Seneca County

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Sheriff W. Timothy Luce

Robert W. Hayssen
Chairman
Waterloo, New York

Dear Chairman Hayssen,

Seneca County Board of Supervisors
Seneca County Office Building
1 DiPronio Drive

It is with great pleasure that I submit the 2019 annual report regarding the activities of the men and women of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office. On behalf of the 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.

2019 was a year in which we strived to make the Correctional facility a safer place. The Sheriff's Offices first goal was to implement and increase efficiency of non-lethal force options. The Sheriff's Office obtained, trained and deployed Tazers in the Correctional Facility.

We also worked on implementing a body camera program in the Correctional Facility. First we conducted a feasibility study, obtained the hardware and software. Developed and implemented a policy, then deployed the cameras.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office in 2019. Our continued success in achieving our goals could have never been accomplished if it were not for the hard 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 achieve our goals.

Respectfully

W. Timothy Luce
Seneca County Sheriff

DEDICATION

THE SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF"S OFFICE CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The women and men of the Seneca County Corrections Division including Corrections Officers and Mental Health Staff have shown an impressive dedication to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Seneca County.

They have fully engaged Community Policing by participating in many Community events and fund raisers. They have raised money to support: Veteran Programs, Abused Children, Golisano's Children's Hospital and Special Olympics. (To name a few)

The Corrections facility has unmatched rehabilitative, inmate programs. Corrections Officers each day complete an extremely difficult job with firmness, fairness and compassion.

C.O. at a School Program

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019

During 2019 the Sheriff's Office responded to 12,628 calls for service and made 730 arrests for violations, misdemeanors and felonies. Some highlights for 2019 include:

- Generated $541,890.82 by in-boarding Federal and out of County inmates into the Correctional Facility during 2019. This exceeded projections by over $100,000.

- 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 a School Resource Officer program at South Seneca School.

- Successfully developed policies and procedures to comply with sweeping Criminal Justice legislation including Bail Reform, Discovery Reform and numerous other changes.

- Implemented a body camera program in Corrections.

- Equipped Corrections staff with additional Tasers.

- Implemented a "Watch Tour" electronic check system in Corrections to enhance documentation of inmate checks.

- Trained additional Officers in Sex Traffiking Investigation and Child Abuse Investigation. and equipment to protect Officers from deadly narcotic drug exposure.

- In partnership with Mental Health conducted a Multi-Agency training to certify Police Officers as Crisis Intervention Team Officers.

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

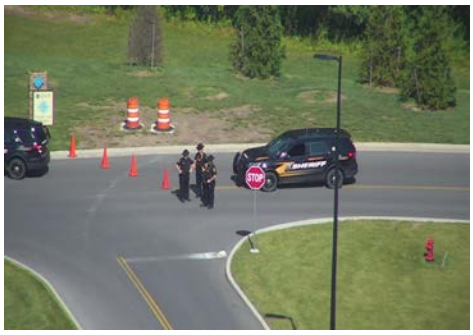
The Sheriff's Office runs a twenty-four hour uniform patrol 7 days a week and is the primary law enforcement for Seneca County. Patrol zones are split into 3 areas: North, South and Central. There are about 330 square miles to cover in Seneca County not counting the waterways. Deputies patrol alone and 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 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 plus months of field training. Training is a constant at the Sheriff's Office as each year Deputies complete schooling in a variety of topics including Mental Health, De-escalation Techniques, and Reality Based Training.

Deputy Speaks With A Protester



Deputies man a traffic post

Lt. Schell Congratulating Stop DWI Officer of the Year Jason Lanphear

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.

Sgt. Fowler & K9 "Ben"

Canine "AKEN" and his handler Sgt. Mike Rhinehart retired in October 2019 after long and distinguished careers. Sadly, Canine "AKEN" passed away in August of 2020.

Sergeant Rhinehart and K-9 "AKEN" at the Sheriff's Office K-9 Memorial

A new Canine "COSKI", trained in narcotics detection, joined the Sheriff's Office in 2020. More about "COSKI" in the 2020 Annual Report...

Deputy Nelson & K-9 "COSKI"

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

The Family Services Unit—(F.S.U.) is a respected, highly trained asset to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Seneca County. The F.S.U. handles 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.

The F.S.U. handled several noteworthy child abuse cases in 2019. Of particular note was a child pornography trafficking case in Seneca County. The F.S.U. partnered with the F.B.I. and charged 2 suspects with 85 felonies.

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

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 or 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 2019 the Narco Unit handled 101 cases and made 88 arrests.

Inside a Meth Lab

D.H.S. FRAUD UNIT

A part time deputy is assigned to work with the Seneca County Division for Human Services to prevent services fraud. In 2019 this Officer investigated over 200 cases of fraud and recouped $200,833 dollars of taxpayer monies. The DHS Fraud Unit works closely with the Criminal Investigation Unit.

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 2019.

In 2019 a major change was the implementation of Body Cameras for Corrections Officers in the facility.
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 2019 generated over a half a million dollars which was deposited directly into the County General Fund.

In 2019 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 2019 was 60.

Centralized Arraignment Court

2019 CO Academy Graduates

Corrections Officers Raising Money for Veterans

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION
AND
DEFINE ACCESS RESPOND EVALUATE

The DARE is a prevention program taught in the 5th grade that teaches life skills and decision making. Seneca County Sheriff's Office was the first in New York State to offer an all-digital DARE program that is becoming the standard.

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 2019 the Seneca County Sheriff's Office conducted the DARE program in Romulus, South Seneca and Waterloo school districts.

DARE Officers: Marquart, Felice & Eldredge

New DARE Officer Danny Jacobsen

DARE Officer kissing a cow with Waterloo 5th graders at their end of year field day's event. The students got to vote on who kissed the cow. Deputy Jacobsen won (or lost) depending on how you look at it.

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 4 drones in the Unit and several Officers who volunteered to be trained and certified as pilots.

The drone unit has proved invaluable at serious accident scenes, crime scenes, search warrants and major public events. In 2019 the drone was used at search warrants, public events and fatal motor vehicle accidents. Of particular note the drone unit provided reconnaissance at the Woman's Hall of Fame induction at the Del Lago casino. The drone also searched a wooded area for missing persons.

The Drone Unit at the Woman's Hall of Fame Event

Sheriff Luce & Lt. Schell monitor live video from the drone.

The Drone monitors Protestors at the Woman's Hall of Fame Induction

Drone photographing a Fatal Accident Scene

CIVIL DIVISION, RECORDS & PISTOL PERMITS

The Seneca County Sheriff's Office Civil Division, Records and Pistol Permit Units occupy an office off the main lobby of the Law Enforcement Center. This office is a center of constant activity. The employees in this office often cover for each other during days off and activity peaks.

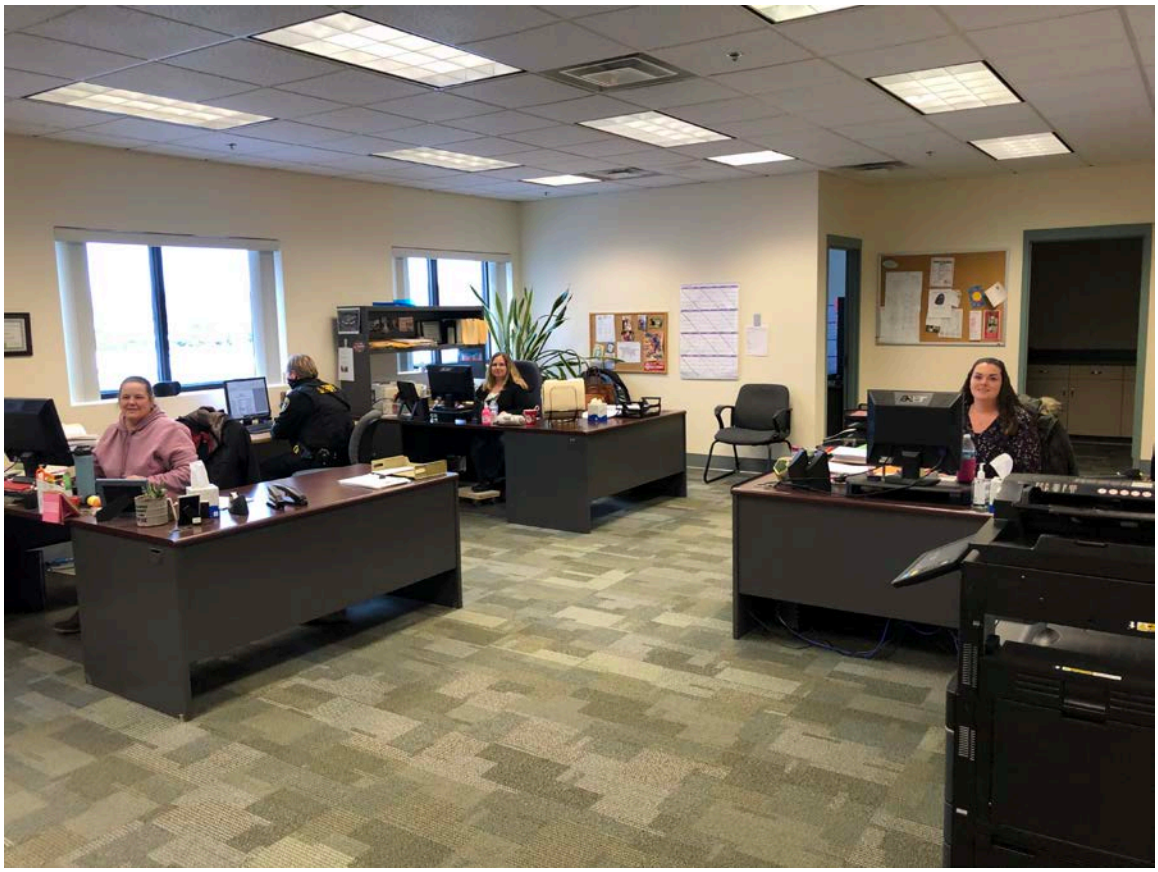
The Civil Unit is staffed with a Uniform Sergeant who is responsible for the day to day operations of the Division. Assisting the Sergeant in charge of the Civil Division is one full time clerk/typist and two part time Deputy Sheriffs. The Civil Office handles all legal service of summonses, evictions and income executions. All revenue collected by the Civil Division is forwarded to the Seneca County Treasurers' Office.

In 2019 the Civil Division handled 491 summonses, 266 Income Executions and 53 Evictions. Total money handled by the Division was over $642,000.

The Pistol Permit Unit is staffed by 1 full time clerk who handles pistol permit applications and amendments. She processes about 200 applications a year for new permits and over 400 amendments per year. The Pistol Permit clerk is also a valued resource to the public for permit questions, instructions and updates.

The records division is staffed by a clerk who handles the copious amount of records created by the Office of the Sheriff. Every single call an Officer handles creates a report. Some investigations can create hundreds of pages and hours of video.

Another duty of this clerk is the handling of FOIL—(Freedom of Information Law) requests. In 2019 there were over 400 of these requests.



L to R Facing: Danielle O'Mara—Records, Tanya Tyler—Civil, Katie Anastasio—Pistol Permits

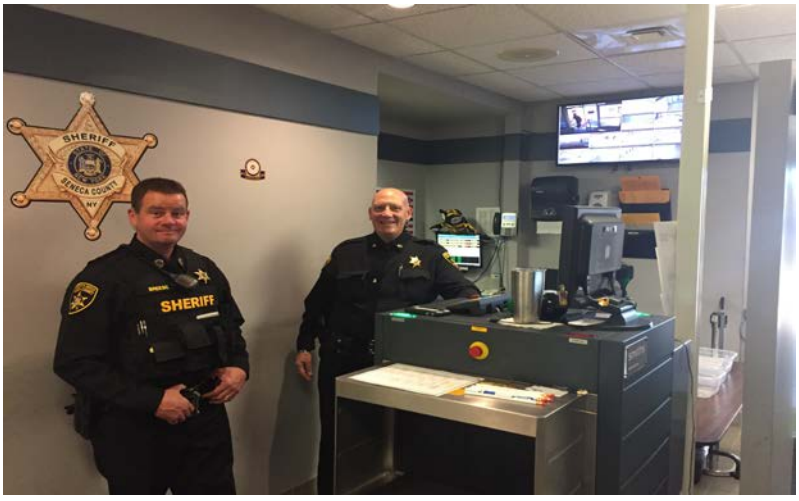
COURT SECURITY DIVISION

The Court Security Division provides all security related functions at the Seneca County Court House in Waterloo, New York. During 2017, Court Security personnel provided security services for all Criminal, Civil and Family Courts. 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 2017, Court Security personnel confiscated an assortment of firearms, knives, razors, scissors and other weapons from entering the Seneca County Court Complex.

Above: Court Security personnel at the entrance checkpoint.

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 Investigator assigned to the Seneca County Department of Social Services. During 2017, the unit opened 270 cases, made 19 arrests and recovered $303,047.76 in cost avoidance.

MARINE PATROL & DIVE TEAM

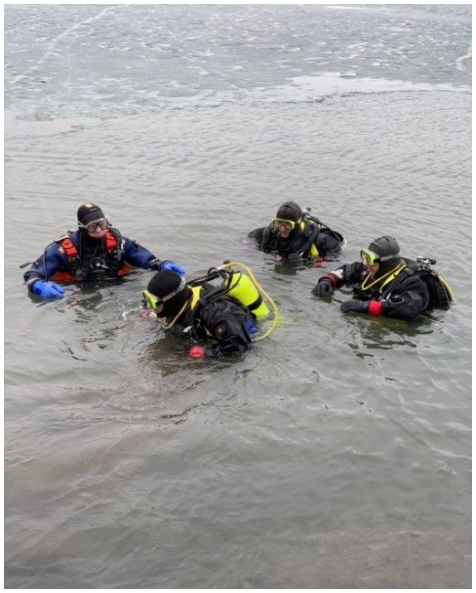
The Sheriff's Navigation Unit utilizes two power boats that patrol the lakes and canal system during peak days and hours during the boating season including holidays and special events. The patrol boats handle complaints, accidents and engage in educational activities on the Seneca County Waterways. The operating budget for the Navigation Division is off-set by a 75% reimbursement grant..

Patrol Boat

The Sheriff's Dive Team is made up of officers who volunteer for the extra training and certification required. Their primary function is search and recovery operations involving our waterways. They are

available for Serious Boat Accidents, Drownings, Evidence Recovery and other aquatic events. In 2019 the Dive Team located and recovered 2 drowning victims from the Clyde River in the Town of Tyre.

Dive Team at May's Point



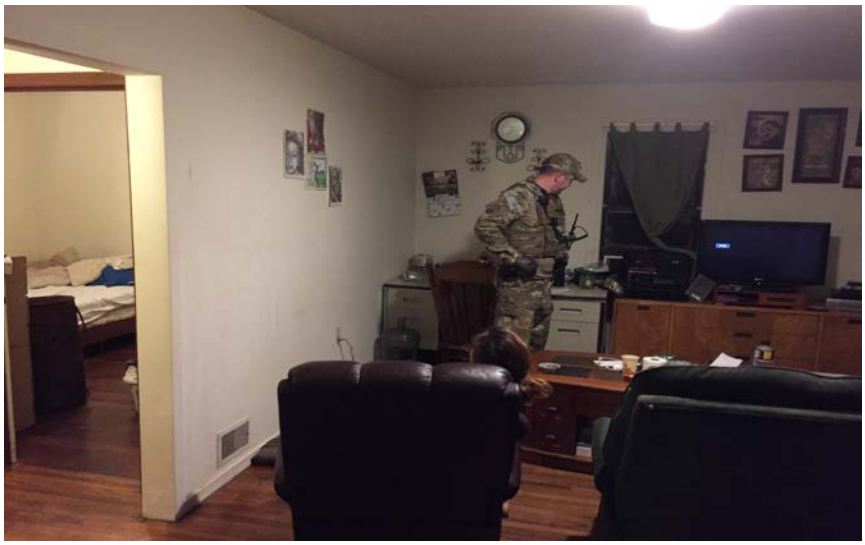
Cold Water Ice Dive

Training

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Emergency Response Team—(E.R.T.), is a team of Sheriff's Officers 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 E.R.T. can be deployed for circumstances involving active shooters, school 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. Training at the range.



E.R.T. member at a High Risk Search Warrant.

TRAINING

The Sheriff's Office is constantly training. Regular, annual trainings include: Legal Updates, Use of Force, Firearms, Crisis Intervention, Leadership, Investigations, Evidence Processing and many more. Training is considered crucial at the Sheriff's Office; we constantly strive to be better, safer and more effective at what we do.

Practicing Scenarios at Crisis Intervention Training.

Fire Extinguisher Training

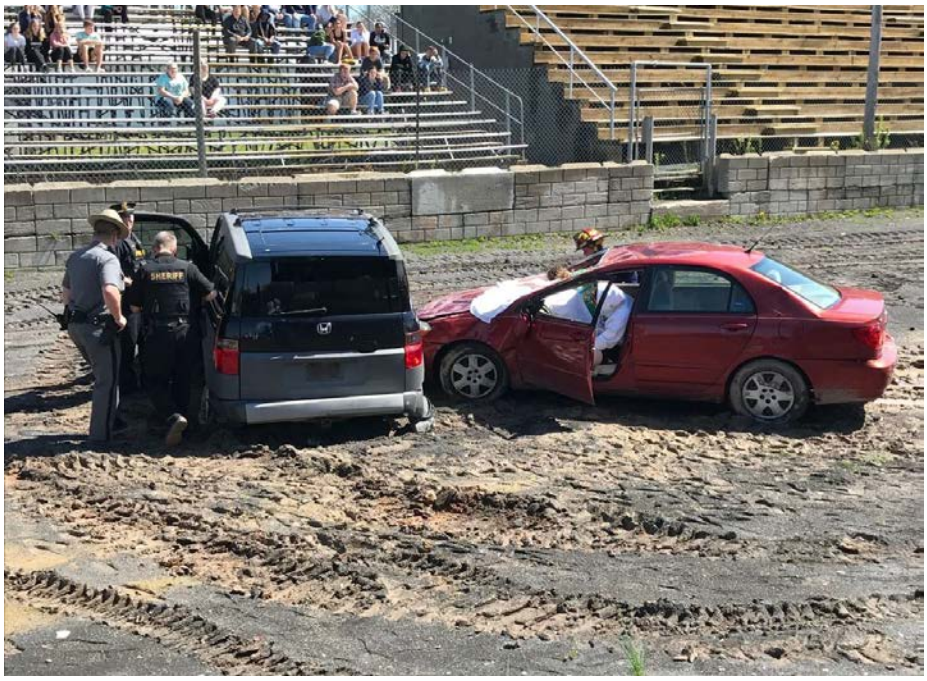
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

Citizen's Police Academy

Shop With a Sheriff Community Event

Deputies at a the Waterloo Rec Center for “Fun Day”

Raising Money for Special Olympics at the “Snow Bowl”



Mock DWI Crash reenactment for High Schoolers

The Sheriff Getting “Flushed” at the St. Mary’s Festival