



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: January 19, 2023
Prepared by: Ava Hanner, Public Affairs Office
Phone and Email: 386-262-8066, AHanner@flaglersheriff.com
Release #: 2023 - 11

FCSO Receives "Bringing the Lost Home" Program Resources

FCSO is One of Five Sheriff's Offices in Florida to Receive Resources this Year to Help Locate Missing Endangered Persons

BUNNELL, FL – The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has been named as one of the five Florida Sheriff's Offices in 2022 to receive missing person response training, scent discriminate K-9 training, and scent preservation kit resources through the Florida Legislature's "Bringing the Lost Home Program." The "Bringing the Lost Home Program" law was sponsored by Florida House Representative Scott Plakon and signed into law by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis in June 2022.

In 2023, the Bringing the Lost Home Program will be implemented in Orange, Jacksonville, Highlands, Lafayette, and Flagler Counties and will enable these Sheriff's Offices to introduce and maintain a proven and effective missing person response and location program for populations with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism, and other cognitive disabilities who are at high risk of wandering.

The program provides FCSO with 500 scent preservation kits to give to families with loved ones living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and/or autism. Flagler County families will pre-collect a person's scent before they go missing and then provide responders with a pre-collected uncontaminated scent article should their family member be reported missing. Scent preservation kits can be obtained by contacting FCSO's Community Engagement Unit at CommunityEngagement@FlaglerSheriff.com.

Proudly Serving the Community Since 1917
A Four Diamond Accredited Law Enforcement Agency





FCSO's Corporal Cavas and K-9 Holmes During Scent Discriminate K-9 Training

“Having a pre-collected scent article ready for responders before a person goes missing is much more effective than using an article of clothing or a personal household item that may have been handled previously by others. The Scent preservation kit gives K-9 responders a head start, which can save a person’s life,” said Scent Evidence K-9 CEO Paul Coley. “Having the information prepared in advance gives responders the most accurate identification details when they begin searching.”

Scent preservation kits can last up to 10 years. The kits also contain an Individual Preparedness Plan flash drive to store important identification information and trauma care information so that first responders can know triggers that can agitate a confused person along with comforters that can calm them when they are located.

In addition to providing scent preservation kits, the Bringing the Lost Program also provides Scent Discriminate K-9 Training conducted by Scent Evidence K-9 CEO Paul Coley for participating agencies. FCSO hosted the training with Coley between January 10-12, 2023. FCSO’s K-9 Unit, Emergency Response Team (ERT), Behavioral Health Unit, Community Engagement Unit, and drone operators participated alongside other law enforcement officers including those from the Tomoka Correctional Institution and the St. John’s County Sheriff’s Office.

“FCSO has been distributing scent preservation kits as part of our SafeTrak initiative for several years. The increased availability of scent preservation kits and training for our agency as part of the Bringing the Lost Home Program will help us to continue to bring the lost home safely in Flagler County,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “It was our honor to host this training. A special thank you to Scent Evidence K-9 CEO Paul Coley and our legislators, for making this training and equipment possible in Flagler County!”

Sheriff Staly re-introduced bloodhound capability to FCSO in 2019 after a 40-year absence. Since that time, K-9 Holmes and his partner have been awarded K-9 Trailing team of the year twice for the State of Florida.

*Proudly Serving the Community Since 1917
A Four Diamond Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*





L-R: Tomoka Correctional Institution, St. John's County Sheriff's Office, Scent Evidence K-9 CEO Paul Coley, Flagler County Sheriff's Office

The Bringing the Lost Home Program was previously implemented in 13 Florida Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments (Bay, Sumter, St. Johns, Lee, Marion, Franklin, Seminole, Escambia, Putnam, Charlotte, DeSoto, and Nassau Counties, and the Tallahassee Police Department). Since that time 232 missing persons have been found by teams that received the specialized training.

Florida has the second-largest Alzheimer's Disease population in the U.S. with over 580,000 residents living with the disease. That number is projected to climb to 720,000 by 2025. Studies show that 60% or 3 of every 5 persons with [Alzheimer's Disease or dementia will wander and go missing](#). The numbers are almost as high for children with autism. The American Pediatric Association states that 50% of those with children with autism will wander/elope and go missing at least once before age 17.

###

*Proudly Serving the Community Since 1917
A Four Diamond Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

