



The Indiana SHERIFF

Summer 2023

A special newsletter from your Indiana Sheriffs' Association



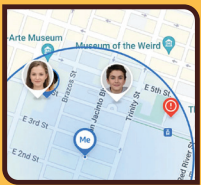
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A Message from Stephen P. Luce

Executive Director of Indiana Sheriffs' Association

As Executive Director of your Indiana Sheriffs' Association (ISA), I want to personally thank you for your strong and generous support of Indiana's 92 sheriffs and their offices. You make what we do possible.

Our mission as your ISA remains the same: promoting the general public welfare through the cooperation of the different sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the State of Indiana in the performance of their duties. As a result of your support, we are able to offer several programs that support our sheriffs and allow them to serve their communities with honor and professionalism.

In this issue of The Indiana Sheriff, you'll hear from ISA's President, Wayne County Sheriff Randy Retter, about some of the challenges they have faced so far just this year and how the Sheriffs across Indiana have come together to support each other in their biggest times of need.

You'll also read about the free OffenderWatch Family Safety App that the Indiana Sheriffs have provided for their communities across the state, get a look into the progress that Wabash County Sheriff Baker and Hancock County Sheriff Burkhart are making in their counties, and get some tips for a safe and fun summer this year!

With each article you read, I trust you will recognize the important role you've played as an ISA member. Through your annual membership fees and additional contributions, you have had a hand in providing education and training, which is enhancing the professionalism of our sheriff's offices and its employees, improving law enforcement methods and tactics, deepening relationships, and most importantly, building trust between our state's sheriffs and deputies and the communities they serve.

Your gifts are reflected in every successful interaction between law enforcement and our citizens, and I hope that you will consider giving another gift today.

I'm grateful for you. As an Association, we couldn't do what we do without engaged ISA members and friends.

Thank you for standing with us!

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Luce
Executive Director
Indiana Sheriffs' Association



A look inside Hancock County's new jail.



Beside the Badge

Spotlight on Sheriff Brad Burkhart of Hancock County

Brad Burkhart first joined the Hancock Sheriff's Office in January of 1988. May 1st of that year, Hancock County held an open house for their new jail. That jail opened for business in June of '88.

Now, 34 years later—and to the day, May 1st of 2022—Sheriff Brad Burkhart hosted an open house at the new Hancock County Sheriff's Office and jail facility. This project has been years in the making; he actually started working on plans for this new facility back when he was serving as Chief Deputy.

"This jail is not just another warehouse for inmates," says Burkhart, "the purpose was to build opportunities for the inmates." The new jail will implement a number of new programs aimed at helping inmates prepare for life after incarceration, safely and successfully reintegrating back into the community.

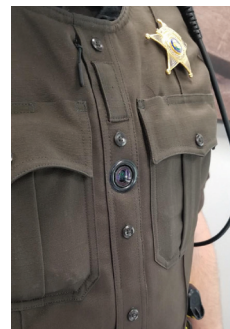
The new facility will have larger classroom spaces and offer education guides to assist and prepare inmates prior to their release. Tablets will be made available to inmates to help them attain their GEDs, take skills classes for certification, and take rehabilitation and reintegration courses. There will also be programs helping inmates establish employment skills and job opportunities, parenting classes, intervention classes, fitness programs, and a full-time therapy dog made available for inmates, jail staff, and deputies.

The new jail wasn't the only priority of Sheriff Burkhart's first term as Sheriff. A number of technology upgrades were implemented to improve the department's overall effectiveness and safety in serving the public.

State-of-the-art camera technology has become a significant tool in law enforcement, aiding in transparency, investigation, monitoring, and training. During his first term, Sheriff Burkhart added body cameras for his deputies, upgraded the in-car camera systems to integrate with the new body cams and the investigation's interview cameras, allowing for one system access to video footage across the department.

Hancock County also instituted the FLOCK license plate reader system connecting them with surrounding law enforcement agencies in tracking vehicles of interest across the county and state. This technology aids in the search for suspect vehicles, human trafficking, warrants, missing persons, and stolen vehicles, among other things.

Like all of Indiana's Sheriffs, Sheriff Burkhart's last term was shrouded by the cloud of a global pandemic. To get the new jail built and up and running and the latest in technology integrated into and throughout the department's system, and to have done it all while answering the pressures of responding to COVID



challenges in the realms of public safety, inmate safety, and law enforcement personnel safety, is beyond commendable. The ISA recognizes the hard work of Sheriff Burkhart and his team in the Hancock County Sheriff's Office during his first term, and we look forward with great anticipation into his second term in office.



Beside the Badge

Spotlight on Sheriff Ryan Baker of Wabash County

Sheriff Ryan Baker has served within the Wabash County Sheriff's Office for going on 22 years. He's presently serving his second term as Sheriff. Baker's first term was busy, getting a new jail built and implementing several new initiatives, all while dealing with the COVID pandemic. His second term promises to be as ambitious and successful.

Under Sheriff Baker's direction, the WCSO implemented new body camera systems for its deputies, increasing transparency and improving safety. The county also instituted the FLOCK license plate reading system—the equipment has just come in and will be set up and operational in the coming weeks. FLOCK reads license plates on roadways entering the county and sends real-time alerts to law enforcement when plates match those on lists of interest.

Wabash County's new 304-bed jail facility will open in just a few months (the 72-bed jail it's replacing opened in 1979). The new jail will alleviate overcrowding issues, meaning Wabash County will no longer need to send inmates to surrounding facilities at a high per-diem cost. Wabash County will be able to provide other counties bed space during times of overcrowding, which will also generate revenue for Wabash County Sheriff's Office.

More than bed count, the new jail facility is a giant step in the direction of inmate rehabilitation and reducing recidivism for Wabash County. The new



New and larger classrooms allow for additional inmate rehabilitation programs.

building includes more and larger classrooms, allowing for more programs like MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy), GED classes, certificate training programs, rehabilitation, reintegration classes, and more. Sheriff Baker's first term included a number of needed department upgrades—vehicles, equipment, and personnel. In addition to updating the department's vehicle fleet, handguns and rifles, shields, entry equipment, body scanner, and metal detectors, Sheriff Baker added 7 new deputies, which includes 2 new School Resource Officers, to the team.

Most impressively, Sheriff Baker and his staff have been able to make these needed improvements and upgrades all while continuing to focus on and deepen WCSO's ties within the communities they serve. Deputies have maintained a good presence in the community through programs like Shop with a Cop, local fairs, town festivals, and parades, seizing opportunities to serve as they arise and building relationships with the community's youth.

The ISA salutes the good work Sheriff Baker and the men and women of the Wabash County Sheriff's Office have done, pursuing excellence in serving and protecting, and building communities of trust.

Keep up the good work!



The FLOCK license plate reading system alerts law enforcement when license plates match those on lists of interest.



The President's Message

Wayne County Sheriff Randy Retter

We are entering the mid-point of the year, which seems to have gone fast. As Sheriffs, we have been laser focused on the tasks at hand despite the bumpy road we have been on. Many of us have experienced tragedies within our counties already this year. From deputies being injured or losing their life in the line of duty to the storms that ravaged our communities, we have been put to the test.

Regardless of those adversities, we continue to rise above and forge on. I could not have been more proud when I saw dozens of Sheriffs stand up and come to the aid of other Indiana Sheriffs who were in a time of need during these events. The connection between the Sheriffs and their agencies is more than just that seen in a shared profession. It is an esteemed association and one where no one stands alone.

A few weeks ago, a Sheriff's deputy, and his family, tragically lost all of their belongings in a residential fire. When the Sheriff spread the word about his deputy's loss, many immediately came to their aid in the form of clothing, personal items for child care, and funds to help them start getting re-established. This help all came without hesitation, just as we do for the people in our own counties.

I had a vision of what our association should be. In the previous newsletter I said, "It has been proven many times over that as a group we are stronger together. When we share, teach, learn, come to the aid of and support each other, we will continue to be leaders providing the best professional service to our counties." The Indiana Sheriffs have exceeded that vision and go above and beyond every day.

I am proud to be associated with and working alongside some of the best law enforcement professionals in the State of Indiana. We will continue to be there in a time of need, speaking with one voice, answering the call to duty.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Randy Retter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randy Retter
Wayne County Sheriff | 2023 ISA President

Wishing You, Your Family, and Friends a Safe Summer

Summer is here! These are times to enjoy, and your Indiana Sheriffs' Association wants you, your family, and friends to have a marvelous *and safe* summer experience. We've compiled some summer safety tips for you.

Swimming Safety Tips

Swimming is a fun way to spend time together as family and friends. There's nothing like spending an afternoon splashing around in the water and enjoying being together. Unfortunately, many people don't realize how dangerous swimming can be without careful preparation. Follow these tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and enjoying the water together:

- **Never allow a child to swim unsupervised.** If your child is going with a friend to swim, be sure to speak with the adult in charge. Children can drown quickly and in very small amounts of water. Even a brief span of inattention can be fatal. Take the opportunity to evaluate your child's ability and general comfort in the water. Make sure your child knows the safety rules.
- **Buddy up!** Always swim with a partner, every time, whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake.
- **Know your limits.** If you're not a good swimmer or you're just learning to swim, don't go in water that's so deep you can't touch the bottom and don't try to keep up with skilled swimmers.
- **Swim in safe areas only.** It's always best to swim in places that are supervised by a lifeguard.
- **Be careful about diving.** Diving accidents can cause head injury, permanent spinal cord damage, paralysis, and sometimes even death. Protect yourself by only diving in areas known to be safe, such as the deep end of a supervised pool.
- **Watch the sun.** Sun reflecting off the water or off sand can intensify the burning rays. You might not feel sunburned when the water feels cool and refreshing, but the pain will catch up with you later. Remember to reapply sunscreen often and cover up much of the time.

Boating Safety Tips

Enjoying Indiana's lakes is an amazing privilege. If you'll be on the lakes this summer, these on-the-water safety regulations and tips from your ISA will help ensure safe and enjoyable excursions for one and all:

- Boat operators must have an operator license, valid registration, and boating safety certificate in their possession.
- Have personal flotation devices (PFD) available for all passengers on board. Children 12 and under must be wearing PFDs while the vessel is moving.
- A throwable seat cushion or ring buoy must be available.
- The vessel must be equipped with an adequate horn or whistle and approved fire extinguisher.
- Navigation lights must be on between sunset and sunrise.
- Be aware of your swimming capability.
- Avoid alcohol. Boating while intoxicated is a crime.
- Check local weather conditions beforehand.
- Use common sense: Operate at a safe speed, remain alert, and be respectful of navigational aids and other boaters.
- If you'll be swimming, always swim in the company of others.
- Provide constant supervision to children in or near the water.
- Protect yourself and your family members from the sun by applying waterproof sunblock.

Safety Tips for Water Skiers, Tubers, and Wakeboarders

Skiing, tubing, and wakeboarding are popular water sports, but they also can be dangerous with participants traveling at high speeds. Remember to take the following steps to minimize the risks:

- Learn how to get up out of the water and how to safely use the tow rope.
- Always have a spotter in the boat.
- Make certain the towline is not caught in the propeller or wrapped around you prior to beginning.
- Wait for the propeller to stop before getting back on the boat.
- Enjoy these activities during daylight hours only.

Scholarships for Indiana Law Enforcement Students

Through the generosity of members like you, the Indiana Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to qualified students who are committed to pursuing an education and career in the law enforcement field.

Qualified applicants are: (1) an active affiliate or associate member of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association or a dependent child or grandchild of an active affiliate or associate member; (2) an Indiana resident; (3) attending an Indiana College or University enrolled as a full-time student.

This year we were able to award a total of \$30,000 in scholarships to help some very deserving students further their education. Here are your 2023 Indiana Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Recipients:

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Bailey Baumgardner

Huntington County

Corbin Begle

Dubois County

Lillian Cartwright

Steuben County

Cole Collins

Huntington County

Sara Cramer

Elkhart County

Logan Dashiell

Hamilton County

Mason Eads

Vanderburgh County

Rebecca Einstein

Marion County

Alyssa Etter

Morgan County

Chloe Garner

Marshall County

Cameron Goodman

Sullivan County

Khyler Grant

Wayne County

Clayton Griswold

Howard County

Taylor Hoover

Miami County

Grace Jarman

Rush County

Andrew Jeffers

Sullivan County

Spencer Kelley

Tippecanoe County

Mairead Kennedy

Porter County

Megan Laflin

Ripley County

Paige McCutcheon

Huntington County

Lauren McHenry

Dearborn County

Eli Meyer

Jackson County

Makenna Micallef

LaPorte County

Reece Mitchell

Clinton County

Mallory Morrison

Porter County

Molly Nicholson

Jackson County

Jaclyn Piper

Lake County

Olivia Rowles

Jay County

Mason Rudd

Carroll County

Brady Schiffli

LaGrange County

Benjamin Smith

Hancock County

Cameron Theobald

Hamilton County

Kate Thomas

Jasper County

Olivia Todish

Wayne County

Chelsey Varnadore

Clay County

Brian Walradth

Henry County

Landon Wilder

Warrick County

Wyatt Wischmeier

Jackson County

Sydney Wojtysiak

Starke County

Nathaniel Yoder

Martin County



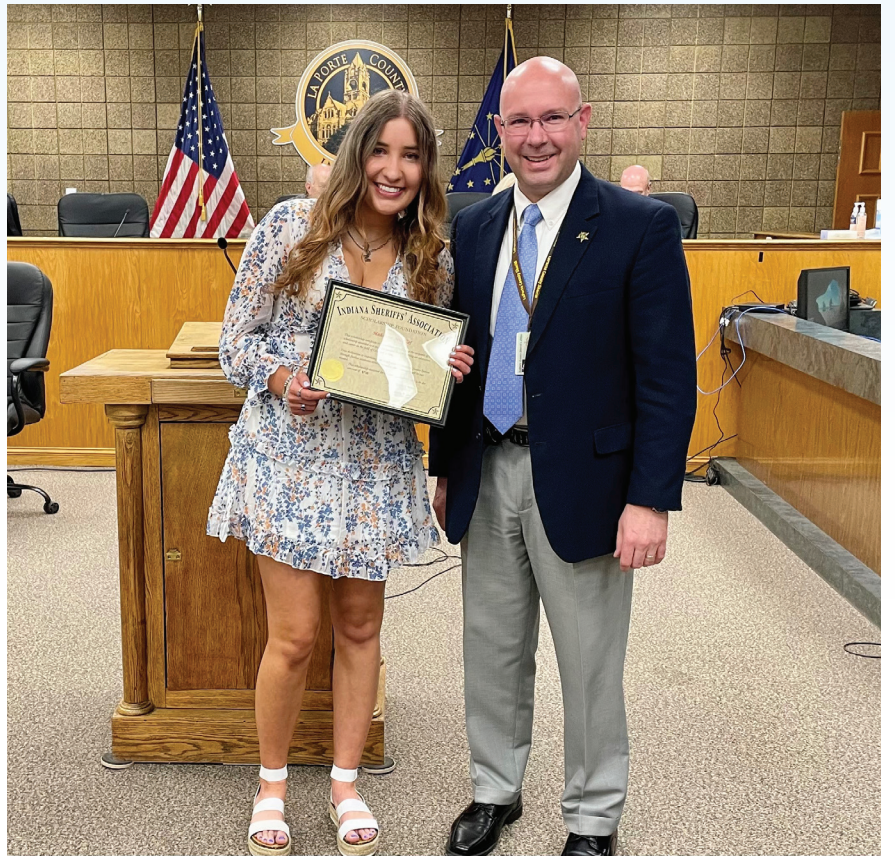
Clayton Griswold - Howard County



Sydney Wojtysiak - Starke County



Spencer Kelley - Tippecanoe County



Makenna Micallef - LaPorte County

12th Annual Sheriff Robert "Buck" Stogsdill Open Bass Tournament



The 12th annual open bass tournament, named after former Brown County Sheriff Buck Stogsdill (who died in 2011), was held at Lake Monroe on April 29th. Each year, this popular event draws participants from across the state and deepens relationships between the members of the community and the ISA.

All proceeds from the bass tournament benefit the ISA's Line of Duty Death Benefit, Youth Leadership Camps, and Scholarship Programs.

This year's event was another stellar success. Congratulations to our 2023 tournament winners!

1st Place & 1st Place Male/Female – Mike Stoute and Jami Stoute



2nd Place & Big Bass – David Hargis and Josh Smith



3rd Place & Smallest Bass – Dan Pennington and Dan Fields

2023 Bass Tournament Winners

- 1st Place — Mike Stoute and Jami Stoute
- 2nd Place — David Hargis and Josh Smith
- 3rd Place — Dan Pennington and Dan Fields
- 4th Place — Eddie Fry and Kevin Roberts
- 5th Place — Brian Furbuser and Bucko Reed
- 6th Place — Jason Virurign and Ron Virurign
- 7th Place — Jeff Mullins and Lane Mullins

- 1st Place Male/Female — Mike Stoute and Jami Stoute
- 1st Place Adult/Youth — Scott Bowling and Madison Bowling
- Winner of Smallest Bass — Dan Pennington and Dan Fields
- Winner of Big Bass — David Hargis and Josh Smith



1st Place Adult/Youth Team – Scott Bowling and Madison Bowling



Ride with the Star!

Join other Hoosiers who are dedicated to helping make our state's deputies safer.

Show your support for the Indiana Sheriffs' Association and your local sheriff's office by picking up your Indiana Sheriffs' Association Special Group Recognition (SGR) license plate today!

These specialty license plates are available for any passenger vehicle registered in Indiana.


By purchasing this plate, you are helping to support ISA's Youth Leadership Camps, providing assistance for the families of fallen officers, and providing training for members of your local sheriff's office as well as deputies across the state.

Is it time to renew your vehicle registration? **Contact your local BMV and put a star on your car!**

Important Reminder

Submit Your 2023 Indiana Sheriffs' Association Membership Renewal NOW!

You should have received your 2023 Indiana Sheriffs' Association Membership renewal reminder. *Have you filled it out?* Please take a moment to fill out the remit from the last renewal notice you received and send in your dues TODAY! By renewing, you are helping to provide support and training services to all 92 Indiana Sheriff's Offices. We are grateful for your continued support of your ISA. THANK YOU!




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Indiana Sheriffs' Association
Supporting Indiana's Sheriffs

MEMBERSHIP YEAR
2023

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Sheriffs Go Beyond the Law with New Family Safety App

For over 20 years, the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry, powered by OffenderWatch, has informed parents about offenders living within the communities served by the Indiana sheriffs. Citizens can visit the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry to search for registered sex offenders near an address or by an offender's name then see maps and details about the offenders. While on the site, thousands of Indiana residents have enrolled in email alerts to receive a notification whenever a sex offender moves within a radius of their home.

Now Indiana Sheriffs have taken community awareness a step further with a new family safety app.

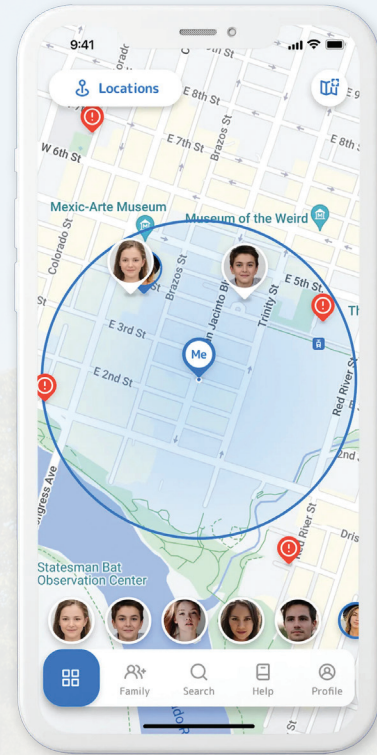
The free OffenderWatch Family Safety App gives parents peace of mind by being able to track their kids on a map and see if registered sex offenders live nearby. Parents get notified as kids come and go from home, school, or other designated places. Parents can also search by address or offender name, subscribe to emails, and post tips about offenders. The offender data in the app comes from the Sheriffs' registries.

Recognizing the growing threat of online predators, the OffenderWatch Family Safety App enables parents to subscribe to get alerts should a registered sex offender contact a child by call, text, or email. Parents are also alerted should a child linger near the residence of a registered sex offender.

A Watch List allows parents to list the phone numbers and the addresses of, for example, the ex with a restraining order or known bullies. The parent is notified if a person on the Watch List calls or texts the child or if the child lingers near their address.

In the app, parents can read articles about online safety and contact the local Sheriff's office should they receive an alert or have concerns about the safety of their family.

The OffenderWatch App is available now in the Apple App Store and Google Play.



YOU could win this...

2022 Harley-Davidson Softail Street Bob Motorcycle!



TICKETS

1 for \$2

3 for \$5

7 for \$10

15 for \$20

The drawing will be held **August 20, 2023** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Exposition Hall. You do not have to be present to win. Must be at least 18 years of age.

Proceeds go to the Indiana Sheriffs' Association to benefit families of officers killed in the line of duty, Sheriffs Youth Leadership Camps & Scholarship Program.

For more information or tickets call:
800-622-4779

Visit ISA's website for information on the winner:
IndianaSheriffs.org

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Indiana Sheriffs' Association

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Legislative Update

An update on HB1006, SB1, and HB1492

The 2023 Indiana Legislative Session was a very successful session for the Indiana Sheriffs' Association.

Our main agenda items were to highlight and focus resources on the mentally ill in county jails and to increase resources for school safety.

HB1006 and SB1 were the main drivers of increasing resources for the mentally ill in jails. HB1006 creates more options to divert or deflect those suffering mental illness issues from entering the jail, giving them pathways to treatment facilities. SB1 directs money and additional resources to mental health treatment in the state, along with

additional money allocated in the state budget for regional mental health facilities. These bills have started laying the groundwork for an expansion of access to treatment for mental illness.

Additionally, HB1492 streamlined the school safety grant process and added additional funds for schools to access matching grants to increase school safety measures around the state.

We will continue to work on the implementation of these efforts over the course of this year and will start determining how we can continue to move Indiana in the best direction.



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