

Sheriff releases annual report

By Joe Siccardi

Reveille/Between the Lakes

Sheriff Jack Stenberg presented a copy of the 2013 Sheriff's Department annual report to the Board of Supervisors last week, and released it to the public Tuesday (April 15).

Stenberg pointed out two initiatives in his cover letter: the switch to solar at the Law Enforcement Center projected to save the county over \$1 million over the next 25 years; and the department's continued compliance with state accreditation best practice standards in law enforcement, corrections, court security and civil divisions. Stenberg proudly stated, his department is just one of five in the state to be fully accredited in all divisions.

"Each day, we remind ourselves that job-one we are here to protect and serve," he said. He added, "Each and every day, we explore new ways of how we can deliver services the public expects while at the same time holding the line on costs. Our inmate garden project is just one example of how we offset food costs in the jail by growing the vegetables on site and at the same time achieving positive reinforcement with our inmates who see the fruits of their labor."

The sheriff dedicated the report to two long-time employees who died in 2013, Teri Durso, who had a 34 year administrative support career, and Sylvester "Tut" Campese, who spent 25 years as a corrections officer.

THE SHERIFF TICKED off a series of accomplishments including generating \$580,103.46 by in-boarding federal and out of county inmates into the Correctional Facility (over \$3 million since 2009); relocating the Civil Division to the Law Enforcement Center in Romulus; hosting two state Division of Criminal Justice Services in-service training courses for attendees from throughout the state; putting two new drug return kiosks in service at the County Office Building, and the Law Enforcement Center which allows residents to safely dispose of unwanted, outdated unused medications; graduating the largest Basic Corrections Academy class ever hosted by the department – 18 students representing four surrounding sheriff's correctional facilities; deploying new state of the art technologies in traffic enforcement and accident reconstruction capabilities; enhancing on-site training suite with new SMART board technology; launching the department interactive

website and MOBILE PATROL app which allows iPhone and Android smart phone users to see and search in real time inmates incarcerated in the Correctional Facility, registered sex offenders living in Seneca County and a variety of other services; successfully bringing to a conclusion the cold case against Karl Karlsen for killing his son in 2008 and continuing to assist the Calaveras County (CA) Sheriff and District Attorney's Office in its investigation of the death of Karlsen's first wife, Christina in 1991; obtaining and putting into service body armor for canines Izak and Aken; acquiring, retrofitting and putting into service a Sheriff's Mobile Command Center for use at major incident scenes; saving over \$90,000 in direct inmate costs during past two years by utilizing electronic online bail release service which allowed over 190 inmates to be released on bail who otherwise would have been confined to jail awaiting bail; acquiring a new 2013, 23 foot Boston Whaler boat for use in navigation enforcement; and obtaining over \$300,000 in federal, state and local grants and reimbursements for services.

The full report is available on the Seneca County Sheriff's Department website, sheriff.co.seneca.ny.us.



Helping hand

Anne Wilkes, director of the Seneca Falls Backpack Program, accepts grant from Seneca Meadows to assist in providing weekend food for children in the Seneca Falls school district. The backpack program provides weekend food for 87 children in the Seneca Falls school district.

Board committees at work

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS – Responsible for keeping the board abreast of the various activities in the county and their potential environmental impacts.

Stephen Churchill of Seneca Falls, chair; Cindy Garlick-Lorenzetti of Fayette, vice-chair; and Keith Kubasik of Waterloo, Walt Prouty of Ovid and Michael Reynolds of Covert.

Other Board of Supervisors action

April 8, 2014

Ron Serven of Junius, absent

Presented Employee of the Fourth Quarter to Brady Leo, systems administrator.

Heard a presentation from Jennifer Noce, medical base supervisor, on Air Methods' plans for housing at a hangar at the Finger Lakes Regional Airport, Seneca Falls.

Heard an update from Connie Richardson on the results of the recent Seneca County Substance Abuse Coalition underage drinking survey, three year trend and cost of underage drinking.

Heard a presentation by Mark Benjamin, director of community relations for IESI/Seneca Meadows, on the company's non-profit free event recycling toter program.

Heard from Dieter Kramer, president of Seneca County Federation of Sportsman Clubs, seeking support for use of center fire rifles during regular deer season in Seneca County.

Accepted proposal from Maximus Consulting for the county's indirect cost allocation plan (\$7,100 per year for five years).

Extended tax rolls and bill extract files to Phelps/Clifton, Romulus, Seneca Falls, South Seneca, Trumansburg and Waterloo

school districts.

Extended tax rolls and bills for the villages in the county.

Amended the 2014 budget.

Found no quantifiable evidence the proposed state property tax freeze would result in significant property tax relief, while a phased state takeover of the cost of its own mandated human services, starting with Medicaid, would provide immediate, permanent and measurable property tax reduction and the state should also provide fiscal relief to New York City for a portion of the local taxes it commits to state mandated programs.

Tabled recognition of the Romulus girls' basketball squad to allow the team to be present for the honor.

Approved preservation of materials from the former Seneca County Jail and return of items housed at the former sheriff's office to original owners.

Extended lease with Rochester-Genesee Regional Transit Authority for STS use of County Office Building office space and parking lot through Dec. 31.

Approved temporary removal of backup E-911 equipment from the former sheriff's office to the Seneca County Courthouse.

Approved plan for demolition and renovation at the former Seneca County Sheriff's Department site, Waterloo (not to

exceed \$3,700,000).

Approved purchase of four computers and a printer for the District Attorney's Office (\$3,000 from information technology reserve).

Approved a lease with Air Methods, an air emergency medical transportation corporation, for a vacant hangar at Finger Lakes Regional Airport, Seneca Falls (\$3,500 per month).

Created and authorized filling a grant management specialist position.

Authorized publishing notice of a public hearing May 13, 6 p.m., for Agricultural District #6.

Appointed Ron Serven of Junius as board representative and Greg Wadhams of Junius as farmer representative on the Agriculture Enhancement Board.

Declared negative for Phase II drainage project at Finger Lakes Regional Airport, Seneca Falls.

Amended fee schedule for simple re-roofing project permits to \$75.

Awarded bid for Weatherization temporary labor to Adecco Employment Service, Auburn (56% over pay rate for field work and 45.9% over pay rate for office work, budgeted, 100% federal and state aid).

Awarded bid for Weatherization tuning and cleaning of oil fired heating systems to All Pro Heating & Air Conditioning, Romulus (\$155 per unit, budgeted, 100% federal and state aid).

Awarded bid for Weatherization tun-

ing and cleaning of gas heating systems to All Pro Heating & Air Conditioning, Romulus (\$119 per unit, budgeted, 100% federal and state aid).

Awarded bid for Weatherization combustion appliance emergency repair work to All Pro Heating & Air Conditioning, Romulus (\$130 first hour, \$65 addition hour, budgeted, 100% federal and state aid).

Renewed agreement with Cayuga County for sharing radio tower space and equipment to enhance the communications network (not to exceed \$1,863 per month).

Authorized purchase of two Sheriff's patrol vehicles (\$78,033, budgeted).

Authorized purchase of two Sheriff's unmarked passenger vehicles (\$19,730, budgeted).

Authorized signing Sheriff's contract with Monroe County Laboratory for forensic services (\$14,925, budgeted).

Authorized signing Public Health contract with state Department of Health for tobacco enforcement program grant (\$27,166).

Appointed Connie Richardson to fill vacancy on Seneca County Board of Health due to the retirement of Barbara McCall.

Authorized applying for up to \$600,000 from the 2013-14 Public Safety Answering Points Consolidation, Improvements and Enhancements and Sustainment grants.

Declared building at 1465 County Road 132, Romulus, unsafe and ordered it to be immediately secured.

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Readers are encouraged to express their views. Letters should be short and to the point, preferably no longer than 250 words. Preference will be given to letters that pertain to local issues. Only signed letters will be considered and no form or fund-raising letters will be published.

CALENDAR ITEMS

All items for Bits 'n Pieces must be received at the *Reveille/Between the Lakes* office no later than two weeks prior to the event. Bits 'n Pieces is designed to bring activities of interest to the attention of area residents. Items should be submitted in writing or by e-mail and must include the sender's name and complete phone number. It should include what the event is, where and the time(s) it will be held, costs (if any), registration information (if applicable) and a contact person and daytime phone number or address for more information.

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