

2012 Annual Report

Message from the Sheriff

Following the horrific shootings at the Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut and the first responders' shooting in Webster, NY in late 2012, I anticipated another round of anti-gun legislation, and was not surprised when NYS lawmakers, under a "message of necessity", rushed to pass the "toughest gun laws in the nation."

This "middle-of-the-night" passage eliminated opportunity for significant public comment or the input of law enforcement and mental health practitioners. It also opened a floodgate of constitutional questions and legal challenges. Many of those in support of the new law argue that our constitution was written in our pioneer years and is therefore outdated. Perhaps they forgot that the document contains provisions for amendments, and that its protections cannot just be ignored. This legislation forces the question: If you believe the law is unconstitutional, what do you follow -- the new law or the constitution? Isn't our Constitution the supreme law of the land?

Beyond the constitutional question, I believe that the rushed process squandered an opportunity for making real, meaningful reform in the area of mental health. In 1982, my police partner, Trooper Gary Kubasiak, was killed by a former mental patient when we responded to a domestic complaint between a mother and son. Since that time, I have sought better tools for police interaction with the mentally ill. The new law fell far short and may have actually made matters worse by discouraging those in need of mental health services from seeking treatment out of fear of having their records released outside the mental health field.



Last July, NYS officials admitted that the personal information of more than 10,000 individuals had been sent to Albany, resulting in identifying 67 of these individuals as having pistol permits - less than 1%. No information was released as to how many of those permits were revoked, yet this release of privileged mental health information is supposed to make our communities safer.

Last January, *Time Magazine* reported that "approximately 30,000 Americans were killed each year by firearms, the majority of which were suicides, indicating that we have a gun problem." These statistics are much more indicative of the mental health problem facing this country, while state-run mental health facilities continue to be closed.

When police encounter a vehicle transporting hazardous materials, they have easy access to data relating to the specific substance being transported, including instructions on how to deal with it. It is absurd that police do not have similar access to information on how to deal with individuals with known mental illness. Police access to mental health records are prohibited under HIPAA, a legislative protection, not a constitutional one. Limiting access to this information only at the time of attempted firearms purchases will not protect the public or keep firearms out of the hands of the mentally ill.

Responsible laws regarding mental health issues must be passed. Give law enforcement the right to know about any resident with a mental health history that constitutes a danger to individuals or communities, especially those who must remain on medications to maintain mental health. We all know that different mental illnesses call for different responses by police. Resuming civil confinement of people with mental illnesses that constitute a danger to their community should also be reconsidered.

Speaking of mental health, because of the sheer volume of prisoners with significant medical/mental health issues, we began construction last fall of a nearly \$1.5 million reception area at the Erie County Holding Center. It is designed for newly admitted inmates who have medical needs such as detoxification. They will now be housed in the Reception Housing area directly

adjacent to the Medical/Mental Health Assessment area. A new storage area for medical/mental health records is also being constructed, enabling healthcare providers to have immediate access to historical records of all individuals who have previously been in our custody. We're anticipating construction of these areas will be completed in late 2013.

Another highlight of 2012 was Deputy Liz Fildes, BS, MS, Program Director of Human Trafficking in our office, being named Police Officer of the Year by the Erie County Bar Association. She was recognized for her tireless efforts in helping victims of human trafficking and for educating the public on this scourge in our communities.

Our Road Patrol deputies have continued their efforts to increase highway safety, and once again surpassed the 300 arrest mark, making 362 DWI arrests in 2012, which is slightly less than 2011 arrests, but nonetheless still noteworthy. We are proud of our agency's zero tolerance when it comes to getting drunk and drugged drivers off of our roadways.

We are also pleased at the increased interest in the NYS Sheriffs Association's Yellow Dot Program. I have personally visited dozens of community centers, senior citizens centers, and block clubs to enlighten people about this free life-saving program. We have dispersed thousands of kits with the help of some wonderful partners, including the Erie County Clerk, Erie County Emergency Services, the Pharmaceutical Association, and the Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association. I am proud to be an ambassador for this potentially life-saving initiative. Got the DOT? It could save the life of a person with a medicine dependency.

In closing, to the citizens of Erie County, I am proud to continue serving as your sheriff. Rest assured we are doing everything reasonable within our power to help ensure your safety. However, I believe public safety is a cooperative effort. No agency, or no one person for that matter, ever achieved much without the contribution of others. We need you to be our eyes and ears in the community and as always, if you see something, please say something. Thank you.

Timothy B. Howard



Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of the Sheriff is to provide the finest public safety services to all those within Erie County. Our Office works together with other law enforcement and community agencies to enforce and uphold all laws for which we are responsible.

The Office of the Sheriff will maintain a secure, safe, and orderly jail and correctional facility that recognizes the dignity of all inmates and prisoners while adhering to the standards and guidelines set forth by the New York State Commission of Corrections.

The Office of the Sheriff will serve by protecting individual rights, safeguarding public and private property, assisting in emergency situations, and performing any other essential service.

The Office of the Sheriff will maintain the highest level of integrity, while working diligently and professionally to provide a safe environment for the public and our staff.

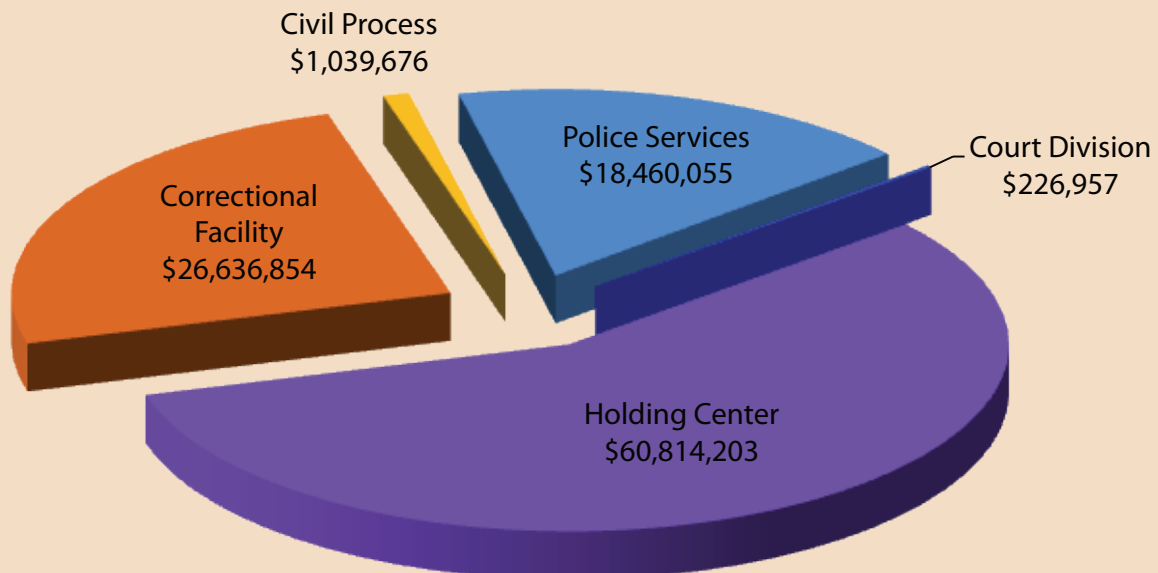
Command Staff



Standing: Chief of Civil Division John Anthony; Chief of Police & Investigative Services Scott Joslyn; Sheriff Timothy B. Howard; Undersheriff Mark Wiperman; Chief of Special Services Scott Patronik

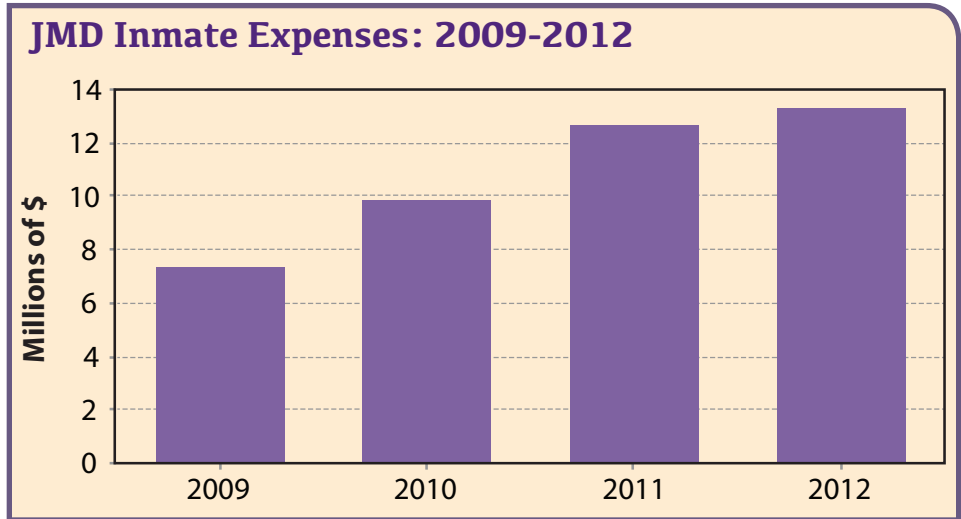
Sitting: Chief of Operations Timothy Love; 1st Deputy Superintendent of Compliance Michael Reardon; Superintendent Thomas Diina; 1st Deputy Superintendent Chief John Rodriguez; Chief of Operations Paul Evans

Erie County Sheriff's 2012 Budget – \$107,177,745



Jail Management Division

- ★ Consists of two facilities, including the Erie County Holding Center (EHC) in Buffalo and the Erie County Correctional Facility (ECCF) in Alden, NY.
- ★ Accounts for more than half of the Sheriff's \$107,177,745 budget.
- ★ Sworn and civilian staff are responsible for the care and custody of inmates confined by Erie County, Village, Town, and City Courts, the New York Division of Parole, and inmates brought in from outside agencies such as the U.S. Marshals, Immigration, and other counties.
- ★ Prisoner transportation, medical care, inmate rehabilitation, record keeping, religious needs, visitation, and other support activities are ensured by staff.



Holding Center:

- ★ Maximum security facility.
- ★ High-risk inmates.
- ★ Houses approximately 600 inmates.

Correctional Facility:

- ★ Medium security facility.
- ★ Low- to medium-risk inmates.
- ★ Sentenced inmates.
- ★ Houses approximately 900 prisoners.
- ★ Costs approximately \$175.25 per day to house each inmate at each facility.



2012 JMD Inmate Expenses Breakdown

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Clothing	29,121
Pants, shirts, underwear, bras, socks, shower shoes	
Bath and Bedding	28,778
Shower curtains, bath mats, towels, washcloths, sheets, pillow cases, pillows, mattresses	
Food	2,106,629
Haircuts (EHC only)	43,026
Toilet Paper	57,103
Laundry Services	154,464
Outside Laundry Service	
Laundry Supplies	20,665
Laundry Soap, Bags, and Supplies	
Hygiene Supplies	29,877
Bar Soap, razors, shaving cream, sanitary pads, tampons, toothbrushes, toothpaste	
ID Health Services	10,450,299
All Expenses related to the Medical Units at the Holding Center and Correctional Facility as administered by the Health Department, including nursing staff, physicians, dentists, and medical supplies, as well as prescription medications, outside medical services, and ECMCC	
ID Library Services	291,348
TOTAL	13,211,310



Construction of the 1.5 million-dollar reception area at the Erie County Holding Center. It is designed for newly admitted inmates who have medical needs such as detoxification; they will now be housed in the Reception Housing area directly adjacent to the medical/mental health assessment area. A new storage area for medical/mental health records is also being constructed, enabling health care providers to have immediate access to historical records of all individuals who have previously been in the sheriff's custody.

Training

Four basic objectives:

- ★ A well-trained staff is better prepared to act decisively and correctly.
- ★ Results in greater productivity and effectiveness.
- ★ Nourishes cooperation and unity of purpose.
- ★ Provides safeguards for being legally accountable for actions of personnel.

Jail Records

- ★ 18,600 people booked into Holding Center in 2012 on various charges.
- ★ Inmate intake, release, local sentence calculation; court updates; fugitive extraditions.
- ★ Reporting and scheduling of New York State Department of Corrections transfers, and recording and reporting of the daily population count.
- ★ Average stay of an inmate at the Erie County Holding Center (EHC) is 9.7 days.
- ★ Average stay of an inmate at the Erie County Correctional Facility (ECCF) is 37 days.

Mental Health Services

- ★ Provided by Erie County Department of Mental Health personnel.
- ★ Provided to individuals suffering from chronic and acute mental illness, developmental disabilities, co-occurring disorders of mental illness, addictions, and/or severe adjustment issues with psychiatric treatment, case management services, and counseling as deemed clinically appropriate.
- ★ Services are offered at both the ECHC and ECCF.
- ★ Competency evaluations and mental health assessments for the courts, as well as probation and treatment recommendations, are given.
- ★ Inmates screened for suicides numerous times:
 - a. When initially admitted to the Holding Center;
 - b. If remanded to jail after their arraignment;
 - c. After sentencing;
 - d. If deemed necessary by medical or forensic mental health.

Educational Services

- ★ Provided by City of Buffalo School District and Alden Central School District.
- ★ Programs offered include: G.E.D. preparation; life skills; computer literacy; and parenting classes.
- ★ First time/last time; forensic counseling; AAA and Narcotics Anonymous.
- ★ Approximately 90-100 inmates earn their G.E.D. each year while incarcerated.



K-9 Dogs Assigned to Jail Management

- ★ A total of five K-9's were assigned to the Erie County Holding Center and Correctional Facility.
- ★ Undergo substantial training with their handlers.
- ★ Capable of detecting marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamines.
- ★ Also being trained in detection of controlled narcotics such as Loritab, Oxycontin.
- ★ Dogs obtained through seized assets funds.

Service Action Corps

- ★ Participants are sentenced inmates meeting special requirements.
- ★ Volunteer to perform heavy manual labor; respond to county-wide emergencies where clean-up is needed; cut grass; clear brush; and pick up debris.
- ★ Work at a variety of locations throughout Erie County at various locations including: cemeteries, Little Portions Friary, Canal Side, Buffalo Southern Railroad, Labatt Hockey Tournament, Erie County Highways, County Parks, Scoby Dam, Sheriff's Range, Bennett/Wendt Beach, Clarence Fire Department, Erie County Fire Towers.
- ★ Approximately \$172,830 Erie County taxpayer dollars were saved by having inmates perform work.

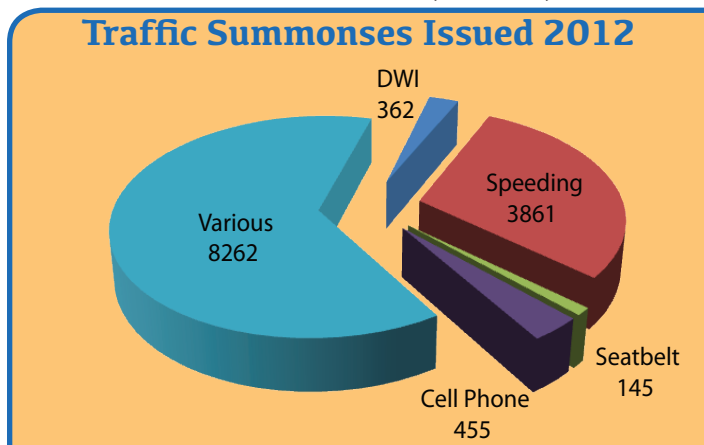


Police Services Division

- ★ Encompasses several facets of the Office of Sheriff.
- ★ Charged with law enforcement duties, traffic enforcement, crime prevention, and service to the citizens of Erie County.
- ★ Maintains sub-stations in the Towns of Grand Island, Clarence, Elma, Colden, Collins, the Village of Springville, and North Collins.
- ★ Deployment of personnel ensures rapid response to the needs and concerns of the citizens of Erie County, which encompasses 1,034 square miles.

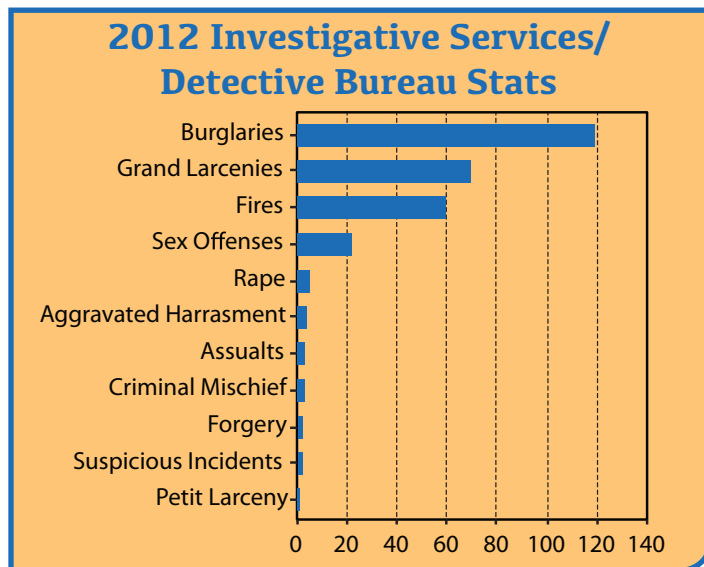
Communications Center

- ★ Deputies responded to a total of 88,956 calls for various police services.
- ★ Approximately 243 calls a day (or approximately 10 every hour, or one call every six minutes) come in.
- ★ More than 13,000 tickets were issued on the roadways by deputies in Erie County in 2012.
- ★ 362 DWI arrests were made -- nearly one a day.



Investigative Services/Detective Bureau

- ★ Comprised of detectives who work closely with road patrol deputies and other area law enforcement agencies to investigate serious felony crimes such as rapes, grand larcenies, robberies, etc.



★ Narcotics Unit

- ★ Investigates narcotics-related incidents throughout the county
- ★ Helps to reduce usage and availability of illegally controlled substances in Erie County
- ★ Helps in prosecutions of drug users and traffickers
- ★ Subscribes to the adage that removing the seller from the streets assists in controlling criminals who are driven to crime in order to purchase drugs.
- ★ Logged 344 arrests for various charges, including felonies, misdemeanors, and violations.



Aviation Unit

- ★ The only full-time dedicated law enforcement helicopter in Erie County.
- ★ Available to more than 24 police agencies and 96 fire companies in Erie County.
- ★ Responds on a regular basis to assist adjoining counties.
- ★ First Responder helicopter for the United States and Canadian Coast Guards in the Buffalo area.
- ★ Available 24 hours a day and is called into service for a variety of reasons, including search and rescues, helping other law enforcement agencies in tracking their suspects from the air, taking surveillance video, shooting pictures from the air to be used as evidence, etc.
- ★ Logged 2,800 flight hours – up nearly 700 hours from 2011.

Marine Unit

- ★ Primary function is patrolling the 90 miles of navigable waterways in Erie County.
- ★ Responsible for enforcement of navigation law and other related laws.
- ★ On call 24 hours a day to perform search and rescue operations and accident investigations, including BWI (Boating While Intoxicated) and marine larceny investigations.
- ★ Work under extremely hazardous conditions at times due to inclement weather.
- ★ Logged 3,016 patrol hours.
- ★ Inspected 110 vessels, issued 106 citations and gave out 81 total warnings for minor violations in 2012.





Scuba Dive Team

- ★ Consists of certified SCUBA divers.
- ★ Trained and experienced in search and recovery of anything lost below the surface of the water.
- ★ Able to work in all weather and water conditions conducting searches for evidence, lost items of interest related to criminal investigations, and missing persons.
- ★ Issued dry suits and full face masks to protect them from contaminants and the cold.
- ★ Trains closely with the Marine Unit.
- ★ Uses boats to dive in a variety of different areas in Lake Erie and the strong currents of the Niagara River.
- ★ Trained for 450 hours; conducted seven searches and participated in five special details such as the Polar Bear Plunge in Hamburg, NY.

Swat Team

- ★ Provides enhanced level of expertise to respond to high-risk situations.
- ★ Trained and equipped to respond to situations where the level of risk exceeds that of a conventional police response; Including: barricaded/hostage/shots-fired situations; counter sniper operations; and high-risk warrant service, dignitary protection or other situations involving a high risk of serious injury or death to police officers or civilians.
- ★ Trained in land navigation and woodland search and rescue to assist in situations involving missing or lost persons.
- ★ Trained 2,648 hours in 2012; served 12 high-risk warrants; conducted two woodland searches; participated in three multi-agency trainings.



Weapons And Ordnance Unit (WOU)

- ★ Comprised of several specialized teams that work cohesively to respond to call-outs and collect and store seized weapons.
- ★ Consists of SWAT Team, Bomb Squad members, and firearms instructors.
- ★ Deputies qualify and train hundreds of law enforcement personnel within the Sheriff's Office, along with other county, town, and village police agencies in the use of their assigned firearms.
- ★ Spent more than 5,820 man hours in firearms training.
- ★ 350 weapons were surrendered to this unit.



K-9 Corps / Police Services Division

- ★ Five dogs assigned.
- ★ Perform different tasks.
- ★ Bomb Squad canine capable of detecting a wide range of explosives, including various types of gunpowder, and commercial, military, and home-made explosives.
- ★ Fire Haz/Mat canine is trained to sniff out petroleum-based products such as gas, kerosene, alcohol, lamp oil, etc.
- ★ Other canines perform crowd control, drug sniffing for narcotics, etc.



Deputy Jim Kelly and his K-9, Storm.

Domestic Violence Unit

- ★ The Erie County Sheriff's Office is the only law enforcement agency in the county to have a dedicated staff of four domestic violence (DV) specialists special trained to help DV victims.
- ★ Aggressively work with victims of domestic violence to ensure their safety.
- ★ Help link victims of domestic violence to services and courts through early intervention.
- ★ Highly-trained DV advocates understand the Criminal Justice, Social Services, and Family Court Systems.
- ★ Familiar with communities' resources and can provide appropriate referrals.
- ★ Hot line: 716-667-5259, 24 hours a day/ 365 days a year.
- ★ This unit made a total of 314 arrests, up from 272 arrests in 2011.



Chief Scott Joslyn, Domestic Violence Advocate Joe Chudoba, and Domestic Violence Specialist Brian Mohr attend a Domestic Violence Awareness Rally last October on the steps of Buffalo City Hall. Domestic violence awareness shirts were made by clients at Crisis Services.

Snowmobile Unit

- ★ Comprised of full-time deputies patrolling the trails in Erie County.
- ★ Logged 965 man hours in the Winter of 2012.

Professional Standards

- ★ An avenue through which citizens can both protect their rights and voice complaints regarding possible misconduct of employees
- ★ Complaints received from citizens are treated in a positive manner. After investigation and validation, disciplinary action, if any, is then determined.
- ★ Investigates inter-departmental incidents; conducts confidential investigations; prepares civil lawsuits; monitors absenteeism; performs internal investigations; conducts pre-employment background checks; and facilitates urinalysis testing of all probationary employees.



Civil Division

- ★ Aggressively seeks and develops partnerships with community, satisfying their need for the delivery of quality civil law enforcement and service of process.
- ★ **First Civil Division in a Sheriff's Office to become accredited in New York State.**
- ★ Re-accredited in 2012.
- ★ Sole law enforcement entity with jurisdiction in all courts in the county.
- ★ Responsibilities of the Division fall within two areas: Service of Process and Enforcement.
- ★ Service area pertains to summonses, subpoenas, petitions, and court orders.
- ★ Enforcement areas include property and income executions, and warrants for eviction or civil arrest.
- ★ Opened 6,674 new cases, an increase of more than 1,000 from 2011.
- ★ Gross receipts for 2012 were \$8,340,871.



Civil Division receives their reaccreditation- a nationally recognized and highly regarded distinction amongst law enforcement agencies. This Division met or exceeded 121 stringent standards with detailed requirements; these standards must be maintained to be reaccredited every five years. From l-r Sheriff Tim Howard; Deputy Kristen Rozycki; Superintendent Bob Koch; Kristen Lovallo, Chief Scott Joslyn; Civil Division Chief John Anthony and Peter Kehoe from the New York State Sheriff's Association.

Administrative Services

- ★ Provides support services for all divisions of Sheriff's Office.
- ★ Equal opportunity employer.
- ★ Furnishes all benefits to sworn and civilian persons (approx. 1000 employees).
- ★ Develops departmental budget in cooperation with Division Heads.

Budget And Purchasing

- ★ Prepares, monitors and reports on the entire budget for the Sheriff's Office.
- ★ Administers revenue generated by all divisions, including civil process fees. DWI monies, auctioned vehicles and property, etc.



Fleet Administration

- ★ Responsible for maintenance of marked and unmarked vehicles, motorcycles, boats, and snowmobiles.
- ★ Fleet consists of specially adapted cars, trucks, trailers, and vans fully equipped to perform their law enforcement mission.
- ★ Every vehicle is subjected to regularly scheduled preventative maintenance checks.



Human Trafficking



Deputy Elizabeth Fildes displays a police manual she put together that will help law enforcement identify victims of human trafficking. The book includes subjects such as NYS Penal Law; Trafficking Victims Protection Acts; Myths and misconceptions of human trafficking, etc.

- ★ Modern day form of slavery
- ★ Global phenomenon involving obtaining or maintaining the labor or services of another through the use of force, fraud or coercion in violation of an individual's human rights
- ★ Generates billions of dollars in profits each year
- ★ One of the world's fastest growing criminal activities
- ★ Sheriff's Office has dedicated personnel under a grant awarded by the Department of Justice to help combat this problem
- ★ Sheriff's office helps educate and train law enforcement officers, prosecutors, EMS and firefighters and non-government agencies about human trafficking
- ★ Work with other agencies including U.S. Office; U.S. Department of Labor-Wage and Hour Division; U.S. Border Patrol; the International Institute of Buffalo; Farm Worker Legal Services and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- ★ Opened 24 cases in 2012- ten more than in 2011
- ★ Trained more than three thousand law enforcement officers about Human Trafficking

Public Awareness is Prevention

- ★ Promotes the idea of prevention and education as an effective way to reduce substance abuse.
- ★ Funded by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.
- ★ Px20 is a decade long commitment and is a collaboration of joined forces with several prevention service providers to develop a multi-year comprehensive prevention plan incorporating data-driven decision-making and evidence-based practices into a local framework where results can be used to help prevent alcohol and substance abuse.
- ★ Reached over a million people with its anti-underage drinking campaign in area theaters.



Reserve Divisions



- ★ Comprised of a cross-section of citizenry who bring a wealth of knowledge and personal/occupational experience to the table when called upon to assist the Sheriff in investigations, etc.
- ★ All serve at the pleasure of the Sheriff.
- ★ Units include the Mounted Division; Aviation Reserve; Scientific Reserve; and Special Services Reserve.
- ★ **Mounted Division:** Patrols Bills home games, special events, and festivals. Each Mounted Reserve Deputy assumes all expenses related to their horse, which could run upwards of \$30,000.
- ★ **Scientific Reserve :** Largest unit; fields of expertise include physical, medical, art, business, and social sciences.
- ★ **Aviation Reserve:** Comprised of pilots or observers who are occasionally called upon to help perform search and rescue missions, air surveillance, and air transportation.
- ★ **Special Services Reserve:** Assists in a variety of roles and details.



Explorers Post

- ★ After-school career training program for young adults wanting to gain insight into a law enforcement career.
- ★ Includes meetings, classes, hands-on exercises, observation, shadowing, field trip, scholarships, and internships.
- ★ Must be between the ages of 14 and 20; be considered "in good standing"; and maintaining a "C" average.
- ★ Meetings are held twice a month, and are conducted by deputies and Reserves.
- ★ Established in 1999.



Erie County Sheriff's Office Contact Information

Office/Facility	Address	Phone
Erie County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Timothy B. Howard Undersheriff Mark Wipperman	10 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-7608 (716) 662-5554
Administrative Services	10 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-7630
Division of Patrol	One Sheriff's Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127	(716) 667-5200 Emergency 9-1-1
Patrol Administrative Number	(General Information)	(716) 662-6150
Crime Prevention/ Community Relations Unit	134 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York 14202	Phone: (716) 858-8863 Fax: (716) 858-2947
Public Awareness Is Prevention	134 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-6305
Civil Division	134 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-7606
Holding Center	40 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-7636
Correctional Facility	11581 Walden Avenue, Alden, New York 14004	General Information: (716) 937-9101
Investigative Services	One Sheriff's Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127	(716) 667-5200
Training Office	Erie Community College North Campus 6205 Main Street, Bldg. B-700, Suite B-711 Williamsville, New York 14221	Phone - (716) 270-5382 Fax - (716) 270-5390 Corrections Training Office (716) 858-7206
Training Office	Office of Undersheriff 10 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-4979
Domestic Violence Unit	One Sheriff's Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127	Ph (716) 667-5259 Hotline Fax (716) 662-8477
Sex Offender Registry		(716) 667-5236
Family Court Warrants and Child Support	134 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-3285 (716) 858-6158
Professional Standards Division	134 West Eagle Street, Buffalo, New York 14202	(716) 858-8088



**Erie County
Sheriff's Office**

Timothy B. Howard, Sheriff

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