



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Deputy Uses Handheld Thermal Imaging Camera to Locate Missing Woman

Date: October 1, 2019

On 09-28-19 at 4 a.m., Hernando County sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Ivy Hill Lane in Brooksville in reference to an 81-year-old woman who walked away from her home and couldn't be located by family.

A family member told deputies that they had arrived home at 2 a.m. from a recent out-of-state trip.

The woman indicated she needed to use the bathroom, so they told her to go into the house.

A short time later when a family member went to check on the woman, she wasn't able to be located.

The family searched for the woman prior to calling 911.

The woman left the house without any belongings, including her cane, which she uses to get around.

When deputies arrived on scene, they conducted a thorough search of the house and the surrounding five-acre fenced property.

They were unable to locate the woman.

The Aviation Unit and the Pasco Sheriff's Office bloodhounds were put on standby.

Another deputy soon arrived and used a handheld thermal imaging camera in hopes of finding the woman. Within minutes the deputy located the missing woman lying on the ground of a nearby property. It appeared she had fallen and was unable to get up.

She was not injured.

The woman, who appeared confused, was transported to a local hospital for further examination.

“One of the original priorities of my administration is maximizing the use of technology,” Sheriff Al Neinhuis said. “Here is a perfect example of how technology can be used as a force multiplier. In this case, this technology not only allowed us to find this person much faster than traditional methods, it also saved us from having to call out many, more expensive, resources. It certainly was a win-win for the victim, her family, and the taxpayers.”

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.