

# 2014 Errie County Sheriff's Annual Report



The 2014 Erie County Sheriff's Annual Report is dedicated to the men and women of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

# "In loving memory of those Erie County Sheriff's Officers who have given their lives while serving the citizens of Erie County."

Frederick Kaesser 08/01/1925 Joseph J. Wachowiak 11/03/1948 William R. Dils Sr. 11/05/1977 Robert S. Insalaco 08/13/1987 William M. Dillemuth 10/20/1989





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# Message from the Sheriff:

On behalf of 1100 employees of the Erie County Sheriff's Office, I respectfully submit the Sheriff's Annual Report to the public. Each year, the dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office work tirelessly to promote and preserve public safety. Whether it is investigating an accident involving you or a loved-one; or searching for an explosive device in a school; or housing thousands of inmates convicted or who are awaiting trial; or ridding the streets of a drug dealer, these sworn public servants demonstrated their compassion and professionalism each and every day. Their dedication and professionalism was truly evident during the Brown Hill incident and the November storm.



In March 2014, Deputies Bradford Ballantyne and Jonathan Hanna responded to a call of a man threatening his family and neighbors with a gun. As the two Deputies neared the residence they began taking fire from the individual and were forced to find safety. They only moved from the scene so they could warn their fellow Deputies of the dangers, provide timely situation reports, and assist with the Sheriff's Office response. Their actions have received local and statewide recognition and Deputies Ballantyne and Hanna have received numerous awards for their quick actions and heroism.

As our community began to get prepare for Thanksgiving, winter arrived early with a record breaking lake-effect storm. This storm crippled the most populated section of the county with as much as eight feet of snow and caused significant challenges for my Deputies and Corrections Officers. But through it all, these dedicated and professional public servants left their families to ensure our most vulnerable neighbors received medical care, prescription drugs, and food. My Deputies worked tirelessly around the clock to transport medical professionals to area hospitals and dialysis patients to their life-supporting treatments.

Deputies and Corrections Officers assigned to the two correctional facilities worked long shifts to maintain the safety of the public and inmates during the storm. During these shifts, the officers helped with the facilities' operations and later supervised inmate that helped clear snow throughout the hardest hit towns.

I don't want to forget the civilian staff and their efforts during the storm. Maintenance staff reported to work to keep the facilities clean and operational. The Administrative staff made sure payroll and mandated paperwork was processed in a timely manner. The Medical staff made their way to the two correctional facilities to provide needed care and dispense necessary prescription drugs to the inmates.

And leading these efforts was my Command Staff. The Command Staff managed all details through days of the unrelenting snow. Members of the Command Staff briefed the public, designed plans of action, hand-in-hand with Erie County's Emergency Services, for each situation which arose while constantly monitoring the Emergency Operation Center for new emergencies. Their leadership allowed for quick and smooth responses throughout the storm.

That is why I am dedicating the 2014 Annual Report to the men and women of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.



Front Row left to right: Chief John Greenan, Administration; Superintendent Thomas Diina, JMD; Mark N Wipperman, Undersheriff; Chief Alan Rozansky, Narcotics; Chief Scott Patronik, Special Services; Chief John Anthony, Civil Enforcement

Back Row left to right: Chief Scott Joslyn, Police Services; Chief Alfonso Harris, JMD; 1st Superintendent Michael Reardon, JMD; 1st Superintendent John Rodriguez, JMD;





### **Past Sheriffs Of Erie County**

Wray S. Littlefield 1823 - 1825 John G. Camp 1826 - 1828 Lemuel Wasson 1829 - 1831 Stephen Osborn 1832 - 1834 Lester Brace 1835 - 1837 Charles P. Persons 1838 - 1840 Lorenzo Brown 1841 - 1843 Ralph Plumb 1844 - 1846 General Timothy Hopkins 1847 -1849 Leroy Farnham 1850 - 1852 Joseph Candee 1853 - 1855 Orrin Lockwood 1856 - 1858 Gustavus A. Scroggs 1859 - 1861 Robert H. Best 1862 - 1864 Oliver J Eggert 1865 - 1867 Charles Darcy 1868 - 1870 Grover Cleveland 1871 - 1873

John B. Weber 1874 - 1876 Joseph L. Haberstro 1877 - 1879 William W. Lawson 1880 - 1882 Harry H. Koch 1883 -1885 Frank T. Gilbert 1886 -1888 Oliver A. Jenkins 1889 - 1891 August Beck 1892 - 1894 George H. Lamy 1895 - 1897 Andrew Kilgallon 1898 - 1900 Samuel Caldwell 1901 - 1902 Francis T. Coppins 1902 Harry M. Kaiser 1903 - 1905 James Smith 1906 - 1908 Henry F. Jerge 1909 -1910 John W. Henry 1911 - 1912 Frederic Becker 1912 - 1914 Howard Stengel 1915 - 1917 Fred A. Bradley 1918 -1920

William Waldo 1921 - 1923 Frank A. Tyler 1924 - 1926 Charles F. Zimmerman 1927 - 1929 Charles F. Freiberg 1930 - 1932 Frank J. Offermann 1933 - 1935 Michael Maher 1935 William M. Eberhardt 1936 -1938 William Pollack 1939 - 1941 Arthur D. Britt 1942 - 1955 Michael Wagner 1955 Robert A, Glasser 1956 - 1959 B. John Tutuska 1959 - 1969 Thomas W. Ryan 1969 Michael A. Amico 1970 - 1976 Kenneth J. Braun 1977 - 1985 Thomas F. Higgins 1986 - 1997 Patrick M. Gallivan 1998 - 2005



# Command Staff



Mark N Wipperman-Undersheriff



Chief Scott Joslyn -Police Services



Chief Scott Patronik -Special Services



Chief John Anthony -Civil Enforcement Division



Chief John Greenan -Administration



Chief Alan Rozansky -Narcotics



Superintendent Thomas Diina - JMD



1st Superintendent John Rodriguez - JMD



1st Superintendent Michael Reardon - JMD



Chief Paul Evans -JMD



Chief Alfonso Harris -

# Senior Detective James Hatch Retires after 32 Years

The Erie County Sheriff's Office honored Senior Detective Jim Hatch, who retired after 32 years of distinguished and decorated service, citing his exemplary investigative skills, professionalism, leadership and tireless work ethic, which served to inspire his colleagues while enhancing public safety throughout Erie County. Senior Detective Hatch began his career in law enforcement after 11 years of dedicated service in the United States Marine Corps.

A champion for senior citizens, youth, and families in crisis, Detective Hatch made 938 arrests during a career that emphasized justice on behalf of domestic violence, elder abuse/neglect and juvenile victims, earning him far-reaching admiration and countless accolades including awards from the Hamburg American Legion, the National Federation for Just Communities, the Lee Gross Anthone Child Advocacy Center, the Erie County Sheriff's Foundation and the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation.

In addition to supervising the Detective Bureau, Detective Hatch served as our agency's liaison and member of numerous task forces, organizations and committees to combat the issues of abuse, assault, family violence, child endangerment and underage drinking/drug abuse.



# **Buffalo Bills/Stadium Detail**

The Erie County Sheriff's Office has entered into an agreement with the Buffalo Bills to patrol Ralph Wilson stadium – inside and out. The number of arrests, ejections and major fan behavior incidents has been drastically reduced at Buffalo Bills home games over the past three seasons. The Sheriff has provided a noticeably visible security presence, a more proactive security team, and a professional, knowledgeable, and friendly character of officers that team together with the Bills to enhance the Fan Experience at Ralph



Wilson Stadium. The Sheriff and the Bills will continue to team with all game day partners, and Bills fans alike, to make "The Ralph" a place



that families and kids can feel safe and enjoy together without reservation. Negative fan behavior is simply no longer acceptable, and Bills fans have responded very positively to the culture change going on with the fan behavior at Buffalo Bills games. In 2015, there is even greater optimism that the on-the-field and the off-the-field experiences will be a playoff winning combination!

### **Brown Hill Road Incident**

On the moonlit night of March 16, 2014, Deputies Bradford Ballantyne and Jonathan Hanna responded to a Brown Hill Road address in the Town of Boston. The Deputies were responding to 911 calls about a male threatening his family and neighbors with a rifle and firing in random directions.

As the Deputies approached the house, Matthew Eck leveled his rifle and began shooting at the Deputies' vehicles. The Deputies could see the muzzle flashes. They could hear the rounds fly pass and their vehicles were taking rounds.

Ballantyne and Hanna drove their vehicle in reverse and maneuvered to safety. The Deputies quickly alerted their fellow officers of the situation and established a perimeter. Even after being a target of Eck's shots, the Deputies helped secure the area and lead a response to the threat.

Despite having glass fragments in his eye, Deputy Hanna joined his SWAT Team unit and deployed close to the house while Ballantyne provide situational awareness to the growing response personnel.

The actions of these two Deputies prevented the loss of any lives at the hands of Eck. For their actions Deputies Ballantyne and Hanna were recognized by many law enforcement and civic organizations for their acts of heroism.











# History

The Office of the Sheriff is the oldest office under the system of common law in the United States and is an integral part of government in the State of New York.

As the oldest constitutional law enforcement officer of the county, the Sheriff is charged with maintaining the peace in all municipalities, villages and townships within his jurisdiction, and the care and custody of persons pending

court action. The Sheriff also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts.

The powers and the duties of the Sheriff are embodied in the constitution of each state and, as such, the Sheriff of Erie County heads the largest Sheriff's Office in New York State and the fourteenth largest in the nation.

The powers and the duties of the Sheriff are embodied in the constitution of each state

On February 4,1821, John G. Camp was appointed as the first Sheriff of the district, which at that time encompassed both Erie and Niagara Counties. After the district of Erie County was established, Camp remained in office as the Sheriff of Erie County until December 31,1822.

United States President Grover Cleveland began his political career as Sheriff of Erie County in 1871. He went on to become Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Governor of the State of New York and President.

The Erie County Sheriff is, as are most of more than 3,000 sheriffs in the United States, an elected official. He is elected to a term of office for four years, must devote full time to his duties, and may not hold any other public office.

The men and women, within the various divisions of the Sheriff's Office, provide a wide range of services to the County's residents. In

addition to 1,046 square miles of land area, Erie County has 90 miles of shoreline, the waters of which also come under the jurisdiction of the Office.

The Erie County Holding Center began as a jail "plainly built of Graystone" in 1877. It was built to house individuals awaiting trial and those convicted on minor charges. At that time, the facility housed about 30 prisoners.

The original building was demolished in 1937 to allow the construction of a new jail designed to house 156 inmates. The new jail, boasted as the most modern in the country, was opened in 1938. This building constitutes the nucleus of today's building.

Many additions later, the Holding Center, a pretrial

detention facility, accommodates 680 inmates in a combination of the traditional jail design of indirect supervision - Linear - and a new design of direct supervision - Podular. The blending of these two concepts brings to Erie County the first detention facility in the United States to unite these two different systems into one smoothly functioning facility.

In 1986, the Sheriff's Office was first accredited by the New York State Sheriff's Association and has just recently completed the re-accreditation process. In 1990, the Sheriff's Office became one of the first police agencies in Western New York to be certified by the State of New York as an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency.

The Erie County Sheriff's Office owes its successful development to the fifty-three sheriffs, and all the public servants, both past and present, who dedicated themselves to the service and the protection of the citizens of Erie County.



# **Erie County Holding Center**

The Erie County Holding Center located in Buffalo, New York, is a pretrial, maximum security detention facility. It is the second largest detention facility in New York State, outside of New York City. The ECHC has a capacity of housing 638 inmates remanded to the custody of the Sheriff of Erie County. It processes more than 20,000 inmates annually. The facility is a combination of pods and open bay construction and traditional linear type cells. Overflow inmates are housed at the Holding Center Annex at the Erie County Correctional Facility.

The Holding Center has constructed a state of the art intake and reception center. All inmates entering the custody of the Sheriff are assessed by medical professionals with access to mental health staff.

If it is determined that an inmate needs further evaluation and treatment for mental health issues, trained professionals from Erie County Forensic Mental Health and University Psychiatric Practice

are available to continue the evaluation and treatment. Within the Holding Center, the Residential Treatment Unit was created. This unit provides a clinical focus that assists in behavior management, skill building, and empowerment exercises. Additionally, the intervention offers education, material, and information in order assist in the successful transfer from a correctional setting to community support for the Seriously Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) population.





The Erie County Correctional Facility in Alden, New York. Presently the facility can hold approximately 900 inmates of various classifications. The facility is a combination of "New Generation Jail" pods and open bay construction.

Info	ECCF Male	ECCF Female	ECCF Total	ECHC Male	ECHC Female	ECHC Total
<b>Total Days</b>	235009	36031	271040	161975	19794	181769
<b>AVG Daily Pop</b>	643	98	742	443	54	497
Daily Intake	25	7	32	33	8	41
AVG Stay	25	13	22	13	6	11
<b>Total Intake</b>	9371	2644	12015	12102	3099	15201
<b>Median Stay</b>	3	1	2	4	3	4

The populations housed at the Holding Center and Correctional Facility includes: non-arraigned, non-sentenced, sentenced, and federal inmates. Males, females and adolescents (those adolescents adjudicated as adults) are housed at both adult facilities.

The county system combines statistics regarding the average length of stay at the jails: un-sentenced inmates have a length of stay of 11 days while sentenced inmates have a length of stay of 40 days.

Month	ECCF	ECHC	Total
January	757	457	1215
February	770	470	1241
March	741	7	1220
April	724	478	1202
May	742	474	1217
June	744	501	1246
July	748	522	1271
August	744	508	1252
September	753	544	1298
October	758	530	1289
November	744	521	1265
December	681	485	1167



Month	ECCF Male Ins	ECCF Female Ins	ECHC Male Ins	ECHC Female Ins	Total
January	1745	351	1248	239	3583
February	1602	714	2550	564	5430
March	1358	586	2832	580	5356
April	1377	570	2846	568	5361
May	1375	300	1402	303	3380
June	1371	656	2846	648	5521
July	1436	354	1550	363	3703
August	1367	313	1420	331	3431
September	1373	608	2964	602	5547
October	1411	316	1526	345	3598
November	1181	259	1211	276	2927
December	1238	278	1324	280	3120

# **Inmate programs**

### Horticultural

After an eight-year absence, the Jail Management Division re-established the Inmate Horticultural Program. The program selects inmates interested in the program and provides them an opportunity to participate as a reward for good behavior. Working under the supervision of the John Fisher, inmates cultivate decorative ground plants, hanging baskets and vegetable plants from seed. The inmates care for the seedlings until the time when the plants are transplanted to an area garden. All the plants are donated to area non-profit organizations, Erie County Parks, community centers and senior housing complexes. The inmates get to reap what they sow; vegetables planted throughout the facility's grounds are harvested and used to supplement meals at the Correctional Facility. The Horticultural Program also crafted handmade Christmas wreaths. Much of the materials were collected from pine trees surrounding the correctional facility. When complete, the wreaths were donated to area organizations to help brighten the holiday spirit.



# **Service Action Corps**

Similar to the Horticultural Program, inmates are selected to participate in the Service Action Corps. This crew spent much of it efforts beautifying area parks, recreational areas and agencies that provide assistance to people in need.

The SAC crew was also utilized to assist volunteer fire companies and some of the hardest hit towns during the November storm. After Mother Nature dropped as much as eight feet of snow in towns in the storm's path, the area's fire hydrants were buried by the snow as well as snow piles from the street clearing efforts. The SAC crew spent hours clearing fire hydrants freeing volunteer fire crews to answer emergency calls.

When the rapid melting occurred only days after the record snow, inmates filled thousands of sandbags to be used in traditional flood plains and to protect residents' homes.





### **Civil Enforcement Division**

The Erie County Sheriff's Civil Enforcement Division was the first Civil Enforcement Division certified as Professionally Accredited in New York State. The Civil Enforcement Division is a state mandated service provided by all Sheriff Offices throughout New York State.

The Civil Enforcement Division handles civil court-related items including money judgment collection, evictions and service of process. Statutory fees are collected from plaintiffs and respondents/debtors in each case and are sent to the county's general fund each month.

In 2014, the state-mandated Civil Enforcement Division collected \$1,026,526 dollars and handled nearly 7300 cases.

The Civil Enforcement Division is the enforcement vehicle for Family Court, all civil courts - including small claims, city, county, state and federal jurisdictions.

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT	2014
ARRESTS, JUDICIARY LAW	97
DISBURSEMENT CREDITORS	\$8,103,977.01
DISBURSEMENTS D.S.S.	\$1,031,630.92
GROSS RECEIPTS	\$9,130,503.74
INCOME EXECUTIONS	5,152
MANDATES / ORDERS	84
ORDERS OF SEIZURE	71
PROPERTY EXECUTION	222
SHERIFF DEEDS	3
SHERIFF SALES	2
SUBPOENA	64
SUMMONSES	1,290
SURROGATE CITATIONS	21
TOTAL NEW CASES	7,287
WARRANTS OF EVICTION	282

FAMILY COURT WARRANT UNIT	2014
CASES CLEARED (SUMMONS & WARRANTS)	97
HOUSING ARRESTS	65
ORDERS OF PROTECTION	257
PENAL CODE ARRESTS	273
SUMMONSES (NEW)	3,287
WARRANTS OF ARREST (NEW)	459
WELFARE FRAUD WARRANTS	6

# **Special Services**

### **SWAT**

The Erie County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team is the only FEMA type one tactical team within the eight counties of Western New York. The ECSO SWAT Team consists of 18 members, 4 of which are FBI certified hazardous device technicians (bomb techs). The ECSO SWAT handles all requests generated by its agency as well as assisting any municipality that does not have a tactical team. The ECSO SWAT Team is also requested to augment other tactical teams and assist in missions.

The ECSO SWAT Team has integrated both explosive detection and narcotics detection canines during deployments. The use of canines allows team members to operate more efficiently during tactical deployments.

Unique to the ECSO SWAT Team is that it is the only tactical team in the Western New York area certified in explosive breaching.

ECSO SWAT maintains the ability to operate in conditions with limited visibility by its use of night-vision and thermal optics. Working in conjunction with the Aviation Division, ECSO SWAT is capable of aerial insertions via fast rope deployment and maintains a tactical rope/rappel program that conducted eight successful rescue missions. In 2014, the ECSO became the only SWAT Team and police agency certified to operate in a tactical maritime environment.



2014	
TRAINING HOURS	3522
HIGH RISK WARRANTS	15
WOODLAND SEARCHES	5
MULTI AGENCY TRAININGS	2
BARRICADE SUBJECT	5
SNIPER TRAINING HOURS	468







### **Underwater Recovery Team**

The primary function of the Underwater Recovery Team is the search and recovery of unfortunate victims of water accidents, evidence, automobiles and stolen articles.

The divers are on 24-hour call for rescue and recovery cooperation. The squad gives public and private lectures and demonstrations regarding all phases of diving.

In 2014, the team recovered and returned a hunter's shotgun that fell into the Niagara River. The Underwater Recovery Team searched the river bottom near the location of the incident. (see picture)

2014	
SEARCHES CONDUCTED	1
TRAINING HOURS	708
SPECIAL DETAILS	1
CALL OUTS	0





### Sheriff's Office Weapons & Ordnance Unit

The Erie County Sheriff's Office Weapons & Ordnance Unit is comprised of several specialized teams that work cohesively to respond to call-outs and collect, store and destroy seized weapons, munitions, explosives, and illegally possessed military ordnance.

This unit consists of SWAT Team and Bomb Squad members, who are also firearms instructors. The deputies assigned to the Weapons and Ordnance Unit qualify and train hundreds of law enforcement personnel within the Sheriff's Office, along with other county, town, and village agencies in the use of their assigned firearms.

Along with their training duties and safely storing firearms seized from criminals, the unit maintains records for the Office's protective vests and issues the vests to sworn officers. In 2014, the unit issued nearly 70 new vests to Deputies whose vests were set to expire.



	2014
WEAPONS SURRENDERED	260
WEAPONS RETURNED	88
TRAINED - ROAD PATROL	1960
TRAINED - DEPUTY RESERVE	312
47 HOUR COURSE - # TRAINED	86 (4057 hrs.)

### **Bomb Squad**

The Erie County Sheriff's Bomb Squad was formed in 1972 and is a fully accredited Bomb Squad certified by the F.B.I. Hazardous Devices School and the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board. Furthermore, the Bomb Squad is the only FEMA type one team within the western region of New York State.

The Bomb Squad consists of 6 FBI certified Hazardous Device Technicians trained in; basic and advanced IED electronics, advanced x-ray interpretation and diagnostics, improvised and homemade explosive remediation, Advanced Hand Entry Techniques, PBIED/VBIED render safe and countermeasures, explosive forced entry, post-blast investigation, and complete integration with the ECSO SWAT team.





The mission of the Erie County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad is to

safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse communities to improve their quality of life. Our mandate is to do this with professionalism and integrity.



This unit has three certified EDC 's (Explosive Detection Canines) All Bomb Squad Technicians have a Top Secret Clearance



The Erie County Sheriff's Aviation Unit is comprised of Sr. Tactical Flight Officer Art Litzinger, Tactical Flight Officer Shawn Young, and support staff. Air-1 has proven to be a regional asset and assists area law

enforcement agencies, first aid and rescue units as well as providing local public works with real-time intelligence for roadways and waterways. The helicopter is available to 28 Police agencies and 96 fire companies in Erie County and responds on a regular basis to assist the nine adjoining counties. Air-1 is also the official first-responder helicopter for the United States and Canadian Coast Guard in the Buffalo Area.







During the November storm, Air-1 flew several reconnaissance missions to capture still photos and video of area creeks and highways. Additionally, Air-1 provided aerial views of buildings which allowed engineers to determine the risk of a roof collapse.

The Aviation Unit currently utilizes the following equipment: Air-1, an American Eurocopter - Model AS350B2. This aircraft is capable of carrying a pilot and 5 passengers. It is capable of 150 mph speed.







### Air-1 is equipped with:

- Rescue hoist (300 lbs)
- Cargo hook
- Emergency inflatable floats
- 15 million candlepower searchlights
- Special day/night camera DVR recorder system
- Computerized Street Navigation System
- Digital/Analog Video Downlink System.
   Capable of sending broadcast quality video up to 90 miles away.
- Lock-back rescue slide doors.





# **Patrol District Response Activities**

The Police Services Division is charged with law enforcement duties, traffic enforcement, crime prevention and service to the citizens of Erie County. To facilitate these actions, the Police Services Division is headquartered at the Erie County Public Safety Building, at 45 Elm Street, Buffalo. The Sheriff's Office maintains substations in the towns of Grand Island, Clarence, Elma, Colden, and Collins, along with the Villages of Springville and North Collins.

This deployment of personnel ensures rapid response to the needs and concerns of the citizens of Erie County, which encompasses 1034 square miles. In addition to the familiar red and white patrols of the

county, many unique services are provided, some of which are outlined below.

<b>Grand Island</b>	
Complaints	9069
Arrests	223
DWIs	29
Premises Checks	1743
Traffic Stops	948

Boston	
Complaints	2214
Arrests	48
DWIs	8
Premises Checks	238
Traffic Stops	307

Village of North Collins		
Complaints	1204	
Arrests	35	
DWIs	1	
Premises Checks	177	
Traffic Stops	187	

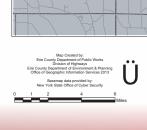
Brant/ Village of	Farnham
Complaints	844
Arrests	14
DWIs	0
Premises Checks	111
Traffic Stops	110

North Collins	
Complaints	1785
Arrests	20
DWIs	4
Premises Checks	506
Traffic Stops	341

Gowanda	
Complaints	583
Arrests	14
DWIs	2
Premises Checks	22
Traffic Stops	52

Sardinia		
Complaints	1804	
Arrests	45	
DWIs	8	
Premises Checks	380	
Traffic Stops	337	

Collins	
Complaints	1775
Arrests	24
DWIs	3
Premises Checks	574
Traffic Stops	128



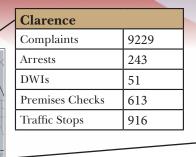
Erie County Sh **Primary Patro** 

5 North

1 North

1 South





Village of Akron	Akron	
Complaints	1116	
Arrests	30	
DWIs	7	
Premises Checks	172	
Traffic Stops	110	
	Arrests DWIs Premises Checks	

1	Alden	
	Complaints	6191
	Arrests	91
	DWIs	16
	Premises Checks	298
	Traffic Stops	370

Newstead	
Complaints	1698
Arrests	49
DWIs	14
Premises Checks	36
Traffic Stops	167

$\left\{ \right.$	Marilla	
	Complaints	2009
	Arrests	30
	DWIs	6
	Premises Checks	347
	Traffic Stops	307

Village of Alden	
Complaints	1313
Arrests	31
DWIs	3
Premises Checks	94
Traffic Stops	155

1	Wales	
	Complaints	1232
	Arrests	18
	DWIs	4
ĺ	Premises Checks	163
ĺ	Traffic Stops	111

Elma		
Complaints	6303	
Arrests	96	
DWIs	21	
Premises Checks	966	
Traffic Stops	748	

Colden	
Complaints	1209
Arrests	17
DWIs	3
Premises Checks	130
Traffic Stops	162

Holland	
Complaints	1415
Arrests	33
DWIs	5
Premises Checks	130
Traffic Stops	213

Sheriff's Office
atrol Districts

4 West

COUNTY	X27	
County Roads	Primary Patrol Districts	District 3 West
Interstates and Expressways	District 1 North	District 4 East
State Highways	District 1 South	District 4 West
City, Town and Village Roads	District 2 East	District 5 North
	District 2 West	District 5 South
	District 3 East	District 7

2 West

3 West

3 East

4 East

CATTARAUGUS

Village of Springville		
Complaints	5606	
Arrests	151	
DWIs	10	
Premises Checks	1014	
Traffic Stops	792	

Concord	
Complaints	3039
Arrests	81
DWIs	20
Premises Checks	959
Traffic Stops	527

### **Marine Unit**

The Marine Unit serves the community by promoting boating safety and education through enforcement of the New York State Navigation Laws.

The Marine Unit is primarily responsible for patrolling the ninety miles of navigable shoreline of Erie County, which includes:

Lake Erie Buffalo Harbor Buffalo River

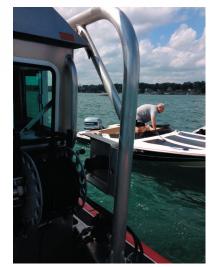
Niagara River Black Rock Canal New York State Barge Canal

Marine Unit ECSO Marine Unit

Staffed full time with officers trained in navigation law and search and rescue procedures, the Marine Patrol is responsible for:

- The enforcement of the Navigation Law and related laws.

- Being ready 24 hours a day, to perform search and rescue operations, accident investigations and marine larceny investigations.



	2014
ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	3
LAUNCH SITE / MARINA INSPECTIONS	2
ON WATER INSPECTION	65
PATROL HOURS	4470
SEARCH AND RESCUE	23
TOTAL CITATIONS	198
TOTAL HOURS OF MLE	4470
TOTAL WARNINGS	96
VESSEL - STOLEN / LOST	0
VESSEL / PERSON ASSIST	47
VESSEL HOURS	2235
VESSEL INSPECTIONS	67
TRAINING HOURS	56

### **Snowmobile Unit**

The ECSO Snowmobile Unit is comprised of full time Erie County Sheriff's Deputies who enforce the legal requirements to operate a snowmobile in New York State. They also help educate and help promote safety out on the trails.

The Snowmobile Unit patrols snowmobile trails, parks, roadways and land masses of Erie County frequented by snowmobile drivers.

2014 Investigations	
SNOWMOBILES USED FOR ENFORCEMENT	2
ARRESTS/ SUMMONSES	125
COMPLAINTS	2
CONVICTIONS	88
WARNINGS	121
ACCIDENTS	8
FATAL	0
SPEED RELATED	6
ALCOHOL RELATED	0
SEARCHES	3
HOURS PATROLLING THE TRAILS	525

The Sheriff's Office works closely with the ten Erie County snowmobile clubs to emphasize safety and responsible operation of the machine. The Sheriff's Office patrols the nearly 400 miles of approved snowmobile trails in Erie County.





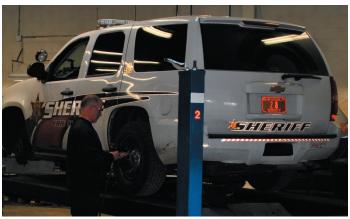
# Fleet Services

The Erie County Sheriff's Office has 165 vehicles in its fleet and a majority of them run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Whether it is the familiar patrol vehicles seen in the towns and parks, the transport vehicles taking individuals incarcerated to and from court, the specialty vehicles for the SWAT Team and Bomb Squad, the snowmobiles and ATVs or the inmate transport vans, the Fleet Services Division keeps them running and ready for all weather and road conditions.

Every day, Fleet Services performs general maintenance such as oil changes, tire changes and installs new brakes. The crew also diagnoses and repairs some of the most serious problems with the vehicles. Their tireless efforts keep the fleet operational and ensure the safety of the Deputies, inmates, and the motoring public.

In 2014, the Sheriff's vehicles drove nearly 3 million miles.

The fleet consists of 165 vehicles plus the specialty vehicles – snowmobiles, ATVs, Razors, and ARGOs.









### **Detective Bureau**

The Detective Bureau is responsible for investigating a full range of criminal activity, maintaining the entire Sheriff's Office's evidence, and conducting an annual auction to dispose of unclaimed property.

Detectives handle cases ranging from homicides to petit larcenies and are routinely assigned to burglaries, robberies, larcenies, suspicious deaths and forgeries.

Detectives may respond as Deputies in a routine matter or may assume the investigations of complex or time consuming matters.

In addition, Detectives are assigned to such diverse duties as Dignitary Protection, undercover assignments, temporary duty with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Secret Service.

2014 Investigations	
ASSAULTS	8
BURGLARY	93
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	8
DEATH INVESTIGATIONS	30
FORGERY	6
FRAUD	21
HARASSMENT AGGRAVATED	3
MISSING PERSONS	5
MURDER	0
RAPE	5
ROBBERIES	3
LARCENIES	822
SEX OFFENSES	624
SUICIDE	5
SUICIDE ATTEMPTS	1
SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS	35
TOTAL CASES	1671





# Fire Investigation Unit

Last year the Fire Investigation Unit investigated or assisted other agencies with their fire investigation. The Unit conducted 65 scene examinations. The Fire Investigation Unit is called to a scene by the Fire Chief to conduct an Origin and Cause Investigation.

Each Investigator attends training at the New York State Academy of Fire Science, located at Montour Falls. There, they will complete over 200 hours of fire investigation training.

The three members of the Unit are Level II certified fire Investigators. Level II certified members must attend an 80 hour course of instruction and fire scene examination as well as mock scenes in which investigators have to conduct follow up interviews in an attempt to establish suspects for the fire. There was a mock trial set up, in which the members had to give testimony. Additionally, the investigators are required to successfully complete 50 hours of scene examination which include more follow up investigation procedures and report writing requirements.

# **Human Trafficking**

The Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force and Alliance is a multi-agency group designed to combat human trafficking through the Western District of New York. This Task Force mission is to identify and assist victims of human trafficking and prosecute those engaged in trafficking offenses. Agencies active in the task force includes the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, the US Dept. of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the FBI, the US Dept. of Labor, Wage and Hour, US Border Patrol, the International Institute of Buffalo, Farmworker Legal Services, as well as Missing and Exploited Children.



2014	
CASES	29
COMMUNITY AND CHURCHES TRAINED	1279
DOMESTIC CASES	24
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TRAINED	649
LABOR CASES	5
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINED	503
POTENTIAL VICTIMS	42
SEX TRAFFICKING	24

In 2014, The Erie County Sheriff's Office assigned a full-time Criminal Deputy Sheriff to the Human Trafficking Unit. The Deputy is responsible for the following 17 Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates.

# K-9 Teams

Erie County Sheriff's Office has a fully integrated K-9 program and currently has 9 canines assigned to various divisions of the Sheriff's Office.

In 2014, The Sheriff's Office received a grant for an additional canine. The Office welcomed Spike to the force and Spike, along with his handler Deputy Michael Okal, attended the New York State Police Explosive Detection Training Academy.

K9 units are deployed with the SWAT Team, Bomb Squad, Patrol, Fire Investigations and Jail Management Division. Each canine is trained and certified in different areas of detection which include:

- Narcotics
- Explosive Detection
- Search
- Accelerant Detection

The Erie County Sheriff's Office is the only local law enforcement agency to have a SWAT team that has integrated both explosive detection and narcotics detection canines during deployments. The use of canines allows team members to operate more efficiently during tactical deployments.







2014	
COMMUNITY POLICING	6
ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES	37
MISSING PERSONS SEARCH	2
NARCOTICS SEARCH	46
WANTED PERSON SEARCH	4
SCHOOL SEARCHES	11
TRAINING HOURS	416

# **Police Services**

### Traffic Bureau/Crash Investigation Unit

The Erie County Sheriff's Office Traffic Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit (C.I.U.) is located at the Sheriff's Patrol Headquarters at 45 Elm Street, Buffalo New York, 14203.

The Traffic Bureau/C.I.U. is currently staffed with a Sergeant (Traffic Commander) and 3 Deputies.

Deputies assigned to the Traffic Bureau have advanced training and experience in crash investigations and are utilized to investigate serious physical injury and fatal motor vehicle crashes. The bureau is routinely requested by local police agencies to assist with crash investigations.



Some other of the many functions of the Traffic Bureau/C.I.U. are;

- Processing and mailing requested accident reports handled by the Erie County Sheriff's Office.
- Monitor all daily motor vehicle accident activity in the Sheriff's patrol districts, including deer strikes.
- Research, compile, log, and file Erie County Sheriff's Office accident reports, traffic arrest records, and statistics.
- Participate, oversee, and monitor all traffic enforcement details, which include; DWI checkpoints, seat belt checkpoints, and roving patrols for speed, seat belt, and DWI enforcement.
- Organize and participate in child car seat inspection events, utilizing our specially trained technician officers to ensure proper installation of the car seat.

### **Statistics:**

Traffic/Crash Investigation Unit	2014
Car v. Deer - property damage only	461
Car v. Deer with injuries	7
Cellphone Summonses	111
Number of times dispatched to accidents	2688
Drug recognition evaluation requests	61
DWI Arrests	268
Fatal accidents	5
Hit & Run accidents (property and persons)	241
Injury accidents	413
Seatbelt summonses	103
Speeding summonses	3670
Completed accident reports	1149
Total traffic summonses	9406





### **Communication Center**

The Sheriff's Office has sixteen professionally trained Dispatchers on staff. These individuals work around the clock, every day of the year receiving emergency and non-emergency calls. In 2014, the Sheriff's Communication Center handled nearly 89,000 calls and assigned complaint logs to each.

When a call is received, the dispatcher must determine the nature of the call, prioritize the call and assign the complaint to a Deputy. Their job continues as they need to provide locations, relevant history of the subjects or location and facilitate all communications for the incident while handling other calls at the same time.





### **Domestic Violence**

The Erie County Sheriff's Office provides victims of domestic violence access to services and courts through early intervention to provide safety and support. Our highly trained DV Advocates understand the criminal justice, social services, and Family Court systems. They are familiar with your communities' resources and can provide you with appropriate referrals. Most importantly, our experienced Advocates assist in better understanding the legal system and how to work with the various programs to lead to the best outcome possible for the victim.

Every Domestic Incident Report (DIR) the Sheriff's Office files is typically examined the next day following the incident.

ECSO has 4 DV Specialists, 1 Unit Coordinator, 3 DV Advocates, and 1 DV Advocate through Crisis Services specially trained to help victims of Sex Crimes and Family Violence.

- Safety planning and crisis intervention, shelter options
- Confidential support for victims of domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse, rape and sexual assault
- Danger Assessment
- Referrals to appropriate services

	2014
DOMESTIC INCIDENT REPORTS	773
COMPLAINTS/LOG ONLY	478
ASSAULTS	191
VIOLATION OF OOP	45
FEMALE VICTIMS	148
MALE VICTIMS	38
HOMICIDES	1
DV PRESENTATIONS	374

- Escort to court, legal referrals, and court advocacy
- Assistance in obtaining an Order of Protection
- Crisis Intervention and support for victims of Domestic Violence, elder abuse, rape and sexual assault
- Assistance with application for compensation with NYS Crime Victims Board (VINE Program)



### **Transportation Unit**

The Transportation Unit is responsible for the safe and secure movement of inmates remanded to the custody of the Sheriff.

Personnel assigned to this Unit:

- Transport inmates to and from Buffalo City Court.
- Escort inmates to and from County and Supreme Courts.
- Transport inmates to and from Local Village and Town Courts.
- Transport inmates to and from the Erie County Medical Center.

	2014
ECMC	547
INMATE TRIPS	58
LOCAL COURTS	6432
MISC INMATE TRANSPORT	214
OTHER FACILITIES	18
OUTSIDE COUNTIES	650
PSYCHIATRIC CENTER	0
STATE FACILITIES	106

### **Rath Patrol**

Deputies provide daily law enforcement activities for over 4,000 county employees throughout several county buildings in downtown Buffalo. These buildings include the Erie County Rath Building at 95 Franklin Street, HEAP and Social Services offices at 478 Main Street, Social Services offices at 290 Main Street, and 43 Court Street.





The Rath Patrol responds to trouble calls from any county department within all county owned or leased buildings downtown. The majority of the calls are generated from the Department of Social Services offices located in four different buildings. Daily activities include responding to a wide range of calls and maintaining an overall secure atmosphere for employees and visitors of the buildings. The Rath Patrol responded to 4724 complaints in 2014, and issued 1366 parking tickets.

RATH PATROL	2014
ARRESTS	154
ASSIST CITIZENS	277
CROWD CONTROL	396
DISORDERLY PERSON	511
DISTURBANCE	53
FIGHTS	21
FIRST AID	77
PARKING TICKETS ISSUED	1366
PETIT LARCENY	16
TOTAL CALLS RESPONDED	4724

# Prescription Drug and Needle Drop-off Boxes

The Erie County Sheriff's Office initiated the Prescription Drop-off Box program in July 2013 with support from the Drug Enforcement Agency. These receptacles offer individuals a safe, environmentally responsible and anonymous method of disposing of prescription drugs and needles. Since its inception, the Sheriff's Office has disposed of 35,525 pounds of drugs and 25,000 pounds of needles.

The Sheriff's Office monitors the drop-off boxes and routinely empties the contents for safe and proper disposal of unwanted and unused prescription drugs and used needles. The drop-off boxes are located throughout Erie County with plans to increase the number of receptacles in 2015.

### **Drop-off Box Locations:**

Erie Community College - North Campus, Public Safety Building

Erie Community College - South Campus, lobby

Erie Community College – City Campus, lobby

Canisius College - Bosch Building and lobby of Public Security Building

Medaille College – Public Safety Building

Grand Island Town Hall

Colden Town Hall

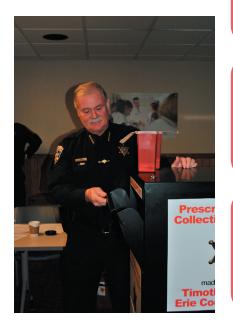
Clarence – Sheriff's substation

Elma Town Hall

Springville Municipal Building – Sheriff's substation

Sheriff's Office – 10 Delaware

ECMC



# COMMUNITY & VICTIM ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIPS

The Erie County Sheriff's Office dedicates resources to the community and victim advocacy programs and partnerships. These resources are dedicated to raising the public awareness of issues throughout the community and provide resources for victims of crimes.

Much of the funding for these programs is provided by state and federal grants and not-for-profit organizations. The Sheriff's Office is responsible to ensure these public funds are used to develop awareness campaigns directed toward specific audiences.



### VINE

The Victim Information and Notification Everyday service allows crime victims to obtain timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day.

The Erie County Sheriff's Office has participated in the VINE service since 2007. In 2014, Sergeant Joseph Usinski was named the Crime Victim Notification Coordinator of the Year for his outstanding dedication to VINE and his recommendations for system improvements.



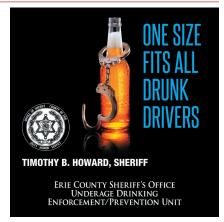


### **Underage Drinking Tip Line**

The Erie County Sheriff's Office Underage Drinking Prevention Unit, is overseen by the Erie County Sheriff's Office "Public Awareness is Prevention" program funded by New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

The Erie County Underage Drinking Enforcement/Prevention Unit represent diverse community interests and working collaboratively to take a systematic, action-oriented approach to positively alter underage drinking in Erie County. We seek to change awareness, attitudes, and behaviors through ensuring access for youths and adults, to a comprehensive array of education, prevention, treatment, and recovery resources. This unit will also alert parents of the consequences of serving alcohol to underage youth.

**Anonymous Tip Line 1.800.851.1932** 





### **Project Lifesaver**

Project Lifesaver is an electronic tracking system used by specially trained members of the Erie County Sheriff's Office to locate and rescue children and adults in our community that are at a high risk of wandering away from their families and caregivers.

For more information visit our partner's website at: http://www.projectlifesaverwny.org.



### **Operation SAFE CHILD**

Operation SAFE CHILD was created in July 2005 to raise awareness about child safety. Through an historic partnership with the New York State Police, New York City Police Department, New York State Sheriffs' Association and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Division of Criminal Justice Services and its Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse have expanded Operation SAFE CHILD.

In 2014, the Erie County Sheriff's Office processed 30,125 SAFE CHILD identification cards and applications.



### Yellow Dot Program

Yellow Dot is a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention during that first "golden hour" after a crash or other emergency. A Yellow Dot in the driver's-side rear window of your vehicle will alert first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment.



A Yellow Dot kit can also be used to alert those who respond to an emergency in your home. Simply place a Yellow Dot decal on or beside your front door and place a completed card for each occupant in a clear plastic freezer bag and place in a visible location in the freezer compartment of your refrigerator.

	2014
COALITION MEETINGS	244
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS Parent Forums PX21	78
COMMUNITY LECTURES	254
DISPLAYS	54
DRINKING NATIONAL - CINEMEDIA	12,344,89
LECTURE / DEMONSTRATIONS - COMMUNITY	477
PARENT CONTACT	2,945
STUDENT CONTACT	12,234
TEACHER CONTACT	1,234
UNDERAGE BILLBOARD	177
UNDERAGE DRINKING LECTURES	267
UNDERAGE DRINKING PROM PRESENTATIONS	26

# The Narcotics Unit

The Narcotics Unit is responsible for the investigation of illegal drug trafficking throughout Erie County and the arrest and conviction of those persons possessing and dealing in illicit drugs.

The Unit has a unique working relationship with other police agencies in Erie County and frequently provides these agencies with the manpower and expertise for local drug trafficking investigations.

The fundamental method of investigation by the Narcotics Unit is an undercover "buy" operation.

Drugs that are purchased on the street are stored at the Erie County Central Police Services Laboratory and later used as evidence at the defendant's trial or destroyed.









# **November Storm**

The men and women of the Erie County Sheriff's Office made many sacrifices during the November 2014 Storm to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. Working long hours that turned into long days, Deputies, Corrections Officers and civilian staff fought their way to their posts, putting the needs of the community before their own.

Sheriff's Office Deputies transported medical personnel to area hospitals and medical facilities. Personnel coordinated the pick-up of dialysis patients and drove them to their life sustaining treatments throughout the county. Employees of the Sheriff's Office helped deliver Meals on Wheels Blizzard Boxes to many of the most vulnerable and needy clients.

During the entire storm, the men and women of the Sheriff's Office demonstrated their dedication to serving the public when they needed help the most.



# **Computer Crimes Unit & WNY Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory**



In response to the rapid increases in technological crimes involving computers and related technologies, the Sheriff's Office announced the formation of the Computer Crime Unit in 1999. The mission of the Computer Crime Unit is to conduct and provide expert assistance to Sheriff's Office Personnel, and other law enforcement agencies, with investigations pertaining to the criminal use of computers and related technologies.

Personnel receive specialized training and are equipped to prepare and execute Search Warrants in a technical environment and are equipped to seize and analyze Computer Systems. This incorporates utilizing accepted forensic methods to collect electronic evidence in accordance with the rules of evidence and laws of search and seizure. This includes evidence that has been hidden, concealed, encrypted, protected with passwords, software time-bombs, Trojan horses, TSR's or other destruction devices that could destroy either the evidence, the physical computer, or both.

Today, The Erie County Sheriff's Office is a proud participant in the Western New York Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory. The RCFL staffs Computer Forensics Examiners from numerous area law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff's Office has a Deputy from the Computer Crime Unit assigned to the lab as a full-time Computer Forensic Examiner.

# Crimestoppers

In 1989, a local group consisting of several law enforcement officials, community crime prevention organizations, and corporate security directors met to develop such a program here in Western New York.

Greater Buffalo Metropolitan Crimestoppers was formed and the first "crime of the week" reenactment was broadcast in 1990. Within 3 days, a tip was provided which resulted in solving a local homicide that had occurred months earlier.

To date, Greater Buffalo Metropolitan Crimestoppers has aired over 1300 crimes, resulting in 565 arrests, and 949 crimes cleared, including 31 homicides, paid over \$135,000 in rewards, and recovered almost \$4.5 million in narcotics and property.





# **Administration Division**

The Administrative Services Division provides support for all divisions of the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

The Divisions main responsibility is the yearly budget. The staff monitors and prepares reports throughout the year to ensure the Office stays within the budget. This constant monitoring allows the Division to implement cost saving measures and prevent any unnecessary and wasteful spending. In 2014, the Sheriff's Budget totaled nearly \$112 million.

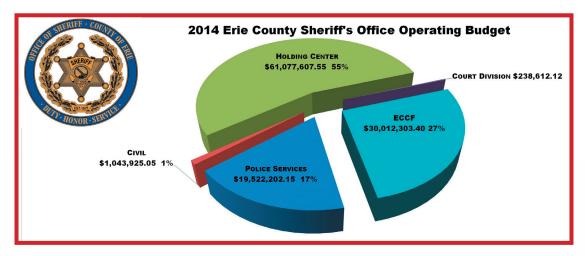
The Administrative Division also processes the weekly payroll for its 1100 employees. The staff facilitates the employees' benefits and any changes individuals need to make during their service.

A growing aspect of the Administrative Division is grant management. Each year the staff researches and applies for grants from various public and private sources. The Sheriff's Office oversaw the administration of twelve grants in 2014, totaling over \$1.5 million. The grants provide funds for training, equipment, personnel, and special operations.

The Administration Division processes all Freedom of Information requests and in 2014, nearly 200 requests were received by the Sheriff's Office.

Additionally, the division is responsible for fleet maintenance for all the Sheriff's Office divisions. Last year the 165 vehicles in the fleet traveled nearly 3 million miles.

2014 SHERIFF'S OFFICE GRANTS				
NYS Homeland Security	Bomb Squad	270,000.00		
NYS Homeland Security	K9 Grant	15,000.00		
New York State	CIGARETTE TASK FORCE	100,000.00		
NYS Dept. Criminal Justice	Gun Involved Violence Elimination G.I.V.E. Grant	216,094.00		
US Dept. of Justice	Human Trafficking	250,000.00		
NYS Dept. Criminal Justice	IMPACT Enhancement	135,960.00		
NYS Dept. Criminal Justice	Border & Marine Patrol Grant	507,877.00		
New York State	Police &Traffic Services	10,000.00		
Total Grant Funds		1,504,931.00		



# **Mounted Reserve Division**

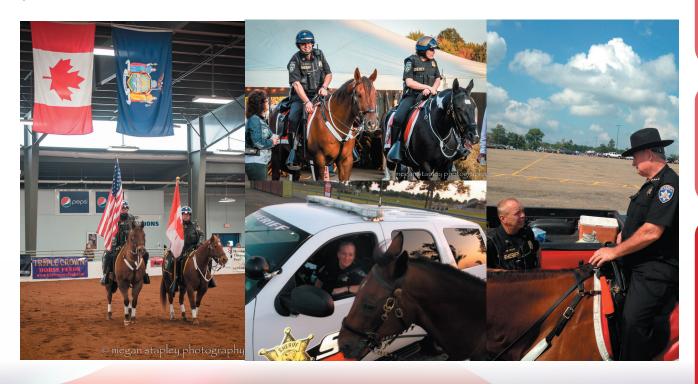
The Erie County Sheriff's Office Mounted Reserve Division began in 1942. It now consists of 9 part-time Reserve Deputies and 20 horses. These Reserve Deputies are ready to patrol, county-wide, regardless of weather or time of day. The unit patrols Ralph Wilson Stadium for home Bills games, Erie County Parks, special events at the Convention Center, and at many of the area's festivals including the Allentown Arts Festival.

Mounted Reserve Deputies are Peace Officers and have the power to make arrests and members of the unit; are outfitted with handguns, batons and other equipment. The Mounted Division provides tactical advantages when deployed to events where large crowds congregate. When they are mounted on their horse, the elevated platform provides them a view from which they can observe the crowd and pinpoint disturbances.



The patrol horses belong to the Deputy and each member of the Mounted Unit assumes all related expenses. It can cost several thousands of dollars just to get started with a horse, a truck, a trailer, and a stable. Mounted deputies earn about \$19.00 per hour and are excellent at fostering good public relations.

Twice a year, the Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit raises money for the Food Bank of WNY. All food and monetary donations collected go to the Food Bank for distribution during the holidays. The Deputies created the event in 2000 and, as volunteers, work every aspect of the "Mounted for Meals" event. In 2014 the Mounted Division collected approximately 1400 lbs. of food and over \$1000 in cash donations.









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www.erie.gov/sheriff



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