

JUNE 30, 2018

HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Working Together for a Better Community



THE SO MESSENGER

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY BARRY TURNER



It is with sad hearts that we at the Hancock County Sheriff's Office announce the unexpected passing of Deputy Barry Turner. Barry passed away at home on Sunday morning April 22, 2018.

Deputy Turner graduated from Arcadia High School and continued his education in Business Management at Terra Community College and Food Service at Findlay College. He worked as the manager of Ponderosa for 12 years before making the career move to law enforcement. Barry also served on the Liberty Township Fire Department. More recently, he has been teaching Concealed Carry Weapon classes.

Deputy Turner began his career with the Sheriff's Office on January 28, 1996 as a Corrections Officer. While working, he attended Owens Community College and received his Peace Officer Training. He took a position as a Deputy Sheriff on February 22, 1999, where he served as a Road Deputy and in the Transport Warrant Unit during his tenure.

Over his 22 year career, Barry earned several awards including Certificate of Appreciation (2000), Above and Beyond Award (2001, 2002, 2006) 110% Award (2010), BSSA Office Citation (2003), Office Citation (2007), Officer of the Month (October 2012), Lifesaving (2013), and Deputy of the Year in both 2008 and 2012.

Deputy Turner could frequently be found patrolling the school zones during morning hours, helping to ensure the safety of our children. His supervisor, Sgt. Matt Kinsinger, wrote in his nomination as Deputy of the Year, "He is very reliable and has a great work ethic. He is always willing to offer a helping hand. His can-do attitude and consistent pace allows him to be a highly productive officer." Barry was always willing to answer questions and help his co-workers.

Deputy Barry Turner was a great asset to the Sheriff's Office who touched many lives. He lived the philosophy of being a true servant. Barry will be greatly missed by all at the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Turner is survived by his wife, Alecia and 2 daughters, Ashley and Amy. Our prayers go out to the family.

May you Rest In Peace, Barry. You will be sorely missed here at the SO.

IS THERE REALLY A DRUG PROBLEM IN HANCOCK COUNTY?

It is surprising how often that question is asked! There have been many articles in the newspaper and information in the media about the drug crisis. Yes there is! Whether we like it or not, it is here. Overdose incidents and overdose deaths have skyrocketed, not only in Hancock County, but in Ohio and the entire country.

How does it affect the Sheriff's Office? Drug use is closely associated with many types of criminal activity. This creates a much larger inmate population that must be dealt with. Because the Hancock County Jail only houses 98 inmates, we now have a major housing problem. Late in 2015 we started housing the overpopulation in Putnam County. Each month, the population continues to increase. Over the last 2 1/2 years, we have steadily increased the number of inmates housed in other counties. As of June 2018, we have had as many as 49 inmates housed in other county jails. We currently are housing in Putnam, Wood, Van Wert, Mercer and Paulding Counties. Why so many? Because none of these jails have enough beds to accommodate our overflow.

Last year Hancock County paid over \$400,000 to other counties for housing. As of the May billing cycle in 2018, we have paid out over \$280,000. We are on pace to spend between \$650,000 and \$750,000 for the year. This does not include medical costs, mental health costs, prescription costs, and transportation costs to transport inmates back and forth to the other facilities.

Yes, there is a problem in Hancock County, and it will take a large effort by our entire community to make changes. One of our newest educational initiatives to help is highlighted on the next page. The "Hidden in Plain Sight" initiative was jump started by the 2018 Hancock Leadership Class.....continued.....

**ONE OF OUR NEWEST INITIATIVES AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS THE
"HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT" TRAILER.**

- A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND HANCOCK HEALTH
- SET UP AS A TEENAGER'S BEDROOM, DESIGNED TO TEACH PARENTS / GRANDPARENTS THE HIDDEN SIGNS THAT THEIR LOVED ONES MIGHT BE INVOLVED WITH DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL OR OTHER RISKY BEHAVIORS
- AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS THROUGH CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER BETH BAKER AT SHERIFF'S OFFICE. CAN BE REACHED AT EABAKER@CO.HANCOCK.OH.US OR 419-424-7253



"THE BOOT" PROJECT

Another project currently underway at the Sheriff's Office is the installation of "The Boot" in all Hancock County schools. The Boot is a device that is installed on the inside of all classroom doors in the schools. The device, weighing only 5 pounds, can be put into place by children and adults alike when an incident occurs in the building. It is designed to keep an intruder out of the classrooms to give school and law enforcement officials more time to control the incident. It is an added safety feature to help protect our children in their school.

The total cost of the project is \$426,000. To date, donations have reached \$329,000, leaving \$97,000 yet to be raised.

Installation began in the Fall of 2017, with all elementary and junior high schools done in Findlay, leaving only the high school to be done. In the county, Van Buren, Cory Rawson and Riverdale are complete. Installation continues, as does the fundraising efforts. Donations can be made to the Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association (a 501 C3 organization) and mailed to the Sheriff's Office at the address below.

**200 West Crawford Street
Findlay, OH 45840**

Administrative Phone: 419-424-7097

Justice Center Phone: 419-424-7202

Administrative Fax: 419-424-7078

Justice Center Fax: 419-424-7028

***Our Annual Reports and these newsletters can also be found on our
website: hancocksheriff.org. Be sure to visit us our Facebook page!***