

St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
Ken J. Mascara, Sheriff
4700 W. Midway Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34981

St. Lucie County is located on the east coast of Florida between Cocoa Beach and West Palm Beach. St. Lucie County is 688 square miles, much of which is agricultural. At the 2010 U.S. Census, the population of St. Lucie County was 277,789, an increase of 44.2% over the 2000 U.S. Census. The demographics of St. Lucie County in 2010 were 61% white, 18% black, 17% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 2% multi-racial (nytimes.com). There are three incorporated areas within the county: Fort Pierce (County Seat), Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie Village. Both Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie have municipal police departments while St. Lucie Village receives law enforcement services from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit was started in January 1985 by then Corporal Mike Graves. His mission, as directed by then Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles, was to develop community programs which were to include Crime Prevention and School Resource. Both programs are well established today and continue under the direction of Sheriff Ken J. Mascara, Chief Deputy Garry Wilson, Major Mike Monahan, Captain David Thompson, and Lieutenant Chris Vandeventer.

The Crime Prevention Unit is made up of the following six members who perform the respective functions of the unit.

- Sergeant Chris Cicio is a certified Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner and oversees the day-to-day operations of the unit and assists in providing direction and focus of unit activities. He also supervises the Explorer Unit and Substation deputies. In addition, he directly manages the maintenance of the Critical Incident Response Plan and the Tactical

School and Critical Facility Crisis Plan. He also worked to revitalize Fleet Watch, which now encompasses all governmental jurisdictions in St. Lucie County. With the firearms law changes in October 2011, he has worked diligently with County officials in developing lockdown and emergency procedures for County government buildings. He is the lead instructor for the R.A.D. Women and R.A.D. Seniors self-defense programs. Sgt. Cicio is an emergency planner for St. Lucie County and recently was the senior planner/controller for a full-scale Homeland Security exercise that involved twelve local and regional emergency responder agencies in July 2011.

- Deputy Leroy Davis is a certified Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner and is primarily responsible for Neighborhood Watch. In addition to Neighborhood Watch, he maintains an active Business Watch program with all arcades in unincorporated St. Lucie County. Dep. Davis also maintains the Stop Watch program, a unique initiative in which school parents, trained as observers and reporters, are stationed at bus stops providing extra eyes and ears for the safety of our community children.
- Deputy Gary Gonsalves is a certified Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner and is responsible for working with Homeowners Associations. He maintains the tactical Bank Response Plan and in doing so works directly with bank representatives and patrol administration. Dep. Gonsalves provides Bank Robbery prevention/training to area banks using live action robbery scenarios. Dep. Gonsalves is also the videographer, producer and editor for the Sheriff's Office television show, "10-8" which airs on local government channels. He also produces public service announcements.
- Deputy Glenn Hoffman is a certified Florida Crime Prevention Practitioner and is primarily responsible for the Citizen's Observation Patrol Program. The C.O.P. Program

has over 500 volunteers, 21 C.O.P. groups, a fleet of 24 vehicles, and one boat. He averages three to four basic C.O.P. academies per year. Dep. Hoffman is the agency liaison for the county-wide FirstCall Reverse 9-1-1 system and also oversees the agency volunteer coordinator. Dep. Hoffman also coordinates the issuance of placards for the hurricane re-entry program for residents on the barrier island.

- Ashlee Mayr is the Crime Prevention Unit secretary. She is responsible for scheduling and confirming all assigned meetings and unit activities. Mrs. Mayr handles all paperwork for the Crime Prevention Unit. She reviews all criminal law enforcement reports and follows crime trends in areas where there are active neighborhood watch, homeowners and C.O.P. groups. She prepares crime trend reports for deputies to use in their assigned meetings to meet the specific needs of each group. Mrs. Mayr also keeps statistics on patrol Criminal Opportunity Reporting Forms and forwards trend information back to patrol and to Crime Prevention Unit deputies. She is also an advisor for the Sheriff's Office Explorer Post.
- Walter Nygard is a part-time volunteer coordinator. He works directly with Dep. Hoffman in managing the near 500 volunteers within the Sheriff's Office, most of which are C.O.P. members. Mr. Nygard is responsible for arranging C.O.P. vehicle maintenance, activity logs, recruiting volunteers, and facilitating the background checks of prospective volunteers.

All unit members are actively involved in providing direction for the Crime Prevention Unit. Members come together for monthly meetings to review activities and trends, and to develop strategies to meet the needs of both the agency and the community. This provides an

opportunity for all members to be informed as to the activities of the entire unit and also facilitates creativity from many different perspectives. Programs such as Stop Watch, the revitalized Operation Identification, and Sheriff's Community Day are the direct result of these collaborative monthly meetings.

From the period of October 2011 to present, the Crime Prevention Unit has made tremendous strides in crime prevention activities. Crime Prevention deputies routinely responded to burglary and theft calls for service and provided prevention tips to residents and business owners. The Stop Watch initiative was begun and Fleet Watch was revitalized.

The dormant Operation Identification program received new life in 2011-2012 in response to increased burglaries and thefts in northern St. Lucie County. This program allows residents to record their serial numbers and place numbered decals specifically referenced to their information on larger pieces of property. New exterior decals identifying the property owner as a participant in the Operation Identification program were designed and ordered as well as sequentially numbered property stickers. Property owners are still encouraged to engrave their driver's license numbers on personal property and keep good records of their property.

Sheriff's Office Community Days began in the later part of 2011 and continued through 2012. This program draws families to a central location for entertainment and a chance for the Crime Prevention Unit to explain and showcase programs such as Operation Identification, child fingerprinting, self-defense programs, and general safety and security. Sheriff's K9, Aviation, and Explorers participate in each event. The Crime Prevention Unit develops Crime Prevention Bulletins dealing with current trends and distributes them through a vast email distribution list. These are also posted on the Sheriff's Office website. The Sheriff's Office television show, "10-8" was revamped in late 2011. Full scale production of the television show has been an ongoing

endeavor for the unit in 2012. The show is aired on local government channels and is linked to the Sheriff's Office website and the Sheriff's Office YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/stluciesheriff). Plans are being finalized to have the show running on an endless loop at the St. Lucie County Courthouse and in the main lobby of the Sheriff's Office. Originally developed as "COPS"-style program with some educational components about the Sheriff's Office, the new "10-8" still includes street action, but also includes segments dedicated to educating the public about crime prevention and risk reduction strategies. Current episodes include community outreach concepts including an episode that identifies the devastating effects of prescription drug abuse from the perspective of a father who lost his young adult daughter to a prescription overdose.

During July of 2012 numerous burglaries were reported to several homes in a large gated community. The Crime Prevention Unit was contacted to provide a community seminar, Reverse 911 call-outs to the residents with safety tips, and neighborhood watch techniques to help harden the area and locate the suspects. The efforts paid off and in less than two weeks the suspects were captured.

The art of crime prevention requires sincere dedication from the law enforcement professionals chosen to carry this responsibility. It is our belief that the State of Florida has the finest crime prevention professionals in the world. The efforts of the professionals working under the banner of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office are particularly noteworthy and have served to enhance the profession. They have brought tremendous pride to the Sheriff's Office and to the citizens of St. Lucie County. It is because of these efforts that we nominate the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit for the Crime Prevention Unit of the Year Award.



Nomination Contact Information

Name of Person or Group Being Nominated

Name / Agency / Business Name: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit

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Nominated By

Name: Lt. Chris Vandeventer

Agency / Business: St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office

Address: 4700 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Telephone #: (772) 462-3302

E-Mail: vandeventerc@stluciesheriff.com

July 31, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

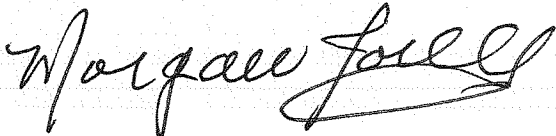
This letter is in regard to the Crime Prevention Unit of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, a group of deputies who are dedicated to the residents of the county.

I have been a volunteer with Crime Prevention Unit for the past ten years as a Citizens Observation Patrol (C.O.P.) driver. I have logged about 2,500 volunteer hours in all phases of the Crime Prevention Unit and the C.O.P. program.

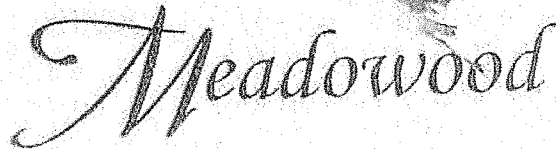
The C.O.P. group of over 500 members is managed by the Crime Prevention Unit who keeps us trained through various meetings around the county. These deputies also attend homeowners and neighborhood watch meetings in St. Lucie County, answering citizen questions and concerns. They also perform surveys of businesses and residences in the county showing citizens how to protect themselves and their property.

These are only a few of the programs offered by the members of the Crime Prevention Unit. I am amazed how this group manages all of the programs offered by the unit. I am sure the efforts of the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit have reduced crime and will continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Morgan Jones
C.O.P. Volunteer



Meadowood

Community Association

10 August 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

During the month of June 2012, Meadowood Community Association experienced a series of car larcenies and home burglary's. The St. Lucie County Sheriff Department was notified. A meeting was held at the Association by Major Michael Monahan, and deputies from the crime prevention division. An action plan was instituted to coincide with the Association's own security department and the Sheriff Department in regards to patrol hours.

The St. Lucie County Sheriff Department started a very intensive patrol of our Association. On June 26, 2012, at about 2:00am, one week after the original incidents, Sheriff D/S Morash spotted a vehicle parked on the side of the road outside of our Association. Noticing that the cars engine/hood was still warm, and the fact that it was unoccupied, he alerted his department and several other patrol units, a K-9 unit and the Sheriff Departments Helicopter arrived on scene. Within minutes, the deputies spotted a subject running between homes within the Association. An apprehension was made. Detectives at the scene found a purse that had been taken from a home that night in the suspects possession.

After their investigation, it was determined that the suspect apprehended was responsible for the previous incidents.

By their quick action, cooperation with the Association and their increased patrol efforts, a suspect was apprehended and the residents of our Association were able to return to their normal calm routines.

Since this incident, the Sheriff Department came to the Association and spoke to the residents on how to help secure their homes by using outside lighting at night, closing garage doors, locking their vehicle and home doors. The residents appreciated this presentation immensely and felt more secure in their homes.

I can not say enough about the professionalism of the St. Lucie County Sheriff Department.

Charles Anklam LCAM
Manager, Meadowood Community Association

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