



As April comes to a close, we reflect on a month of appreciation. April was full of great opportunities to thank the men and women of CCSO for their efforts in making our community the safest in Florida.

Starting on April 11, 2021, National Animal Care and Control Appreciation Week kicked off. This week focused on CCSO Animal Control Officers and all they do for our community. We in Citrus County love our pets, and it is through the work of our Animal Control Officers that we can seek justice for cases of abused, neglected, and abandoned animals. Our Animal Control Units work hand in hand with our Patrol Deputies, ensuring that Citrus County's pet population is safe.

National Public Safety and Telecommunications Week quickly followed during the month of April. In 2020, the CCSO Communications Officers answered a total of 221,181 calls for service. These calls for service were calls from our community asking for help. The kind and reassuring voice answering the phone is our Communications Officers, who work tirelessly to ensure every call for help gets answered. These individuals are an integral part of our agency. Without their loyalty, we would not be able to do what we do every single day; which is keeping Citrus County safe!

Administrative Professionals Day was on April 21, 2021, and it was our opportunity to celebrate the men and women who serve behind the scenes of our agency. From handling payroll and managing employee benefits, to answering citizens' phone calls/emails and fulfilling records requests, CCSO's team of administrative professionals are the backbone of our agency. Their work allows the larger machine of CCSO to function in a way that keeps our community safe.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office would not be able to function without the force multiplier of our volunteers. April 18th started National Volunteer Appreciation Week. This week allowed CCSO and our community to say thank you to all the volunteers who help move this agency forward. From conducting vacant house checks with Crime Watch to riding horseback with our Posse Unit, the volunteers are interwoven with every fabric of this agency.

The month of April also featured National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This entire week is dedicated to those who survived crime and those who advocate on their behalf. I am proud to proclaim that CCSO's very own Detective Tiffany Barry was one of seven Florida law enforcement officers to be awarded and recognized by Attorney General Ashley Moody for her contribution to crime victims. Detective Barry was awarded the 2020 Distinguished Victim Services Award for all her efforts.

April also served as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our nation's roadways, and we at CCSO are ensuring motorists know to #JustDriveCitrus. We made many efforts to inform the citizens of Citrus County of the dangers

of distracted driving such as texting and driving. Our CCSO Traffic Unit enforced violations, and provided valuable information to drivers, educating them on ways to be better drivers.

With all the recognition throughout April, you can easily see that CCSO is an agency of hardworking and dedicated individuals. Together, we can make Citrus County and the nature coast the safest community in Florida.

In closing, I have one final thank you to give. Thank you to everyone who has subscribed to the *“In the Know”* newsletter in the past months. So far, this monthly newsletter has been a huge success in keeping Citrus County informed on what is happening at their Citrus County Sheriff’s Office. I encourage all subscribers to tell their family, friends, and neighbors about *“In the Know”* so they too can be up to date with all that is happening in our agency.

Yours in service,

Sheriff Mike Prendergast