

SHERIFF'S OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS



Professional Standards facilitated the VCSO's successful CALEA Accreditation on-site assessment on August 4-7, 2014. An accredited agency since 1991, VCSO was awarded its 8th consecutive accreditation award at the CALEA Fall Conference in Albuquerque, NM on 11/22/14. VCSO was also recognized by CALEA with a 4th consecutive **Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation with Excellence** award under the new Gold Standard assessment model. This new assessment model provided assessors with increased contact with members as they performed their duties through numerous interviews, ride-alongs, attendance at staff meetings, etc., as well as increased contact with the public and various criminal justice partner agencies, service providers and community organizations for a comprehensive review of agency operations and overall role in the community.

Sheriff's Office re-instituted its Deputy Sponsorship Program, which provides scholarships to economically-disadvantaged people who want to become Sheriff's deputies. This has resulted in the recruitment and hiring of six new deputies.

The Major Case Unit has maintained a high clearance rate, solving all five homicide cases, including a double homicide/suicide case, during the 2014 reporting period.

The Deltona Narcotics Enforcement Team has executed 76 search warrants and seized over 245 pounds of cannabis, 35 grams of heroin, 1,104 grams of methamphetamine, 40 grams of MDMA, 100 grams of mushrooms and 340 prescription medications. The street value of the narcotics seized during the year was approximately \$1,566,091.00. In addition, \$30,358.00 in U.S. currency was seized along with \$5,500 worth of property (guns, vehicles, and recovered stolen property).

The East Volusia Narcotics Task Force Investigators responded to and assisted with the cleanup of approximately one hundred thirty-nine (139) clandestine labs throughout Volusia County as compared to a total of one hundred one (101) in 2013. In addition to the clandestine meth labs that were dismantled, investigators saw a dramatic increase in hashish labs which, although not as toxic as meth labs, can at times be quite volatile.

The West Volusia Narcotics Task Force has executed 65 search warrants and seized over 70 pounds of cannabis, along with 396 grams of methamphetamine, and over 1,850 prescription medications. The street value of the narcotics seized during the year was approximately \$1,855,350. In addition, \$33,856 in U.S. currency was seized along with \$14,800 worth of property (vehicle, surveillance systems and recovered stolen property). In addition, 19 firearms were taken off the street.

The Volusia Bureau of Investigation has executed 27 search warrants and seized \$107,937 in currency, \$64,405 in other property and narcotics valued at \$2,003,699. In addition, 16 firearms were taken off the street.

During calendar year 2014, the 136 members of the Citizen Observer Program (COP) donated 41,151 hours of their time to the public and fingerprinted 1,411 children, saving taxpayers over \$966,237.



On August 8, 2014, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office held their annual crime prevention event, ***Kicks 4 Guns***, at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in Deland, where citizens voluntarily turned in unwanted weapons to law enforcement with no questions asked for a \$50 Walmart gift card. The Walmart gift cards were purchased with money seized in criminal cases. 81 weapons were turned in to deputies for safe disposal at this event.

The 71 members of the Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary Program (CVAP) donated 17,267 hours of their time to fill positions in the Sheriff's Office, saving taxpayers over \$405,429.

The 16 members of the Chaplain Program responded to 56 calls for service to provide care, spiritual guidance and counseling services to the public and/or Sheriff's Office employees.

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office applied for and receive the following grants: \$203,556 HIDTA reimbursement grants for VBI overtime, \$57,265 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance grant, \$127,932 Crime (VOCA) grant, \$20,000 DME grant, \$2,000 FDLE teen driving grant, \$60,000 FDOT – DUI grant and a \$3,358 Manatee grant.



The Communications Center was transitioned from sworn leadership to a civilian leadership model. A national recruitment was initiated resulting in the hire of a proven professional communications center manager.

Following the capture and interview of armed robbery suspects in DeLand, information was developed related to the series of armed robberies in Deltona. On October 16, 2014, Operation ENDGAME was launched with the execution of search warrants and arrest warrants at six (6) homes in Deltona with the assistance of SWAT and over 100 investigators from Volusia and Seminole County Sheriff's Offices. On October 17, 2014, two (2) more search warrants were executed with the assistance of SWAT. The operation resulted in six (6) arrests connected to the robberies in Deltona. Since the operation, five (5) additional arrests were made in the Deltona cases. Based on the confessions and evidence obtained, investigators closed out additional robbery cases in DeLand and Sanford. Leads were developed in the Orange City robberies and the information was forwarded. In total, 13 arrests were made and 18 cases cleared.

District VI has been proactive with community policing being the first to launch the nationally acclaimed program, "Coffee with a Cop". The event was held at the Debary Diner and was positively embraced by the citizens. Policing questions were answered and bonds were built.

The Victim Advocate Staff has contacted and assisted 1,558 victims of crimes this year and attended court hearings on over 63 different cases.