

# Highlights of the November 16, 2011 COBWRA Meeting at Valencia Pointe

## Law & Order: It's Not Like on TV

**Sheriff Ric Bradshaw** and **State Attorney Michael McAuliffe** spoke to the Delegates.

- Sheriff Bradshaw began by thanking the COP unit at Valencia Pointe for their outstanding work.
- The Sheriff described how his detectives work closely with prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office resulting in stronger cases ready for trial.
- Most violent crime is gang related. After 3,500 gang-related arrests and over 500 guns taken off the street, gangs are coming under control. Using the Rico Act, gang members are getting longer sentences.
- Homeland Security is a major concern every day. Sheriff Bradshaw was appointed chair of Homeland Security for all of South Florida – from Martin County to Key West. He has a Fusion Center – like on NCIS – that provides real-time information on any threat. PBSO is the lead agency on Homeland Security for South Florida. Ten agencies participate.
- Palm Beach County has coastal radar to detect anyone coming ashore – not just illegal aliens but terrorists like Hamas.
- The biggest threat to our security is not terrorist groups but the lone wolf – like the guy in Norway who killed people on the island or who killed soldiers at Fort Hood. And like the Ibis gated community teenager discovered with bomb making materials!
- Sheriff says his office tracks over 900 sexual predators to make sure they do not contact children.
- State Attorney McAuliffe stated the Sheriff is his partner to keep people safe.
- The State Attorney's predator unit uses superior techniques to identify, investigate and convict child molesters. Since May 2009, 110 molesters have been convicted. They also helped build 50 cases across the country including two child rescues. Protecting children is McAuliffe's highest priority.
- The Sheriff, Chiefs of Police and Federal partners formed a task force to deal with the pill mills. Broward and Palm Beach Counties are Ground Zero in prescription drug abuse with a death every 27 hours. Over 50 pain clinics have been closed and the operators charged as drug traffickers.
- McAuliffe was asked if the Florida Law required anyone witnessing a child being molested to report it? He responded Florida laws require any molesting witnessed or even suspected must be reported.

## Officials' Reports

**Mary Lou Berger, Senior Aide to Commissioner Burt Aaronson, District 5**, reported the Commissioner was in a meeting with country clubs about hiring local workers this season instead of importing foreign workers.

**Danna Ackerman White** reported that her boss, **Commissioner Shelley Vana**, District 3, was elected chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

**Captain Marty Bechtel, PBSO**. In October, District 6 arrested 68 truants and investigated 233 vehicle accidents including one fatality. There were 8 stolen vehicles, 8 business burglaries, 74 residential burglaries and 54 vehicle burglaries with 70% left unlocked.

**Chief Todd Blake, Battalion 4, Fire Rescue** reported Station 47, at Boynton Beach Blvd and the Turnpike, had their equipment on display today. Station 47 has a Rescue Truck with two personnel on duty and one of the five ladder trucks in the county with special equipment and highly trained crew for rescues by ladder and rope.

**Captain Doug McGlynn** of Fire Rescue 47 reminded that it's time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. He offers to present fire safety programs at your HOA or Condo. Call Doug at **561-315-4358** or email [dmglynn@iaff2928.com](mailto:dmglynn@iaff2928.com)

## COBWRA Reports

**Palm Beach County Day in Tallahassee.** Delegates approved a delegation to Tallahassee to speak with key legislators dealing with HOA/Coop/Condo bills to fix problems like publishing telephone directories by allowing people to "Opt out" rather than "Opting in."

### **Bethesda Day at Aberdeen Golf & Country Club.**

Arnie Rich, Alternate for Aberdeen, reminded Delegates of Aberdeen's fund raising event for Bethesda West Hospital with a day of golf and fun on **Saturday, Dec. 10**. COBWRA member communities can play golf,

attend the reception or make a donation. For info call **561-737-7733 X85600** or click on

[www.bethesdahospitalfoundation.org](http://www.bethesdahospitalfoundation.org).

**Caridad Center's Adopt-a-Family Program** means holiday presents for needy families. COBWRA asks all member communities to consider adopting a family to make their Christmas merry. To adopt a family, call the Caridad Center and speak to **Scarlett Favé at 737-6336, X115**. Scarlett's office is open Wed-Fri 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sat, 8:30 to 11:30 am. 4 communities adopted families so far and PBSO Deputies adopted 10 families.

## Future Meetings (Open to the public)

**Dec 5, 6:30 pm: Evening Meeting on proposed West Boynton charter middle and high schools.** Hagen Ranch Road Library, 14350 Hagen Ranch Road

**Dec 6, 6:30 pm: Growth Management, PBSO District 6**

**Dec 14, 9:30 am: COBWRA Delegates meeting** at Valencia Reserve, Lyons Road south of Boynton Beach Blvd. Speaker: **"Our Tourist Attractions"** by Steve Crist, PBC Conventions & Visitors Bureau.

—Ken Lassiter for COBWRA Communications  
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