



ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION



Importance of Electing and Supporting the Right Sheriff



Article [HERE](#)

Say the word “sheriff”, and most listeners will likely conjure up mental imagery of the Wild Wild West, complete with gunslingers and revolver duels.

While the “cowboy swagger” days may not quite be the same today, the position of sheriff remains in the majority of the United States. And yet despite the history, the folklore, and the legacy of the local sheriff, the lone elected law enforcement position in the country stands against opposition and dwindling support in the

modern world. Why is this? What happens if the local sheriff as we know ceases to exist? It is imperative that we find the answer and the solutions to this question, as sheriffs continue to play an integral and irreplaceable role among our law enforcement jurisdiction.

Many citizens may not realize the difference between the sheriff and the police. The sheriff is the only position elected into office among all law enforcement positions. While not every state elects sheriffs into terms, this is the case for 46 states. The idea behind the election of a sheriff is that the position is subject to a higher degree of direct accountability from the population that voted the individual into office. The sheriff's office is not directly governed by the county board, supervisors, or the mayor, but the budget for this department is controlled, usually by the county commissioner. It's an interesting balance of power, and unfortunately in some cases this lack of budgetary control and oversight can lead to a loss of support for the sheriff's department.

Sheriffs are elected to a variety of term lengths ranging from two-to-six years, and the majority of states electing sheriffs allows them to run as partisan candidates. This electoral process allows voters to have more control and “say” when it comes to their local law enforcement decisions, as the sheriff often has some jurisdiction over police operations.

In some areas of the country, particularly the southern regions and the more rural parts, sheriffs can be the sole source of law enforcement in a large territory. Local residents rely on the services of their local sheriff to feel safe in their homes. And yet, these sheriffs are often running on thin staffs and demanding schedules, having to cover large areas of territory with lower staff numbers than a larger municipality's police force.

In [research conducted by the Times West Virginian](#), many county sheriff departments have deputies working graveyard shifts “on call”, and others are overlapping coverage with local police to make sure that ends are met.

The value of the sheriff's office cannot be underestimated, which is why these departments must have support not just from voters but also from fellow elected officials and board members. The sheriff is a position visible to the public and accountable to the voters. And in a time in which many citizens may actually trust police and law enforcement to a higher degree than their members of Congress, it's important to ensure that law enforcement is not only held to a high standard but also is given the tools necessary to properly protect and serve citizens.

Another support issue faced time and time again is lack of voter support. When it comes to funding, sheriff departments often rely on a fair distribution of tax revenue that is shared among multiple

departments. When the revenue and how it's spent by those outside of the sheriff's department, the budget can often be distributed unevenly. In addition, voters may turn down the idea of a tax levy or any other increase when they are either saddled with too many increases as it is or don't fully understand the impact of their "no" vote.

During a 2017 election in Madera County, California, voters failed to approve the passage of a one percent sales tax increase in unincorporated areas of the county that would have then been distributed to multiple departments, including that of the sheriff. The measure failed to pass with a "no" vote percentage of just over 55 percent. This is an example of poor funding management and a poor perception held by voters, as negative feedback for this measure included sentiments of frustration that current tax revenue had not been budgeted fairly in the past. Because of this pattern of behavior, voters are hesitant to approve another tax increase, when they feel their money has not been wisely or fairly used in the past.

This behavior has a massive trickle down effect that is felt in devastating ways by the sheriff's department.

In some cases, the sheriff is forced to shutter its doors. A lack of funding affects not only sheriff's departments, but other necessary public services such as firefighting and police. Remember: some areas fully rely on sheriffs to protect their communities. What happens if a sheriff's office cannot properly staff its department? In many cases, deputies are then subjected to longer hours, which can increase their level of fatigue on the job and lead to a dangerous situation. Facilities must be maintained, and logistical elements such as telecommunications and networks are integral parts of the success or failure of law enforcement to properly protect the citizens whose safety it is responsible for.

These are just a few of the potentially devastating effects that a lack of support for the local sheriff and for law enforcement in general can contribute to. For these reasons and more, it's important that we as voters elect officials and commissioners who will remain true to the integrity and preservation of the sheriff's department. The sheriff holds a personal level of accountability to the voters who put them into office, but when they are not given the tools to achieve that accountability, the entire system is put into jeopardy.

Voter education, proper handling of revenue funds, and a deeper understanding of the impact that sheriff's departments have on their communities will help forge a path forward for improved support. The majority of states in the country use the services of the sheriff. It's important that these states also do right by their sheriffs and allow them to do their job, creating a safer community for the voters who trusted them with their votes.

Protecting Our Communities

Sangamon County Sheriff's office responds to threat at Jefferson Middle School



Article [HERE](#)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (WICS/WRSP) — The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office responded to a possible threat at Jefferson Middle School on Friday.

We're told District 286 security was notified of a threat at dismissal.

The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office says the

Effingham County Sheriff's office charges man after 15-hour standoff



By [Charles Mills](#)

A man who barricaded himself in his house in a 15-hour standoff near Watson Thursday surrendered early Friday with an injury to his hand, authorities said.

Matthew W. Reissen, 37, living along Illinois Route 37 east of Watson, was taken into custody at 4:10 a.m., according to Effingham County Sheriff Paul Kuhns.

threat was about a shooting or involved firearms. No specific information on the threat was given.

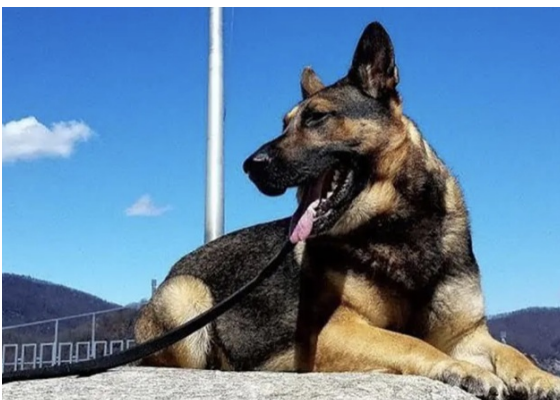
Law enforcement remained in the area until around 3:30 p.m. out of an abundance of caution. District 186 released the following statement in response to the incident:

Just before 2 PM today, Friday, May 27, 2022, District 186 received a message from a community member that overheard anonymous sources talking about a possible threat to Jefferson Middle School at the end of the school day. No specific details were provided, but we take all threats seriously. The Sangamon County Sheriff's Office was notified and immediately dispatched to the school. District staff reported to the school as well to establish the safety of all students and staff.

All students were dismissed in an orderly and smooth dismissal with no incident. Out of an abundance of caution several Sheriff cars were in the area and remained present until all students were dismissed and staff could leave the building safely.

As always we applaud people who share information as they hear it.

Lake County Sheriff canines help locate gun that suspect ditched while fleeing crash on I-94 near Gurnee



Article [here](#)

A man was arrested after he fled the scene of a crash on Interstate 94 near Gurnee and two Lake County Sheriff's Office canines helped officers recover a gun that he allegedly ditched, officials

Reissen was charged with arson and aggravated discharge of a firearm, according to a preliminary investigation report provided by the sheriff's office.

Illinois Route 37 was closed between Watson and U.S. Route 45 for several hours. Law enforcement agencies used the Watson United Methodist Church parking lot as a staging area.

The Effingham County Sheriff's department is the lead law enforcement agency investigating the incident.

Kuhns said callers to the Effingham County Sheriff's office reported that Reissen was lighting items on fire in his yard and throwing large rocks at cars as they drove by.

"He displayed a knife and threatened people driving by on the road," Kuhns said. "When police arrived on the scene, he fled into his residence." Reissen retreated into his house and refused to cooperate with officers, the preliminary investigation report said. Deputies believed Reissen was in possession of several firearms inside the residence and several unsuccessful attempts were made to establish communication with him.

"We know from past experience he owns weapons and has them in his house," Kuhns said. Effingham County deputies and officers from the Effingham Police Department set a perimeter around the house and requested the assistance of the Illinois State Police SWAT.

Illinois State Police negotiators and Illinois State Police SWAT arrived at a police staging area located at the Watson United Methodist Church parking lot on Route 37 Thursday afternoon and after a briefing moved out to the staging area to the residence just after 5 p.m.

An Air Evac Lifeteam EMS crew landed at the staging area and left late Thursday afternoon due to deteriorating weather conditions from an approaching thunderstorm.

As the Air Evac Lifeteam EMS helicopter was attempting to land, some law enforcement officers and the sheriff in the staging area and an EDN reporter witnessed what appeared to be a red flare drifting down in the air in close proximity to the helicopter on its final approach to the Watson Methodist Church parking lot.

The sheriff immediately investigated after the helicopter landed to see if it was something the flight crew might have used. Kuhns determined the red flare did not come from the helicopter. An Arch Air Medical Services helicopter earlier in the afternoon declined to fly to the scene due to weather conditions. Two RuralMed ambulances remained in the church parking lot.

The sheriff's report said after ISP SWAT and Illinois State Police negotiators arrived they made several attempts to contact Reissen throughout the afternoon and throughout the night. Kuhns said Reissen shot several flares up during the course of the night and shot several rounds. He said a tree fell across Route 37 close to the

said.

The Illinois State Police said they were called around 12:30 p.m. on Friday to eastbound Interstate 94 at mile marker 8.75 in Gurnee. District 15 troopers responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash.

Two occupants from one of the vehicles fled the scene on foot, state police said.

The Gurnee Police Department and Lake County Sheriff's Office were called to assist in the search.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office said their canines Boomer and Duke were sent to the scene.

A witness told police that one of the subjects who fled was armed with a firearm.

Officers located both subjects in the 5700 block of Northridge Drive in Gurnee and arrested them, Lake County Sheriff's Office Deputy Chief Christopher Covelli said.

Canine Boomer began an evidence search for over an hour looking for the firearm. Canine Duke was called to assist in the search due to the search area being very large, the sheriff's office said.

Duke successfully recovered a firearm in a yard during the search.

"The neighborhood was very grateful for the time and diligence the K9s put in locating the evidence to keep their neighborhood safe! Good boys Boomer and Duke!" the sheriff's office said.

scene as police weathered passing thunderstorms that swept through the area Thursday afternoon and evening.

Police said during the early morning hours Reissen fired a weapon from inside the house, striking the negotiators' armored vehicle and one of the outbuildings on the property. Shortly after, the negotiators convinced Reissen to surrender. "I was pleased with the great amount of restraint and patience the Illinois State Police SWAT team displayed, and they were correct, because this is why this came to a peaceful conclusion and no one was seriously injured," said Kuhns. "Their tactics were spot on and they made the right decisions."

Assisting the sheriff's department on the scene were members of the Effingham City Police, Illinois State Police, Illinois State Police SWAT Team, Illinois State Police negotiators, Secretary of State Police Bomb Squad, Watson Fire Department, Illinois Department of Transportation, RuralMed EMS, Effingham County EMA and Air Evac Lifeteam.

Kuhns thanked the congregation of the Watson United Methodist Church for opening the doors to their dining area area and kitchen for the emergency responders.

"The generosity they showed is an outstanding example of our community," Kuhns said.

The incident remains under investigation by the Effingham County Sheriff's Department.

Summer Road Trip Safety Reminders



Before you back out of your drive, make sure your home and car are ready.

Home Prep

- a. Lock all doors and windows
- b. Keep lights on set timers
- c. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries
- d. Arrange for lawn care

Vehicle Prep

- e. Check pressure in all tires
- f. Have a pro check A/C in vehicle
- g. Replace worn windshield wipers
- h. Have a pro inspect your brakes

7 TIPS TO AVOID SUMMERTIME DRIVING DANGERS

Article [HERE](#)

Snow, rain and ice are common cold-weather threats to driver safety, but summer brings with it its own set of dangers. For drivers, the added traffic of summer vacationers is just part of the increased risk — construction, sun glare and unpredictable weather patterns all add to the danger.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, summer and fall are the most dangerous times of the year for drivers, with July and August being the deadliest. More drivers are out on the road during that time, which increases the likelihood of collisions.

For fleets and professional drivers, this time of year isn't just business as usual; it requires more attention to safe driving practices. Here's a look at eight ways to stay safe behind the wheel.

No. 1: Double Down on Equipment Maintenance

Extreme heat takes a toll on vehicles. It can lead to tire blowouts and can affect your vehicle's braking ability. It causes your engine to overheat more easily and places increased stress on just about every mechanical function your vehicle performs.

Paying extra attention to tire pressure and tread, checking the brakes frequently and making sure that your vehicle's cooling system has all the proper fluids can help keep vehicles from being sidelined during the summer months.

No. 2: Watch Out for Distracted Drivers

Whether it's families on vacation or students heading toward the beach, summer roads are filled with drivers who are more distracted than usual. While distracted drivers are already a threat on the roads,

summer can bring more distractions than usual, so watch out for drivers who aren't watching out for you. If you see a distracted driver, avoid being near them on the road.

No. 3: Pay Attention to Weather Forecasts

Depending on what part of the country you're in, your summer weather patterns could include thunderstorms, downpours that result in flash flooding, tornados and more.

These often can happen with little to no warning, so make sure you know the forecast for the area you're driving each day, and check in periodically just to make sure nothing has changed.

No. 4: Keep an Eye on the Calendar, Too

Some days are more dangerous than others; weekends and certain holidays are associated with an increase in drinking and driving. So, for professional drivers who are behind the wheel during that time, it requires more attention to the surrounding hazards.

July 4 is particularly deadly, both in terms of motorcycle fatalities and passenger vehicles. On the weekends, the highest number of fatal crashes happen between 3 and 7 p.m., so be aware of increased risk when you're behind the wheel — and take extra safety precautions as needed.

No. 5: Take Care of Those Eyes

Driving can be hard on the eyes, period. But during summer months, when the sun is out in full force, there's also an increased amount of sun glare coming off the road and other vehicles.

This can be particularly dangerous during the early morning and late evening, so invest in a good pair of polarized sunglasses. They'll help protect your eyes from fatigue and damage, cut down on glare and make it easier to see clearly.

No. 6: Increase Following Distance

Whether you're hauling a heavy load or driving a light-duty vehicle, increasing your following distance can help offset the dangers brought by heavier traffic, construction zones and vacationing drivers who are traveling in unfamiliar areas.

No. 7: Respect the Effects of Heat

Finally, it's easy to dismiss just how much the sun can affect us, but it's important to pay attention to how it affects both drivers and vehicles. Heat exhaustion can make drivers drowsy, and an overheated vehicle can leave them stranded.

This is not the time to push yourself or your vehicle past the limit — that only makes it unsafe for everyone on the road. You can combat fatigue by taking frequent breaks, and paying attention to your vehicle's warning signs can prevent you from breakdowns and malfunctions.

While you can't change the behavior of other drivers around you or the conditions of the road you're on, following these eight tips can help you have a healthier, safer summer.

2022 Illinois Fallen Police Memorial Ceremony

Click photo below to view 3:29 clip

Honor.
Respect.
Remember.



Heat of the moment: Why does violent crime spike in the summer?



By: [Andrew Dorn](#)

Ask any police officer who's worried about the violent crime in their city today and they'll likely tell you a version of the same thing: It's about to get worse.

That's because rates of violent crime typically go up during the warm weather months.

For decades, criminologists have debated why certain crimes, specifically violent ones, consistently increase during the summer.

Explanations run the gamut. Teens are out of

school unsupervised with nothing to do so they get in trouble. Nice weather means more people are outside, which leads to more social encounters that could potentially turn violent. Others argue that hot temperatures directly increase levels of aggression and hostility.

In recent weeks, Chicago has seen a number of violent incidents linked to large gatherings of teenagers in public spaces.

Last week, Mayor Lori Lightfoot imposed a weekend curfew for minors at one of the city's most oft-visited areas, Millennium Park. The day before, a 16-year-old boy was shot and killed after hundreds of young people descended on the park near "The Bean."

Despite the headlines, it's unclear whether the uptick in violent crime during the summer is directly tied to kids being out of school. Data suggests it may not be.

In general, juveniles between the ages of 7 and 17 were more likely to commit violent crime (murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault) on school days than on non-school days, according to FBI data for 2018 and 2019.

Other studies have found the seasonal spike may have more to do with changes in human behavior brought on by warmer weather.

"It has less to do with the heat and it being really hot and bothering people and far more to do with the opportunities for disagreements to blow up into violence," Daniel Semenza, a criminology professor at

Rutgers University, told NewsNation Friday.

As the reasoning goes, when the weather gets nice, more people go outside, days are longer and that creates more opportunity for interpersonal conflict — there's simply a greater number of interactions that could go wrong.

Which begs the question: Does violent crime increase on days when the weather is warm not during the summer months? Some studies suggest it does.

In 2017, researchers at Drexel University [analyzed daily crime data](#) in Philadelphia over a 10-year period and found higher rates of violent crime and disorderly conduct on days when the weather was warmer. In fact, the effect of temperature on crime rates was most pronounced on days when the weather was warm during traditionally cold months, not during the summer.

A more [recent 2019 study](#) from researchers at the University of Southern California examined the relationship between temperature and violent crime in Los Angeles. It found violent crime rates rose, on average, 5.7% on days when the temperature was above 85 degrees. The researchers also noted that “the heat-crime relationship is more pronounced in low-income neighborhoods.”

Others [have found](#) that warm weather itself can increase aggressive motives and behaviors in individuals. The “heat hypothesis” asserts that people can become more easily aggravated and hostile in hot temperatures. In turn, those feelings may contribute to factors that spur violent crime.

Whatever the underlying cause, police departments in America's largest cities are [bracing for a violent summer](#).

Homicides linked to firearms hit the [highest rate in 26 years](#) in the United States in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In Chicago, robberies are [up 17%](#) compared to this time last year. So far, [207 people have been murdered](#) in the city this year, a slight decrease from the 223 killed over the same period last year. In New York, the murder rate is down 13 percent but violent crime overall is up 42 percent compared to this same time a year ago.

Meeting Sangamon County Sheriff: Jack Campbell

Tell us about yourself and your family:

My wife, Lori, and I have been married 37 years. We have two daughters whom are schoolteachers. We have four grandchildren.

Describe what you do professionally, as well as your roles within the community:

Besides my role as Sheriff, I also keep the scoreboard for the football team and occasional basketball games. I have been on the board of our local golf tournament since 1986.

What first made you get involved with your chosen field?

My Dad and Great-Uncle were Sangamon County Deputies. In the early '90s, I began exploring the possibility of becoming a Deputy and began pursuing that career. I had a desire at that point in my life, to help our community.

Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

I have always lived in small towns and every individual can make a large difference there. My involvement in law enforcement stems from just wanting to make a difference to our residents.

What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career service?



I have always been able to help people.

What's your personal philosophy on life?

Work hard. Play hard. Give back.

Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

My Mom and Dad influenced me the most. Dad as to becoming a Deputy, and my Mother in her drive and determination.

What changes would you like to see in your community in the next 10 years, and how can they be brought to fruition?

We need manufacturing jobs. Work with an industry to make Sangamon County the leader in that area.

If you weren't doing what you do now, what would you be doing instead?

Construction. Love it. I know enough to make me dangerous. I did my own general contracting when I built my house in 1996.

How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

Upbeat and talkative.

What do you do when you aren't working or volunteering?

Watching and/or playing sports. Specifically golf and crossfit.

What do you consider the biggest challenge about your community?

We need more job opportunities.

Tell us about your biggest strength:

My inner-drive. I don't give up and I don't take no for an answer.

What are your goals for yourself?

To be better tomorrow than I was today.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I'm a softy at heart.

Purchase Your Solidarity Kit Online!

Click on image below for details & to purchase.



2022 Upcoming Events:

Jail Medical Summit
August 25, 2022
Peoria

Sheriff Summer Training Conference
September 17 - 20, 2022
East Peoria

Administrative Assistants Training
October (TBA)
TBA

New Sheriff's Management Institute
November 13 - 17, 2022
Springfield