Seneca County

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Sheriff W. Timothy Luce

February 9, 2017
Robert Shipley
Chairman
Seneca County Board of Supervisors
Seneca County Office Building
1 DiPronio Drive
Waterloo, New York

Dear Chairman Shipley,

It is with great pleasure that Undersheriff Cleere and I submit our first annual report regarding the activities of the men and women of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office for the year 2016. 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 throughout the year.

We take seriously our oath of office, and our responsibility to provide professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Seneca County.

We were very busy our first year continuing the work Sheriff Stenberg and Undersheriff Sullivan started with accreditation. From the beginning we were tasked with two accreditation assessments. We were successfully re-accredited in the Law Enforcement Division and the Civil Division. We formed a Family Services Unit in the Criminal Investigations Division. We also implemented new programs in the Correctional Facility in an attempt to reduce recidivism, such as ACTS, and Thinking for a Change.

We are very proud of the accomplishments we achieved this year. The staff and I set goals in the beginning of the year, then set a plan to accomplish the goals. We are very happy to report that during 2016 we were able to achieve the majority of the goals we set. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Seneca County Sheriff's Office.

I would like to thank the Board of Supervisors again for the support you have shown the members of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office.

Sincerely,

W. Timothy Luce
Seneca County Sheriff

Dedication

We dedicate this annual report to canine officer "Izak". Izak was a good dog and an excellent officer. He loyally served the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Seneca County for many years. Izak helped apprehend criminals, find missing persons and fearlessly patrolled with his partner Sergeant Fowler. Izak loved children and attended many public safety and community events.

In July 2016 Izak tragically succumbed to cancer; He will be missed.

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016

2016 was a busy year for the Sheriff's Office and the first year of a new administration. 2016 began with an on-site Law Enforcement accreditation assessment, a new radio system, a new incident management system and an assessment by the New York State Commission of Corrections.

During 2016 the Sheriff's Office responded to 14,233 calls for service and made 896 arrests for violations, misdemeanors and felonies. Some highlights for 2016 include:

- Generated $557,188.82 by in-boarding Federal and out of County inmates into the Correctional Facility during 2016. This was nearly a $67,000 increase over 2015.

- Increased law enforcement training in 2016 by over 1000 hours. Of special note was increased training in Child Abuse, Homicide and Developmental Disability Training.

- Enhanced employee background investigations. The process was developed to be more thorough and effective.

- Successfully complied with annual NYS Accreditation certification requirements covering over 460 best practice standards in the Law Enforcement, Corrections, Civil and Court Security Divisions. In January of 2016 we completed an intense on-site assessment for Law Enforcement accreditation.

- Obtained partial funding and support from the Seneca County Board of Supervisors to create a School Resource Officer for the Romulus Central School. This was the only Seneca County School without an S.R.O.

- Added an Addictions Counselor for the Correctional Facility.

- Additional Officers were trained in "Project Lifesaver"-- a radio tracking system to find missing children and vulnerable adults. In April of 2016 a missing vulnerable was located safe and sound with the "lifesaver" equipment.

- Implemented a Family Services Unit to handle Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse cases.

- Implemented several new programs in the Correctional Facility designed to reduce recidivism. This included the "Thinking For a Change"—(T4C), program to teach inmates to avoid the behavior that got them into trouble.

- Implemented a "Peer Support: program to assist employees.

- Implemented a new radio system.

- Transitioned Corrections Officers to a safer "Soft" uniform.

- Implemented tasers in the Correctional Facility.

- Implemented a Monthly "Snapshot Report" to keep employees, County Government and the public up to date with Sheriff's Office activities.

- The Sheriff's Office enhanced Community Policing with several actions:
  - Launched a Facebook Page.
  - Held the first Sheriff's Department Open House in over 20 years.
  - Implemented a new and improved Operation Safe Child I.D. Program.
  - Hosted the first Victim Impact training for Officers in Seneca County.
  - Participated for the first time in the Scouting Explorer Program.

Administration

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 is the Chief Executive Officer and 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

Assisting and empowered to act in the Sheriff's absence is the Sheriff's appointee, the Undersheriff. The Undersheriff 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.

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

Left to Right: Sheriff Luce, C.D. Goodman & U.S. Cleere

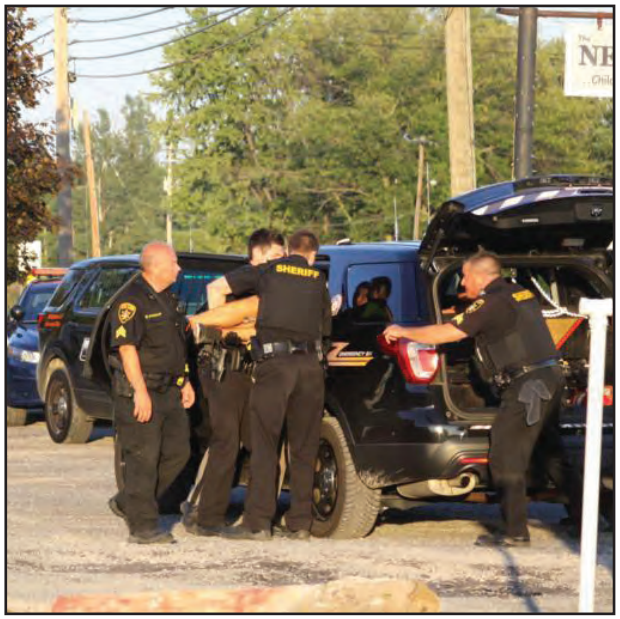
Road Patrol Division

The Sheriff's Office runs a twenty-four hour uniform patrol 7 days a week and is the primary law enforcement for Seneca County. Patrol zones are split into 3 areas: North, South and Central. There are about 330 square miles to cover in Seneca County not counting the waterways. Deputies patrol alone and often depend on their sergeant for back up.

The Uniform Patrol is made up of 15 deputies, 1 lieutenant and 5 sergeants. They are all highly trained officers that have demonstrated the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the extreme challenges of modern day law enforcement.

Standard patrol equipment includes emergency medical supplies. All officers are trained in C.P.R. and carry A.E.Ds and medical trauma kits. Deputies are trained and equipped with a Taser, Pepper Spray, Service Pistol, Shotgun and Rifle.

Deputies also use robust, laptop computers to complete accident and other various crime reports without having to return to the office. Several Deputies are equipped with "body cameras" to record live video of their activities. These cameras have been invaluable in obtaining clear and convincing evidence for the courts.



Deputies secure a combative suspect

On the scene of a "stand-off" with Waterloo P.D.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigation Division—(C.I.D.) is staffed by 4 Investigators and is supervised by a Lieutenant. The C.I.D. is made up of several sub-units that handle the major crimes, special victim crimes, and other specialized functions. The members of this division all serve on these sub-units as well as handling general investigative work as needed.

The sub-units of the C.I.D. are: Narcotics Unit, Family Services Unit, Juvenile Unit and Sex Offender Unit. Each of these sub-units requires specialized training. All major crimes and cases that require significant follow up work are turned over to the C.I.D. so that the Uniform Patrol members are free to be first responders in the field.

Investigators in the C.I.D. are all trained as crime scene photographers and evidence technicians. This eliminates the need for a separate crime scene unit. In addition investigators receive training over and above a Uniform Officer such as: Interview and Interrogation, Search Warrants, Homicide Investigation, Arson, Elder Abuse, Crimes Against Children and Sexual Abuse.

Members of the Criminal Investigation Division including the Family Services Unit.

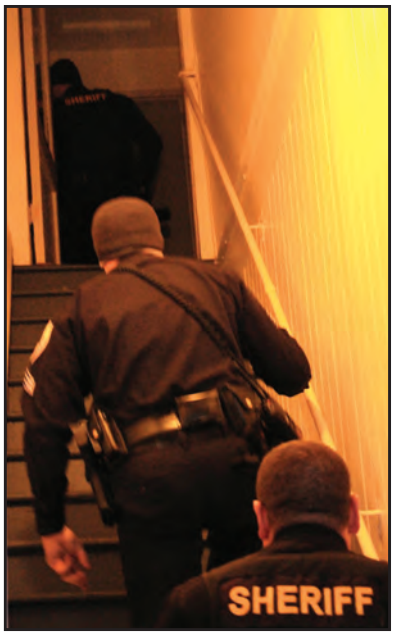
Narcotics Division

The Narcotics Unit—"Narco", is staffed by an Investigator and a Deputy Sheriff. The C.I.D. Lieutenant supervises the unit. C.I.D. members provide added manpower as needed. The Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors added the Deputy Sheriff position to the drug unit in 2016. This was after consideration of the alarming Heroin problem that Seneca County is experiencing. The "Drug Deputy" is responsible for assisting the Drug Investigator and providing back-up during undercover operations.

Our Narcotics Unit focuses on heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and prescription medications. The scope of narcotic drug trafficking stretches into many areas. Addicts often commit other crimes as the drugs gradually consume their lives. Many property crimes such as larceny and burglary are committed to fund the habit. Child abuse and neglect in drug houses are common. Even sex trafficking is resorted to in some cases.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to doing our part in combating the Narcotic drug issues plaguing our County. We have received outstanding support from our Board of Supervisors and have partnered with treatment and counseling agencies for a multi-faceted approach to this challenge.

In 2016 the "Narco" Unit handled 90 new drug cases and made 133 arrests.



ABOVE: Deputies execute a search warrant at two residences trafficking heroin and other narcotics.

Family Services Unit

In June 2016 Sheriff Luce implemented the Family Services Unit—(F.S.U.) at the Sheriff's Office. The unit was created to support and assist families involved in Domestic Violence. The unit also deals with missing persons, child abuse and elder abuse cases.

Two investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division were assigned to the F.S.U.—(Investigators Melinda Marquart and Chris Felice). They have completed, and continue to complete, specialized training.

The F.S.U. reviews all Domestic Violence reports and conducts follow ups and referrals as needed. The unit has formed partnerships and works closely with Social Services, Child Advocacy Centers, Schools, Victim Advocates and The District Attorney's Office.

The unit was created by redeploying the existing workload and manpower in the Criminal Investigation Division resulting in no additional cost to the taxpayer

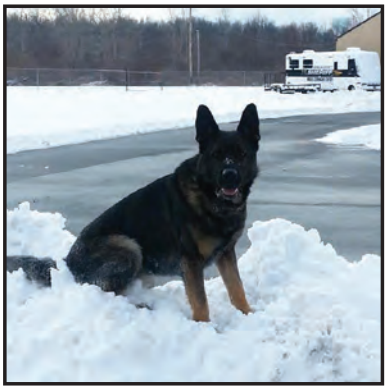
From its inception in June the F.S.U. handled 33 cases, reviewed 119 Domestic Incidents and attended 31 Community events in 2016.

F.S.U. Officers: Investigators Chris Felice and Melinda Marquart

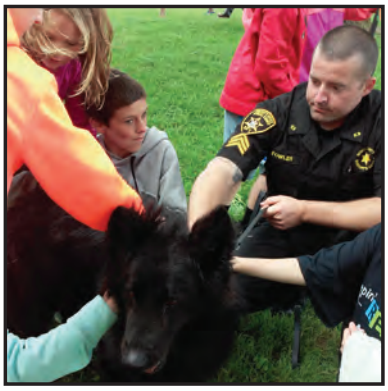
Canine Division

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 "AKEN" or explosive detection "IZAK". 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 in Seneca or surrounding Counties who requests their service.

In July of 2016 Izak tragically succumbed to cancer. His successor "Ben" will be in our 2017 annual report.



Above: K-9 "Aken" and his handler Sgt. Rhinehart



Above: K-9 "Izak" and his handler Sgt. Fowler

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.

In 2016 several new programs were developed and introduced into the facility to reduce recidivism. By helping inmates change the risky behaviors that get them into trouble their lives are improved and the taxpayers are saved the cost of incarceration.

To help offset operating costs, the Correctional Division boards in inmates from the federal government and other Counties when we have empty cells. In-boarding of inmates from all sources during 2016 generated $557,188.82 which was deposited directly into the County General Fund.

In 2016 the Corrections Division continued to run a Corrections Academy to train C.O.s from several agencies in the Finger Lakes Region.

The average daily inmate population in 2016 was 74.

Corrections Academy Graduates. With Sheriff Luce and Supervisor Lee Davidson

Corrections Officers Train In Defensive Tactics

Civil Division

The Seneca County Sheriff's Office Civil Division is staffed with a Uniform Sergeant who is responsible for the day to day operations of the Division. Assisting the Sergeant 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 2016 the Civil Division handled 704 summonses, 226 Income Executions and 63 Evictions. Total money handled by the Division was $475,802.68.

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 a variety of 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.

Court Security Division

The Court Security Division provides all security related functions at the Seneca County Court House in Waterloo, New York. During 2016, Court Security personnel provided security services for all 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 2016, Court Security personnel confiscated an assortment of 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

The County Office Building is staffed with one full time Deputy Sheriff and part-time 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, video surveillance and the main visitor screening checkpoint. Over a hundred thousand persons pass through the main security checkpoint during the year. The checkpoint consists of an x-ray machine and magnetometer.

Welfare Fraud Division

The Welfare Fraud Unit is comprised of one part time Deputy Sheriff assigned to the Seneca County Department of Social Services. During 2016, the unit opened 313 cases. Total cost avoidance for 2016 was $555,014.

Marine Units

UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY UNIT (USRT)

The USRT—AKA (Dive Team) is comprised of members of the Road Patrol and Corrections Divisions. These Officers volunteer for this extra duty and must attend regular trainings in underwater operations.

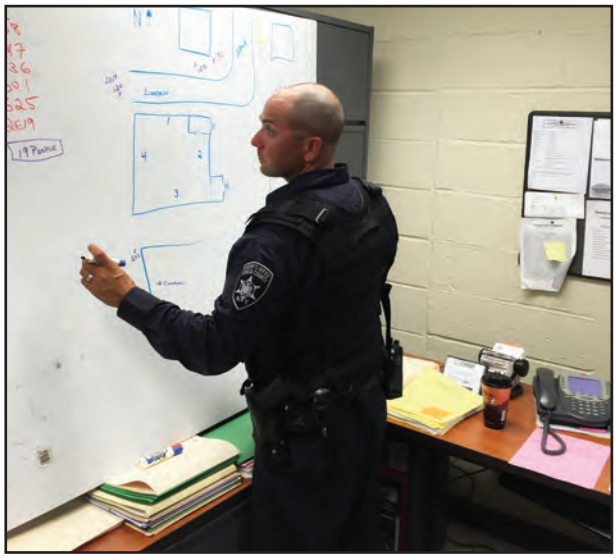
NAVIGATION UNIT

The Sheriff's Navigation Unit utilizes two power boats that patrol the lakes and canal system during peak days and hours during the boating season including holidays and special events. The patrol boats handle complaints, accidents and engage in educational activities on the Seneca County Waterways. The operating budget for the Navigation Division is off-set by up to a 50% matching funds from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Emergency Response Team

The Emergency Response Team—(E.R.T.), is a team of Deputy Sheriff's that can respond to high intensity critical incidents. These Officers receive special training and are issued equipment to protect them in Deadly Force encounters. The training is geared towards dealing with active shooters, barricaded subjects and hostage situations. The E.R.T. also executes high risk search warrants and is available to assist other agencies when needed.

E.R.T. Members train at an area school



E.R.T. Team Leader plans a response at a Stand Off

Command Post at Seneca Lake Boating Facility

Deputy Teaching Gun Safety at Explorer's Camp

Stand-Off in Progress

Sheriff's Diver Demonstrating for Teenagers

Sheriff's Office 1986 (Photo by Inv. Luce)

30 Years Later...Sheriff's Office