Columbia County Sheriff’s Office
Sheriff David P. Bartlett

2018 Annual Report
Columbia County is approximately 648 square miles.

Columbia County encompasses four Villages, eighteen Towns and one City.

Population is approximately 65,000.

The first known European exploration of Columbia County was in 1609, when Henry Hudson, an English explorer sailing for the Dutch, ventured up the Hudson River. An accident to his craft forced him to stop at what is now known as Columbia County, and search for food and supplies.

In 1612, the Dutch established trading posts and minor settlements, constructing New Amsterdam (today New York City) and Fort Orange (today Albany).

Traders began to stop at midway points along the Hudson River, on their travels between New Amsterdam and Fort Orange. Small settlements (Columbia County) arose along the river to supply the traders' ships.
Mission Statement:

While respecting the rights of all, the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office will work continuously to provide full service modern, professional and community oriented public safety to those who visit, work and reside in our county. The Law Enforcement, Corrections and Civil duties of the Office will be carried out emphasizing the highest standards of honesty, integrity, civility and cooperation.

The Office of the Sheriff is the oldest office under the system of common law in the United States and is an integral part of government in the State of New York. The position of Sheriff in Columbia County dates back to at least 1772 when Philip J. Livingston was appointed to the position. In 1822, Samuel E. Hudson was the first Sheriff to be elected to serve a term of three years. Since then, the Sheriff has been an elected official with the current term being for four years.

The Columbia County Sheriff’s Office is a state accredited law enforcement agency which currently employs 115 full time and 60 part time men and women who serve as Deputy Sheriff’s, Corrections Officers and civilian members of the Communications, Civil, Records, Court Attendant, Medical and Food Service sections of the Office. There are five divisions of the Sheriff’s Office: Law Enforcement, Corrections, Security Services, Civil Enforcement and Emergency Management who provide a wide range of services to Columbia County residents.

As the oldest constitutional law enforcement officer of the County, the Sheriff is charged with maintaining the peace in all municipalities, villages and townships within his/her jurisdiction, as well as the care and custody of person pending court action. In addition to police services, the Sheriff maintains a 135 bed county jail located at the Public Safety Facility and provides security for Local, County and Supreme courts and other county buildings.
Sheriff’s Command Staff

Undersheriff John W. Davi

Captain John DeRocha
Law Enforcement Division

Captain Brian Gardner
Corrections Division

Rebecca Milone
Confidential Assistant
Sheriff's Office 2018 Revenue
Total $1,789,986.00

- 2018: $669,200 (Corrections), $1,120,786.00 (Law Enforcement)
- 2017: $687,200 (Corrections), $1,111,214.00 (Law Enforcement)
- 2016: $828,200 (Corrections), $957,145.00 (Law Enforcement)

Sheriff's Office 2018 Operating Budget - $12,153,138

- Emergency Management: $414,985
- Communications: $611,715
- Law Enforcement: $6,277,329
- Corrections: $4,849,109
Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Organizational Chart

Sheriff
- Confidential Assistant
  - Undersheriff
    - Civil Enforcement Division
      - 1st. Sergeant
        - Civil Clerk
          - Keyboard Specialists
          - Sr. Account Clerk
    - Security Services Division
      - 1st. Sergeant
        - Security Services
          - Deputy Sheriffs & Court Attendants
        - Communications
          - Branch
            - Master Sergeant
          - Ft & PT Officers
          - 1st. Sergeants
            - Uniform Patrol
              - Sergeants
              - Deputy Sheriffs
    - Law Enforcement Division
      - Captain
        - Patrol Branch
          - Lieutenant
          - 1st. Sergeants
            - Uniform Patrol
              - Sergeants
              - Deputy Sheriffs
      - Criminal Investigation Branch
        - Sr. Investigators
        - Internal Affairs Unit
        - Investigators
    - Emergency Management Division—Director
      - Deputy Directors

PERSONNEL

Administrative (Sheriff, Undersheriff, Captain, Lieutenant) 4
Uniformed Deputy Sheriff’s (Full-time) 32
Uniformed Deputy Sheriff’s (Part-time) 29
Patrol Sergeants 4
Civil Division 1st Sergeant 1
Security Division 1st Sergeant 1

Law Enforcement First Sergeant 1
Security Detail Deputy Sheriff’s 6
Senior Investigators 3
Criminal Investigators 6
Communications Officers (Full-Time) 6
Communications Master Sergeant 0
Communications Officers (Part-time) 6
Secretarial Staff 6
Law Enforcement Division

**ROAD PATROL**

⇒ The Road Patrol consists of 32 Full-Time Deputy Sheriffs who patrol and respond to complaints in Columbia County.

⇒ In 2018, the Road Patrol responded to 14,062 calls for service. Below is a brief breakdown of calls for service.

**Accidents**
- Personal Injury: 132
- Property Damage: 768
- Fatal: 3
- ATV: 1
- Snowmobile: 1
- Hunting: 1

**Assault**: 42

**Burglary**: 56

**Driving While Intoxicated**
- DWI: 36

**Harassment**: 267

**Missing Persons**
- Adult Missing: 27
- Juvenile Missing: 28

**Larceny**: 357

**Motor Vehicle Theft**: 10

**Robbery**: 1

**Traffic Tickets**: 5,938

**Assist Fire Company**: 166

**Assist EMS**: 269

**Health & Welfare Checks**: 395

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**Resident Deputies**

⇒ The Sheriff’s Office currently has six Resident Deputies.

⇒ This program promotes community relations and interaction between law enforcement and our communities.

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**School Resource Deputies**

⇒ School Resource Deputy Program was created for the start of the school year in September 2014.

⇒ School Resource Deputies are assigned to Ichabod Crane, Taconic Hills, New Lebanon, Chatham, German-town and Columbia Greene Community College.

⇒ The program will foster relationships between the county’s youth and law enforcement.

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**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH**

⇒ The Criminal Investigation Branch is a specialized branch that works closely with the Road Patrol on felony and major cases investigations.

⇒ The Criminal Investigation Branch consists of 3 Senior Investigators and 6 Investigators and is also known as CIB for short.

⇒ The CIB handled 336 cases in 2018.

⇒ The CIB oversees the Welfare Fraud Unit. This Unit saved Columbia County $154,240.75 in disqualifications consent agreements and arrests in 2018.

⇒ Below is a brief breakdown of the CIB’s major cases.

- Burglary Cases: 40
- Sex Offenses: 46
- Grand Larceny Cases: 55
- Fraud Offenses: 15
- Death Investigations: 16
- Arson Investigations: 5
- Welfare Fraud Cases: 23
- Making Terroristic Threats: 2
The Drug Enforcement and Education Unit works with local, state and federal drug enforcement units, agencies and task forces to target, arrest and prosecute major dealers in Columbia County.

The Drug Enforcement and Education Unit also provides the DARE program to Columbia County Schools. 1,260 students participated in DARE in 2018.

The Drug Enforcement and Education Unit is also known as DEEU and provides Clandestine Drug Labs and other public drug information lectures to schools and community organizations.

- Drug Arrests 46
- Search Warrants 11
- Major Drug Invest. 85

The Sheriff’s Office has three K-9 teams:

- 2 Patrol, Tracking and Narcotics Detection Teams.
- 1 Patrol, Tracking and Explosive Material Detection Team.

K9 Teams were activated 118 times in 2018.

The Marine Unit patrols the waterways in Columbia County to promote boat safety, conduct boat equipment checks, deter violators by enforcing navigation laws and assist disabled boats.

The Marine Unit in conjunction with the Dive Team support underwater recovery operations, rescue missions and crime scene investigations.

The Sheriff’s Office currently has 3 boating vessels and 1 jet ski. 557 marine hours were completed in 2018.

There were 20 people certified in our boater safety course in 2018.
Sheriff’s Office Corrections Organizational Chart

PERSONNEL

Administrative (Sheriff, Undersheriff, Captain, Lt, 1st Sgt.) 5
Corrections Officers (Full-time) 37
Corrections Officers (Part-time) 15
Correction Sergeants 3
Correction Corporals 6
Food Service Cooks (Full-time) 4
Food Service Cooks (Part-time) 3
Medical Unit Doctor 1
Medical Unit Nurses 3
Secretarial Staff 2
Corrections Division

⇒ The Columbia County Jail is a maximum security facility that holds 134 beds.
⇒ Inmates are housed up to a year at the facility or are awaiting an outcome on their court case.
⇒ In 2018, the daily population average was 87 with an average length of stay of 1—3 Days.

- New Admissions 707 people
- Prisoners Transported 1,037 Trips
- Meals Served 99,409
- Money from Boarders $461,645.00
- Juvenile Inmates 12
- Visitors Processed 9,837

Inmate Work Crew

⇒ Non-violent inmate volunteers are able to be on a supervised work crew to do labor for government entities and not-for-profit organizations.
⇒ The inmate work crew helped clean up the Stockport Cemetery, and helped do landscaping and construction at the STRIDE Camp, Columbia County Fairgrounds and the Valatie, Hudson and Kinderhook ball fields. They also did snow removal for various towns.
⇒ The inmates conducted 265 hours of service to the communities in Columbia County.

New Leash on Life

⇒ The New Leash on Life program places homeless dogs into the Jail where they live with and are trained by trained volunteer inmates.
⇒ The program is 6 weeks long and the dogs are taught basic obedience skills. The inmates work in conjunction with the Columbia Greene Humane Society.
⇒ In 2018, 1 dog graduated from the program.

Inmate Horticulture Program

⇒ Inmates plant and harvest vegetables from the jail garden to supplement food that is cooked in the jail kitchen.
Civil Division

⇒ The Civil Division provides a state mandated service and enforcement tool for all courts, including small claims, city, town, county, state and federal jurisdictions.
⇒ The Civil Division serves and executes various legal processes for the legal community, general public and non-criminal courts.
⇒ All Summons, subpoenas, request for levies, income and property executions and warrants of evictions are all processed, recorded and assigned for service.
⇒ The Civil Division also oversees the Administrative office of the Sheriff’s Office.

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<td>◊ Accident Requests</td>
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</table>

Security Services Division

⇒ The Security Services Division is responsible for maintaining security at that Columbia County Courthouse and various County buildings.
⇒ The Division is also responsible for individual security of Supreme Court Judges, County Court and Family Court Judges and certain Town Court Justices, as well as persons using those buildings when court is in session.
⇒ Court Attendants are civilian members of the Sheriff’s Office who are assigned to the County Courthouse and are responsible for providing assistance to Judges.

◊ People processed through Magnetometer 140,080

Emergency Management

⇒ The Emergency Management Division of the Sheriff’s Office works to minimize the loss of life and personal injury, damage to property and the environment from man-made or natural disasters through mitigations, preparedness, response and recovery.
⇒ The Emergency Management Division is made up of one part-time Director, three part-time Deputy Directors and the day to day operations are handled by a liaison from the Sheriff’s Office.
⇒ The Emergency Management Division also coordinates the activities for the County’s Emergency Operations Center.
First Ever Pre-Employment Corrections Class in New York State Graduated from Columbia Greene Community College

On June 2nd, 2018, the very first graduation class of a pre-employment correction class graduated from the Columbia Greene Community College. This joint venture was with the Columbia Greene Community College, Greene County Sheriff’s Office and the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office. This class is for individuals seeking careers within Correctional institutions. The program is a 211.5-hour course that provides pre-employment basic-training for positions within city- and county-operated facilities, and is approved by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to satisfy the phase-one requirements of the DCJS Basic Course for Corrections Officers.

Sheriff Bartlett states, “I am so very proud to have been a part of this initiative. Correction Officers are an important part of the law enforcement community.”

Columbia County Correction Sgt. Jeremy Huyck who served as Program Director states, “Our goals in designing the program are to open new career doors, enhance the employability of those seeking jobs in corrections, create networking opportunities, and overall, enhance people’s futures in law enforcement”.

Sheriff David P. Bartlett Elected 3rd Vice President of The New York State Sheriffs Association

The New York State Sheriffs’ Association elected its Officers at the 84th Annual Winter Training Conference at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York. Members elected Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett 3rd Vice President of the NYS Sheriffs’ Association. Sheriff Bartlett will work with the newly elected President of the Association, and the sheriffs around the state, to further the efforts of the Sheriffs’ Association to enhance public safety in New York State through professional training and accreditation programs, public safety programs, and advocacy.

The New York State Sheriffs’ Association, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, formed in 1934, for the purpose of assisting sheriffs in the efficient and effective delivery of services to the public. It comprises all of the elected and appointed sheriffs of New York State.
Sheriff David P. Bartlett announces that the School Resource Deputy program has some new faces to share with area schools. In addition to receiving support from the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff’s Office worked close with school officials with the common goal of having a full-time Deputy in their schools. Three school districts will now have a full-time School Resource Deputy and those school districts are Chatham, Germantown, and New Lebanon. Ichabod Crane and Taconic Hills were initiated in 2014 during Sheriff Bartlett’s first year in office.

Deputies assigned to the program receive extensive specialized training for working in a school environment. The program is designed to promote school safety, address problems as they relate to students, and increase awareness of crime prevention, conflict, and safety. This program also allows area school children and staff to see Sheriff Deputies as normal people, making the Deputies more approachable, thus allowing the Deputy to be a resource not only to the students but also the staff.

Chatham School District—Deputy Sheriff Kelly Briscoe

Germantown School District—Deputy Sheriff Michael Meir

Ichabod Crane School District—Deputy Sheriff Toby VanAlstyne

New Lebanon School District—Deputy Sheriff Patrick McMahon

Taconic Hills School District—Deputy Sheriff Cindy Madison

Columbia– Greene Community College—Deputy Sheriff Patrick Mayo

DARE—Deputy Sheriff Wendy Guntert
Inmate Quilting Project Completed

Chatham Artist and educator Melissa Sarris initiated a project called Sewn Together at the Columbia County Jail. She has volunteered bringing art workshops to inmates incarcerated at the County Jail.

Sewn Together was a nine month project which resulted in three quilts being created by inmates. Two quilts are hanging in the lobby of the Public Safety Building. This project also created hurdles to clear, unique even by jailhouse standards, like how you get pins, needles and scissors in for the inmates to use. Everything had to be inventoried as it was brought in, and again as it left. The scissors had to be the rounded craft style.

Ms. Sarris said, “She noticed a sense of community engagement. She saw men who came every single week—who saw this as an opportunity to do something productive and creative with their time here. They were learning to sew which is a useful skill.”

Sheriff Bartlett was proud of the support of the project from the Sheriff’s Office and of the work that is done on behalf of the inmates in general. “We are the only county corrections facility that does stuff like this,” he said.

“People are hungry for some kind of respite,” Jail Administrator Brian Gardner added. “There are people who are so creative here.”

The frames for the quilts were paid for by funds from the jail’s commissar; it was money that was spent by inmates being spent on something for them.

Deputy Sheriff Speaks to Students about Heroin

As part of a recent school lesson, Deputy Sheriff Kelly Briscoe spoke to Living Environment classes at Chatham High School about heroin use in Columbia County. The students have been studying addiction and its effects on the body. Deputy Briscoe talked about the dramatic rise in overdoses our area has seen and how “bad batches” of heroin and fentanyl, a far more potent opioid, are often to blame.

“Heroin is not safe. You could do it for the first time and die, or you could do it for the 100th time and die,” Deputy Briscoe said, adding that opioid addiction affects all levels or our society. “It can happen anywhere to anyone. It’s all walks of life, we see it all over.”

She shared how NARCAN, a drug that reverses the effects of opiate overdoses, can save lives if administered in time. She said she and other first responders carry NARCAN and that it is also available for over-the-counter from pharmacies.

“I’ve actually brought someone back with it,” Deputy Briscoe told the students, adding, “I’ve also used it and it was too late.”

She made sure everyone in the room was aware of New York’s 911 Good Samaritan Law, which allows anyone to call 911 for help without the fear of prosecution in the even they have an overdose from drugs or alcohol, or see someone overdosing.

Sheriff Bartlett commended Deputy Briscoe on her informational presentation. This is the type of information the School Resource Program is all about.
On February 9, 2018, Deputy Ian Boehme was working as a School Resource Deputy and was in between schools driving from Chatham School to New Lebanon School. While on State Route 295, Deputy Boehme cross monitored an echo level EMS call with a male in cardiac arrest on Adams Crossing Road in the Town of New Lebanon. Deputy Boehme responded to the call and assisted the New York State Police who were already on scene performing CPR. Deputy Boehme assisted the Troopers in giving CPR by giving chest compressions. Patrols also administered an AED and did shock the patient to no avail and continued CPR until the Chatham Rescue arrived. Patrols then assisted EMS as needed and the patient was revived. The patient was transported to Albany Medical Center and has made a full recovery. The quick action taken by Deputy Ian Boehme resulted in saving his life.

Sheriff’s Office personnel were able to locate an elderly man this afternoon, who is enrolled in Project Lifesaver, after he wandered off from his residence in New Lebanon during the morning hours.

The Sheriff’s office was alerted of the missing man at approximately 1:21pm after the State Police were assigned by Columbia County 911 to respond to the residence. A family member had arrived home and noticed that he was missing, which prompted her to dial 911. Deputy Sheriff’s responding to the area prepared their tracking equipment. An external antenna was mounted on the roof of the patrol vehicles to pick up the radio wave and a search was conducted starting from the residence.

During the search, Sheriff Bartlett and Undersheriff Davi picked up his signal several miles south of the residence. The man was located on foot about ¼ of a mile off the main road in a wooded area. As a precaution due to the warm day, Chatham Rescue Squad evaluated the man and it appeared he was in good health, so he was returned to his residence.
Project Lifesaver

⇒ Project Lifesaver is to provide a timely response to save lives and reduce the potential for injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer’s, autism, and other related conditions or disorders.

⇒ Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal.

⇒ If an enrolled client goes missing, the care giver notifies the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer’s area.

Senior Safety Net

⇒ Senior Safety Net “My Daily Call” is available for people aged 21 or older who reside alone in Columbia County and do not have regular contact with other people on a daily basis.

⇒ My Daily Call is a computer generated call to an individual at a set time each day, between the hours of 6am and 10am.

⇒ When the call is answered, the enrollee must press 1 to indicate that they do not require assistance. If the enrollee presses 9, emergency personnel will be dispatched to their residence.

⇒ If the enrollee doesn’t answer the call after three automated attempts and a call from the Sheriff’s Office, emergency personnel will be dispatched to their residence.

Yellow Dot

⇒ The Yellow Dot Program was created to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention in an emergency situation.

⇒ A Yellow Dot is placed in the driver’s side rear window of your vehicle to alert first responders that a vital information card containing your photo and medical history is stored in the glove compartment.

⇒ You can also place a Yellow Dot on a window in the front of your home door to alert first responders that a vital information card containing your photo and medical history is stored in your freezer.

Operation SafeChild

⇒ Operation SafeChild is a card that contains a child’s name, date of birth, gender, height, weight, hair color, eye color and a fingerprint image of both index fingers.

⇒ This card is essential when a child goes missing, this card can greatly assist law enforcement to quickly respond to a child’s disappearance.

⇒ The information is stored at the Division of Criminal Justice on a voluntary basis.

Child Passenger Safety Program

⇒ The Sheriff’s Office has Child Passenger Safety Technicians who have successfully completed the Safe Kids Worldwide National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training.

⇒ To have your child’s car seat installation checked, or if you need help installing your car seat by one of our certified CPS technicians, please call 518-828-0601 ext. 1200, Deputy Sheriff Peter Grzeskow and leave your information so that an appointment can be made.
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Columbia County Sheriff’s Office
85 Industrial Tract
Hudson, New York 12534
www.columbiacountysheriff.us
I would like to thank the men and women of the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office for their dedication and service to the residents of Columbia County.

-Sheriff David P. Bartlett
Paul J. Proper Sr., 88, “The People’s Sheriff” of Columbia County passed away at home on Thursday, December 20, 2018. He was born on October 20, 1930, in Egremont, MA the son of Myron and Olia (Pectal) Proper.

Sheriff Paul J Proper Sr. started his career in July of 1961 working for the Columbia County Sheriff’s Department as a deputy. He became the first Investigator of the department and later became undersheriff in 1972. He was elected Sheriff in 1977 where he served until 1989. Proper retired but briefly returned to the job in 2001 on an appointed, interim basis. He was President of the New York State Sheriff’s Association and life member. He was honored as “Man of the Year” at Gallagher’s Restaurant in New York City. He was integral in the building of the Columbia County Public Safety Facility in Hudson, New York which was later named in his honor.

He is a life member of the Clausson Raught Community Rescue Squad, life member of the Copake Fire Company with over 50 years of service. He held the office of third assistant chief and was a Fire Commissioner. Paul was a member of the Hillsdale 612 Free and Accepted Masons of New York, member of the Cadby Shutts VFW Post 7552 of Hillsdale, New York; he was a member of the Columbia County Korean War Veterans Associations Inc., and member of the West Copake Reformed Church.

Paul served as a TSgt of the United States Air Force. He was on the B26 Bomber Squadron receiving the Bronze Star Medal during the Korean War. Paul was a director on the Columbia County Agricultural Society Inc. Fair Board in Chatham, New York for over 30 years.

On April 13, 1952 at the First United Presbyterian Church, Ancramdale, NY, he married Marjorie E. (Decker) Proper. She survives him at home. In addition to his loving wife Marge of sixty six years, survivors include a son, Paul J. Proper Jr (Theresa); a daughter, Rosemarie (Jerome) McEnroe; a son, David (Patricia) Proper and Jeffrey (Christa) Proper; eight grandchildren; Justin, Jeremy, Klynt, Nicholas, Dylan, Megan, Bryan and Evan; nine great-grandchildren; Kailey, Aubrey, Tristan, Abby, Keegan, Brady, Noah, Turner and Lydia. He was predeceased by a sister Ruth Bailey and brother Otis Proper.

Our 5th Annual Report is in memory of Paul J. Proper, Sr.