



THE COLLIER STAR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/colliersheriff

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
www.twitter.com/colliersheriff

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM
@colliersheriff

WATCH US
www.ccsso.tv

VISIT US
www.colliersheriff.org



Traffic Unit Cpl. David Schaare Jr. hands out safety information about using crosswalks and riding bicycles as part of CCSO's pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign in East Naples. Deputies will be conducting high-visibility enforcement details around the county through May 2019 in an effort to increase awareness of and compliance with traffic laws that protect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. Photos by Cpl. Efrain Hernandez/ CCSO (2).

Campaign Focuses On Laws Protecting Bicyclists, Pedestrians

The Collier County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit has launched a safety campaign aimed at educating pedestrians and bicyclists about the rules of the road.

The initiative began in September and will continue through May of 2019 with concentrated enforcement efforts throughout the county.

"We'll be able to look back at our statistics by the end of the initiative to see how much of an impact these contacts made," Lt. Jeffrey Boyd said. "Right now our deputies are out and about educating the public in addition to their regular patrols."

Enforcement efforts will focus primarily on education to drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. However, violations may result in warnings or citations, depending on the circumstances.

As of the end of October,

the Traffic Unit had conducted six details. Those six details resulted in a single citation and 33 verbal warnings. During the details, educational contacts were made with 155 pedestrians, 38 bicyclists and 13 motorists.

The high-visibility enforcement details were made at major intersections throughout the county which are overrepresented in traffic crashes, resulting in serious and fatal injuries to pedestrians and bicyclists.

"These high-visibility enforcement details are conducted in partnership with the University of North Florida and under the Florida Department of Transportation's initiative to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety."

"A lot of these laws are ones we know, but it's good to remind everyone of them occasionally," Lt. Boyd said.

As always, drivers should obey speed limits, never drive impaired, and always watch for pedestrians and bicyclists. Bicyclists should

also obey traffic laws, ride in the direction of traffic, and use lights when riding at night. Pedestrians should cross in crosswalks

or at intersections, obey pedestrian signals, and make sure you are visible to drivers when walking at night.

Dear Friends,

Here's a piece of information you may find interesting: According to numbers released by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, only seven counties in the state have a lower crime rate than we have here in Collier County, and all of those counties are located in rural areas of the state.

We take a unique approach to law enforcement here in Collier County because I believe the safest jurisdictions are those in which law enforcement and the community work together. The Collier County Sheriff's Office works closely with our businesses, organizations, schools, homeowner associations and more. All of us have a vested interest in keeping our community safe.

Here are a few ways you can help us keep Collier County a great place and a safe place:

- Report suspicious activity
- Secure your home and your vehicle
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Call our Crime Prevention Bureau at 239-252-0700 to schedule a free home or business security survey
- Obey traffic laws

These are simple ways that you can help us maintain Collier County's status as the safest metropolitan county in Florida.

Yours in a safe community,

Kevin Rambosk, Sheriff



CCSO Helps Out After Michael, Florence

For the second time in as many months, members of the Collier County Sheriff's Office left Southwest Florida before the sun rose and headed to a storm-ravaged community to help with relief efforts.

A team of deputies and dispatchers deployed to the Panhandle on Oct. 16 to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Working out of the Bay County Emergency Operations Center, dispatchers triaged 911 calls, while deputies lent a hand with whatever was asked of them. The team left with a handful of vehicles packed with supplies such as water, bug spray, waders and other necessities.

CCSO is ready to hit the road when called upon like so many agencies did when Hurricane Irma struck Collier County last year. First responders reported to Naples immediately after Irma hit, including 36 dispatchers from Tennessee, Georgia and other Florida counties, as part of our mutual aid agreements.

CCSO's first opportunity to return the favor came during Hurricane Florence in September.

On Sept. 18, a team of dispatchers traveled to Fayetteville, N.C., where they assisted with high 911 call volume in the aftermath of Florence.

The CCSO also sent a truck filled with supplies such as batteries, paper towels and insect repellent to the Panhandle. The items, collected by CCSO members, were donated to first responders affected by Hurricane Michael.



Members of the Collier County Sheriff's Office were busy assisting in the recovery effort in Bay County, Florida, in October. Some were able to take a quick moment for a group photo. Submitted photo.

Chamber Honors CCSO Mental Health Lieutenant

Lt. Leslie Weidenhammer is the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Public Service Award For Law Enforcement.

Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Michael Dalby presented the award to Lt. Weidenhammer at the organization's Distinguished Public Service Awards banquet at the Naples Hilton on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

The Distinguished Public Service Award is given annually to recognize and publicly thank emergency personnel for their extraordinary efforts in keeping Collier County residents safe.

Since coming to the Collier County Sheriff's Office in July 1992, Lt. Weidenhammer has embodied the "Community, Safety, Service" values that make Collier County a great place and a safe place, Sheriff Rambosk said in nominating her for the award.

Lt. Weidenhammer currently is assigned to the agency's Human Resources Division where she serves as the coordinator of the Mental Health Unit and as a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainer. As a CIT trainer, she has helped train hundreds of criminal justice professionals, including law enforcement officers, correctional officers and dispatchers, in Collier County

to identify a person with mental illness and de-escalate situations when a person with mental illness comes into contact with law enforcement.

Lt. Weidenhammer is also a member of the Collier County Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court Teams. In these roles she works with individuals with mental illness and substance abuse problems who come into contact with law enforcement while in crisis. These courts offer an alternative to the traditional court system better suited for some individuals in need of treatment services.

She also serves as a volunteer board member for the National Alliance on Mental Illness where she also works in their youth programs. She is a steadfast mental health advocate and conveys the message of help, hope and recovery in all that she does.

Lt. Weidenhammer is a true public servant.

In addition to the mental health work she does in the community, Lt. Weidenhammer provides peer support to CCSO members as well as firefighters and EMS personnel in Collier County.

Lt. Weidenhammer has been recognized over the years by

various county agencies and groups for her role in mental health advocacy, including Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year in 2011.

Most recently, in April 2018, the Collier County Bar Association honored Lt. Weidenhammer with its Medal of Honor for her work with the county's specialty courts.

"Her collaboration with our Treatment Courts process has been nothing short of

transformational," Judge Janeice Martin wrote in her nomination letter, adding that in the two years since joining the Treatment Courts Team Lt. Weidenhammer has educated fellow members and worked to connect with participants of the program.

As a child, Lt. Weidenhammer dreamed of becoming a police officer but her parents thought it would be too dangerous and steered her away toward college to be a teacher.

She completed her degree and taught in Indiana before moving to Florida. She went to work for the Collier County YMCA and started an outdoor education program. But thoughts of being a police officer persisted. At the Y, a retired Chicago cop persuaded her to apply with the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Twenty-six years later she's living her dream and making a difference.

CCSO Deputy Recognizes Sisters Who Survived Crash

Water filled the submerged vehicle but 10-year-old Gabriella Chernysh would not let go of her book.

Not as her 14-year-old sister Isabel punched the glass window to make their escape. Not when Isabel grabbed Gabriella and pulled her through to safety.

Not even as emergency crews arrived on scene to treat their mother Rachael, who was still trapped inside the family car following a June crash into the canal at Cougar Drive and Airport-Pulling Road North.

The family survived with only minor injuries, thanks to Isabel's bravery. The Barron Collier High School teen was recognized

for her heroic actions during a Collier County Sheriff's Office awards ceremony Sept. 10.

But Gabriella's book, the sixth in the Harry Potter series, was ruined. Water curled its pages and debris from the canal muddied its cover.

Cpl. Tania Wroblewski remembered how fiercely Gabriella clung to the book, and how scared but brave the girls were, jarred as they were by the crash and worried for their mother's wellbeing.

"They had their mother's blood on their clothing and every time they looked at her they started to cry," Cpl. Wroblewski said.

Cpl. Wroblewski continued to talk to the girls, getting the full story of what happened and keeping them occupied as the crash scene was processed.

"Gabby's seat belt got stuck in her car seat," Isabel recalled.

Cpl. Wroblewski also learned that the girls had lost an iPhone and about \$300 worth of other books in the crash.

At one point Gabriella turned to her old sister, realizing what she had done.

"You were so heroic," she told Isabel. "You saved my life."

At the ceremony, more than two months after the crash, Cpl. Wroblewski

presented Gabriella with a new copy of her beloved book, a Harry Potter throw and \$300 worth of gift cards to Target and Barnes & Noble to replace the books and other personal items lost in the crash.

"I'm not going to be able to get that blanket out of her hands," their mother Rachael said.

Cpl. Wroblewski reached out to the businesses after nominating Isabel for her the Sheriff Appreciation Award. Target and Barnes & Noble were eager to chip in, offering a small silver lining to a terrifying experience.



Shown from left, Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Isabel Chernysh, Gabriella Chernysh, Rachael Chernysh, and Cpl. Tania Wroblewski. Photo by Media Relations Specialist Kristine Gill/CCSO.



Lt. Leslie Weidenhammer is shown with her 2018 Distinguished Public Service Award alongside Sheriff Kevin Rambosk during the annual Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Oct. 10.

Photo by Cpl. Efrain Hernandez/CCSO

Take Action to Keep Schools Safe

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and the Collier County Sheriff's Office are asking the entire community to help keep our kids safe in school this year.

"As all of us are aware, school safety is not just about traffic and slow-speed zones anymore," Sheriff Rambosk said. "It takes an entire community working together to keep our schools safe. We must all turn our safety awareness into action to keep our kids safe."

Sheriff Rambosk has six specific actions that all adults can take right now to keep our kids safe in school all year:

- Keep your weapons secure in a gun vault or gun safe
- Report suspicious activity
- Get kids the help and support they need before a mental health crisis occurs
- Call law enforcement to report anything that resembles a threat - including statements, social media posts and pictures
- Know what your child is seeing and doing on social media
- Pay attention to your driving and drive safely

This year Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) has taken specific actions to keep our schools safe: doors are now locked, a new access control camera system is in place in every school, more safety drills are scheduled and all high school students will be issued identification cards to wear. Law enforcement and all of public safety in our community has also taken many action steps to enhance school safety: a youth



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, center, greets students on the first day of classes, along with Collier County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton, right, and School Board Chairman Roy Terry. CCSO and the School District are urging a communitywide approach to keeping schools safe this school year. Photo by Media Relations Specialist Kristine Gill/CCSO

relations trained law enforcement officer is scheduled at each Collier County school; specific training is delivered to our youth relations deputies as well as to our schools' teachers, administrators and staff; and emergency response equipment has been purchased and placed throughout school facilities.

For more than 45 years, CCSO's commitment to assigning certified deputies in Collier County schools to keep our kids safe has been strong and we look forward to our entire community continuing to work together with us on this most important mission of school safety.



CCSO and Tacos & Tequila Cantina partnered to raise \$10,000 for the Southwest Public Service Academy in memory of slain Fort Myers Police Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller. Photo by Media Relations Specialist Kristine Gill/CCSO

CCSO honors slain FMPD officer

David Miller paid for his son to attend the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy in 2015. Had he not paid, Officer Adam Jobbers-Miller would not have been able to afford it. And without that opportunity, the 29-year-old might not have gotten to pursue his dream career as a member of the Fort Myers Police Department.

Now thanks to a coordinated effort between the Collier County Sheriff's Office and Tacos & Tequila Cantina, a handful of future public servants will receive academy training. A joint fundraising event raised \$5,000 toward a scholarship fund in Jobbers-Miller's name after he was shot on duty and died from his injuries in July. Tacos & Tequila matched the proceeds for a total of \$10,000 toward the scholarship.

"It's amazing what everyone's done," Miller said.

Attendance to the academy costs about \$3,300. Academy Director Todd Everly said the

\$10,000 might be used to cover a student's entire tuition or doled out to several students in smaller increments, but all recipients will be chosen based on need. Students who are being sponsored by an agency or who are receiving another type of loan, will not be eligible.

Tacos & Tequila matched the proceeds for a total of \$10,000 toward the scholarship.

"This is for the men and women that are coming through, living in the garage at their mom's home, or living in cars - and we have them," Everly said. "We have them coming in and they're just barely making enough dough, because they cannot work during that five-and-a-half-month period when they're attending the academy."

The fundraising event at Tacos & Tequila was organized in

part by deputies in North Naples, including two CCSO members who attended the academy with Jobbers-Miller. Cpl. Katina Studzinski and Cpl. Nathalie Wilson said Jobbers-Miller was somewhat reserved during class, but was usually the upbeat one during physical training.

"We would be running a bridge and he would be the one to laugh about it," Cpl. Studzinski said. "As bad as it was."

Deputies presented representatives from the academy with the \$10,000 check at the Tacos & Tequila in the Pavilion shopping center Sept. 12. Jobbers-Miller's parents, David and Patricia, and his fiancée Jamie were in attendance as well as officers from local law enforcement agencies and Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

"Hopefully it motivates someone to do what he wanted to do," Cpl. Wilson said.

iPhone, Android Better Equipped in Emergencies

The next time you dial 911 from an iPhone or Android device, dispatchers will be better able to pinpoint your location and send help sooner.

National cell phone device and service providers have teamed up with 911 call centers across the country, including the Collier County Sheriff's Office, to offer improved device-based location services for anyone dialing 911 in an emergency.

Now, anyone calling from an Apple phone or Android device in Collier County can have their current location automatically relayed to dispatchers, who will be able to better direct first responders.

Users must first download the latest software updates for their device for the service to take effect. Once the service is enabled, the software on the phone will have the ability to send locations automatically, and nothing is required of the user.

"If a visitor doesn't know where they're at after a crash or an emergency call requires the use of a language translation service, we can at least get help going to a location," CCSO Communications Director Bob Finney said. "Your phone knows where you're at."

Location information can be turned off for privacy concerns in the phone's settings, but the new technology turns the location information on for the duration of a 911 call. The phone then transmits the information to a third-party software company called RapidSOS, which integrates the information with the CCSO's technology called Motorola VESTA. Dispatchers are then able to see the caller's location automatically. Location services would once again be disabled at the conclusion of a 911 call.

CCSO's Communications Center conducted a trial run of the technology in January, the only agency in Florida to do so. Google publicized the positive results of the test the following month, showing that dispatchers were better able to determine a caller's location within less than 150 feet, vs the more than 500 feet from past technologies.

A caller's cooperation is especially important when a 911 call is made from within a building where GPS technology can sometimes falter. Callers should tell dispatchers where in a building they are located including the floor and room. Providing a description of your location will help dispatchers to cross reference that information with the location provided by the cell phone.

The technology will be especially helpful if a caller cannot determine their location, or provides incorrect information to a dispatcher.



Community Snapshots

CCSO hosted "Coffee With A Cop" at Dunkin' Donuts, 4835 Immokalee Road in North Naples, on Oct. 19. The event is an opportunity for deputies and members of the community to come together to discuss issues, build relationships and share coffee. Photo submitted by Cpl. Tania Wroblewski/CCSO



▲ Sgt. Dave Estes and his horse Sampson greet families during the Celebrating Safe Communities event at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Station in Golden Gate Estates in October. Photo by Media Relations Specialist Kristi Lester/CCSO



▲ Sgt. Russel "Rusty" Steward, left, receives a plaque from Lt. Gary Martin in recognition of his efforts to preserve the flag that flew over the Golden Gate Estates substation during Hurricane Irma last year. Even though the flag was significantly damaged as a result of the storm, Sgt. Steward wanted to honor its memory by having it encased and displayed inside the substation. The display was built entirely by hand. Photo by Cpl. Matt Vaill/CCSO



▲ Deputies went for a swim at the Osprey Landing community pool to teach water safety to youngsters, while their parents learned how to administer CPR. Photo by Crime Prevention Specialist Connie Ledbetter/CCSO



▲ Cpl. Sam Soto gets ready for his new haircut during the Golisano Children's Hospital's inaugural Clips for Cancer event in October. Cpl. Soto, along with fellow Corrections officers and member of CCSO's K-9 Unit, volunteered to allow children battling cancer to shave their heads. Photo by Media Relations Specialist Kristine Gill/CCSO