



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**

*Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE*



OCT 2025

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

ILLINOIS SHERIFFS K9 HEROES

**4-PAWS, 2-FEET, 1-TEAM!
ILLINOIS SHERIFFS K-9 UNITS**

2026 ISA K9 HERO

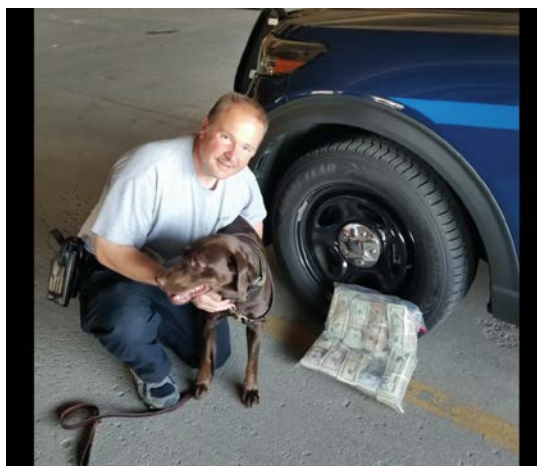
**DUPAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
K9 XENA AND HER HANDLER
DEPUTY AARON DAVIS**

**The Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) is proud to announce
DuPage County Sheriff's Office K9 Xena and her handler,
Deputy Aaron Davis, as the 2026 ISA K9 Hero**

Launched in 2024, the ISA K9 Heroes Program was created to celebrate the remarkable service and sacrifice of police K9s and their handlers across Illinois. Each year, sheriffs' offices are invited to nominate their K9 teams for recognition. These highly trained dogs assist in narcotics detection, search and rescue, suspect apprehension, and community outreach - serving as both protectors and ambassadors of public safety.

This year's nominations featured eight K9s from seven counties, each demonstrating extraordinary commitment to service. After reviewing years of service, deployments, and accomplishments, ISA selected K9 Xena, a six-year-old Chocolate Labrador Retriever, for her exceptional work in narcotics and human remains detection.

As part of the K9 Heroes Program, ISA will launch a limited-edition K9 Xena plush toy and trading card this fall through the **ISA Holiday Store at the end of October.** For a \$30 donation, it will include the collectible plush fitted with tactical vest, sheriff collar, and Hero dog tag. Net proceeds will directly support the DuPage County K9 Unit in honor of Xena's service.

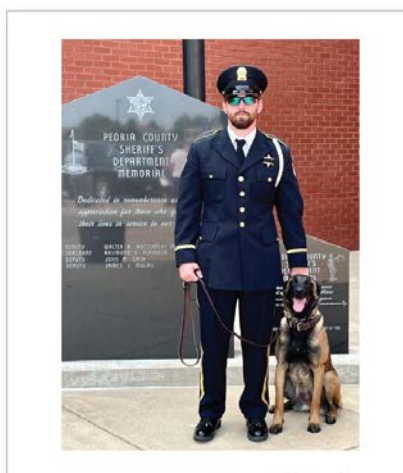


[READ MORE ABOUT K9 XENA AND HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS](#)

[DONATE TO THE ISA K9 HEROES PROGRAM](#)

K9 Xena will have a plush available in our holiday store opening at the end of October.

**CONGRATS TO ALL
OF THE AMAZING
ILLINOIS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICES
AND THEIR K9S
THAT WERE
NOMINATED!**



Peoria County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Freya & Handler,
Deputy James Gilmore
German Shepherd – 4 Yrs Service



DuPage County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Hope & Handler, Deputy
Laura Richardson
Bloodhound – 4 Yrs Service



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
K9 Flex & Handler, Chf. Deputy
Lance Weitekamp
Belgian Malinois – 6 Yrs Service



Cook County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Boone & Handler, Sgt. Daniel Codd
Yellow Lab – 3 Yrs Service



Lake County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Danno & Handler, Deputy
Andrew Martini
German Shepherd – 4 Yrs Service



Kane County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Hudson &
Handler, Sgt. Luke Weston
(E.O.W. 05/24/2023)
Shepherd – 2.5 Yrs Service



Tazewell County Sheriff's Office:
K9 Maverick & Handler,
Deputy Austin Gillespie
German Shepard/Malinois Mix –
2 Yrs Service

Thanks to our Corporate ISA
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Altria

2025 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series October | Putnam County



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF - Putnam County

1.

What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

I began volunteering as a firefighter in my hometown when I was 16 years old. I realized that I enjoyed being someone that could help people in their time of need, so I decided to continue my education in college with criminal justice and pursue a career in law enforcement.

2.

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

As Sheriff, my role is to ensure that our staff, through proper training and tools, can provide the best possible service to the citizens of Putnam County, creating a safe and secure community to live in.

3.

What is your favorite part about being Putnam County Sheriff?

As a life-long Putnam County resident, I cannot think of a better way to give back to the community than to be their Sheriff and to help lead an amazing staff that cares for our county.



PUTNAM
COUNTY



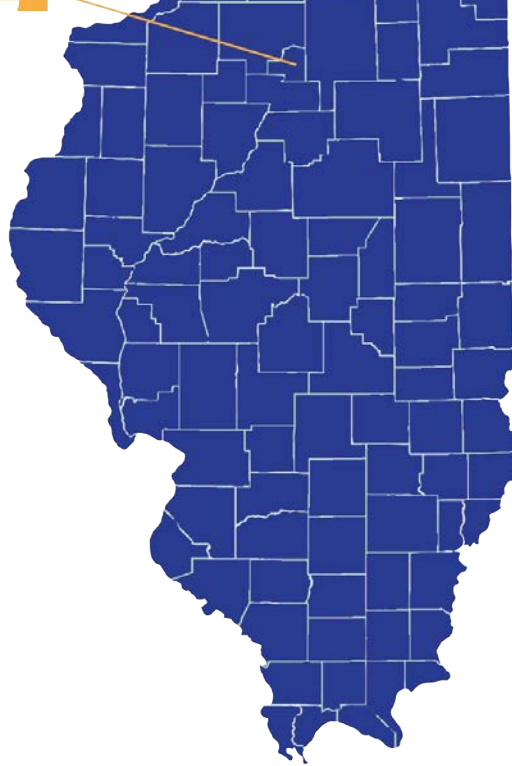
Elected as
Sheriff 2022
27 Years in
Law Enforcement



Population
Putnam County
5,633



Average
Household
Income
\$77,526



4.

Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

I believe that everyone should get involved in their community in some way. I have volunteered in multiple community organizations, so as Sheriff I'm able to provide even a greater service to the county I've always called home.

5.

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

Between my law enforcement career and community involvement I have been able to meet many great people and have made many more friends along the way.





6.

Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

I believe it all goes back to the difference we made in helping others while I was a volunteer firefighter, but also the values and support my parents and family instilled in me.

7.

What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

We are a very small community that doesn't always have available services for people and many other services are limited. Also, keeping the community together can be challenging. We may not always agree on different issues, but because we are a great county, we remain unified for the betterment and improvement of our county.





8.

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

I think people would describe me as a very approachable person; I listen to others, I'm easy to talk to, positive in nature and honest about my opinions.

9.

What advice would you give young people?

Follow your dreams, set some goals and go after them; never forget about your community and get involved in some way.



SHERIFF BOEDIGHEIMER FUN FACTS:



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

Managing a college or professional baseball team.



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

I enjoy the outdoors. Going places with my family, hunting, fishing, golfing, working in the garden or on our property.



WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I don't like to talk about myself or the things I've done. That is part of what made it hard to run for office (and answer these questions) as you need to let others know about yourself and accomplishments. I feel actions speak louder than words.



FOLLOW THEM:
Putnam County Sheriff's Office

2026 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



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

Civil Process

June 2026, TBD, East Peoria

Sheriffs Summer Training Conference

September 12-15, 2026

Embassy Suites, East Peoria

[Visit Our Website](#)







SCAM ALERT!

helpful tips for how
to protect yourself

Accidental Payment & Overpayment Scams

At first glance, “accidental payments” might seem harmless. You receive money you didn’t expect, perhaps via a payment app, bank transfer, or in connection with an online sale. But in many of these cases, that “mistake” is the first move in a scam.

In an accidental payment scam (sometimes called “accidental deposit scam” or “overpayment scam”), a fraudster sends money, often via stolen funds, to a victim’s account as a setup. They then contact the recipient claiming it was a mistake and ask them to “return” the extra money. The catch:

the original deposit is fraudulent or reversible (the bank can claw it back), and if you send money back, you might be sending *your own* funds, leaving you at a loss.

One variation occurs in online marketplaces or peer-to-peer selling: a buyer “accidentally” sends too much, then asks for a refund of the difference. The buyer’s original payment is bogus, but you may already have sent the “refund.”

Red Flags & Warning Signs

Here are several warning signs you should watch for:

- You receive a payment from someone you don’t know or weren’t expecting.
- The sender contacts you urgently, insisting the overpayment be returned immediately.
- They pressure you not to verify with the app or bank.
- Their “refund request” asks you to use a risky or untraceable method (gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, etc.).
- The original “payment” shows as pending, later reversed, or fails verification.
- The messaging is emotional or manipulative: “I’m in trouble,” “It was a typo,” or “Please help me right now.”



What You Should Do (and Not Do)

- **Don’t send money back, at least not immediately.** Wait until your bank or payment app confirms the original transaction is valid and settled.
- **Contact the payment app or bank directly.** Use official support channels—not the contact information sent within the message from the supposed sender.
- **Report suspicious transactions or messages.** Many apps have “report fraud/unauthorized activity” options.
- **Document all communications.** Save messages, screenshots, any emails or texts. This helps if you need to dispute or report later.
- **Be skeptical, even when it seems harmless.** If something feels off, pause and verify.

Scammers are crafty, but with a little awareness, you can outsmart them. If something feels off, especially when it comes to money - trust your gut!

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!

LEVEL DIAMOND ELITE

 **BI² TECHNOLOGIES**
Biometric Intelligence & Identification Technologies

 **Combined Public Communications**



STELLAR
SERVICES, LLC

LEVEL DIAMOND



LEVEL PLATINUM





The overlooked reality of violence in rural policing

[READ MORE](#)

By: Police1.com



Kane County Sheriff's Office Issues Warning About "Jury Duty" and "Warrant" Scam

[READ MORE](#)

By: Kane County Connects



Here's a scary statistic: Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents.

Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time children should return home
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to avoid any food allergies
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision

Safety Tips for Motorists

Additional safety tips for parents – and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Be especially alert for kids during those hours.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances

Information from | [National Safety Council](#) and [www.safekids.org](#)



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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