

NIAGARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



SHERIFF MICHAEL J. FILICETTI

WWW.NIAGARASHERIFF.COM





**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COUNTY OF NIAGARA**

5526 Niagara Street Ext.
P.O Box 496
Lockport, New York 14095-0496

Michael J. Filicetti
Sheriff

Michael P. Dunn
Undersheriff

(716) 438-3370

**CONTACT NUMBERS FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALL EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911**

Non-Emergencies
716-438-3393 24-hours

Canine Division
716-438-3403

Civil Process
716-438-3423

Crime Scene Investigation
716-438-3347

Community Services Division
716-438-3310

Domestic Violence
716-438-3301

Drug Task Force
716-439-4442

Marine Division
716-438-3346

Niagara County Correctional Facility
716-438-3436 or 716-438-3446

Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy
716-614-6830

Niagara County Office of Traffic Safety
716-438-3464

Niagara County STOP-DWI
716-438-3331

Records Division
www.buycrash.com
(Accident Reports) 716-438-3388
(Police Reports) 716-438-3416

Sex Offender Management
716-438-3314

Victim Services Unit
716-438-3306

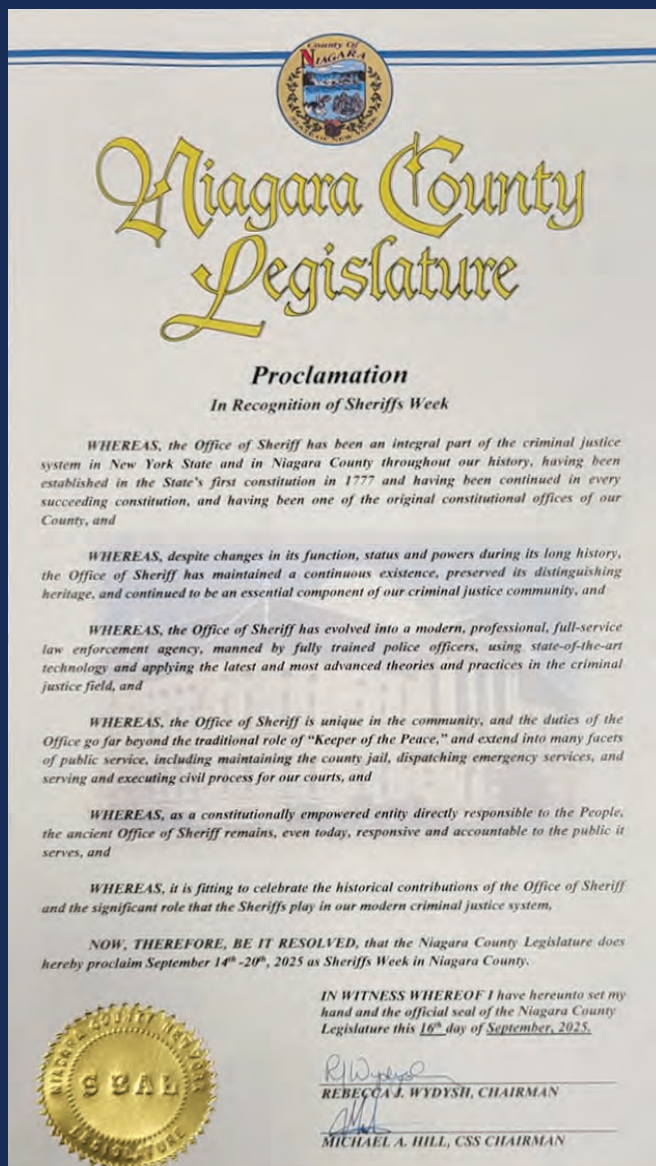
Warrants Division
716-438-3344 or 716-438-3323

Welfare Fraud Unit
716-438-3318 or 716-438-3409

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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office is to secure for the people of Niagara County the conditions that will bring about and sustain the full measure of the benefits of citizenship in a democratic society of laws by safeguarding life and property, preserving the peace, preventing and detecting crime, enforcing the law, and protecting the rights of all citizens.



Vision Statement

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office shall provide the finest and most professional public safety services to the residents of and visitors to Niagara County. We will work in unison with the community and other law enforcement agencies. We shall demand of ourselves the highest standards of honesty and integrity as we uphold all laws for which we are responsible.

The Office of the Sheriff shall maintain a safe, secure and cost effective jail that recognizes the dignity of all individuals, while adhering to all constitutional standards and regulatory guidelines.

We are committed to preventing crime and protecting life and property; preserving peace, order and safety; enforcing laws and ordinances and safeguarding constitutional guarantees. We recognize that our employees are our most valued assets and we recognize that diversity is strength.

By utilizing the most extensive education and technology available, the Office of the Sheriff will faithfully serve the people of Niagara County to the best of our ability with steadfast honor and dedication.

From the Sheriff



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF COUNTY OF NIAGARA

5526 Niagara Street Ext.
P.O. Box 496
Lockport, New York 14095-0496

Michael J. Filicetti
Sheriff

Michael P. Dunn
Undersheriff

(716) 438-3370

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to present the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Annual Report to the community. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the work accomplished over the past year and to share how the men and women of the Sheriff's Office continue to serve and protect the residents of Niagara County each and every day.

The mission of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office is to protect life and property, maintain public order, and provide professional law enforcement and correctional services with integrity, fairness, and respect for all. This mission is not simply a statement on paper—it is carried out daily by the dedicated deputies, correction officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff who proudly serve this community. Their professionalism, commitment, and willingness to go above and beyond ensure that Niagara County remains a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

Public safety today requires constant awareness and preparation. Our office closely monitors trends and incidents occurring across the country so that we can anticipate emerging threats and adapt our strategies accordingly. By learning from events nationwide, we are able to proactively implement measures that enhance the safety and security of our community. Over the past year, we introduced several important safety initiatives based on those observations. The Sheriff's Office established a Domestic Terrorism Prevention Team focused on identifying potential threats, improving intelligence sharing, and strengthening our ability to prevent acts of targeted violence. We also invested in new safety barricades designed to protect large public gatherings and special events throughout Niagara County. These barriers provide an additional layer of security for residents and visitors attending community events. This office is also very active in the Niagara Threat Advisory Group (NITAG), which is a collaborative partnership network founded in August 2021 by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office to identify and mitigate potential threats of violence. Additionally, members of our office have continued to deliver active shooter awareness and response presentations to schools, businesses, and community organizations, helping ensure that individuals and institutions are better prepared should a critical incident occur.

This year also marked the first full year of instruction at the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy (NCLEA). The academy has become an important training hub for our region, preparing both police recruits and correction officers for the responsibilities they will face in their careers. Through comprehensive classroom instruction, hands-on training, and scenario-based exercises, the academy ensures that new officers begin their service with the knowledge, skills, and professionalism required in modern law enforcement and corrections. In addition to recruit training, the academy has hosted a variety of specialized training opportunities for law enforcement professionals across Niagara County and the region. These programs allow officers to continue developing their skills throughout their careers and ensure our agencies remain prepared to respond to the evolving challenges facing public safety today. The success of the academy in its first year reflects our strong commitment to training, professionalism, and continuous improvement.

While new initiatives and expanded training opportunities are important, the foundation of our success remains the people of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Every day, our personnel demonstrate professionalism, courage, and compassion in their service to the public. Whether responding to emergencies, maintaining the safety and security of our correctional facility, assisting victims, or supporting community programs, their dedication makes a difference in the lives of our residents. I am proud of the work accomplished this year and grateful for the continued support of the community we serve. Together, we will remain committed to proactive policing, strong partnerships, and the highest standards of public service.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in the Niagara County Sheriff's Office.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Filicetti".

Michael J. Filicetti
Sheriff of Niagara County

Niagara County Sheriff's Office Administration



Michael J. Filicetti
Sheriff



Michael P. Dunn
Undersheriff



Robert M. Richards
Chief Deputy



Aaron C. Schultz
Chief Deputy



Anthony R. Suess
Chief Jail Administrator



Jeffrey S. Kolbe
Deputy Chief Jail Administrator



Elizabeth A. Dunn
Administrative Supervisor



Laura K. Moll
Confidential Secretary



2025 Retirements

More Than 230 Combined Years of Service!



Kristen Mack
33 Years of Service
Crime Victims Advocate



Robin Zastrow
27 Years of Service
Sheriff Dispatcher



Roger Yurek
27 Years of Service
Senior Sheriff Dispatcher



Sean Furey
25 Years of Service
DS Lieutenant



Jeffrey McAuliffe
25 Years of Service
DS Criminal Investigator



Brian Allen
25 Years of Service
Corrections Officer



Jeffrey Newman
22 Years of Service
Corrections Officer



Raymond Tracy
21 Years of Service
Deputy Sheriff



Amanda Irons-Rindfleisch
20 Years of Service
DS Criminal Investigator



Darcy Payne
5 Years of Service
Clerical III

2025 Niagara County Sheriff's Office Promotions



Becky Disbrow
Account Clerical III
January



Raymond Yurek
Senior Dispatcher
January



Aaron Coney
DS Lieutenant
February



Derek Pacheco
DS Criminal Investigator
April



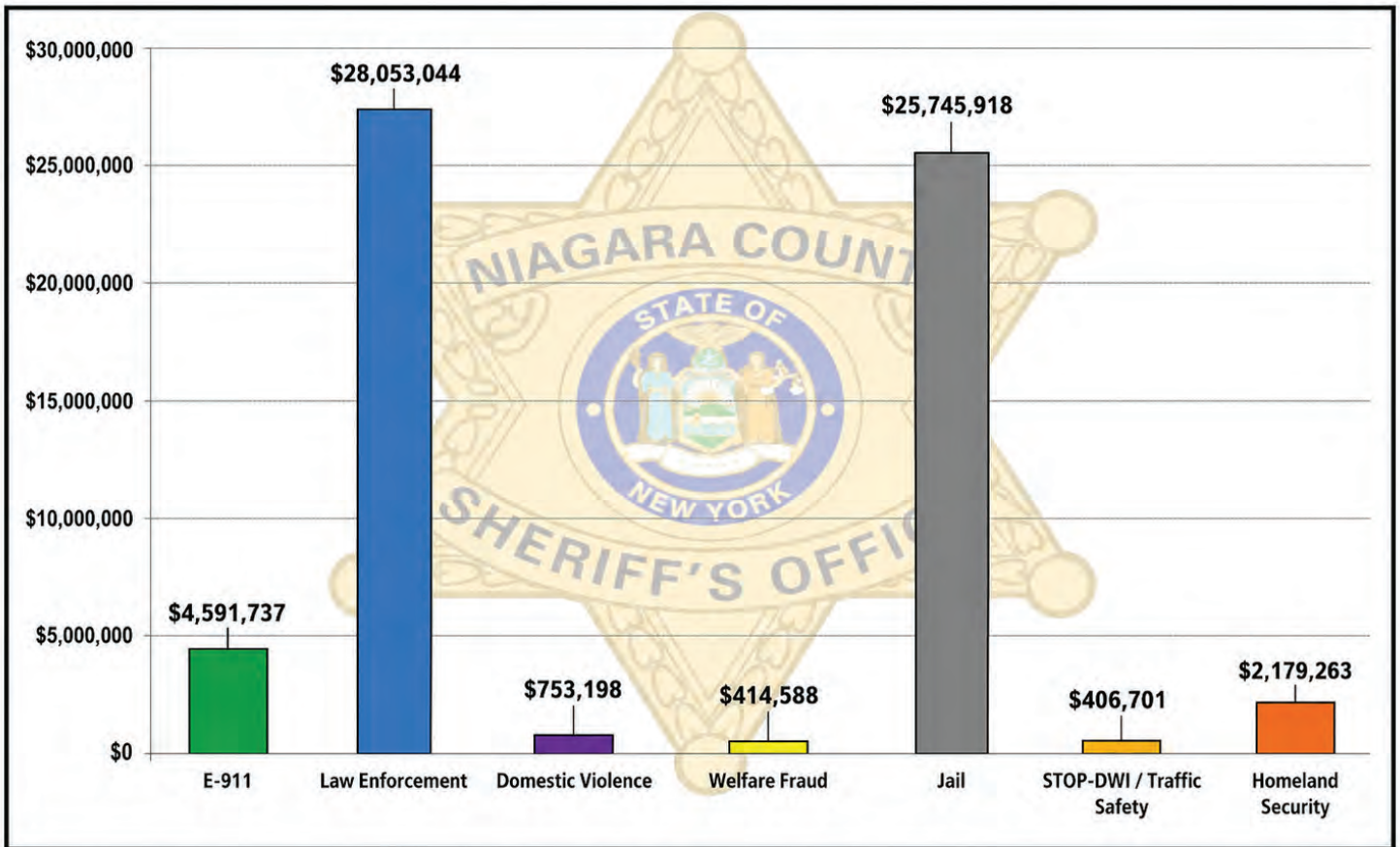
Kirrin Cook
Property-Evidence Clerk
May



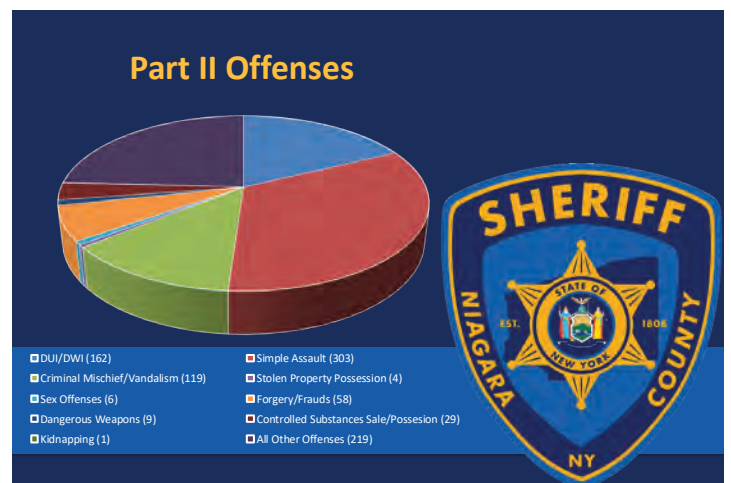
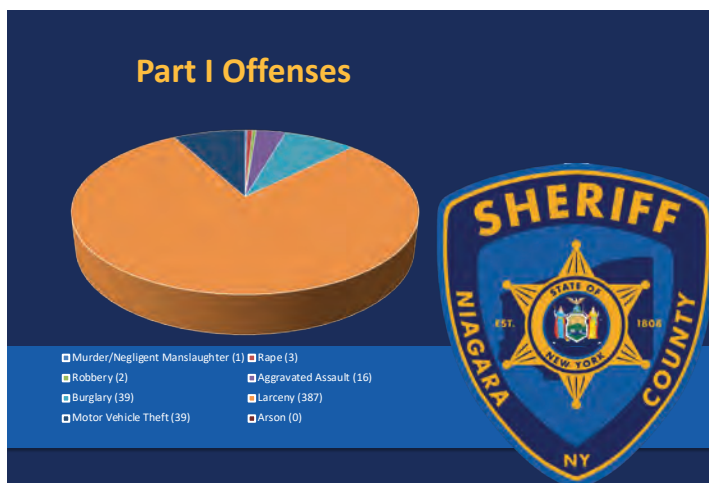
Alexander Hall
DS Criminal Investigator
October

SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET 2025

\$62,144,449.00



CRIME DATA



Communications Division

Often working behind the scenes, Dispatchers working inside the Communications Division serve as the critical link between the public and emergency services. Their work requires constant focus, quick decision-making, and the ability to provide clear direction during some of the most stressful moments a caller may ever face.

To meet the growing demands of public safety, the Communications Division continues to train and enhance the center through ongoing education and technology upgrades. These improvements strengthen daily operations and help ensure deputies, law enforcement partners, and first responders receive timely, accurate information when it matters most.

While not always the most visible component of the Sheriff's Office, the Communications Division remains one of the most important. In 2025 alone, the Division fielded 272,930 phone calls and dispatched 176,052 calls for service to law enforcement and first responders across Niagara County—demonstrating the scale, responsibility, and essential nature of their mission every day.

THANK YOU TO OUR DISPATCHERS!



Corrections Division

The Niagara County Corrections Division is the largest division within the Sheriff's Office. The Niagara County Correctional Facility is fully dedicated to the citizens of the community in its efforts to provide and maintain a safe and secured facility in order to lawfully detain and house inmates. A total of 2,904 inmates were booked into the Niagara County Correctional Facility throughout 2025. The Correction Officers logged a total of 11,332 hours of training in 2025 which is a significant increase from 2024. These trainings help to maintain a professional and well-trained correctional staff who are a critical component to operating a safe and efficient facility.

Another important component of the Niagara County Correctional Facility is the Corrections Emergency Response Team or C.E.R.T. Members of this highly trained team continue to attend trainings to learn new or expand upon existing techniques for de-escalating violent and/or dangerous situations. C.E.R.T responded to 4,378 calls throughout 2025.

In 2025, programs offered to Incarcerated Individuals were once again successful through the efforts of staff and BOCES. Building Trades and Culinary programs continue to be offered, in addition to General Equivalency Diploma courses. Also in 2025 Financial Literacy certificates were earned. The Niagara County Correctional Facility was able to expand the college courses offered again to incarcerated individuals by adding Psychology 102, Creative Writing and American Music History to their already existing college courses offered. A new program was introduced called Project Blue with PeacePrints. These programs have aided with obtaining proper documents for Incarcerated Individuals upon their release. Programs offered within the Niagara County Correctional Facility play a critical role in reducing recidivism and assist Incarcerated Individuals gain employment when released.

The Niagara County Corrections Division has had ongoing success with the Pawsitive for Heroes program. In a partnership with the Niagara County SPCA and WNY Heroes this program brings shelter dogs to the Niagara County Correctional Facility where they are paired with an incarcerated individual who will complete a rigorous training program with their partner. After completing their program, the dogs will continue their journey to serve with a Western New York Veteran. The program started with just 3 dogs in 2021, 2 from the Niagara County SPCA and 1 through WNY Heroes. Since its inception the program has trained multiple dogs and had several be the team dog for the Buffalo Sabres.

Many of the Correction Officers have other important roles they fulfill outside of the correctional facility. Some officers are Niagara County All-Star Instructors that teach and educate fifth grade students on ways to stay away from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and to prevent bullying, as well as internet safety. Correction Officers also volunteer their time working many of our events throughout the community.



NCLEA

In 2025, the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy (NCLEA) at SUNY Niagara completed its first full year of instruction. NCLEA serves as Niagara County's Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) approved training facility for law enforcement officers.

NCLEA currently operates a full-time academy for sworn police officers, correction officers and eligible pre-employment candidates. In addition to the basic course offerings, NCLEA serves as a centrally located facility for in-service training, specialized training, and public events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Trunk or Treat.

NCLEA is supported through partnerships between the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, the Niagara Falls Police Department and SUNY Niagara; and has already made a substantial impact in the quality of training provided to our areas law enforcement professionals.



LCTV

In March of 2020, Sheriff Filicetti began a partnership with Lockport Community Television to help inform the community about the many facets of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office.

This monthly program has highlighted our response to the pandemic, our many various divisions, law enforcement and community partnerships, and much more. NCSO is the only known Sheriff's Office in the state with a monthly television show, and we are proud to provide this informative service to our community with more than 60 shows to date. To view past episodes, visit LCTV on Demand by scanning the QR code!



Domestic Terrorism Prevention Team

In response to incidents occurring nationwide, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Niagara County Office of Emergency Management to purchase Meridian Mission Critical Mobile Barriers for deployment at large outdoor events throughout Niagara County. These barriers are designed to prevent vehicles from entering crowded areas, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Many residents likely observed these barriers in use during festivals and community gatherings across the county throughout the summer and fall seasons.

To further enhance public safety, the Sheriff's Office established the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Team to assist municipalities with safety planning and the coordinated deployment of these barriers. This initiative aims to reduce the risk of harm at public events and strengthen protective measures for residents and visitors.

In addition to these efforts, the Sheriff's Office coordinates the Niagara Threat Advisory Group (NITAG). NITAG was among the first three Threat Assessment Teams established in New York State and was proactively initiated by Niagara County in recognition of the growing need to address domestic terrorism and targeted violence at the local level. Stakeholders involved in NITAG continue to build upon the success of this initiative by strengthening interagency collaboration and expanding partnerships with businesses and community organizations throughout the county.

NITAG serves as the central hub for information sharing, consultation, and coordinated response, developing balanced intervention and case management strategies for situations involving credible threats of targeted violence. The group is also committed to expanding public access to reporting mechanisms to ensure potential threats are identified promptly and



and Community Safety Initiatives

referred to the appropriate agencies for action. This proactive, collaborative approach supports early intervention and enhances community-wide prevention efforts.

The Sheriff's Office also offers several additional community safety initiatives, including Stop the Bleed, Community Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE), and ongoing public outreach related to domestic terrorism prevention. The Stop the Bleed program is taught by certified instructors and provides critical training that equips individuals with lifesaving skills to control severe bleeding during emergencies until first responders arrive.

CRASE training is delivered in partnership with law enforcement agencies and is offered to businesses, schools, and community organizations. This program prepares participants to respond effectively during active shooter incidents by emphasizing situational awareness, rapid evacuation when possible, and strategies for securing and barricading when evacuation is not feasible. As a last resort, the training addresses methods to confront an active threat. Stop the Bleed instruction is incorporated into CRASE, ensuring participants are also prepared to render immediate medical aid.

Finally, the Sheriff's Office maintains regular engagement with the public to promote awareness, communication, and education. Through community events and social media outreach, the Office provides relevant information and resources related to domestic terrorism prevention and the role the public can play in identifying and reporting concerns. These efforts are intended to keep the community informed, engaged, and empowered to contribute to collective safety and prevention initiatives.



Community Services Division

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office continues to make a positive impact throughout the community. The Community Services Division provides a wide range of services and presentations to the community. These services include: crime prevention initiatives, social media campaigns, community presentations, Yellow Dot, the Disability Decal Program, and many more. We are involved in events throughout the year to include parades, trunk or treat events, egg hunts, community days, the Niagara County Fair, and much more that garnishes familiarity and trust within the community.

Programs such as Building Bridges, All Students Taking Action and Responsibility (All-Star), and the Explorers Post build relationships with Law Enforcement and youth. The School Resource Officer (SRO) role continues to provide safety to our schools and further the impact we are having on our local kids. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office currently holds 5 SRO positions, with deputies assigned at Newfane Central School District, Wilson Central School District, Starpoint Central School District, Niagara Charter School, and Niagara BOCES Career and Technical Education Center. These deputies serve a unique role as a police officer, counselor, and educator for the students and staff in their schools.

A community that knows it's Sheriff's Office, trusts its Sheriff's Office. We pride ourselves on our outreach and positive interactions, and are looking forward to another great year as we plan our upcoming events!



Building Bridges

Building Bridges, an annual program established in 2020, continues to foster relationships between children from the City of Niagara Falls and law enforcement in social settings, rather than police related instruction. This year once again provided many positive experiences shared by law enforcement and the children! A group of approximately 20 kids joined members of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, Niagara Falls Police Department, and Environmental Conservation Police for a week filled with activities.

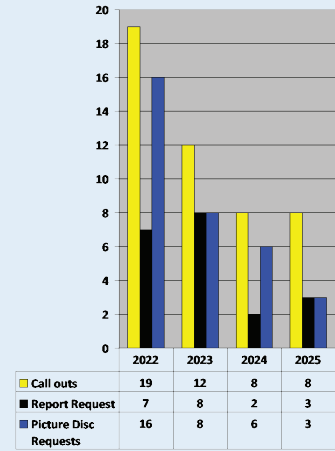
During the course of the week there were countless positive interactions between law enforcement and the youths, which aids in developing trust in our community. The events this past year included a trip to the Power Vista, mini-golf, arcade games, ice skating, fishing, an ice cream outing, a picnic, and even a boat ride with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol! We thank the Packard Court Community Center, as well as the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, for allowing us to use their facility. We are greatly appreciative to our community sponsors who make this possible. We are looking forward to another fun filled week this upcoming year to deepen the bonds we have been establishing!



AIU Team

Throughout 2025, the Accident Investigation Unit (AIU) sustained its readiness to investigate complex motor vehicle collisions while providing critical support to criminal investigations across Niagara County. The unit continued to rely on the FARO Focus Premium 350-meter Laser Scanner as its primary scene documentation tool, leveraging advanced features such as remote operation and real-time scan review via Android tablet.

FARO Scene software was utilized to process and visualize raw scan data, while FARO Zone 3D enabled the creation of precise, to-scale diagrams for investigative and evidentiary use. Together, these technologies ensured accurate, efficient, and high-quality scene reconstruction.



Criminal Investigation Bureau

Handling serious and complex criminal cases throughout the county, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) remained a vital component of investigative operations. Investigators conducted thorough and professional casework involving major offenses, while maintaining strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve successful outcomes.

By incorporating modern investigative techniques and technology, the Bureau enhanced case development and prosecution efforts, continuing its mission to protect the community and pursue justice with integrity and professionalism.



Emergency Response Team

Maintaining a high level of preparedness, the Niagara County Emergency Response Team (ERT) focused on ongoing training, equipment enhancements, and strengthening team cohesion. Members participated in advanced training initiatives to improve tactical proficiency in both controlled and real-world environments.

During the year, the team successfully completed its re-accreditation process, securing certification for an additional five-year period and reaffirming adherence to established professional standards. Through continued collaboration and commitment to improvement, ERT remains well-equipped to respond to critical incidents.

Civil Division

Serving the agencies and residents of Niagara County, the Civil Division maintained its commitment to delivering professional, efficient, and legally compliant civil process services. All responsibilities were executed in strict accordance with New York State statutes, specifically the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR), ensuring consistency, accuracy, and procedural integrity in every action.





Marine Division

Boating activity across Niagara County remained steady throughout the year, with continued popularity in canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. Activity trends indicated increased usage along the Upper Niagara River, while Lake Ontario saw a slight decline.

The Marine Patrol responded to nine Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents—an increase from six in the previous year—and assisted a total of thirty-eight individuals. Deputies also issued twenty-five citations and one hundred thirty-six warnings for boating violations. Additionally, the division supported response efforts in a fatal boating accident investigated by the New York State Parks Police.

Maintenance Division

Responsible for the upkeep of all agency facilities, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Maintenance Division plays a vital role in daily operations. The division's personnel handle a wide range of responsibilities, including routine repairs, preventative maintenance, and groundskeeping.

Despite the complexity of maintaining multiple facilities, the team consistently performs its duties with efficiency and reliability. Their contributions ensure a safe and functional environment, supporting the operational needs of the entire agency.

Information Technology Division

Overseeing the technological infrastructure of the agency, the Information Technology Division ensures that all critical systems remain operational, secure, and efficient. In an environment of rapidly advancing technology, the division continues to demonstrate adaptability and technical expertise.

Their efforts support the reliability of essential systems used daily by personnel, and their ongoing commitment to innovation and problem-solving remains invaluable to the agency's success.



Warrants Division

Demonstrating strong enforcement efforts in 2025, members of the Warrants Division executed over 200 warrants and conducted numerous felony warrant investigations. The division worked in close coordination with multiple partner agencies, including the Drug Task Force, Criminal Investigation Bureau, Lockport Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, New York State Parole, and Niagara County Probation.

In May, division personnel were deputized as U.S. Marshals Task Force Officers with the NY/NJ Violent Felony Fugitive Task Force, significantly enhancing operational capabilities. Over a seven-month period, they participated in several high-profile apprehensions, including cases involving homicide and sex offenses, and contributed to resolving a cold case dating back to 1999.



Special Operations Unit

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit experienced one of its most productive years in recent history, completing 62 missions—the highest operational activity since 2010. Unit personnel also enhanced their capabilities by attending an Airborne Thermographer Certification Course in Toronto, where they received advanced training in helicopter patrol tactics, K9 support, suspect behavior, and pursuit management.

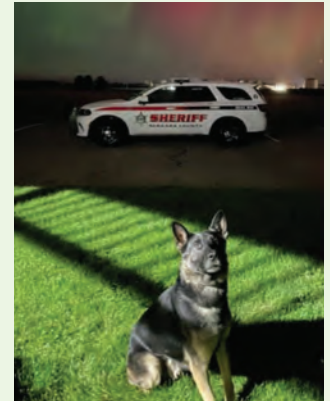
The Aviation Unit further supported community engagement efforts by participating in multiple public relations events and coordinated flyovers for memorials, ceremonies, and community programs. These combined operational and outreach efforts reflect the unit's continued commitment to public safety, professionalism, and community involvement.

Canine Division

Providing critical support to patrol and investigative operations, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit maintained a high level of performance and professionalism. K9 Shongo and his handler achieved notable results, including narcotics seizures, a confirmed track, and a firearm recovery, while responding to 742 calls for service and deploying 56 times.

K9 Reggie and his handler handled 1,489 calls for service, conducted 145 deployments, and completed 704 hours of training, contributing to 25 arrests. K9 Atom, the unit's third canine, continued to support operations through training and readiness in tracking, detection, and apprehension roles.

Collectively, the K9 Unit remains a vital asset in enhancing public safety, supporting deputies in the field, and fostering positive community engagement.



Road Patrol

As the foundation of the agency's law enforcement services, the Road Patrol Division continued to provide around-the-clock protection to residents and visitors throughout Niagara County. Deputies handled a wide variety of calls for service, conducted proactive patrols, and enforced both traffic and criminal laws.

With an emphasis on community engagement, public service and professionalism, personnel consistently delivered high-quality service to the citizens and visitors of Niagara County. Their continued dedication and vigilance uphold the agency's standards and reinforce public trust.



Niagara County Drug Task Force (DTF)

Focused on combating illegal drug activity, the Niagara County Drug Task Force (DTF) continued to play a key role in enhancing public safety. Operating as a multi-jurisdictional unit, the DTF handled 442 cases, resulting in 188 arrests and the execution of 200 search warrants.

These enforcement efforts led to the seizure of substantial quantities of narcotics, along with numerous weapons, vehicles, and \$907,618 in U.S. currency. Through strong interagency collaboration and adherence to professional investigative standards, the DTF remains instrumental in reducing crime and improving quality of life.



NITAG

In 2021, a rise in targeted violence and mass shootings across the nation prompted Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti to establish the Niagara Threat Advisory Group (NITAG). NITAG is a collaborative, community-based partnership that brings together representatives from corporations, schools, social service agencies, mental health professionals, and local and federal law enforcement. Its purpose is to identify, assess, and mitigate potential threats before they escalate into acts of violence.



When individuals who may pose a potential threat are reported to NITAG, the group works collaboratively to assess the level of risk and determine an appropriate course of action to manage the situation. NITAG members utilize established threat assessment and intervention strategies to reduce potential threats. In many cases, this process connects referred individuals with appropriate mental health and support services. NITAG does not conduct law enforcement activities; its mission is focused on intervention, coordination, and prevention.

If you have knowledge of a suspected, planned, or openly expressed act of targeted violence, call 911 immediately. For all other concerns or referrals, please email NITAG@niagaracounty.com or visit www.niagaratag.com for more information.

Explorers

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 2911 provides young adults ages 16 to 20 with a structured opportunity to gain meaningful exposure to the field of law enforcement. The program offers a comprehensive, hands-on educational experience that introduces participants to a wide range of law enforcement concepts and practices, while fostering personal growth, discipline, and leadership skills.



Explorers meet weekly on Mondays for a 15-week session during the academic year. The curriculum follows a paramilitary-style format and combines classroom instruction with practical training exercises and participation in real-world events. Two sessions are offered annually: a spring session based in Niagara Falls and a fall session held in Lockport.

Under the leadership of Captain Daniel Zimmerman and Investigator Alexander Hall, Explorer Post 2911 has grown into a highly successful program. Since 2017, more than twenty former Explorers have gone on to pursue careers with law enforcement agencies throughout the region.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 2911 are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office at 716-438-3310, email NCSD@niagaracounty.gov, or visit niagarasheriff.com for additional information.

The Consortium for Safe Communities

The Consortium for Safe Communities is a coalition of diverse voices—crime victims, clergy, business leaders, community groups, law enforcement, local government, medical and legal professionals, and everyday citizens—united by a common purpose: to create a safer New York for all. They were established to address the public safety crisis that currently plagues New York. The Consortium for Safe Communities addresses the unintended and violent consequences of well-intentioned but flawed criminal justice reforms implemented since 2018, particularly bail reform, that have reached unprecedented levels. The following are the prioritized initiatives of the Consortium for Safe Communities:

1. Risk of Public Safety Standard. New York State is the only state in the nation that does not empower judges to detain individuals when they pose a threat to the community, and release them once the danger is mitigated. We ask that this be remedied.
2. Introduce a “Repeat Offender Standard” to ensure public safety by immediately detaining individuals re-arrested while out on appearance tickets or their own recognizance; subject to judicial review within 144 hours (160 on weekends). This status would apply to A-misdemeanors and above, without differentiation between qualifying and non-qualifying offenses.
3. Review and draft “Clean Law” to uphold the positive intentions of bail reform while safeguarding constituents from individuals who persist in criminal activities. The law should be easily understood by the entire community and those directly involved, including judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victims, and defendants.
4. Opposition for Elder Parole Legislation – currently in committees in both houses, this legislation would provide for convicted criminals to be considered for parole, regardless of the sentence handed down by a judge based upon their age. This concept is dangerous, arbitrary, and re-victimizes.

In June of 2024, the Niagara County Consortium for Safe Communities was initiated to encourage expansion and group growth. The group continued to expand and meet in 2025. This past year Sheriff Filicetti, Chief Suess, and District Attorney Brian Seaman hosted a meeting at the Sheriff’s Office. Please consider following the QR code, or go to StopCrimeNY.com, to support this initiative.



Niagara County Law Enforcement Foundation

The Niagara County Law Enforcement Foundation was founded in 1998 by former Sheriff Thomas A. Beilein and Undersheriff Samuel J. Muscarella Jr. with the goal to support local law enforcement efforts not funded by tax payer dollars. The Foundation funds projects that support public safety and provides increased safety to the citizens of Niagara County and beyond.

Tax deductible contributions are used by the Foundation to support countless programs such as ALL S.T.A.R., (Students Taking Action and Responsibility) police officer training programs, crime prevention, officer memorial services and assistance programs. The Foundation has provided direct contributions to ALL S.T.A.R., Emergency Response and K-9 unit at the Niagara County Sheriff’s Office for equipment and services available to all law enforcement agencies countywide.

Donations to the Foundation provide county residents, as well as everyone, a chance to partner with law enforcement to assist in our fight to combat crime and assist the dedicated men and women who lead the fight. Your tax deductible contribution to assist this worthwhile cause can be made to the NIAGARA COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION and mailed to P.O. Box 496, Lockport, New York 14095. In addition, you can visit www.NiagaraSheriff.com and click on the “About NCSO” tab located on our homepage. There, you will see a “Resources” tab providing a link to the Niagara County Law Enforcement Foundation’s webpage for an opportunity to donate using PayPal.



Thank you for your continued support to the Niagara County Law Enforcement Foundation!

Outreach Programs

OffenderWatch® Program

The Sheriff's office is pleased to provide **OffenderWatch®** for the citizens of Niagara County. Niagara County's law enforcement utilizes **OffenderWatch®** to manage and monitor the whereabouts, conduct, and compliance status of the registered offenders in Niagara County.

For more information, please visit our website at www.niagarasheriff.com. Once you are on the website, click on the "Sex Offenders" tab located on the homepage. This site will provide interactive information on how to search, map, and sign up for email and text alerts on all of the convicted registered sex offenders in Niagara County. This information is also available on the Sheriff's Office mobile app and available for download on an Apple or Android device by searching Niagara County Sheriff, NY. For more information please contact the Sex Offender Management Office at 716-438-3314 or visit www.NiagaraSheriff.com



Domestic Violence Intervention Program/Victim Assistance Unit

The Domestic Violence Intervention Program assisted in 2,775 Domestic Incidence Reports in 2025. This program continues to provide outreach and advocacy to all victims of domestic violence through various forms of communication. The Domestic Violence Intervention Programs handles the Domestic Incidence Reports from all the Law Enforcement Agencies throughout Niagara County.

The Victim Assistance Unit also assists the Domestic Violence Intervention Program with outreach services. In addition, 2,857 criminal cases were opened where the Victims Assistance Unit provided services such as home visits, transportation, court advocacy, information regarding the criminal justice system and compensation claims through OVS for victims. For more information, or to donate directly to the unit to assist those in need, please contact 716-438-3301 or visit www.NiagaraSheriff.com.

Traffic Safety

The Traffic Safety Office provides education to the public regarding pedestrian, bicycle and passenger safety; including car seat inspection/installation, distracted driving and CarFit programs. In 2025, 378 car seats were inspected by certified technicians from the Sheriff's Office.

Of those 378 seats, 35 seats were installed correctly on arrival. 68 traffic safety related classes were conducted in 2025. For more information regarding these programs, presentations and car seat appointments please contact the Traffic Safety Office at 716-438-3464 or visit Niagarasheriff.com.



NY ALERT NY ALERT is a web-based portal that allows local governments, emergency service agencies and institutions of higher learning to provide emergency alert information and notifications to a defined audience. Sign up with your email address and have notifications pushed to your cell phone or email. Sign up today at NYALERT.gov

Sheriff's Office Wearable GPS Alert Program Clients that are enrolled in the Sheriff's Office wearable GPS Alert program wear a GPS wristband that emits a tracking signal. This program is not just for the elderly, but any person with an applicable disability or wandering tendency. The device is accessible to designated users and the Sheriff's Office to help locate vulnerable individuals as quickly as possible in an emergency. For more information contact the Community Services Office at 716-438-3310.

Recruitment

Join the Niagara County Sheriff's Office: A Tradition of Service, A Future of Opportunity.

Are you ready to make a difference in our community? The Niagara County Sheriff's Office is looking for dedicated individuals who are committed to serving and protecting our neighbors.

As a member of the Sheriff's Office, you will be part of a team that values integrity, professionalism, and community engagement. Our Deputies, Correction Officers, and Dispatchers are more than public servants — they are guardians of public safety, advocates for justice, and a trusted resource for our residents.

Why Choose the Niagara County Sheriff's Office?

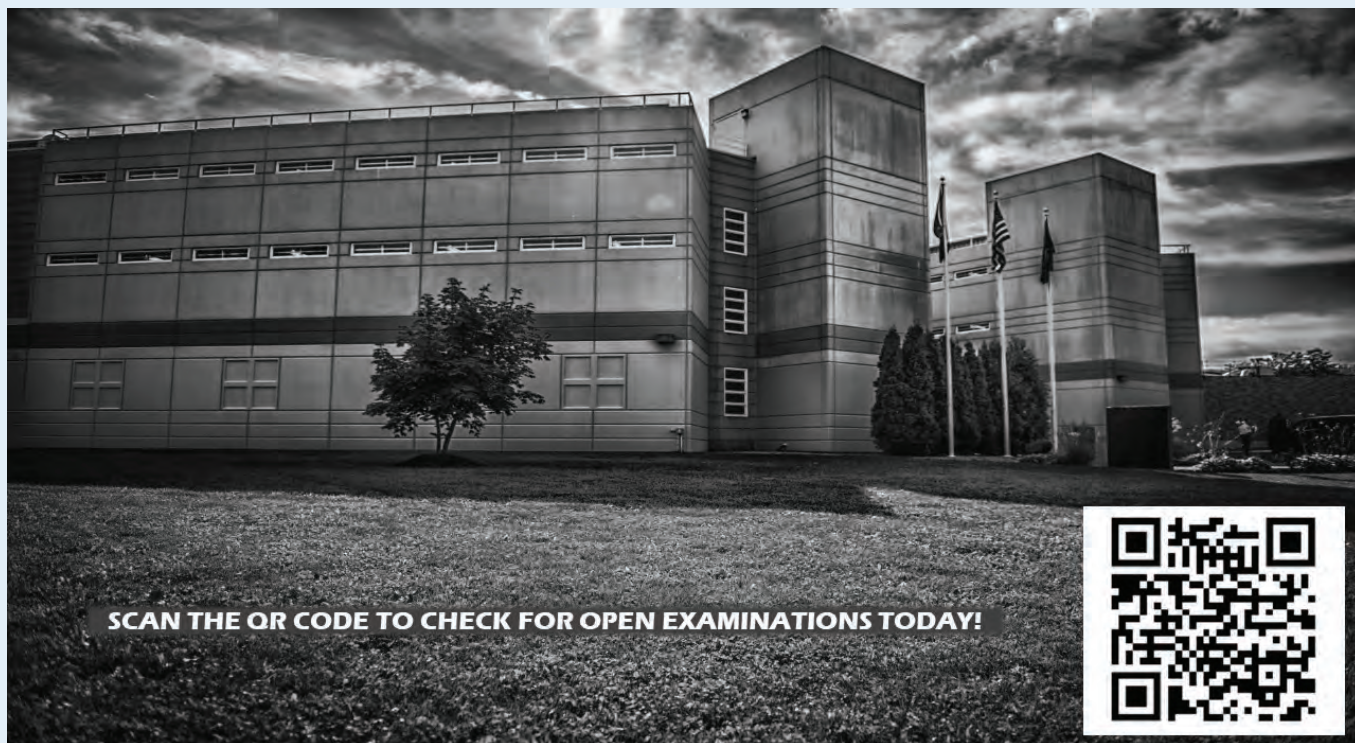
- A Rewarding Career: Protect and serve the community you call home.
- Comprehensive Benefits: Competitive pay, health benefits, pension plans, and more.
- Career Growth: Opportunities for training, advancement, and specialized roles.
- Supportive Environment: Join a team that values collaboration, respect, and mutual support.

Are you up for the challenge?

If you have a strong sense of duty, a desire to help others, and a commitment to keeping Niagara County safe, we want you on our team.

Apply today and start your journey with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Step Up. Stand Out. Serve with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Visit <https://niagara-portal.mycivilservice.com/exams> or scan the QR code to view requirements, and to sign up now!

Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti



Retro Cars

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office is proud of the retro cars in our fleet. As of this past August, we have 2 retro cars made possible by donations, at no cost to the tax payers of Niagara County. The 1988 Chevrolet Caprice has been a fan favorite at parades and community events for years. The citizens of Niagara County have become familiar with the Caprice, as it leads events such as the Peach Fest Parade, Independence Day Parades, and many more. Numerous car shows in the area have incorporated a law enforcement day and we are always happy to join. When we attend these car shows and community events, the Caprice always impresses under the hood, with a 502 big-block engine. A look inside takes you back in time, with period correct electronics such as the police radio and radar. We truly enjoy taking this around the community and letting all enjoy it!

Retired Chief Deputy Carlin donated the second retro car to the Niagara County Sheriff's Office fleet, a 1950 Pontiac Chieftain patrol car! After the vehicle undergoes some restoration, we hope to use this vehicle throughout the community, as well. Shout out to Weibert's Auto Place, for the hard work they put in to getting the car running for us! The car then went to Hot Rod's Auto Performance to get it closer to being road worthy. We hope to have it in the community soon!

The 1988 Caprice has led to countless positive interactions with Niagara County residents of all ages. We are looking forward to incorporating the 1950 Chieftain into the mix and all the events to come!



Shop with a Cop

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office, along with local law enforcement agencies, hosted the 13th annual Shop with a Cop event this past December. This event pairs children with local law enforcement, who then travel with them to Walmart in a patrol car to shop for gifts for themselves and or family members. Once their shopping is complete, the children are then treated to lunch provided by Walmart. The NCSO volunteers for the event included road patrol, communications, corrections divisions, mounted patrol, CSU, and the entire Victim's Assistance Unit.

The event continues to grow each and every year. We are grateful for the staff at the Lockport Walmart for their continuous support in making this event a success. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office would also like to extend a sincere thank you to The Ontario Shores Federal Credit Union for their generous donation to the Shop with a Cop Event.



Awards

The Niagara County Deputy Sheriff's Association and The Niagara County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association honored their members at their annual awards banquets. The men and women do outstanding work each and every day for our community.

Congratulations to all!



AWARD RECIPIENTS

DSA

Sheriff's Excellence Award

Dispatcher
Nicole Beecher (2)

Dispatcher
Melissa Steen

Dispatcher
Patrick Reynolds

Senior Dispatcher
Darlene Gurnett

Dispatcher
Kaitlyn Laganiak

Sgt. Salvatore Paonessa

Correction Officer
Madeline Moran

Correction Officer
Erik Richards

Sgt. Joshua Lundquist

Correction Officer
Emily Corrairie

Correction Officer
James Greenwald

Life Saving Award

Dispatcher Jeffrey Brown (2)

Dispatcher Holly Babis

Dispatcher Brenda Higgins

Dispatcher Michael Janowsky

Dispatcher Julie Beilein-Caughel

Dispatcher Michelle Stevens

Francis Polewicz III Memorial Award

Correction Officer
Mark Hermanson

Russell C. Isler Award

Lt. Richard Smith

Andrew F. Hoelzl Award

Correction Officer
Stephen LaTona

Meritorious Service

Correction Officer Paul Curcione
Correction Officer Devan Mangan

Departmental Citations

Dispatcher
Sherri Reischel

Dispatcher
Julie Beilein-Caughel

Dispatcher
Andrew Taylor

Dispatcher
Joshua Lengen

Senior Dispatcher
Roger Yurek

Correction Officer
Bryan Woodburn

Correction Officer
Nicholas DuPont

Correction Officer
Alyssa Sciria

Correction Officer
Nicholas Cirrito

Correction Officer
Daniel Janicki

Sgt. Salvatore Paonessa

Correction Officer
Drew Westmorland

Correction Officer
Tyler Yim

Lt. Joseph Moll
Sgt. Derek Kratts

Correction Officer
Charles Cipolla

Correction Officer
Everardo Rendon

Correction Officer
William Staley

PBA

Distinguished Service Award

Investigator Jeffrey McAuliffe

George Gallagher Memorial Award

Investigator Jeffrey McAuliffe

Departmental Citations

Deputy Thomas Battaglia (3)
Deputy Nicholas Ross

Craig C. Harmon Memorial Award

Investigator Jeffrey McAuliffe
Lt. Sean Furey

Meritorious Service Award

Investigator
Amanda Irons-Rindfleisch

Sheriff's Excellence Award

Deputy Keith Kennedy
Deputy Shagundee Virk
Deputy Nicholas Ross

Gallantry Star

Investigator Jonathan Andres
Investigator Kevin Morse

Unit Citation Award

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Life Saving Award

Lt. Raymond Gruarin
Deputy Andrew Donner
Lt. Nicholas Walter
Deputy Jeffrey Walters
Detective Frank Burkhart

— STAY CONNECTED —



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