

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



2019
Annual Report

Peyton C. Grinnell
Sheriff

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SHERIFF

Peyton C. Grinnell



Dear Citizens:

It is my pleasure to share with you the Lake County Sheriff's Office Annual Report for the Year 2019.

I hope you will take a moment to browse our Annual Report, and the data we have provided. We hope it will give you a better understanding of our duties and responsibilities, and our continued efforts to provide effective, efficient law enforcement to the citizens of Lake County.

As your elected Sheriff, I am grateful for your trust and confidence. It is my honor and privilege to serve you. On behalf of all the employees at your Sheriff's Office, I would like to thank you for working in partnership with us to make our communities a safer place to live.

Sincerely,

Peyton C. Grinnell
Sheriff of Lake County

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Contents

—

4

Serving Our Community

7

School Resources

8

Human Resources

11

Corrections Operations

12

Uniform Patrol

15

Criminal Investigations

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to Michelle Miles, John Miles, Raymond Ramos, Ellory Osterbert, and Calvin Mitchell for showing off your spelling skills for Take Stock in Children of Lake & Sumter Counties' Annual Spelling Bee! Great job folks!



CAMP CORRAL

LCSO, once again, teamed up with the Jedziniak family and Golden Corral Buffet & Grill to help send deserving local children to Camp Corral in Raleigh, NC. "The mission of Camp Corral is to transform the lives of children of wounded, injured, ill, and fallen military heroes by providing a unique camp experience." LCSO is proud to work with non-profits that improve the quality of life in our community.



THE 2019 COMMISSIONER'S CUP

The 2019 Commissioner's Cup, in honor of Detention Deputy Bert Cole, was a great success. LCSO brought the bats and overcame Clermont Police Department. Chief Broadway and Sheriff Grinnell exchanged the trophy and every player had a blast. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the cause!



HELPING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

LCSO paired up with Habitat for Humanity of Lake-Sumter to build homes for a great cause. We are excited to be involved in this amazing process. Our crews teamed up with builders to make this home a reality for a worthy recipient. This project marked the inception of the Inmate Construction Academy with Lake County Sheriff's Office Inmates. Inmates worked side by side with Bay to Bay Concrete learning how to form a slab.





Sheriff Grinnell recognized Community Health Centers for their amazing donation of vision checks for 275 participants during Project Kid Connect. These checks are valued at nearly \$10,000! Thank you CHC for all you do for our community!

Pictured is Esmeralda Batiz of CHC along with Sheriff Grinnell, Lt. Mark Stauffer and Lt. Michael Marden.



SOUTH LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

On July 20, 2019 the Lake County Sheriff's Office hosted its 6th Annual Project Kid Connect Charity Event held at the South Lake District Office in Clermont. Our Planning Committee organized our largest event to date. We distributed approximately seven hundred twenty (720) backpacks filled with in excess of \$20,000 worth of retail school supplies to our South Lake school-aged children. In addition to the backpacks, our team provided lunch boxes, school uniforms, crayons, game coupons, children's books, hot dogs, drinks, pictures with deputies, Slurpee coupons and face painting.



The Project Kid Connect Planning Committee also made available many services at the event such as vision checks, fingerprinting and photographing, dental and tobacco education, homeless education & assistance and even low-income families/mortgage assistance.

The event brought together in excess of one hundred (100+) volunteers that teamed up with our Sheriff's Office staff to make this the best Project Kid Connect to date.

MEMBERS OF RAIDER NATION WILL
BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR A
ACHIEVE ACADEMICALLY AND PI
AND **SUCCEED** AT CARVER MI
THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, AND



School Resource

The Lake County Sheriff's Office provides a Deputy Sheriff at nine high schools, nine middle schools, four elementary schools, and two charter schools. There are two School Resource Deputies (SRD) assigned at the High Schools with larger populations located in Leesburg, Clermont, Groveland and Minneola.

The primary mission of the SRD Unit is to ensure the safety of every student, staff member and visitor on the school campus throughout the school day. In addition to the Deputies, the STAR Guardian Program currently covers 34 guardians that are monitored by the SRD department after the initial appointment to the program.

There are a total of 34 School Resource Deputies and Supervisors assigned to protecting a total of 23 campuses throughout the county. Additionally, the Sheriff provides a K-9 deputy to support the on-campus deputies. Each School Resource Deputy undergoes specialized training to work in the campus environment. Initial and annual follow-up training includes Response to Active Shooter, Criminal Street Gangs, Drug Investigations, Violence Prevention and Intervention.

In 2019, we held a SRO Basic School for the new SRD's and new city SRO's. All of our SRD's received updated training in Youth Mental Health First Aid as well as being certified in Crisis Intervention.

School Resource Deputies taught Cyber Safety to over 5,000 middle school students in 2019

Every SRD assigned to a middle school teaches the Cyber Safety presentation provided by the Office of the Attorney General of Florida. This program is designed to educate students about the risks of and tactics used by online predators as well as what constitutes as a cybercrime and how to report it.

During the school year of 2019-2020, the SRD's taught a total of 5,539 students. LCSO has been near the top in Florida for the number of students taught this program for seven years straight!

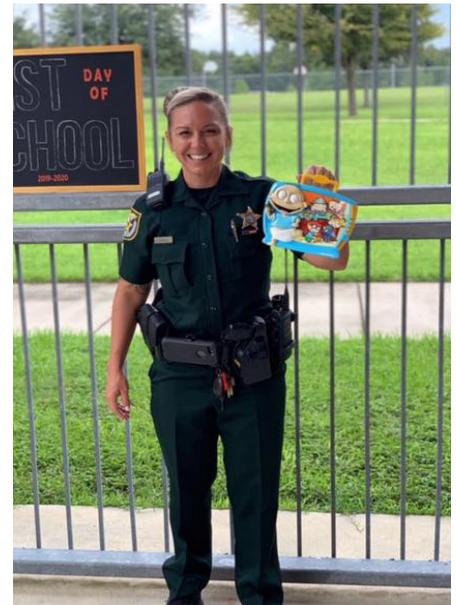
Specially trained SRD's also teach the D.A.R.E. program to Lake County Elementary Schools. In our second year of D.A.R.E. we have four D.A.R.E. certified deputies as well as one D.A.R.E. certified Sergeant teaching the program to the fifth grade students. Our second term has a total of 371 fifth grade students to graduate D.A.R.E. over 17 classes in three schools to date.

In 2019, SRD's were responsible for 696 reports, 57 total arrests, 167 Tobacco/Vape Citations and 11 Sexting Citations. Furthermore, School Resource Deputies made 102 W.I.L.A. referrals. This "Work

In Lieu of Arrest" program allows first-time juvenile offenders a chance at avoiding a Criminal Record by working on community service projects a minimum of three Saturdays in a row.

During the summer break, School Resource Deputies interact with elementary school students at two "Harmony in the Streets" Mobile Summer Camps with FSA at Carver Middle and Cecil Gray Middle. These week-long day camps are held at convenient locations throughout the county, and there is no charge for children (ages 6-12) to attend. During these summer camps, we reach approximately sixty elementary aged students per camp. We also assisted and sponsored students at the FSA Residential Youth Camp in Pierson, Florida.

In addition to their duties in the schools, the SRD's are also tasked as Shelter Managers during any State of Emergency where public shelters are utilized. In 2019, the SRD Unit managed and oversaw 15 Emergency Shelters during Hurricane Dorian. The SRD's and city SRO's attended a Shelter Management training. We also held a Principal/Assistant Principal Shelter training for School Administration.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources received 267 applications for both sworn and civilian employment during the 2019 calendar year. A total of 92 employees were hired and 25 retired agency-wide.

This year, we processed ten additional School Guardians bringing our total number to 34 School Guardians. School Guardians play an important role in keeping our children safe.

Employees continued to use the Care Here health facility, which completed 8,325 appointments. Care Here continues to be a cost-saving measure for the Sheriff's Office. Care Here performs labs, x-rays, occupational and provider visits along with offering personal wellness coaching.

This year, we hosted another successful on-site flu shot event

for our employees. We also hosted our first HRA "Know Your Numbers Campaign". This was a great way to inform our employees about their health screenings.

This year, we transitioned to John Hancock for our deferred compensation plan. We also have a new financial advisor available for our employees to assist with investments, savings and retirement planning.

Human Resources manages all workers' compensation claims and acts as a liaison between the employee, the health care provider and workers' compensation. This year, we also offered insurance benefits to our part time employees. Our Education Assistance Program was increased to \$2,100 per year for our employees to obtain post secondary education.







Left: LCSO celebrated our beloved Cathy Lee's 40th anniversary serving the citizens of Lake County. Cathy (pictured left with Sheriff Grinnell) has served under eight Sheriffs and taken care of hundreds of employees working in the Detention Center's administration. Below: Lt. Jerry Lujan, who retired this year, receives his 30-year anniversary watch from Sheriff Grinnell.



Average Daily Jail Population: 764

Total Received at LCJ: 9,169

Total Released: 9,235

Revenue Received

Subsistence Fees: \$ 75,249.94

Medical Charges: \$ 15,988.08

Extradition

Females: 240

Males: 1,285

CORRECTIONS OPERATIONS

Sheriff Grinnell signed a "Memorandum of Agreement" with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to train, certify and authorize deputies to perform certain immigration enforcement functions. These functions are to serve and execute warrants for immigration violations and to serve warrants of removal.

Our Inmate Sewing Training Program made hygiene kits for women in third world countries. In addition, we teamed up with Lake Tech to construct bags to be used by NASA for astronaut training purposes.

The Detention Center has also begun purchasing materials necessary to construct inmate mattresses from scratch. The cost of a single mattress was about \$48 to purchase, and we have reduced that cost to around \$26 by making them in-house.

In 2019, we also joined forces with Habitat for Humanity, utilizing inmate labor through our Construction Training Program to help construct houses for people in need within Lake County.

The Inmate Work Farm grew a total of 73,130 pounds of vegetables. We used 32,305 pounds of that to help subsidize the inmate food budget at the Jail, and the remaining 40,825 pounds were donated to the Lake Cares Food Pantry.

UNIFORM PATROL



Several Uniform Patrol deputies received Lifesaving Awards in 2019, for their brave efforts and quick thinking.

A 40 year old male called 911 and stated that he was going to kill himself by jumping out in front of a vehicle on US Hwy 27 near CR 561. He identified himself to the call taker, and provided his location (which was confirmed by his 911 coordinates). Another complainant called in advising they had seen a subject in the same area acting erratic near traffic on US Hwy 27.

Numerous deputies arrived in the area and began canvassing, in attempt to locate the subject. The suicidal male called back in on 911 several times and stated he saw law enforcement vehicles in the area, however he refused to come out to the units, or identify exactly where he was located. He then told the call takers that he was going to hang himself from a tree with his belt. He further stated that he was currently in a tree and could see US Hwy 27 from his location. It was learned that the subject was a professional tree climber for a living.

As M/D Richard Dolen, D/S Stefanie Pfister and D/S Clint Parish arrived at the location, the subject hung himself from the tree utilizing a leather belt around his neck. D/S Parish immediately pulled his issued pickup truck into the woods, under the tree. M/D Dolen immediately got into the back of the truck, and was able to support the subject's weight, to take the tension from the belt off of his neck. At this time, the subject was completely unconscious. D/S Parish stood on the roof of the truck and was able to reach the belt with his pocket knife to cut the subject down. Once the subject was lowered to the ground, he began to regain consciousness.

It is estimated the subject was unconscious for a minimum of a full minute, while hanging from the tree, as D/S Parish retrieved his pickup truck. Deputies Parish, Dolen and Pfister all received a Lifesaving Award for their efforts.

Deputies Danny Young, Javier Landa, and Gerald Corman

responded to a Leesburg address regarding an injured person. When the three Deputies arrived, they found neighbors and other on-lookers crowded around an SUV that was parked beneath a carport. The SUV's driver door was open, with an elderly female hanging from the vehicle. A witness informed the three Deputies he noticed the female trying to exit her car, when somehow the SUV began rolling backward, pinning her between the wall and the door, with the full weight of the vehicle pressed against her.

Lake County EMS personnel determined Ms. Vastine did not have a heart rhythm and wasn't breathing. As medical staff began discussing options of unpinning Ms. Vastine, Deputy Young reached under the rear bumper of the SUV and instructed others to do the same. The three Deputies, with the assistance of EMS and Fire, were able to lift and move the SUV, pulling Ms. Vastine to safety and continued to assist by rendering medical care. Due to the severity of her injuries, Ms. Vastine was air-lifted from the scene, and FHP elected to work a Traffic Homicide investigation.

Ms. Vastine has since recovered and has called our agency several times in a show of appreciation. Deputies Young and Corman have met with her since the accident, at her request to say thank you to the Deputies. Ms. Vastine is so grateful that, even after meeting the Deputies, Ms. Vastine has called and emailed with words of gratitude for saving her life. Deputies Young, Landa and Corman received a Lifesaving Award from Sheriff Grinnell recognizing their acts.



Motor Unit

The Motor Unit consists of four full time personnel and three-reserve personnel. Traffic complaints are the number one citizen complaint. In 2019, the Motor unit conducted 1675 traffic stops and issued 1640 citations throughout the county and responded to 211 crashes.

The Motor Unit worked 995 extra patrols that were based on citizen complaints. They also participated in 214 special details that included funeral escorts, National Night Out, holiday parades, motorcycle toy runs, the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and Special Olympics.

In August of 2019 President Trump visited Lake County. The Motor Unit met with the United States Secret Service. The Motor Unit was responsible for coordinating the route to and from the venue. All points along the route had to be secured. The main route included over 100 stationary posts to and from the venue with 50 Motor Units from agencies around Central Florida assisting the motorcade. The alternate route consisted of over 500 stationary posts.

DUI Unit

DUI Traffic Enforcement Unit consists of three highly trained and experienced DUI personnel. In 2019, Bronson Binder and Gerald Corman completed and became certified as Drug Recognition Experts. We now have a total of five DRE's in our agency.

In 2019, we made a total of 397 arrests of which 195 were for driving under the influence. Since the inception of the DUI Unit in March of 2017 thru December 31, 2019, this unit has made total 990 arrests with a total of 447 DUI arrests.

The Lake County DUI Unit also runs a countywide DUI Task Force, which consists of personnel from city agencies within the county. They assist during special events, holidays, enforcement waves and any other times deemed necessary.

We recently purchased a "Drunk Buster" pedal car that comes equipped with impairment goggles that has been used at the National Night Out in Mt. Dora and the Minneola Halloween event. Through the use of "Impaired Driving Stops Here" t-shirt sales funds, we were able to provide monetary donations to MADD and the Keri Anne DeMott Foundation.

The DUI Unit takes an active role in DUI and Drug Impairment education. We conducted in-service trainings that cover enforcement issues regarding the new marijuana laws, field sobriety refresher training and DUI report writing. We have conducted training not only within our agency, but frequently conduct training for the city agencies. We have also been involved in various activities, such as Tavares Middle School Field Day, Eustis Cartwright Campus "Should I Get Drunk or High" lecture, Kiwanis DUI presentation and other community speaking engagements.

K-9 Unit

The year 2019 has been another successful year for the Lake County Sheriff's Office Full Service K-9 Unit. One of the highlights of the last year was the donation of a Full Service K-9 to the Sheriff's Office. Central Florida K-9 donated a two-year-old German Shepherd dog, which is currently being trained for the Full Service K-9 Unit. The value of this donation is approximately \$15,000. The K-9 Unit also received new ballistic vests specifically fitted for each dog. These vests are much lighter and more advanced than the previous vests. These vests were donated by an anonymous donor. These vests cost \$1,200 per dog.

The K-9 Unit also had a successful year locating and apprehending several criminals wanted for felony crimes. This year a Full Service K-9 was also used to locate a missing endangered dementia patient. As a general rule the full-service dogs are not used to track missing people, due to the fact they are trained to bite. However, in this case it was deemed necessary due to the imminent danger to the missing persons life, and all other Sheriff's Office resources had been exhausted with negative results. Once again the full service K-9 Unit demonstrated it's immeasurable value to the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Lake County.

Minneola

In May of 2019, Sheriff Grinnell and the city of Minneola agreed to increase the number of deputies to serve the city from 12 deputies to 13. This agreement was needed due to the future population expansion and the increasing calls for service within the city. It is estimated, there will be a 40 to 50 percent increase in population within the next five years. The city has also shown interest in adding additional deputies in the upcoming year.



UNIT



WARRANTS

In early October 2019, the Warrants Unit received information from the Orange County Felony Warrants Squad that they had two individuals with active felony warrants for trafficking in marijuana that were possibly located at an address in Lake County. The address provided was in Sorrento. The contact from Orange County advised that they had just recently executed a search warrant on a residence in their county after following up on a Crimeline tip. After executing the search warrant, multiple firearms and a large amount of narcotics were recovered. The warrants were issued for the individuals Joseph Nguyen and Shawn Meece.

Deputy Andrea McKane was assigned to work with the Street Crimes unit at the time. Both units began to conduct surveillance on the residence and Deputy McKane did research on the residence in order to determine to whom the residence belonged to. There were multiple vehicles located at the residence during the course of the surveillance. Street Crimes deputies attempted to do traffic stops on the vehicles and each time the vehicles fled into Orange County. All vehicles were shown registered out of Orange County.

Upon doing research, Deputy McKane was able to locate a phone number for one of the individuals that was wanted and provided the information to the Orange County Felony Squad due to it being their open felony case. Through investigative techniques, a residence was identified. On October 16th, Orange County deputies then made contact with Cpl. Scott Owens who assisted while they wrote up a search warrant on the residence.

During the execution of the search warrant, Joseph Nguyen was located at the residence and taken into custody. Also, approximately \$240,000 cash was located and seized along with ammunition (Nguyen is a convicted felon) and narcotics were found.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 2019 , there were nine intentionally set fires in the Umatilla area. With the assistance of several agencies, Lake County Detectives were able to make an arrest.

The subject was charged with five of the set fires and detectives are still working to charge the remaining fires when processed evidence returns.

This past year, the Criminal Investigations Bureau was able to purchase a license plate reader (LPR) trailer that will enhance our investigative capabilities. Along with purchasing the LPR trailer, we also were given a grant which allowed for the addition of four major intersections with stationary cameras.

An investigator can now use this additional tool to check the cameras for a particular vehicle. Time is of the essence at times in an investigation no matter if we are looking for a bank robber or a missing person. Now the investigator can get on their computer and quickly see if a particular car has passed through the view of the camera. The LPR trailer with its mobility gives us the ability to put it in a particular spot or problem area.

Also, in the past year we had an investigator assist other counties and police departments with apprehending a group of criminals that were breaking into closed businesses. Over one hundred businesses had been burglarized by this group. This group was using stolen vehicles along with

other tools to get into the buildings that housed the businesses. Four sheriff's offices and three police departments, along with a statewide prosecutor, collaborated together to stop this group. The Lake County Sheriff's Office investigator was the one that was able to locate the stolen vehicle they were using at the time which brought a successful end to this criminal activities.

In 2019, there was a string of armed robberies in the Sorrento area where the violence started to escalate. The last robbery, occurred in Leesburg and resulted in a victim being shot. The victim survived and was able to assist detectives. Three suspects were identified and later arrested by detectives.

There were five robberies the suspects were tied to and they have been charged with three at this time. Further charges are pending evidence coming back from labs.

3,838 cases were sent to CIB. 349 arrests and/or warrants were requested.



“Our Mission: To serve people, support our communities and safeguard our quality of life..”

In 2019, the Community Services/Engagement Unit continued to provide excellent crime prevention and safety programs to Lake County residents. Our total number of events and citizen contacts were up and we look forward to meeting even more of our Lake County neighbors in 2020.

Some of the highlights of 2019 include the graduation of our 50th Sheriff's Citizen Academy class. Since the first Sheriff Citizen Academy (SCA) class in 1997, we have graduated over one thousand attendees. The class is 13 weeks, one night a week and will give you a better understanding of the functions of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. If you would like to attend a SCA class please give us a call at 352-326-8108 or email at communityservices@lcsso.org.

Another highlight from 2019 is the institution of two new programs. The first is our resource for drivers with hearing impairments. Drivers who suffer from hearing impairments can obtain

a visual aid card from our offices free of charge. The cards will improve communication between drivers and law enforcement in the event of a traffic issue.

The second new program is our “Pet Rescue” stickers. The highly visible stickers will alert first responders to the presence of pets in the home in the event of an emergency.

One of our programs, called “Car Fit” was promoted on our social media platforms in 2019. Car Fit technicians assigned to Community Services help senior drivers to best adjust their car's seat, steering wheel, seatbelt etc. to the optimum setting for their size. Look out for Car Fit events in 2020.

For information on any of our programs please visit us on our web page located at www.lcsso.org or give us a call at 352-326-8108.

Report Writing Department

The Report Writing Department is responsible for taking phone-in reports from personnel in every area of the Sheriff’s Office. A deputy will initiate their report by calling the Report Writers, who then type the report into the call-in system while the deputy dictates the information. The Report Writer is responsible for editing, proofreading, and coding each report for accuracy.

In 2019, the Uniform Patrol Unit called in 9,453 reports, while the School Resource Deputies called in a total of 1,084 reports. A total of 14,561 reports were called in to this 12 member unit who are available 24/7. We took 321 reports in 2019, via the citizens utilizing the online system.

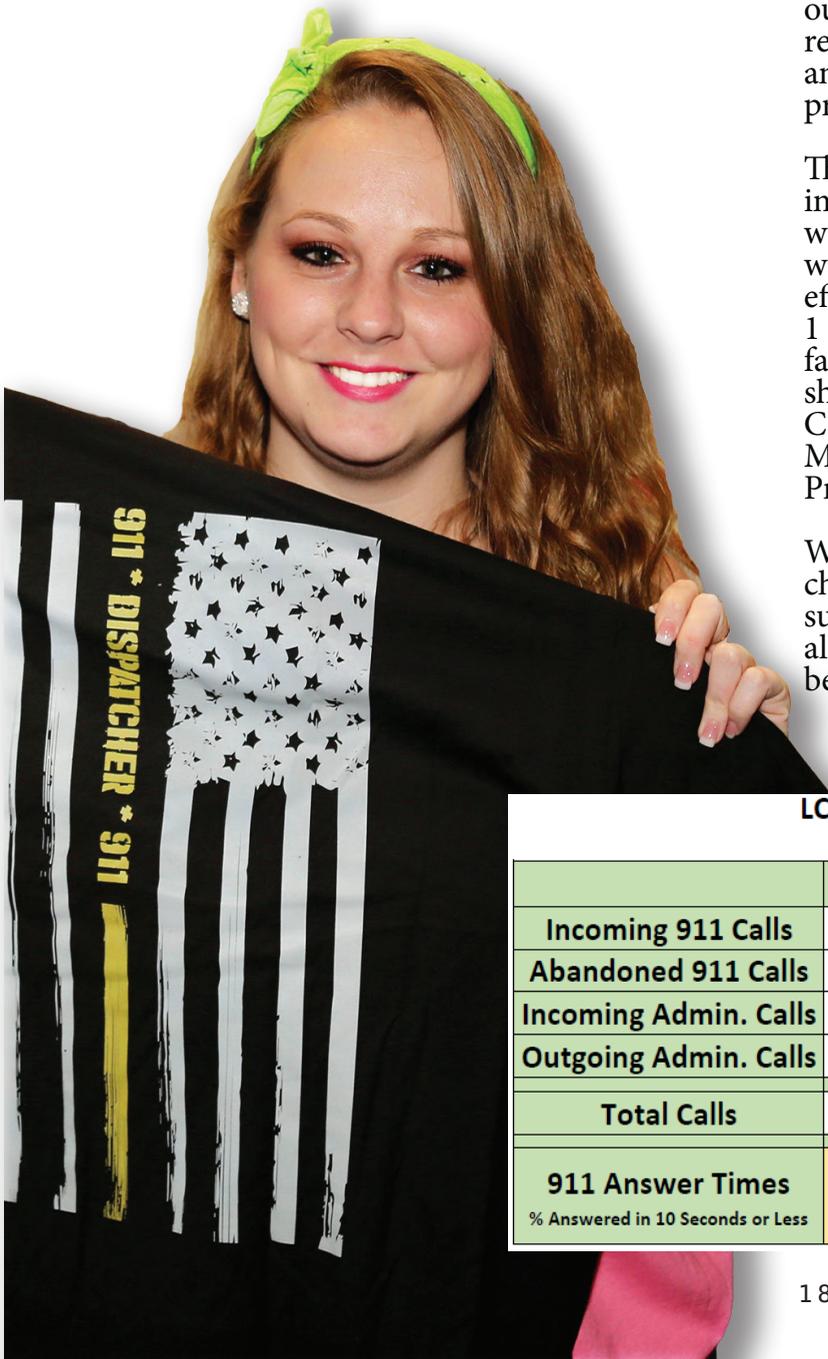
In addition, the Report Writers are responsible for reporting our agency’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). This program provides a barometer of the crime conditions within a geographic jurisdiction. The data that is derived from the UCR Program provides assistance in determining the overall scope of the reported criminal activity in our county and state. The Uniform Crime Reports Program collects both offense and arrest crime data.

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

Crime Volume				Property Values			
	2017	2018	2019		2017	2018	2019
Total Index	3,133	3,107	2,676	Total Stolen	\$7,915,056	\$8,179,218	\$9,911,679
Total Violent	489	504	445	Total Recovered	\$3,274,597	\$2,624,681	\$3,173.553
Total Property	2,644	2,603	2,231				
Arrest Data							
	2017	2018	2019		2017	2018	2019
Total	4,508	3,970	3,791	Population	160,652	161,791	167,638
Adult	4,295	3,807	3,603	Clearance Rate	19.7%	21.3%	21.2%
Juvenile	213	163	188	Crime Rate	1,950.2	1920.4	1,596.3
Male	3,298	2,904	2,737				
Female	1,210	1,066	1,054				



Communications Center



The Communications Center shattered our agency's annual 9-1-1 answer time record, closing out the year with 98.74% of the 144,537 9-1-1 calls received answered in 10 seconds or less. This is an amazing accomplishment when compared to years prior.

This year, we benefitted from technology implementation that routes the wireless 9-1-1 calls we used to answer to the correct city jurisdiction without LCSO intervention. Our dispatchers' efforts also reduced the number of abandoned 9-1-1 calls since callers were answered and assisted faster. Outgoing administrative calls and workload should continue to drop as we have partnered with Community Services to utilize volunteers at the Mall Office to call members of the Senior Watch Program.

We are also utilizing the Countywide radio channel to communicate quickly and directly with surrounding city agencies within Lake County allowing field personnel to monitor the information being shared.

LCSO Annual Telephone Stats

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Incoming 911 Calls	154,977	155,425	155,427	155,497	144,537
Abandoned 911 Calls	9,431	7,834	5,313	2,053	800
Incoming Admin. Calls	259,149	266,996	229,799	208,133	206,070
Outgoing Admin. Calls	132,839	118,979	107,457	116,744	97,612
Total Calls	556,396	549,234	497,996	482,427	449,019
911 Answer Times % Answered in 10 Seconds or Less	81.24%	83.78%	82.01%	93.71%	98.74%

Biased-Based Profiling Policy

UN-BIASED POLICY

The policy of the Lake County Sheriff's Office is to treat every citizen with courtesy and respect. The purpose of this position is to reaffirm our commitment to unbiased policing in all its encounters between deputy sheriffs and citizens.

A fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States is equal protection under the law. Along with this right to equal protection is the fundamental right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures by government agents as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment. Citizens are free to walk and drive our streets, highways, and other public places without law enforcement interference so long as they obey the law. They also are entitled to be free from the acts of criminals, and to drive and walk our public ways safe from the actions of reckless and careless drivers.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is charged with protecting these rights, for all, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or economic status. Law enforcement action which is biased is illegal and violates the equal protection clause and the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. It also alienates citizens, fosters distrust of the Sheriff's Office, and undermines legitimate law enforcement efforts.

The nature of our business requires deputy sheriffs to be observant, to identify unusual occurrences

and law violations, and to act upon them. Proactive law enforcement keeps our citizens safe to live and work in a crime free environment. Criminal profiling is a legitimate tool in the fight against crime. Criminal profiling is an investigative method in which a deputy, through observation of activities and environment, identifies suspicious behavior by individuals and develops a legal basis, consistent with the Fourth Amendment, to stop them for questioning.

Criminal profiling is one of many accepted and necessary law enforcement investigative practices. However, it differs from and should not be confused with bias-based profiling. One is an investigative tool; the other, a discriminatory practice. Illegal profiling refers to a decision by a deputy to stop, detain, interdict, or search an individual based on their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or economic status. The Lake County Sheriff's Office prohibits illegal profiling as a law enforcement tactic and will not tolerate or condone its use by any of our deputies.

It is the Sheriff's Office philosophy to accomplish our mission in a way that respects the dignity of all persons and yet sends a strong message of zero tolerance to actual and potential lawbreakers.

— Investigations Bureau

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

During 2019, the Special Investigations Bureau conducted two major investigations into drug trafficking organizations. The first investigation “Operation Cell Block” was responsible for distributing large amounts of methamphetamine “Ice”, heroin and marijuana in the south end of the county. As a result of this operation, two major high-level drug traffickers were arrested along with 16 other members of their organization. Three search warrants were executed netting approximately one pound of meth, several ounces of heroin, and multiple pounds of marijuana were seized as a result of this investigation.

The second major investigation “Operation Pull the Plug” was responsible for distributing large amounts of cocaine in the Leesburg area. As a result, three major high-level drug traffickers were arrested along with 28 other members of their organization. One search warrant was executed resulting in approximately half a kilogram of cocaine being seized as a result of the investigation.

Throughout the year, the Special Investigations Bureau received 154 narcotics complaints. From those complaints and other narcotics investigations, detectives executed 23 search warrants and made a total of 101 arrests. As a result of the investigations, approximately 532 grams of cocaine, 1,071 grams of heroin/fentanyl, 1,359 grams of meth, 95 grams of molly and 7,185 grams of marijuana were seized.

To combat underage drinking, the Special Investigations Bureau conducted an undercover operation utilizing underage confidential informants in an attempt to purchase alcohol from numerous convenience stores throughout the county. Detectives visited 106 stores and issued 20 misdemeanor citations to clerks who sold an alcoholic beverage to persons under the age of 21.

During the year, the Special Investigations Bureau conducted five operations with the Lake County Sheriff’s Office Street Crimes Unit to combat street-level drug sales in high-crime areas of Lake County. As a result of the operations, detectives made 11 felony drug arrests with two of the arrests made for trafficking in narcotics.

Crime Scene Investigations

In 2019, Crime Scene Investigations received a new tool to assist in the processing of major crime scenes. The Lake County Sheriff's Office purchased a **FARO** crime scene laser scanner. It allows our crime scene investigators to create 3-D scans of crime scenes for a virtual recreation of the crime scene you can navigate through. This will assist the detectives as well as the State Attorney's Office when cases go to trial.

We also added the FSIS system, which allows us to photograph fingerprints on rounded surfaces. We can also see and photograph fingerprints using Ultraviolet light, increasing our ability to process evidence.

Intel Unit

During the year 2019, the Intelligence Unit conducted two operations and made a total of 25 arrests, one of which was a courtesy hold for the US Marshal's Office.

"Operation Scarecrow" which initiated in 2018 was concluded in February of 2019 and yielded the first six arrests of the year for the unit. It was a three day operation conducted from October 29-31 whereby 42 sex offenders and predators currently on probation were verified out of a total of 50 registered offenders.

The Intel Unit made four felony arrests regarding internet crimes against children. One of the arrests resulted from a search warrant where it was discovered that the perpetrator had been creating his own child pornography using two juvenile female victims; this ultimately resulted in a 50-year prison sentence for the arrestee. A second case involved a church youth group leader who was sending nude photos of himself to the female juvenile church members.

Additionally, the Intel Unit contributed to the safety and security of large-scale events that occurred throughout the year. The unit participated in the Leesburg BikeFest by monitoring outlaw motorcycle gangs and other threats to the community relating to the event. The unit also assisted the US Secret Service in monitoring and responding to any and all threats to the President and the community before and during President Trump's visit to the Sharon Morse Performing Arts Center in The Villages. Also, the unit contributed to the intelligence gathering, information dissemination and monitoring of social media outlets during a recent manhunt for an attempted murder suspect who shot a law enforcement officer and fled into the woods.



Crime Scene Investigations

- Responded to 357 Calls for Service
- Attended 9 Autopsies
- Worked 10 Homicides (*five of which were in another jurisdiction*)
- Processed 3,305 pieces of evidence for latent fingerprints
- Presented at four Sheriff's Citizen Academies

PROPERTY EVIDENCE

- Handled 5,614 cases
- Took in 17,375 pieces of evidence
- Released/dispensed of 7,200 pieces of evidence
- Turned over \$181,002 in seized monies

Fingerprints

- Evaluated 13,574 prints
- Compared 14,410 prints
- Identified 211 subjects
- Processed 2,593 walk-ins for prints
- Generated \$ 4,680 in fingerprinting fees

PHOTO LAB

- Printed 5,645 color prints
- Generated 6,302 contact sheets
- Processed 110,545 digital images
- Produced 3,311 CD/DVD's*

*Note: We started a new file sharing system with the State Attorney's Office resulting in 680 files shared. This immediately cut down on the need to burn CD's and DVD's, thus resulting in taxpayer savings.



COURT SERVICES BUREAU



The Sheriff's Office provides security for the Lake County Courthouse. The courthouse is staffed with 22 full-time deputies, two part-time deputies, two civilian control room operators, 12 armed security officers, and eight Sheriff's Office volunteers. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all people working or visiting the courthouse throughout the day. We provide security for 12 elected officials, which includes eight Circuit judges, three County judges and the Clerk of Court. Security is also provided for two Magistrates and two Hearing Officers.

G4S Security Officer Duties

G4S Security Officers are responsible for conducting security screenings of all visitors to the courthouse. G4S security officers screened approximately 230,328 visitors in 2019, with a daily average of 917. G4S officers transport all inmates to and from the jail for court hearings and trials. They transported 4,596 inmates to and from the Lake County Jail in 2019. They operate control rooms in our inmate holding area and manage inmate movement while in the courthouse. G4S officers are supervised directly by the Sheriff's Office supervisors to make sure they maintain compliance with Sheriff's Office policy as well as accreditation standards.

Jury Trials



This year, the courthouse conducted 40 felony trials, 16 misdemeanor trials, nine civil trials, one capital trial and empaneled two Grand Juries. Deputies work closely with the judge, jury and court staff to ensure a fair and impartial trial and adjust to changing situations to accomplish this goal.

Courthouse Public Visitors	230,328
Daily Average	917
Teen Court Attendance	2,200
Inmates Transported for Court	4,596
DJJ Juveniles Transported for Court	242
Arrests from Court Proceedings	386
Warrant Arrests	71
Warrant Alerts (referred by Court, etc.)	95
Injunctions Served	18
Deputy escorts, public, Clerks, etc.	517
Building Alarms	471
Unscheduled Inmates Transports	252
Fingerprinting (Lobby)	53
Capital Trials	1
Felony Trials	40
Misdemeanor Trials	16
Civil Trials	9
Grand Jury Empanelling	2

Accomplishments in 2019

We are continually evaluating and improving our security procedures and systems at the courthouse. We work closely with the administrative judge and Lake County Board of County Commissioners to acquire security improvements as funds become available. In 2019, we were able to add 50 new security cameras to the North Wing of the courthouse. We also added multiple electronic access doors that corrected several security issues within the building. The added cameras and added electronic access doors significantly increased our ability to secure and monitor the building. We are expecting more improvements in the following year and will continue to work to improve the security of the courthouse to better protect all within it.

Court Services Deputies

In 2019, court deputies served 71 warrants from court, responded to 95 warrant alerts from which warrants arrest were made, served 18 injunctions, responded to 300 building and duress alarms, and conducted 30 public escorts.



OFFICE of PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for performing a variety of functions that all serve to maintain the professionalism of the agency and protect the public's trust. This unit ensures that the agency's accreditation with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation is maintained, issues news releases and provides media interviews to keep citizens informed, acquires grant funding and also conducts administrative investigations when allegations of substandard performance are made against agency employees.

In December 2019, the Sheriff's Office underwent an in-depth inspection by a team of external assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation to determine the agency's eligibility for reaccreditation. The assessment team examined policies, procedures, accounting practices of the agency's fiscal activities, as well as various safety and security practices. The inspection was flawless, and the Commission awarded Sheriff Peyton Grinnell with the certificate of reaccreditation at the quarterly business meeting in St. Augustine in February. The Lake County Sheriff's Office has been accredited since 2007.

The Sheriff's Office has two spokesmen who work hard to deliver timely and accurate information concerning significant investigations and important activities to its citizens through news releases and press interviews. In 2019, these two responded to countless requests for information from local news outlets and even some national ones. The spokesmen also respond to public records requests received from the general public in an effort to release the records in strict accordance with the governing state statutes. Transparency is key when it comes to the success of any government entity and the Sheriff's Office prides itself on its ability to keep its citizens informed.

In 2019, five grants were obtained that helped provide necessary safety equipment while saving taxpayer dollars. The Sheriff's Office received \$ 449,184 in grant funding for items such as active shooter simulators, hiring and retraining school guardians, refurbishing a SWAT command trailer, self-contained breathing apparatuses for narcotics detectives, Narcan intranasal devices and other safety equipment.

The ability of any law enforcement agency to effectively police its own is directly connected to its success and how the public views the agency. Last year, the internal affairs investigator conducted a total of 43 administrative investigations. Oftentimes, false allegations are made against an arresting deputy in an effort to help the defendant in a criminal case. Other times, allegations are valid and require action on the part of the agency. The goal of the investigator is to obtain all the facts surrounding a complaint filed against an employee so administration can make a well-informed decision as to how the situation can be best handled. These investigations must be conducted within the parameters of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

Records Unit

Our Records Unit received, processed, and disseminated 10,719 reports in 2019, and fulfilled 24,225 records requests from the public, as well as DCF, insurance companies, other agency requests, etc.

In the past few years, we set two main goals for the records department: to make reports more easily and quickly obtainable for the citizens of Lake County, and to “go green” with the daily inner workings of our department. We have accomplished this by implementing the use of Acrobat reader to redact reports. Our paper usage has decreased significantly, we are able to email reports more quickly and efficiently, and monetarily we are decreasing our budget on supplies. We also switched companies for our annual destruct cutting the cost of this event in half.

The Records Unit has also worked diligently to update our procedures in maintaining records. We no longer keep “duplicates” of files. We double check every paper that comes into our department that it has been scanned, check that it has been scanned correctly, is legible, and has been disseminated properly. Once we have done this, these “duplicate” paper documents are being disposed of according to FDLE and Florida State Statutes. The only exception to this is homicides, whereby we continue to maintain the original documents of these cases as well as keeping them up to date on the server.

We are also continuing the process of transferring microfilm reports that have not met retention to our server program so this method of storage is no longer necessary.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

Lake County Sheriff’s Office Fleet Maintenance is responsible for purchasing, out-fitting and maintenance of approximately 550 vehicles and trailers. The north fleet maintenance facility is located in Eustis and the south fleet maintenance facility is located in Clermont at the South Lake District Office.

Over the past year, Fleet Maintenance has replaced 60 worn out/high mileage vehicles. This includes replacement of a 20 year old tow truck. Our tow truck is an essential tool that is used for towing evidence, equipment and wrecked/broken down vehicles.

We acquired three lightly used forklifts from the US Military re-utilization program at a cost of only \$500 each. They will be used at three different locations to replace old, worn out forklifts. We are introducing new technology lightbars into the fleet that dims the lightbar and changes the pattern to a slow flash instead of strobing when parked. This reduces the distraction impact of other drivers when passing.

Technician Ben Schwartzberg has achieved a Master Certification in automotive ASE. He joins Art Neubauer and Ray Nichols as ASE Master Technicians.



AG & MARINE UNIT

Throughout the 2019 year, the Agriculture and Marine Unit responded to calls for service involving boating accidents, drownings, overdue boaters, missing person searches, agriculture thefts, livestock thefts and livestock complaints.

Some of the more notable calls for service for the Agriculture and Marine Unit were the following; On 3/8/19, units responded to a drowning of a 17 year old in a retention pond in Groveland. Units arrived on scene and were able to locate the deceased with side scan sonar within minutes of being on scene. The deceased was then recovered from the water.

On 3/13/19, units responded to Lake Harris where an unmanned bass boat had crashed at a high rate of speed into a walking bridge at Venetian Gardens in Leesburg. Upon the units arrival, we began searching the area for the missing boater who had fallen out of the boat. Within minutes, units located the subject who was thrown from the bass boat, with no lifejacket in the water near the mouth of Venetian Cove. The subject was pulled from the water and taken to shore, then transported to the hospital by E.M.S. On 7/3/19, units responded to Lake Louise in the City of Eustis to assist the Eustis Police Department with a missing kayaker.

AG/Marine Units along with our dive team located and recovered the deceased from the water: On 7/29/19, units responded to Lake Beauclair in reference to a powered paraglider crashing and sinking in the lake. Upon our arrival, we located the downed aircraft and deceased pilot. AG/Marine Units along with our dive team recovered the deceased and the aircraft from the lake. On 10/5/19, units responded to Lake Palatlahaha in reference to a female who was run over by a boat and suffering from lacerations from the boat prop. On 12/16/19, units responded to Dead River in reference to a deceased subject floating in the river. Marine units arrived on scene and recovered the deceased from the water. On 12/29/19, units responded to the St John's River near Jungle Den in reference to a missing canoeist. Our marine unit located the missing canoeist with side scan sonar on the bottom of the St John's River within 10 minutes of being on scene. After the marine unit marked the location of the deceased, our dive team recovered the victim.

Throughout the 2019 year, the Agriculture and Marine Unit investigated many cases of theft and recovered approximately \$265,000 worth of stolen property.

New purchases for the Agriculture and Marine Unit in 2019 included a 2018 Honda Pioneer UTV and a 2019 Tidewater 2410 center console patrol boat.

CORE VALUES

LEADERSHIP
COMMUNITY loyalty



people

Commitment

accountability

Integrity

PROFESSIONALISM