



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'  
ASSOCIATION**

*Protecting Our Communities,  
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE*



**AUG 2025**

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



**POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

National Night Out (*held annually on the 1st Tuesday of August*) is a nationwide community event that brings neighbors, law enforcement, and first responders together for an evening of fun, food, and connection. From block parties to safety demonstrations, the goal is to strengthen trust, promote crime prevention, and build a safer, more united community.

*Check out the fun events that happened around the state!*

## **MCDONOUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



## **LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**







**WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**KANKAKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**PEORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**CRAWFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



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**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



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# BEYOND THE BADGE

Have you ever wondered what else your local Sheriff's Office does behind the scenes?

Public Relations & Communications Manager with Madison County Government, Cynthia Ellis shares insight into the many things Madison County Sheriff's Office does that you might not know.



*Whether you're a new employee or worked for Madison County for years, do you know the role of each department, how it serves the public and the services that are provided?*



## BEYOND THE BADGE: SHERIFF'S STEADY SERVICE AND SILENT SAFEGUARDS

The patrol car is easy to spot. It's visible in neighborhoods, along country roads, parked outside schools and responding to emergencies. For many, it's the most recognizable symbol of the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

But what happens behind the scenes—away from the sirens and spotlights—is where much of the agency's daily work is done.

On any given day, deputies and staff are managing inmate transports, serving court papers, coordinating disaster response, or quietly walking the perimeter of a home while the owners are out of town.

That last one might surprise some.

Through the Sheriff's Office's Vacation Property Check Program, residents in unincorporated Madison County can request extra patrols of their home while they're away. It's a free service, and while most people are thinking about boarding passes and weather forecasts, deputies are keeping watch over front porches and back doors.

It's not about catching anyone in the act. It's about presence. Prevention. Peace of mind.

When a request is submitted, the address is added to a checklist provided to deputies on patrol. During routine shifts, they stop by, check exterior doors and windows, and note any signs of forced entry or suspicious activity. If anything is out of the ordinary, the homeowner—or their emergency contact—is notified immediately.

A vacation check typically includes:

- Scheduled, drive-by or walk-around checks during regular patrols
- Visual inspection of doors, windows and entry points
- Confirmation of authorized vehicles or caretakers on site
- Documentation and follow-up if concerns arise

The request form is simple—just a few lines about travel dates, emergency contacts and property details—and can be submitted online or in person.

While this program highlights a quiet, preventive side of policing, it's

just one part of a much broader operation.

The Madison County Sheriff's Office performs a range of duties that extend far beyond patrol.

Inside the courthouse, deputies are responsible for courtroom security, inmate movement and maintaining order in one of the most high-traffic buildings in the county. Every hearing, trial and proceeding depends on their coordination.

In the jail, correctional officers oversee hundreds of inmates each day. They manage bookings, coordinate with healthcare providers, maintain internal security, and ensure the jail runs according to state law and professional standards.

In homes and businesses, the civil division serves legal documents including evictions, subpoenas, and orders of protection—providing individuals their legal rights and fulfilling obligations on behalf of the court system.

During disasters or public emergencies, deputies assist with search and rescue, traffic control and emergency coordination alongside the county's Emergency Management Agency.

And in unincorporated areas—where no municipal police department exists—Sheriff's deputies serve as the first and only line of law enforcement. They handle domestic calls, respond to burglaries, investigate property crimes, assist stranded motorists and check in on residents.

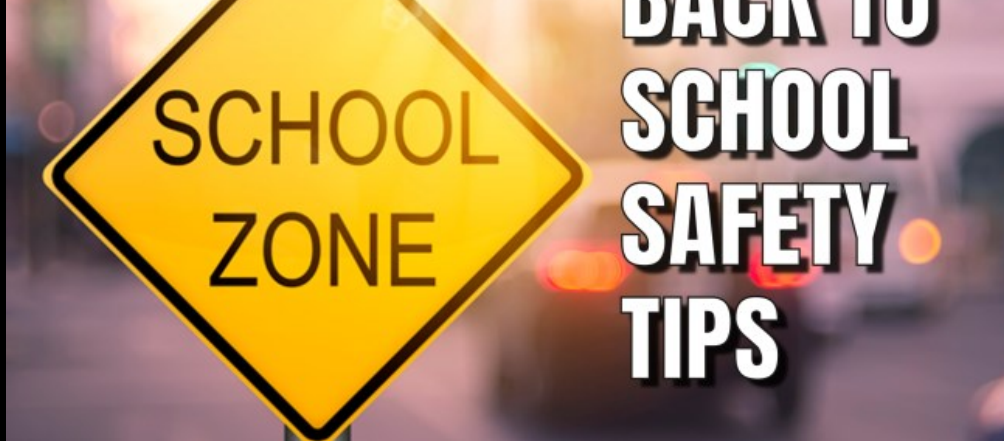
The department also invests in community outreach—supporting school programs, participating in public events, and working directly with residents and nonprofits to promote safety, visibility and trust.

The work is constant. Some of it is high-profile. Most of it is not. And that's by design.

Programs like the Vacation Property Check don't make the front page. They don't involve crime scenes or flashing lights. But they reflect the core of what the Madison County Sheriff's Office is built to do: serve, support and safeguard every corner of the county—even when no one's looking.

To view a larger PDF version please [click here](#).

BACK TO



**ISA PRESS RELEASE: Illinois Sheriffs' Association Urges Parents, Educators, and Communities to Prioritize Online Safety as Students Head Back to School.**

View Full Press Release [Here](#)

## **Social Media Posting**

Before you click "post" on your kids cute back to school picture, here are some things to keep in mind for safety:

You shouldn't post your kids' personal information on a "back-to-school" board, especially in a public or social media post, because it can make them a target for identity theft, scams, or even physical harm.

Those boards often include details like:

Full name  
Age or grade  
School name  
Teacher's name  
Hobbies or favorite things

When combined, those details can give strangers enough information to figure out where your child will be, what they like, and even how to approach them in a convincing way. Criminals or predators can use it for:

Location tracking (knowing their daily routine)  
Impersonation (posing as a trusted adult)  
Phishing or scams (targeting parents or schools)

A safer option is to share the milestone privately with friends and family or make a version of the board that leaves out personal identifiers: just first name or initials, the year, and maybe a fun fact that isn't tied to location or routine.

## **School Bus Safety**

### **Reminders for Parents and Caregivers**

- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can always see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left-right-left before crossing.

### **Reminders for Motorists**

- The overall best practice is to "always stop if there's a school bus."
- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Motorists may begin moving **only** when the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins to move.
- Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results.
- The greatest risk to a child isn't riding a school bus, but approaching or leaving one. That's why, as a vehicle driver, it is especially important to pay attention. Students' lives are on the line.



- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.
- Don't drive distracted. Be alert. Children arriving for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Watch out for young people who may be distracted and not paying attention to the traffic around them.

#### Respect the "Danger Zone"

- The school bus loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." Specifically, this is any side of the bus where the bus driver can't see the child and, therefore, the child is in the most danger. These areas include:
- 10 feet in front of the bus, where the driver may be sitting too high to see a child
- 10 feet on either side of the bus, where a child may be in the driver's blind spots
- Behind the school bus

## 2025 - 2026 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



### Sheriffs Summer Training Conference

September 20-23, 2025  
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

### Sheriffs Winter Training Conference

February 7-10, 2026  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,  
Springfield

### Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference

April 22-24, 2026  
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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NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY





## K-9 helps locate missing 13-year-old boy in Goose Creek, MO: Sheriff

[READ MORE](#)[STORY UPDATE](#)

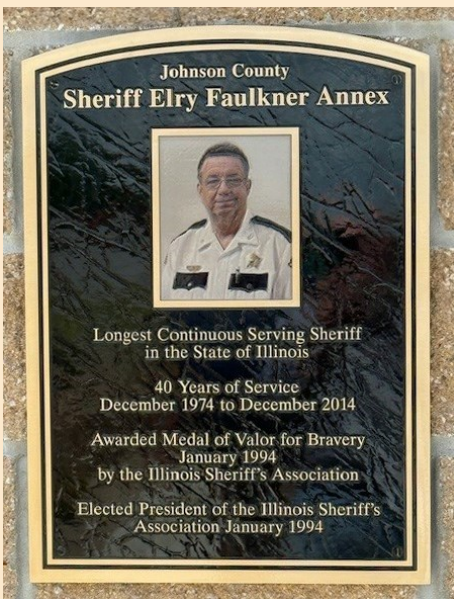
By: Daesha Gear | Fox2now.com

## Johnson County Honors Sheriff with New Annex Naming



On May 30, 2025, the Johnson County community came together to celebrate the dedication of the new Johnson County Courthouse Sheriff's Complex as the "**Johnson County Sheriff Elry Faulkner Annex.**"

More than 100 local residents and law enforcement officials attended the event, where retired Illinois Department of Corrections Chief Deputy Director Larry W. Mizell welcomed guests, and current Johnson County Sheriff Pete Sopczak shared heartfelt accolades honoring Sheriff Elry Faulkner's remarkable career.



A commemorative plaque unveiled at the ceremony highlights Sheriff Faulkner's extraordinary service, noting him as the **longest continuously serving sheriff in the State of Illinois with 40 years of service** from December 1974 to December 2014. The plaque also recognizes his **Medal of Valor for Bravery**, awarded in January 1994 by the Illinois Sheriff's Association, and his election as **President of the Illinois Sheriff's Association** that same year.



## Scholarship Feature





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

## What is CGTI?

The Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI) is a youth leadership and prevention program for middle school and high school students, held at two conferences throughout the year; our week-long camp in July and our weekend-long Mid-Year camp in January. CGTI is one of the largest and most acclaimed leadership conferences in the nation and has been operating since 1974!

## Why your continued support of the ISA matters....

Thanks to your support, 53 students received scholarships last month to attend the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute! Your support makes it possible for young leaders to gain the skills, confidence, and inspiration they need. Students return home ready to strengthen their schools and communities.







*All photo credit: Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute*



**ABOVE PHOTO:** The CGTI Action Team of the Year Award is presented to an action team that has gone above and beyond in their group efforts to create an impact in their community before and during their time at CGTI. This group has shown commitment to each other and to implementing a successful action plan that will be a catalyst for positive change.

This year's recipient is Freeport Middle School & High School! This action team is in their second year of CGTI Programming and has made incredible strides in recruitment and engagement, nearly tripling in attendance this week. The participants have gone above and beyond to do their own peer to peer outreach, bringing in students from across their community to collaborate on being catalysts for positive change. Over the last year of programming, they have remained resilient in spite of unexpected changes across their school district and have built a strong sense of support with the adults in their community. They have continued to tap into every resource available to them with a shared purpose of making sure their schools have access to the prevention and wellness education they deserve.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CGTI](#)



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT**

**Your ISA membership supports public safety across the state of Illinois. Individuals and businesses may join ISA. Your tax deductible dues support Illinois's 102 elected**



sheriffs and their staff as they strive to improve citizen and community safety.



**Plan to LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE posts from the ISA to help us spread the word about and educate others on public safety, policing and your rights that the ISA fights for!**

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