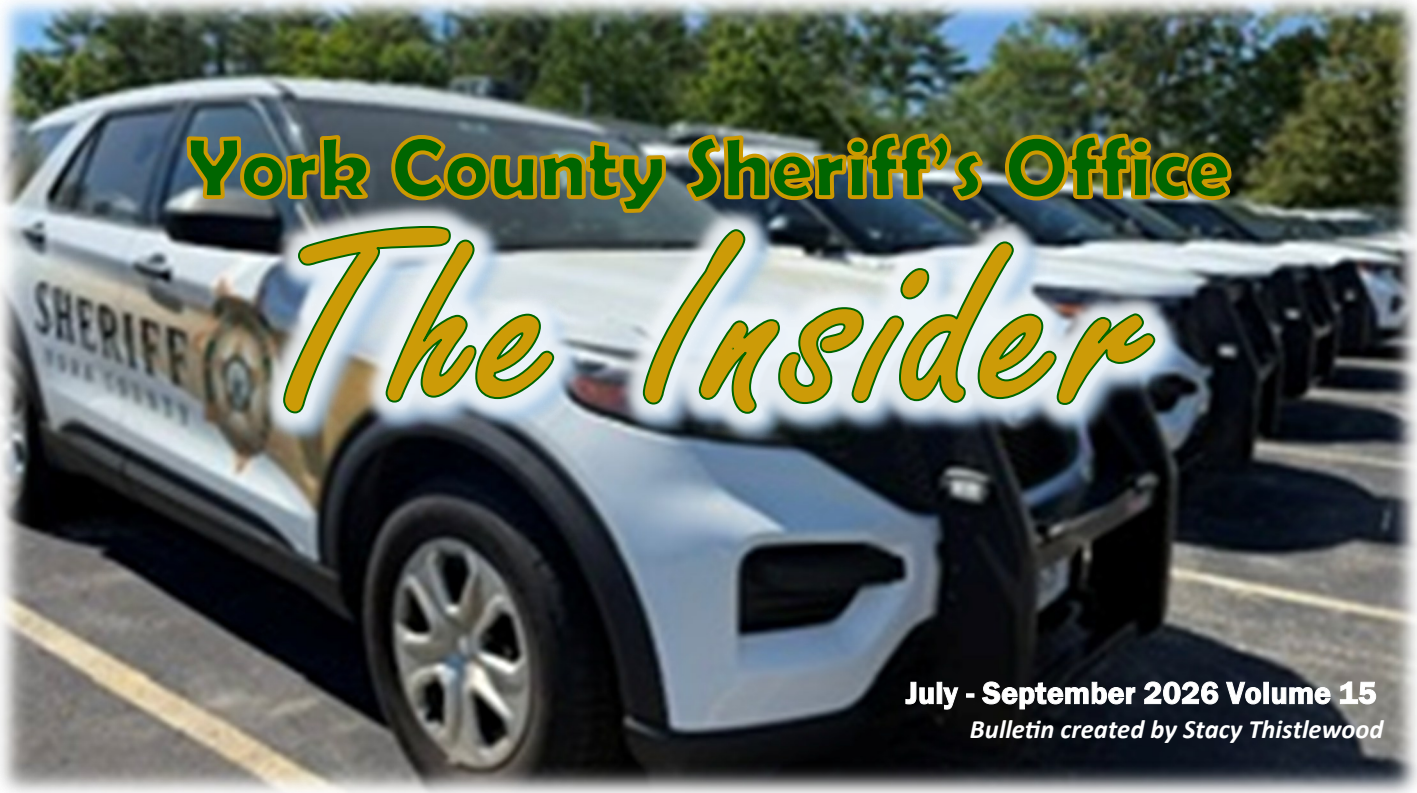


Message from:

Sheriff William L. King Jr.

The third quarter of 2026 was a busy one for the Sheriff's Office. This bulletin covers the activity of July, August, and September. Highlights of the summer include:

- *Several significant arrests by our deputies*
- *The retirement of a long-time employee*
- *A new employee who joined us from across the country.*

For the first time in many years, we are sending two individuals to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for Basic Law Enforcement Training. We usually hire experienced, already-trained deputies because rural patrol requires deputies to work alone, often with backup 10 or 15 minutes away. This time, however, we found two newcomers to the profession in whom we have great confidence:

- *Lucas Labbe comes to us from Massabesic High School, where he coached football and mentored young people.*

- *Matthew Ryan worked in business but showed an intense interest in police work by attending our Citizen's Police Academy twice.*

We anticipate great things from Deputies Labbe and Ryan and eagerly await their return in December.

As we head into the final quarter, we look forward to using the Regional Training Academy and to the activation of the Regional Recovery Center, both located next to the Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly report.





MLEAP
MAINE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Employee Spotlight

Deputy Brandon Wasilchen



Howdy! My name is Brandon Wasilchen, and I am 32 years old. I grew up in Washington State in the Puget Sound area. I am married to my wife, Madison, and we have four young children: Knox (7), Farryn (6), Verac (3), and Ahri (1). We just moved to Maine and are very excited to be a part of York County. I have been in law enforcement since 2020: 2.5 years in Corrections and 4 years on Patrol. I worked for the Bremerton and Blaine Police Departments, and now I am excited to call the YCSO home. I spend most of my free time at home doing activities with my family. Anything from going to Church, watching movies, playing video games, celebrating/decorating for the holidays, and anything else fun. I am a very outgoing person and have a passion for learning languages. I speak fluent Spanish, and I am currently learning others. I am grateful for this opportunity to move across the country to be a part of this great work.

Family in Need

On September 18th, Major Sanford received information from RSU 57 School Administrators that a family living in their school district was in financial difficulty and could not afford basic necessities for their children who attended school in this district. Major Sanford and School Administrators organized the purchase and delivery of a number of groceries and other items to the family.



Civil Deputy

John Willey Retires

John Willey has retired after 17 years with York County Sheriff's Office, where he worked in court security and civil process, capping a career in public service that also included 20 years in corrections with the Rockingham County Jail in New Hampshire and 26 years in patrol with the South Berwick Police Department – the latter two for the most part at the same time, he said. "It's a good place," said Willey of the sheriff's office. "It's been great to work for the department. There's a lot of good guys here." Willey was presented with his retirement credentials, a glass plaque, and a shadowbox containing a badge and other mementoes of his time with the agency.



Photo: York County Sheriff William L. King Jr., Willey, Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes and Major Craig Sanford.

OPTIONS

Welcome Stephanie

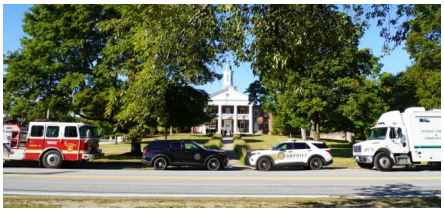


The York County Sheriff's Office would like to welcome Stephanie Bernier to our team. The York County Sheriff's Office and Sweetser have worked together to bring Stephanie to our agency as an OPTIONS (Overdose Prevention Through Intensive Outreach, Naloxone and Safety) Liaison. Stephanie will work alongside our deputies and community partners to provide support through proactive outreach, crisis de-escalation, post-overdose follow-up, brief interventions, connections to treatment, harm reduction/ prevention, and recovery resources. Our goal is to help break down barriers and make it easier to find the right support for individuals suffering from substance use disorders. Stephanie is passionate about supporting people and their families impacted by substance use disorder, and she believes strongly in meeting people where they are, without judgment, while recognizing that everyone's journey is different. Stephanie's background includes a degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences, and she is currently finishing her Master's Degree in Public Health. Stephanie has worked throughout York County providing supportive counseling, care coordination, and case management. She is eager for this upcoming journey and the opportunity to work alongside our communities and first responders to support people impacted by substance use disorders and assist them in finding their options. We look forward to seeing the impact Stephanie will have for families in our communities.

Ceremony Remembering 911



On Friday, September 11th, the York County Sheriff's Office took part in a 911 remembrance for the 2,977 victims who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Honor Guard Members Deputy Justin Titcomb and Jonathan Marshall lowered the flag to half-staff at the Alfred Superior Court building while the bell was rung at the exact minute when the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Also present at the ceremony were Sheriff William King, Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes, and Major Craig Sanford.





90th Basic Training Graduates



The York County Sheriff's Office welcomed three new corrections officers into its ranks! Remigus Ahnzi, Adam Baltzer and Brooklyn Bardeen graduated from the 90th Basic Corrections Training Academy at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy! Captains Colton Sweeney and Jason Brooks accompanied Sheriff King to celebrate their graduation.

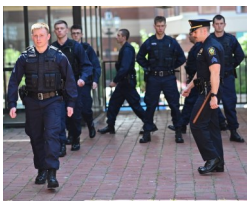


Portland Police Dept Pre-Academy Training Program



The York County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Portland Police Department for allowing Recruits Lucas Labbe and Matthew Ryan to attend their department's pre-academy training program. The week of training was intended to prepare them for the start of the 18-week Basic Law Enforcement Training Program at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Labbe and Ryan reported on Monday, August 17th to begin their journey to become York County Sheriff's Deputies. This week, the Portland Police Department hosted its bi-annual pre-academy training for cadets preparing to attend the Maine State Criminal Justice Academy's 18-week Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP). We were proud to welcome cadets from three law enforcement agencies: nine future Portland Police Officers, along with cadets from the Oxford County Sheriff's Office and York County Sheriff's Office. Throughout the week, cadets took part in hands-on training, instruction, and preparation designed to give them a strong foundation as they head into the academy next week. After completing the 18-week program, our Portland cadets will return home and continue their training as they prepare to serve the Portland community. To all 12 cadets: congratulations on reaching this milestone and best of luck at the academy! We're looking forward to seeing you succeed!



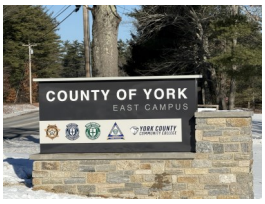


Under Age Driver

Deputy Titcomb was working the car show at Bentley's when he conducted a traffic stop on this young man driving his power wheel. After a brief conversation and a photo opportunity, the young lad was back on his way.



Training Center Collaboration



The Criminal Justice Advisory Board for York County Community College (YCCC) met to discuss the collaboration between the college and York County's Regional Training Center. Pictured below is Sheriff Bill King, Kennebunk Police Chief Bob McKenzie, YCCC Criminal Justice Department Chair, and retired Portland Police Chief, Tim Burton, and the Director of the York County Regional Training Center, Roger Hooper. Cumberland County Jail Administrator Tim Kortes joined the board later in the evening.



Regional Recovery Center

The Sheriff invited several providers to tour the yet to be opened Regional Recovery Center at 55 New County Way (next to the jail.) Representatives from Portland Treatment, Journey House, Courage House, Casco Bay Rehabilitation and Sweetser attended (if I missed somebody, I apologize.) Thank you to Steve Danzig the Director of the facility for providing us a behind the scenes tour.





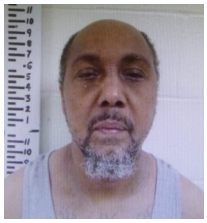


Maine Drug Enforcement Arrest

Some great investigative work by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. We appreciate their efforts in taking these drugs off the streets of York County. MDEA is a task force of officers from the York County Sheriff's Office, the State Police, Biddeford Police Department, Kennebunk Police Department, Buxton Police Department, and the York Police Department.

Press release put out by MDEA.

MDEA and the Biddeford Police Dept announce the arrest of a Biddeford man for aggravated drug trafficking in Biddeford.



Brown



ARRESTED: ***Lamont Brown, 50, of Biddeford*** was initially charged with two counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Scheduled "W" Drugs. Additional charges, post search warrant, included three counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Scheduled "W" Drugs and Possession of a firearm by a felon. In July of 2026, agents from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency received information regarding a drug trafficking organization in York County. This intelligence received from MDEA's local law enforcement partners resulted in the identification of the main trafficking location in Biddeford. Undercover purchases of illegal drugs were subsequently made from the address in Biddeford. Biddeford Police and the United States DEA assisted throughout this investigation. A judicial search warrant, along with arrests warrants, were sought and granted for Brown's apartment located on West Cutts Street in Biddeford. In September MDEA, Biddeford Police, and the USDEA executed the search warrant at the residence. Lamont Brown was taken into custody for the arrest warrants without incident. A search of the apartment resulted in the seizure of 961 grams of Cocaine, 788 grams of Fentanyl, 219 grams of Methamphetamine, and 15 grams of Cocaine Base (crack). Approximately $12,000.00 in suspected drug proceeds and two firearms were located alongside the seized illegal drugs. Brown was additionally charged with three counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Scheduled "W" Drugs and Possession of a firearm by a felon. The aggravating factors include being in a school zone and possessing firearms. Brown was held at the York County Jail on $225,000.00 cash bail pending an initial appearance. This investigation will continue, and additional arrests are expected. Buxton Police Dept and the York County Sheriff's Office also assisted in this investigation. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The MDEA stands committed to working with all federal, state, county, and local law enforcement partners in order to continue to identify and disrupt drug trafficking organizations who are attempting to distribute illicit drugs like fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine in the State of Maine.



Deputy Cummer

Stepping up for the Community



Ryan Paige, CEO Of Access Direct hosted a softball game and Recovery fair in early October. Ryan needed a volunteer to sit in the dunk tank and Deputy Matt Cummer volunteered! He was a hit amongst the crowd, many of whom knew how to throw a baseball!



Thank you Deputy Cummer!



Jail Entertainment

The Notbyworks Band plays gospel music and inspirational messages to their incarcerated audiences. They are a frequent visitor at the York County Jail and yesterday played for an appreciative audience. Janet Drew, a Board of Visitor, stopped by to also enjoy the music!









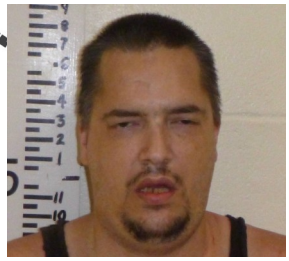
Aggressive Subject

arrested in Lyman

In September, the York County Sheriff's Office received a report of an individual acting aggressively towards people in the area of the Kennebunk Pond Beach in Lyman. It was reported that he was threatening to hurt people and tried to strike individuals with his vehicle in a crosswalk area. As deputies were responding to the scene, it was reported that this individual had walked to a nearby house and was ripping up their fencing. Deputy Brandon Wasilchen arrived on scene and exited his vehicle. He was directed by witnesses to the male, who was now in a vehicle. Deputy Wasilchen motioned for the male to stop. Instead, the male drove around the deputy, almost striking him with his vehicle. The suspect then fled from the scene. A short time later, a Maine State Trooper observed the suspect vehicle and stopped it on Rt. 111. The operator, Scott Macdonald (40 years old, of Sanford), was arrested for OUI-Liquor, Criminal Threatening, Criminal Mischief, and Failure to Stop for a Law Enforcement Officer. More charges are likely at a later time. Macdonald was transported to the York County Jail, where his bail was set at $500 cash. He was later released after posting bail.



Motor Vehicle Crash

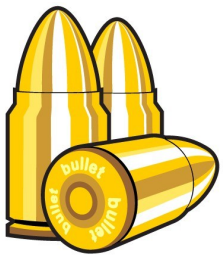


In August York County Sheriff's deputies responded to the Roberts Ridge Rd. in Waterboro for a motor vehicle crash. The resulting investigation showed that Raymond Miller, age 40, from Waterboro, was operating a 2015 Ford Explorer at a high rate of speed and driving erratically before he crashed into a utility pole, snapping it in half. Miller's license was under suspension at the time of the crash, and he was on Conditions of Release not to operate a motor vehicle or be in possession of keys to a vehicle. Miller was arrested for Operating as a Habitual Offender, Driving to Endanger, and Violation of Conditions of Release. The road was closed for several hours.

Shots Fired Striking Vehicle



In August, the York County Sheriff's Office received a complaint from an individual stating that he was traveling on Rt. 202 in Lebanon when a black sedan pulled next to his vehicle and fired several rounds from a gun into his car. The complainant advised that he was not struck by the gunfire. Deputies responded to the scene and learned that two rounds had struck the vehicle. One round went through the driver's side door and the second struck a tire, which disabled the vehicle. The complainant was able to provide a description of the vehicle, and the resulting investigation identified a suspect and vehicle. The York County Sheriff's Office put out a bulletin to local police departments to look for the vehicle and suspect. At approximately 440 am, an officer from the Sanford Police Department observed the suspect vehicle at a business in Sanford. The Sanford Police Department made contact with the operator, Zachary Shaw (19 years old from Lebanon), and he was arrested for Reckless Conduct with a Dangerous Weapon and Criminal Mischief. A firearm was located in the vehicle. The suspect vehicle and firearm were seized for processing. Shaw was transported to the York County Jail, where bail was set at $25,000 cash. Later that evening a 14-year-old female from Sanford was arrested for Reckless Conduct with a Dangerous Weapon and the gun believed to have been used in the crime was recovered. She was transported to the Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland.



DRUG RESOURCES

If you or someone you know suffers from substance use disorder, **please call 211** or **text your zip code to 898-211** for a list of resources available in your area.

If you have information about the illegal sale of drugs in your community, you are urged to contact the Maine Drug Enforcement office closest to you or by texting **MDEA to TIP411 (847411) or by calling the MDEA tip-line at 1-800-452-6457.**

Traffic Stop
Waterboro



In September, Deputy Ashley Sargent stopped a vehicle on the Ossipee Hill Rd. in Waterboro for a traffic infraction. During the investigation, it was determined the vehicle was stolen from the town of Sanford on Sept. 11th. The license plate displayed was also found to have been stolen but not yet discovered by the owner. The operator of the vehicle provided several aliases before finally being identified as Anthony Lesperance (35 years old, of Sanford). He was arrested for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (Class C-priors), Receiving Stolen Property (Class C-priors), Failure to Give Correct Name/Date of Birth to a Law Enforcement Officer, Operating without a Driver's License, and Improper Plates. A passenger in the vehicle, Burt Stroud (38 years old of Rochester, N.H.) was arrested on warrants for Probation Revocation. Both individuals were transported to the York County Jail. Lesperance bail was set at $1,500 cash. Stroud was held with no bail allowed.



Stroud



Lesperance

Assault ★★★★★

In August, York County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence on the Sanford Road in Alfred for a reported assault. An investigation determined Stephen Edgerly (23 years old) forced entry into an apartment and assaulted another resident, causing facial injuries. Stephen left the scene before deputies arrived. Probable cause was established to charge Stephen with burglary, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. Stephen was later arrested by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and transported back to the York County Jail.

