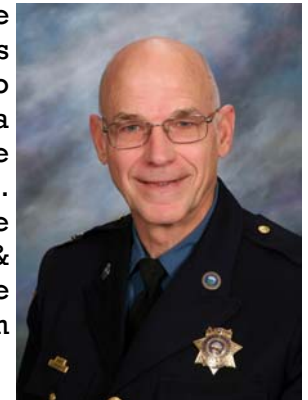


# the SNSO STAR



From the desk of **Sheriff Dick Barta**

I recently reviewed the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Crime Information/Crime Analysis Report for 2009. This is a report that we closely monitor throughout the year to determine our effectiveness. Along with the Topeka Police Department and Safe Streets Coalition we are striving to become the Safest Capitol City in America. That being said our Part I Crimes (homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault/battery, burglary & thefts) decreased by 18% from 2008. Property Crime continues to be the most prevalent crime committed in Topeka and Shawnee County.



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The Safe Streets Coalition is comprised of more than 100 community volunteers, Lock it, Remove it, or Lose it is a Safe Streets Coalition initiative that our agency needs to continue using to help educate the public. All too often items are left in plain view in a vehicle and/or doors are left unsecured. Working together with the leadership and guidance of the Coalition our agency can further reduce property crimes in Shawnee County. Coalition President Barry Feaker and Safe Streets Coordinator Sally Zellers commendable efforts lead this and other community safety issues.



On January 13, 2010 we began our 12th Citizens Academy, 20 citizens (Jean Myers, Andrea Westby and Pam Fraley from our agency and Kathy Allen with Emergency Management) began the 14 week academy to learn more about our organization.

The U.S. Honor Flag, which flew over Ground Zero shortly after 9/11 was presented in a ceremony at the Topeka Fire Department on January 29, 2010 by Honor Guard members from the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, Kansas National Guard, Topeka Fire Department and the Topeka Police Department.

Since September 2001, the U.S. Honor Flag has paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the United States and its communities.

**City of Character      Resourcefulness:**  
finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard.

# Undersheriff Holladay

The construction of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Firearms Training Facility continues. Morton Buildings has completed pouring footings and the porch on the West side of the building. Construction on the Training Building has begun and the storage shed will follow. A stop work order for the firearms Range is in effect until March or when the weather breaks. When the weather breaks, KBS, the contractor for the Firearms Range will continue work.

The Sheriff's Office has purchased furniture and flooring for the training facility, which is scheduled to be delivered when we have an enclosed facility.

The range is continuing to progress and will indeed be a state of the art facility when finished.



This photo is taken from the floor of the range looking west toward the 30' berm.

## Chaplain's Corner by Chaplain John Hansen

### "Love"

1 John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God; and every one who loves is born of God and knows God"

Jeremy Taylor writes:

Love is the greatest thing that God can give us, for himself is love; and it is the greatest thing we can give to God, for it will also give ourselves, and carry with it all that is ours. The apostle calls it the bond of perfection; it is the old, the new, and the greatest commandment, and all the commandments, for it is the fulfilling of the law. It does the work of all the other graces without any instrument, but its own immediate virtue.

A challenge to each of us:

- To reach out in love to those around us, thereby we help to create a more peaceful world.
- To renew again that special bond of love with the mate God entrusted to us, thereby enriching our individual home.

Reminder, February 14th is Valentines Day

Your Chaplain

**Love is the greatest thing that God can give us, for himself is love**  
**Your Chaplain**



## February Birthdays

Jerry Runkle	1
Erin Kelly	2
Chaplain Hansen	3
Phil Blume	4
Virginia Best	8
John Ostenson	9
Paul Tavares	9
John Huball	10
John Burghart	10
Kellie Uitts	17
Brett Butell	17
Bo Bowen	19
Phil Lange	21
Justin Hottman	22
Wayne Beaman	24
Chanda Mason	25
Pam Fraley	26
Glenda Anderson	28
Melaine Mills	28

## Accreditation by Erin Olson

## Administration Captain Shane Hoobler

The goal set for the Accreditation/Training Unit for the month of February is to start collecting all the time-sensitive reports that are due in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. Some of these reports are the Use of Force Report, Bias Based Report, Annual Accident Report, Annual Division Goals, Annual Grievance Report, Annual Review of EHS, etc.

Bob Moser will be here on Feb. 1 & 2 to review some of our accreditation files. I will have more details from his visit in the next newsletter. I have also scheduled a mid-term mock with the TPD from March 17-19. Captains Thompson, Fox, and Stanley will be reviewing

## POSSE by Chris Crawford

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Mounted Posse meeting scheduled for January 6, 2010 was canceled due to winter weather. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Sheriff's Office. At this meeting we will have elections for Vice-President and one of the Member-at-Large positions. Items on the agenda or for discussion are CPR classes, clothing/uniform/tack, training for 2010, after action reviews of 2009 parades and West Ridge Mall Patrol.



Linda Taylor & Cotton preparing for a Parade in 1998

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Mounted Posse would like to send our sincere condolences to Renee Hall for the loss of her horse, Stargazer, also to Paul and Connie Rasmussen for damages received to the Heartland Ranch barn from the fire on January 4, 2010.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES by Sergeant Jay Simecka

In January Deputy Lopez and Deputy Boyles began teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> semester DARE classes. Over 200 students from Logan, Pleasant Hill, West Indianola and Elmont grade schools will receive DARE instruction weekly for the next 10 weeks. Special thanks to Corporal Tim Kampsen for volunteering to teach 2 DARE classes at Elmont elementary.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Citizen's Academy began on January 13<sup>th</sup>. This year's Academy has 20 participants and the academy will run 14 consecutive weeks with a culmination event on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The class will be conducted in the training room on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 pm. If you are in the area during any of the academy sessions please feel welcome to stop by and meet and greet with the participants and instructors.

Deputy Desiree Wright has been tracking the MIP/MIC, Social Host and Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor cases since December 14, 2008. These cases evolved from juvenile drinking parties, party patrols, and a special enforcement activity with the ABC. She is currently tracking a total of 100 cases starting December 14, 2008 through January 17, 2010.

## Operations Captain Michael Kolbek

## RESERVES by Deputy Tony DeJesus

The Shawnee County Sheriff Reserves provided over 3400 hours of service to the community in 2009. They helped the agency by working Patrol, attending Community Service events and assisting the Offender Registration Unit.

The 2010 Reserve Training Class is scheduled to start on April 12, 2010.

As January 2010 comes to a close we have had the opportunity to take a closer look at our traffic enforcement efforts in the division for 2009. The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office's traffic enforcement efforts were successful because of a strong commitment made by the officers of the Uniformed Operations Division. Operations officers participated in a wide variety of activities including 19 activities under the heading of STEP, IDDP (Saturation Patrols), Party Patrols and the Juvenile Under Aged Drinking Task Force. In addition to these state funded over time activities the routine patrol activities by operations personnel have had an effective impact on the Shawnee County motoring public.

State granted traffic campaigns activities including STEP, IDDP (Saturation Patrols), Party Patrols and the Juvenile Under Aged Drinking Task Force as mentioned above had 689 plus contacts during their implementation. The campaigns yielded 12 DUI's, 95 MIP/MIC's, 130 speeding tickets, 20 seatbelt violations and 162 "other" citations.

The impact of the Juvenile Under Aged Drinking Task Force as yet to be fully quantified but I am certain that the efforts will significantly raise the bar for us. The Task Force, comprised of Safe Streets, the Topeka Police Dept, State of Kansas Alcohol Beverage Control, and our agency, takes a proactive approach in its effort to curb underage drinking. Four teams are tasked with surveillance and undercover purchases of alcohol by under aged cooperating individuals. The effort has been quite impressive with one team making as many as 29 attempts to make purchases in one outing. The impact of these activities has made a profound impact on the community in terms of just awareness alone.

The Party Patrols have had similar effect. Another proactive approach to curb juvenile drinking in Shawnee County townships and their respective high schools was implemented during homecoming activities. Officers made numerous contacts at the homecoming activities as well as maintained high visibility at the homecoming functions. Officers maintained this tactic in the areas where intelligence gleaned underage parties were likely to occur.

Non-grant funded enforcement activities by operations personnel resulted in 4,351 speeding or warning / tickets being issued, during 624 traffic enforcement and routine patrol activities. Officers reported 484 stationary radar 107-school zone, 7 stop sign, 24 road closed/construction areas and 12 weight limit activities.

The 65 planned school zone activities resulted in 37 tickets issued, 41 infractions charged, 2 warrants served and an estimated 33.5 plus man hours dedicated toward the enforcement.

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office had the pleasure of working with the Kansas Highway Patrol on commercial vehicle enforcement activities. Twelve separate enforcement activities with deputies dedicating 32 plus man-hours. This was a 300 percent increase over 2008 where the agency participated in 4 enforcement activities.

Teams of 2 to 3 officers executed 26 different Lidar speed lanes. Their efforts are included in the in the 4,351 speeding citation / tickets issued as noted above.

Speed trailer and decoy car deployments also assisted in traffic enforcement around the county. Although we did not get as many deployments of either car or trailer due to weather or call load, their contribution to traffic enforcement is significant.

I think one of the better accomplishments of 2009 was getting 64 officers into Standard Field Sobriety Testing re-qualification training. The agency also provided initial training to 8 officers, and recertified the majority of the remaining divisional personnel on the Intoxilyzer 8000.

Last and certainly not least, the agency made 137 DUI arrests during 2009. Of the 8 traffic fatalities in Shawnee County in 2009, 3 were determined that alcohol was a contributing factor. Any violation of our DUI traffic laws has an impact on the safety of the motoring public, and certainly even one death is too many. Again, this is a priority for our division.

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office will continue to participate in state granted traffic enforcement activities in 2010. In addition, the division will be implementing Special Traffic Enforcement activities internally to augment the numerous traffic enforcement activities already in place.

Keep up the good work and stay safe!

# Investigation Captain Phil Blume

With the start of the new year also brings the beginning of the new legislative session and one issue that is currently being addressed is the K2 incense. Within the past few months, the agency has received plenty of inquires and some intelligence on K2 incense. We have had to educate ourselves on the subject. Currently K2 is marketed as a incense and it can be readily purchase online or in various incense shops. We initially advised that K2 was being sold from a shop in Lawrence and usage was becoming very prevalent. Subjects on probation were using the substance and were not failing UA tests and were still receiving similar effects of marijuana usage. Although, we have had one incident where a high school student was in possession of K2, we have not had other situations where we have encountered a subject using K2. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active component in marijuana that makes it potent and with K2 the active component is JWH-018. JWH-018 is a synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist. JWH-018 was first made by an undergraduate student working in their post doctorate at Clemson University. John W Huffman, an organic chemist at Clemson University has lent his initials to the substance hence the reference to JWH. Although the effects of K2/JWH-018 are debated, the fact remains that no one knows what the long term effects may be. JWH-018 has been reported to be 4 to 5 times more potent than THC and John W. Huffman has stated that JWH-018 has only one purpose and that is to get someone high. The current legislative body is working on Senate Bill 348 which would make JWH-018 and JWH-073 illegal to possess and use so at this time K2/JWH-018 is legal to possess and use, but not for much longer. This will present issues for us in law enforcement down the line such as field and lab testing, but this material is presented as something to be aware.

With the conclusion of 2009 and beginning of 2010, we have been able to complete some preliminary review of some of the statistical data collected from the previous year. What is of particular interest is that significant drop in Part 1 and 2 crimes in comparison of 2009 to 2008. In 2009 the SNSO had reported 1,890 Part 1 crimes in 2008 there were 2,309 reported Part 1 crimes or an 18% decrease. We also experienced a 13% decrease in the reported Part 2 crimes from 2009 (2,032) and 2008 (2,325). This decrease is quite significant and welcome news, but we cannot become complacent because of such positive information. Research has shown that in difficult financial times, law enforcement can expect to see and increase in reported crime. That we saw such a decrease in 2009 could be considered a statistical anomaly. Additionally we should never get to the point where a certain percentage of crime is acceptable. From the law enforcement end a lot of positive things happened for this agency in 2009, but we also need to keep in mind that we still had nearly 4,000 reported crimes in our county.

**Survey Card  
Comments**

“All of the Deputies that I had contact with were certainly, of high character.”

Thank you from  
**TFI NAD Committee**



December 7, 2009

Shawnee County Sheriff's Office,

Thank you for working on NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY. Your support made our day successful. A special thanks to **Tracy (Trammel)** for helping with the banner.

Thank you!

Radio repair has been working recently with Shawnee County Emergency Management on the re-banding of its base station, according to Stan Blanchard.

The radio repair crew has also been rearranging shelves in the CEB (Central Electronic Bank) to make room for the new recorder in dispatch. Recorder installation began January 26<sup>th</sup>.

AT&T employees Mark Conley and Lowell Thornton completed installing the new phone system in dispatch during January. On January 18<sup>th</sup> they were joined by Ed Teuschler with Plant CML, the company that manufactured the new system. All three coordinated the final installation. Training on the new system began February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the supervisors, then continued through February 5<sup>th</sup> for the remaining dispatchers. The projected date for going live for both the new phone system and the new recorder is February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mark and Lowell also completed installation of a new GPS satellite receiver. It coordinates all clocks in dispatch, including the radios, CAD, the recorder, and the wall clocks, to a central time clock. The new receiver sets the time via satellite to a millisecond.

Agency Vehicle Accident  
Reduction Goal

In the month of January the agency had 1 vehicle accident. It was ruled to be preventable.

Six dispatch CSIs, Virginia Best, Lindsay Croucher, Melanie Hasselman, Dawn Holmes, Belinda Schley, and Megan Williams, attended an NCIC certification class on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Also attending were four Shawnee County Sheriff's deputies, Jackie Blanch from SNSO Records, and a communications specialist from the Washburn University Police Department. Larry Warders of the KCJIS Unit of the Kansas Highway Patrol conducted the class. Chris Dibbern,

Communications Supervisor with WUPD, had arranged to have the class in the Kansas Room of the WU Memorial Student Union. SS Kim Ragan greeted the class and monitored its progress for part of the morning. We appreciate the efforts of Larry, Chris and Kim in making the class a success. Thank you all for your assistance.

Communications welcomed the return of Lloyd Trimble, assigned to us for several years from Information Technology, on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Lloyd scheduled time off just before Thanksgiving for a partial knee replacement. The surgery went well, and Lloyd reports his knee is now pain-free. We missed him and his expertise during his absence, and are happy he is back to work!

CSII Melanie Mills became engaged to Josh Bergers at her parents' house on Christmas Eve. Josh is an armed patrolman for Mil-Spec in Lawrence. They are planning a wedding in June or July, 2011. Congrats, Melanie and Josh!

# Community Services

Captain Shane Hoobler

**Your home is your castle...or is it?** Is your home really safe once you leave for work or school? Your home is considered a sanctuary where you should feel safe. Your home is the only environment where you have control over who can get close to you or your family. Protecting your home and family from criminal intrusion should be high on your list of priorities.

### **FACTS**

- Burglary is the most common threat to your home
- In the United States a Burglary occurs somewhere every 15.4 Seconds according to the FBI.
- The majority of home burglaries occur during the day when you are at work or school.
- Home burglaries are not done randomly. They are a "selection Process."
- The most common way for a burglar to force entry into a house is to simply Kick a door open.

For More information about Home Safety and Burglary Prevention please contact Deputy Justin Boyles.

justin.boyles@snco.us **OR**  
785-368-2265

Thank you from: **Thelma Heisler**  
Co Founder, The Honor Network

All,  
We were able to view the ceremony at the airport through a video sent by H.R. Cook, see pictures of the Topeka Fire Department ceremony via a link sent by Captain Kolbek, listen to the game via the internet and view the news story in the Topeka Capital-Journal. Everyone did an outstanding job with the events scheduled and we are touched by how all embraced the United States Honor Flag and what it represents. It was our privilege to be part of your events to honor our Heroes. Please extend our gratitude to all who made these events a great success including but not limited to the staff at the Kansas Expocentre, Shawnee County Sheriff's Office, City of Topeka Fire and Police Departments, Kansas City International Airport and the Topeka Roadrunners!

On behalf of The Honor Network, thank you greatly for your support.

Be Safe.



Deputy Boyles offering words of encouragement to Ryan Davis during the Physical Ability Test.



Detective Mummey and Sergeant Lewis along with Honor Guards from the National Guard and Topeka Fire Department with the U.S. Honor Flag.

# Underage Drinking

A Partnership with Safe Streets and local Law Enforcement



Law enforcement officers are doing their part to reduce underage drinking by utilizing special enforcements. Part of the enforcement, however, is the need to educate the community of the consequences of allowing underage persons to consume or possess alcohol.

## Did You Know?

- Parents are the first line of defense for underage drinking.
- The first place where many underage drinkers get alcohol is from their homes (with or without parental permission).
- Kansas law holds adults liable for Underage Alcohol Consumption on their property. The charge is “Social Host” with a minimal fine of \$1,000.00 (KSA 21-3610c).
- **KSA 21-3610c** Unlawfully hosting minors consuming alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage. (a) Unlawfully hosting minors consuming alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage is intentionally permitting a person’s residence or any land, building, structure or room owned, occupied or procured by such person to be used by an invitee of such person or an invitee of such person’s child or ward, in a manner that results in the possession or consumption therein of alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverages by a minor.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among youth age 15 to 20.
- Children who start drinking before age 15 are 4 times more likely to become alcohol dependent.
- 9 out of 10 individuals with alcohol problems started when they were a teen.
- If your child receives a DUI, your car insurance premiums could increase 30% or more, depending on your company. Your entire family may be uninsurable due to “assumed access” of the vehicles by the child.
- The fine for a Minor in Possession/Consumption is \$200 (KSA 41-727)
- Diversion is for 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders to learn about the consequences of a Minor in Possession/Consumption charge. You will not be eligible for a diversion, if you commit a new crime including another Minor in Possession/Consumption charge.
- The result of a child receiving a Minor in Possession/Consumption charge could:
  - Affect their chances of getting a college scholarship
  - Affect their probability of getting certain jobs after graduation
  - Get them suspended/expelled from school
  - Prohibit them from participating on sports teams in school
  - Prohibit them from participating in extracurricular activities at school
  - Increase their chances of becoming a victim of date/acquaintance rape
  - Increase their chances of becoming dependent on alcohol

So what can adults do? Define clear rules and consequences about alcohol use at home. Educate yourself, your friends and minors you know about the laws regarding alcohol consumption and possession by persons under age 21.