Seneca County

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Sheriff W. Timothy Luce

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 2018 annual report regarding the activities of the men and women of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. 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.

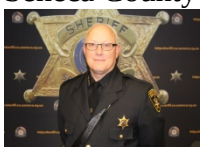
2018 was a year of challenge and change. The ongoing opioid epidemic, raise the age legislation, centralized arraignment, a devastating flood and mental health crisis in Seneca County are a few of the major challenges faced by the Sheriff's Office and the County of Seneca. With the help of the Board of Supervisors and our partnerships with Mental Health and, Victim Services—(To name a few), we were able to meet and exceed many of our goals.

We are especially proud of the implementation of our DRONE program which was a valuable tool during the catastrophic flood in the south end of Seneca County. This program has become a huge success. The DRONE Unit has responded to major incidents and gatherings throughout Seneca County and continues to be an asset to public safety. Establishing a Centralized Arraignment Court for Seneca County was also a major goal that was achieved. This allowed our County meet new legal requirements, is cost effective and efficient. Our Court has become a model for other Counties as they strive to meet compliance with new legislation.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office in 2018. Our continued success in achieving our goals could have never been accomplished if it were not for the hard work and dedication of our employees. We take seriously our oath of office, and our responsibility to provide professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Seneca County.

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 and helping us to achieve our goals.
Respectfully,

W. Timothy Luce
Seneca County Sheriff



DEDICATION

This Annual Report is dedicated to our valued partners:

Child Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes

&

Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes

Both organizations work tirelessly to provide essential services to victims of crime and abuse. Their efforts are invaluable to the citizens of Seneca County. Their partnership greatly enhances the ability of law enforcement to protect and serve.

Safe Harbors
of the Finger Lakes
Advocate. Educate. Support.

Child Advocacy Center
of the Finger Lakes

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2018

During 2018 the Sheriff's Office responded to 14,537 calls for service and made 747 arrests for violations, misdemeanors and felonies. Some highlights for 2018 include:

- Generated $447,652.71 by in-boarding Federal and out of County inmates into the Correctional Facility during 2018.
- Implemented a fully functional Drone Unit.
- Successfully complied with annual NYS Accreditation certification requirements covering over 460 best practice standards in the Law Enforcement, Corrections, Civil and Court Security Divisions.
- Trained a new D.A.R.E. Officer and implemented the first D.A.R.E. program at a residential children's facility.
- Successfully developed policies and procedures that were adopted County wide to comply with "Raise the Age N.Y. " Legislation.
- Assisted and supported Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes efforts to establish a Safe Dwelling for abused persons.
- Planned and implemented a Centralized Arraignment Facility at the Law Enforcement Center to comply with new legislation.
- Installed a T.V. antenna system in the jail to eliminate cable bills.
- Implemented new training and equipment to protect Officers from deadly narcotic drug exposure.
- Enhanced our partnership with Mental Health by training Officers how to handle Mental Health Crisis Incidents.

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, serves a term of four years and is charged by the State Constitution to maintain the peace.

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 has the responsibility of operational 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. The Chief Deputy handles special assignments, assists with internal affairs and oversees hiring and employment matters.

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.

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.

Today's Deputy Sheriff is a highly trained professional. Police Basics Academy is now over 1000 hours of intense training. Training is a constant at the Sheriff's Office as each year Deputies obtain additional training in a variety of topics including Mental Health, De-escalation Techniques, and Martial skills.

Deputies at the scene of a stand off

Deputies at a bomb scare

CANINE DIVISION

Within the uniform road patrol division is the canine unit. This unit is comprised of 2 uniform sergeants that are certified canine handlers in addition to their regular sergeant duties. Both canines are German Shepherds and are trained in patrol tactics and searches. Each dog has one particular area of expertise, such as, narcotics “AKEN” or explosive detection “BEN”. The canine units are utilized for routine patrol work and answer 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.

Above: Sgt. Rhinehart and “Aken” with Sgt. Fowler and “Ben” at the Canine Memorial

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.

FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

Since its inception in 2016 the Family Services Unit has evolved into a respected, highly trained asset to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Seneca County. Sheriff Luce implemented the F.S.U. to handle Domestic Violence, Missing Persons, Child Abuse and elder abuse cases.

Two investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division are assigned to the F.S.U. They continue to complete, specialized training and have become leaders in their field. Both are certified Forensic Interviewers of Children and Advanced Youth Officers. The F.S.U. played a key role in developing policies and procedures for implementation of "Raise the Age N.Y." legislation in Seneca County.

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.

F.S.U. Investigators Chris Felice & Melinda Marquart

Child Interview Room at the Sheriff's Office

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.

NARCO Officers have special training and equipment to help protect them against exposure. The potency of certain drugs is strong enough to be absorbed through the skin 0r inadvertently inhaled

The scope of drug abuse stretches into many areas. Addicts often commit other crimes as the drugs gradually consume their lives. Many steal and burglarize to fund their 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 facing 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 2018 the Narco Unit handled 123 cases and made 130 arrests.

A Meth Lab discovered in the Town of Lodi.

A drug search warrant in progress

CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Corrections Division is the largest of the Sheriff's Office Divisions and is responsible for the care and housing of 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. The Mental Health Unit alone had over 3200 contacts with inmates.

In 2018 a major change was the implementation of a Centralized Arraignment Court. New legislation required that a defense attorney be present for all arraignments. The most cost effective plan to meet this requirement was to establish the Centralized Court at the Law Enforcement Center. Suspects arrested and awaiting arraignment are held at the jail until Court convenes. The Court is held twice a day—(morning and evening), every day of the year. Corrections staff adapted existing procedures so that no additional cost was incurred.

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 2018 generated $447,652.71 which was deposited directly into the County General Fund.

In 2018 the Corrections Division continued to run a highly regarded Corrections Academy to train our new Officers and Officers from other agencies in the Finger Lakes.

The average daily inmate population in 2018 was 76.

Centralized Arraignment Court

2018 Corrections Academy Graduates

D.A.R.E.®

TEACHING STUDENTS DECISION MAKING
FOR SAFE & HEALTHY LIVING

During the Great Recession many police agencies cut the D.A.R.E. program from their already distressed budgets. Seneca County's DARE program is unique as there was no budget to cut. Deputies from the Sheriff's Office volunteer to teach DARE in addition to their regular duties. In 2018 the Seneca County Sheriff's Office conducted the DARE program in Romulus, South Seneca, Waterloo and Hillside Children's Center schools. Our Department was the first in the State to launch an all-digital version of the program. We were also the first in New York to offer DARE in a Children's Center like Hillside.

DARE Officers: Marquart, Felice & Eldredge

New DARE Officer Danny Jacobsen

Romulus DARE GRADUATION

DRONE PROGRAM

In 2018 the Sheriff's Office implemented a Drone Unit to provide aerial support at public events, crime scenes and major incidents. The program has been a huge success. There are 2 drones in the Unit and several Officers who volunteered to be trained and certified as pilots.

The drone unit proved invaluable at the August 2018 flood. The drone located people, documented damages and allowed emergency personnel a bird's eye view of what they were facing.

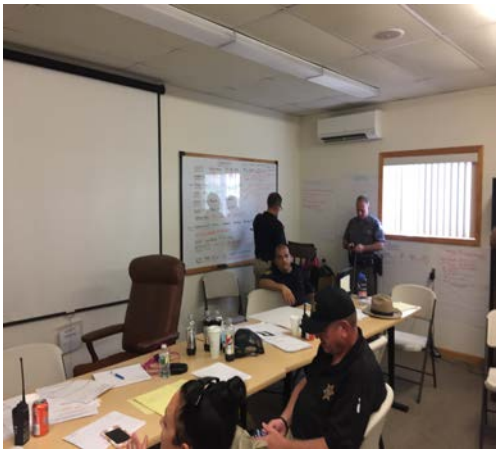
The drone unit has also located an escaped prisoner hiding in a cornfield when no helicopter could fly because of the weather. It has been deployed at major events and search warrants.

Drone at the scene of a fatal RR accident

Deputy flying drone at the flood with Senator Helming

On August 14th, 2018 the south end of Seneca County was struck by a devastating flood. The Sheriff's Office worked with Emergency Management, Fire Departments and State Agencies to deal with this life changing event. The Sheriff's Boat Patrol rescued dozens from the afflicted area and provided weeks of clean-up support. Deputies and Investigators were on the scene around the clock until the area was under control.

Sheriff's Drone photo of the Lodi Point Area



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

Sheriff Luce and wife Kathy at Harvest of Hope

No Shave November Fund Raiser

National Night Out

Citizen's Police Academy

Shop With A Sheriff

Corrections Officers participating in a Wheelchair Basketball game to support veterans

Career Day

Officers at the "Snow Bowl" to support Special Olympics