

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

## DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Sheriff Mills congratulates Alan Weaver upon his promotion to Correction Officer Sergeant

“NO MAN IS ABOVE THE LAW AND NO MAN IS BELOW IT; NOR DO WE ASK ANY MAN’S PERMISSION WHEN WE REQUIRE HIM TO OBEY IT. OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW IS DEMANDED AS A RIGHT, NOT ASKED AS A FAVOR.”

Theodore Roosevelt

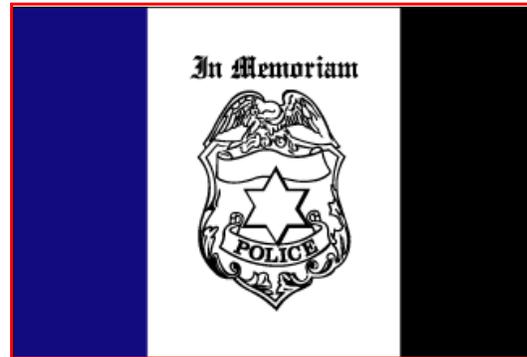
Third Annual Message to Congress, December 7, 1903

This report is dedicated

IN MEMORY

Of:

Sgt. Thomas D. Avery



In Service: June 30, 1980

Out of Service: July 19, 2009



In recognition of Tom's 29 years of faithful service, resourcefulness and dedication to duty. He will long be remembered for the consideration he exuded while faithfully and enthusiastically performing his duties to the best of his ability. He will not soon be forgotten.

## 2009 Annual Report

To: Delaware County Board of Supervisors

The Sheriff's Office experienced a wide variety of unusual events in 2009, but the two that stand out predominantly were:

- \* The unexpected death of Sgt. Avery
- \* A county-wide arson spree

In a small Office, such ours, our employees tend to bond as a family. During long tenures, many memories are made and lasting friendships are forged. Sgt. Avery was felled by sudden heart failure at his home and his death came as a shock to his fellow employees, law enforcement officers from neighboring agencies, as well as many friends throughout the county with whom he had established lifelong bonds.

Throughout the autumn a series of fires of suspicious origin sprang up throughout the county. Accordingly the Delaware County Board of Supervisors approved the establishment of a Reward Fund from which to pay individuals who came forth with information which led to the apprehension and arrest of individuals responsible for setting the fires. An Arson Task Force was quickly formed which comprised members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services as well as fellow county agencies, such as DSS Investigators and Probation. The arson investigation was especially stressful because we didn't know where to expect the "next fire." However, the technology that we had purchased with grant funding, which identified each fire fighter and the time he arrived on the scene of the fire, was a crucial lead to identifying suspects.

Through it all we bonded as a cohesive team and persevered.



Sincerely,

Douglas O. Vredenburgh  
Undersheriff



Thomas E. Mills, Sheriff

**CODE OF ETHICS**

As a Deputy Sheriff, Correction Officer or Civilian Employee of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, my fundamental obligation is to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms of the people whom I have been sworn to serve and protect.

Although I realize the way I choose to conduct my private affairs is a personal freedom, I realize that I must accept responsibility for my actions, as well as my inactions, both on duty and off. I realize that my behavior is closely scrutinized by the public at large and that the consequences of my actions have the capability of bringing either respect or disrespect on my employer, my fellow employees and the law enforcement profession.

I vow to be truthful and honest in my dealings with others. I deplore lies and consider it to be a professional weakness to allow another's behavior to dictate my response. I will not allow others' actions or failings to excuse me from performing my duties in a responsible and professional manner.

Although I will endeavor to empathize with the people with whom I come into daily contact, I will not allow my personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence the discretionary authority with which I have been entrusted. I will consciously seek ways to avoid any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest that have the capability of compromising either my official authority or the public's image.

In my position, I hold the inherent expectation that the public's trust is well placed in my capability and good judgment. I do not take this trust lightly. As long as I remain in my position, I will dedicate myself to preserving this trust and in so doing uphold and promote the lofty ideals established by the law enforcement profession.

I deplore half-truths that mislead or fail to fully inform those who are dependant upon my honesty. I will obey those very laws that I have sworn to uphold. I will seek affirmative ways to comply with the standards of my department and the lawful directions of my supervisors.

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office to provide professional, high-quality and effective police, correctional, civil and court security services in partnership with the county residents.

The sworn and civilian employees of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office believe that their work has vital impact on the quality of life in Delaware County, N.Y.

By our commitment to professionalism, both on and off duty, we subscribe to the following values:

- \* Pride
- \* Integrity
- \* Professionalism
- \* Fairness.

Getting to know the Sheriff ( now and back then).. . . .



Sheriff Mills, a Marine Corps Veteran, commenced his law enforcement career with the Oneonta Police Department. He subsequently joined the New York State Police and retired as Station Commander. He later rejoined the profession as a part-time Deputy Sheriff in Delaware County. After being elected Sheriff in January 1999, Mills inherited an outdated 28-prisoner jail on the village square in Delhi. In 2003, that historic landmark was replaced with a new 100 bed state-of-the-art combination Public Safety Building/Correctional Facility, whose full-time staff now numbers 77. Sheriff Mills is a member of the Executive Committee of the Otsedela Council of Boy Scouts of America, and hosts the

Sheriff's Explorer Post 108. He is a past Master of the Margaretville Masonic Lodge, and past Commander of the American Legion Post 190. Presently, he is the Commander of Post 10550 of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars in Delhi. In 2006, he was appointed to the NYS Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly Persons by then - Governor George E. Pataki and in 2007, he was invited to serve on the NYS Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan ("SCIP") Governance Evaluation Board. Sheriff Mills serves as Treasurer of the NYS Sheriffs' Association Institute. Delaware County is home to 47,000 rural and small town constituents and occupies a landmass of 1,460 square miles.

Being a Sheriff, always presents challenges. Below are a few that my predecessors faced. They were written descriptively and concisely, in the language of their day.

**Excerpts were taken from the 100 Years In the History of Delhi, NY  
which was originally abstracted from the Delaware Gazette published at Delhi, NY.  
*transcribed and submitted by Linda Ogborn***

**May 1861** - A jail break occurred in May when Benjamin Gransbury, jailed for robbery, escaped by blowing the lock off his cell door with gunpowder. The sheriff offered \$50 for his capture.

**Nov. 1865** - "Broke Jail - Two persons confined to the county jail on charges of horse stealing made their escape on Nov. 15....One was recaptured, but the second, known as W. P. Oakley, has not been heard of. \$25 reward is offered for his apprehension...P.S. Oakley has since been returned to the county jail."

**May 18, 1872** - Samuel Fanning, of Davenport, in jail for burglary took French leave on Wednesday last, by enlarging and crawling through the diamond hole. (Samuel was recaptured the next week and consigned to his old quarters in the jail).

**Apr. 8, 1876** - "Broke Jail - Coonrod Mable and Walter Stott escaped from jail about 1 o'clock Monday morning, and have not yet been retaken. Marble was in on a peace warrant, and would have been discharged on Monday. Stott had just served a term in state's prison, and returned here on another charge for which he had been indicted. It was supposed he would plead guilty at the court now in session. Marble's escape seems to have been from pure cussedness." (Mr. Stott was the first post master at DeLancey. His troubles began when a discrepancy occurred in the finances of that office)

A N D

**Sept. 2, 1876** - The irrepressible Coonrod Marble has agin broken jail, this time at Cooperstown. P. S. Marble has again been arrested, this time in Sidney, and is now back in Cooperstown.

## PROMOTIONS



Sheriff Thomas Mills (rt)  
Sgt. Alan Weaver (left)

At a swearing-in ceremony held on June 9, 2009, Sheriff Thomas E. Mills of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office announced the promotion of Correction Officer Alan Weaver to the rank of Correction Office Sergeant.

In his presentation, Sheriff Mills told C. O. Weaver that the classification of Sergeant is an honor and is bestowed on those who have shown outstanding leadership capabilities. However, it carries with it grueling work, never-ending diligence and painstaking attention to details. It is the Sergeant who bears the responsibility for the actions of the officers he supervises. He must strive to be fair to his subordinates, respectful to his superiors and loyal to the agency he serves. It is a tough balancing act and not a position to be approached timidly.

When fellow officers were asked their opinion of Weaver, they commented that he appeared to be happy and secure with his career choice; confident in his own capabilities without ever appearing arrogant, eager to take on an assignment and dedicated to doing the best work possible.

When Weaver was asked what he would like to change about the Correctional Facility, he replied, "Nothing. Based upon my personal observation of other facilities made while on transports, as well as hearing the comments made by inmates, we have one of the most well-run facilities he has ever visited."

### Significant Anniversaries:

#### 10 Years

C.O. Nate Weaver

#### 20 Years

Sgt. Dwayne Finkle  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Harold Stanton

#### 25 Years

Sgt. Ted Tiska

## AWARDS:



### **Sgt. Dwayne Finkle**

#### **Delaware County Employee of the Month May 2009**

Hired as a Corrections Officer in November, 1989, Dwayne soon displayed a capacity for helping others and was reassigned to a Dispatcher position. In January, 2006, Dwayne was promoted to the position of Corrections Sergeant and assigned to the complex and demanding Civil process-related law enforcement division.

In addition to supervising the members of the Sheriff's Office Civil Division, Sgt. Finkle participates in many civil law enforcement responsibilities throughout the County. Recently he was appointed as the Liaison for Delaware County in the Project Lifesaver Program, which is a rapid response program aimed at locating victims of Alzheimer's Disease and similar disorders.

When asked what Dwayne likes most about his job, Dwayne states, "Helping people through difficult and diverse situations." He also likes the challenges that expand his creative thinking and improve his quick response reflexes.

Dwayne's personnel file reflects many instances in which he has been recognized for going the extra distance to help people. Of note, as a Dispatcher, he engaged a suicidal caller into conversation until help arrived. During our recent flood, he put his own life on hold to help others. His evaluations reflect that he has always excelled in community relations and how his patient and mature demeanor can often dissolve harsh situations.

Dwayne, known by his colleagues as "the big guy", is a constant source of pride to the Sheriff's Office. On and off the job he handles himself in a professional and exemplary manner. He is perceptive, courageous, good natured and clear thinking.

Dwayne has been married for seventeen years to his beloved wife, Jen who is a teacher. They share their home with their pets and their life with their close-knit and gregarious family. His hobbies include carpentry, masonry, hunting and fishing. He recently built his dream second home. Dwayne is a superb marksman and reinforces his reputation at range.

According to the Sheriff, "Twenty years ago when Dwayne Finkle filled out his application for employment and was asked to concisely state his reasons for wanting to do police work, he responded: 'Desire to help people. Interesting.' I love to see an individual plan the career path his or her life will follow and then doggedly follow its course to success."

Thank you, Dwayne, for a job well done.

Awards.....continued.....

Deputy Sheriff Kim Smith



### **Delaware County Employee of the Month December 2009**

Kim Smith began her career with the Sheriff's Office on July 3, 1997 as a Corrections Officer. Kim soon showed an interest in and aptitude for law enforcement. After successfully completing the Police Academy, she assumed the position of part-time Sheriff's Deputy in February, 2000 and was appointed as a full-time Deputy Sheriff on April 15, 2001. Kim continues to expand her responsibilities, training and accomplishments. Kim received the Sheriff's Department Employee of the Quarter Award in December, 2004 in recognition of her outstanding dedication to duty and desire to improve herself.

In her role as Road Patrol Deputy, Kim responds to a variety of complaints, makes arrests and testifies in court trials. She does not dodge the mundane or getting dirty, wet and cold with her colleagues to bring a perpetrator to justice. She can always be counted on, whether it means accepting additional responsibilities, assisting her fellow officers, participating in drug raids or handing out bike helmets to children at area schools and talking to them about personal safety. She also serves as Evidence Technician and is responsible for inventorying evidence, keeping it safe, having it tested and disposing of it properly.

Kim and her husband Don reside in Franklin, are parents to four children and share in the chores and responsibilities of the family farm. She enjoys taking family trips and attending her children's sporting events. Kim, herself, is very athletic and was once recognized as one of the best field and track athletes to ever come from Delaware County. There are always happenings in the extended Smith family.

Kim received the December Employee of the Month Award based on her dedication, professionalism and success as a police officer. Kim is an excellent ambassador for the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and for her profession. Congratulations, Kim.

Awards Continued



## Life Saving Recognition



Michelle Sulas

For law enforcement, EMT'S, fire fighters or citizens whose actions save the life of a fellow citizen in an emergency.

If there were a formal Lifesaving Award, given in recognition of heroic action and helping a fellow employee in need in place at our Office, it would surely be awarded to Michelle Sulas and Melinda Westcott. Last summer, while mowing her lawn fellow Dispatcher, Chrsty Hubbard, pictured to the left, was stung 10 times by bees and suffered an allergic reaction, which she described as a life-threatening experience. Christy placed a 911 call for help and was aided by Communications Supervisor Michelle Sulas and Dispatcher Melinda Westcott. Following this incident, Christy wrote a letter commending their actions and noted that she was



Melinda Westcott



Christy Hubbard

impressed that they were able to stay calm and professional (while helping a friend) as they obtained needed information. They kept Christy involved throughout the procedure, advising her that help was on the way. They even took the initiative to call Christy's daughter and advise her of the incident. Christy said that she would be forever grateful that they both were on the job on August 3, 2009. And might we take this opportunity to express the pride we feel for our Dispatchers. They are a well-trained, cohesive group of professionals who routinely exemplify the standard we seek to maintain throughout our Office. It is indeed comforting to know that we can safely place our trust in the capability of our fellow employees.

**From the Sheriff's Desk.....**



**The following  
Press Releases from the  
Sheriff's Desk were  
issued during 2009.**



***Visit the Delaware County Sheriff's Office's Web Site***



**Delaware County Sheriff's Office participates in the Student Intern Program**



**Arson Investigation closed by confession**



**Project Blue Light**



### **FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK....**

*Visit the Delaware County Sheriff's Office's Web Site at:*

<http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/departments/shrf/shrf.htm>

During the current year we haven't published many letters "From the Sheriff's Desk." But we have been busy compiling information for incorporation on our portion of the Delaware County web site.

Many newspapers are shrinking in size, and it seems to be a popular trend for them to publish on line. We too, have hopped on the technological bandwagon and are endeavoring to avail ourselves of ways to reach more of our constituents. We will still publish our newsletters and press releases in the newspapers, but maintaining a web site gives us an opportunity to share a more expansive view of general departmental information, and is available for you to review at your convenience.

We recently added our 2008 Annual Report to our web site. If you would like to see the types of activities we have addressed during the past year, you may access it there in the "Reports" category.

We also periodically include Press Releases on our site that we feel would be of general interest. You may want to check there for items of interest.

Our site is a "work in progress". It will be routinely updated to incorporate information that we think the public should know. In the "Links" section you will find a link by which to access the Sex Offender information maintained by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services as well as links to the New York State Sheriffs' Association and New York State Sheriffs' Association Institute.

As we endeavor to avail ourselves of the technological conveniences that help us perform our jobs better and faster, we are also mindful to steadfastly hold onto our hometown spirit. We still value the importance of face-to-face contact with you. We've just adopted an additional way to keep you informed of what we're doing. AND we're still here and ready to answer your questions, in person, whenever you call us on telephone number 607-746-2336.

September 15, 2009



### **FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK...**

Delaware County Sheriff's Office participates in the Student Intern Program

I am pleased to announce that the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the SUNY colleges in Delhi and Oneonta, is offering internship program participation to eligible local college students.

This semester we have selected two deserving students: 1) Gloria Doria, a senior from SUCO, Oneonta, majoring in Criminal Justice and 2) Brent Wallace, a student at SUNY-Delhi, also a Criminal Justice student, who has expressed an interest in pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer.

The interns are unpaid volunteer college students working for the Delaware County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of assisting professional staff while acquiring the work experience associated with their selected educational program. The interns will report to our Training Coordinator, Capt James Small, and will be exposed to the routine duties performed by our employees in the Road Patrol, Communications, Corrections, Law Enforcement Academy and Civil divisions of the Sheriff's Office.

The interns will also be afforded the benefit of comprehensive exposure to a wide gambit of the criminal justice arena and will be allowed to "shadow" other county agencies; logging hours with employees from the Probation Department, County Court, DSS Investigations, and the District Attorney's Office.

It is anticipated that their hands-on exposure to the daily routines of those employed in a variety of occupations under the umbrella of the criminal justice system will aid the interns in making a knowledgeable decision as to whether or not law enforcement is really the career path they wish to pursue. Our employees are enthusiastic about the prospect of grooming their successors and look forward to this opportunity to share their combined wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise with the interns.

**October 15, 2009**

**FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK....**



***Arson Investigation closed by confession***

By now you have probably heard or read that the county-wide arson investigation coordinated by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and Delaware County Department of Emergency Services, with assistance from members of the New York State Police and New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control Arson Bureau, as well as the Delaware County Probation Department, has been successfully concluded. Four county youths have been arrested and charged with multiple charges relating to the arson and vandalism spree wherein they wrought varying degrees of wanton destruction throughout our county commencing in April; the most noteworthy of which being the cowardly torching of the venerable Methodist Church in Sidney Center.

In recent years we have experienced a series of critical events that distinguish themselves in the magnitude of their severity. We count among them, the county-wide floods and homicides by the fugitive Bucky Philips in 2006, the shoot-out in Margaretville in 2007 and lethal Cat Hollow Flood of 2008. In 2009, our challenge was finding the perpetrator(s) of a series of fires and costly acts of vandalism spread throughout southern Delaware County. Unlike the dramas unfolding in previous years, this time we were faced with culprits who had time to plan their crimes, execute them in isolated locations, and make a speedy escape to avoid detection. This time we were faced with having to capture the enemy from within. Our own homegrown terrorists; totally committed to racking up an impressive resume of bad deeds and spiteful attacks against their neighbors.

During my lengthy career in law enforcement one persistent question always astounds me: "Didn't they think they would be caught and have to pay the consequences?" Cleaning up the physical, emotional and mental debris from the damage these youth have unleashed will take years to accomplish. Foremost among the ruins are the cherished hopes and dreams for their future. A family's self-respect, a grandparent's pride, severely damaged! And then there are the victims: the financial and sentimental loss to the owners of the property damaged and the financial burden borne by the insurance companies that insured them. And lastly, we the taxpayers of Delaware County. We must absorb the cost of the investigation, incarceration and trial. And if convicted, we will pay for their board and keep for many, many years to come. The ultimate price tag, if it could be accurately calculated, is almost unfathomable. In these times of widespread unemployment, plant closures and wars abroad, we could ill afford this additional and senseless financial expenditure.

If I could achieve the leap of space and time, I would reach from beyond this written page and urge each of you to sit down and discuss this case with the young people in your purview. Tell them that spending one's life in prison is as hateful to their well being as setting another's property on fire. There is nothing brave, cool or justifiable about it. Their behavior was contemptible and mean spirited. And furthermore, it was just plain stupid. With the advent of technological advancements in the field of fire detection and the availability of modern law enforcement tools, one's chances of success at eluding detection are very, very slim. Not to mention, good old fashioned investigative techniques which include the expectation that upon occasion: "Loose lips sink ships!"

Suffice it to say that out of every bad deed, some goodness prevails. In this case, it was our consolation that there are so very many more good, kind and decent people in our midst. It is they who helped their neighbors, put out the fires, and worked day and night until the villains were captured. I want to extend to each and every one of you who rendered our county in general and our Task Team in particular, assistance in any form, my sincerest appreciation. Thank you for a job well done. Were it not for you, the fires might still be burning and our citizenry still be filled with the dread of more to come.

November 23, 2009

**FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK....**



*“It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark .” (Anon..)*

‘T is the time of year when we begin to think about unraveling the miles of tangled Christmas lights and dragging out the ladder to decorate our homes for the Christmas season. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to solicit your consideration of incorporating “Project Blue Light” by placing a single blue bulb in your Christmas decorations which will be visible from outside; wherever you so choose: in your candle, wreath, yard luminaries, house lights, etc.

The time-honored tradition of “Project Blue Light” has been in existence since the late ‘80’s. It started as a way of paying tribute to a police officer felled in the line of duty. The tradition commenced when Mrs. Dolly Craig, the mother-in-law of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Gleason (who was shot and killed on June 5, 1986 while investigating a vandalism report), contacted the Concerns of Police Survivors “COPS” organization in 1988 and told them that she was going to pay tribute to Danny by placing a blue light in the window of her home (as well as another for her daughter, Pam who followed him in death as a result of a car accident in August 1988). Mrs. Craig wrote, “This holiday I’m putting two blue lights in my living room window. One is for Dan and the other is for Pam, who believed so much in the COPS Organization.”

Word spread of this tradition and others have likewise adopted this manner of showing their appreciation of ALL police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Since there is more than enough appreciation to go around, this symbolic gesture has been extended to include the working peace officers, on the streets, in jails, in uniform, plain clothes or shrouded in disguise. Mrs. Craig has passed on now, but the spark cast by her first blue light has not. It continues to intensify and garner support. Now, each year, we see thousands of blue lights, symbolic for both the support of peace officers as well as the hope for peace in the following year, displayed throughout the country in the windows of homes, businesses and churches.



In reflection, I recall our own fallen heros: Aldo Rossi, Inv. Ricky Parisian, Constable Norm Carr and others too, who have died in the line of duty.

If you have an opportunity, please include the sacrifices made by these and other selfless unsung heros, among your holiday blessings – and place a single blue light in your window, too. Any police officer passing by it on some dark, cold winter’s night will be warmed by the kindness it implies.

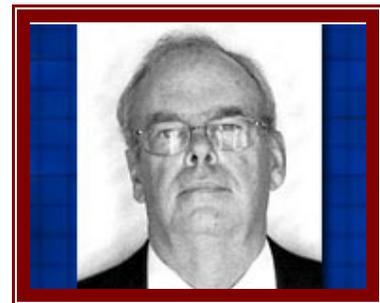
# Noteworthy Events of 2009

## CONSTRUCTION SCAM

On July 10, 2009, following a four month investigation, Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Kenneth L. Schwartz age 62 of 1507 Teed Hill Road, Masonville, New York. It is alleged that Kenneth L. Schwartz operating Upright Builders, Inc and Upright Custom Homes of Masonville, New York, engaged in a systematic on-going course of conduct to allegedly defraud seven (7) victims of \$219,646.77 between November 10, 2006 and February 18, 2009.

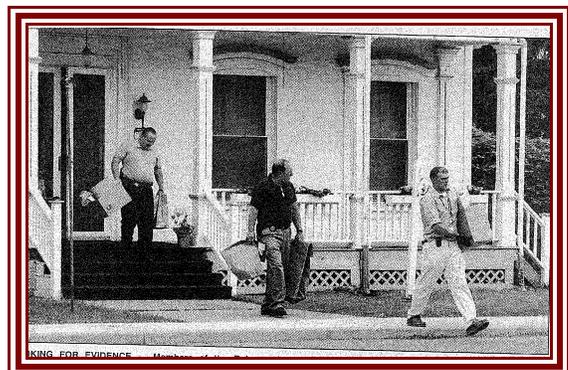
## MARGARETVILLE PRIEST ARRESTED ➡

James McDevitt, the pastor of Sacred Heart Church, was charged with in 20 counts of sexual assault against six kids as young as 11 spanning a period of three years. A search warrant was executed June 8, 2009, at Sacred Heart Church, the church rectory, the parish center, and a garage. Police were searching for certain items related to the charged crimes. Six days previously, he had been charged with drunk driving.



Pastor James McDevitt

Left to right: DCSO Investigator: Joe Mauro, and DSS  
Investigators Joe Andreno and Taylor Calhoun ➡





## ARSON TASK FORCE FORMED

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, approximately 80 fire-fighters responded to a pre-dawn fire at the historical and recentlyrenovated 113 year old Sidney Center United Methodist Church on Main Street in Sidney Center. Trained dogs quickly detected the scent of incendiary material believed to have started the fire and evidence of same was sent to the lab. Meanwhile a barn on Route 13, a few miles away, was also torched and 60 fire fighters from as far away as Deposit gathered there to put out the blaze.

Firefighters worked an hour to get the blaze under control, although it took approximately 3 hours to extinguish. The church was located next door to a county-based youth house, pictured above. Luckily someone roused the sleeping youth in time for them to evacuate. Although the residence did not burn, it came very close to igniting and the siding on it melted from the intensity of the church fire's heat. Although investigations were already ongoing concerning a rash of fires of suspicious origin that had been set from April through October throughout Delaware County, this particular fire was especially troublesome because lives could have been lost. It cinched the deal; a special arson investigation task force must be formed and finding the arsonist(s) became a top priority. Furthermore, a reward fund was established to provide funds for paying citizens for tips resulting in the apprehension/arrests that lead to the conviction of the perpetrator(s.) Delaware County committed the first \$3,000.00 and concerned citizens thereafter pledged their financial support. Arrests were soon made of 3 men, who pled not guilty of all charges lodged against them, which included arson, burglary, criminal mischief, reckless endangerment and petit larceny. Two of the three were firefighters who had arrived at fires very quickly. Their trials will be held during the court term that commences on April 26, 2010.

## GRANT ACTIVITY

### Federal Revenue

Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement	\$3,501.12
Radio Study	18,586.49
COPS Technology- Live Scan Fingerprinting	\$32,736.00



### State Revenue:

Homeland Security Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	\$678.00
Homeland Security - Pictometry Update	5,768.88

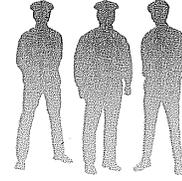


Whenever practical the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Emergency Services combine and share their resources. Grant funds from Homeland Security grants are often used to purchase big-ticket items that neither department could afford to purchase individually. One such purchase is the Linstar electronic accountability system which provides a rapid and accurate tracking of personnel, equipment, and victims at a large-scale incident or disaster. It is essential that incident managers know WHO is on-scene and WHAT credentials, WHEN did they arrive/depart, and WHERE are they located or assigned. This applies as much to site equipment and victims as it does to first responders and mutual aid on-scene. This tracking system has been very beneficial and also can be used to make ID badges which can be input to unite all mutual aid with a common, machine-readable field credential to enhance site security and automate check-in and assignments.

This year we activated our Live-Scan fingerprinting system, which was purchased using grant funding, we will no longer be working with ink and card prints that are messy and easily smudged. Remarkably, the amount of time for feedback/print identification has been reduced from several weeks to under one hour. This is another illustration of how grant funds help level the playing field between smart-savvy crooks and small town police agencies who have the opportunity to avail themselves of the latest technology. Of course, this equipment is also made available to our neighboring police agencies throughout Delaware County. Inter-department cooperation is key to our mutual success.

The grant purchases elaborated on above represent the acquisition of many life-saving and practical necessities. Each officer is equipped with a bulletproof vest that must be replaced in five years. Grant funds reimburse us 50% of the cost of each vest. Our new radios now allow officers in the field to scramble communications which is necessary during a clandestine mission or drug raid. In the past they would have had to call each other using a cell phone. In-car computers (to which video cameras are connected) also give the officers in the field an opportunity to avail themselves of a myriad of technical and administrative tools. Forms may be filled out via the computer, thus freeing up valuable time. Footage of film taken during a routine traffic stop makes a credible witness, attesting to the accurate account of events as they unfold.

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT UNIT



The Delaware County Sheriff's Office is actively engaged in the Delaware County Drug Enforcement Unit. As such, its officers participate with other local law enforcement agencies in performing joint raids. But, sometimes drug dealers are careless and our road patrol officers "happen upon" a stash of drugs while performing a routine traffic stop.

One such incident happened on March 27, 2009, while Deputy Sheriff Earnest Cawley was running radar in the Town of Hancock and spotted a Saab 4-door blue sedan traveling west on State 17 at a high rate of speed. Deputy Cawley confirmed the speed was 80 mph and thereafter conducted a traffic stop of that vehicle. When Deputy Cawley went to the driver's window, he detected a strong odor of burning marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. The passenger admitted to having smoked pot. A second officer then arrived to assist Deputy Cawley in searching the vehicle. A large multi-colored purse sat wide open on the center console and in plain view therein was a clear ziploc bag containing light brown star-shaped tablets, later confirmed as being Ecstasy. A search of the vehicle revealed a safe in the trunk which contained two gallon-size ziploc bags containing green marijuana vegetation. Ultimately the passenger was charged with one count each of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the fourth degree and Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the second degree.

Another incident occurred on May 12, 2009, when the Delaware County Drug Enforcement Unit arrested two women in Harpersfield. During the traffic stop the driver was found to be in possession of 15 Baggies of cocaine, packaged for resale, with a total weight of about 12 grams. The passenger possessed 3 small Baggies of powder cocaine, with a total weight of approximately 3.4 grams. Later, during a search of the driver's residence, deputies discovered about 38 grams of powder cocaine, and more than \$1,600 in cash. Her vehicle was impounded.



Visit us on our Web Site, where you can find news of the latest developments.....



Our Website on the County Server continues to be accessed by the general public who wish to keep informed of the happenings of our Office. Below is a representation of our site during the special Arson Investigation, wherein we solicited leads from the public in exchange for a reward. We also solicited contributions for reward funds. This site continues to be expanded upon. In fact, our Annual Reports may be read on-line on our web site.



Sgt. Dwayne Finkle



Alice De Vita



Dan McGowan



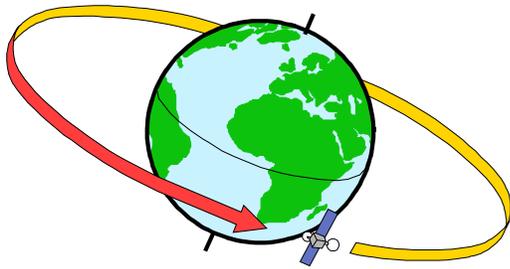
Amanda Nichols

### 2009 Stats

Civil Division	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total Papers Served	55	36	67	44	45	75	58	46	59	62	55	113*	715
Total Income Executions	34	59	33	43	36	51	37	59	34	53	50	42	531
Total Property Executions	2	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	12
Pistol Permits In/Out	13 12	3 35	17 21	35 37	19 17	16 32	27 29	10 17	17 25	20 10	9 16	5 7	191 258

\*This figure includes 46 instances of partial service collected throughout the year; actual number for Dec only. was 67.

Description	2008	2009
Total Fees	\$56,060.22	\$ 54,887.67
Total Poundage	29,156.42	29,290.55
Total Revenue	85,216.64	84,178.22
Revenue Comparison		Decrease 1.94%



Michelle Sulas

## 2009 Communications Division Report

Michelle Sulas supervises the civilian dispatchers employed in the Delaware County Communication Division.

Using the latest technology and state-of-the-art equipment, our Dispatchers provide a wide array of diverse responsibilities which include being able to quickly access addresses, phone numbers, aliases, mapping information, towing information and making CAD journal entries. They serve as the hub for all radio and telephonic communications within our agency. They operate around the clock, maintaining direct radio traffic and using the computer-aided dispatch to provide wants and warrants and other NYSPIN information to the deputies in the field.

One of the most important responsibilities performed by our trained, skilled and dedicated dispatchers is the daily use of the R-U-okay program which is considered to be a lifeline by many of our senior, disabled and shut-in citizens who rely upon their daily telephone call as a link with the outside world. Statistics follow concerning the activities and types of responses extended during 2009.

911 Hang up call	117	Assist DSS	66
911 Open Line	8	Assist fire Department	3
MHL Danger to Self or Others	105	Assist Motorist	3
Mental Health Pickup	16	Assist Police Agency	18
Administration Matter	10	Assist Probation	2
Aid-Attempt to Locate	17	Assault - Simple Assault	15
Aid-Check Welfare	72	Assault - Weapon Assault	2
Aid-Assist Citizen	54	Autopsy	1
Aid-EMS	28	Bad Check	20
Alarm Activation	18	Bank Drop	1
Animal - Animal bite	3	Bomb Threat/Explosion	3
Animal - Cattle Complaint	55	Burglary Report Only	62
Animal - Dog Complaint	37	Burglary in Process	7
Animal - Unusual Behavior Threat	2	Burn Injury Report	1
Animal - Animal Complaint Other	67	Civil Matter	260
Arrest	24	Civil Matter - Process Serving	558
Assist DSS Endanger Welfare	9	Court/Trial	89

Custody Dispute	21	Hold Up Alarm	1
Dispatch Deer	34	Identification, False, Altered	5
Deer Jacking Complaint	1	Information Only	43
Disturbance - Criminal Mischief	58	Investigation	207
Disturbance - Criminal Nuisance	3	Landlord/Tenant Dispute	18
Disturbance - Neighborhood Trouble	55	Larceny Report Only	68
Disturbance-Disorderly Conduct	26	Larceny - Other	33
Disturbance - School Violence	2	Larceny - From Vehicle	4
Death - Notification of	1	Littering	3
Death - Unattended Death	5	Missing Child	8
Domestic Report only	61	Missing Person	5
Domestic - Child Abuse	1	Missing Person	4
Domestic - Endanger Welfare/child	3	Motor Vehicle Acc/Prop Damage	285
Domestic in Progress	117	ATV/MVA	2
Domestic - Sexual Abuse	1	MVA-Car/Deer	103
Domestic - Violence	2	Motor Vehicle Accident Fatal	1
Drill, Training	37	Overdose/Poisoning	2
Drug/Alcohol Complaint	13	Personal Injury MVA	30
Drug/Alcohol Growing Cannabis	1	Noise Loud Party	18
Electronic Intrusion Device	93	Open Door	6
Encon Violation(s)	3	Order of Protection Service	163
Evidence Relay	20	Order of Protection Violation	15
Failure to Comply	9	Parade Detail	2
Fairground Duty	5	Pistol Permit Investigation	3
Fight in Progress	27	Prisoner Relay	23
Fire Involving Motor Vehicle	6	Project Lifesaver	4
Follow-up	333	Property Check	578
Fraud Complaint	25	Property Dispute	25
Fraud Computer	3	Property Found	8
Fraud - Criminal Impersonation	4	Property Lost	3
Fraud - Other False Applica	4	Property Retrieval	34
Fraud - Welfare	1	Property Stolen	9
Fire Works	2	Range	5
Funeral Detail	2	Rescue/Person Trapped	1
Gas Drive Off	9	Road Blocked	29
Grass/Brush Fire	6	Road Damaged	4
Gun Retrieval	3	Road Flooded	1
Gun/Weapon - Accident Wound	5	Road - Icy or Snowy	4
Gun/Weapon - Person w/Gun	5	Road Schedule Probation	2
Gun/Weapon - Person w/Knife	1	Sex Offense - Rape	4
Gun/Weapon - Shots Fired	21	Sex Offense - Registered Info	2
Harassment - Agg. harassment	12	Sick Person	1
Harassment Complaint	123	Smoke Investigation	1
Harassment - Stalking	4	Special Detail	33
Hazardous Conditions	4	Subpoena Grand Jury	1

Snowmobile MVA	1
Structure Fire	15
Subject Not Breathing	19
Suspicious Package	1
Suspicious Person/Activity	62
Suspicious Vehicle	22
Test of the System	1
Theft of Services	2
Traffic/Trans Accident	1
Traffic Detail	7
Traffic Stop	2,692
Transport	36
Trespass in Progress	32
Trespassing	23
Unconscious/Fainting	1
Under Age Party	11
Vandalism	34
Vehicle - Abandoned Vehicle	14
Vehicle - All Terrain Vehicle	42
Vehicle - Car Blocking	18
Vehicle - Car Disabled	86
Vehicle Check Snow Mobile	2
Vehicle - Erratic Operator	67
Vehicle - Lost or Stolen Plates	1
Vehicle - Motorcycle Complaint	1
Vehicle Repossession	3
Vehicle Stolen	7
Vehicle - Unauthorized Use	9
Warrant - Criminal	61
Warrant - Criminal Summons	12
Warrant - Family court Warrant	14
Warrant - Fugitive from Justice	2
Warrant - Search Warrant	7

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office participates in many programs aimed at keeping our citizens safe, Which include:

**Project Lifesaver:**



**Project Lifesaver** - a proactive response which helps to locate wandering patients before they fall victim to the elements, accidents, or predators is administered by Sgt. Dwayne Finkle

**VINE**

The Victim Information and Notification Service ("VINE") was created in 1994 following the murder of Mary Byron in Louisville, KY. She and her parents had asked to be notified when Mary's ex-boyfriend was released from jail. They were never told that he was released, and this man murdered Mary on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Today, the New York Sheriffs' Victim Hotline delivers an average of 90,198 phone calls and 7,024 e-mail notifications to registered victims each year in the State of New York.

**Statistics:**

During the year 2009 - a total of 131,220 phone calls were made tot he toll-free phone number 1-888-VINE-4-NY to determine the custody status of inmates incarcerated in a New York City Department of Correction, a New York State Department of Correctional Services, and one of 60 local county correctional facilities. These phone calls resulted in 169,678 searches of the VINE inmate database. Another 555,915 searches were made using the VINE Website [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com). Authorized Correctional personnel used the secure website [www.vinewatch.com](http://www.vinewatch.com) to search the VINE system 43,831 times. This resulted in a combined total of 769,424 searches for information about inmates incarcerated in New\_York Correctional Facilities.

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office supports VINE. It is administered by the Correctional Division of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

## SHERIFF'S ADMINISTRATION

Paying its employees and paying its bills are two important aspects of running any organization. Thankfully, we have two very competent business women in charge of these tasks.



Edie Mills  
Payroll & Personnel  
Clerk



Lisa Papa  
Principal Account Clerk



## SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY: DELAWARE COUNTY

Monitoring the current whereabouts of convicted sex offenders living in Delaware County is one of our top priorities. Another is promoting community awareness. The Sex Offender Registry, was maintained by Sgt. Thomas Avery, until his death in July, 2009. Thereafter, Investigator Joseph Mauro was assigned the responsibility of collecting and maintaining current contact and location information of all convicted Sex Offenders who reside in Delaware County.

Presently the Delaware County Sheriff's Office monitors 89 Sex Offenders living in Delaware County. That number fluctuates on a daily basis as individual offenders move from county to county, are sent off to prison, or return from prison

Following is a table indicating where sex offenders reside in Delaware County.

Current 12/10/09 **Sex Offenders By Town** (\*Note: We are prohibited from divulging towns for the 39 Level I offenders.)

Town	Total *	Pending	III	II	Sexual Predator	Sexually Violent	Predicate Sex Offender	Sexually Violent Offender
Andes		1	1					
Arkville				1				
Bloomville				2				
Colchester								
Davenport			2	1				
Delhi			4	3				
Deposit				2				
E. Branch				1			1	
E. Meredith			3					
Fleischmanns								
Franklin								
Gr. Gorge				1		1		
Halcottsville								
Hamden								
Hancock			2	2	1			
Harpersfield			1					
Hobart				1				
Long Eddy								
Margaretville			1	1			1	
Masonville				2				
Oneonta				1				
Roscoe		1						
Roxbury								
Sidney			1	2	1			
Sidney Ctr								
S. Kortright			3	2				
Stamford								
Unadilla				1				
Walton			3	5		2		1
Totals	* 89	2	20	28	2	3	2	1



Jail Administrator  
Lt. Bruce Gaffney



Chief Jail Officer First  
Sgt. Fred Stanton

## CORRECTIONS DIVISION

This past year we had eight reportable incidents, the same number as last year. This again reflects very well on our staff and the professionalism they display on a daily basis in the discharge of their duties which keep this number to a minimum.

Also, this past year we processed 1769 incoming inmates, which was 48 more than last year. Of those processed in, 567 were new bookings, which figure is slightly lower than the previous year's. Among those inmates committed to this facility, we had 807 jail-related transports of one kind or another. There were a few less transports to Family Court this year, but the more time-consuming transports (such as Medical, Dental and other Courts) increased approximately ten (10%) percent over last year again.

Each year the time we spend on transports is considerable. If each of the transports averaged a duration of two and a half hours, it would add up to more than 2,000 hours per year. That would keep one transport officer involved in a transport every minute of his work day for the year. If the transports could be done one at a time with one inmate and one officer. The majority of our transports are multiple and require more than one officer. This has a large affect on our overtime budget.

In 2009, we billed our boarding fees in the amount of \$187,095; which is less than last year, to other counties, which include: Dutchess, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster and the U. S. Marshall's Service. This lower total is attributed to the increase in our jail population as well the lessening need of neighboring counties to board-out inmates Other counties have built or are in the process of building new jails and each time that occurs, it reduces their need to board out prisoners; which diminishes our revenue.

Overall, since we opened our jail six years ago, we have taken in over Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) dollars in boarding fees alone. Considering that this facility was not designed to be income-producing, we can still produce revenue for the County.

Other revenue generated this past year amounted to \$58,907.00, which brings the total revenue generated in 2009 by the correctional facility to \$246,002. This figure does not include monies received from the State for transporting State inmates.

CORRECTIONS TRANSPORTS										
Description	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mental Health	7	3	8	8		6	1	4	3	7
Medical	50	65	52	96	69	198	160	140	178	195
Dental	26	29	38	47	62	56	83	92	88	88
Funeral		6	2		3	1	3			2
County/Supreme Court	120	104	127	196	165	139	145	158	136	144
Family Court	24	28	23	14	16	24	42	25	32	27
Other Courts	207	189	289	283	251	192	244	234	225	252
Other Corr. Facilities	366	230	536	757	11	34	29	42	43	42
Work Detail							5			
Relay w/other Agency							4	1	3	2
<u>Transport/Other Agency</u>	8	5	36	2				9	4	17
<u>Federal Transports</u>								11	22	31
<b>TOTALS</b>	808	659	1,111	1,403	577	650	716	716	734	807

INCOME PRODUCED FROM JAIL FOR THE YEAR 2009

REVENUE							
Description	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Boarding - In	\$125,475	367,275	567,450	452,100	354,075	187,985	\$2,054,360
Transporting Prisoners for U.S. Marshall's Service				3,472	9,252	11,667	24,391
State Reimbursements	\$62,186.00	45,866.00	81,644.00	60,680.00	69,618.60	1,729.60	\$321,724.20

Our Medical Division provides a necessary service to the health and welfare of our inmate population.

We have a doctor “on call” and a resident RN on premises, along with part-time LPN assistance.



Michele Mason, RN



## CHAPLAINS

The Delaware County Sheriff’s Office Chaplaincy is made up of volunteer chaplains who have faithfully served us for many years. They include: Yetzchak S. Bernath, Joel Gold, John Grenier, Donald Grossman, Derek Johnson, Elliott Oakes, Jane Ramano and Kristine Warren

The chaplains have made numerous hospital calls. They have also worked with families who have experienced tragic events in their lives. They help provide resources and conduct weddings when asked.

## FOOD PREPARATION

Our Chief Cook, Elizabeth (“Liz”)Telian supervises the kitchen staff. A great savings was realized when we decided to augment our meals by utilizing some partially-prepared courses prepared by the Dept. of Corrections in Albany.

Of course, our staff still prepares the bulk of meals and “special orders” required by medical conditions and religious beliefs.



Elizabeth Telian





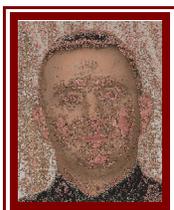
# ROAD PATROL DIVISION



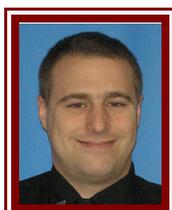
Lt. Timothy Buckley



Sgt. Ted Tiska



DS Derek Bowie



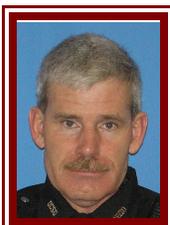
DS Earnest Cawley



DS Tahir Haq



DS Bruce Palmer



DS Jody Proffitt



DS Richard Sass



DS Kim Smith



DS Todd  
Van Keuren

Decisive – while at the same time: considerate, flexible, compassionate, and knowledgeable.

Sgt. Ted Tiska monitors the Step Grant. In 2009 we were awarded a STEP grant in the amount of \$18,000.00.

STEP” is an acronym for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, which refers to planned enforcement activities targeting identified crash causing traffic violations and/or behaviors at their specific times and places of occurrence. Fatalities and personal injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes continue to be a serious societal problem. A large percentage of these traffic crashes can be directly attributed to speeding and other aggressive driving behaviors. While public information and education efforts help prevent some of these incidents, directed traffic law enforcement is the proven key to eliminating these behaviors and their resulting crashes.



### Monthly Activity - Road Patrol Criminal Division

Description	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Total	2008 Total
Total Calls for Service	693	603	801	827	814	591	625	805	698	583	532	484	8056	7416
Total Criminal Complaints	20	29	42	40	38	36	71	23	31	44	53	34	461	428
Total Arrests	14	26	29	27	26	25	35	14	32	27	19	13	<u>287</u>	290
Total Invest & Follow-ups	36	31	61	46	66	46	39	56	68	43	22	26	540	665
Total Traffic Stops	197	221	314	317	327	137	188	361	211	167	149	103	2692	1788
Total Tickets Issued	100	127	155	192	217	84	156	290	199	119	89	73	1801	1147
DWT's	1	0	0	2	3	0	6	0	4	1	2	1	20	17
Orders of Protection	14	11	14	17	10	20	18	14	8	9	13	15	163	182
Civil Papers Served	66	33	73	70	36	47	19	35	54	58	22	45	558	536
Property Checks	77	65	74	76	65	43	26	26	37	38	30	21	578	851
Details	1	1	7	3	2	6	5	6	3	6	4	2	46	70

### Motor Vehicle Accidents

Description	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Total	
Property Damage	62	34	32	22	19	23	18	23	33	29	39	57	391	
Personal Injury	4	2	2	2	1	5	1	5	2	3	1	3	31	
Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Snowmobile ATV	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 4	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	1 5	

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION



Sr Inv Karl Vagts

Criminal Investigations are performed by Senior Investigator Karl H. Vagts., Jr. He is responsible for the in-depth investigation of serious crimes reported to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, detection and arrest of criminal offenders, stolen property recovery, and the administration of records pertaining to each investigation



Lt. Timothy Buckley

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Investigator Mauro has an ambitious workload, consisting of:

- \* Narcotics Investigation
- \* Armorer/Weapons Training
- \* Sex Offender Registry



Inv. Joe Mauro



DS Kim Smith

## EVIDENCE COLLECTION

Deputy Sheriff Kim Smith oversees our Evidence Division, in addition to performing her road patrol duties. She is responsible for processing the data collected at crime scenes. With the aid of state-of-the-art computer equipment, she identifies, documents, and secures a wide variety of evidence. Her duties in this regard include:

- \* Documenting evidence collected at a crime scene, using photo and video depiction
- \* Collecting evidence to include fingerprints and footprint development
- \* Preparing a well-organized set of field notes in preparation of a written report and subsequent trial testimony
- \* Submitting physical evidence for further forensic analysis, including DNA
- \* Assisting fellow law enforcement officers regarding crime scene evidence processing
- \* Preserving evidence until such time as it is ready to be returned to the owner or destroyed.



Front Row: Derik Hadden and James Deighan Back Row: William Gallagher, Jr., Andrew Brown, Mark Alonzo and Sheriff Thomas E. Mills

## CORRECTION ACADEMY

Class of 2009



*DEFENSIVE TACTICS class held at Sidney High School, July 29, 2009*

*Delaware County Sheriff's Office Academy - Capt. James Small*

*Standing from left to right: Dep. Jason Ough, Otsego Sheriff's Office (Instructor); Officer Mike Plunkett, Mt. Vernon PD, Lt. D. Brundege, Albany Cty Sheriff's Office; Sgt. Scott Burrison, Norwich PD; Lt. Mike Mapley, University Police Dept., Syracuse; Dep. Mike Stalter, Otsego Sheriff's Office; Sgt. Mike Calhoun, Delaware Cty Corr. Facility (Instructor) and Dep. John Solian, Ulster County Sheriff's Office.*

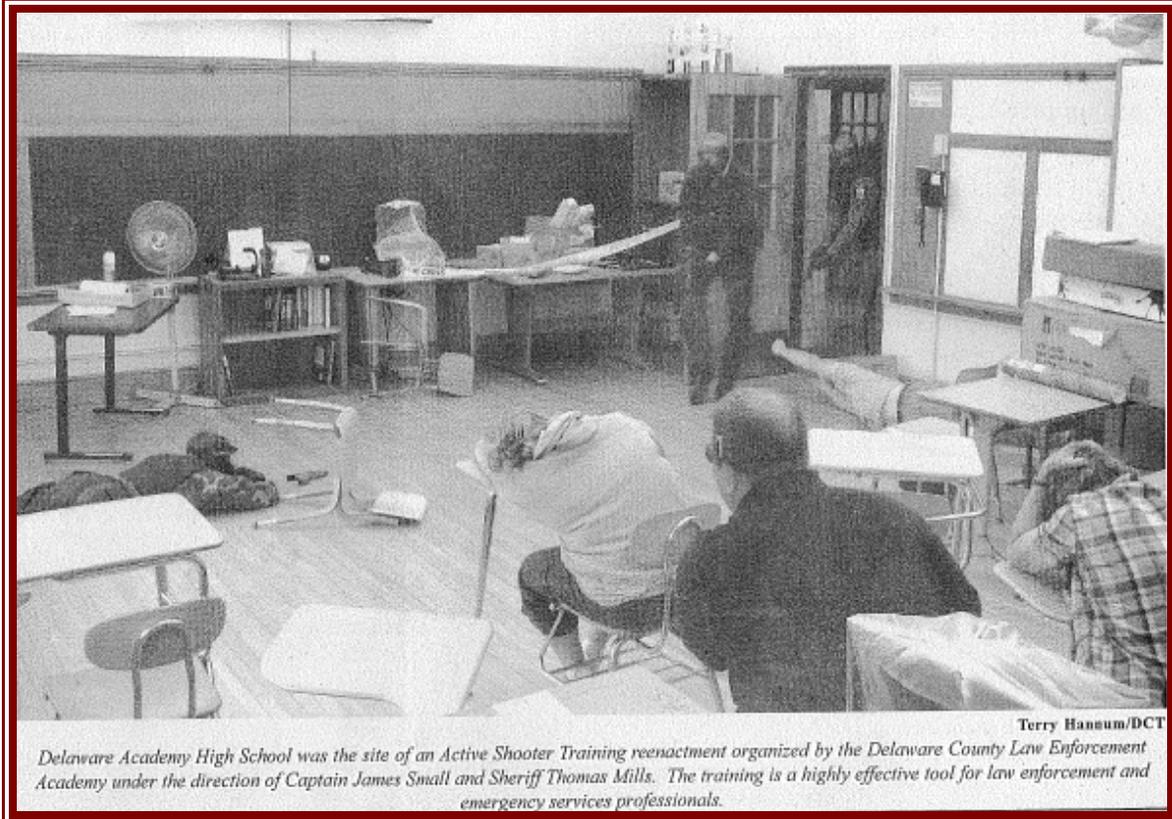
*Kneeling, left to right: Officer Omar Hadeer, Ulster Cty Sheriff's Office, Dep. Richard Sass, Delaware Cty Sheriff's Office, Ladd Dawson, SUNY-Delhi University Police and Officer Stacy Ferris, Otsego County Sheriff's Office*



Firearms Training at Range 9/09

# ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

## Planning to Prevent Worse Case Scenarios



- The Place:** A local school\*
- The Scene:** Police, Sheriff's Office, and State Trooper cars parked as if they were exited in a hurry. On the perimeter there are ambulances and lots of paramedics making busy.
- The Sounds:** Pandemonium. Gunfire. Terrifying screams and pleading shouts for help.
- The Participants:** Delhi Village Police, Delaware County Sheriff's Office, New York State Troopers, University Police (Delhi), Norwich City Police, Delaware County Probation Office, Delaware County Social Services, Ambulance Services and Cooperstown Medical Responders.
- The Purpose:** To create a realistic situation wherein police and emergency responders can train by conducting multiple drills, followed by brief reviews with suggested corrections.

\* Similar training has also been held at several other local schools.

## *Summer Camp*

*Sponsored by the New York State Sheriff's Association.*

*What's it mean to a kid?*



*How long will it be remembered?*



*Can it reshape a future?*

*In 2009, 18 Delaware County area youth availed themselves of the opportunities accorded them at the Sheriffs' Summer camp.*

