

A special guest article from Undersheriff Michael Filicetti, Niagara County Sheriff's Office:

I recently had the opportunity to sit with Hartland Town Supervisor W. Ross Annable and explain some of the services offered by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office to the residents of Hartland and all of Niagara County. It was good to talk to him about my passion for protecting the people and residents of our great county.

Every citizen should have the opportunity of being aware of every day occurrences that can impact the roads you drive on or emergencies that occur. NY-Alert is a web based portal that allows state, county and local governments, emergency service agencies, colleges and universities, and private partners to provide emergency alert information and private notifications to a defined audience. NY-Alert warns citizens of critical information / emergencies and provides timely information to protect lives. Sign up for NY-Alert today to receive real-time warnings and emergency information directly via phone call, email, text message or fax. You can sign up for NY-Alert at alert.ny.gov.

One concern many people have is the security of their house while they are away on vacation. The Sheriff's Office regularly makes checks on houses and property all around Niagara County and we will gladly check on your house as part of our patrol in the Town of Hartland. It is reassuring to know that we have your back and will keep an eye on things when you are unable to. If you would like a check of your property while you are away, please call the main dispatch number, (716) 438-3393, to speak to a professional dispatcher and give the information for your house checks. Along the same lines is the security of our most highly valued items like our cars and recreational vehicles. I want to encourage each of you to remember to lock your car doors and remove all valuables from your vehicles when you have gone into your house for the night. If you have to leave anything of value outside while you are not there, make sure that you have secured it with a chain or some other device that will prevent it from being stolen. Our deputies are on the streets all the time but some simple steps like this may prevent you from becoming the victim of a crime.

In addition to these services, we have also partnered with the Niagara County Office for the Aging to equip vulnerable adults with GPS location bracelets. These bracelets are available for use with special needs children as well. If you are in need of this service you can contact Captain Robert Richards at (716) 438-3331 to discuss your need and come up with a plan to help you through this process.

We also have a number of trained child safety seat technicians and we conduct bike rodeos throughout the County in the warmer months. The child safety seat technicians can inspect your car safety seat and give instruction on how to properly install this valuable safety item in your car. Traffic Safety Educator Cathleen Davis can be contacted at (716) 438-3464 to arrange a car seat install or safety check and is always a great resource.

One additional program I would like to make you aware of is the Yellow Dot Program. This program is designed to give first responders critical information about you and your family in the event of an accident or emergency in your house. When the yellow dot is located on your vehicle or house by a first responder, they know to look for important information, compiled by you, to assist in your family's medical treatment or conditions. Information regarding this program as well as packets to get you started can be obtained by contacting Lt. Tom Huff at (716) 438-3310.

Of course these services are just scratching the surface of services that are provided by the Sheriff's Office. All of our posts and press releases can be followed on social media. Like us on Facebook at Niagara County Sheriff, follow us on Twitter @NiagaraSheriff or Instagram #NiagaraSheriff and you can see our videos on YouTube by searching Niagara Sheriff. Please check out our new website, www.niagarasheriff.com. If you have a smart phone you can download our app by searching Niagara County Sheriff NY on google or the app store on iPhone.

It is a great honor to serve you every day. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any additional questions or concerns.

Undersheriff Michael Filicetti