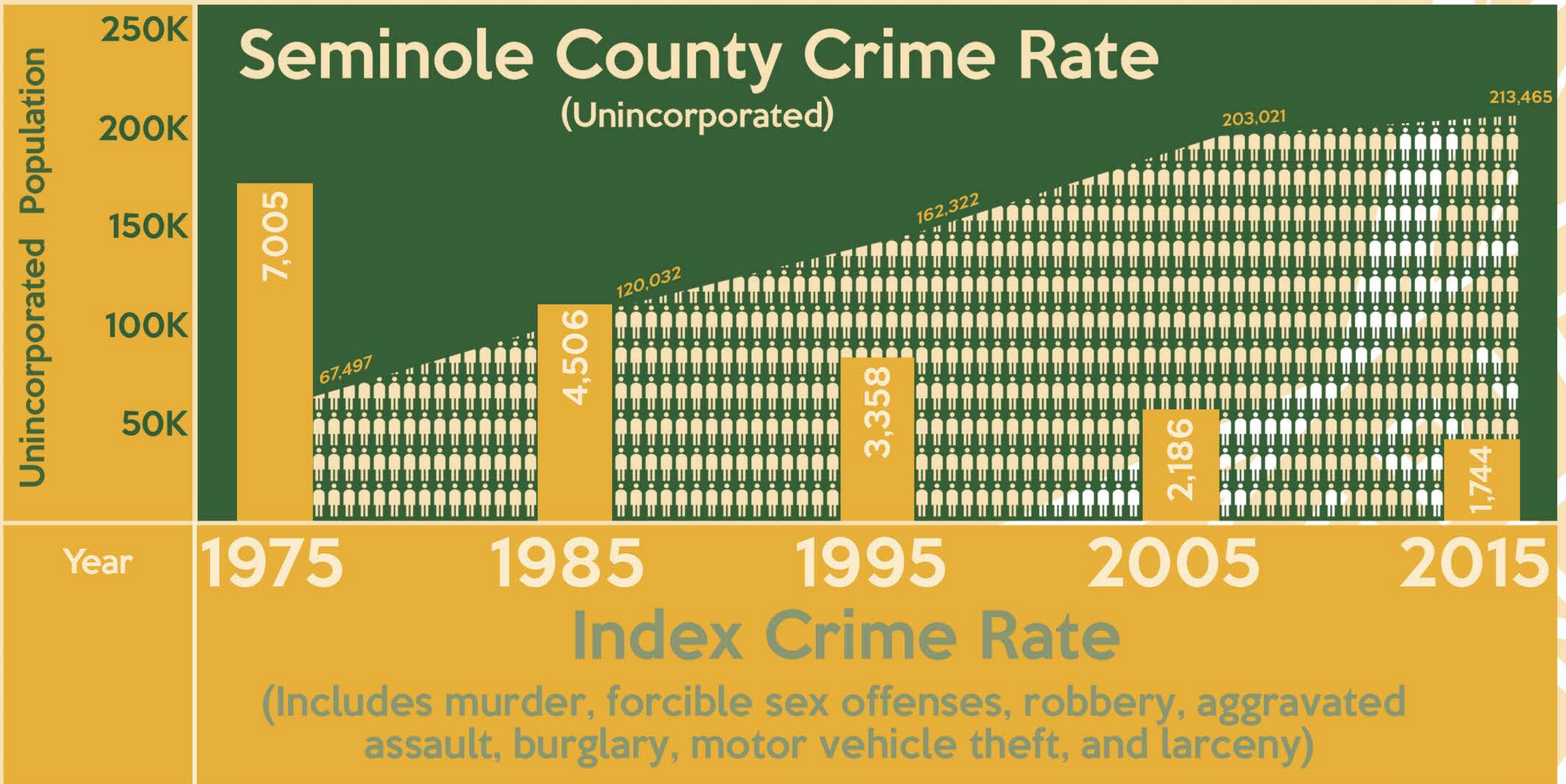


# 2015

ANNUAL REPORT



***SHERIFF***  
***SEMINOLE COUNTY***



**\$2,289,599**



**Stolen  
Property  
Recovered**

**2015**

**6,715**

**Arrests**



# Dear Seminole County residents:

I'm pleased to present the 2015 Seminole County Sheriff's Office Annual Report. 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 6,715 arrests and recovered nearly 2.3 million dollars in stolen property for victims. Between 1975 and 2015, despite the unincorporated population of our county more than tripling, the crime rate has dropped 75%.



Strengthening our community partnerships remains a top priority. This year we held "Coffee with a Cop" events at several locations, giving residents the opportunity to get to know the deputies who safeguard their communities. We also invited residents to join us online for a series of Facebook "chats." The live, one-hour sessions enabled community members to talk directly with investigators and deputy sheriffs on a wide variety of crime prevention topics. This Fall, we hosted our first ever Career Expo, bringing in more than 300 prospective applicants to connect with recruiters, participate in tours and breakout sessions, and learn more about joining our team.

We continue to leverage technology to fight crime. In 2015, we partnered with Seminole County Probation to acquire sophisticated new GPS monitoring technology to better track offenders on probation and help safeguard domestic violence victims. We bolstered our inter-agency information sharing, expanding our Computer Aided Dispatch and records management systems to our neighbors at Apopka, Maitland, and Eatonville Police Departments. We conducted extensive testing of body worn cameras, and in the coming year will outfit deputies with this important technology.

We've worked hard to achieve the highest standards for operations and service. This year, the John E. Polk Correctional Facility was re-accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission. Our Forensic Laboratory received international accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board's International Testing Program. We capped off 2015 by receiving our national, agency wide re-accreditation, marking our 20th year of meeting the standards of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. These distinctions are three of eight total accreditations we proudly hold.

In January of 2017, at the conclusion of my term, I will retire as the Sheriff of Seminole County. As I enter my final year as your Sheriff, I'm committed to working with you to enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime in Seminole County. I look forward to making 2016 one of our best years yet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald F. Eslinger". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Donald F. Eslinger

# 2015 STATISTICS

## 60,378

### HOURS OF SERVICE

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

## FULL SERVICE K-9

- 207 deployments
- 82 narcotic searches
- 81 area tracks
- 20 building searches
- 3 apprehended subjects

## BLOODHOUNDS

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

## Civil Section



- 2,046 writs of possession
- 1,036 injunctions for protection
- 397 ex-parte orders
- 29 writs of execution
- 42 writs of replevin
- 262 criminal summons



6,567 citations

1,545 traffic crashes

## SHERIFF

- 24,295 prescription pills
- 880 pounds of marijuana
- 247 marijuana plants
- 428 doses of hash oil
- 299.6 grams of crack cocaine
- 6 pounds of cocaine HCL
- 2.7 pounds of heroin
- 28 firearms

## City County Investigative Bureau Seizures

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER 747 Youths housed

Average length of stay: 8 days

1,584 Prohibited items intercepted by deputies as they ensured safe passage for 465,238 visitors to Seminole County's three courthouses

**\$29,882** VALUE OF WORK

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

Victim Advocates 4,888 victims and families assisted

# Communications Center

Total calls for service  
**740,018**  
from citizens and field units

- **97.72%** -  
answered within 10 seconds or less

**223,887**  
Calls to 911

**13,627** inmates booked

# John E. Polk Correctional Facility

Average daily population  
**892**

# Juvenile Assessment Center

**2,116** arrestees  
**171** runaways  
**193** truants  
**60** transfers or remanded by the court  
**2,540** total youths received

# Inmate Education

**22,609** classroom hours  
**8,152** faith-based worship service  
**29,854** Bible class hours  
**56** GED and TABE testing sessions  
**94** Goodwill job workshops

# Traffic Safety Unit

**2,552** warnings

**143** arrests

# Forensics Lab

**12,756** pieces of evidence  
**2,285** latent print evaluations and comparisons  
**274** crime scenes processed  
**509** latent print cases processed  
**115** ballistics requests completed  
**20** DNA screening exams  
**47** courtroom testimonies  
**9** pieces of impression evidence examined (footwear and tire tracks)

# Tactical Air Unit

**810** responses to calls for service  
**193** arrest assists  
**18** stolen vehicles secured  
**29** lost or missing persons found

# Correctional Facility Greenhouse

**17,877** heads of lettuce  
**127** pounds of collards  
**238** pounds of tilapia

**136** Stolen vehicles recovered  
**City County Auto Theft Bureau**

# Domestic Security Division

**3,682** arrest warrants served

# HIGHLIGHTS

## SCSO hosts first high school interns



SCSO this year partnered with Seminole County Public Schools and welcomed five high school interns for the Spring semester. The interns, who all had an interest in law enforcement and criminal justice, spent five months assigned to various divisions across the Sheriff's Office, including the Seminole Neighborhood Policing Division (patrol), the Public Affairs Division and the City County Auto Theft Unit. The interns also completed the Community Law Enforcement Academy class. During the program, these talented students heard from investigators, court deputies, analysts, and youth services personnel and had the opportunity to tour the correctional facility, special operations unit, juvenile facility and courthouses.

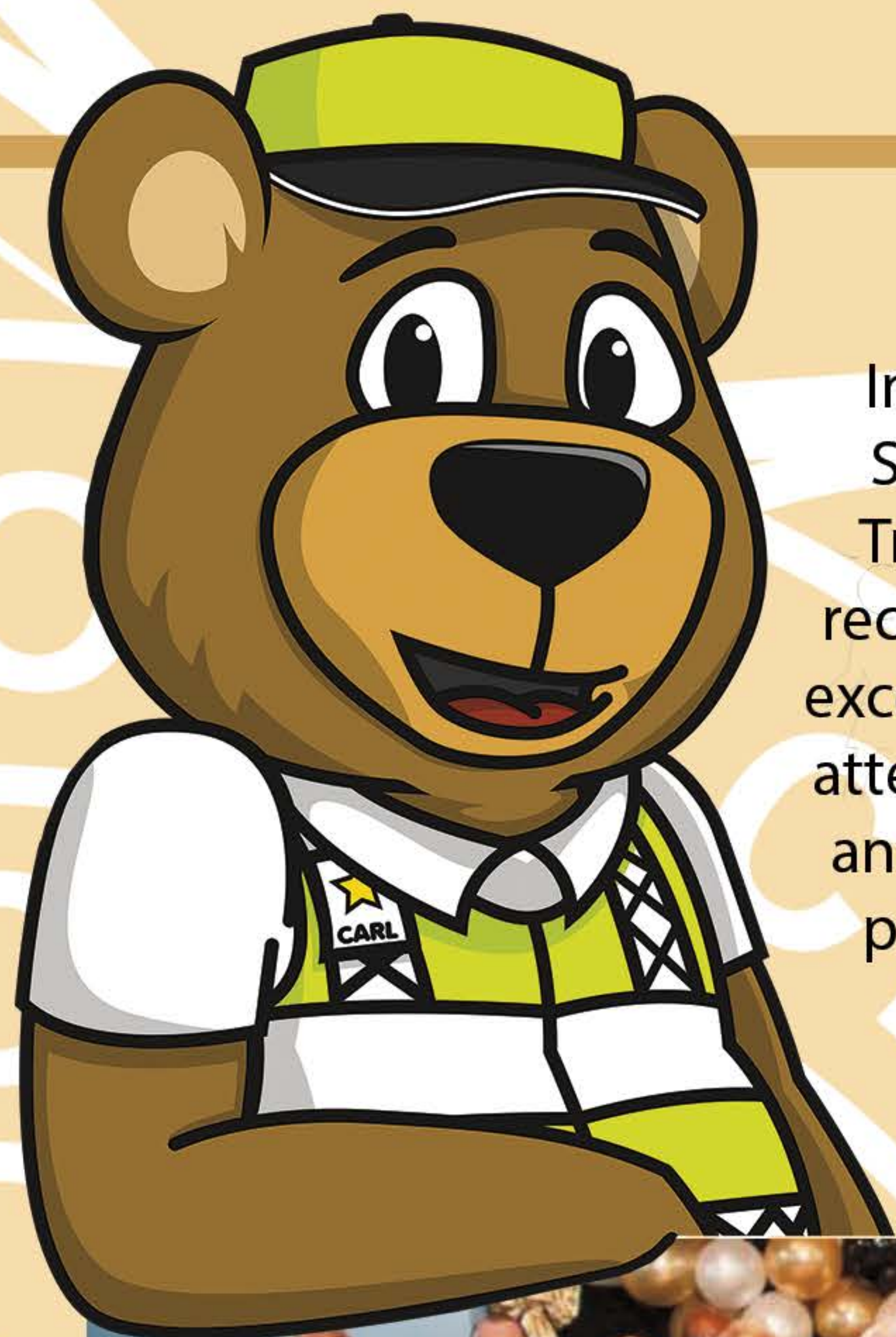
JANUARY

FEBRUARY

## We made the cover!



SCSO was proud to be included in Ford's 2015 calendar, which was distributed in conjunction with Police and Government Fleet magazines. Approximately 61,000 copies were sent to law enforcement agencies across the nation. SCSO's Ford Interceptor graced the cover and, in a different shot, highlighted the month of September.



## School Crossing Guards named top in State

In February, SCSO's School Crossing Guard Program was named the Florida School Crossing Guard Program of the Year by the Florida Department of Transportation. This is the third time in the last four years that SCSO has received this honor! The SCSO Program took home top honors for their exceptional performance and proactive community outreach programs. Guards attended over 100 community events including bike rodeos, school safety days, and educational presentations. Carl's Safety Campaign, a program to teach safe pedestrian and biking skills, was presented at 14 elementary schools, reaching thousands of students and faculty. Guards also participated in monthly sign-waving campaigns to educate motorists about driving safely in school zones.



MARCH

## SCSO hosts live Facebook Chats

In February, SCSO deputies and investigators hosted the first of four Facebook chats, providing a unique online forum to connect directly with community members on a variety of topics. The one-hour chats covered topics such as identity theft and tax fraud, code enforcement, back to school safety, and holiday crime prevention. Dozens of residents took the opportunity to "talk" with law enforcement experts and ask questions about crime trends and safety issues.



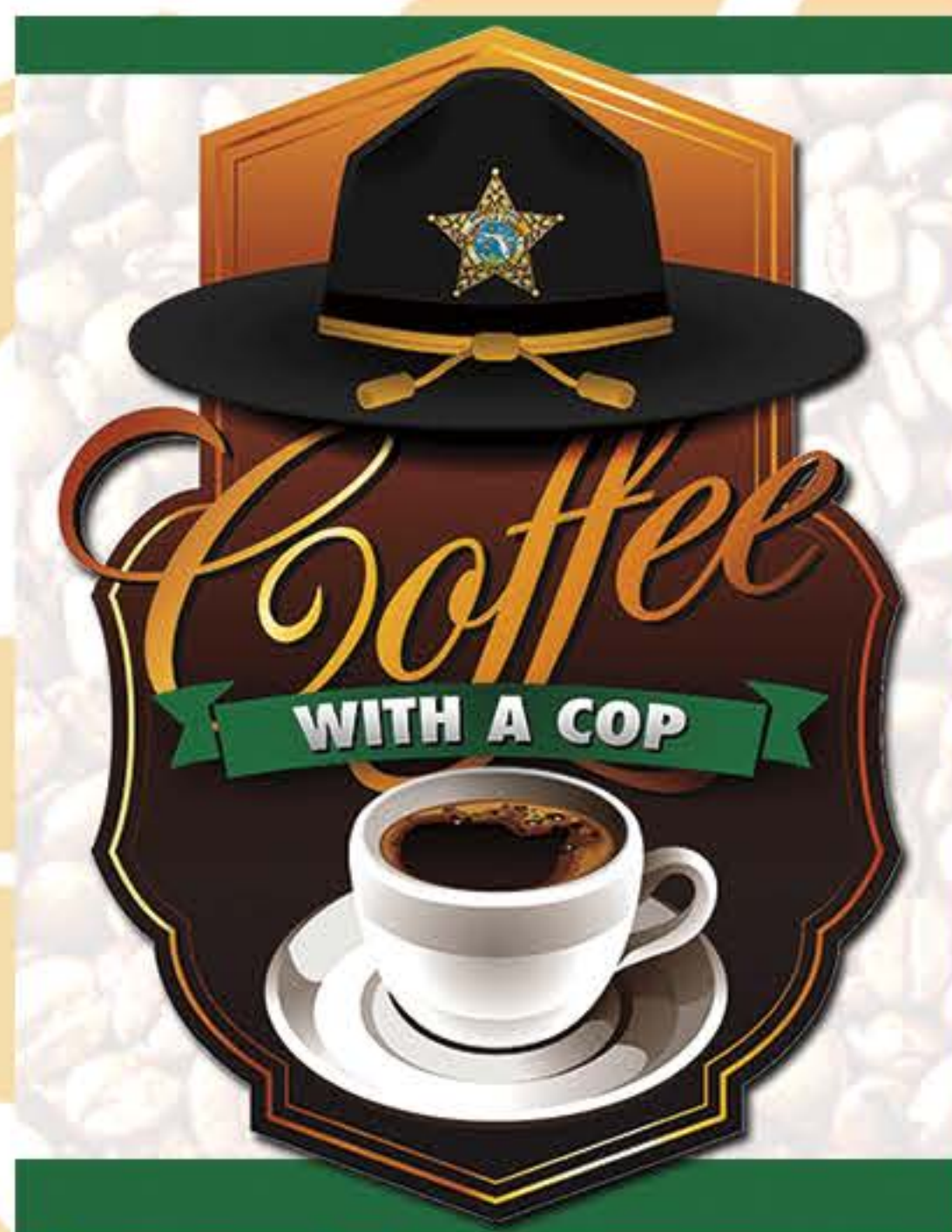
## Drug trafficking organization dismantled

In March, Sheriff's Office investigators dismantled a drug trafficking organization and arrested 13 individuals involved in the sale and purchase of prescription pills and cocaine. The subjects arrested were from Seminole and Volusia counties and ranged in age from 25 to 53 years old. Agents with the City County Investigative Bureau began investigating the group in September of 2014 after receiving complaints about drug activity in local communities. Agents then conducted a series of undercover operations and made controlled purchases in order to identify the persons involved with the drug deals.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Deputies join neighbors for coffee and conversation

In April, SCSO hosted its first "Coffee with a Cop," joining residents at local coffee shops and restaurants for coffee and conversation. The events - held in Lake Mary, Winter Springs, and Geneva - had no agendas or speeches, and provided an informal venue for community members to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the deputies in their neighborhood. Residents connected with investigators, patrol deputies, and other Sheriff's Office personnel about issues impacting their neighborhoods, and sought advice on a variety of concerns. Additional "Coffee with a Cop" sessions are planned for the year ahead.



## New training lives in active



### APRIL

## Four-legged deputies help safeguard the streets

It was a full year for our K9 program! In 2015, two new K9s - Tiggy and Rexo - joined the Sheriff's Office. Tiggy is a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois assigned to the City County Investigative Bureau and trained to sniff out narcotics and illicit drugs. Rexo, a 21-month-old German Shepherd, joined patrol deputies to assist with tracking, article searches, narcotics detection, building searches, and apprehensions. This year also saw the retirement of K9 Billee, our 7-year-old bloodhound, who handled more than 250 searches during his career at the Sheriff's Office. K9 Amber, our 4-year-old bloodhound who was named through a community contest in 2012, now takes the "lead" as the solo bloodhound for the Sheriff's Office.



Tiggy



Rexo



Billee



Amber



## ing designed to S.A.V.E. victims in active shooter situation

With incidents of active shooters cropping up across the country, SCSO this year collaborated with the city police departments and the Sanford and Seminole County Fire Departments to strengthen first responders' ability to address such threats. Swift Assisted Victim Extraction (S.A.V.E.) training was implemented across the county, providing law enforcement officers with new protocols for joint response in the event of a mass casualty or multi-victim event. The training focuses on moving rescue personnel into such a scene more rapidly in order for lifesaving medical intervention to begin. Sheriff's deputies, along with city police officers in the county, were also this year equipped with new "Go-Bags," each containing first aid supplies and additional lifesaving equipment not normally carried on duty belts.



## Operation Cyber Summer takes down online predators

This summer, SCSO announced the results of Operation Cyber Summer, a multi-agency, undercover operation targeting individuals who use the internet to sexually exploit children. Law enforcement from eight Central Florida agencies joined forces to arrest 12 individuals who traveled to and within Seminole County intending to engage in sexual activity with someone they believed to be a child. During the week-long operation, undercover law enforcement officers chatted online, emailed, and spoke on the phone with subjects who believed they were communicating with a minor, or with an adult who had a minor available for sexual activity. Individuals arrested ranged from age 17 to 75 and included a contract worker, convenience store clerk, a professor, a restaurant server and a variety of other professionals.

JUNE

## Forensic laboratory receives international accreditation

In June, the forensics Laboratory Services Division received accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Board's (ASCLAD/LAB) International Testing Program. Already accredited by ACSLAD, the Sheriff's Office opted to pursue the international program in order to meet even more stringent performance criteria. The process involved rigorous inspections, which included on-site visits, employee interviews, and extensive reviews and testing of policies, training protocols, and forensic procedures. SCSO's Forensic Laboratory is one of only six county crime labs in Florida that hold this distinction! SCSO complied with 250 standards in order to gain accredited status.



# HIGHLIGHTS



JULY

## Middle school students get an inside view of Sheriff's Office operations

This year marked the second year of SCSO's Youth Academy, a unique educational program designed to give middle school students a behind the scenes look at Sheriff's Office operations and provide them with information to help keep themselves and their families safe. Sixty students participated in two week-long classes, learning about internet safety, bullying, decision-making, and substance abuse. Students also heard presentations on neighborhood policing, investigations, training, and traffic safety. 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.



# Youth in need shop with the Sheriff

In August, Sheriff's Office personnel treated 200 children from area Boys and Girls Clubs and Midway Safe Harbor to breakfast and a back-to-school shopping spree. The youth 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 designed to provide assistance to the county's underserved and at-risk populations through education, prevention and resources.



AUGUST

# SCSO dismantles synthetic drug enterprise

In August, the City County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) concluded a lengthy investigation of Pipe Dreams, a smoke shop chain with locations in Seminole, Lake, Orange and Volusia counties, after tips came in that the shops were selling synthetic narcotics. In partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, search warrants were executed at the five store locations. Agents arrested 11 suspects and seized nearly one million pieces of drug paraphernalia and 100 vials of liquid THC.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Seminole County celebrates National Night Out!

Hundreds of residents joined deputies, investigators and Sheriff's Office personnel for an evening of fun and fellowship at the 2015 National Night Out. This year's event was held on October 6th and included bounce houses, food, games, and activities at the Oviedo Mall, Altamonte Springs Target, and BJ's Wholesale Club in Sanford. National Night Out is a nationwide initiative which the SCSO celebrates on the first Tuesday of October. The events are designed to strengthen police and community relationships and encourage neighborhood camaraderie, helping to make communities across the country safer and better places to live.



OCTOBER

## Christmas Village spreads holiday cheer

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 this 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.



# Holiday safety operations net 52 arrests

SCSO ended the year with a series of coordinated Holiday safety operations designed to stop retail theft and economic crime, and prevent burglaries. The operations took place during November and December in various commercial and residential areas across the county and resulted in 52 arrests. During the commercial operations, deputies patrolled retail establishments and plain clothes investigators embedded themselves inside stores. Working in conjunction with merchants and loss prevention teams, deputies arrested shoplifters as they left stores with stolen items. The operations resulted in 16 arrests for theft, hundreds of dollars of merchandise recovered, 33 drug possession charges, 12 traffic related arrests, and recovery of a stolen vehicle. In the residential operations, crime analysts identified communities that had been recently victimized and developed a forecast of possible locations for additional burglaries. Investigators and deputies then began proactive patrols in those areas. Crime prevention teams supplemented the enforcement efforts by distributing door hangers and greeting cards with seasonal safety tips at stores and in neighborhoods.



## DECEMBER



Christmas  
Village  
and Santa's  
Toy Store

## Attend our CLEA class

Get a firsthand look at the operations of the Sheriff's Office through our Community Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). Taught by Sheriff's Office personnel, this exciting 15-week 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 in which deputies are trained. The academy is offered three times a year and class size is limited. The class is held one night a week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and there is no cost to attend.



## 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.



# CONNECT

## Secure your business

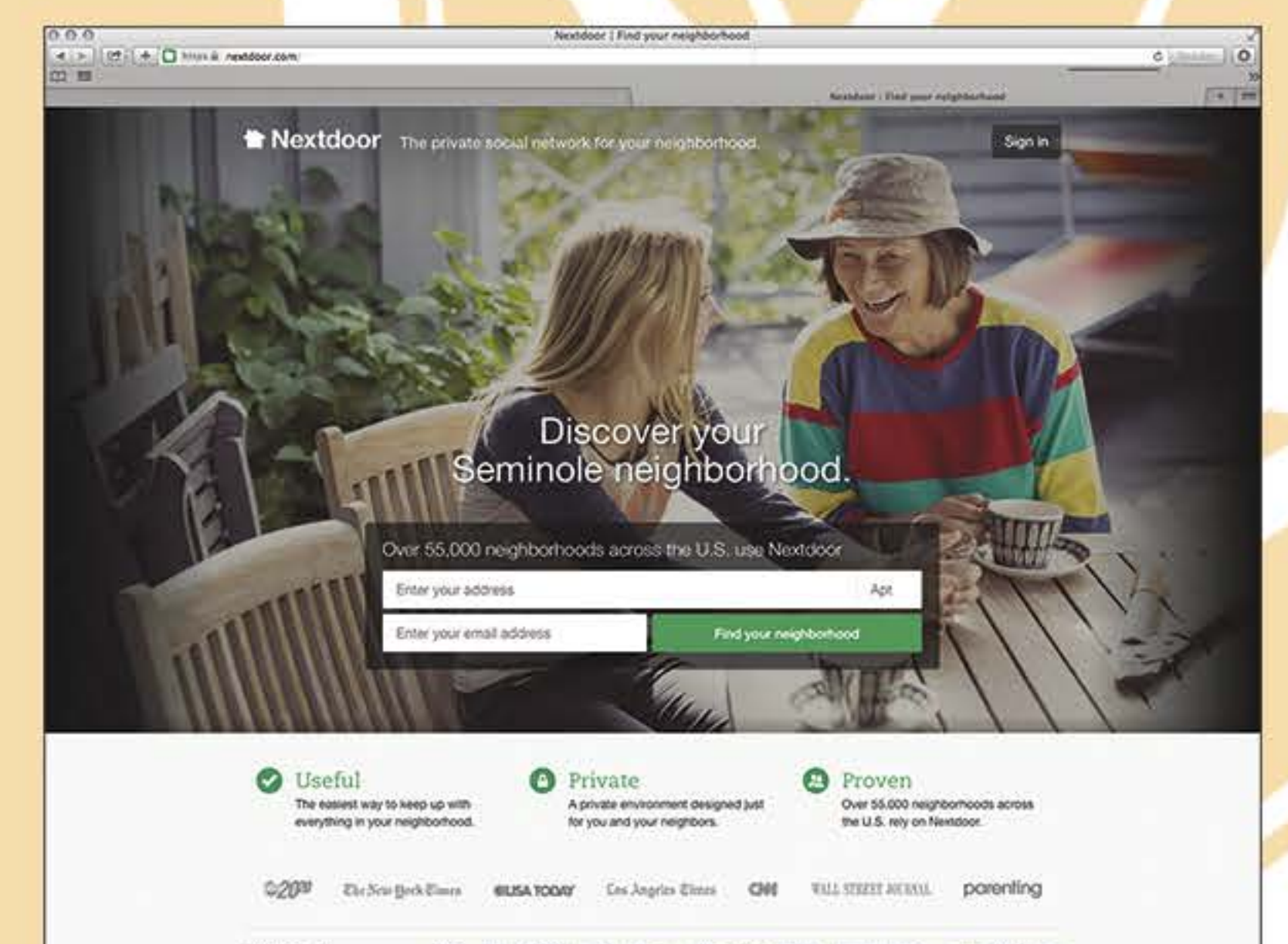


Modeled after Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch takes the "neighbors looking out for neighbors" concept to the commercial level, creating a partnership among businesses, law enforcement and others that represent business interests. Business Watch participants provide emergency contact information so owners can be reached by the Sheriff's Office after hours, if necessary. Each business is provided with a Sheriff's Office decal that warns criminals that the business is part of an active watch community.

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.

## 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](http://www.nextdoor.com).



## Safeguard your home



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 walking around the property to ensure it is secured. Before you leave on your trip, call us to request this service.

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.

## Get active with Neighborhood Watch

Join your Neighborhood Watch Program or take the lead in 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.

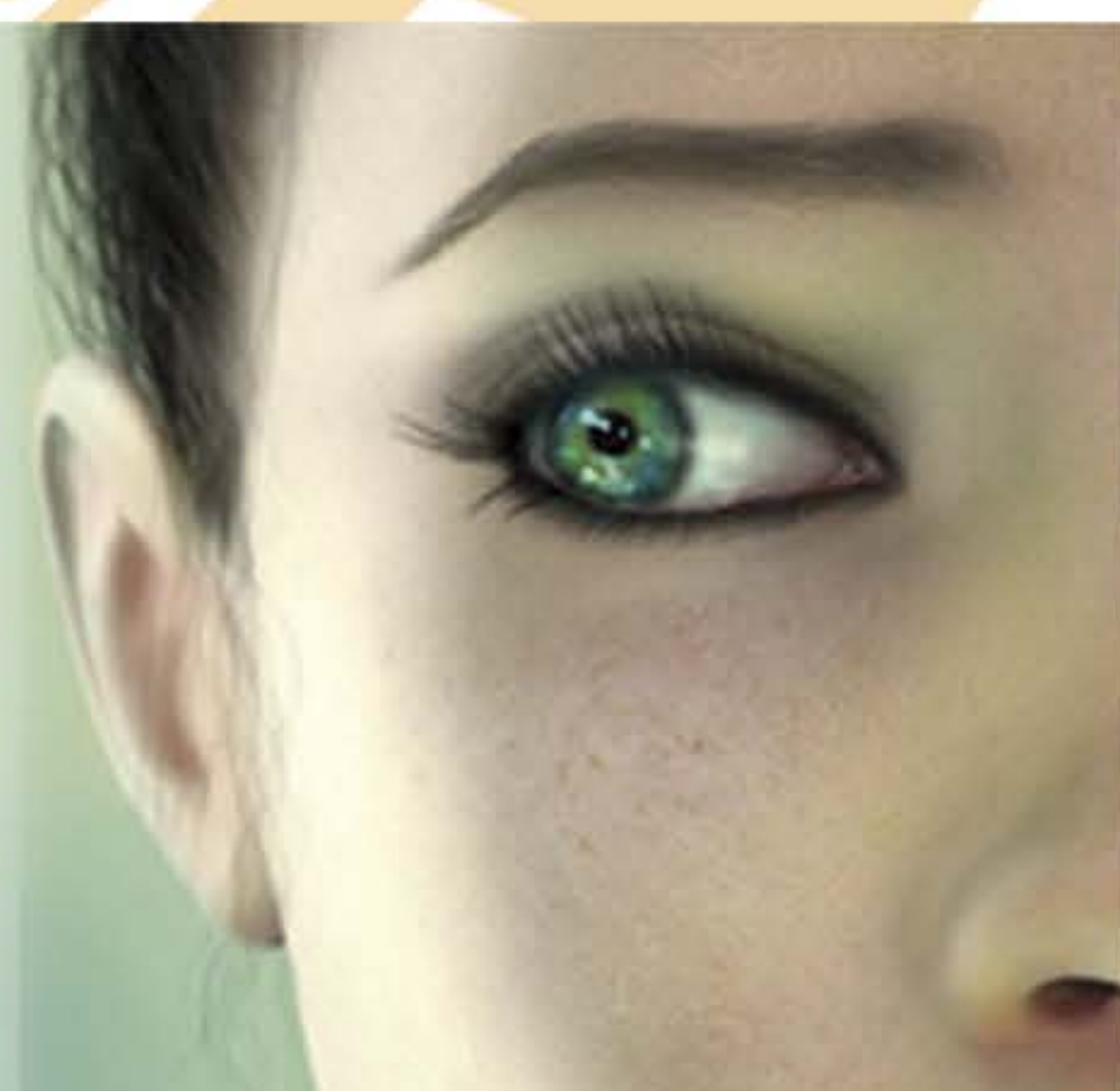


# WORK WITH US

For more information about these services contact us at: **407-665-6880**

## Take a women's self-defense class

**SELF-DEFENSE  
AWARENESS  
AND FAMILIARIZATION  
EXCHANGE  
SAFE**



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.



## Safely dispose of medication

Drug disposal boxes are available at each of the SCSO's offices. Drop off your unused, expired, or unwanted medication between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The service is free, and all medications (except for hypodermic needles or lancets) are accepted.

Want to receive news, safety and event information?  
Join our mailing list by visiting our website at  
[www.SeminoleSheriff.org](http://www.SeminoleSheriff.org)  
and sign up for our newsletter, The Dispatcher.



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