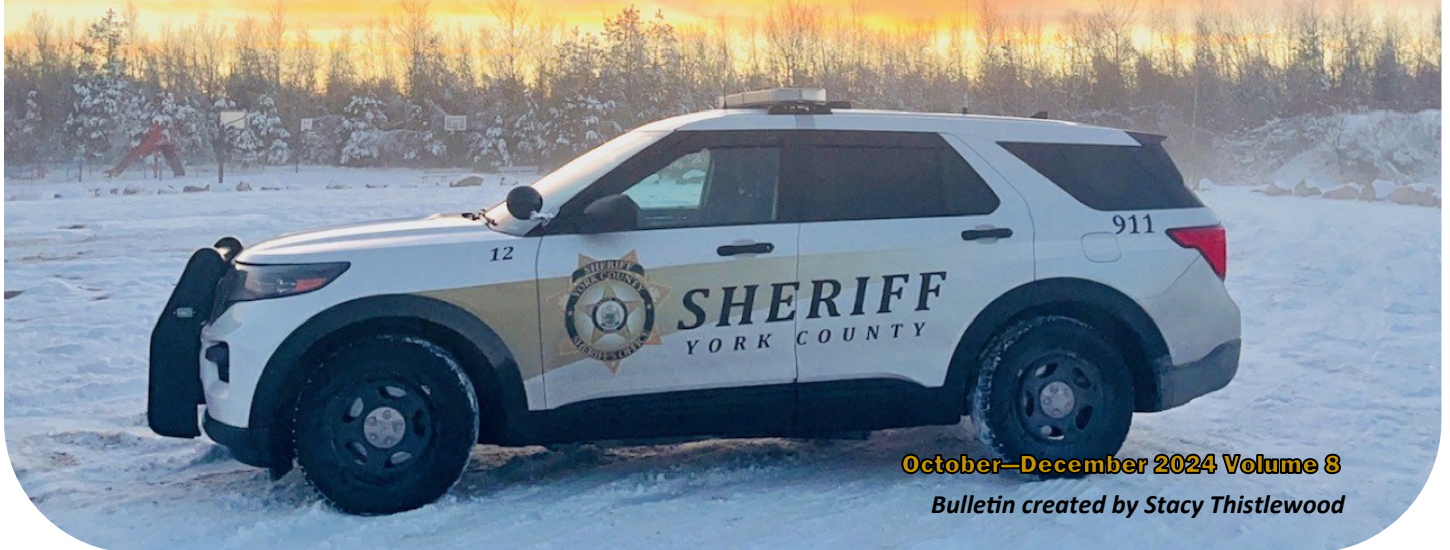


York County Sheriff's Office

THE INSIDER



October–December 2024 Volume 8

Bulletin created by Stacy Thistlewood

Message from:

Sheriff William L. King Jr.

The sheriff's office experienced a lot of change this quarter. Our Patrol Commander, Kathryn Mone was elected sheriff in neighboring Strafford County, New Hampshire which provided an opportunity for Civil Deputy Craig Sanford to return to patrol work, as the Patrol Commander!

Another leadership change occurred in the jail when Lt. Lori Marks was promoted to Jail Administrator. Marks is an 18-year veteran of the sheriff's office and was the clear choice after a national search.

We also said goodbye to our long-term mechanic, Willie Elliott, who has kept our vehicles running smoothly for 21 years! Willie traded in his wrenches for a new set of golf clubs – he is an avid golfer and I am told is very good!

Jail Administrator Marks was instrumental in an educational program the sheriff's office conducted with Massabesic Adult Education. The course was called, "Behind the Walls" and was an in depth look at the inner workings of the York County Jail. Twenty-one people signed up for the one-day class and had to undergo a background check to qualify for the class.

I was invited by former Chief Deputy Tom Baran, an executive with AAA New England to speak about traffic safety and how we tackle our traffic challenges in York County at AAA New England's annual conference for New

Hampshire officials.

The county also held its "Spirit of America" awards ceremony honoring our everyday heroes. Following that ceremony, I was asked to participate in a panel interview on Public Radio to discuss the importance of recognizing those everyday heroes around us.

As you will see in this newsletter, our deputies have made some significant arrests, from a interrupting at least two large scale drug distribution networks, to arresting a suspect for a large scale theft to dismantling a scam that pilfered \$50,000 from an Alfred man – we arrested three out of state individuals in the theft, two of those individuals are illegal aliens.

I was able to discuss the great work on a television show, "ARC Maine," hosted by CBS 13/FOX 23. We discussed scams and York County's recent success at arrested violators.

Commissioners Donna Ring and Richard Dutremble traveled to Augusta for a presentation by the Maine State Police and the Public Safety Commissioner. The topic was rural patrol and the capabilities of the Maine State Police to provide specialized services.

Lastly, Administrative Assistant Kelly Burnham spearheaded the effort to provide a holiday celebration for all employees. The food was delicious and it was nice to see the fellowship amongst employees!

Major Craig Sanford

Sheriff taps longtime law enforcement officer for Major of Operations role

Longtime law enforcement officer Craig Sanford has been named Major of Operations at York County Sheriff's Office and began his new duties Jan. 6.



Sanford's chief responsibility in the role will be patrol operations, said York County Sheriff William L. King, but the job involves much more – a job description outlines an array of duties, from evaluating employees to establishing departmental policies, serving as a community liaison, assisting in budget preparation, and so on.

Sanford, of Shapleigh, began his law enforcement career as a Military Police officer with the U.S. Army. Following the conclusion of his four year hitch, he joined the Sanford Police Department and worked his way through the ranks to become deputy police chief, a role he served in for two years, prior to departing after more than 22 years with the agency. Sanford next became Chief of Police in Kennebunkport, a job he held for 13 years until he retired in May 2024.

He likes to be busy. *"It's how I'm wired,"* Sanford said.

That was evident in Kennebunkport, where Sanford frequently conducted traffic stops and was known to change a tire when it was needed.

Retirement brought new opportunities for the retired cop who doesn't like to be idle – Sanford became a reserve civil deputy with the sheriff's office and soon thereafter, a full-time civil deputy. The Major of Operations opportunity arose when the current Major in the position, Katherine Mone, ran for and was elected Sheriff of Strafford County, New Hampshire in the November election. She took up her duties there in early January.

York County Commissioners unanimously approved Sanford's appointment to the Major of Operations position Dec. 18. Raised in Waterboro, Sanford has always lived in York County with the exception of his military service, and as a longtime municipal law enforcement officer, is familiar with the sheriff's office.

"I think I have the ability to add to the whole atmosphere here," he said. King, the sheriff, agrees.

"Craig Sanford brings a wealth of experience to the York County Sheriff's Office," said King. "He is familiar with the challenges of rural patrol and is a welcome addition to our commend staff."

Article and Photo courtesy of Tammy Wells



Critter Corner

Injured Owl

On December 3rd around 8PM, deputies received a call from a citizen reporting that an owl appeared injured on the side of the roadway. Deputies Levi Johnson and Cody Frazier responded and met with the concerned community member, Carl Landry.



Deputy Johnson was able to use his police jacket to corral the owl and made arrangements to deliver it to Game Warden Steven Thistlewood's house. Warden Thistlewood and his wife, Stacy (an administrative employee at the Sheriff's Office) kept the owl overnight and the following day, Warden Thistlewood delivered the owl to a local Wildlife Conflict Agent, and they would bring the injured owl to Gray Headquarters. Once there the owl was assessed and transported to Avian Haven facility in Freedom Maine.



Snake - Boa Constrictor



On November 15th at approx. 330pm, Deputy Jonathan Marshall of the York County Sheriff's Office responded to the Shapleigh Corner Rd. in Shapleigh for an animal complaint. When Deputy Marshall arrived on scene, he located an 8-foot Boa constrictor. Deputy Marshall secured the snake in his

vehicle to get it out of the cold temperatures which can be deadly to this cold-blooded animal. The Maine Warden Service was contacted to retrieve the snake.



Trafficking Drugs in Waterboro

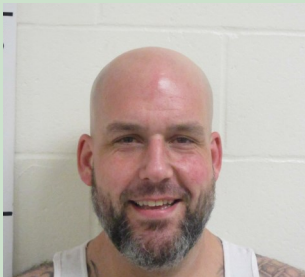


On December 22, 2024, at approximately 715 pm., York County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence on Preston Way in Waterboro to try to locate an Anthony Foglio (39 yrs. old from Waterboro) for outstanding felony Theft warrants.

During the subsequent investigation, a male fled from the home and was arrested a short distance away. He initially provided a false name but was identified as Wilquel Andres Sanchez Lara (23 years old from Lawrence, Massachusetts). While trying to evade deputies it was believed he discarded contraband. Deputy Cody Frazier and K-9 Rebel responded and located a baggy containing 52.6 grams of crack cocaine thrown by Lara.

Lara was arrested for Trafficking in a Schedule W Drug. Foglio was arrested on the warrants and for Violation of Condition of Release. Both were transported to the York County Jail. Lara's bail was set at \$25,000 cash while Foglio was not allowed bail until he went to court.

A subsequent search warrant was conducted at the home and a small amount of drugs was located and seized. More charges are expected. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Maine State Police assisted with the investigation.



Anthony Foglio



Wilquel Andres Sanchez Lara

Alfred Parade



In December, Deputy Matthew Cumer participated in the Alfred Festival Parade and decorated his cruiser as part of the event.

PAYPAL SCAM



On December 14, 2024, an 82 year old Alfred resident, was the victim of a Paypal scam in which individuals were able to gain access to his banking information. During subsequent phone calls with the suspect, he agreed to provide them \$50,000 cash for what the suspects claimed was owed to them from a banking error. Later that day a Chinese male arrived at his house and the victim turned over \$50,000 to him.

On December 17th, the suspects called the victim again and claimed he owed them another \$50,000. Surveillance was set up at the home by York County Sheriff's deputies and three Chinese males were taken into custody when they arrived to pick up the money. One of the males arrested was identified as the same male that had stolen the \$50,000 on 12-14-24.



The males have tentatively been identified as MENG CHEN (50), WEIJIE YAN (21), and WEN CHEN (23). It is believed that YAN and CHEN failed to show up at a deportation hearing last year. All three have criminal histories.



It is believed they have victimized numerous other individuals, possibly in the southern Maine area. Several phones have been seized from the individuals.



There were calling from several numbers: (816) 670-8469, (770-398-3375), (213) 433-0365.

Special Delivery



In November, Brianna and Morgan from Atlantic Federal Credit Union delivered pies to Chief Deputy Forbes and Major Mone to be shared with staff during Thanksgiving week. The pies came from Fogarty's in South Berwick and were delicious. Thank you Atlantic Federal Credit Union.



Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

Task Force Arrests



For several months, Task Force Officer Jeffrey Regan from the York County Sheriff's Office has been investigating a known drug trafficking organization operating in York County. During the investigation, multiple controlled purchases of fentanyl and cocaine base were made. As a result of the investigation, TFO Regan was able to secure arrest warrants for four subjects and search warrants for three locations.



Tuesday 11-19-2024

With the assistance of the US Marshalls Service Violent Offender Task Force, a search warrant was served at 754 Pool St in Biddeford. Small quantities of drugs, evidence of drug trafficking and suspected drug proceeds were seized. Arrested were :

Derrel Brunson (32), of New York New York, 1 count of Aggravated Trafficking of Fentanyl – Class A. Bail is \$30,000. Additional charges of Aggravated Trafficking of Fentanyl Class A x 2, and Unlawful Trafficking of cocaine base, Class B are forthcoming. (Brunson is believed to be a major supplier to the area)



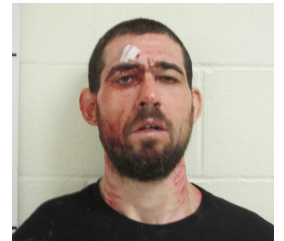
Donald Newton (54), of Biddeford, 1 count of Conspiracy to Traffick in Fentanyl, Class C bail was set at \$4,000.



Wednesday 11-20-2024

With the assistance of the Biddeford Police Department, a search warrant was served at 14 Center St in Biddeford. Evidence of drug trafficking and small amounts of drugs were located. This location is within one block of St. James School. Arrested was :

Matthew Plante (39), 2 counts of Aggravated Trafficking of Schedule W Drug – Cocaine Base. Bail was set at \$10,000.



Thursday 11-21-2024

With the assistance of the United States DEA tac team, YSO, and the Town of Lyman, a search warrant was served at 29 Mountain View Lane in Lyman. Quantities of drugs and a firearm were seized at the residence. The Lyman ACO took possession of seven dogs in the residence. Lyman Code Enforcement is working towards condemning the residence. Arrested were:

Christopher Powers-Burns (41), 2 counts of Unlawful Trafficking in Fentanyl as well as multiple additional warrants. Additional felony drug charges are forthcoming as a result of the search. No bail was allowed.



Paul Kastberg (38), multiple warrants, no bail allowed.



Additional intel was also gained which will lead to several more drug trafficking suspects. Additional subjects are anticipated to be charged in connection to the above cases as well. The communities affected by this drug organization are **Biddeford, Saco, Old Orchard Beach, Sanford, Lyman, Waterboro, Buxton, Hollis, Dayton, Limerick and Lebanon.**





WARRANT FOR THEFT

On November 22, 2024, the York County Sheriff's Office received a report from a Waterboro resident of a theft of \$176,000 in cash from his home. Tiffany Dean (38 yrs. from Sanford) was identified as a suspect and a warrant was issued for her arrest. Tiffany had fled the area and attempts were made to locate her in Penobscot County with the assistance of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office and State Police.

On December 11, 2024, Tiffany turned herself in at the York County Jail and is being held on \$20,000 cash bail. Some of the cash believed to have been stolen has been seized by deputies.

During the investigation and after conducting search warrants the York County Sheriff's Office recovered \$22,000 in cash from the suspects vehicle and the assisting agency Penobscot County Sheriff's Office recovered \$138,800 from a home in Greenbush.

Southern Maine Special Response Team



The York County Sheriff's Office has many opportunities for Deputies to serve in a specialized role in addition to their primary duties. Among these specialized roles is the Southern Maine Special Response Team, or "S.M.S.R.T."



S.M.S.R.T is a regional emergency service comprised of several agencies within York County who dedicate qualified law enforcement officers to serve on the team in several specialized roles. Individuals on

the team can serve as an operator, sniper, energetic breacher, K9 handler, and drone pilot given they have completed the appropriate schooling. All individuals on the team are required to complete a basic and advanced level "S.W.A.T." school, which upon completion qualify individuals to partake in team trainings and deployments.



In addition to serving search warrants and arrest warrants for dangerous individuals, S.M.S.R.T. can deploy at a moment's notice for crisis or emergent events such as: Hostage Negotiations, Barricaded Individuals, Active Shooter Events, Riots or Unlawful Assembly's, and Disaster Relief.

The York County Sheriff's Office currently has three individuals serving as members on the team. They are Deputy Alex Markellos, Detective Steven Broy, and Detective Sergeant Kyle Kassa. Most recently, all three attended Guild Solutions Group "Situational Movement Solutions", a four day course which was hosted by the York County Sheriff's Office.



Mechanic

Willie Retired

In November we said goodbye to our fleet mechanic, Willie Elliott, after 21 years of dedicated service. Willie started as a corrections officer and when an opening occurred in the garage, he applied and was selected! Willie's family, as well as County Commissioner Donna Ring and former Sheriff Maurice Ouellette were on hand to wish him well in retirement.



Willie is trading in his wrenches for golf clubs!



Massabesic Student Event

In December, School Resource Deputy Matthew Cummer, and Deputy Robert Nejad and Deputy Jonathan Marshall took part in a fundraiser event for the Massabesic Girls Basketball Team. Students were



"arrested" and had to call family and friends to bail them out. It was a fun event for the students and the deputies.



Toys for Tots

In December, Deputy Robert Nejad assisted the Biddeford Police and Fire Department at Walmart as part of the Toys for Tots program. Deputy Nejad helped with taking in donated toys for families in the York County area. These toys were then distributed to families in need so that their children could experience a magical holiday season.



Veterans Parade

On November 11th, Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes of the York County Sheriff's Office had the great honor to escort the Grand Marshal of the Biddeford-Saco Veteran's Day Parade. Lionel Lamontagne is a Navy Veteran who served two tours in Vietnam. Chief Deputy Forbes enjoyed the conversation with Lionel and his granddaughter, Gracie, during the parade and we thank him for his service to our country.



Progress on Construction Site

On November 19th, Chief Deputy Forbes, Facilities Manager Richard Derochemont, and Development



Director Rachel Stansfield, met with Superintendent Steve Lapoint, to check on the construction of the new First Responder Training Center and Recovery Center at 1 Layman Way in Alfred.



International Chiefs of Police Conference

In October, Chief Deputy Forbes, Major Mone, and Det. Sgt. Kassa attended the International Chiefs of Police Conference in Boston. Police Leaders from around the world attended the conference. Classes focused on Community Policing Concepts, Mental Health, Transformational Leadership ideas, Crime Fighting strategies, Recruitment and Retention, and a number of other topics geared toward improving law enforcement agencies' service to communities and their own officers.



IACP 2024

OCTOBER 19-22 | BOSTON, MA
International Association of Chiefs of Police



Ground Breaking Ceremony

York County

First Responder Training Center and Substance Use Recovery Center



On November 21, 2024, Sheriff King and Chief Deputy Forbes spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for the First Responder training facility being built at Layman Way in Alfred. Chief Deputy Forbes is a member of the training center committee that has been involved in submitting ideas and programs that first responders will have access to at this facility. The Sheriff's Department is extremely thankful to the county manager, Greg Zinser, and the county commissioners for making this state-of-the-art training facility a reality. It is going to offer relevant and current training to all first responders in York County, which will make our communities that much safer.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the construction over the next year or two.



AAA New England Annual Conference



Sheriff King was invited by former Chief Deputy Tom Baran, currently an executive with AAA New England to speak about traffic safety and how we tackle our traffic challenges in York County at AAA New England's annual conference for New Hampshire officials.



The Sheriff explained how the Sheriff's Office sends letters to the registered owners of vehicles that have been reported by other motorists to being operated erratically. He also explained that we thank those who let us know about violators!

Gingerbread House Contest 2024

The winners of the gingerbread house contest this year are the ladies from the Sheriff's Office, Mindy Badger, Stacy Thistlewood, Julie Edmonson and Emily Enger. Great job ladies, the bar is set high for next year.



Holiday Staff Celebration

