

The Sheriff's

# STAR

Office of the Sheriff County of Monroe



SHERIFF PATRICK M. O'FLYNN

Summer/Fall Edition 2014

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

As the summer and fall come to a close, we look back on the last few months with great success and a strong desire to continue our important work. I hope that you were able to enjoy time with your family and friends over the summer months and no matter the season, I thank you for your hard work while on the job here at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

We have a unique opportunity to meet with so many individuals throughout the course of the year, and that is certainly true in the summer months.

Sometimes this interaction isn't always positive, but we remain committed to our core values of Respect, Integrity,

Teamwork, and Excellence because that is what we believe and what we stand for. All of our contacts are conducted with courtesy and compassion.

In this edition you will read about people both inside and outside our agency who help us achieve our goals and objectives. A lot of this work starts with you our valued employees. As I indicated at a promotional

ceremony earlier this year, we look to you to help us lead the Sheriff's Office.

I accept the ongoing challenge to make our agency the best it can be. With your continued hard work we will go above and

beyond to deliver the excellent quality of work that our residents expect and deserve. We head into the fall months with new beginnings for many children in our area, some are starting school for the first time and

we may encounter new college students who are here to call Rochester home. In some instances I hope their experiences will lead them to look for a career in law enforcement. We always look to bolster our workforce with the best and brightest in our community.



Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn

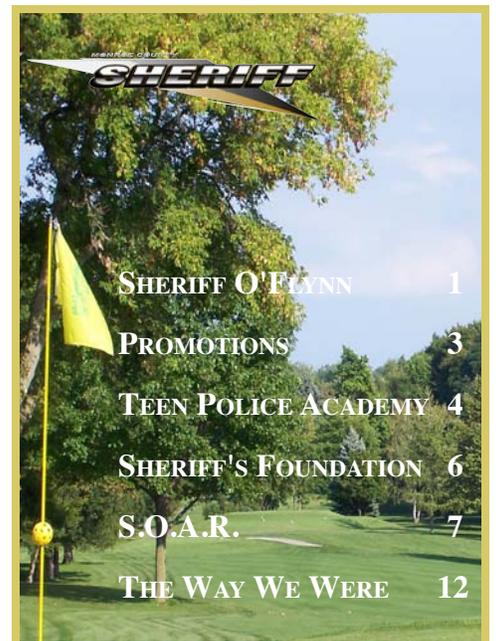
*"We will go above and beyond to deliver the excellent quality of work that our residents expect and deserve."*

## CALEA RECOGNITION

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office has been approved to be re-accredited by CALEA (the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) for the 8th time. Commander Dave Phelps and Accreditation Manager Roger Hake traveled to Chicago in July for three days of training with law enforcement personnel from all over the U.S. The conference concluded with a panel hearing in which CALEA commissioners questioned Phelps and Hake about the findings of the CALEA audit which took place here in April. The Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the re-accreditation of the Sheriff's Office. The commission was very complimentary of the high standards Sheriff O'Flynn has maintained. The commission specifically commented on the Sheriff's unique and innovative approach toward recruitment and hiring, and the office was also commended for its proactive involvement with the mentally ill.



## Inside The Star



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## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Thank you to the Lakeside Kiwanis club for recognizing members of law enforcement at a luncheon on June 24 at Jack's Place in Durand Eastman Park. Deputy Laura Michaels and Deputy David Southcott were both recognized for their outstanding efforts. In September of last year Southcott responded for a report of

a 71-year-old female who was having a heart attack near Rochester Tech Park. Deputy Southcott responded to the scene and immediately relieved the victim's son who had been performing CPR. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment. Had it not been for Southcott's actions, the victim would not have survived. Deputy

Michaels was recognized for her actions after a robbery in Livingston County. The suspect was spotted in Monroe County and deputies began to follow a vehicle. Deputy Michaels took the suspect into custody after he ran off the road and attempted to get into another car. The suspect was wanted for numerous robberies in this area.



*Captain Jeff Wagner, Captain Dave Inzana, Deputy Laura Michaels, Deputy David Southcott, County Executive Maggie Brooks, County Legislature President Jeff Adair, Captain Bob Clar, and Commander Dave Phelps.*

## ROCHESTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER AND UNITE ROCHESTER

Commander Phelps and Deputy Lakisha Walker attended a commencement ceremony in June at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC). Two of those graduates are MCSO cadets. Stephanie Medina and Precious Harris were hired this past winter as MCSO cadets because of their involvement with the REOC. Stephanie graduated from Rochester Early College High School, and Precious is a graduate of Monroe High School. The two were recognized because they completed the Pathways to Public Safety program at REOC. Both were given honors in June because of their academic achievements in the program. Precious received an Award of Excellence and Stephanie received an Award of Achievement. Congratulations to both of you! These achievements have been

highlighted not only internally through this newsletter, but by the Democrat and Chronicle's Editorial Board as part of an initiative called Unite Rochester. Several community leaders joined committees to talk about community, jobs, education, housing, and justice. The Sheriff has been leading this effort along with the Undersheriff and Commander Phelps. We always believed our workforce should reflect the diverse populations that exist within our community. We have strong and effective leadership in place to foster this type of diversity. We continue to work diligently within Civil Service law to hire minorities, we advocate for reform, and welcome the knowledge of dedicated individuals who understand the importance of engaging our minority population.



*Commander Dave Phelps, Precious Harris (left) Stephanie Medina (right).*

## JAIL BUREAU PROMOTIONS

The Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have many talented individuals on staff. These men and women step up to take on greater responsibilities as part of their careers.

Already in 2014 the Sheriff has promoted at least 15 individuals to higher ranks. The deputies who have been promoted since the last edition of this newsletter include;

### DEPUTIES PROMOTED:

Corporal Ronald Vignari to Sergeant  
Deputy Mario Gentile to Corporal  
Deputy Michael Zamiara to Corporal



## A VISIT FROM SCOTLAND

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to partner with colleges here at home and abroad to showcase all we do to help individuals in our community. On June 26, a professor from Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland visited the Monroe Correctional Facility in Brighton. Dr. Anne Schwan works with students and inmates at a local prison in Scotland. She was here in Monroe County to meet with Professor Ed Wiltse from Nazareth College. Professor Wiltse

has been conducting a program at MCF for the last 14 years called Crime in Literature. The program involves a review and discussion group about literature and crime. Dr. Schwan visited Ed Ignarri, the Director of Rehabilitation and Sabra Hickam, the Education Program Coordinator at MCF. Dr. Schwan is interested in using what we do as a model for a program she hopes to establish in Scotland.



*Ed Ignarri, Professor Ed Wiltse, Dr. Anne Schwan, and Sabra Hickam at MCF*

For a complete list of upcoming events or additional news and information go to:

[www.monroecountysheriff.info](http://www.monroecountysheriff.info)

[www.facebook.com/monroesheriffny](https://www.facebook.com/monroesheriffny)

<https://twitter.com/monroesheriffny>

[www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny](https://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny)



## SHERIFF'S OFFICE TEEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Sheriff's Office held its first ever teen academy the last week in July. More than 40 students from all over Monroe County participated in the week long event. This program was part of a competitive process and it taught young adults about what to expect should they pursue a career in law enforcement. These individuals learned all about the operation of the Sheriff's Office and they heard directly from the Sheriff, the Undersheriff, the Chief Deputy and others throughout the organization. Students participated in daily physical training. They were given a history lesson on the Sheriff's Office from Quartermaster/Historian Todd

Allen. They learned defensive tactics and the importance of team building. This program could not have been completed without the generosity of the Monroe County Sheriff's Foundation. They provided t-shirts for the students to wear, and Wegmans generously donated lunch that was provided on Friday of that week before a "graduation" ceremony. Earlier in the week the Sheriff shared a message with the students and said, "We hope that this experience will encourage you to continue your education and to look to us in the future as a place where you'll want to start your career, and progress." Undersheriff Sanborn





## JULY 28TH - AUGUST 1ST

also commented and said, "Everything that we do, we do with Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence. That's what is going to be expected during this program and I think you're going to see by the end how you can use those same core values in everything that you do, and that's going to bring you success." At Friday's graduation ceremony Sheriff O'Flynn said, "You are the best of the best. You really should be proud to be part of this class and thank you for all of the effort that you've put forward." This class was led under the direction of Deputies John Payne and Sal Latore. Deputy Payne said, "We were tasked with putting

together this teen academy and it's been nothing short of excellent for us." Several other deputies were part of this week long event including; Lt. John Ott, Matthew Bottone, Mike Anderson, Pete Zambuto, Vinnie Re, and many more. Some of the events during the week were captured on video and you can see that footage at [www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny](http://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny). The filming was also made possible thanks to the generosity of the Sheriff's Foundation. They purchased video equipment earlier in the year that is used by the Office of Communications.



## MISSING PERSONS CASE

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate a missing person case that is now seven years old. Family and friends of Brian Sullivan attended a press conference at the Sheriff's Office on Tuesday, July 8. Sheriff O'Flynn met with those in attendance to help spur and trigger information about Sullivan's case. He was last seen on July 8, 2007 at a Burger King in the Town of Gates. The Sullivan family has been gracious enough

to provide funding so that both a Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy and a Rochester Police Officer can attend training in Atlanta, Georgia that deals specifically with missing and unidentified persons. Last year the family presented the Sheriff's Office with a check for \$1,600 dollars so that an investigator could attend similar training in Wisconsin. Sheriff O'Flynn said, "The Sullivan's are not only committed to their son's case but also their concern

extends throughout the entire community by ensuring that the investigators receive the latest training in dealing with missing person cases." The Sheriff's Office continues to partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to help with this investigation. Anyone with information about Brian's case is asked to call 911. A portion of the Sheriff's remarks can be seen at <http://bit.ly/U3NaBN>



## MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S FOUNDATION

The Monroe County Sheriff's Foundation held its annual golf tournament on Monday July 14 at Midvale Country Club in Perinton. This is the largest and one of their most popular fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the Foundation. They help support the Sheriff's Office with numerous financial donations to help pay for equipment and resources that the county alone cannot fund. In the last year the Foundation has supported the purchase of a k-9 dog, high end video equipment and a mobile detection device which allows license plate reading and recording. Two

surveillance cameras were purchased as well as a Childs Photo ID system. Funds were also approved to help support the Youth Academy Program, Crime Stoppers, and the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester. Donations to the Foundation have helped enhance community service programs on crime prevention and the Foundation has also provided funding so that children can attend summer camp on Kueka Lake. Since their beginning they have also generously supported the D.A.R.E. program. For more information go to:

[www.monroecountysheriffsfoundation.org](http://www.monroecountysheriffsfoundation.org)



**S. O. A. R.** **BECOME A MEMBER**

Sheriff's Office Association Retirees (SOAR) want you. Are you preparing to retire or are you within two to three years from retirement? Are you sworn or civilian? If you are, you are invited to join a great social organization. SOAR membership is open to all retired and those who are near retirement. We meet four times a year to get together to see fellow employees for conversation and a meal.

We also try to keep tabs on contract issues both past and present. We stand in "Alliance" with all seven unions of the Sheriff's Office. Those of us who are retired can be there to answer questions for those of you who are planning to retire.

Most important, please come out and join us for the camaraderie that SOAR offers MCSO retirees four times a year.

For more information contact:  
[www.monroecountysoar.com](http://www.monroecountysoar.com)



**Retired Since Last Edition**

- Investigator Patrick Ponticello
- Deputy Kathleen Cahill-Staub
- Deputy Michael Heh
- Deputy Ronald Pignato
- Deputy Brian Reister
- Deputy Robert Smith
- Deputy Joseph Ciminelli

- Police Bureau
- Court Bureau
- Jail Bureau

**SENIOR CITIZENS ACADEMY**

Undersheriff Sanborn, Deputy Scott McKinney, Deputy Andy Hildreth, Captain Inzana, Sergeant Jeff Klein and others helped to kick off a senior academy June 19 in the Town of Gates. Members of the Sheriff's Office spoke to seniors at the YMCA on Elmgrove Road. Thirty-one seniors are part of this most recent academy. They toured areas of the Sheriff's Office and they learned all about our agency. They toured C-Zone on Union Street in Spencerport. They also visited areas of the Sheriff's Office including the Hall of Justice and the jail. They toured

the Public Safety Training Facility and they were driven in buses that are also used to transport inmates. Seniors heard from Civil Bureau Chief Gary Caprino and Sergeant Gombatto. They also heard from Quartermaster/Historian Todd Allen. During this academy we worked closely with the Gates Police, the YMCA of Greater Rochester and Lifespan. At the end of the eight week academy seniors are always impressed with how much they've learned about the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff O'Flynn helped to hand out graduation certificates and coffee mugs on August 7.



## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION VISITS MCF

Young men with the South West Area Neighborhood Association visited the Monroe Correctional Facility greenhouse on August 12. As part of their learning experience these young men, 14 and 15 years of age, planted small gardens in and around the City of Rochester. The South West Area Neighborhood Association invited the Sheriff's Office to their office on Dr.

Samuel McCree Way in the city the following day so we could see the volunteers plant the flowers they chose from the correctional facility. These young men are part of a program that focuses on entrepreneurial business and employment experience. Their program includes career exploration and success planning to achieve personal goals.



## CRIME PREVENTION CORNER

DEPUTY RICH TANTALO

Over the course of the year we post videos about crime prevention tips and tactics to help make sure you are not a victim of crime. Our first video talks about car larcenies. Monroe County is a safe community but unfortunately criminals come into our neighborhoods and shopping centers to take advantage of crimes of opportunity. Over time victims become complacent and they leave car doors and/or windows unlocked. This occurs when one might be out shopping or even at home.

People leave expensive personal items out in the open including; wallets, purses, cell phones and GPS units. Having these items out in your vehicle, and having your car unlocked could make you a target for this crime of opportunity. If you remember these basic crime prevention tips, you will make your car less of a target for a crime of opportunity. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is working today for a safer tomorrow.



[www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny](http://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny)



## SHERIFF'S STAR STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to Leighton Kessner, Alyssa VanDerMeid, and Cameron MacKenzie. They are recipients of this year's Sheriff's Star Student Awards. This is the 10th anniversary of the awards program and it's possible because of our partnership with the Monroe County Sheriff's Foundation and Time Warner Cable News. Leighton graduated in June from Pittsford Sutherland High School and he is attending Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio this fall. Alyssa graduated in June from Hilton High School and she is attending the University of Albany this fall. Cameron is a 9th grade student at Penfield High School.

Each student was presented with a check for \$500 dollars. The monies come from both the Monroe County Sheriff's Foundation and Time Warner Cable News. Sheriff O'Flynn said, "We're hoping that the awards and the checks that we provide will help make it a bit easier on the families and continue the efforts that these young people have shown. The Sheriff added, "We recognize both middle and high school students that have really distinguished themselves among their peers and also embody the core values of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office which are; Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence."



*Leighton Kessner*



*Cameron MacKenzie*



*Alyssa VanDerMeid*

**OUT AND ABOUT**

We are fortunate to interact with so many people in our community. Certainly this is achieved on a daily basis by our road patrol deputies, but many of us give back to the community simply by being volunteers. On June 14, Deputies Steven Thomsen, Tom Perkins, Mike Anderson, and Bob Murphy volunteered as "buddies" at the annual Challenger Baseball World Series at Frontier Field. The Sheriff helps several different local charity organizations including the Seneca Waterways Council, Boy Scouts of America. On May 16, despite being fairly windy, the Sheriff participated in a fundraiser where he rappelled down 21 stories from atop the First Federal Building in Downtown Rochester. On May 31 the Sheriff also helped to kick off the Strong Stroll for Kids on his motorcycle at Genesee Valley Park. Members of the jail bureau and the Sheriff's administration were also involved in the Eat Well Live Well Challenge. Captain Paul DeLella and Chief Deputy Drew Forsythe got a chance to interact with kids at a Project T.I.P.S. picnic in the City of Rochester.



*Project T.I.P.S.*



*Eat Well Live Well Challenge*



*Challenger Baseball World Series*



*Strong Stroll for Kids*



*21 stories for Scouts!*

## ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

The Sheriff and members of the jail bureau took part in the ALS Association's Ice Bucket Challenge on Friday, August 29. The Sheriff had been challenged by Maureen McGuire and Kevin Doran from News 8 and also by his colleague Sheriff Tom Dougherty of Livingston County. While it's protocol to accept the challenge within 24 hours, the jail bureau stepped up with financial donations and still proceeded to have big buckets of water dumped on them. The participants included; Sheriff O'Flynn, Superintendent Harling, Major Horan, Major Krenzer, Lieutenant DiMartino, and Deputy Guest. Prior to being dumped on the Sheriff said, "we are proud to donate to the ALS Association and hopefully be able to find a cure for this terrible disease as we go forward." To view video from the Ice Bucket Challenge head to a link on our You Tube page at <http://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny>. Volunteers who dumped water on the participants included; Undersheriff Sanborn, Lieutenant



McGowan, Deputy Story, Deputy Piano, Deputy Bevalaqua, Lynn DiMartino, and Jennifer Weidman. To donate to the ALS Association you can head to [www.alsa.org/donate](http://www.alsa.org/donate).

## SCHOOL'S OPEN-DRIVE CAREFULLY

The Sheriff attended a press conference hosted by the Triple A in Penfield on August 27 to remind people that a new school year is underway. The "School's Open-Drive Carefully" campaign is a joint initiative between local law enforcement and the Triple A. Motorists are reminded to use caution while out on the roadways since buses have returned. When a school bus comes to a stop, drivers are not allowed to pass. This campaign was first launched by the Triple A in 1946. The goal is to remind drivers to engage in safe behavior in school zones and residential neighborhoods. All of this is done to help reduce the number of school-related pedestrian injuries and fatalities. This message is crucial given the distractions that drivers face, and it's another reminder to motorists about the dangers of texting and driving. The Triple A says that research shows distracted driving is a growing problem. The Sheriff added, "we certainly don't want to be the agency that tells a mother or father they have lost a child due to someone being

careless or distracted behind the wheel." The Sheriff's Office and Triple A remind motorists about some useful safety tips; do not use cell phones while driving and slow down in school zones. Typically speed limits are reduced in those areas. Drivers should also be alert for people on bicycles. Students should have properly fitted helmets if they are riding to and from school with a bicycle. The Sheriff said, "When a flashing red stop sign goes up on the side of a school bus, that's just like any other stop sign in Monroe County. If drivers are caught running that sign, they will be ticketed."



## THE WAY WE WERE NOT

Compiled by Quartermaster Todd C. Allen  
AGENCY HISTORIAN

In my book, "The History of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office", I recount an execution conducted on December 3, 1858 by Sheriff Hiram Smith. This was based on a data base I had found that listed all of the executions conducted in the State of New York. This data base indicated the referenced execution as being conducted in the County of Monroe and was a previously unknown event.

A month or so ago; I received a letter from a historian from Germany who was writing the history of the Town of Wiebeck. She found the same data base and contacted me for more information as the person executed was a former resident of this Hamlet.

Thus began the arduous task of trying to confirm the information from the data base and find more details. This literally took weeks and several hours of pouring through micro fiche of Rochester Newspapers with no luck.

I enlisted the Rare Books, Local History Section of the Rush-Rhees Library at the University of Rochester which located the data base but had no further information on the incident. Working with Librarian Melissa Mead, a website was located and I was able to locate the following article.

The reason for the title "The Way We Were Not" is because the execution was not conducted in Monroe County, but Orange County which (if you watched Orange County Choppers) you may know has a Town of Monroe. Hence, this is from where I believe the error came.

That's all well and good, but I think that some of the following verbatim transcript is a good look back into our history as well, and I thought you'd like to read it as our Sheriffs who (correctly) conducted a total of seven executions, may have had the same experience.

**FROM: THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE,  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1858**

**"EXECUTION OF WM. SCHWITZER, ALIAS SANDERS"**

The Rev. Mr. Steimle offered a prayer and a hymn was sung by all present, and while all in the room were very much affected, the prisoner sang with as firm a voice as though he was an unconcerned spectator. After this ceremony he conversed with the clergymen and other present in a most composed manner. The only evidence of excitement was a quicker pace than usual. He expressed the kindest feelings toward the District Attorney, Mr. G.F. Godfrey, Judge Duryea and others and said he was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which the trial had been conducted. He shook hands with all present and bade them farewell. When the Sheriff came in to pinion his arms and put the cap upon



his head, he rose cheerfully and evidenced no emotion whatever. Beside his confession, he wrote several letters which show a most intimate knowledge of the Bible, and he seems to have been a very well educated German.

At 11 1/2 a.m., all the preparations being made, the victim was brought into the room; he walked between two clergymen with a firm and steady step and took his place beneath the scaffold upon which he was to suffer.

A prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Snodgrass and another prayer in German by the Rev. Mr. Steimle. The prisoner then dropped to his knees and poured forth a most fervent supplication, affecting many who were present to tears.

He expressed great contrition for his sins and asked God to forgive him and give him strength to die as a penitent and believing man. He rose to his feet and listened to the reading of the sentence, calm and unmoved, as though he was the one least interested in the contents.

The District Attorney, Mr. Godfrey, then informed him that his last hour had arrived; that in accordance with the law, he was about to expiate his crimes by death; and, if he had anything to say, he could have the opportunity.

In reply, Sanders said that he wished to thank all people for their kindness to him during his confinement and he begged all persons whom he had offended, also the Courts of Justice, to forgive him.

His last wish was that the pistols with which he committed the dreadful deed might be destroyed, so that no man hereafter might be able to do any injury with them.

He then shook hands for the last time with those around him and bade them farewell.