



The Collier Star

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Sheriff Kevin Rambosk

Special Edition



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, third from right, is joined by local dignitaries and deputies for the grand opening of the Collier County Sheriff's Office's permanent substation in Golden Gate Estates on May 18. Photo by Kristine Gill/CCSO

New Estates Substation Open For Business

The Collier County Sheriff's Office's substation in Golden Gate Estates was still so new in early March that the grass had not yet been cut. The \$2.5 million building, which opened in early February, had been up and running for at least six weeks but the sod lines were still visible. Inside, the walls were bare and work stations were free of personal items.

The 8,000-square-foot building, next to the EMS Station 10 on Immokalee Road, east of the Collier County Fairgrounds, is a major upgrade from the double-wide trailer deputies operated out of for about 10 years. The move has been in the works for years. The recession delayed plans for an office, but crews were finally able to break ground in spring 2016.

A May 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony drew community leaders and marked the official opening.

The new substation is now the home base for 37 deputies and five civilian positions. Lt.

Gary Martin, a 16-year CCSO veteran, oversees District 4, and is the fourth lieutenant to do so since the district was established a little more than 10 years ago.

Several rooms comprise the space, including a lobby, two interview rooms, an observation room and offices for the top-ranking deputies. There's a spaced labeled P.O.P., which stands for Problem Oriented Policing. That's where community issues that reach a criminal level are handled, and it's a department unique to this substation. They handle anything from a noise complaint, to speeding or suspected drug activity. The five deputies assigned to P.O.P. will also attend community meetings when a member invites them to speak on a topic or answer questions related to the agency.

The building also has a squad room, where deputies can meet for classes and training, or have lunch. There's a briefing room – where everyone gets together during shift change for summaries of the day's incidents – and a few more offices,

including one for the deputy who oversees all misdemeanor crime investigations. Having one dedicated officer ensures that residents can more easily track their own cases.

Also unique to this substation is an air-conditioned garage where larger vehicles can be stored. The agency's mobile command center returned to that space after the recent brush fire in eastern Collier County. Outside of the fence that lines the parking area around the building is a designated landing area for medical flights. In the past, Lt. Martin said the helicopter found empty fields to land in when flying patients with major injuries.

There's also a drop box in the lobby for residents to dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Golden Gate Estates is a district that continues to grow. With a population of about 43,500 people as of the

last census, and major communities such as Rural Land West planned for future development, it's likely the substation will also have to expand. There's already room for that in an unfinished portion of the building listed as "shell space." It can easily be converted into whatever type of space is needed down the line.

With such a unique terrain in the Estates, the substation became the first district equipped with two four-wheel drive trucks complete with a cage for arrested individuals. The 4x4s can easily drive off-road to reach locations such as the Tram and Picayune Strand. Lt. Martin said having all of the new bells and whistles will make the job easier to do and the agency more effective for the public.

You can visit the substation to file reports or request documentation during business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For non-emergency questions, call the substation staff at 239-252-9250. As always, if you have an emergency, call 911.

Dear Friends:

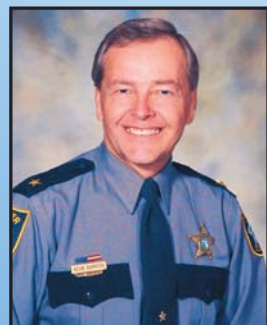
Here we are in the 2017 hurricane season and experts are predicting slightly higher than average levels of storm activity in the coming months. As you know, that means now is the time to gather hurricane supplies such as nonperishable food items and batteries as well as develop a plan of action should a storm approach our area.

What I can tell you is that in the event of a storm, we at the Collier County Sheriff's Office stand prepared to keep you informed via our Facebook and Twitter platforms. We had an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of our social media communication in April during the 30th Avenue Brush Fire, which burned more than 7,000 acres in rural Collier County.

During the peak four days of the fire our agency had a Facebook reach of 1.18 million. During that same period we obtained more than 310,000 impressions on Twitter. We, along with our public safety partners involved in addressing the brush fire, worked closely throughout the event to provide news to those affected by the fire as quickly and efficiently as possible. So rest assured – should we encounter a hurricane or other disaster, we will be dedicated to delivering you all the information you need to stay safe.

Yours in a safe community,

Kevin Rambosk
Collier County Sheriff





Collier County Sheriff's Office
SUMMERfest
Fun summer events... in a GREAT place. a SAFE place.

Summerfest 2017 Delivers Fun For Collier Youth

The Collier County Sheriff's Office's popular summer youth activities program is back for an eighth consecutive year.

Summerfest 2017 delivers a wide range of fun and free activities for all grade levels in a safe environment at various locations around Collier County.

Once again, CCSO Youth Relations deputies are assigned to the summer youth program instead of patrol duties. This reallocation allows CCSO to expand its summer youth offerings without additional cost to the community.

While some Summerfest mainstays like D.E.P.U.T.Y. Club and Teen Academy finished in early June, plenty of activities are going on to keep kids busy.

Make sure to mark these events down on your calendar for a summer full of safety and fun:



Summerfest is in full swing in Collier County. Hundreds of students joined deputies for Hot Summer Nights at Sun-n-Fun Lagoon on June 9. Photo by Jake LaRochelle/CCSO

Hot Summer Nights

These weekly family fun nights run from 6-9 p.m. and allow youngsters to jump around in the police car bounce house, go rock wall climbing and play Wii games on a giant inflatable screen.

Hot dogs, snow cones and popcorn are also available.

- **Friday, June 23:** Eagle Lakes Community Park, 11565 U.S. 41 E., East Naples
- **Friday, June 30:** Boys & Girls Club, 1155 Roberts Ave., Immokalee
- **Friday, July 7:** Mackle Park, 1361 Andalusia Terrace, Marco Island
- **Friday, July 21:** McLeod Park, 208 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City
- **Friday, July 28:** Vineyards Community Park, 6231 Arbor Blvd. W., Golden Gate

Gone Fishing

Go fishing with CCSO at Naples Pier. Kids will fish and learn about water safety during the program, which takes place Tuesdays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to noon through Aug. 4.

There will be no fishing on Tuesday, July 4.

No registration required but parents must accompany their child during this event.

Open Gym

The following school gymnasiums will be open for basketball and supervised by CCSO Youth Relations deputies Tuesday through Friday:

Middle-School Students

Oakridge Middle School, 14975 Collier Blvd., 8:30 a.m. to noon

East Naples Middle School, 4100 Estey Ave., 1-4 p.m.

Immokalee High School, 701 Immokalee Drive, 8:30 a.m. to noon

High-School Students

Oakridge Middle School, 14975 Collier Blvd., 1-4 p.m.

East Naples Middle School, 4100 Estey Ave., 1-4 p.m.

Corkscrew Middle School, 1165 C.R. 858, 1-3 p.m.

Lely High School, 1 Lely High School Blvd., noon to 4 p.m.

Immokalee High School, 701 Immokalee Drive, 1-4 p.m.

This activity is for currently enrolled middle- and high-school students. Contact the Youth Relations Bureau 239-252-0144 for information.

Build-a-Boat

This weeklong program is an opportunity for high-schoolers ages 14 to 18 to accomplish the task of building a boat while staying active and earning their boating safety certificate.

- I-Tech Center in Immokalee, June 26-30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Build-a-Chair

Students ages 10-13 will learn to work with tools and together to build a chair at I-Tech Center in Immokalee (June 21-22), Palmetto Ridge High School in Golden Gate Estates (July 5-6), Youth Haven (closed registration) and Everglades Recreation Center in Everglades City (July 26-27). Most sessions run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Teen Driver Challenge

The Teen Driver Challenge provides students ages 15 to 19 with the knowledge and hands-on experience to reduce the chances of being involved in a crash. The driving skills they will learn are the same techniques used by driving professionals, including NASCAR.

The class consists of two training days. The first day is a four-hour block of instruction and the second day is an eight-hour block of vehicle operations at Barron Collier High School.

Students will be operating their own vehicle and **MUST BE A LICENSED TEEN DRIVER.**

Contact the Youth Relations Bureau for more information at 239-252-0144.

Middle-School Summer Camps

CCSO is partnering with Corkscrew Middle School and Immokalee High School to offer students ages 11 to 14 a free day camp Tuesdays through Fridays beginning on June 13 (CMS) and on June 20 (IHS). Campers will participate in athletic activities including basketball and soccer as well as have the opportunity to go on field trips.

There will be no camp for the above locations July 11 – July 14.

Contact the Youth Relations Bureau office at 239-252-0144 for information.

Community Partnerships

CCSO will bring Summerfest fun directly to the children currently residing in Youth Haven or attending the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County facilities in Naples and Immokalee. Once a week, deputies will visit each organization and host fun summer activities.

CCSO Adds New Helicopter To Aviation Fleet

A new helicopter will land at the Collier County Sheriff's Office by summer's end.

The Bell UH-1H, better known as a Huey, will join CCSO's existing aviation fleet of two helicopters and an airplane.

The Collier County Board of Commissioners approved the new helicopter purchase on a unanimous vote in May.

The new multi-mission aircraft is larger, with the capacity to hold up to eight people, and more versatile than the current fleet.

"It will provide the next level of service to the citizens of Collier County," said Lt. Sean Arthur, supervisor of the CCSO Aviation Unit.

The helicopter will have the ability to lift up to 4,000 pounds and will be able to airlift victims during search-and-rescue missions in the Gulf of Mexico and the Everglades. The agency currently relies on assistance from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue or the U.S. Coast Guard in Tampa for this, which can mean considerable time delays.

The aircraft is large enough to carry the K-9 Unit, Dive Team, or SWAT to a scene.

It can be used during hurricanes and other disasters to deliver water and supplies.

It will be outfitted with a bucket that can drop water on homes during fires. This will allow deputies to extinguish fires before they get out of hand and without having to wait for Florida Forest Service assets to arrive.

The agency's two current helicopters are smaller and can fit little more than two pilots and one deputy inside them. They are mostly used for search-and-rescue missions and surveillance, and are equipped with thermal imaging and spotlights to help during searches, raids, and car and foot pursuits.

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said that adding a helicopter to the fleet has been in the plans for several years, but a new or used aircraft would cost \$6.5 million. The Sheriff told county commissioners that he decided to be proactive and move forward with the purchase because the agency was recently offered the surplus helicopter at a good price.

The new chopper cost \$750,000, with \$400,000 for the aircraft and \$250,000 to \$350,000 for training and to retrofit it with law enforcement equipment and hoisting gear.

Lt. Arthur said the helicopter is currently in Lakeland getting outfitted and repainted. It is expected to arrive in Collier County sometime in mid-July or late August, he said.



CCSO has partnered with the Collier County Public Library System to digitize the jail libraries. Submitted photo

Jail Libraries Receive Facelift

The Naples Jail Center has offered a library to inmates since the 1980s, using donated books worn with use over the years. Inmates designated as librarians took requests from other inmates written out on paper slips and tried to find books matching the genre, topic, author, or title. In 2016, more than 17,000 books were borrowed by inmates. However, it was hard to keep track of who had which book and to know what was in the original 5,000-book collection.

Now, through an existing partnership with the Collier County Public Library, the system has been digitized using the same software employed at each of the county's library locations. Inmates who want to borrow books will be considered patrons of the Collier County Public Library system, and the collections at the Naples Jail Center and the Immokalee Jail Center are now outreach branches of the Collier County Public Library.

"We are so excited to give this opportunity

to the inmates of Collier County," said Robin Eckenroth, Inmate Systems Bureau manager. "Although we've been partners with the Collier County Public Library for many years, the automation of the inmate library will teach the inmates how to use the library system so they can continue their library services as they return to the community."

In the past, the jail libraries were organized and managed by inmate librarians who would take requests and then deliver the books to each inmate. Inmates were allowed to borrow four books at a time, but it was difficult to know who had which books and for how long. Now the system will work exactly as it does at your local library, linking an inmate's books to his or her jail ID number.

"We're going back to basics," Eckenroth said. "They get one book with a daily check out. If you're an avid reader, you can get a new one every day."

4 CCSO Sergeants Graduate From Leadership Academy

Four Collier County Sheriff's Office sergeants recently graduated from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Florida Leadership Academy.

Sgt. Melvin Gonzalez, Sgt. Rebecca Gonzalez, Sgt. Benjamin Lopez, and Sgt. Daniel McDonald were among 39 first-line supervisors from across Florida who attended the program and graduated in April.

The graduates serve in leadership roles representing 22 criminal justice agencies throughout the state.

Sgt. Melvin Gonzalez is assigned to the Youth Relation Bureau; Sgt. Rebecca Gonzalez is assigned to the Crime Prevention Bureau; Sgt. Lopez is assigned Corrections; and Sgt. McDonald is assigned to the Professional Responsibility Bureau.

Participants met for four weeklong sessions at the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy in Fort Myers. They learned skills necessary to support the needs of their agencies and their communities as they prepare for future challenges.



From left: Sgt. Melvin Gonzalez, Sgt. Rebecca Gonzalez, Sgt. Daniel McDonald, and Sgt. Benjamin Lopez recently graduated from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Florida Leadership Academy. Submitted photo

CCSO 911 Center Reaccredited

The Collier County Sheriff's Office has been approved for reaccreditation as an Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED).

That means that CCSO retains the distinguished honor of being the 52nd Emergency Medical Dispatch Accredited Center in the world.

An accredited center of excellence is the highest distinction in 911 emergency communication services. CCSO was first accredited in 2001.

The IAED recognized CCSO, along with fellow distinguished agencies from around the world, at

a reception in New Orleans on April 12.

"The Collier County Sheriff's Office has a longtime commitment to professional accreditation and excellence," Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said. "Achieving reaccreditation as a 'Center of Excellence' validates that we are truly committed to providing the citizens of Collier County the highest level of service."

Earning this reaccreditation award is voluntary and involves completing a detailed self-study and analysis. This accomplishment demonstrates that CCSO is compliant with all international practice standards for Emergency Medical Dispatch.

The CCSO 911 center provides dispatching and centralized communications for one EMS agency, two law enforcement agencies and four fire districts, serving more than 348,000 residents and 1.7 million annual visitors in an area of 2,305 square miles. The center employs a highly trained staff using the latest technology in order to maintain the agency's high commitment to public safety.

Chief Hedberg Graduates FBI National Academy

Chief Michael Hedberg has joined the ranks of those who have completed an elite law enforcement training academy.

Chief Hedberg was one of 227 law enforcement officers from around the world who graduated from the 267th session of the FBI's National Academy Program at Quantico, Va. The prestigious 10-week program, held at the FBI Academy, focused on advanced communication, leadership, and fitness programs for top professionals in the field.

Then-FBI Director James Comey was the principal speaker at the March 17 ceremony.

Graduates represented 48 states and 25 countries. Graduates earn college credits through the University of Virginia. Since 1935, the academy has graduated a total of 45,913 people.

Chief Hedberg serves as general counsel and head of the Legal and Court Services Department under Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, providing legal services to CCSO in numerous areas that have an impact on the agency's operations.



CCSO was awarded reaccreditation as an Emergency Medical Dispatch Center of Excellence at a ceremony in New Orleans on April 12. Pictured from left: IAED Associate Director Kim Rigden, CCSO Communications Supervisor Danielle Bower, CCSO Communications Director Chris Gonzalez, CCSO Senior Dispatcher Amy Butrico, and IAED Board Chairman Jerry Overton. Submitted photo

CCSO Scores Big In Mock Prison Riot Games

The Collier County Sheriff's Office Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) has proven that it is well prepared to de-escalate any given scenario.

CCSO CERT members recently took top honors after participating in a four-day mock prison riot competition at the decommissioned West Virginia Penitentiary in Moundsville, W.V. in May. More than 1,100 law enforcement personnel representing 25 countries and 28 states participated.

The annual competition features hands-on training to corrections, law enforcement, military and public safety practitioners by providing tactical and technology experience, training scenarios, technology demonstrations, certification workshops and a skills competition.

CCSO competed against 20 other teams and earned first place in the skills competition during the Lumber Jack Match. This competition required teams to split a wooden board by firing at it from a long distance. CCSO was the fastest team to accomplish the task in only 20 seconds.

The CERT team performed well in the other competitions as well and ranked seventh overall.



Pictured from left: Cpl. Xavier Carillo, Cpl. Brad Gangl Jr., Deputy Pierre Jean, Cpl. Randy Derfert, Cpl. Blaine Barbuto, Cpl. Alexandra Roa, Cpl. Chris Mulcahey and Cpl. Craig Barbuto. Submitted by Cpl. Chris Mulcahey/CCSO

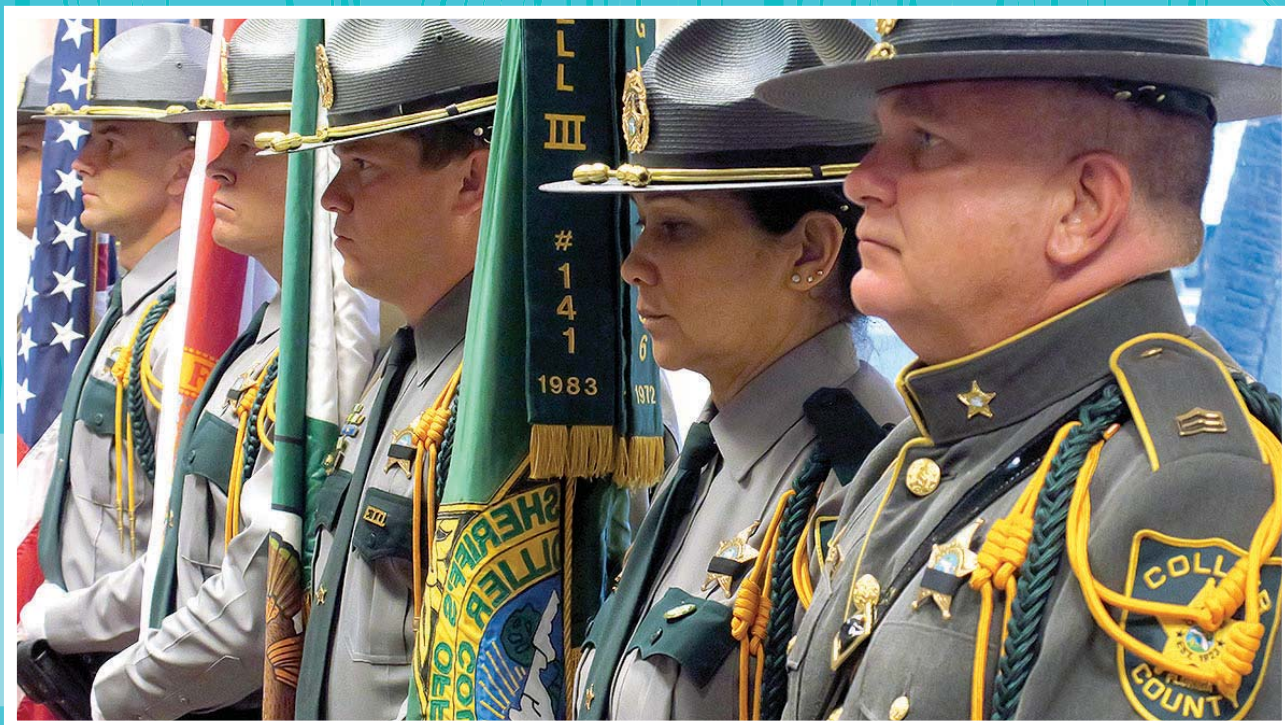
Community Snapshots



Cpl. Sherry Anderson, left, and Crime Prevention Specialist Connie Ledbetter pause for a photo before the law enforcement Torch Run on April 14. The annual event benefits Florida Special Olympics. Photo by Kristine Gill/CCSO



Cpl. Thomas Sweeney coaxes a horse to safety as a massive brush fire burns in Golden Gate Estates. The horse was given water and eventually corralled onto a trailer. Photo courtesy of Rusty Steving



Deputies pay tribute May 16 during the annual memorial service and candlelight vigil honoring the 10 CCSO deputies who have died in the line of duty. Photo by Cpl. Efrain Hernandez/CCSO



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk helps celebrate a catch made during the 10th annual Kids Love Fishing event hosted by the Collier County Junior Deputies League in February. Families gathered at Camp Discovery at Florida Sports Park to try and land tilapia, bass, bream, and catfish using cane poles. The event also featured fly fishing demonstrations, child identification fingerprinting, rock-wall climbing and games. Photo by Cpl. Debra Gross/CCSO



CCSO teamed up with North Collier Fire Control & Rescue District and the Rotary Club of Naples Bay to hand out new sneakers to children whose families lost homes in an April 10 fire at Bear Creek Apartments in North Naples. Forty-seven residents were displaced by the blaze. Photo by Cpl. Efrain Hernandez/CCSO