ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR · SAFETY · SERVICE



NOV 2026

The inside stories for you!

SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES

As we reflect on Veterans Day last week, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association proudly honors and thanks all our members, Sheriffs, and Sheriff's Office staff who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Your dedication, courage, and commitment to serving our nation reflect the same spirit of service that continues through your work in communities across Illinois.

We are grateful for the sacrifices you have made, the example you set, and the leadership you continue to demonstrate both in uniform and in your communities.

Today and every day, we honor your service and thank you for all you have done and continue to do.







DON'T MISS OUT - THE STORE CLOSES NOVEMBER 29!

STORE IS PRE-ORDER & ITEMS WILL SHIP 1-2 WEEKS AFTER STORE CLOSES

☆ **LAST CHANCE TO GET THE 2026 T-SHIRT DESIGNS**

☆ **NEW CUSTOM ISA FLANNELS WITH EMBOSSED LEATHER LOGO PATCH**

☆ **WE HAVE OUR NEW 2027 ISA K9 HERO - TAZEWELL COUNTY K9 MAVERICK TOO!**

SHOP NOW!









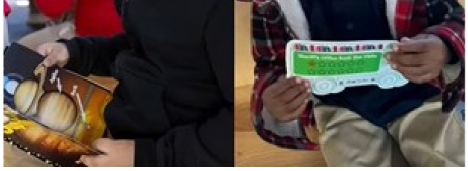


COOK COUNTY

The Sheriff's Office Book Bus is officially ONE! This program was started to connect our community, promote literacy, and provide innovative services that extend beyond traditional law enforcement.

We are so proud of the growth we've seen this past year! Moving forward, we can't wait to meet even more young readers and build lasting connections.

Thank you for a wonderful year of fuel-



ing imaginations! Here is to many more chapters ahead

READ FULL ARTICLE HERE



LAKE COUNTY

Great work, K9 Drako!

When a Lake County police department called for assistance tracking a burglary suspect who had fled on foot, Deputy Stancioiu and K9 Drako responded.

Drako quickly picked up the suspect's scent and tracked him to a nearby backyard, where he located the burglary suspect hiding near a fence and shed. When the suspect spotted Drako, he took off running again, jumping multiple fences in an attempt to get away.

Deputies and officers continued the pursuit and ultimately apprehended the suspect.

Three suspects were taken into custody in connection with the incident.

A great example of the important role our K9 teams play in assisting law enforcement agencies throughout Lake County. Way to go, Drako and Deputies!!

PEORIA COUNTY

Deputy Martinez got to spend some time with the kids at Bright Futures and show them around his squad car. Judging by those smiles, we think they had a pretty good time!



FAYETTE COUNTY

Meet K9 Zero

Originally born in Slovakia, K9 Zero was later imported to Indiana, where he began his journey toward becoming a police K9. Through dedication and extensive training, Zero earned certifications in narcotics detection, tracking, article/evidence searches, handler protection, and fugitive apprehension.



Since joining our team, Zero has become a vital asset, assisting our agency as well as law enforcement



agencies throughout Southern Illinois.

One thing that makes Zero unique is his well-known on-and-off switch. He is known for being able to go from a relaxed, laid-back companion to a focused, hardworking K9 in an instant. His eagerness to work is evident every time the door opens, and his dedication to the job never goes unnoticed.

We are proud to have Zero as part of our team and grateful for the hard work, loyalty, and enthusiasm he brings to the job every day

MCHENRY COUNTY



The McHenry County Sheriff's Office is honored to receive a Hero Award from Thresholds in recognition of our partnership to address mental health needs within the justice system!

In 2025, the Sheriff's Office partnered with Thresholds and the Illinois Department of Human Services to launch an innovative program at the McHenry County Adult Correctional Facility. This initiative provides secure housing and access to mental health treatment for individuals found unfit to stand trial while they await placement in a state treatment facility.

Through this collaboration, we are helping address a statewide need while ensuring individuals receive appropriate care in a safe and secure environment.

We are grateful to Thresholds for this recognition and proud of our staff and community partners whose dedication makes this program possible! We are grateful to Thresholds for this recognition and proud of the dedicated staff and community partners who make this program possible!

MACON COUNTY

Please join us in congratulating Corrections Officers Dalton Allison, Trenton Horn, and Zachary Lindsey-Price, along with Court Security Officer Jordan Heinbaugh, on their graduation this afternoon from the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center's 320-hour Basic Corrections Academy.

Special recognition goes to Corrections Officer Trenton Horn, who received the Academic Excellence Award for earning scores above 96% throughout his coursework.

Congratulations to all four of our newest officers!





Pictured left to right: Lt. Scott Flannery, Sheriff Jim Root, Jordan Heinbaugh, Dalton Allison, Trenton Horn, Zachary Lindsey-Price, Chief Deputy Matthew Jedlicka, Lt. Clayton Barrows, Corporal Rachel Davis, and Lt. Corey Maloney.



This Giving Tuesday, December 1st, we invite you to stand with those who serve and protect our communities.

Your generosity helps support important efforts, including officer training, critical resources for law enforcement, opportunities to invest in our youth, and programs that promote deputy well-being.

Every contribution helps us continue this mission and support the dedicated men and women who work every day to keep Illinois families and communities safe.

This Giving Tuesday, consider making a gift to the Illinois Sheriffs' Association. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

Safer Communities Start with Your Support

Officer Training | Critical Resources | Investing in Our Youth | Deputy Well-Being

Help Illinois Sheriffs protect families, strengthen communities, and keep our state safe!

DONATE TODAY!





2026/2027 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



New Sheriffs Management Institute
November 15-19, 2026
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield, IL

Sheriffs Winter Training Conference
February 13-16, 2027
Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference
April 28-30, 2027
Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL

Sheriffs Summer Training Conference
September 11-14, 2027
Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL

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 our vendors listed below!

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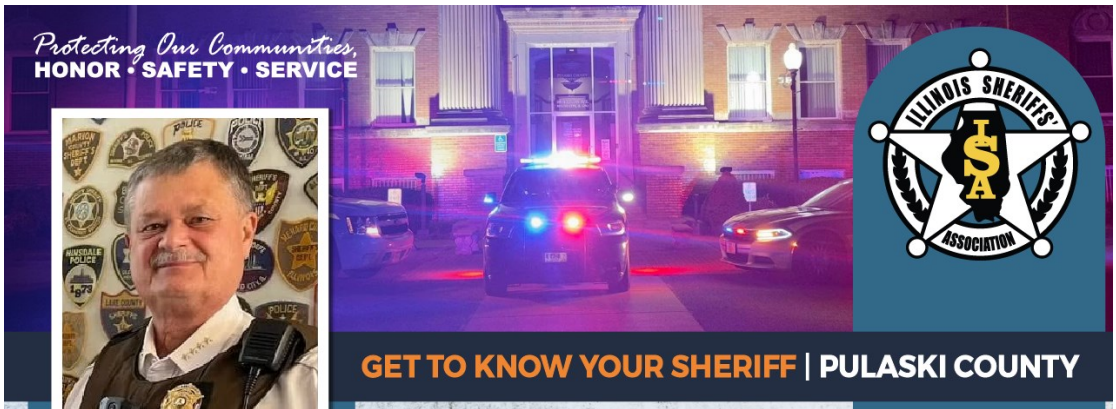
2026 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series
NOVEMBER | Pulaski County



GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF | PULASKI COUNTY

Sheriff Randy Kern

Elected as Sheriff 2002
38 Years in Law Enforcement

Average Household Income
$56,955

Population Pulaski County
4,757





1. What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

I started as a jailer and dispatcher, seeing firsthand the importance of law enforcement in our community. Two good friends encouraged me to become the chief of a small village, and their support inspired me to pursue a career of service.

2. Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office

and throughout your County:

As Sheriff, I serve as the chief law enforcement officer for Pulaski County, overseeing the safety and security of our community. In the office, I manage and support our deputies, staff, and operations to ensure we provide effective and professional service. Throughout the county, I work to build trust, enforce the law, and lead efforts that make Pulaski County a safer place for everyone.

3. What is your favorite part about being Pulaski County Sheriff?

My favorite part is being able to make a real difference in the community, helping people and building relationships that make Pulaski County a better place to live.

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

I'm driven by a genuine desire to help others, build trust, and make a positive impact where I live and work.



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

I'd love to be a professional bass fisherman, combining my passion for the outdoors with my competitive spirit—but being Sheriff was my dream job, and after 24 years, I feel my work is done.



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

I enjoy fishing and spending time with my wife, kids, grandkids, and great-grandchild, cherishing every moment with my family..



WHAT MIGHT SOMEONE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I was raised as a preacher's son, which taught me the value of faith and compassion.

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



The best thing has been building lasting trust and friendships with the people of Pulaski County and starting the S.A.L.T. program to support seniors who need someone to check on them.



6. Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

Two good friends influenced me to take my first leadership role in law enforcement, and the people of Pulaski County continually inspire me through their resilience and support.

7. What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

The biggest challenge is addressing mental health issues and substance abuse, which deeply affect individuals and families throughout Pulaski County.

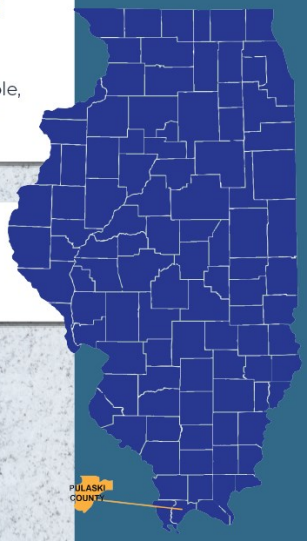
8. How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

Someone meeting me for the first time would likely describe me as approachable, professional, and sincere. I try to make people feel comfortable, listen to their concerns, and show that I care about the community and the people I serve.

9. What advice would you give young people?

Stay in school, get good grades, avoid drugs and gangs, listen to your parents and grandparents, and treat others with kindness and respect.

FOLLOW THEM:
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office



NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



GRUNDY CO.

Deputy Chad Hrechko was honored with Grundy County's top awards: the Medal of Valor and Lifesaving Award

By: John Ferak | Patch.com

READ MORE



PULASKI CO.

Training kicked in: Illinois officers save woman with CPR, AED

By: Heartland News

READ MORE



Scams to Watch Out For in November

Illinois State Retirees Targeted by Fraudulent Benefit-Payment Messages

The Illinois State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) has warned retirees about fraudulent emails and text messages promising to provide monthly pension payments up to four days early.

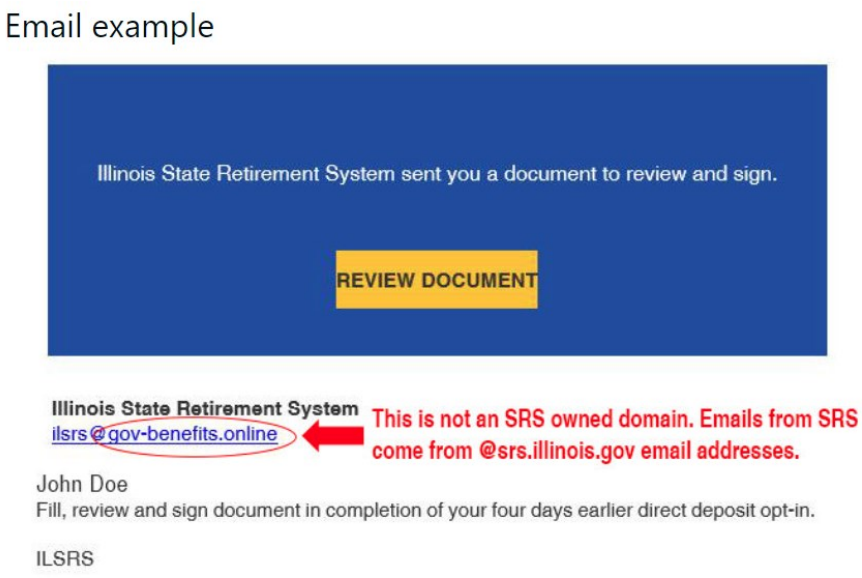
Recipients are asked to complete forms containing personal and banking information. Some messages use SERS logos and branding, and fraudulent emails may even appear to come through DocuSign.

Important reminders:

- SERS does not offer an early-payment program of this kind.
- SERS will never text retirees requesting personal or financial information.
- Legitimate SERS emails end in @srs.illinois.gov.

Anyone who receives a suspicious message should contact SERS directly at 217-785-7444.

Source: Illinois State Employees' Retirement System – Recent Fraud Attempts on SERS Retirees



Fake Online Shopping Websites Target Holiday Shoppers

As holiday shopping gets underway, consumers are being warned about fraudulent websites designed to look like legitimate retailers. Scammers use fake advertisements, familiar company logos, and deeply discounted prices to lure shoppers into making purchases and sharing their credit card information.

One particularly deceptive tactic involves a fake checkout process: after entering payment

information, shoppers receive a message claiming their card was declined and are prompted to enter a different card. Unfortunately, scammers may have already captured the original card information and could collect the second card's details as well.

Protect yourself when shopping online:

- Verify the website address and shop directly through the retailer's legitimate website.
- Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true, unfamiliar sellers, and advertisements promoting unusually large discounts.
- If a website declines your payment and asks for another card, stop and investigate before proceeding.
- If you believe you've shared information with a fraudulent website, contact your bank or credit card company immediately and monitor your accounts for unauthorized charges.

Source: [BBB Scam Alert – Card Declined Error May Lead to Multiple Fraudulent Charges]

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