MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

I would like to begin this message with a “WARM” Southwest Florida welcome to our seasonal residents and visitors. On behalf of the men and women of your Sheriff’s Office, I extend every hope and prayer for a wonderful and healthy 2018.

A quick look back from this point finds a very good year overall here in Lee County with the exception of violent crime, primarily concentrated in the City of Fort Myers and directly or indirectly tied to the area known as Dunbar. This violence follows an alarming trend in inner cities across the nation. With a new Ft. Myers Police Chief (Derrick Diggs) now in place following an impressive career in Toledo, OH; he and I are working closely to address this issue and it seems our brave men and women are making progress.

Across the U.S. and the world, we lament acts of terror that continue to threaten our way of life. With too many examples to cite, these tragedies remind us of an ever present danger. Whether the violence is inflicted by guns, knives, bombs, or vehicles, we must remember that evil people exist, and reporting any and all suspicious activity is more important than ever before. Locally, we work very closely with our Federal counterparts but we all rely on the eyes and ears of an alert citizenry.

Sadly, we see increasingly hostile attitudes toward law enforcement. Last season, one of our American pastimes allowed a high-profile Quarterback on a high-profile team to distract from the Pledge of Allegiance and our National Anthem in a self-proclaimed protest of law enforcement in our country.

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PRIDE TO SERVE

Inside this issue:

- Welcome Back Snowbirds
- Violence in Inner Cities
- Report Suspicious Activity
- Law Enforcement, First Line of Defense

SWFL HOUSES OF WORSHIP RETHINKING SECURITY; TURN TO LCSO

In the wake of recent mass shootings across the country, faith leaders in Lee County are taking steps to protect their places of worship and they are turning to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office.

See HOUSE OF WORSHIP—Page 2
In December, just before Christmas, close to 400 pastors and church leaders attended the ‘Active Shooter for Faith Based Institutions’ seminar held at McGregor Baptist Church in Fort Myers.

Sheriff Mike Scott opened the event expressing the importance of awareness and the sad reality that houses of worship are becoming targets.

“We all know why we are here. It’s very simple and it’s very sad because it’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when and it’s a matter of where. The question is, what are we going to do?” said Sheriff Scott.

Staff Officer Scott Griffith lead the seminar and said everyone needs to mentally devise a strategy whenever they walk into a building as well as familiarize yourself with exits and possible escape routes.

Griffith, who has decades of law enforcement experience, trains people at businesses, schools and churches on how to handle an active shooter situation.

Come up with a plan

“We have to think about how we’re going to prepare,” said Griffith. He urged houses of worship to come up with a plan and put a team in place to respond if a shooter should enter their church.

Over the past year, the Sheriff’s Office Community Relations and Public Services Division has seen an uptick in interest in active shooter seminars and presentations.

“The shooting in Texas really caught my attention,” said one attendee, referring to the November massacre when a gunman killed 26 worshippers and wounded dozens of others at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. We all think it won’t happen to us, but what if it does?” she added.

For more information on active shooter and mass casualty seminars, as well as other programs offered by the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, call (239) 258-3280.

Get fit with CarFit

CarFit is an educational program that provides a quick, comprehensive review of how well you and your vehicle work together. Upcoming events are planned in the following locations:

**Where:** AAA

- **Wednesday, March 14**
  - 10-11:30 a.m.
  - 2516 Colonial Blvd.
  - Apointments call: Barbara Brice, 939-6500

**Cape Coral Healthy Life Center**

- **Tuesday, March 27**
  - 609 SE 13th Ct., Cape Coral
  - 9 a.m. - noon
  - Appointments call: 424-3210
While there is no doubt that police on occasion disgrace the badge, those are very rare instances among the millions of citizen contacts with police across the United States each day. Though I agree everyone has the right to express themselves and enjoy a freedom of speech, I simply can’t support anyone or any organization that hijacks these most sacred moments of patriotism.

Despite some of the rhetoric about the American Law Enforcement Officer, he or she is in fact the first line of defense between good and evil. It is a responsibility that my team and I take very seriously each and every day around the clock, and we remain proud to serve and focused on the mission.

This agency will continue to work with local, state and federal agencies to maintain our the safety of Lee County residents, and I look forward to continued success in 2018 as we work together to keep this wonderful community that I was born and raised in, an exceptional place to work and live.

IRS SCAM TOPS FRAUD LINE CALLS

Have you ever had one of those pesky robocalls asking for your personal information? If so, you are not alone.

In 2017, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Fraud Line responded to 7,127 calls from residents reporting a variety of frauds, scams, and cons.

As in previous years, the IRS scam remained the most commonly reported, followed by general phone scams and computer hacking.

QUICK TIPS:
- Never give out personal information to someone you do not know.
- Hang up the phone if you are threatened.
- Never wire transfer or send money to a stranger.
- Remember: The IRS will not ask for personal or financial information over the phone.

TOP 5 REPORTED SCAMS:
1. IRS SCAM CALL
2. PHONE SCAM (GENERAL CALLS)
3. COMPUTER HACKING SCAM
4. PHISHING CALLS
5. LOTTERY SCAM

Are you a victim of a fraud or scam? Call our Fraud Line: 258-3292.

LCSO FIGHTS HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Hundreds showed up to fight hunger in Southwest Florida at the 10th Annual WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Office was the lead sponsor for the annual walk held at Miromar Outlets in Estero. The fundraiser benefits the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Participants raised more than $305,000 at this year’s walk, one of the largest anti-hunger events in Southwest Florida.

Undersheriff Carmine Marceno thanked the community for their time and donations to the Harry Chapin Food Bank.
BE AWARE BE SMART: 2018 SEMINARS AIM TO EDUCATE

Scams, frauds, identity theft. It can be hard to keep up with the latest way to protect yourself and your assets, which is why the LCSO Crime Prevention unit is teaming up with Elder Law Attorney Britton G. Swank for a seminar series designed to educate and prepare you to make good choices. The following seminars are scheduled:

- Scams, Fraud & Card Skimmers/Medicaid & Veterans Benefits
  February 26, 11:30am-12:30pm
  Lehigh Sr. Center, 219 Plaza Dr.
  RSVP: 239-369-5355
- Internet Safety for Older Adults & Avoiding Probate
  March 9, 10:00am-11:30am
  Discovery Village at the Forum
  2619 Forum Blvd., Fort Myers
  RSVP: 239-989-0444
- Power of Attorney & Guardianship
  April 13, 10:00am-11:30am
  The Crossing at Hancock Bridge
  301 Hancock Bridge Pkwy, NFM
  RSVP: 239-349-3000
- Identity Theft: Medical, Financial, Deceased, and Estate Planning
  May 11, 10:00am-11:30am
  Cypress Point, 6870 Alister Way,
  RSVP: 239-600-3249
- Project Lifesaver
  June 8, 10am-11:30am
  Cape Coral Wellness Center
  609 SE 13th Court
  RSVP: 239-424-3220

ON THE HUNT FOR SKIMMERS

The Lee County Sheriff’s Office along with investigators from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are on the hunt for gas station skimmers.

“The devices keep changing,” said one gas station owner.

**Protect Yourself**

Detectors advise you to:

- Make sure the security seal on the gas pump is not broken
- Use pumps that have security cameras
- Run your debit card as credit to protect your PIN or pay with cash

In August of last year, ECU Detectives uncovered an organization that had manufactured and installed skimmers at multiple gas station pumps. Months later, they inspected 26 gas stations. While they did not find any skimming devices, it proves their efforts to crack down on these thieves are working.
EMS responders have credited Deputy Tillman’s swift actions and lifesaving efforts for the reason the victim was able to survive and eventually make a full recovery. In addition, fire personnel said they are familiar with Tillman’s work ethic and praised him for his dedication to the community.

Deputy Kenneth Tillman demonstrates courage, strength under pressure and a high regard for others. LCSO is proud to have him on our team!

Senior Safety Seminars

- March 8 at 10 a.m. - Social Security Benefits and Identity Theft
- April 12 at 10 a.m. - Get to Know the Lee County Sheriff’s Office
- May 10 at 10 a.m. - House and Vehicle Burglary Prevention
- June 14 at 10 a.m. - Internet Safety
- July 12 at 10 a.m. - Safety Away from Home
- August 9 at 10 a.m. - Home Repair Fraud
- September 13 at 10 a.m. - When Violence Breaks Out

All seminars will take place at the United Healthcare Medicare Store:
Daniels Crossing Shopping Center
6900 Daniels Pkwy. #23-C, Fort Myers
Seating is limited. Call (239) 561-9142 to reserve your spot.

SHRED EVENT

March 10, 2018
Miromar Outlet Mall
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Limit 2 standard size boxes per car
Suggested donation of $5 per box to benefit the LCSO Project Lifesaver Program
For more info. contact Community Relations at (239) 258-3280
communityrelations@sheriffleefl.org

DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

A hero’s salute to Deputy First Class Kenneth Tillman for being recognized as the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Deputy of the 4th Quarter for his response to a single vehicle crash on November 1, 2017.

When Deputy Tillman arrived on scene, he immediately observed the driver was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Suspecting the man had suffered a catastrophic medical event; Deputy Tillman quickly pulled him from his vehicle and began CPR before eventually utilizing his department issued AED (Automated External Defibrillator) device and regaining a pulse.
HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PEOPLE?

Deshon Walker
5’ 10”
170 pounds
D.O.B: 9-21-96
VOP Robbery

Angel Morales Carrasco
2nd Degree Murder

Ronald Mauvais
5ft. 11 in.
D.O.B: 3-10-79
Sexual Battery

James Lanier
5 ft. 6 in.
170 lbs.
D.O.B: 11-25-63
VOP Battery 3x

Alejandro Mendoza-Carabajal
5 ft. 4 in.
160 lbs.
D.O.B 12-8-80
Felony BW FTA
Attempted 2nd Degree Murder

Sanok Xayamounkhoun
5 ft. 5 in.
130 lbs.
D.O.B. 4-18-90
VOCC Possession of Controlled Substance x3, FTA Burglary, FTA Drug Poss x2

Tomas Miguel
5 ft. 3 in.
130 lbs.
D.O.B. 1-1-82
VOCC Battery Second Offense and Cruelty Toward Child

Dominique Felicetti
5 ft. 11 in.
238 lbs.
D.O.B. 11-18-87
FTA Obscene Communication

Troy Bolin
5 ft. 10 in.
180 lbs.
D.O.B. 8-25-60
Sexual battery on a Child Under 12 years of Age

Dean Trevil
6 ft. 1 in.
220 lbs.
D.O.B. 1-11-85
FTA Aggravated Battery
CORRECTIONS DEPUTY OF THE QUARTER

Devastating flooding, shredded roofs, and downed trees were signs that Hurricane Irma had stormed her way through Southwest Florida. Many homes and businesses were affected by the torrential rain and strong winds, including the Sheriff’s Office Corrections facilities.

Though many outstanding deputies and staff members rose above their normal duties the night of the storm, one person in particular, Sgt. Darrin Roth, acted with selfless honor and bravery to ensure the safety and security of the inmate population and Sheriff’s Office employees.

During the evening hours as Irma slammed our area, water drains on the 5th floor recreation yard in the main jail became clogged with debris blown in through the ceiling; causing water to flood several floors below. In rapidly deteriorating conditions, Sgt. Roth grabbed dustpans, brooms and garbage bags to begin clearing the blockage.

Shortly after and well into the worst of hurricane conditions, the jail lost electricity causing the facility to function on generator power. As the high wind and horizontal rain continued to pound the downtown area, a louvered window in the jail’s generator room allowed rain to pour in, causing additional flooding that sent water flowing down a stairwell and into office areas. Eventually, the entire jail went into complete darkness.

While employees worked quickly to move supplies, double the staff presence on each floor, and maintain security in a highly stressful atmosphere, Sgt. Roth and a Lee County maintenance employee accessed the wet generator room in order to assess the problem.

Sgt. Roth donned rubber gloves and boots in order to insulate himself from electrical discharges and used a PVC pipe as a lever in order to reach the flooded generator breaker. He continued to work in the dangerous environment until power was restored to each floor.

It is for his courageous actions, level of calmness and his display of deep knowledge of the jail’s operating systems that we are proud to recognize Sgt. Darrin Roth as the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Corrections Deputy of the 4th Quarter.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

For the last ten years, Clifford Hollywood has been an active member of the Sheriff’s Office V.O.I.C.E. (Volunteer Observers Impacting Community Effort) program, giving of his time to serve the residents of Lee County. Due to his heroic efforts while on patrol in North Fort Myers, he was chosen as the Sheriff’s Office Volunteer of the 4th Quarter.

On December 4, 2017, Hollywood was waiting to exit the parking lot of a shopping center on U.S. 41 when he saw a van exit the same area, cross over a busy thoroughfare, leave the roadway and enter into a large ditch filled with nearly four feet of water. Hollywood quickly responded to the accident and began reporting to dispatch what had taken place. Realizing the man was unresponsive, Hollywood used a window break tool to get inside the locked van and get to the driver. Within minutes, NFM Fire and Rescue arrived and assisted him in removing the driver safely. After further evaluation, it was determined the driver had overdosed on heroin and would likely not have survived had it not been for Hollywood’s quick thinking.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Office is proud to recognize V.O.I.C.E. member Clifford Hollywood for volunteering to help his fellow man despite risking his own personal safety.
to fraudulent relationships through the use of popular social media and internet dating websites.

The romance scam is a billion dollar internet scheme that entraps victims of all ages and can cause long-term effects both financially and emotionally.

Scammers prey on emotions while draining your bank account.

Follow these signs to see if your so-called ‘sweetheart’ is swindling you:

**Online Romance Scam Warning**

Guard your heart and your wallet from scammers posing as online love interests in what is commonly known as the “romance scam.”

The Fraud Line has received an increase in calls from family members reporting con-artists posing as the perfect partner in order to lure unsuspecting victims in to fraudulent relationships.

- **Heart Icon** You receive a “friend” request from someone you don’t know and they quickly want to develop a relationship.
- **Heart Icon** Quickly urges you to move the conversation off of Facebook or the dating site.
- **Heart Icon** Claims to be from the United States but is overseas for business or family matters.
- **Heart Icon** Your new “friend” asks for money to help pay for travel costs so you two can meet.
- **Heart Icon** Claims to have an emergency with a family member and needs financial assistance to get back to the states because their money is tied up overseas.