



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**

Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE



APR 2025

The inside stories for you!
**SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT
& MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES**

**National Telecommunicators Week
April 13-19, 2025**



**THANK YOU,
DISPATCHERS!**

National Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is held annually during the second week of April to honor public safety telecommunicators for their commitment, service, and sacrifice.

NPSTW initially started in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California. In 1994, President William J. Clinton signed **Presidential Proclamation 6667**, declaring the second week of

April as NPSTW. This week is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

[Learn more about the history of NPSTW](#) and how you can celebrate our public safety telecommunicators.

Throughout this week, we honor and thank those telecommunicators who have continued to serve in this demanding profession.



911: What You Need to Know Before You Dial

Know your location

- Mobile phones do not automatically provide exact locations.
- Cell phones ping the nearest tower, which may not pinpoint your precise address.
- Be prepared to provide specific details such as landmarks, parks, intersections, or business names.

Stay calm and listen carefully

- Give as much detail as possible and follow the dispatcher's

instructions.

- Staying composed can help ensure a quicker and more efficient response.

Provide descriptive information

- If reporting an incident, be prepared to describe individuals by sex, age, height, weight, and clothing.
- Vehicle details such as make, color, license plate number, and direction of travel are also crucial.

Teach kids about 911

- Educate children on when and how to call 911.
- Ensure they know their address, apartment number, and any medical conditions in the home.
- Reinforce that they should never hang up until the dispatcher instructs them to do so.

Did you know?

Anonymous reporting: If you are reporting a crime and are not the victim, you may inform the dispatcher that you wish to remain anonymous.

Accidental calls: If you accidentally dial 911, do not hang up—instead, stay on the line and inform the dispatcher that there is no emergency. Hang-ups require a callback to confirm safety.

Deactivated cell phones can still call 911: Wireless phones with no active service can still dial 911. Avoid giving old phones to children as toys.

Credit: www.thelansingjournal.com





Spring Session Check-In

Update from ISA Executive Director,
Jim Kaitschuk



The General Assembly has this week off for spring break after a flurry of bills were heard in committees and their chamber of origin. The good news for us, at least for now, is that a number of the bills that we had opposition to have not moved over to the opposite chamber for consideration. I would love to tell you that this means the bill is dead, but this is Springfield and anything can still happen until they adjourn for the Spring.

That list of bills included:

HB 1611 - this would have significantly altered our ability to effectively serve search warrants, **HB 1429** - this bill created an array of challenges to law enforcement as it sought to establish additional rights for homeless population in public areas, **HB 2929** - establishment of safe consumption pilot in Chicago to name a few.

There were also a few that did pass their original chamber, including:

SB 42 - which would eliminate the requirement for cannabis to be transported in odorless containers, **SB 1954** - which would establish a recall provision for county wide elected officials only for Sangamon County and, **SB 1784** - which would raise the minimum age of detention for juveniles from 10 to 12 and then add years to 13 and 14 in the following years and only allow for detention in those years for the following offenses of first degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, aggravated battery in which a firearm was used, or aggravated vehicular hijacking.

There is a little over 1 ½ months left of the scheduled spring session and we will keep you posted! Thanks again for all your support.



MAY 2025 PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL WEEK

★ MAY 11TH-17TH, 2025 ★



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO COMMEMORATE AND GIVE THANKS



The **Illinois Police Officers Memorial Committee** was established in 1985. Our monument in Springfield, Illinois bears the names of the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities. Every year on the first Thursday of May, we hold a ceremony to pay tribute to fallen officers and their families. We are grateful to all our contributors who have helped us keep these memories alive.

2025 Ceremony

Our 2025 Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 1st. Officers killed in the line of duty during the calendar year's 2024 will be honored. Ceremony information is below.

Thursday May 1, 2025,

9:30 am - Interfaith Ceremony

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
524 East Lawrence Ave. (6th and Lawrence)
Springfield, IL 62705

Thursday May 1, 2025,

11:00 am - Ceremony at the Illinois Police Officers Memorial Site,

West lawn, Illinois State Capitol, 301 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703



***The names of all fallen officers nationwide will be formally dedicated during the 37th Annual Candlelight Vigil to be held on the National Mall in Washington, DC, at 8:00 pm EDT on May 13, 2025. For more information, go to <https://nleomf.org/memorial/programs/national-police-week-2025/candlelight-vigil/>**

***For more information about National Police Week, please visit: <https://nleomf.org/memorial/programs/national-police-week-2025/police-week-schedule-2025/>**

ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION 2025 Police Memorial Week, Remember the Fallen HEROES t-shirt Sale

Last day to order April 18th



ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION 2025 Police Memorial Week, Remember the Fallen HEROES t-shirt Sale

Donation Item with portions of the proceeds to benefit
ILCOPS - Illinois Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.



\$27.00
Plus Tax & Shipping



Learn More about
this Organization:
ilcops.net



Front Design



Back Design

**Shirts are Pre-Order on the ISA Store, Final Day to Order
will be April 18th. Items will be shipped 1-2 weeks after
the store closes.**

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www.ilsheriff.org

2025 ISA Conference & Training Schedule

Civil Process Training,

June 4, 2025,
Par-a-Dice Hotel, East Peoria

**ISA PRESENTS -
Law Enforcement
Continued Education
Opportunities**

Together, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association
is making progress in the right direction
by providing our Peace Officers
with the resources they need.

**Sheriffs Summer
Training Conference,**
September 20-23, 2025,
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

[Visit our Website](#)

**We would not be able to put our training and conferences on
without our Preferred Vendors! The Illinois Sheriffs' Association
would like to thank your vendors listed below!**

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2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series - April | McDonough County



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - McDonough County



*Elected as
Sheriff 2018*
19 Years in
Law Enforcement



Population
McDonough County
26,839



Average
Household
Income
\$50,434



1.

What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

My Uncle was Deputy Sheriff and Granpda was an Auxiliary Deputy.

2.

Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office and throughout your County:

My role extends beyond just enforcing the laws, it is about building trust with the community, maintaing a strong presence to deter crime, and responding effectively to emergencies. I am accountable not just to the department but to the citizens of the entire county.

3.

What is your favorite part about being McDonough County Sheriff?

My favorite part about being McDonough County Sheriff is solving crime.



4.

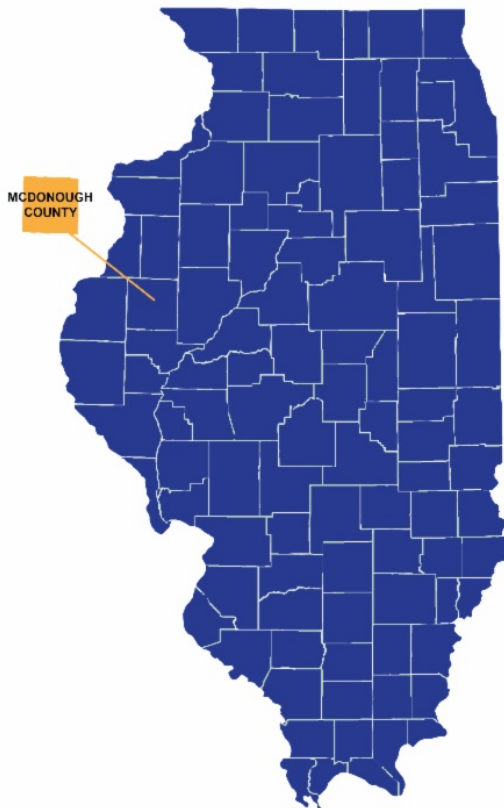
Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

I believe community engagement is important. I want the people of McDonough County to know me personally and trust that I will help them if they are in need. Most are not afraid to give me a call if they need something.

5.

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

Everyday can be fun and exciting. There are hard days and tough situations, but I love that my job has a variety of duties and responsibilities. The support of my community makes it even better.



6.

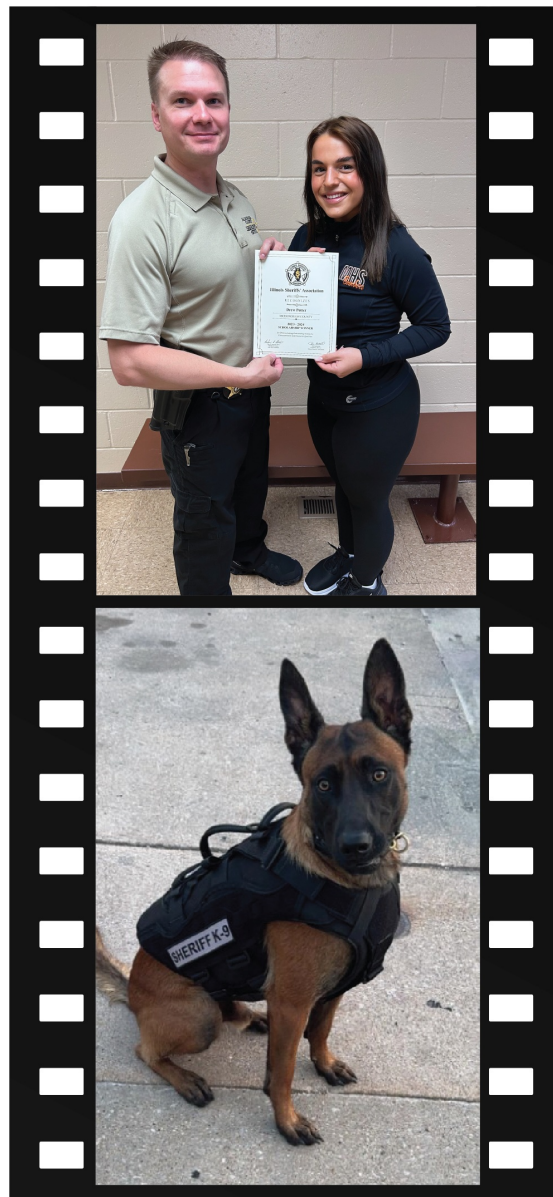
Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

One of my dad's high school best friends was the Sheriff of Jo Daviess County. He was President of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association as well. When I was 17, a Junior in High School, I picked to job shadow him for a class. I spent a week with him and after that I knew it was something I would do one day.

7.

What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

Declining population, historic rural dependency on methamphetamine, and Illinois not understanding rural communities.



8.

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

Determined, dedicated, confident, fun and kind of intense.

9.

What advice would you give young people?

Learn to swim, wear deodorant, and don't smoke meth.



SHERIFF PETITGOUT FUN FACTS:



**IF YOU WEREN'T DOING
WHAT YOU DO NOW,
WHAT WOULD BE
YOUR DREAM JOB?**

I would be a tour guide at Universal Studios, or sell paper for Dunder Mifflin



**WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN YOU AREN'T
WORKING OR
VOLUNTEERING?**

I run and workout, and I love to watch The Office



**WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE
BE SURPRISED TO KNOW
ABOUT YOU?**

I'm a very good cook. I learned to cook from my great grandmother, grandmother, and mother. I worked in a restaurant when I was younger too. I have continued that passion in making dinner for my family & trying new recipes.



FOLLOW THEM:
McDonough County Sheriff's Office

NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY:



Despite two decades of education and enforcement, drivers still failing Scott's Law

Beth Hundsorfer |
capitolnewsillinois.com

[READ
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DJ Daniel to be honored by more than 160 law enforcement agencies

Genell Reynolds | KSDK.com

[READ
MORE](#)

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH



Distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. Cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — has become the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

In 2023, distracted driving killed 3,275 people. April, which is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we're on the road. Follow these safety tips for a safe ride:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location.
- Designate your passenger as your "designated texter" to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps while driving. Struggling not to text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.



Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Scholarship Feature



As of today, April 15th, all ISA Scholarship applications have been submitted and reviewed by each county Sheriff.

In several counties, the number and quality of submissions were so outstanding that Sheriffs and their selection committees found it impossible to choose just one recipient. In these cases, they generously chose to contribute additional funds to support multiple scholarships in their counties!

We're excited to announce the winners of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association Scholarships on May 1st. Recipients will be notified in writing and recognized on our website and social media.

Thank you to our members who continue to make this scholarship opportunity possible for the youth in our state!



The 2025-2026 Peacekeepers Scholarship Application is NOW OPEN!

Each year the Illinois Sheriffs' Association offers special scholarships to dependents of our military and law enforcement community. We believe these scholarships demonstrate honor to the families of those who serve our country and communities.

Those eligible to apply for the Peacekeepers Scholarship include dependents of Law Enforcement Officers who are either active duty, retired or those killed in the line of duty. Also eligible are dependents of active duty Military, Military Reserve, National Guard or of those killed in action.

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MONDAY JUNE 2, 2025.

Click the link to download a fillable PDF Application.

[**Peacekeepers Application**](#)

cebrin goodman
teen institute
powered by IABH



For over 30 years, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association has been awarding scholarships for youth to attend the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI).

REGISTER FOR CGTI 2025!

JULY 13 - 17 | EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION, \$430
MARCH 1 - MARCH 31

STANDARD REGISTRATION, \$475
APRIL 1 - MAY 31

LATE REGISTRATION, \$500
JUNE 1 - JUNE 15



APPLY AT IL SHERIFFS' ASSOC WEBSITE- ilsheriff.org/youth-2

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Corporate ISA
Membership
Sponsors.**



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