



Annual Report 2016



Seminole County Sheriff's Office
100 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773



\$1,700,000

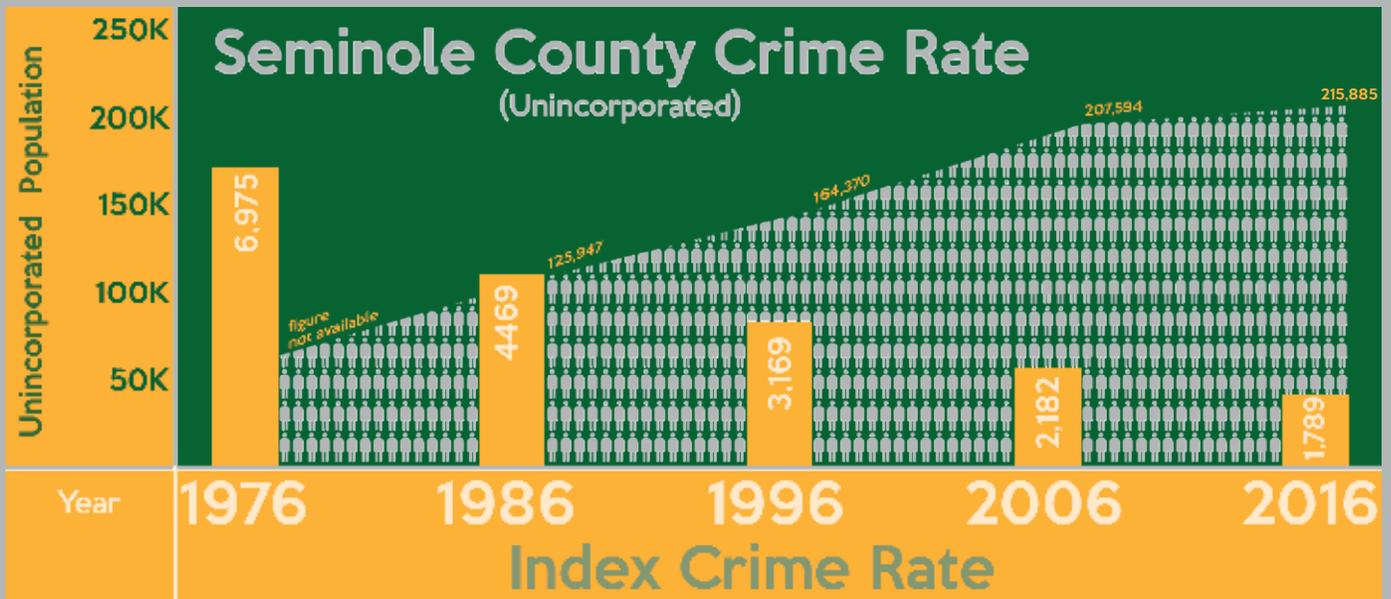
Stolen
Property
Recovered



2016

6,502

Arrests



Message from the Sheriff

Dear Seminole County residents:

I'm pleased to present the 2016 Seminole County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. I cannot tell you what an honor and a privilege it has been to serve this community for my entire 38-year law enforcement career, 26 years as your Sheriff.

We are proud to share that our County continues to have one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida. Last year, the Sheriff's Office made 6,502 arrests and recovered more than \$1.7 million in stolen property for victims. Between 1976 and 2016, despite the unincorporated population of our county more than tripling, the crime rate has dropped 75%.

Enhancing the quality of life for our citizens by incorporating misdemeanor probation and alternative juvenile justice services was one of our agency's highlights this year. The Seminole County's Probation Division and the Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) Program transferred from Seminole County Government to the Sheriff's Office. The transfer will benefit our residents by providing for continuity of supervision of offenders, thus reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety. The transition of our juvenile programs will offer alternatives to formal court proceedings for juvenile offenders, and provide youth with work-skill classes, counseling and community service opportunities.

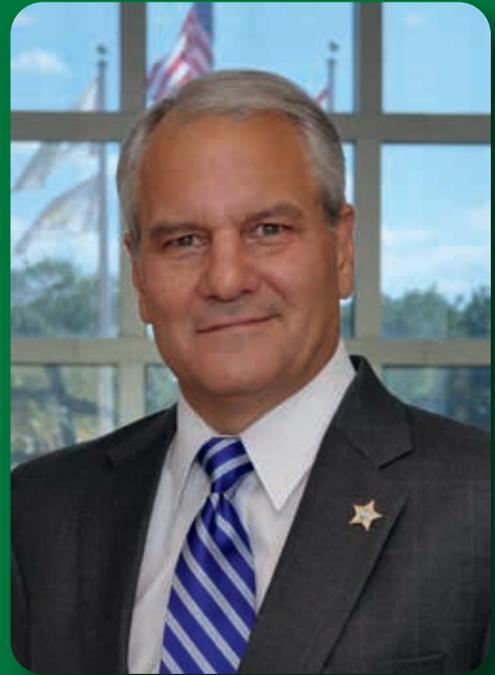
Last year, our agency also created the School Safety Division which allows for our staff to provide strategic direction and leadership for the overall administration and coordination of the safety and security for Seminole County Public Schools. Previously, many school resource deputies split their time between two locations. At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, each elementary, middle and public high school now has a dedicated school resource officer/deputy in place. The staffing enhancements are part of an ongoing close and collaborative partnership with Seminole County Public Schools that strives to provide additional educational opportunities for students while offering an added layer of security in our schools.

As Sheriff Lemma transitions in as your new Sheriff, I want to ensure you that his top priority is to work with you to enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout Seminole County. Under his leadership, the Seminole County Sheriff's Office will continue to uphold the reputation for excellence that our community both expects and deserves. Our citizens will continue to receive exceptional law enforcement services in the years ahead. Thank you for helping us make 2016 one of our best years yet.

Sincerely,



Donald F. Eslinger



HIGHLIGHTS



SCSO welcomes new Sheriff after 26 years

In 2016, Dennis Lemma was elected Seminole County's 10th Sheriff. As the County's chief law enforcement officer, Sheriff Lemma leads a work force of more than 1,300 employees and manages a \$125 million budget. In 1992, Sheriff Lemma began his career as a correctional officer with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. Four years later, he became a deputy sheriff and, over the course of 24 years, has worked in virtually every area within the agency, serving as the Sheriff's Office primary spokesperson and receiving promotions from the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, captain, major and chief deputy prior to becoming Sheriff. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and graduate of the FBI Academy, Sheriff Lemma holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in administrative leadership. He and wife, Diana, have two sons, Dylan age 12 and Dayne who is 8.



Re-designed website launched!

In January, we launched a brand new website! The design is now simple and straightforward, which is both pleasing to the eye and easy to use by members of the public. The new website is comprehensive and provides relevant and timely law enforcement information to the public in a way that can be easily updated, understood and shared across multiple technologies.

Man arrested for stealing vases from cemetery

In March, investigators arrested an Orlando man after an investigation revealed that he stole 335 bronze flower vases, valued at over \$60,000, from the Highland Memory Gardens cemetery, located in unincorporated Apopka. Investigators were contacted by an alert scrap metal dealer after the suspect attempted to sell an unusually large number of bronze cemetery vases to their company. The dealer was able to get the suspect's license and tag information and provided it to authorities, who arrested the man and charged him with three counts of grand theft and three counts of injuring or removing a tomb or monument.





SCSO supports the Orlando Police Department and victims/survivors of the Pulse Shooting

In June, following the horrific terrorist attack at the Pulse Nightclub our hearts were heavy as 49 innocent people lost their lives and 53 others were wounded during this act of terrorism. Our prayers were with the victims, families, friends, and law enforcement who were affected. To show our support, we proudly displayed "Orlando United" decals on all of our marked vehicles. The decals were uniquely designed for us and reflect our unity with, and support for, the victims, the Orlando Police Department, the LGBT community, and our entire Central Florida community. The decals are currently displayed on all marked vehicles as well as all unmarked vehicles which have the star license plate. Our vehicles will bear these decals for a full year.

School Crossing Guards named top in state

In February, our School Crossing Guard Program was selected as the 2015 Florida School Crossing Guard Program of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). The SCSO Program took home top honors for their exceptional performance and proactive community outreach programs. The Program was recognized by FDOT officials at an awards banquet held in Sanford that morning. This is the fourth time in the last five years the SCSO has received this honor!



Aggressive driving enforcement increased

In April, we increased our enforcement efforts on I-4 throughout Seminole County by partnering with the Florida Highway Patrol to kick off our traffic enforcement operation. Statistics showed that the number of people injured in a crash on I-4 has increased 56% in the last year. In addition to combatting aggressive driving, we focused on deterring distracted driving, which also contributes to accidents. Distracted driving includes any mental or physical activity that takes the driver's focus away from the road. This includes using cell phones or navigation devices, texting, eating or drinking, applying makeup and general inattentiveness. During the first 60 days of the operation deputies issued 2,051 citations, wrote 407 warnings, made 39 arrests, and worked 30 crashes.



SCSO hosts third annual Youth Academy

This year marked the third year of SCSO's Youth Academy, a unique educational program designed to give middle school students a behind the scenes look at the Sheriff's Office operations and provide them with information to keep themselves and their families safe. Throughout the month of June, eighty students participated in two week-long classes, learning about internet safety, bullying, decision-making, and substance abuse. Class members toured the Forensics Lab, the John E. Polk Correctional Facility, the 911 Communications Center, and the Criminal Justice Center. They saw demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit, participated in an exercise in the Emergency Operations Center, performed basic Honor Guard techniques, and even served as jurors in a mock trial hosted by the State Attorney's Office.



K9 Titus joins the SCSO

K9 Titus became our newest four-legged member of the SCSO in June! Titus, a 2-year-old German Shepherd, is expected to complete his training in tracking, apprehension and narcotics detection in August of 2017. He is very sociable, enjoys taking walks around lakes, and especially loves his rubber toy "Kong".

SCSO acquires Probation Division and PAY Program

In July, the Seminole County's Probation Division and the Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) Program transferred from Seminole County Government to the Sheriff's Office. We welcomed 26 new full-time positions assigned to the Probation Division and 7 new full-time positions assigned to PAY. The Probation Division provides services and supervision to offenders in community-based settings. The Division supervises more than 6,500 misdemeanor offenders annually, is one of our core partners in the EMPACT (Electronic Monitoring Protection and Crime Tracking) Program, manages pre-trial diversion programs, and connects offenders with treatment providers to assist in their re-entry to the community. The PAY Program consists of Teen Court and the Juvenile Alternative Services Program (JASP).



More school resource deputies added

Beginning in August, each elementary, middle and public high school now has a dedicated school resource officer/deputy in place. These new additions brought the number of Sheriff's deputies assigned to schools to 41, with a total of 59 school resource officers/deputies in classrooms county-wide. Deputies in the elementary schools will teach the Focus on Safety program, ensuring all 5th graders are taught contemporary safety skills including substance use and abuse, gang and violence awareness, bullying, and internet safety. And on a daily basis, the school resource deputies serve as role models and mentors, serve as a liaison to parents and staff, and actively assist with truancy and delinquency concerns.





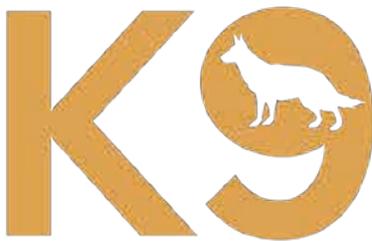
Shop with the Sheriff helps youth

We had a blast in July shopping with local children at "Shop with the Sheriff", an annual event in which we treat local youth to breakfast and shopping for back-to-school clothes. During this year's event, approximately 250 children from the Midway Safe Harbor center and area Boys and Girls Clubs were treated to breakfast provided by Chick-fil-A and McDonald's. After breakfast, the children headed to one of three Wal-Mart locations where they were paired with a Sheriff's deputy, employee, or volunteer, and received a \$100 gift card to purchase back-to-school uniforms, clothes, and shoes. The annual event was designed to provide area youth in need the opportunity to establish positive relationships with law enforcement and to ensure they begin the academic school year with resources and the confidence necessary for their success. The event is supported by the Seminole County Sheriff's Office Community Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to provide assistance to the county's underserved and at-risk populations, through education, prevention and resources.



2016 STATS

FULL SERVICE



- 272** deployments
- 53** narcotic searches
- 81** area tracks
- 13** building searches
- 31** apprehended subjects (2 with bite, 29 without bite)

BLOODHOUNDS
77 responses to requests for assistance both in and out of Seminole County

54,236 
HOURS OF SERVICE

Given by agency volunteers (Citizens on Patrol, reserve deputies, chaplains, jail volunteers and administrative volunteers)

Correctional Facility Greenhouse



16,864 heads of lettuce
309 pounds of collards
196 pounds of tilapia

12,860 inmates booked
John E. Polk Correctional Facility
Average daily population **842**



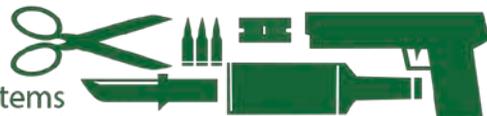
Victim Advocates **4,266** victims and families assisted

\$31,298
VALUE OF WORK

for Seminole County taxpayers through weekend community service activities for youth violating their terms of probation or release



60,953
hours of training delivered to employees and agency volunteers

1,781 
Prohibited items intercepted by deputies as they ensured safe passage for **427,042** visitors to Seminole County's three courthouses

2016 STATS

Communications Center



9,079 citations

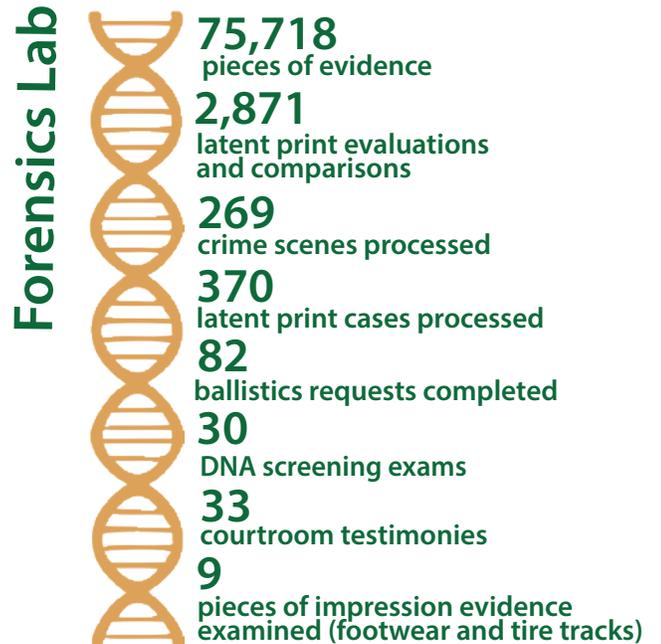
Traffic Safety Unit

3,150 warnings

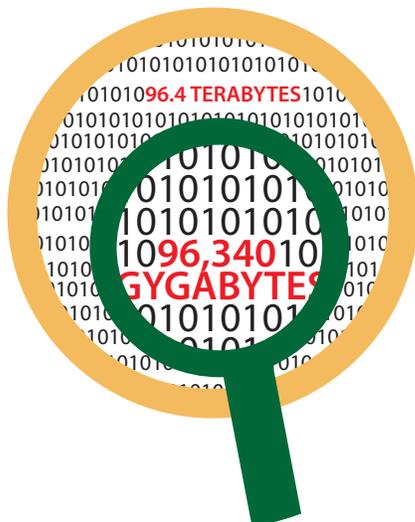
1,953 traffic crashes

224 arrests

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER **825** Youths housed
Average length of stay: **8** days



EVIDENTIARY DATA



DIGITAL FORENSICS

EXAMINED BY



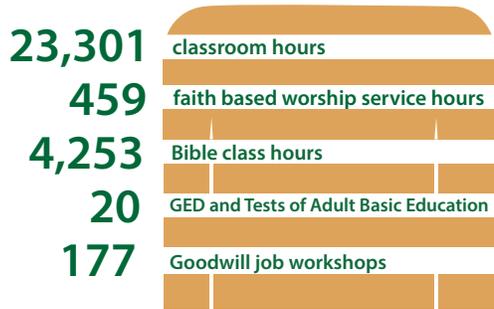
COMPLETED BY THE INMATE HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Juvenile Assessment Center

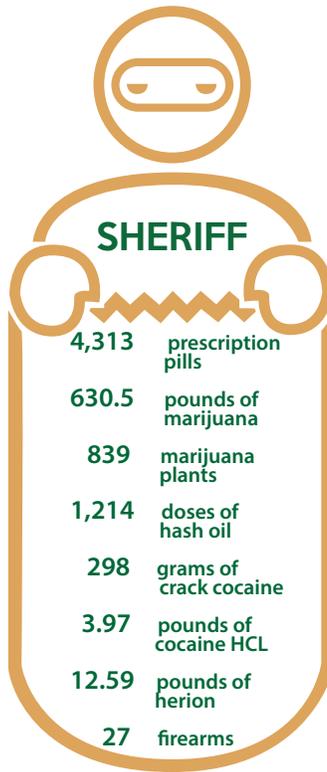


FINANCIAL
 2,331
 CASES
 CRIMES

Inmate Education



Tactical Air Unit



City County Investigative Bureau Seizures

Domestic Security Division



131
 Stolen Vehicles Recovered

City County Auto Theft Bureau

Drug trafficking organization dismantled

Throughout the past year, the City County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) targeted trending violent crime in the east Altamonte area. In the process, they dismantled a drug trafficking organization and arrested 9 individuals involved in the sale and purchase of heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, marijuana and MDMA. The suspects arrested ranged in age from 25 to 52. CCIB agents began investigating this organization in July due to complaints of violent crime and drug activity in the East Altamonte and Sanford areas.



K9 Billee passed away

In November, we were saddened to announce that retired K-9 Billee passed away after a brief illness. Billee was purchased by the Sheriff's Office in 2008 and conducted more than 250 searches during his service. Billee was honored during a "Passing of the Leash" ceremony last December where K-9 Amber formally took the reins after his retirement. Billee remained with his handler up until his passing.

Narcan deployed

In November, our agency deployed 220 Naloxone/Narcan[®] nasal spray delivery systems to deputies and staff members. Narcan[®] nasal spray is an "opioid antagonist" that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. The Narcan[®] nasal delivery system is simple to use and will provide first responders with effective opioid overdose reversal capabilities. Narcan[®] restores breathing within two to five minutes, and may prevent brain injury and death. Narcan[®] works on overdoses caused by opioids, which includes prescription painkillers and street drugs like heroin.



SCSO participates in 33rd annual National Night Out

In October, hundreds of residents joined deputies, investigators and Sheriff's Office personnel for an evening of fun and fellowship at the 2016 National Night Out. This year's event was held at BJ's Wholesale Club in Sanford, Target in Oviedo and Chick Fil A in Apopka and included bounce houses, food, games and activities. National Night Out is a nationwide initiative which the SCSO celebrates on the first Tuesday in October. The events are designed to strengthen law enforcement and community relationships and encourage neighborhood camaraderie, helping to make communities across the country safer and better places to live.



45 arrested during holiday safety operations

In December, the Sheriff's Office arrested 45 subjects in a series of coordinated holiday safety operations designed to stop retail theft and economic crime, and prevent burglaries. The operations resulted in 17 arrests for theft; hundreds of dollars of merchandise recovered, 18 drug possession charges, 10 traffic related arrests, and recovered a stolen vehicle out of South Carolina.

Christmas Village brightens holidays for children in need

SCSO worked to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in our community by again hosting an annual "Christmas Village" to serve local children in need. In December, more than 400 children and their families were treated to rides and games, live entertainment, food, and "Santa's Toy Shop," where parents and guardians selected gifts to give to their children on Christmas Day. SCSO conducts the event for victims of abuse, children in foster care and other youth from underserved or high-risk neighborhoods. Funds for the event are raised through SCSO's Community Foundation.



CONNECT WITH US

Safeguard your home

Want to reduce your risk of a break in? SCSO's certified crime prevention practitioners can visit your home and provide you with recommendations on how to better protect your residence. Our free, 45-minute home security assessments involve a review of entry and exit points, locks, lights and landscaping.

Going out of town? The House Watch program adds an extra layer of security to your home while you're away. At your request, deputies will check on your home, driving by to look for anything that might be unusual, and will walk around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, contact us at 407-665-6650 to request the service.



Want to receive news, safety and event information? Join our mailing list by visiting our website and signing up for The Dispatcher @ www.seminolesheriff.org
407-665-6880



Secure your business

Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership among businesses, law enforcement and others that represent business interests. Each business is provided with a Sheriff's Office decal that warns criminals that the business is part of an active watch community, and is used to contact business owners in case of an after-hours emergency. SCSO also provides free on-site security assessments, providing businesses with site-specific safety tips on how to reduce the risk of robbery or burglary. SCSO also provides safety training for employees at no cost.

Safely dispose of medication



Drug disposal boxes are available at each of the SCSO's offices. Drop off your unused, expired, or unwanted medication at any time. The service is free, and all medications (except for hypodermic needles or lancets) are accepted.

Help our Community Foundation

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office Community Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization designed to provide assistance to the county's underserved and at-risk populations through education, prevention and resources. Donations from businesses and community members support "Shop with the Sheriff" and "Christmas Village," two annual events in which deputies and Sheriff's Office personnel give a boost to local families in need.



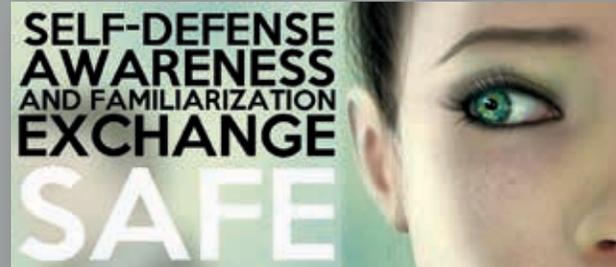
Get active with Neighborhood Watch

Join your Neighborhood Watch Program or take the lead on creating one for your community. The program promotes neighbors looking out for neighbors, and encourages citizens to work with law enforcement to prevent and report criminal activity. Call our Neighborhood Services Unit to get started.



Take a women's self-defense class

Self-Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (SAFE) is a free personal awareness and crime prevention program designed to teach women basic safety and awareness skills. Instructors focus on crime prevention techniques and best practices for reducing the risk of being a victim. There is little physical activity required. Participants must be at least 13 years of age; those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Join Nextdoor.com

Nextdoor.com allows neighbors the opportunity to create a trusted, private neighborhood website where they can interact by asking questions, exchanging local advice, making recommendations, and discussing their community concerns. The Sheriff's Office often uses Nextdoor to update residents about crime trends in their neighborhoods, and share information on events and programs. Learn more and register at www.nextdoor.com.



Attend our CLEA class

Get a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office through our exciting 15-week educational academy. Taught by Sheriff's Office personnel, the academy includes presentations on topics such as: neighborhood policing, investigations, child protective services and forensics. Class participants also see demonstrations from the Special Operations Unit (SWAT, Range and Water, K9 and EOD), have the opportunity to fire Sheriff's Office weapons at the gun range, and drive a patrol car in similar conditions that deputies are trained in. The academy is offered three times a year and class size is limited. The class is held one night a week from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., and there is no cost to attend.





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