



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

---

**From:** Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

**Re:** HCSO Focuses on Illegal Off-Road Vehicle Activity

**Date:** January 3, 2020

---

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit recently conducted multiple off-road vehicle enforcement initiatives throughout Hernando County.

The most recent round of enforcement occurred on Jan. 1. Multiple Trespass Warnings were issued for trespassers, in addition to several arrests for Trespass after Warning.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens of the laws with regard to off-road activity.

- ATVs and other off-road vehicles may only be driven on non-paved roads that are POSTED less than 35 miles per hour.
- There is no "open land" in the State of Florida. All property is either individually owned or owned by a government entity. This means that if you do not have permission from the land owner to be there, you are trespassing. This includes places such as Whitehurst pond, the area surrounding Seville Parkway, Ridge Manor Estates and any other large tract of land.
- In order to operate an ATV on a county road (non-paved, posted under 35 MPH), riders must be a licensed driver.
- Riders should always wear proper safety gear, such as ANSI rated helmets and eye protection.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit, Traffic Unit and Patrol deputies will continue these enforcement efforts throughout 2020 and beyond.

**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.