ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF

2012

Jack S. Stenberg
Seneca County Sheriff

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
SENECA COUNTY

April 22, 2013

Robert W. Hayssen, Chairman
Seneca County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chairman Hayssen:

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the annual report of the activities of the men and women of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office for the year 2012. On behalf of our sworn and civilian staff, we would like to thank you and the members of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors for the support you have shown to the Seneca County Sheriff's Office.

We have come a long way from the darkest days of the past. Today, the Seneca County Sheriff's Office is held in the highest regard from our Federal, State and local law enforcement partners. It is due in large measure based on the professionalism and dedication to excellence that our staff has exhibited. This is the fourth annual report compiled and submitted to the Seneca County Board of Supervisors and to the public we serve. It is our obligation to report to those we serve how we went about doing business during the year. You and your fellow members of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors should be very proud of the fine men and women of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office who everyday represent the County in the finest of traditions.

We are proud of the accomplishments that we achieve each year and this year is not an exception. By careful strategic planning with staff we identify goals that we hope to attain during the year and then set in motion a plan to accomplish our goals. We are happy to report that during 2012 we were able to achieve a majority of our goals.

As custodian of public funds we exercise great care to ensure that we expend those funds in a responsible manner and are constantly searching for ways to increase revenue to help offset operating costs.

In closing, we reiterate our sincere Thank You to you and the Board of Supervisors for the support you have shown the members of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely,

Jack S. Stenberg
Seneca County Sheriff

2012 Seneca County Sheriff's Office

ANNUAL REPORT

DEDICATED TO CHIEF DEPUTY JAMES S. SPIKE (ret.)

It is an honor to dedicate the 2012 Seneca County Sheriff's Office Annual Report to Chief Deputy James S. Spike (ret.). Chief Deputy Spike joined the Seneca County Sheriff's Office in 1977, as a member of the uniformed road patrol, rising to the rank of uniform Sergeant in 1981. In 1985 Jim was appointed to serve as Undersheriff by then Sheriff Thomas Cleere. In 1991, with a change of Sheriff's, Jim returned to the rank of Sergeant in charge of the Criminal Investigations Division and in 2002 was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant in charge of the Division. In 2008, Jim was appointed to the rank of Chief Deputy and was third in command of the Sheriff's Office. As Chief, Jim was responsible for the day to day operations of the uniformed road patrol and criminal investigations divisions. In 2012, Jim retired from active duty with the Seneca County Sheriff's Office.

Throughout his career Chief Deputy Spike had the respect and admiration of law enforcement officers throughout New York State for his knowledge and professionalism. There is and has been no other member of the Sheriff's Office who embodies what it means to be a Sheriff's Deputy other than Jim Spike. We join with our colleagues from within the Sheriff's Office as well as others across the State of New York in wishing him the warmest regards and best wishes in his well- deserved retirement.

2012 Achievements

Generated ***$508,597.00*** by in-boarding Federal and out-of-county inmates into the Correctional Facility

Since in-boarding Federal and out-of county inmates into the Correctional Facility began in April 2009, ***generated over $2.5 million dollars*** which has been deposited into County General Fund.

Awarded the following Federal and State Grants

- $40,000 – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- $30,000 – NYS Thruway Authority – Canal Corporation Grant – Navigation enforcement
- $17,500 - NYS Department of Homeland Security Grant
- $4,000 – Governors Traffic Safety Council (GTSC) Child Safety Seats
- $5,350 - Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)

Established Inmate Garden Project to offset food costs in Correctional Facility

- Donated over 90 pounds of excess produce to local food banks

Acquired used Patrol Boat from NYS Office of Parks and Recreation ***at no cost to taxpayers***

- Enables patrol boats on both Seneca & Cayuga Lakes during boating season"

Purchased Narcotics Detector Canine utilizing seized funds from drug dealers ***at no cost to taxpayers***

Staff participated in table-top disaster planning and response exercises

Deployed wireless technology capability in all marked Sheriff's patrol vehicles

Participated in DEA sponsored "National Drug Take Back Day" – over 100 lbs. of unused, unwanted, expired medication collected from County residents and disposed of properly

Successfully passed annual United States Marshal's Correctional Facility inspection.

Successfully complied with annual NYS Accreditation Program requirements in following Divisions

- Law Enforcement Division
- Corrections Division
- Civil Division

- Court Security Division

Hosted State-wide Jail Time Credit training in John Walters Training Room at LEC

Achieved record setting 10,752 in-service training hours Office wide

Newly established Narcotics Unit first full year of operation resulted in opening 129 criminal cases during 2012 which resulted in 145 arrests. Identified and dismantled six (6) methamphetamine labs in Seneca County.

Established Mental Health Therapist position in Correctional Facility

- Performed over 500 individual mental health screening examinations

Welfare Fraud Unit opened record setting 330 cases resulting in 14 arrests; recovered over $19,000 and prevented over $97,000 in future benefits.

SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GOALS and OBJECTIVES for 2013

GOAL ONE:
Enhance specialized units by:

- Narcotics Division:
  - Continue aggressive enforcement on all opiate and heroin drug offenses.
  - Expand drug enforcement in the south towns of Seneca County.
  - Continue working on partnerships and teamwork with all levels of law enforcement (local, state, and federal), community agencies (probation, child protective services, parole, etc.) and the District Attorney's Office.
  - Continue investigations of synthetic drugs and enforcement of newly enacted local laws.
  - Continue the flow of communication, teamwork, and education between Road Patrol and the Narcotics Unit.
  - Partner with regional law enforcement narcotics units to share electronic capabilities utilized in narcotics investigations.

- Accident Reconstruction Unit
  - Obtain next generation "Total Station" laser mapping and measuring instrument.
  - Pre-map/measure most accident prone intersections throughout Seneca County utilizing available data.
  - Schedule/maintain monthly in-service "total station" training.

- Emergency Response Team (ERT)

  - Continue to enhance ERT capability with additional in-service training opportunities and technical equipment.

- Underwater Search and Recovery Team (USRT)

  - Continue enhancement of USRT capabilities with additional in-service training opportunities and technical equipment.

GOAL TWO:
Enhance Uniform Road Patrol capabilities by:

- Secure funding for purchase and installation of two "License Plate Readers (LPR)" in marked patrol units.
  - Purchase/installation of dedicated "computer server" to store, search and retrieve LPR data by all Seneca County law enforcement agencies for use in criminal investigations.

- Evaluate/test/recommend in-car printers. Plain paper vs. Thermal paper.

- Evaluate/test/recommend personal body video camera system for use by uniform road patrol.

GOAL THREE:
Establish new Community Outreach Programs:

- Explore feasibility and deployment of Citizens Police Academy.

Continue to deliver existing Community Outreach Programs:

- DARE
- FAIR
- Boater Safety
- Operation Safe Child
- McGruff
- CSI
- Yellow Dot Program

GOAL FOUR:
Continue to deliver cost effective mandatory in-service training for all members in the Law Enforcement Division.

GOAL FIVE:
Improve operational efficiency by:

- Instituting new records management storage and retention systems.

GOAL SIX:
Continue compliance with New York State Accreditation Standards in all Sheriff's Divisions.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONS

Administration Division

The Sheriff's Administration Division is comprised of the Office of Sheriff, Undersheriff, Chief Deputy, Fiscal Services, Payroll, Records, Training and Administrative Support Staff.

The Sheriff as Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the overall management and command control of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff is duly elected by the registered voters in Seneca County and serves a term of four years. Seneca County Sheriff Jack S. Stenberg is currently serving in his second four year term after being overwhelmingly reelected in 2012.

The Seneca County Sheriff's Office provides around the clock service, therefore, at all times, is under the command direction of the highest ranking command officer on duty.

Assisting and empowered to act in the Sheriff's absence is the Sheriff's appointee, the Undersheriff. Undersheriff Gary S. Sullivan is second in command of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office and serves at the pleasure of the Sheriff. The Undersheriff is responsible for direct command oversight of all Sheriff's Divisions. Undersheriff Sullivan serves as Program Manager of all New York State Accreditation Honors currently held the Sheriff's Office and manages day to day compliance of such programs.

The next ranking member of the Sheriff's Administration is the Chief Deputy, who occupies a competitive civil service position and is authorized to act in the absence of both the Sheriff and Undersheriff.

Chief Deputy James Spike, a 35 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, retired from his position of Chief Deputy in 2012. Chief Spike had earned the utmost respect from his colleagues in the Sheriff's Office and surrounding law enforcement agencies. His knowledge and expertise in administration and criminal investigation is unmatched and he has been sorely missed. All of the members of the Sheriff's Office wish Chief Spike the warmest wishes in his retirement. As a tribute to his dedication and leadership this year's annual report is dedicated to Chief Deputy James S. Spike.

Road Patrol Division

The Sheriff's uniform road patrol is without question; the most visible of all Sheriff's Divisions and is responsible for providing police services to the residents of Seneca County. The Road Patrol is comprised of thirteen full time and six part-time uniformed deputy Sheriff's, who are supervised by five (5) Sergeants and one Lieutenant, through a chain of command directly to the Sheriff. The uniform Road Patrol Division patrols approximately 330 square miles of roadways in Seneca County throughout the year.

Sheriff's deputies respond to a multitude of assignments which are called into the Seneca County Emergency Communications Center (E-911) ranging from a simple disabled vehicle or hazardous road condition to a serious motor vehicle accident or even a homicide. Members assigned to the uniform road patrol division also staff specialized units such as accident reconstruction, emergency response team, underwater search and recovery, narcotics and explosive detector canine teams, DARE instructors, drug recognition experts, child safety seat and operation safe child technicians, commercial vehicle enforcement and navigation.

Every tour of duty for the uniform road patrol begins with a roll call briefing conducted by the duty supervisor wherein critical information is exchanged between Sheriff's components such as the criminal investigations division or from other outside law enforcement agencies and State fusion and counter-terrorism centers. Uniform road patrol members are kept abreast of up to date crime trends in their respective patrol zones and officer safety alerts. These roll call sessions provide the uniform road patrol deputy with up to date information which allows them to make Seneca County a safer place to live and work. At the conclusion of the roll call briefing, deputies travel to their respective patrol zones and patrol proactively. Deputies respond to any calls for service within their respective patrol zone and those of adjoining patrol zones where they conduct criminal investigations and enforce vehicle and traffic laws.

During 2012, the uniformed road patrol division responded to 6,633 calls for service, investigated 517 motor vehicle accidents, conducted 3,591 traffic stops, issued 2,051 uniformed traffic tickets and logged 466 criminal charges.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, all marked Sheriff's patrol cars were equipped with wireless computer capabilities. Deputies can now complete all their required reports, access Federal and State computerized databases, perform record checks for wanted and missing persons directly from their patrol vehicles.

CANINE UNIT

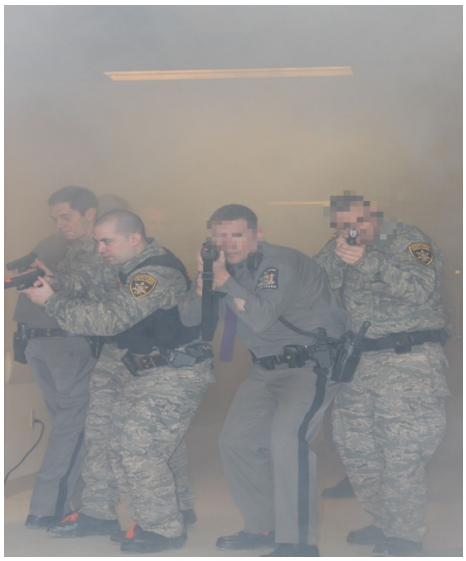
Within the uniform road patrol division is the canine unit. This unit is comprised of a uniform sergeant and deputy as certified canine handlers and two German Shepherds, both are certified in patrol tactics and searches, and each has one particular area of expertise, such as, narcotics or explosive detection. Both the handler and canine are utilized for routine patrol work and each answers calls for service during their scheduled tours of duty. Both canine teams are available 24 hours a day/7 days a week for call out response to any law enforcement agency is Seneca or surrounding Counties who requests their service.

The Canine unit responded to forty-one requests for assistance during 2012, 15 directly from the Sheriff's Office and twenty six requests from other law enforcement agencies. Handlers and their canines participated in over 250 training hours during 2012. K-9 "*Ato"*, a narcotics detector was officially retired in 2012 after having served the residents of Seneca County for over ten years.

K-9 "*Aken"*, a narcotics detector canine and his handler, Sgt. Michael Rhinehart completed their six week training and were put into service in October 2012.

In 2012, Deputy John Fowler and "*Izak*" were called upon and assisted in a three day protection detail for U.S. Army General Martin C. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during his visit to Seneca County. Deputy Fowler and "*Izak*" were tasked with providing advance security screening for Chairman Dempsey. For their efforts, Chairman Dempsey presented Deputy Fowler and "*Izak*" with a Chairman's Challenge Coin, a gift bestowed only on a selected few.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



The Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is comprised of members of the uniform road patrol who have undergone advanced training in responding to active shooter events. The ERT has specialized weapons, munitions and tactical gear at their disposal. The ERT has been called upon during the year to assist other Sheriff's units in the execution of high risk warrants. The ERT trains continuously throughout the year at various locations with other law enforcement agencies and is heavily engaged in pre-event planning and tactical deployments. Members of the ERT must maintain a high degree of physical fitness readiness along with proficiency in various weapons systems.

Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is comprised of four specially trained investigators supervised by a Lieutenant. The Division conducts background investigations of proposed new employees along with conducting in-depth criminal investigations which enables uniformed road patrol deputies to devote their time responding to calls for service from the community.

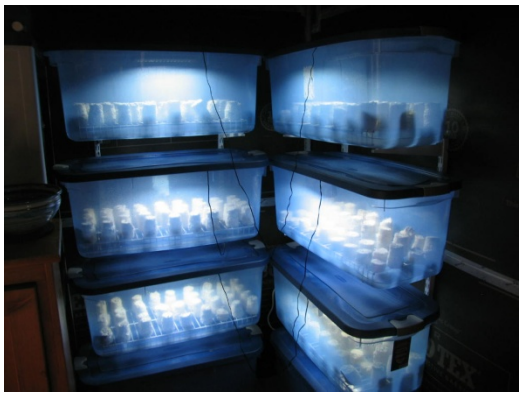
The Criminal Investigations Division was particularly busy in 2012 opening 486 criminal investigation cases which resulted in 125 persons being charged with committing over 312 crimes and recovered over $52,000.00 in stolen property which was returned to their rightful owners.

The Division is also responsible for the management of registered Sex Offenders who live outside of the incorporated Village of Waterloo and Town of Seneca Falls. Specially trained investigators are responsible for verifying addresses of Registered Sex Offenders to ensure they are complying with requirements of New York State Law and pay unannounced visits to Sex Offenders to monitor compliance. Throughout 2012, members of the Criminal Investigation Division conducted unannounced spot checks on Sex Offenders living in Seneca County to ensure their compliance with applicable laws.

After an eight month joint investigation conducted by members of the Sheriff's CID, Seneca County District Attorney's Office, New York State Police, Violent Crime Investigation Team (VCIT) and New York State Department of Financial Services, Insurance Frauds Bureau, a Seneca County resident was arrested and charged with killing his son. Members of CID spent countless hours during this investigation tracking down leads and building the case. Investigators are working with their counterparts in California looking into a suspicious death there which may be attributed to the suspect.

Narcotics Unit

The first full year of operation of the newly created/expanded Narcotics Unit within the Criminal Investigations Division occurred in 2012. Two full time deputies are assigned to the Narcotics Unit and are supervised by the CID Lt.. Narcotic Unit members receive drug information from a variety of sources; developed on their own as a result of tracking down leads; from other Sheriff's components; from a toll free drug hotline established and maintained by the unit; via a crime tip link on the Sheriff's website; or from other area police agencies.



The Narcotics Unit was particularly busy in 2012 with the opening of 129 criminal narcotics cases, of which 62 were closed by arrest with the arrests of over 145 defendants. Members of the Unit executed 15 search warrants and recovered over five thousand dollars from drug dealers.

One of the most disturbing results of the unit's activity during 2012 was the identification and discovery of six methamphetamine production labs in Seneca County. These labs and the by-products of chemicals used in meth manufacture were often times discarded along roads in Seneca County where unsuspecting persons could come into contact with these dangerous substances and compounds. Unit members along with the New York State Police, Contaminated Crime Scene Team (CCERT) mitigated and removed the hazardous substances.

Equally troubling was the proliferation of heroin use and sale in Seneca County coupled with the abuse and sale of prescription narcotics.

Juvenile Aid Bureau

The Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB) is a unit within the Criminal Investigations Division and is responsible for the investigation of all juvenile related crimes. The JAB is also tasked with developing and presenting the majority of public service programs, including the successful DARE program administered by the Sheriff's Office.

During 2012, the JAB had contact with over 55 juveniles engaged in criminal activities and either petitioned the offenders into Family or Criminal Court or sought out appropriate treatment modalities to modify juvenile behavior.

Corrections Division

The Corrections Division is comprised of forty three (43) Corrections Officers supervised by Eight (8) Sergeants, One (1) Lieutenant and One (1) Chief Administrative Officer. The Corrections Division is responsible for housing all inmates committed by the Courts to the Custody of the Sheriff. Within the Division are the Food Services, Medical and Mental Health units which complement and support the overall mission of the Corrections Division.

During 2012, 831 persons were committed to the Correctional Facility by the Courts and of those were 655 males and 176 female defendants. Corrections staff logged over 1050 transport missions, which included; 366 to and from local courts; 221 for medical purposes; 183 from local police and probation; 101 Federal and 62 for mental health purposes and 117 other related transports. The Food Services unit served over 86,100 meals while the Corrections Medical Unit conducted 582 medical assessments of inmates.

In-boarding of inmates from all sources during 2012 generated $508,597.00. Since in-boarding of inmates began in February of 2009, the Seneca County Sheriff's Office has generated a total in-boarding revenue of $2,553,325.00 through December 31, 2012 which has been deposited directly into the County General Fund. This could not have been possible without the dedication and support of all members of the Corrections Division who are called upon each day to handle the additional responsibilities.

A pilot inmate garden program was started in 2012 to give inmates an opportunity to perform a worthwhile project while incarcerated. Inmates under the supervision of Corrections staff planted, maintained and harvested produce throughout the summer in an effort to reduce food

costs in the correctional facility while at the same time providing inmates with a healthy alternative rather than "sitting doing time." The success of the inmate garden project had a positive spin off benefit in that over 90 pounds of excess produce was donated to local food pantries.

Inmate programs are offered to sentenced and un-sentenced inmates. Some of these programs are:

- GED
- Christian religious services
- Non-denominational religious services
- Addictions Counseling
- Mental Health Services
- Anger Management
- Parenting Classes
- Workforce development
- Alcoholic Anonymous
- Inmate Garden Project

During 2012, the Corrections Division with support from other SCSO components hosted and delivered a mandatory seven (7) week New York State Basic Correction Officer Academy. Our certified trainers graduated a total of 14 students, seven Officers from the Seneca County Sheriff's Office; four from the Yates County Sheriff's Office, two from Ontario County Sheriff's Office and one officer from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. By hosting and delivering this training locally we have saved the County thousands of dollars in course registration, overtime and related expenses. Equally important is the fact that the Seneca County Sheriff's Office has been recognized by outside agencies as an agency that delivers highly effective training. This is the sixth Basic Corrections Officer Training Academy the Seneca County Sheriff's Office has sponsored and delivered during Sheriff Stenberg's term of Office.

Field Training is the foundation for the success of new Corrections Officers. All newly hired Corrections Officers undergo an intensive field training program which acclimates them to a variety of conditions found in a correctional setting. It is paramount to the success and professionalism of the Correctional Facility to have competent Field Training Officers. In December 2012, six new Field Training Officers

graduated FTO training at the Sheriff's Office and join other FTO's in being directly responsible for helping to shape new Corrections Officers.

Civil Division

In November 2012, registered voters in Seneca County overwhelmingly approved a referendum allowing the Sheriff's Civil Division to be moved from the County Seat in Waterloo to the Seneca County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) in Romulus, New York. The Civil Division is responsible to receive and execute civil processes. With new electronic methods instituted by the Sheriff's Office, most, if not all civil transactions can be completed electronically, thus allowing the move to Romulus to have little or no customer impact. More importantly, the move of the Civil Division to the LEC will allow all Sheriff's Divisions with the exception of Court Security to be housed under one roof.

The Seneca County Sheriff's Office Civil Division is staffed with a Deputy Sheriff who is responsible for the day to day operations of the Division. Assisting the Deputy Sheriff in charge of the Civil Division is one full time clerk/typist and two part time Deputy Sheriffs. Revenue is received and disbursed through several sources, such as service fees, mileage and poundage (a percentage of income and property execution proceeds). All revenue collected by the Civil Division is forwarded to the Seneca County Treasurers' Office.

In 2012, the Civil Division set an historic record of collecting revenues of $456,402.02. From this the Sheriff's Civil Division turned over revenue of $58,026.74 to the County Treasurer.

For the most part, most transactions conducted by the Division are done through the U.S. Mail or by telephone. In 2011, we expanded our electronic services to the public who may now pay civil judgments and assessments on line through a secure portal, alleviating the need to visit our Civil Office to conduct a transaction. We have seen an increase in the use of secure electronic transactions being conducted since this service was first introduced.

Records Division

The Records Division is the central repository of all records generated and received by the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. Civilian members of the Records Division respond to requests from the public for variety Sheriff's reports and documents through the New York State Freedom of Information Law, as well as being the first stop for all county issued Pistol Permits.

In 2012, the Records Division processed a total of $10,202.75 in insurance; FOIL requests; employment fingerprint and pistol permit fees.

During the preceding year, the Division dramatically changed the way pistol permits were processed. In the past, prospective pistol permit applicants had to personally appear at the Sheriff's Office Records Division, pay a fee and obtain a pistol permit packet to complete. Once completed, the prospective pistol permit applicant had to return to the Sheriff's Office to be fingerprinted and submit their application for processing. In 2012, we saw a dramatic uptick of persons utilizing the Sheriff's interactive website for pistol permit related transactions. Judging from feedback from pistol permit holders and prospective applicants, they enjoy the ease of pulling the required forms from our website, completing them in the privacy of their home and finally making the visit to conduct their transactions. This new procedure has eased the burden on permit holders by eliminating an extra trip to the Sheriff's Office.

During 2012, a record number of pistol transactions, 1264, were conducted by the Records Division. This dramatic increase is attributed in large part to the passage of the new NY SAFE ACT which was passed by both Houses of the State legislature and signed by the Governor.

Court Security Division

The Court Security Division provides all security related functions at the Seneca County Court House in Waterloo, New York. During 2012, Court Security personnel provided security services for two (2) criminal trials conducted in County Court. A major function of the Division is to ensure the safety and security of not only employee's, but to all who transact business in the Seneca County Court Complex on a daily basis. During 2012, Court Security personnel confiscated an assortment of over 2,600 firearms, knives, razors, scissors and other weapons from entering the Seneca County Court Complex. All Court Security Officers have completed the mandatory basic training requirements for Court Security Officers.

County Office Building Security Unit

The County Office Building (COB) Security Unit was established in 2012. The unit is comprised of seven (7) part-time Special Patrol Officers who are all either retired law enforcement or state corrections officers. The COB security unit provides security services throughout the Seneca County Office Building and staffs a security checkpoint at the main visitor entrance. The COB security unit provides services through the use of random foot patrols throughout the COB on a daily basis in addition to the main visitor screening checkpoint.

Navigation Unit

During 2012, the Seneca County Sheriff's Marine One Patrol Boat logged 41 days of service on waterways in Seneca County equating to 718 hours of patrol activity. During the patrol season – May through September, the Navigation Unit responded to twenty four (24) calls for service.

In February 2012, the Sheriff's Office acquired a used 2004 Sea Swirl patrol boat from the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation to be used to supplement our Navigation fleet. Prior to the acquisition of this second patrol boat, it was necessary to trailer our one boat from one lake to another to respond to an emergency, creating a delay in response times to navigation emergencies. The addition of a 2004 Sea Swirl joins a 2007 Pro-Line and a 2006 Kawasaki Jet Ski which patrol both the Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and Seneca-Barge Canal and are available for patrol and emergency response deployments. The addition of this vessel will make it possible to moor and deploy a fully equipped Sheriff's boat on both Seneca and Cayuga Lakes at any time.

During the summer of 2012, the Navigation Unit supported the Sheriff's Underwater Search and Recovery Team in two drowning recovery missions, one in Seneca County and the other in Cayuga County. In both cases, the Seneca County Sheriff's Underwater Search and Recovery Team were responsible for the recovery of both victims.

In September 2012, the Navigation Division acted as the lead law enforcement agency for "Hydro Bowl", a three day hydroplane race, held on the northern portion of Seneca Lake, which drew thousands of racers and visitors from throughout the United States and Canada. Working with race organizers, the Sheriff's Office called upon navigation units from the Finger Lakes Park Police, and the Cayuga, Yates and Ontario County Sheriff's Office(s) to assist in protecting racers and boaters while on the water.

Underwater Search and Recovery Team

The Seneca County Sheriff's Underwater Search and Recovery Team (USRT) was put into service in late 2011, during which the majority of time was devoted to acquiring equipment and training divers. The team is comprised of members of the Sheriff's road patrol and corrections divisions along with volunteer members of the Seneca County Fire Service. All members of the USRT are certified divers and are under the command of a Sheriff's dive master. The USRT conducts monthly training exercises in both warm and cold water. During 2012, the USRT was called upon for three drowning missions, two in Seneca County and one in Cayuga County. Perhaps the

most difficult dive operation took place in December 2012 on the Seneca –Cayuga Canal in Seneca Falls where divers were faced with inclement weather and frigid water conditions.