

CHIEF TOM MCNULTY

2014 Year in Review



Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment



April 2014

Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council, City Manager, and Citizens of Venice,

We the members of the Venice Police Department, are proud to present to our community the 2014 - Year in Review. This report depicts a summary of the dedicated staff of our police department who continue to partner with citizens, city government, area law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to improve the quality of life in our community by providing high quality professional police services. On a national level, 2014 was a challenging year for law enforcement. Regardless of these events, the men and women of the Venice Police Department continue to provide the same great service to our citizens and community.

Internally the year had its share of challenges, with the most daunting the consolidation of our Dispatch Service coupled with staffing shortages. In spite of any challenge, either present or future, the Venice Police Department is committed to provide our law enforcement services in a respectful and transparent manner.

During this year our agency was awarded the “Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award.” This award is difficult to attain and is a testament to the positive efforts of both our civilian and sworn members.

Although external awards are a great barometer of our standing within our industry, a better barometer is our standing among our citizens. This is gauged by the numerous letters, phone calls, and personal comments I receive complimenting the work of our members and more importantly the respect they demonstrate to our citizens.

It is now my pleasure and honor to present to you our 2014 – Year in Review as a testament to the accomplishments and commitment of your police department.

Chief Tom McNulty



Venice Police Department is awarded the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award (2014)

I am proud and honored to advise you that our agency was awarded the “Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award” for 2014. This award is quite an accomplishment for a law enforcement agency and is directly related to the efforts of both our civilian and sworn members. Unfortunately, I will be out of state, but the award will be presented to Captain Mattmuller in Boca Raton at a banquet on July 2nd. The following excerpt, from the International Association of Police Chiefs, is a description of the award:

“The purpose of this award is to provide a mechanism for the Florida Police Chiefs Association to recognize member agencies for developing and implementing an innovative approach to policing. This award has been named in honor of Rocky Pomerance, who has been recognized as exemplifying the image of an innovative and visionary leader who furthered the mission of the Florida Police Chiefs Association and the law enforcement profession within Florida. A practitioner and visionary, Chief Rocky Pomerance, was the Chief of Police of Miami Beach, Florida, from the early 1950's through 1977 and served as the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police from October 1973 through October 1974.

Quality in law enforcement is a vital asset to the community, and should be encouraged, promoted and formally recognized. The philosophy behind this award is to recognize excellence in policing and to encourage member law enforcement agencies to share with their peers those programs they've developed to address community problems and have enhanced them in the eyes of their respective communities.”

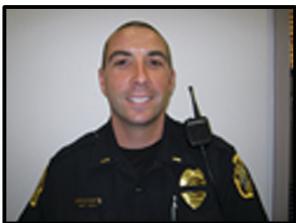
Administration

The Venice Police Department Administration consists of Chief Tom McNulty, Captain Tom Mattmuller, Lieutenant Todd Resch, Administrative Assistants Babs Anderson and Rick Napoli, and Accreditation Coordinator Lee Lyons.

Chief McNulty is Chief Executive Officer of the Police Department and responsible for the welfare and decisions of the whole department.



Captain Tom Mattmuller is responsible for the Patrol Operations/Uniform Division in the Department. There is a day shift and a night shift. Each shift consists of two squads: Days A/Days B and Nights A/Nights B. Each squad works a 12-hour shift. He is also responsible for the Specialty Units – K-9, Marine Patrol, and Traffic.



Lieutenant Todd Resch is responsible for the Support Services Division. This Division consists of the Training Unit, Criminalistics Section, Communications Section, Records Section, Detectives Bureau, and the School Resource Officers.



ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Coordinator, Lee Lyons with assistance from Subject Matter Experts and the Policy Review Committee reviewed and re-issued 56 policies, researched, developed and issued three new policies and researched and drafted two new policies.

In February, she and Subject Matter Experts within the agency hosted the first Venice Police Department Citizens Police Academy. She assumed the role as an Administrative Coordinator and was responsible for all correspondence, sharing information, scheduling meetings, acquiring refreshments from local community businesses and planning the graduation ceremony. Also in February, the Accreditation Coordinator conducted a three day On-Site Assessment for The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation at the Naples Police Department.

Lee encouraged and rallied recent Citizens Police Academy Graduates to participate in the Special Olympics Fishing Tournament (April), the national "Ready, Set, Wear It" initiative, which promotes wearing life vests on the water while boating (May), the Second Annual Bike Rodeo (June) and the Venice Police Community in Need Program (December). Many Citizens Police Academy graduates supported these commendable community events. She was a facilitator for City Manager Edward Lavallee during the 2014 City of Venice Staff Retreat in September. As a member of the Awards Committee she planned and coordinated the Awards Ceremony and Banquet in October.

During the month of November, the Accreditation Coordinator conducted a three day Mock On-Site Assessment at the Gulfport Police Department. As a member of the City of Venice Safety Committee, she attended all quarterly meetings and the annual mandatory Government in Sunshine and Public Records Law training. She is a member of the committee to select the City Manager's Employee of the Year.



CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Venice Police Department held its first ever Citizens Police Academy. This 11 week program was created to be exciting and engaging for the 23 citizen students who applied to participate. The program was designed from the ground up with the intent to educate participants regarding the high level of service the Venice Police Department provides and to dispel common myths and misunderstandings about law enforcement practices; all while forging relationships that will hopefully last well into the future.

Participants were given the opportunity to learn from and get to know the officers that serve this community. Each class subject was assigned to an individual Venice Police Officer who agreed to develop an informative course that would be exciting and engaging. Among the many subjects they learned about were law enforcement K9 handling, defensive tactics, along with community policing and investigative operations. Participants were even given the opportunity to handle and shoot the firearms carried by Venice Police Officers and to engage in several realistic scenarios such as traffic stops and domestic violence investigations.

The course was an overwhelming success. Many of the graduates continue today to be friends of the Venice Police Department. It speaks to the success of the program that many of the newest citizen police academy students were referred to the program by a previous class graduate.



The Venice Police Department is proud to present the First Graduating Class of the Citizens Police Academy: Front Row (L-R): Alan Bolman, Thomas Lariviere, Dennis Turner, Joseph Browne, Fred Hind, Henry Curran, Victor Ramano. Second Row (L-R): Lieutenant Eric Hill (standing), Jerry Jasper, James Connolly, Loretta Norelli, Martha Dover, Gayle Fazzalano, Ronald Fazzalano, Linda Wilson, Accreditation Coordinator Lee Lyons (standing). Third Row (L-R): Captain Tom Mattmuller (standing), Cleighton Moore, Joseph Traficante, John Schnut, Andrea Cooper, David Sherman, James Lorenz, Carl Shook, David Wilson, Ronald Scurek and Chief Tom McNulty (standing)

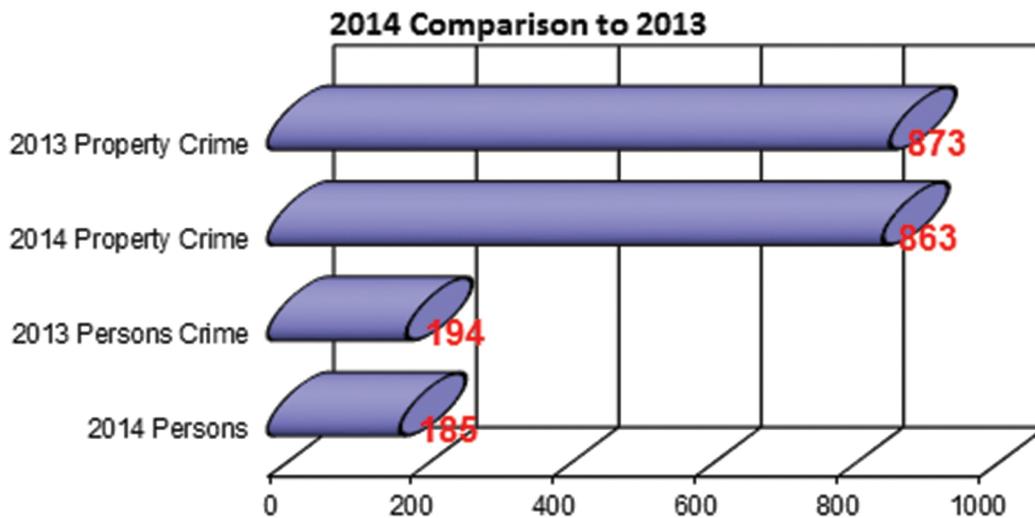
VENICE POLICE



2014- REPORTED CRIMES

Criminal Activity	2014	2013	Change %
Murder & Manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex Based Offense	20	20	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0
Robbery	5	4	25%
Aggravated Assault/Battery	26	24	8%
Simple Assault/Battery	130	131	-1%
Aggravated Stalking	0	0	0
Simple Stalking	2	3	-33%
Intimidation	2	12	-83%
Burglary	74	92	-20%
Burglary Vehicle	56	66	-15%
Theft	256	279	-8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	12	0
Vandalism	79	72	10%
Arson	1	1	0
Drug / Narcotic	66	68	-3%
Fraud Related Offense	149	121	23%
DUI	34	36	-6%
Liquor Law Violation	67	35	91%
Miscellaneous	66	89	-25%
Weapons Violation	1	2	-50%
Prostitution	1	0	100%
TOTAL	1048	1067	-2%

2014 – ANNUAL STATISTICS



Summary

- 2% Reduction in overall reported Crime
- 6% Reduction in Property Crime
- 5% Reduction in Person Crime
- 8% Reduction in Arrests
- 1% Increase in Traffic Enforcement
- 66% Reduction in Field Interviews
- 5% Increase in Community Walks/Talks

VENICE POLICE



2014 – ARRESTS



Arrest Charges	2014	2013	Change %
Murder & Manslaughter	0	0	0%
Sex Based Offense	14	15	-7%
Robbery	0	2	-100%
Aggravated Assault	14	16	-13%
Simple Assault	58	67	-13%
Intimidation	0	0	0%
Burglary	7	11	-36%
Vehicle Burglary	2	6	-66%
Theft	26	41	-36%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	4	-25%
Kidnapping	0	0	0%
Drugs	59	68	-13%
Fraud	28	34	-18%
Prostitution	0	0	-11%
DUI	33	37	-11%
Vandalism	3	15	-80%
Liquor Law	69	37	86%
Stalking	0	1	-100
Miscellaneous	135	135	0%
Weapons Violation	2	3	-33%
Arson	0	1	0%
Total	453	493	-8%

2014 – ANNUAL STATISTICS



Citations / Warning Parking	2014	2013	Change %
Citation- No Court	973	767	27%
Citation- Court Appearance	12	5	140%
Citation - Criminal	152	171	-11%
Warnings	2380	3219	-26%
Parking	1176	449	162%
Juvenile Tobacco	3	7	-57%
Marine Citation	29	7	314%
Marine Warning	138	176	-22%
Total	4863	4801	-1%
Miscellaneous			
Field Interviews	295	895	-66%
Traffic Crashes	554	556	-2%
Community Walk/Talks	3,146	3,009	-5%

VENICE POLICE



PATROL OPERATIONS

At the end of the year, there were 45 sworn officers which includes 12 supervisors. Our force is comprised of 40 male officers and 5 female officers. We work two 12-hour shifts (A & B) during the day and night and conduct patrol operations by using "zones".

Day Shift A Squad



Officer Rob Henderson, Officer Dave Desjardin, Sergeant Ron Perisho, Officer Rob Palmieri and Officer Betty Camp

Day Shift B Squad



Officer Paul Freeman, Officer Todd Reale, Officer Steve Scurek, Master Patrol Officer Todd Lucas, Sergeant Jessica Chappa, Officer Brett Woodworth, Officer Steven Brown, Officer Louis White

Night Shift A Squad



Acting Lieutenant Jason Adams, Officer Dan Schuler, Officer Oscar Guinart, Officer Adam Daneman, Officer Bill Long, K9 Officer Kristen Kimson, Abram, Officer Louis White and Sergeant Alek Gregoire

Night Shift B Squad



Officer Brett Woodworth, Officer Louis White, Sergeant Dave Wyrick, Officer David DesJardin, Officer Benjamin Neff, K9 Officer Chad Walker



"Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment"



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



2014 Domestic Violence Statistics Cases Reported to Venice Police Department

- Approximately 75 Domestic Violence Cases - Those incidents include charges for Simple Battery, Domestic Battery by Strangulation, Aggravated Battery (suspect used a weapon) and Aggravated Assault.
- 35 follow-up actions by the Domestic Violence Coordinator (collect 911 Call, notify DCF, etc.)
- Though most alleged suspects were male, approximately 25% were female.
- All strangulation suspects were male. All but one felony suspects were male, the one was a female reported to have committed an aggravated assault with a knife.
- Just under 25% of the arrested persons were female. Five of the suspects were juveniles.
- Most cases involved romantic partners, but approximately 35% involved siblings, parents and children, or other family relations. The percentage of non-romantic cases for the same time period in 2013 was 25%.

If you or a loved one need help with domestic violence call someone!

For local assistance: www.sparcc.net
24-Hour Hotline: 941-365-1976 (TTY)
Venice Outreach Office (by appointment only)
1531 Tamiami Trail South, Suite 702-A
Venice, FL 34285

SUPPORT SERVICES



Detective Bureau Members: Detective Jake Barlow, Administrative Coordinator Tawnie Murdock, Detective Keith Quick, Detective Michelle LaRock, School Resource Officer Sean Hammett, Criminalistics Specialist Cheryl Prevatte, Detective Robert Goodson, and Detective Sergeant Troy Crepeau (not shown Sergeant Eugene Frangioni and School Resource Officer Ruth Terry)

VENICE POLICE



HONOR GUARD

In 2014 the Honor Guard served over 150 hours by participating in:

- Three (3) Law Enforcement funerals in Florida
- Venice Police Department Citizens Police Academy Graduation
- Sarasota Criminal Justice Academy Graduation
- Five (5) other memorials or ceremonies
- Two (2) scheduled trainings

The Honor Guard currently has eight members and a Sergeant. The members are a cross section of our department; including men and women from the Marine Patrol, the Detective Bureau, and the Patrol Division. Two members were lost because of retirement this year. The positions will be filled when man power allows.



The Honor Guard at the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Patriot's Park, hosted this year by American Legion No-Vel Post 159. L-R, Master Patrol Officer Bill Masters, (Retired), School Resource Officer Ruth Terry, Officer Oscar Guinart, and Officer Joshua Rizzo



The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 101 of Nokomis invited the VPD Honor Guard to lead the presentation of colors at the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11. L-R, Marine Officer Paul Joyce, Officer Joshua Rizzo, Officer Betty Camp and Detective Keith Quick

Third and Fourth grade students are familiar with the many roles of police officers; therefore, the primary focus is on decision-making and related consequences. Realistic scenarios are provided to encourage discussion about making more informed decisions when alone. An introduction to gun and internet safety along with the impacts of peer pressure and bullying are examined.

Fifth grade students were introduced to a new program called ADVANCE (Avoiding Drugs Violence and Negative Choices Early). The program is five weeks in length and provides children the skills they need to resist pressures they may encounter. Lessons cover such topics as peer pressure, drugs, gangs, bullying/violence and how to say “NO” through positive alternatives. Each student is provided a workbook with assignments and given a t-shirt and certificate upon graduation.

Last year high school students year were incorporated into the program through topics relevant to their generation. Along with discussions on bullying, students were made aware of the impact of “Social Media” and its related consequences.



During the sea turtle nesting period, a 250 lb. female turtle crawled on the beach just south of the South Jetty rock wall to lay her eggs. Upon returning to the Gulf, she became disoriented and fell head first and lodged into a five foot deep rock crevice. Sergeant Perisho contacted MOTE Marine Laboratory and Aquarium. Upon arrival, they attempted to free the turtle. A citizen presented a tow strap. Sergeant Perisho directed the MOTE member to place the tow strap around the turtle. He subsequently organized MOTE Members and half a dozen citizens that were standing by to help him pull her out of the rock crevice. The turtle was unharmed and returned back into her natural habitat Gulf Waters.



AWARDS

With great honor and pride, Chief McNulty and Captain Mattmuller presented the following members of the Venice Police and the Community with awards at the Awards Ceremony and Banquet held at Aston Gardens, Venice on October 21.

Recipients:

Ashley Von Der Muehll and Andrew Heekin – **Civilian Citation**
William Skaff – **Civilian Citation**

Patricia Trumble – **Citizens Life Saving Award**

K-9 Officer Chad Walker – **Personal Memorandum**

Sergeant Jessica Chappa – **Personal Memorandum**

Crossing Guard Carol Amato – **Chief’s Achievement Award**

Pastor Tom Hodge – **Chief’s Achievement Award**

Records Clerk Kelli Peyton - **Community Relations Award**

Officer Oscar Guinart – **Community Relations Award**

Detective Michelle LaRock, Detective Mathew Sauchinitz, Officer Kristen Kimson, Officer Daniel Schuler, Officer Paul Joyce, Officer Steven Scurek, Detective Andrew Leisenring, Officer Demitri Seriani, Officer Sean Hammett, Officer Paul Freeman, Detective Keith Quick, and Lieutenant Eric Hill – **Community Relations Award (Group)**

Lieutenant Eric Hill, Detective Mathew Sauchinitz, and Accreditation Coordinator Lee Lyons – **Chief’s Achievement Award (Group)**

Lieutenant Mike Rose, Sergeant Jason Adams, Detective Keith Quick, Detective Andrew Leisenring, Detective Jake Barlow, Officer Paul Joyce, and Officer Oscar Guinart – **Unit Commendation (Bank of America Robbery)**

B

Sergeant Troy Crepeau, Officer Oscar Guinart, Officer Demitri Seriani, Officer Steven Scurek, Officer Sean Hammett, Sergeant Jason Adams, Detective Todd Reale, Detective Andrew Leisenring, Detective Keith Quick, Detective Jake Barlow – **Unit Commendation (Domestic Battery/Aggravated Assault with Firearm, Suspect Suffering From PTSD)**

R

Sergeant Jessica Chappa, Detective Keith Quick, Detective Andrew Leisenring, Sergeant Aleksander Gregoire, Officer Oscar Guinart, and Officer Steven Scurek – **Unit Commendation (Attempted Sexual Battery)**

Sergeant Jessica Chappa – **Individual Commendation**

Officer Kristen Kimson – **Individual Commendation**

Detective Andrew Leisenring – **Individual Commendation**

Detective Jake Barlow – **Individual Commendation**

Officer Paul Joyce, Officer Paul Freeman – **Individual Commendation**

A

Detective Keith Quick – **Individual Commendation**

Lieutenant Eric Hill, Sergeant Ronald Perisho, Detective Andrew Leisenring, Detective Keith Quick, Officer Paul Joyce, Officer Betty Camp, and Officer William (Rob) Henderson – **Life Saving Award (Group)**

V

Officer Danny Robbins, Sarasota Police Department, Project Lifesaver Coordinator – **Individual Commendation**

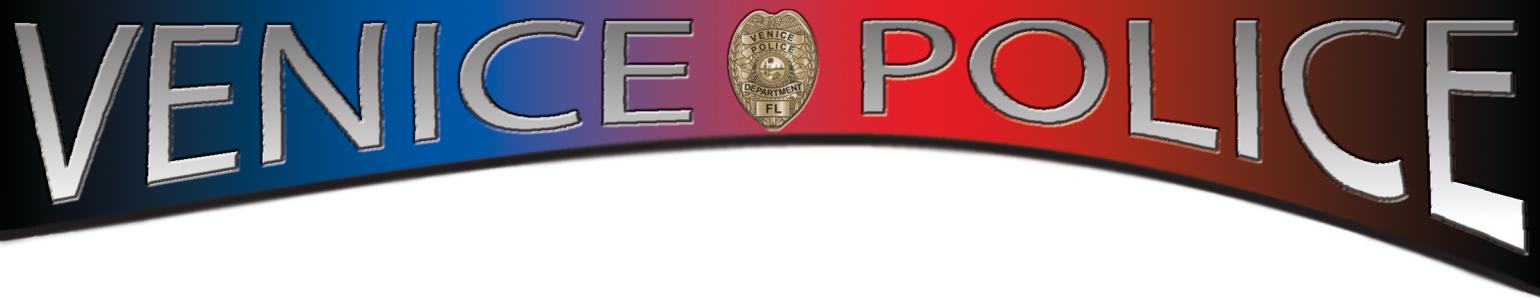
Project Lifesaver Volunteer Martha Bohn – **Civilian Life Saving Award**

O

School Resource Officer Ruth Terry - **Meritorious Service Award**

Congratulations





MARINE PATROL

The Venice Police Marine Unit patrols all city limits including north and south of the City of Venice Intracoastal Waterway, (ICW) and three miles off shore in the Gulf of Mexico. The Unit enforces the waterway for marine violations and boating safety, keeps the ICW channel clear of navigational hazards and provides boating education to the public. The Marine Patrol Units consists of USCG Captain Officer Paul Joyce and Officer Paul Freeman.

The Marine Unit assists the West Coast Inland Navigational District, (WCIND) with safety waterway projects.

The Unit also assists with many events on the water to include but not limited to the Offshore Grand Prix, 4th of July fireworks, and the Christmas Boat Parade to name a few. The Venice Police Department Marine Unit also responds to all types of incidents on the water including vessel crashes, aircraft incidents, drowning, and diver emergencies.

The Venice Police Marine Unit continues to partner with the community to ensure the success of various events such as, Shop with a Cop, VPD Bike Rodeo, Christmas Families in Need of Assistance, and the Special Olympic Fishing Tournament which just celebrated its 12th annual event. The Unit continues to educate the public on many topics which include: Vessel Inspections, Vessel Safety Awareness, the Little Bobber Project, Ready Set Wear It Campaign, the Safety Whistle Program, and Operation Dry water.

In 2014, the Marine Patrol Unit responded to 506 Calls for Service with 4 lives rescued and 5 victims recovered. The unit patrolled 4,208 Nautical miles, and accumulated 1,416.50 hours of public service on the local waterways.

The Venice Police Department's Marine Patrol Unit looks forward to the upcoming year, and desires to provide the best possible service to the City of Venice and Sarasota County.

Marine Patrol Unit Stats - 2014

- ★ Responded to 506 Calls for Service
- ★ Rescued 4 Lives
- ★ Recovered 5 Victims
- ★ Patrolled 4,208 Nautical Miles
- ★ Accrued 1,416.50 Public Service Hours on the Local Waterways
- ★ Issued 25 Marine Citations
- ★ Issued 142 Marine Warnings

The Marine Unit responds to an emergency in the Gulf of Mexico by exiting the Venice Jetties.





BIKE PATROL UNIT

In 2014, the Venice Police Department Bike Unit patrolled hundreds of miles, responding to dispatched calls for service as well as numerous self-initiated activity along with their regular duties. The bike unit allows officers to have total access while stealthily patrolling the City of Venice from the Venetian Bicycle Trail to gated communities and golf courses.

The Bike Unit's 2014 highlight was the 2nd Annual Children's Bike Rodeo. The Venice Police Department with the assistance from members of the 2014 Citizens Police Academy and Real Bikes invited children ages 12 and younger to participate in the bike rodeo. The objective of the event was to educate children about bicycle safety at the beginning of their summer vacation. Approximately 30 children participated in the event. There were several activities and stations for children, including helmet fitting, a cone-laden biking traffic awareness course, a serpentine course, slow bike race, and bike registration. The event was very successful. Numerous children of all ages directly interacted with law enforcement officers in a positive manner as they learned aspects of bicycle safety.



Members of the 1st Citizens Policy Academy assist with the 2nd Annual Children's Bike Rodeo.



K-9 Unit

The Venice Police Department Canine Unit is comprised of two canine teams assigned to each of the two midnight shift squads and their primary function is to assist patrol officers to locate and apprehend suspects and seek illegal narcotics that are hidden from plain view. Each of the two teams is dual purpose; they are trained to both locate and apprehend suspects as well as detect the odors of illegal narcotics. The canine teams also serve as a great community relations tool by providing demonstrations to groups that host events and interacting with students at schools and other functions.

The teams participated in over 400 hours of training time, utilized the dogs over 185 times while on patrol and provided back up to other patrol units and neighboring agencies. Some team highlights are below:

Officer Chad Walker and K9 Atlas

The past year was very productive for Officer Chad Walker and K9 Atlas. They competed in the 2014 United States Police Canine Association Regionals, (USPCA) in Pensacola, Florida where they received their 2014-2015 USPCA narcotics certification. They chose to compete in the USPCA because they are held to higher standards with their membership and certifications and are afforded expert witness testimony if ever sued or taken to court.

The team placed 25th out of 55 dogs which is a great improvement over last year. They took third place overall in agility partly because Officer Walker had unlimited access to our K-9 agility field and training area. The team also took second place for best Two Man Team. Atlas and Officer Walker were teamed with K-9 Officer Bush and Tomy from the North Port Police Department. It is very refreshing to see all of the hard work and training turned into positive rewards.

VENICE POLICE

Officer Walker and Atlas conducted several narcotic sniffs for our agency and other outside agencies. During those sniffs, Atlas alerted to drug paraphernalia in a meth case, 40 grams of marijuana, a quarter pound of marijuana, several small amounts of marijuana, and several positive alerts where no narcotics were located, however the occupants admitted possession prior to the stops.

Atlas is very successful with tracking as well. He tracked two suspects with warrants who ran from officers. Atlas located them hiding deep in thick brush and high grass. Atlas also tracked a domestic violence suspect who fled the scene. On that same track,

he led officers to a closed business that was burglarized. All apprehensions were without physical contact.

Along with all the above mentioned activity, Atlas participated in many community related demonstrations. The largest was at Venice High School. Officer Walker and Atlas spoke to four groups of 100+ students. All of the students were allowed to pet Atlas and learn about his duties as a police canine. The team also worked the Barbeque Bash, Farmers Market, and several school demonstrations.



K9 Officer Walker and Atlas participate in handler protection training.

Officer Kristen Kimson and K9 Abram

February – Participated in the First Annual Venice Police Department’s Citizens Police Academy by instructing the students in K9 activities.

February 6 - K9 Abram’s alert allowed access into an abandoned vehicle when the driver fled. The driver left behind a backpack that contained marijuana and methamphetamine. The K9 search produced information about the driver which eventually led to his arrest.

February - Instructed fellow officers for in-service training on K9 procedures and useful information for backup officers.

February 16 - Positive K9 alert on SSO traffic stop that led to search and discovery of cannabis, meth, paraphernalia, pills, and numerous items related to the sale of these narcotics. Multiple arrests were made.

March - K9 Assist with SIS felony stop...positive K9 alert yielded discovery of crystal meth, cannabis and paraphernalia. All three occupants were arrested.

October - K9 track for attempted residential burglary suspect ended with no contact apprehension. The victim did not want to press charges so no arrest was made.

October – Officer Kimson located the vehicle that fled from scene of a battery call in the county jurisdiction. She followed the vehicle to northbound I-75 until the Sarasota Sheriff’s Office, (SSO) joined to conduct a felony stop on I-75. Abram was present and assisted with the search and clearing the suspect vehicle. The suspect was located in the vehicle and arrested by SSO.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer, (SRO) Unit consists of two officers assigned to the Venice High School and the Criminal Investigations Division. They provide uniformed presence at the school and also conduct training and provide assistance to other area schools, (Venice Elementary, Island Montessori, Sarasota Military Academy, and Epiphany School)

SRO Activity	
Activity	Number
Crashes	19
Total Offense Reports	88
Including: Baker Acts	14
Alcohol/Drug/Narcotic Offenses	24
Sex Offenses	7
Battery	12
Theft	7
Total – 22 Teen Court Referrals	

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Criminal Investigations Division consists of a Detective Sergeant, five Detectives, (one of which is assigned to the Sheriff’s Office Special Investigations Section), Criminalistics Section, two School Resource Officers and an Administrative Coordinator. The Division is responsible for conducting a variety of investigations involving all crimes against persons and property that occur in the City of Venice. These investigations involve obtaining subpoenas and search warrants, conducting interviews, collecting evidence, processing crime scenes, and making arrests. Following are some of the Special Operations during the year:

<u>Special Operations 2014</u>	
Operation	Number
Underage Alcohol Enforcement	8 Notice to Appear
Unlicensed Contractor Operation	16 Arrests
Call-Outs	Approximately 20

CRIMINALISTICS SECTION



The Criminalistics Section consists of one civilian technician who maintains the integrity of property and evidence that is collected by the Department. Property disposal requires considerable legal research to ensure all disposals are in compliance with state statute and the State Attorney's Office has to provide authorization to release each item.

Our technician is also responsible for destroying prescription drugs that are dropped off in the Prescription Drug Box in the lobby of 1350 Ridgewood Avenue. The Venice Police Department collected and destroyed 863 pounds of prescription drugs over the last year.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Prescription Drugs Collected and Destroyed</u>
North Port Police Department	596.5 lbs.
Sarasota Police Department	278.5 lbs.
Sarasota Sheriff's Office	1,747.0 lbs.
Venice Police Department	863.0 lbs.

VENICE POLICE

CRIMINALISTICS DISPOSITIONS 2014	
Property Taken In	2,722
Property Disposed Of	683
Attorney Requests	232 Cases/Averaging 1\Minimum 1hour each
Cases Delivered to FDLE Lab Tampa	25
Cases Delivered to SSO Lab	+200
Drugs Accepted for Destruction (1\lay 2014- December 2014)	296 Items

RECORDS SECTION



FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAWS

The Records Section is led by Manager Teri Krabill and staffed with two Records Clerks, Sharon Middleton and Kelli Peyton.

STATISTICS

CATEGORY	2013	2014
Incident Reports	2,003	1,867
Citations/Warnings /Paroling	4,801	4,863
Arrests	493	453
Teen Court Referrals	19	19
Sealed/Expunged Records	8	16
Records Disposition Management {Cubic feet}	20	32
Background Checks	904	790
Records Requests	1,285	1,290
Phone calls	4,749	1,845
Scanned documents	8,225	12,785



Uniform Crime Reporting



UCR ANNUAL Clearance Rate

2014

2013

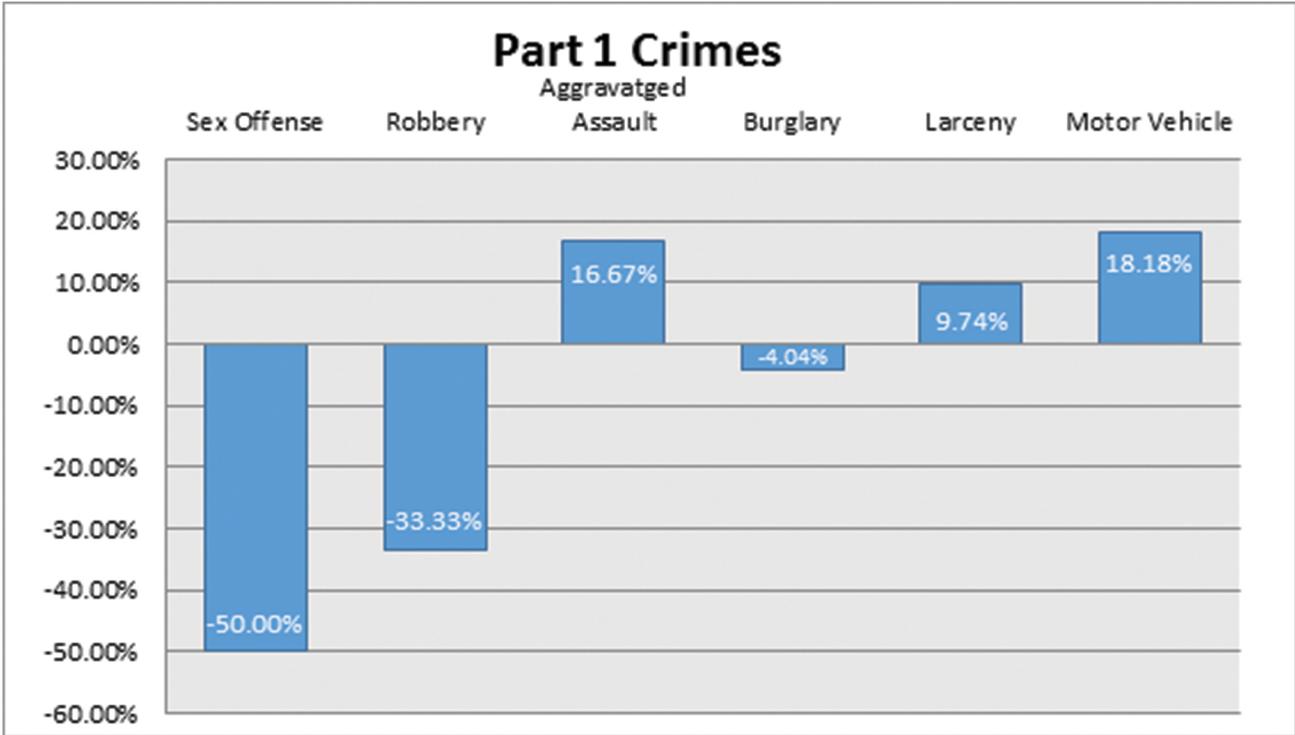
16.7%

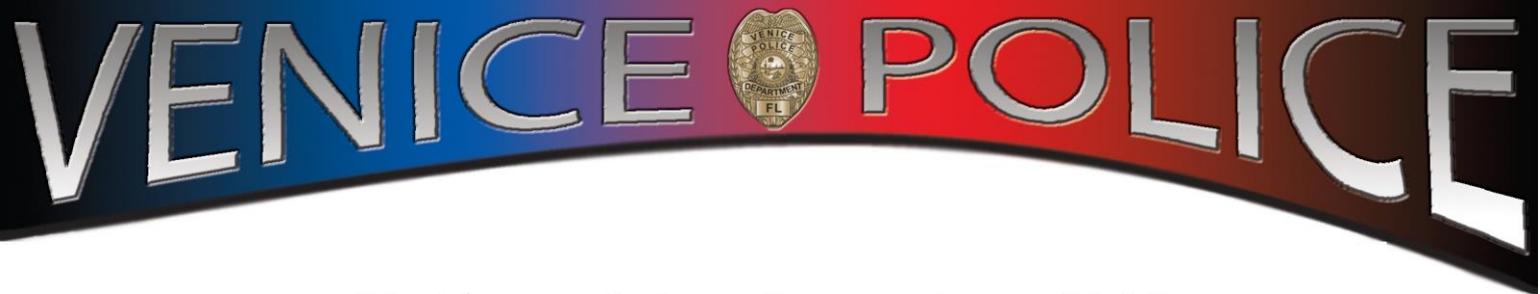
18.0%

VENICE POLICE



PART I CRIMES				
Violent Offenses		2014	2013	Percent Change
Murder		0	0	-
Forcible Rape		4	3	33.3%
Forcible Fondling		3	2	50%
Robbery		5	4	25%
Aggravated Assault		28	28	0.0%
Violent Offense Total		40	37	8.1%
Violent Crime Rate		188.8	175.2	7.7%
Property Offenses				
Burglary		74	95	-22.1%
Larceny		311	338	-8.0%
Motor Vehicle Theft		11	13	-15.4%
Property Offenses Total		396	446	-11.2%
Property Crime Rate		1869.0	2112.0	-11.5%
Total Index Offenses		436	483	-9.7%
Clearance Rate for Index Offenses		16.7%	18.0%	-7.0%
OTHER OFFENSES				
Arson		1	1	0.0%
Simple Assault		134	122	9.8%





Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

UCR is a statistical focused *summary* reporting system rather than one containing information on individual offenses. The goal is to provide a barometer of the crime conditions within a geographic jurisdiction.

The quantitative statistical data derived from the UCR Program provides assistance to determine the overall scope of the reported criminal activity in Florida.

Data is submitted to FDLE twice yearly to inform the Commissioner, Governor, Legislature, other government officials, and the public of the types, magnitude, and trends of crimes in Florida.

UCR collects the number of offenses in the following categories: murder, manslaughter, forcible sex, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson and simple assault. The UCR Program also collects data on domestic violence, offenses, property stolen and recovered, motor vehicle recovery information and arrest information. Additional offense information concerning homicide circumstances and those in which an officer is killed or assaulted is collected through supplemental reports.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



The Communications Section was consolidated with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office on April 30.

Bike Rodeo

The second annual Venice Bike Rodeo was held in June. Children within the community and surrounding area were under the age of 12 were invited to participate in the event. The Venice Police Department sponsored the event. The objective was to educate children about bike safety, increase their awareness, and refresh their skills prior to summer vacation. Approximately 40 children participated in the event that took place at Venice High School. Volunteers from the first Citizens Police Academy and Real Bikes of Venice assisted with the event. There were several activities and stations for the children that included: helmet fitting, bike repair/maintenance, traffic safety, serpentine course, rock dodge, and a bike ride alongside members of the Venice Police Department Bike Patrol Unit. Those children who did not have a helmet were provided one. Each child was also given a raffle ticket. A drawing was held at the end of the event in which prizes along with several bikes were given to fortunate winners.



Sergeant Perisho assists a young Bike Rodeo Participant.



Two boys enjoy the Bike Rodeo.

VENICE POLICE



School Resource Officer Hammett teaches the left hand turn signal.

Venice Police Community in Need of Assistance Program

The Venice Police Community In Need of Assistance Program was established over 20 years ago by a few City of Venice Police Officers and their families. As officers investigated calls for service, they realized some families in the community were unable to provide gifts for their children on Christmas Day. The officers and their families purchased, wrapped, and delivered toys just before Christmas Day to some of the families.

This idea grew over the years to what it is today – the Venice Police Department Officers, families, local businesses, and private donations from the residents all assist to make the program a success.

Today the program receives new toys that are donated by a local dentist who accepts toys instead of payment for procedures performed in his office for one month prior to Christmas. Through the program, local grocery stores provide food baskets to each family. Each food basket contains an entire breakfast and turkey dinner with all the sides for Christmas Day. These food baskets are paid for by private donations received from local businesses and residents.



On average, the program assists 50 – 60 families each year. This translates into approximately 100 – 140 children who receive toys and food each year.

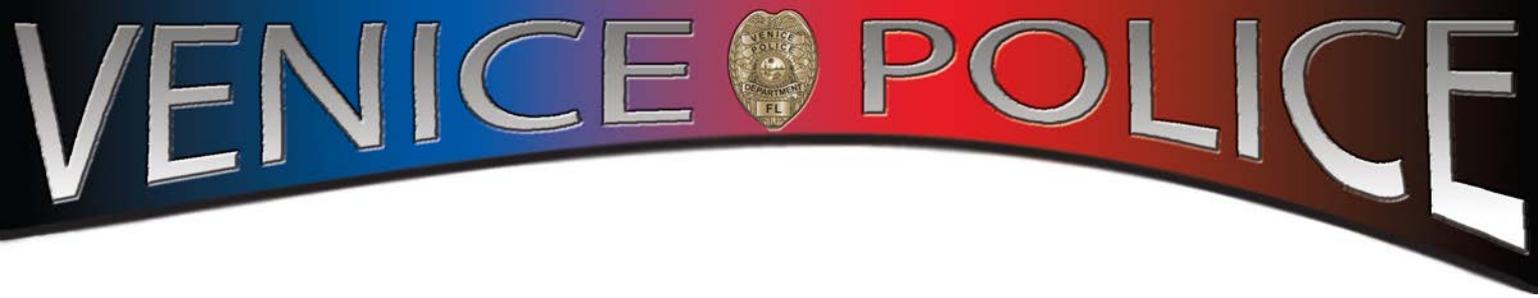
The families' names are provided by the elementary and middle schools in the Venice area. The program coordinator contacts the families to ensure their desire to participate in the program. The families do not need "to qualify" or do anything to participate in the program other than pick up the unwrapped items and food baskets on a predetermined date.

This program is not possible without the generous donations, combined efforts, and dedication by local businesses and City of Venice residents.

Shop With a Cop

Over the last 18 years the Venice Police Department helped almost 250 local underprivileged students receive new school supplies, clothing and other items to begin the school year in a positive manner. The students are selected by the Venice Salvation Army based on need and then referred to the program. The money to support the program is raised by donations from community businesses and individuals. The Department usually sponsors between 10 and 14 children. An average of approximately \$4,800 is raised of which \$300 is spent on each child. The purpose of the event is two-fold: to not only ensure students receive necessary school supplies, but to also have an opportunity to experience positive interactions with local law enforcement personnel.

The shopping day begins with breakfast at the police department, followed by a tour of the station and distributing new backpacks that are filled with supplies provided by the Venice Fraternal Order of Police. The children are paired with staff from the police department (sworn and civilian) and sometimes civilian volunteers from the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge for a day of shopping. The children eat lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy ice cream before the day's conclusion.



Annual Fishing Tournament for Special Olympics

On April 10, 2014, the Venice Police Department's Marine Unit sponsored the 12th Annual Special Olympics Fishing Tournament. Thirty Special Olympic Athletes joined local boat captains for a day of fun and fishing. The event kicked off just before the annual Sharks Tooth Festival. The local captains donated their time and vessels to make this event very special and memorable for the athletes.

Each athlete was paired with a boat captain and crew members at Marine Max of Venice and received a commemorative hat, t-shirt and sunscreen.

After they completed their fishing day, they met at Marine Max for lunch and to share fish stories. At the Sharks Tooth Festival an awards ceremony was held for all the athletes who participated in the fishing tournament. Each athlete was presented a plaque to commemorate their participation.

There were 32 Special Olympic Athletes, 20 boat captains, and approximately 40 volunteers for this event. The cost of the 12th Annual Sharks Tooth Fishing Tournament was approximately \$4,500.00 which was obtained through donations and sponsorships from local businesses and the community.

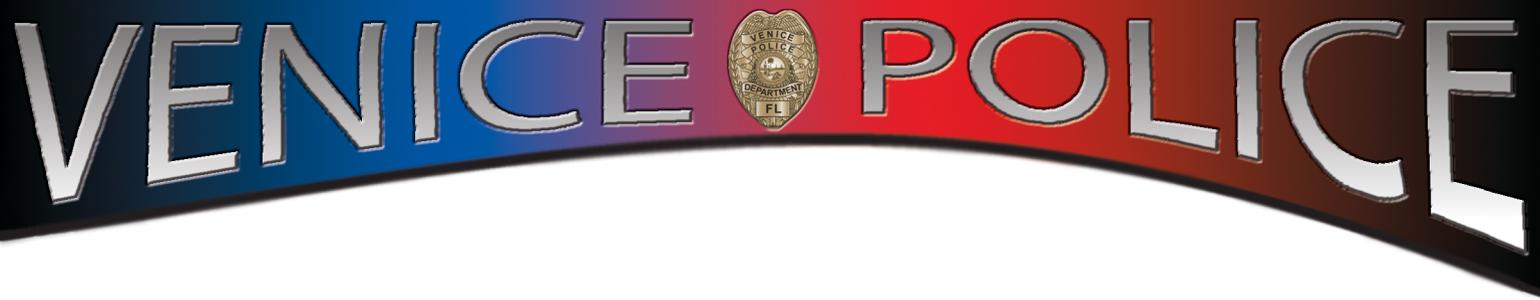


Community Outreach Program, (COP)

The Community Outreach Program, (COP) proactively enhances the relationship between the Venice Police Department, and the community we serve. It strengthens our pledge to “Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment”. Officers are responsible for a designated area within the City. This program and designated assignments promotes opportunities to meet and greet, prevent crime and promote the awareness that the VPD is approachable and ready to listen and assist the community. The officers in the designated area become aware of key leaders and organizations within the community. Officers are encouraged to leave their vehicles and engage in conversation with the citizens and business owners. This affords the opportunity to assess the general safety and security of an area.

COP cards were created to use as a tool to introduce the officers to community members. The COP cards include agency facts, 911 emergency use tips, various contact information for non-emergency situations and a section for the officer to leave comments.

Security Check cards are used to notify business owners that VPD Officers checked their property after hours. A dedicated e-mail address and web-site is closely monitored to connect with the community.



Senior Assistance Freedom Enrichment, (SAFE) Program

The SAFE Program offers our senior citizens a free service that enhances their choice of independent living and freedom. Our goal is that citizens using the SAFE Program lead a longer, more active and productive life with the assurance that they are cared for by Venice Police Department Members. The Department feels that the peace of mind offered by the Program promotes good mental as well as physical health. We encourage independent living with a helping hand. Records Clerk Kelli Peyton calls the senior participants during the weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and a day shift supervisor completes this task on weekends and holidays. If the participant does not answer, an officer is directed by a day shift supervisor to check on the welfare of the senior citizen. This new process of how VPD Members make contact with the senior citizens changed on May 01, 2014 when our Communications Center consolidated with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Dispatch.

Helping Survivors During Death - Notifications

A packet was created and distributed to our patrol officers, to hand out in the event they encounter a call for service where a person has died. This packet contains a letter of condolences from the Police Chief, a sample letter to creditors and the descendant's employer, some important details to consider at this time and a check off list "What Do I Do Now?"

SHOE BOXES for SENIORS 2014 – Fill 100 Boxes!

Each December, the Senior Outreach Committee donates/obtains donations of non-food, non-flammable items for this campaign. The Venice Police Department supported the Shoe Boxes for Seniors 2014 by contributing letter openers and notepads. The shoeboxes are filled at the Senior Outreach Meeting and wrapped by Jeanette Bell's elves. The boxes are delivered to Venice Friendship Center for distribution to needy seniors.

Job Well Done, Indian Ink!

Indian Ink of Venice High School is a student printing enterprise. Indian Ink and the Venice Police Department partnered in a collaborative effort to complete this document. We would like to extend a very special thank you to **Ms. Zubyk** for agreeing to partner with us and oversee the project.

We would also like to thank **Noah Chavez** and **Damien Horton** – your creative ideas brought life to this report!

