



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

*Protecting Our Communities,*  
**HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE**



**SEP 2025**

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



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

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**As the fall harvest begins, drivers can expect to see slow-moving farm equipment on rural roads. Both motorists and farmers can help keep roads safe by remaining patient, alert, and visible.**



**National Farm Safety and Health Week: Sept. 15–21, 2025**

Since 1944, the **National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS)** has recognized the third week of September as **National Farm Safety and Health Week**. It coincides with the busiest part of harvest season, when farm equipment is on the roads, hours are long, and risks are higher for both farmers and drivers.

Illinois, with more than 27 million acres of farmland, is one of the nation's top producers of corn and soybeans. That means every fall, rural roads are filled with combines, grain trucks, and tractors. Unfortunately, this also means a rise in roadway accidents. According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, **hundreds of crashes involving farm equipment** happen each year, many preventable with patience and awareness.

**ISA's FULL PRESS RELEASE**



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*Together, we are making a difference.  
Support the Illinois Sheriffs' Association.*

Since 1928, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) has been dedicated to improving public safety. Our primary mission is to protect our 102 County Sheriffs throughout the state and the

**For Immediate Release:** Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

Contact: Jim Kaitschuk, (217) 753-2372 • [jim@ilsheriff.org](mailto:jim@ilsheriff.org)

## Public Safety Advisory: Stay Alert for Harvest Season in Rural Illinois

Springfield, IL — As Illinois enters the busy fall harvest season, Executive Director Jim Kaitschuk of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association urges residents—especially those in rural counties—to remain vigilant and courteous around farming equipment and operations.

"With harvest in full swing, farm activity on public roads increases significantly. We all share these roads. By slowing down, giving wide equipment plenty of space, and passing safely, we protect lives," remarked Kaitschuk. "This is especially important as we support our rural communities through a season that's both vital to our state's economy and inherently risky."



**TO READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE**

*We're Better Together!*

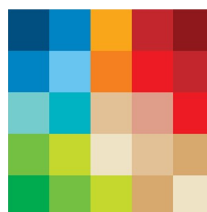
**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS SUPPORT & PROTECT THE 96%**  
DEKALB CO SHERIFF ANDY SULLIVAN  
& BEMIS FARMS

*Let's make sure we stand behind them!*

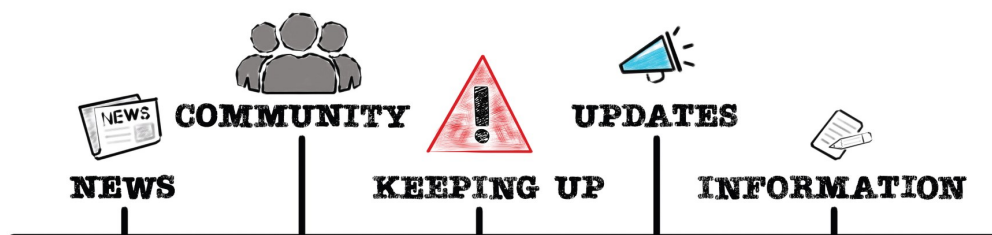
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**Thanks to our Corporate ISA  
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**Altria**



**CHECKING IN WITH A FEW OF YOUR SHERIFFS!**



20 years ago, Deputy Mark Larson graduated from the corrections academy with his daughter cheering him on. Yesterday, he got to cheer Deputy Hannah Larson on as she graduated-following in his footsteps, just with way better hair



Sgt. Salinas and Cadet Guzman had a great time at last Saturday's Kids Expo hosted by State Rep. Kifowit in Aurora! Thanks to everyone who stopped to say hello!



### OGLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Congratulations to Deputies John Lapinski, Kaden Lovett and Matthew Arnold on graduating from basic law enforcement academy!



### COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Hey, my name is Zorro, and I am narcotics/search K9 for the Cook County Department of Corrections. I am a German Shepherd and was born in Hungary, but am lucky to have found my home in Cook County. When I am away from the office, I enjoy walks in the woods and running around with my chickens.



### SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

We would like to congratulate Deputy Blake Hadley on his most recent accomplishment. Deputy Hadley was recognized on behalf of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) for his exceptional work in DUI enforcement.

AAIM conducts an Annual DUI Survey of over 700 Illinois police agencies, Deputy Hadley was chosen as one of their Top Cops.

Congratulations, Blake, and thank you for continuing to keep Shelby County safe



### ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Congratulations to Deputy James Walls on graduating from the Macon County Law Enforcement police academy! He will now begin his field training phase.





### CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

In the next few weeks the Cass County Sheriff's Office along with selected area high school students will begin an internet safety program. High school students will go through a training that will allow them to teach students K-2nd grade on internet safety. I have taught internet safety to junior high and high school kids for years, but I have quickly realized it needs to begin much sooner. An instructor I had from out east provided me with this program and we tailored it to fit our needs in Cass County. It will provide the older kids public speaking opportunities and also mentorship of our younger generation. It will provide K-2nd graders with extremely important knowledge on staying safe in a digital age. The program involves some engaging content and will end with an activity that will provide students with reminders of safe vs. unsafe activities.



## 2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series September | Whiteside County



### GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - Whiteside County

1.

#### What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

When I was younger, I saw people in my community step up to help others, and that left a lasting impression on me. With the guidance of family and mentors, I knew early on that I wanted to serve and protect people. What began as a calling to help my hometown has grown into a 34-year career, and that same motivation still drives me every day.

2.

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

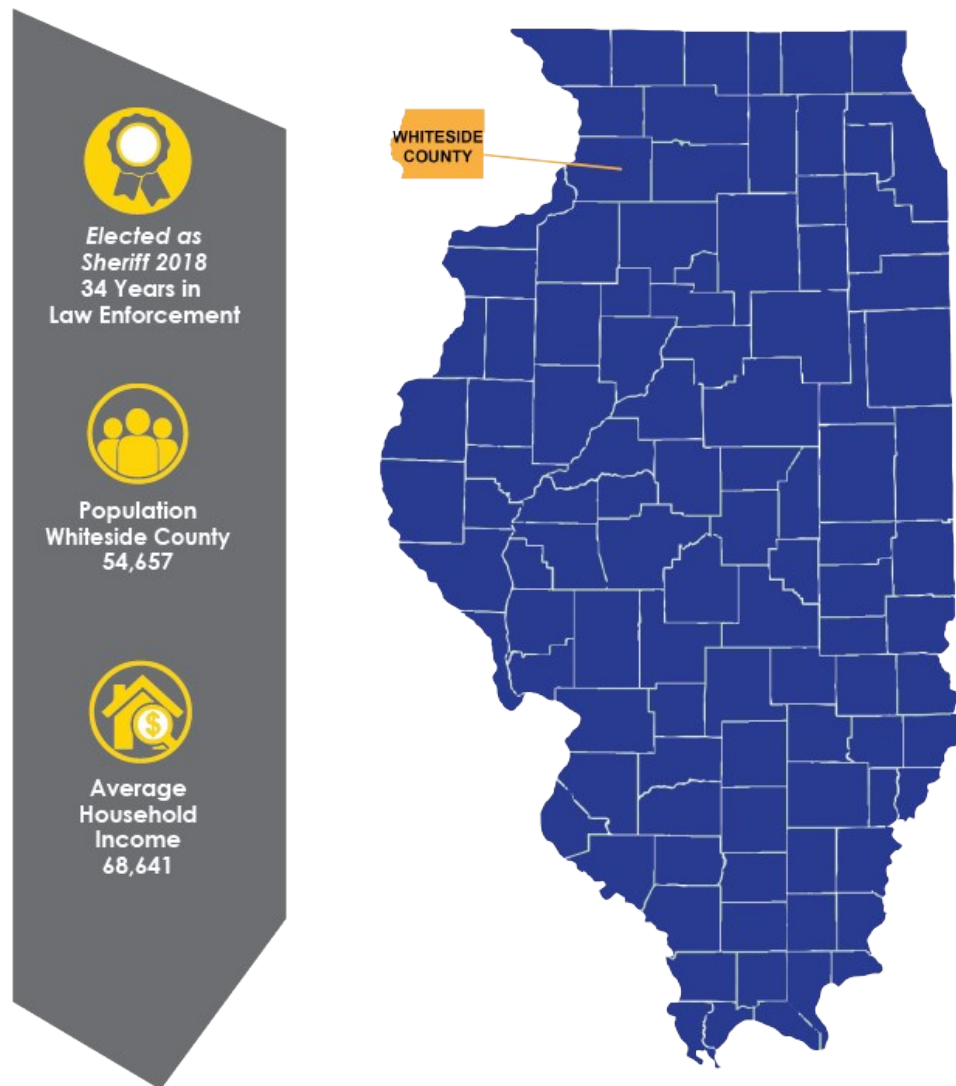
As Sheriff, I'm responsible for leading the department, setting priorities, and making sure our deputies and staff have what they need to protect and serve effectively. I oversee our patrol, investigations, jail operations, and community programs, but I also spend a lot of time working directly with schools, local leaders, and residents across the county.

3.

#### What is your favorite part about being Whiteside County Sheriff?

Making a real difference in people's lives every day. Whether it's a deputy going above and beyond to help someone, working with schools to protect kids, or connecting veterans with resources, those moments remind me why I chose this career. I'm proud to lead a team that serves with professionalism and compassion, and I value the trust the people of Whiteside County place

in me. The most rewarding part is knowing our work makes this county a safer, stronger community.

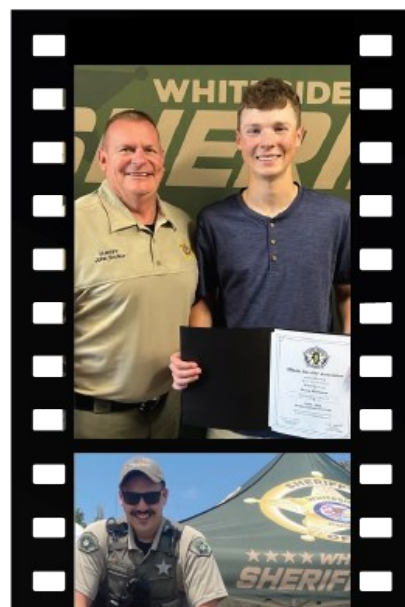


**4. Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:**

I believe that law enforcement is about more than just enforcing laws—it's about building trust and relationships. I want people to know we're approachable, that we care about their concerns, and that we're here to work with them, not just for them.

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

Over the years, I've had countless moments where someone has come up to thank me or one of my deputies for being there in a difficult time. Knowing that our work made a difference for a family, a child, or a victim is something I'll never take for granted. Those connections, and the trust people place in me as their Sheriff, are the greatest rewards of my career.







6.

#### Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

One of the biggest influences in my life was my college football coach, John Furlong. He made a lasting impression on me because he taught me the importance of discipline, accountability, and teamwork. He pushed me to give my best every day, but also reminded me that success isn't just about individual effort—it's about working together and supporting the people around you.

7.

#### What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

The impact of drugs—especially fentanyl and methamphetamine. These substances fuel crime, hurt families, and put lives at risk every day. Along with that, we also face challenges in keeping our young people safe and making sure they have positive paths forward.





8.

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

Direct, approachable, and professional. I've always believed in being straightforward with people and treating them with respect, whether it's a citizen, a deputy, or a community leader. Most folks pick up right away that I take my job seriously, but they also see that I'm easy to talk to and genuinely care about what's important to them.

9.

### What advice would you give young people?

My advice to young people is to stay disciplined, surround yourself with positive influences, and never be afraid to work hard for what you want. Life is full of choices, and the decisions you make now will shape your future. Respect yourself, respect others, and remember that integrity matters—your word and your reputation will follow you for the rest of your life. If you stay focused and do the right things, opportunities will come your way.



**SHERIFF BOOKER FUN FACTS:**





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

A full-time football coach. Coaching has always been a passion of mine because it's about more than the game—it's about teaching discipline, teamwork, and perseverance.



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

Hunting and fishing. I love the time I get to spend with my grandkids.



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

I really enjoy cleaning and cooking. A lot of folks see me strictly in a law enforcement role, but at home I find cooking relaxing and I take pride in keeping things in order.



**FOLLOW THEM:**  
Whiteside County Sheriff's Office

## 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



On 9/11, taking ‘time to remember’ is healthy, meaningful

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By: Police1.com




The impact of serving as a school resource officer on my policing career

[READ MORE](#)

By: Police1.com



cebrin goodman  
teen institute  
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ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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

## Columbia Illinois School Resource Officer Celebrated for Inspiring Students



Columbia High School's Adult Mentor and School Resource Officer, Tyler McWhorter, has been honored with the 2025 Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute Engagement Spotlight Award. Known for his passion and dedication, McWhorter has encouraged students to grow as leaders while promoting substance use prevention and mental wellness. His guidance continues to inspire a ripple effect of positive change among Columbia's youth.



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

Thanks to your support, **53 students** received scholarships this year 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.



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.



**PURCHASE ISA  
PLATE FRAMES**



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& FOLLOW**

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YOUR  
FRIENDS**

**f @illinoissheriffsassociation**

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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