deputies for their service and speaking about his work in Washington. He also took the time to visit our communications center, meeting the on-duty dispatchers and thanking them for their dedication to our community. Senator Scott and Sheriff Prummell also crossed paths with the departing Air Force Thunderbirds (pictured) during a tour of our headquarters. The Air Force Thunderbirds have been using our facilities while in town for the Air Show.

Honored on Friday, November 16, 2019 for all the good work that they do each and every day. Thank you for your dedication and service.
DFC John Smith took a theft report on Friday, November 8th where 2 trike bicycles were stolen from a local couple living in a mobile home park. It was learned that the husband, victim was a retired police office. The victim had also suffered a stroke and was very attached to his trike and the exercise / mobility he was able to get from it. DFC Smith was so moved by the retired cop that he decided to replace the stolen trike. He then presented this to the squad and they joined him with the mission. The squad went to Walmart and purchased a new trike and delivered it. As you can see by the above photo, there were smiles all around.

Recently CCSO was contacted by a local husband and wife who wished to remain anonymous but wanted to donate turkeys via CCSO deputies to help make Thanksgiving a little better for those in need. It turned out that thanks to Publix’s assistance we were able to give out 108 turkeys. As the need grew greater, Winn Dixie and our deputies reached into their pockets to make even more of an impact. Majors Goodwyne and Kenville gifted 3 of the turkeys for transport to the Early start program handed to Jennifer.

Sgt. Al. Sacco, D4 Volunteer Services elevates the meaning of Deck the Halls to a new level for Halloween. As you can tell he really got into the spirit of things. Can’t wait to see what he has in store for us next.
Community Support!

**Project Lifesaver**
*Together...Bringing loved ones home*

Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program locally operated by the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office, and is strategically designed for “at risk” individuals who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition.

Participants wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify 911 that the person is missing, a search and rescue team is dispatched with the locator. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. After placement into the program we constantly hear the caregiver say “I feel so much better.”

_We are looking for Volunteers, just a few hours a month is all it takes_

Contact Project Lifesaver Coordinator,
Tammy Wilkie
Tammy.wilkie@ccso.org

~Alzheimer ~Dementia ~Autism ~Down’s Syndrome ~Closed Brain Injuries~

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**Shop with A Cop**

Join us as we celebrate our 15th consecutive year of Shop with a Cop. Let’s make everyone’s Holiday Merry and Bright.

**December 3rd Murdock Walmart**

**December 4th Kings Highway Walmart**

**December 10th Punta Gorda Walmart**

**December 11th Englewood Walmart**

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**Sheriff, 2 year old mixed**

**Bessie, 7 year old bulldog mix**

**Little dog, 4 year old mixed**

**Cinderella, 4 year old domestic**

**Castiel, 3 months Domestic**

**Max Wilkie says,**

_“Shelter pets make the best pets”_

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**Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County**
3519 Drance Street, Port Charlotte (941) 625-6720
Www.awlshelter.org

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**Romeo II, 9 years Domestic**
Join the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office
For a Night of Dinner, Dancing, Music, FantaSea Fishing, Silent Auctions, Fun, Prizes and More!
February 29, 2020, 5:00pm at TT's Tiki Bar
located at 33 Tamiami Trail,
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
on the water at Four Points by Sheraton

Come ready to FantaSea Fish!
Two largest combined fish weight wins

$1500 Top Prize

Tickets available to purchase at any CCSO District Office
Ticket price: $50 single/$90 couple
Seating is limited, FantaSea Fishing begins at 5pm
Cash bar or $10 Draft Beer Drink Bands available to purchase on night of event.

Tickets Include:
Dinner, Fishing License and Silent Auction Entrance.

For questions and inquiries please contact:
(941) 613-3245 or CCSOFantaSeaFishing@gmail.com
All prizes based on event entry fee
Cops & Goblins
10.31.19  5-8pm
Charlotte Sports Park
Office Locations

Main Numbers

**Emergencies**
Non-Emergency Business - **Punta Gorda & Port Charlotte**
Non-Emergency Business - **Englewood**

**9-1-1**
(941) 639-2101
(941) 474-3233

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**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

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

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**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

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**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

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

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**Charlotte County Jail**
26601 Airport Road
Punta Gorda, Florida 33982
(941) 833-6300