



# THE COLLIER STAR

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Members of the Anti-Crime Team (ACT) conduct one of their daily afternoon shift briefings before hitting the streets. At Sheriff Rambosk's direction, CCSO has adjusted its resources, created temporary specialty units and taken steps to ensure that Collier County is safe during COVID-19. The ACT is supplementing the Patrol Division with a focus on preventing crime. Photo by Videographer/Photographer Ryan Sheets/CCSO

## Sheriff's Early Action Benefits CCSO's COVID-19 Response

By early 2020, the Collier County Sheriff's Office was uniquely positioned to respond to COVID-19.

In January, a full six weeks before widespread closures and restrictions went into effect around the United States to help stop the spread of the virus, Sheriff Kevin Rambosk was already monitoring developments around the world and around the nation, and directing the purchase of additional supplies of protective equipment and additional hand sanitizer for members.

In February, he directed the creation of an agency Task Force to address preparation, prevention and response protocols for COVID-19. And on March 2, he established an Incident Management Team comprised of members from several agency bureaus. The IMT has been in regular contact with the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Health in Collier County and other stakeholders in regard to COVID-19 developments.

"Our goal from the outset has been to do everything possible to help keep our community and our members healthy," Sheriff Rambosk said. "Among the keys to accomplishing this have been to diligently monitor developments, adjust our resources as necessary and work with our community partners."

CCSO has worked closely with DOH-Collier to educate everyone about CDC recommendations regarding hygiene and social distancing. The agency has also partnered with Collier County Emergency Management to deploy masks and hygiene kits in areas of the county that have heightened needs. Deputies have also been working to protect closed businesses from criminals.

Internally, CCSO facilities and agency vehicles underwent regular deep cleaning, and deputies have been tasked with helping to enforce restrictions and closures mandated in Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive orders.

"We have been extremely fortunate," Sheriff Rambosk said. "Regarding the enforcement of the executive orders, we have had an extremely high level of voluntary compliance from our community. Everyone seems to be working together to prevent this virus from spreading."

Under Sheriff Rambosk's direction CCSO is continuing to monitor developments related to the virus. Members are also working on contingency plans looking ahead 30, 60 and 90 days ahead so that members are prepared to respond to any need that may arise.



Kevin Rambosk  
Collier County Sheriff

### Dear Friends,

Our strong working relationships and partnerships with elected officials, government entities, community organizations, and other law enforcement agencies are critical to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Whether it's working with city and county government officials to enforce beach closures or joining forces with the Florida Department of Health-Collier to assist with set up and traffic enforcement at COVID-19 testing sites, I am committed to keeping our community safe through our many partnerships.

Our deputies are also working closely with our community partners in Immokalee to help protect the vulnerable farmworker community from

COVID-19. Please see our story on page 3 for a closer look at how we are helping out in Immokalee.

Everybody has a stake in keeping Collier County safe, and the more partnerships and relationships we have the safer our community will be.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the doctors, nurses and medical professionals who are serving on the COVID-19 front lines. We appreciate your hard work. You are true heroes.

And lastly I would like to thank our community for the generosity they've shown our agency. Whether it was a note of thanks to deputies for their service or a surprise meal delivery, we appreciate all of the support. It means a lot to us.



# Collier Crime Rate Lowest Since 1971

The crime rate in Collier County in 2019 was the lowest since tracking began in 1971, Sheriff Kevin Rambosk announced.

The crime rate of 1,402.9 represents the number of offenses reported per 100,000 people. Collier County's population increased from 329,909 in 2018 to 338,436 in 2019.

The numbers mean that Collier County remains the safest metropolitan county in Florida, according to numbers maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Only 14 counties have a lower crime rate than Collier, and all of them are in more rural areas of the state.

The numbers reinforce Collier County's status as a community that is attractive to businesses, residents and visitors.

"We enjoy a terrific and safe quality of life here in Collier County," said Sheriff Kevin Rambosk. "We not only offer sunshine and beaches, we offer a safe and welcoming environment, and that is important."

There were 4,748 Part 1 crimes in Collier County in 2019. The numbers represent crimes in unincorporated Collier County and Everglades

City. They include the categories of homicide, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Burglaries dropped from 505 in 2018 to 433 in 2019. Aggravated assaults decreased from 642 to 588. Homicides decreased from nine to eight.

Motor vehicle thefts showed the sharpest increase, up from 215 in 2018 to 274 in 2019. The numbers follow a national trend related to motorists leaving key fobs inside unlocked vehicles. CCSO regularly asks motorists to lock their cars, take their fob with them and remove valuables from inside vehicles.

Other categories are as follows: Larcenies went from 3,042 to 3,177; robberies went from 138 to 144; and rapes went from 109 to 124.

Sheriff Rambosk added that the agency's crime numbers for the first four months of 2020 show a continuing downward trend despite the fact that in addition to holding the line on crime it has been helping to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19. Deputies have been tasked with enforcing Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive orders limiting groups of 10 or more and restrictions on commercial/business activity.

"We have had tremendous voluntary compliance with CDC recommendation and the Governor's Executive Orders in our community," Sheriff Rambosk said. "This is just one more reason that Collier County is a great place to live and work."

Here are some of the ways the community can help deputies drive down crime:

- \* Lock your car and keep valuables out of view
- \* Schedule a home or business security survey by a CCSO Crime Prevention specialist
- \* Report unusual activity to law enforcement
- \* Start or join a Neighborhood Watch program
- \* Mentor a child
- \* Be alert and aware of your surroundings
- \* Join one of CCSO's Community Safety Teams to help address code enforcement and other problems at the neighborhood level
- \* Protect personal information like your Social Security number, computer passwords and banking information
- \* When online, don't chat with strangers or respond to their e-mails

## NAACP Honors Sheriff Rambosk

The NAACP of Collier County recently surprised Sheriff Kevin Rambosk with a Humanitarian Award during the organization's 37th Annual Freedom Fund Gala at the Naples Grande Beach Resort.

"Sheriff Rambosk has made a commitment to the betterment of everyone in our community," said NAACP of Collier County President Vincent Keays when he presented the award. "He values and

embraces inclusion and diversity in all of Collier County and he is exceptionally deserving of this Humanitarian Award."

Sheriff Rambosk said he was humbled by the honor.

"This recognition means a great deal coming from our friends and community partners with the NAACP," he said. "I believe that when all of us work together it helps keep our crime low and our quality of life high."



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk is shown with WFTX FOX 4 anchor and event co-host Shari Armstrong and NAACP of Collier County President Vincent Keays after being surprised with a Humanitarian Award at the local NAACP's 37th annual Freedom Fund Gala.

## Sheriff Rambosk Named 'Distinguished Alumni'

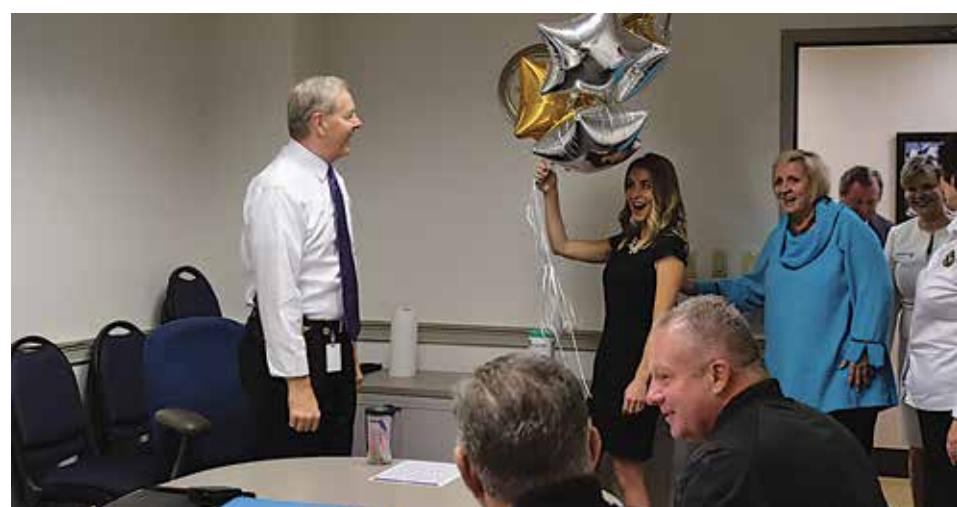
Leadership Collier Foundation representatives recently surprised Sheriff Kevin Rambosk with the announcement that he is being named as the program's Distinguished Alumni recipient for 2020.

The award is presented each year to a graduate who fulfills the mission of the Leadership Collier Foundation through his or her continued education and work toward community solutions in the public interest. Sheriff Rambosk is a 2003 Leadership Collier graduate.

The Leadership Collier contingent made the surprise announcement during the Sheriff's weekly Chiefs Meeting at CCSO Headquarters on March 10.

Sheriff Rambosk will be recognized for the honor during the Leadership Collier Class of 2020 graduation ceremony at a date and time to be announced. Leadership Collier is a program of the Greater Naples Chamber.

All of us at CCSO congratulate Sheriff Rambosk on this richly deserved honor!



Leadership VP Amanda Beights leads the surprise.



Members of the Leadership Collier Foundation Advisory Board delivered a surprise announcement for Sheriff Rambosk at CCSO Headquarters in March. Pictured from left: Lynda Waterhouse, campus president of Keiser University Naples; Amanda Beights, vice president of the Leadership Collier Foundation of the Greater Naples Chamber; Sheriff Rambosk; Dr. Kamela Patton, superintendent of Collier County Public Schools; Jeffrey D. Fridkin, attorney at Grant Fridkin Pearson; Edward Morton, managing director at Wasmer Schroeder; and Stephanie Spell, chief of Community Engagement at the Collier County Sheriff's Office. Photos (2) by Media Relations Bureau Videographer/Photographer Ryan Sheets/CCSO



# CCSO Helping In Immokalee

The Collier County Sheriff's Office is working closely with its community partners in Immokalee to help protect the vulnerable farmworker community from COVID-19.

CCSO, along with Collier County Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Health-Collier County, have established a unified command for the COVID-19 response and all communications and information on COVID-19 are distributed via the multi-jurisdictional joint information center.

CCSO, along with county emergency management, Immokalee Fire Control District, and local nonprofits collaborated with Lipman Family Farms to bring portable washing stations to Immokalee. Deputies assisted in placing the stations out in the community and are monitoring them.

Deputies have helped to distribute hundreds of bandanas and face coverings to farmworkers as they returned from the fields and to residents

out in the community. Deputies also have been distributing hygiene kits donated by DOH-Collier and Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) donated by the Hunger & Homeless Coalition of Collier County.

Deputies are driving a van through Immokalee neighborhoods broadcasting information about COVID-19. The recordings are in English, Spanish and Creole. The van travels neighborhoods and commercial areas daily. The message reminds community members to only leave home when necessary, wash their hands frequently, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between themselves and others, and limit group interactions to 10 or fewer. They are also passing out CCSO CARES cards listing community resources and their contact information.

Deputies also have been directing traffic at COVID-19 testing sites since testing started in early May.



Deputies distributed bandanas to farmworkers as they prepared to go to work in the fields and to school students and their families as they picked up meals at Davenport mobile home park in Immokalee on April 24. Redlands Christian Migrant Association donated the bandanas.

## CCSO Summer Program Goes Virtual

Imagine how much fun your child could have learning to draw, exploring a local park or showing off their dancing, singing or hidden skill in a talent show. And wouldn't they benefit from learning how to fill out a job application, properly make a bed or wrap a gift like a pro?

The Collier County Sheriff's Office wants this summer to be a time of fun and learning for young people of all ages in Collier County, despite COVID-19 and existing safety protocols.

That's why CCSO is offering Virtchfest, our free virtual summer youth activities program. The agency made the difficult decision to cancel its popular annual Summerfest program for 2020 and members of the Community Engagement Division quickly went to work to create an exciting schedule of online activities and experiences for children and youth.

Virtchfest launched June 4 and will run through early August. All of the activities can be found on the Collier County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. There'll be online games and demonstrations, along with virtual field trips and safety tips from deputies. Lots of safety tips.

Online activities are offered weekdays with each day devoted to a particular theme:

\*Monday features videos of deputies teaching life skills ranging from how to make a bed to how to tie a tie and from how to fill out a job application to how to write a check.

\*Tuesday is puzzle and game day offering word scrambles and searches, spot-the-difference photos, crosswords and more.

\*Wednesday look for safety videos featuring deputies with tips on how to make a 911 call, staying safe on social media and how to stop for a deputy during a traffic stop.

\*Thursday is devoted to arts and crafts and features video tutorials on how to draw, crochet and make a friendship bracelet as well as how

to wrap a gift and write a thank-you note.

\*Friday takes participants on a virtual field trip to local attractions like Naples Zoo or features deputies giving a demonstration on topics such as how to train a dog.

There's also a talent competition where participants can submit a brief video of themselves online. Winners will be announced at the end of the program. Details can be found on the CCSO Facebook page.

There's no registration and no lines, and everything is free.

We hope your child can join us.



## Mobile App Gets Redesign

A new and improved version of the Collier County Sheriff's Office's CCSO2go mobile app is now available for both iPhone and Android users.

"The closer a law enforcement agency works with the community it serves the safer everyone is, and our re-designed CCSO2go is one of the many important ways we connect with our community," Sheriff Kevin Rambosk said in announcing the relaunch May 21.

Users can access up-to-the-minute crash information to help them with their commutes, search for arrests, find career opportunities, connect with us on social media and more. Users can also receive push notifications to stay on top of breaking news.

Another key CCSO2go feature is a "Submit A Tip," function, which allows users to report information and photographs to make deputies aware of illegal activity. Tips can be submitted anonymously.

The new CCSO2go is available in the App Store or Google Play. If you are an iPhone user who already has CCSO2go the redesigned version will appear when you update the app. If you are an Android user who already has CCSO installed you need to delete it and download it again from Google Play.







# Community Snapshots

Kisses from grateful lambs are nothing to be sheepish about after you save their lives, Cpl. Jerrod Carver learned in May. CCSO Agricultural Unit members, including Carver, rescued 18 sheep, including 11 lambs, from a burning enclosure on 22nd Avenue Southeast in Golden Gate Estates in an area thick with smoke and rapidly moving flames from a brushfire. Photo submitted by Sgt. David Estes/CCSO



Col. Jim Bloom, Mounted Patrol, Motor Unit and Patrol deputies participated in the Community School of Naples fifth-grade drive-through graduation on May 27. Photo submitted by Sgt. David Estes/CCSO

Sheriff Rambosk gets his temperature checked as part of CCSO's COVID-19 screening procedures. All agency members are required to follow safety protocols including daily temperature checks, hand washing and social distancing. Photo by Community Engagement Division Chief Stephanie Spell/CCSO



The CCSO Aviation Unit racked up more than 20 flight hours dropping 344 buckets of water on brush fires in May using the agency's Huey. Each bucket contains 240 gallons of water weighing nearly 2,000 pounds. Photo by Media Relations Bureau Videographer/ Photographer Ryan Sheets/CCSO

Sheriff Rambosk wanted to do something extra special to say thank you our Collier County Public School District teachers, so we put up this banner on Pine Ridge Road at the intersection of Osceola Trail. Osceola leads to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Administration Building, Barron Collier High School and Osceola Elementary School. Photo by Media Relations Bureau Videographer/Photographer Ryan Sheets/CCSO

