RAMSEY COUNTY
SHERIFF
Jack Serier, Sheriff

ANNUAL REPORT -2017-

A publication of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office - April 2018

Our organization is filled with people of good character who strive to earn your trust and partnership.

~ Sheriff Jack Serier

365 Days of Core Values

2017 was a year of tremendous change and growth at the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, providing abundant opportunity to innovate and improve the ways we provide public safety services to our community, while holding fast to our core values of **PROVIDING SAFETY** through community policing, **PRESERVING TRUST** through fiscal responsibility, **COLLABORATING** with public safety partners, **ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY** to reflect the community, **IMPROVING SERVICE** through technology, and **CONNECTING WITH YOUTH** to build for the future.

We brought 2017 to a close with several community events, like Shop with a Cop

CONTENTS

Page 2-3

Introduction and Message from Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier.

Pages 4-9

Administration Division highlights and accomplishments.

Pages 10-11

Court and Security Services Division highlights and accomplishments.

Pages 12-15

Detention Services Division highlights and accomplishments.

Pages 16-27

Public Safety Services Division highlights and accomplishments.

Pages 28-29

Regional Services Division highlights and accomplishments.

Chief Deputy Steve Frazer

Steve Frazer joined the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in 2017 with twenty-seven years of law enforcement experience, most recently with the Saint Paul Police Department where he held the ranks of Police Officer, Sergeant, Commander and Senior Commander.

Steve's experience includes training police officers in leadership, defensive tactics, firearms, domestic abuse investigation best practices and crowd management.

Steve is a graduate of St. Mary's University and the FBI National Academy.

Steve has been a county resident his entire life and currently lives in Saint Paul with his wife, Jacki, and one of their three children.

Chief Deputy Steve Frazer

Why I Chose Public Service

When I was in college at Hamline University, I went on a ride along with a young St. Paul Police Officer. During that ride a long, we went to look into the care of a little girl who had been abandoned by her mother. The girl was brought to the hospital by someone in her neighborhood. I met this 4-year-old girl and even though she had been abandoned, she still had complete faith that a police officer would help her. And he did! He became her friend, got her something to eat, and made sure she was taken care of by the doctors. That young police officer then transitioned the little girl to a foster home a few miles away where she could get a bath, some better clothes, and some rest. At that moment, I knew that this was the line of work for me, one that served others selflessly and cared for those most in need.

A Message from Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier

Something you will see in the following pages will be the Heart of Service that the men and women of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office have for the residents of our county. Each day they work to seek understanding, help those most in need, and protect those who have been affected by crime, illness, and unfortunate circumstances.

It is the honor of my life to be the Sheriff of Ramsey County and to serve alongside the Deputies, Correctional Officers, and staff members of this organization to provide you excellent service across the divisions of our organization. Our staff knows the importance of community and connection. They work tirelessly to provide people with the services they deserve and safe communities to work, live, and recreate.

As your Sheriff, I want to thank you for your continuing support of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. Our organization is filled with people of good character who strive to earn your trust and partnership. It is our goal to continue to be an agency that everyone can rely on each day for great community service in Ramsey County.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is a full-service law enforcement agency. Each day members of our Office protect our district courts, promote safety on our rivers and lakes, serve civil process, watch over our Adult Detention Center, and provide patrol services to our seven contract communities. Many more acts of service happen each day across the five divisions of our Office, as well. In the following pages you will get an opportunity to see the excellent work done by our full-time staff of 450 people and the hundreds of volunteers who truly have a heart of service.

Sincerely,

Jack Serier
Ramsey County Sheriff

Ramsey County Sheriff Jack Serier

Inspectors Kill and Dahedl and Undersheriff Hodges are part of the Sheriff's Office Administration Team

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Division is responsible for a combination of public, community, administrative and support services. The Administration Division includes the Office of Planning and Analysis, Office of Professional Standards, Training and Staff Development Unit, and the Office of Information and Technology.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In 2017, all Sheriff's Office staff attended a training seminar called "Why We Serve: Purpose driven law enforcement." The seminar focused on mental health and racial and gender equity. The seminar featured national mental health advocates Peter Early (2007 Pulitzer Prize runner-up author and Washington Post reporter), and Dr. Risdon Slate (Professor of Criminology and former board member for the National Alliance on Mental Illness). The seminar also featured national speaker on race relations, Reverend Kelly Webb. The seminar provided all of our staff with 8 hours of training in these important areas. The seminar was well received by our staff and we plan to host another seminar such as this in 2019.

HONOR * TRUTH * RESPECT * RESPONSIBILITY

~ Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Core Beliefs ~

Undersheriff Booker Hodges

Booker T. Hodges is a 13-year law enforcement professional and leads the day-to-day operations of the Administration Division. Booker joined the Sheriff's Office in 2016 after spending 10 years with the Dakota County Sheriff's Office.

Booker has been a diversity instructor for 15 years and is also a certified human resource manager. Booker is a sought-after national presenter on the topics of unconscious bias and recruiting/retention of 21st century workforce.

Booker earned a doctorate degree in public administration from Hamline University in 2015. Booker's experience in community relations and law enforcement are unique and they have given him a dual perspective on current events surrounding the law enforcement profession. Booker enjoys teaching, mentoring, and mediating complex issues between individuals and organizations.

Undersheriff Booker Hodges

By the Numbers: Racial and Gender Diversity

Overcoming obstacles in hiring toward racial and gender diversity continues to be a priority, and 2017 numbers show positive progress:

381
Total number of Sheriff's Office employees in January 2017

466
Total number of Sheriff's Office employees by December 2017

5%
Agency-wide growth in racial diversity in 2017

2%
Agency-wide growth in gender diversity in 2017

8%
Growth in agency-wide racial diversity since 2010

One of two Deputy Sheriff recruit classes that joined the RCSO in 2017

Administration Spotlight ~ Recruiting Toward Gender and Racial Equity in 2017

We believe that our agency should reflect the communities we serve, and in 2017 we took great strides to meet our goal. Through our recruitment efforts and promotion of our culture of character, we were able to attract and hire a group of people who are reflective of the communities we serve. During the year 2017 we hired over 115 new employees and just over fifty-three percent of these new employees were women and people of color. As a result of our hiring efforts, the staff in our Adult Detention Center is made up of mostly women and people of color. We are the first Adult Detention Center in the state of Minnesota to reach such a major milestone. In addition, forty-four percent of those who were hired live in urban areas within Ramsey and Hennepin Counties.

The RCSO supported the formation of Noble Northstar, the Minnesota chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives in 2017

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Administration Division

POLICY AND PLANNING

Accomplishments were wide and far-reaching, fostered by changes in unit leadership and improved communication and processes. Highlights included revamping financial reports to improve analytics and accuracy, certifying three small businesses to cultivate economic prosperity in the community, involvement in 115 hiring processes in under one year, creating new contracts with Mentoring Young Adults and Neighborhood House for youth gang intervention and prevention services, ratifying a work study program with Cristo Rey school to benefit under-resourced families, and creating a new contract to upgrade our jail management records system.

Civilian of the Year—Bob Azure

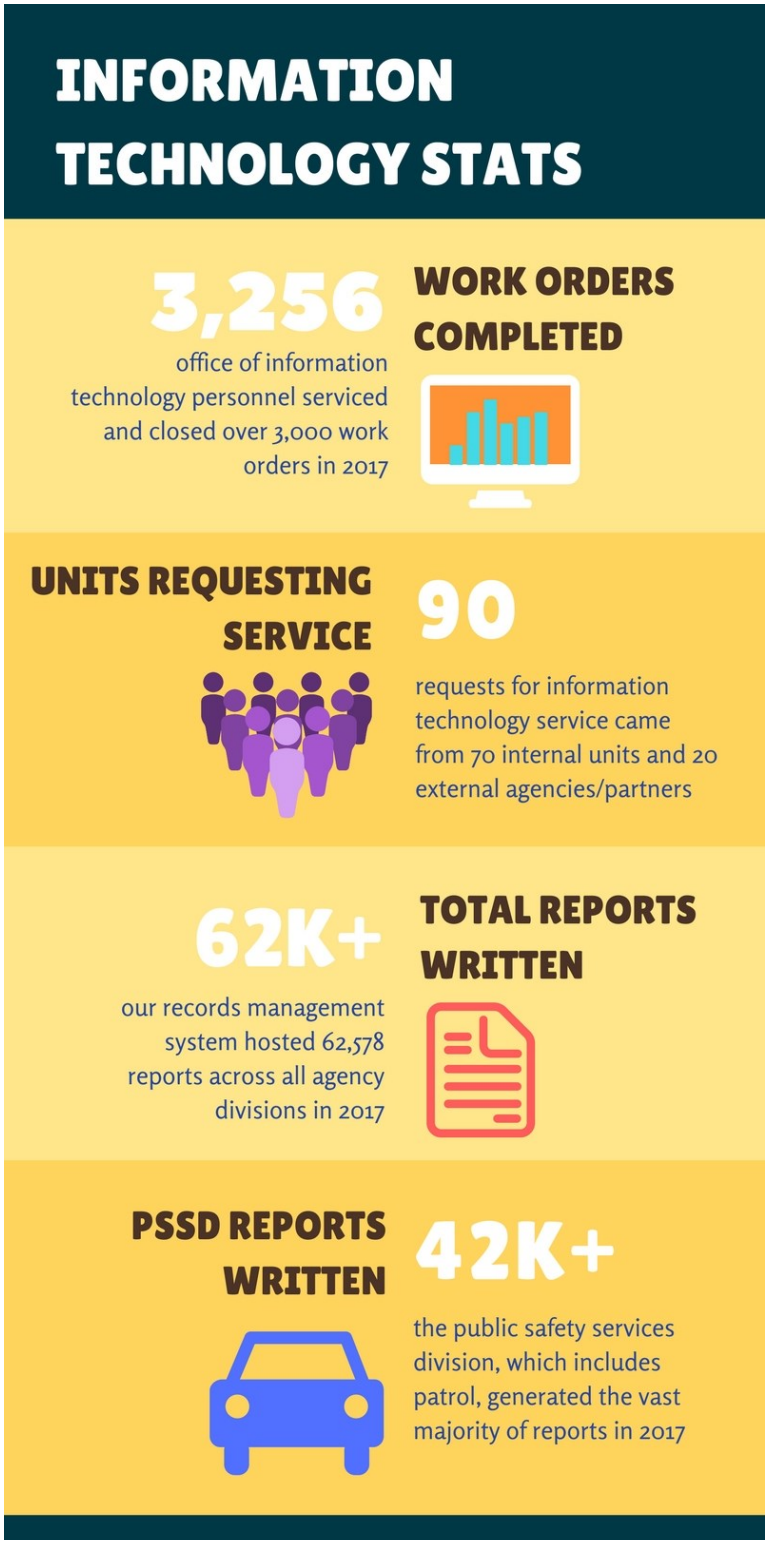
For many years, Bob Azure has been a valuable member of our accounting unit. In 2017, he took on an additional supervisory role within the unit and demonstrated his extensive budgeting expertise, positive leadership, and vision for ways to improve efficiencies and reporting. Bob continually goes out of his way to help other employees with financial aspects of any project, and his knowledge of grants, reporting and financing is unprecedented. Bob serves as the Sheriff's Office grant manager overseeing the multiple, multi-million-dollar grants held by our agency, including HIDTA, VCET and the Auto-Theft Prevention grant, just to name a few. Bob has consistently proven himself as a person of character that emulates our core values of respect, honor, truth and responsibility.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (OIT)

Members of OIT had a number of accomplishments in 2017, including the completion of the Public Safety Services Division Crime Lab project, the technology stand-up of a new patrol substation in Falcon Heights, assisting the St. Paul Police Department with their transition to our common Zuercher Network technology, the configuration of new records management scheduling software for our Transport Unit, work with the Minnesota Department of Corrections to transition to a new statewide supervision system application, collaboration with the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County to complete the technology stand-up for new Violent Crimes Enforcement Team offices, the securing of a state grant to become a NIBRS pilot agency, joining the County Business Integration Team, and teaching courses on technology, data practices, and data compliance to new RCSO Deputy recruits.

IN DEPTH ~ New Board Actions Introduced

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners played an integral role in 2017 toward the growth of the Sheriff's Office. Members of our Policy and Planning Unit introduced multiple actions to the Board over the course of the year. Approved actions included:



An increase of 10 full-time employees assigned to the Adult Detention Center,

A second increase of 23 full-time employees assigned to the Adult Detention Center, which resulted in full-staffing by December 2017,

An increase of 6 full-time employees assigned to patrol our new contract community of Falcon Heights,

A renewal of 7 contracts for School Resource Officers in our contract community schools,

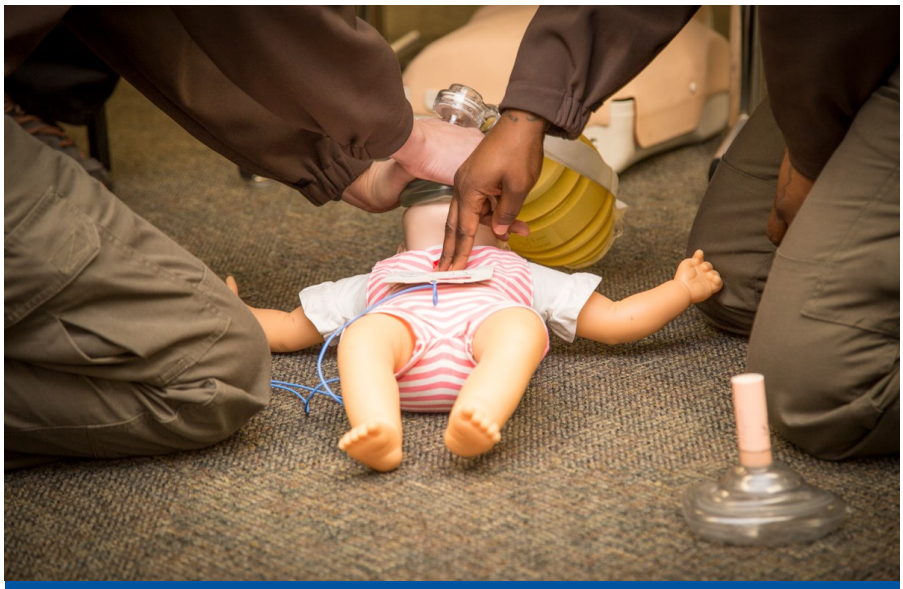
An acceptance of both a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant and a Violent Crimes Enforcement Team (VCET) grant, plus the addition of 1 full-time employee position,

Approval of 2 contracts for youth gang intervention and prevention services that will improve outcomes for youth involved in gangs and families impacted by gang activity,

Approval to eliminate booking fees for those booked into the Adult Detention Center, aimed to minimize the disparate impact on persons and families with limited financial resources,

Approval to host a youth from an underserved family in an RCSO work-study program with a dual aim of providing skills to a youth who might otherwise have limited access to certain opportunities and aligning with Ramsey County goals of connecting with youth to build for the future,

And approval of a new Criminal Justice System Services agreement to provide additional applications that will increase efficiency in the transport of inmates between counties.



Deputy Sheriff recruits training in CPR and lifesaving techniques

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Administration Division

TRAINING

Members assigned to our training unit had a productive year conducting an unprecedented number of academies for new hires. In 2017, our training unit sent new employees through two Deputy Academies and six Correctional Officer academies, training a total of 89 new members. This tremendous feat was executed by several new additions to the unit, including a new Commander, Training Sergeant, Detention Sergeant, two Deputy Trainers/ Coordinators, and a Clerk. The training unit also hosted a seminar called "Why We Serve" for all Sheriff's Office members and assisted numerous members in the completion of training in Critical Incidents, Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System, Law Enforcement Strategies, De-Escalation Techniques, and Patrol Online Mental Health.

BACKGROUNDS

As the Sheriff's Office experienced incredible growth in 2017, the background unit responded by processing an impressive number of background investigations; 280 total. And as with the training unit, the background unit accomplished this under the leadership of a new Commander, Sergeant, Background Deputy/Recruiting Coordinator, and Clerk.

Unit Citation—Training

2017 has been a historic year for the Sheriff's Office. As an agency, we were faced with severe staffing shortages. With backing from the County, the Sheriff's Office set upon a course of action to fill our ranks, focusing on diversity, personal character and ability. In order to accomplish this task, the recruitment staff actively attended job fairs, school, and community events to solicit applicants. The success we achieved in our recruitment efforts led to hundreds of applicants that had to be interviewed and put through background investigations. In 2017, the training unit staff prepared and implemented two deputy sheriff academies' and four correctional officer academies. Each academy lasts from 4-8 weeks and consists of intensive classroom as well as physical and defensive tactical training. All of this is unprecedented in the history of the Sheriff's Office. Without a doubt, the hiring over 100 new staff in 2017 will have a lasting impact on the agency for years to come.

Training team unit citation

By the Numbers: 2017 Backgrounds

Background Unit members managed a heavy caseload of investigations in 2017, including:

280
Total backgrounds completed

9
Number of staff assigned to work backgrounds

58
Deputy backgrounds

158
Correctional Officer backgrounds

19
Community Service Officer backgrounds

21
Civilian employee backgrounds

14
Volunteer backgrounds

15
Community Support Services backgrounds

The recruiting team met potential job candidates at community events all year

IN-DEPTH ~ Innovations in Recruiting

Hiring for character and training for competence—it's a philosophy that informs every hiring decision we make. But how do we make certain we're finding candidates of character...and where do we find them, for that matter? In 2017, we took conscious steps to both modify and innovate our recruiting methods to ensure we were reaching as deeply into the qualified candidate pool as possible. Recruitment team members staffed booths at traditional career fairs, which have been a staple of law enforcement recruiting for years. But alongside that, our members did interviews on local radio stations and in local newspapers, participated in law enforcement panel discussions, walked in community parades, spoke to law enforcement classes, attended events specific to high-schoolers, and made videos specific to our social media audiences. They threw their net even wider by participating in community festivals and public forums, meeting every demographic of our community, and talking about opportunities in public service that many of our candidates may never have considered before. The efforts paid off when by the end of 2017, the RCSO reached full staffing.

Court Security Sergeant Gao Chang spearheading an initiative to send ballistic vests overseas for law enforcement partners in Thailand

COURT & SECURITY SERVICES

The Court and Security Services Division is committed to protecting and serving both the public and the judiciary system with skill and integrity to ensure a safe and just community.

CIVIL PROCESS

Our Civil Process Unit handles almost 150 different kinds of paper service, including subpoenas, summons for child support, child protection, and marriage dissolution, domestic abuse papers, harassment/restraining orders, evictions, and foreclosure notices. In 2017, our unit received 8,643 papers to serve and process. Six Deputies made 12,496 attempts to serve the papers.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Our members in the Community Resource Center were just as busy as our Civil Process members last year. In 2017, they processed 10,503 warrants, approved 3,605 permits to carry (with 92 permits denied), and booked 543 people on summons.

Undersheriff Ty Sheridan

Undersheriff Ty Sheridan began his career with the Sheriff's Office in 1990. Ty oversees the Court and Security Services Division, which includes security operations at five District Court facilities, the Civil Process Unit and the Citizen Resource Center.

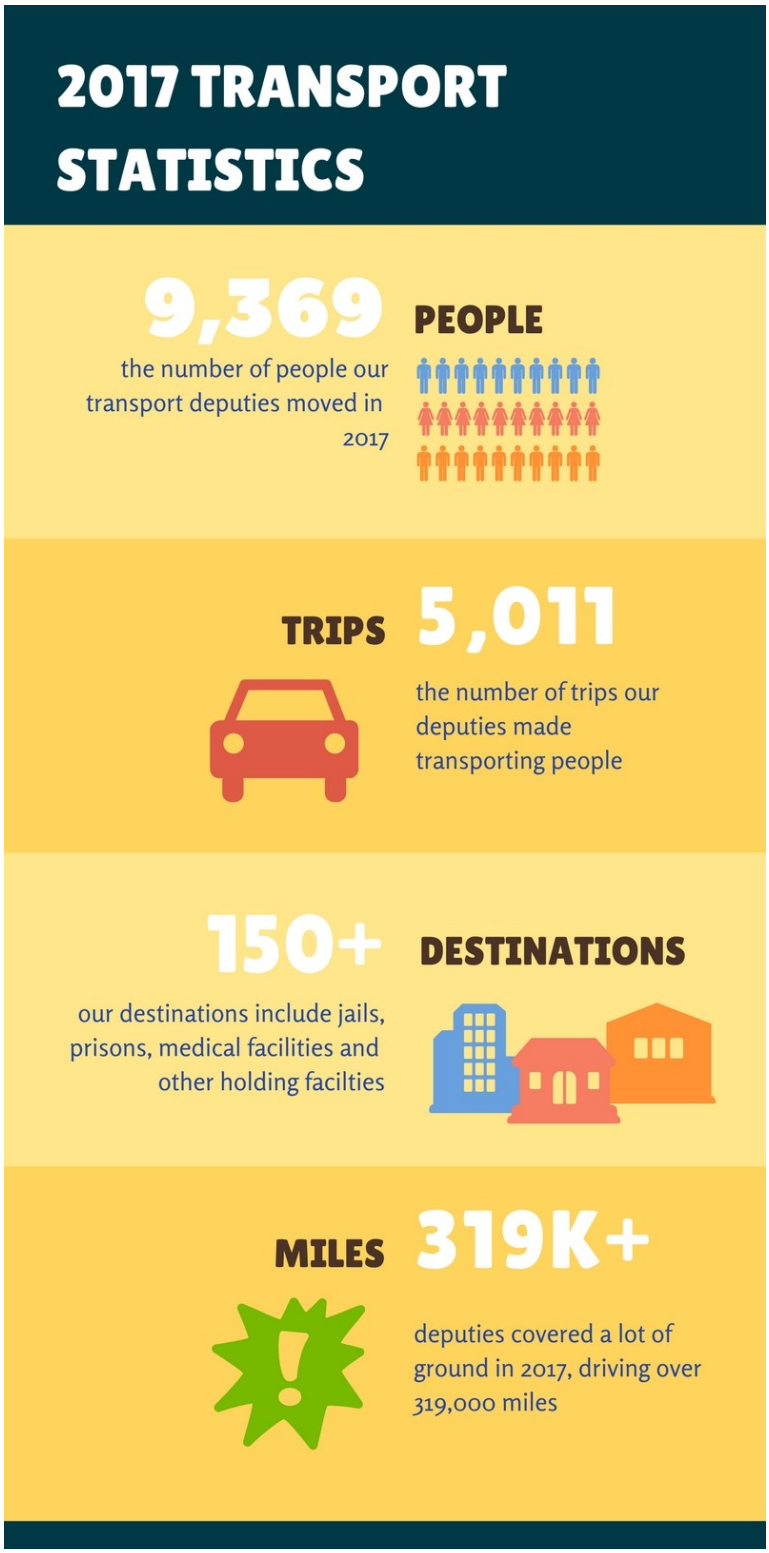
Ty has worked in all divisions as a deputy, sergeant and commander. He was on the SWAT team for fifteen years. While on SWAT, he was a team leader and part of the sniper team. During the two years prior to becoming Undersheriff, Ty was in the Public Safety Services Division as a Commander in charge of the Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU), Electronic Crimes Unit (ECU), Crime Scene Processing Unit, and the Property Room.

Ty graduated from Bemidji State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Undersheriff Ty Sheridan

IN DEPTH ~ Court Deputies

Split between five separate Ramsey County court buildings, our Court Security Deputies are responsible for maintaining safety and order inside the courtroom. This could include responding to medical emergencies, intervening in and mediating disputes, making arrests, conveying the orders of the judges, and helping those attending hearings understand the court process and feel safe and secure. Court Security Deputies also provide security in the public areas of the Law Enforcement Center and serve as bailiffs in Juvenile Court, where youth have been petitioned to court for crimes and status offenses.



In 2017, our Court Security Deputies transported 5,386 inmates to court, brought an additional 1,698 juveniles to court, provided security for 1,976 domestic abuse cases, responded to 1,133 service calls, attended 9,732 miscellaneous hearings, and handled security for 16,153 in-custody hearings. Between these duties, Deputies also made 323 arrests.

TRANSPORTS

Members of our Transport Unit covered 319,490 miles in 2017. That breaks down to 5,011 trips transporting 9,369 persons.

HOSPITAL HOLDING

Twelve Deputies and two Sergeants assigned to the Regions Hospital Holding Unit fulfill several roles, including serving as the primary liaisons between our Transport Deputies and hospital emergency room staff. In 2017, these deputies provided security for 445 inmates transferred to the emergency room, made 37 on-site arrests and 104 warrant arrests, and assisted other agencies on 700 calls.

New Correctional Officers joined the RCSO several times throughout the year

DETENTION SERVICES

The Detention Services Division creates a safe, secure and humane environment for detainees and staff, and promotes public safety together with other agencies.

2017 Highlights

NARCAN TRAINING

In response to a nationwide and local uptick in opioid abuse and overdose, we implemented a training program for correctional staff in the use and administration of Narcan, an opioid antidote. Narcan is now quickly available to render aid, if needed, to recent-arrivals at our Adult Detention Center and prevent potential overdose deaths.

ADULT DETENTION CENTER STAFFING

In 2017, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners made a significant investment in our Adult Detention Center. With their commitment, along with commitment from our communities, we hired 74 new Correctional Officers and 10 new support staff members; an historic effort in hiring.

GED PROGRAMS FOR TRUSTEES

2017 ushered in our program to make computer tablets available to trustee inmates to facilitate their enrollment in GED programs.

Undersheriff John St. Germain

John St. Germain began his service as Undersheriff of Detention Services in October 2017. John began his career with the RCSO as a deputy working in the Adult Detention Center, patrol, and training. For 12 years, John served as Commander in Community Support Services, Administration, and Water Patrol. As an Inspector, John oversaw internal affairs and emergency management and preparedness within the Sheriff's Office.

John's previous collateral assignments include the Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) and Mobile Field Force.

John has an extensive background in volunteer management, incident command, training, and policy development. He has played a significant role in advancing policy and volunteer programs within the Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff John St. Germain

IN DEPTH ~
Mental Health Initiatives and Staffing

Many of the people who enter our facilities suffer from mental health conditions. In response, we increased our mental health staff with the support of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

Mental health services are provided to inmates though our medical unit. These talented professionals are employees of Ramsey County Public Health.

In 2017, the Ramsey County Board fully funded two new mental health provider positions in the Adult Detention Center (ADC). The focus of these providers is to add another layer of protection and intervention for those inmates who may be suicidal or not following their medication plans. The mental health staff makes daily visits to those who are in need of their services. They also work with our inmates on transition planning, which connects people with support and services once they leave our facility.

The average stay in the ADC is six days. Having mental health staff on-site working with inmates while they are in our custody has been shown to be effective. It helps people get back on track with their medications as well as establishing follow up appointments with medical providers in hopes of preventing further visits to our facility.

Six RCSO members were promoted to Correctional Sergeant in 2017

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Detention Services

BIO-HAZARD CLEANUP PROGRAM and SAFETY COMMITTEE

In an effort to expedite clean-ups and reduce costs in our facilities, we purchased a bio-hazard machine in 2017. Inmate workers are assigned to support machine functions and, in return, are allowed to earn commissary money. We also continued our work toward increasing facility safety and improvements with the formation of a Safety Committee.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER ACADEMIES

Along with exponential growth comes necessary training—in 2017 we conducted six Correctional Officer Academies that prepared 74 new Correctional Officers for service.

PROMOTIONS and CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Staff growth not only happened in terms of numbers, but also in terms of career development. In 2017, six Correctional Officers were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, six more were promoted to Correctional Officer II positions, and two members were promoted to Correctional Lieutenant spots.

Correctional Officer of the Year—Mike T. Johnson

Lieutenant Mike Johnson was chosen for this award for his outstanding dedication and service to the Sheriff's Office. In 2017 the Sheriff's Office was faced with severe staffing shortages in the Adult Detention Center. As an agency, we set upon a course of action to fill our ranks. In his position as a Correctional Lieutenant in the Training Unit, Mike coordinated an unprecedented four correctional officer academies, facilitating training for over 70 new Correctional Officers to our agency. Each academy consists of intensive classroom as well as physical and defensive tactics training. Mike brings a tremendous energy, attention to detail, and a unique ability to inspire, organize and lead others. He consistently demonstrates leadership within our agency, patiently mentoring new employees, giving them the skills they need to be successful.

Correctional Officer of the Year

IN DEPTH ~ Changes in Adult Detention Center Staffing Foster Work/Life Balance

In 2017 there were many challenges within the ADC, not the least of which was a staffing shortage. For as long as anyone can remember, the staff in the ADC had historically worked a rotating schedule on eight hour shifts which only allowed staff to have one weekend off every five weeks.

In an attempt to reach a better work life balance for employees, two new schedules were developed for all ADC staff. The first schedule was based on a ten hour day and was implemented in May 2017. This schedule had many benefits, but it complicated many day-to-day staff routines within the facility.

In June 2017, Sheriff Serier sent administrative staff into the ADC to look at staffing levels and schedules. This process led to a joint Labor and Management Committee which worked together over several months to build a staffing and schedule plan for the ADC.

In October 2017, just four months after the committee was formed, an historic Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Sheriff Serier and all Labor Unions working in the ADC. This Agreement set forth staffing goals and an innovative schedule which was initially presented by a long time Correctional Officer.

Since this plan was implemented, morale and work life balance have been improved for all staff. Forced overtime has been eliminated in all but the most infrequent and unplanned circumstances.

Two new evening Lieutenant positions were also created within the Office's existing budget. Seventy-four new Correctional Officers were hired and trained in 2017, as well as six staff members being promoted to Sergeant positions.

2017 was full of challenges, and ultimately victories, as ADC inmate services and employee working conditions were addressed and improved.

Deputies are out 24/7 connecting with the people of our contract communities

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

The Public Safety Services Division promotes public safety through awareness, enforcement, and education. We are professional, responsive, and committed to strong community partnerships.

2017 Highlights

ARREST NUMBERS

Arrests were up in 2017; many of our arrests involved felony crimes in progress, assaults, and warrants. Notable arrests included that of a suspect who had just shot multiple victims at a nightclub and the disarming and arrest of a suspect who threatened Deputies with a knife.

FIELD TRAINING

In addition to their regular duties, Deputies assigned as Field Training Officers successfully mentored and advised 15 new Deputies through completion of their field training program.

SQUAD CAMERAS

2017 featured the roll-out of squad camera installation and use in all frontline (non-K9) squad cars. We continue to research technology for Deputy body cameras.

Undersheriff Terry Soukkala

Terry Soukkala has been with the Sheriff's Office since 1991. Prior to that, he worked for the Carlton County Sheriff's Office.

Terry has led the Public Safety Services Division since March 2015. As the Undersheriff, he oversees Patrol Services, Investigative Services, Water Patrol, Community Support Services and Public Communications, and Crime Prevention units.

Terry attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth and earned his Law Enforcement Degree from Hibbing Community College.

For many years, Terry has volunteered his time and equipment toward maintaining a local nature trail. In his spare time, he enjoys being with family, weight lifting, playing basketball and doing projects around the house.

Undersheriff Terry Soukkala

Our Contract Communities

Since 1960, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has provided law enforcement services through a contract agreement with cities that do not have their own independent police department. This allows cities to select law enforcement services that best meet their needs.

We provide contract services to the following seven cities in Ramsey County:

- Arden Hills
- Falcon Heights
- Little Canada
- North Oaks
- Shoreview
- Vadnais Heights
- White Bear Township
- Gem Lake (in 2017)

The combined population of these cities is over 75,000 people, placing the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office in the top ten of police departments in the state in terms of population served. Geographically these seven cities occupy 59 square miles, or approximately one-third of the county.

Meeting with Falcon Heights community members during December public forums

IN DEPTH ~
New Partnership with the Community of Falcon Heights

In addition to everyday operations, we took up the important mission of ensuring our transition to serving the Falcon Heights community would be a smooth one. This involved not only operational considerations, but community relations; what did the community want and need from us?

In anticipation of our new relationship, we joined with the City of Falcon Heights in early December 2017 to host two public community meetings and forums.

We met with over 150 community members between the two meetings, and it provided a meaningful opportunity to introduce ourselves and talk about our core values and how we do our work. We also appreciated the tough, honest, and funny questions our community members asked and welcomed the chance to have open dialogue; it's something we plan to continue doing into 2018 and beyond.

Engaging with youth during annual Night to Unite neighborhood events

Annual Citizen Academy

The Citizen Academy, a three-week, six-session course, was attended by 25 people in 2017. Hands-on experiences, classroom sessions, facility tours, and front-line employee instructors provided Citizen Academy participants with a behind the scenes journey through the work and activities of the Sheriff's Office.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Community Support Services

The Community Support Services Unit focus is on programs and events that improve the quality of life for citizens. Sheriff's staff and volunteers combine their efforts to deliver a high level of service to educate the public and build relationships within the community and within the organization.

Inspecting Sheriff's Office firearms

TRAINING

Education-based outreach is an integral part of the work of the Community Support Services Unit. Presentations to community groups on public safety and crime prevention topics were conducted throughout the year. Continuing education and training was provided to volunteer Community Affairs Officers and Community Emergency Response Team graduates to keep them informed of current trends and issues. Elementary school aged safety patrol officers were trained to help their classmates get safely to and from school. Neighborhood Watch block captain learning sessions included home safety, personal safety, and cyber safety issues at the quarterly meetings in 2017.

OUTREACH

Service is about making connections with people. Coffee with a Cop events were held multiple times throughout the year at places people gather in the contract communities. The program, a national initiative, encourages community members and deputies to share informal conversation over a cup of coffee. Eight Hot Dog with a Deputy events at community parks were a great momentum builder for Night to Unite, which had Sheriff's deputies visiting 180 neighborhood events on the first Tuesday in August. Information sharing through newsletters, social media, and web accessible formats helped build connections with two-way communication.

The Fright Farm Tradition

Through the many years that RCSO Correctional Lieutenant Kevin Davy has been working his way up the ranks to becoming the Fright Farm Operations Director, he says "the people and volunteers" still remain his favorite piece of the Fright Farm experience. Volunteers are the core of Fright Farm's success! In 2017, volunteers donated over 5,000 hours in construction crews, admissions, hospitality, concessions, acting, and guest security.

Lt. Davy says there's a second layer of Fright Farm's success story… the thousands of Fright Farm attendees having positive interactions with our people in uniform; whether it was admiring the horses and riders of Mounted Patrol, chatting with uniformed deputies while waiting in line, or meeting our youth Explorers while ordering a warm beverage at the concession stand.

The 2017 Fright Farm generated over $100,000 for the Ramsey County Sheriff's Foundation and entertained almost 9,000 guests.

A young community member enjoying a taste of our Hot Dog with a Deputy program

IN DEPTH ~ Hot Dog With a Deputy Community Program

A summer evening initiative to build community connections with the citizens we serve...Brainstorming on how to bring deputies and community members together in an informal atmosphere over a (free) meal was how it started. A used food trailer from the Salvation Army Disaster Services, fresh paint, new tires, sheriff decals and a commercial hot dog roller made the initiative a reality. The summer evening events were held from 5-7 pm in a festive atmosphere similar to an open house in a police or fire station. The Sheriff's Office took the events on the road to local parks in the seven suburban cities served by the Patrol Division.

Sheriff personnel were on hand at each event to serve meals and share a variety of equipment, including squad cars, ATV's, an air boat, SWAT van, bike trailer, camera/light trailer and Mounted Patrol horse trailer. Having uniformed deputies, Water Patrol staff, K-9 Deputies, teen Explorers, a legion of RCSO volunteers, and Administrators on hand mingling with community members was a key element to the popularity of the events.

The food includes an all beef hot dog, chips, bottled water, and a frozen fun pop is served free of charge thanks to a generous donation by the non-profit Sheriff's Foundation. Popularity grew in 2017, the second year of the initiative, with 800 hot dogs served at almost every event.

"Hot Dog with a Deputy"

New Community Affairs Officers being trained in the use of chemical agents

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Community Support Services

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICERS

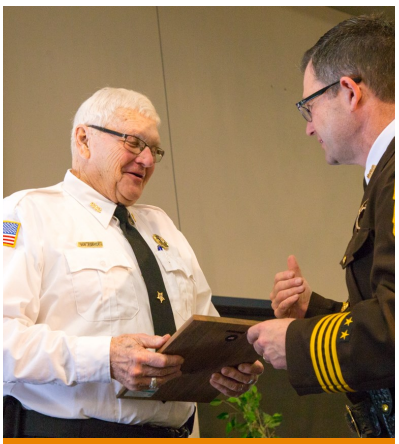
Community Affairs Officers (CAO) are trained volunteers who help the Sheriff's Office in a community liaison role. In 2017 the CAO Academy had 14 students who participated in training on de-escalation techniques, chemical agent, radio use, and many other topics. Several of the new CAOs stepped up to volunteer for events even before their graduation ceremony. Throughout the year, CAOs combine their training with personal experience to engage in a wide variety of community-based activities.

CERT TEAM

Following a catastrophic disaster, when communities affected may not have immediate access to emergency services, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program connects trained community members and emergency services personnel together for coordinated responses. CERT members are in place to help their neighbors and family in times of need. The nine-week course in 2017 brought in instructors from multiple disciplines for each session covering the topics of Disaster Preparedness, CERT Organization, Fire Safety, Light Search and Rescue, Disaster Psychology, Disaster Medical Operations and Terrorism. A grant from the Sheriff's Foundation provided materials and tools free of charge to the 21 graduates.

Volunteer of the Year—CAO Bob Fischer

Bob Fischer was chosen to receive this award for his exemplary service and dedication to the Sheriff's Office and most importantly the citizens of Ramsey County. Bob started his service as a Community Affairs Officer for the Sheriff's Office in 2011. For the past seven years he has consistently ranked in the top five for hours donated to community service. In 2017, Bob logged an amazing 500 hours of volunteer service. Some of the many events he routinely volunteers for include Night to Unite, Hot Dog with a Deputy, Park Patrol, and all aspects of Fright Farm, just to name a few. Bob has truly led a life of service, volunteering for 25 years as a firefighter for Lake Johanna, volunteering at the Lyngblomsten Senior Living Center, and delivering donated bread to food shelfs every week. All of this in addition to the time he gives to the Sheriff's Office. Bob personifies what it truly means to have a "Heart of Service."



Volunteer of the Year 2017

Our Volunteers are Essential

We count on our volunteer members as an essential part of our agency fabric. They not only donate their time and talent, and serve as the eyes and ears of the community, but serve as important links between our sworn members and the community. In 2017,

57 Water Patrol Reserves,

20 Law Enforcement Youth Explorers

40 Community Affairs Officers, and

12 Chaplains made huge contributions of their time, including:

4,200+
Community Support Services volunteer hours

8,000+
Water Patrol Services volunteer hours

5,450+
Fright Farm volunteer hours

17,000+
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2017

Equine members of the Mounted Patrol Unit were a hit at RCSO summer events

IN DEPTH ~ New Mounted Patrol Unit

The Ramsey County Mounted Patrol completed their inaugural season in 2017, bringing the historical visual of police and horses to an appreciative audience in our urban county.

The unit has eight active certified riders and eleven active certified horses. In addition to many hours of training, the Mounted Patrol spent the 2017 summer season working every Hot Dog with a Deputy event, several parades throughout Ramsey County, and provided supplemental patrol and security for each night of Fright Farm.

Looking ahead, the Mounted Patrol will expand horizons to include working park patrol throughout Ramsey County, and beginning search and rescue training. The Ramsey County Mounted Patrol has a goal to become a valuable mutual aid asset to other law enforcement agencies throughout Minnesota, specializing in both rural and urban search and rescue techniques from horseback.

Investigators harness the power of social media to solve crimes and generate leads

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Investigative Services

Deputies assigned to Investigative Services work a wide range of cases including, but not limited to homicides, assaults, robberies, burglaries, auto theft, sexual assaults, child abuse, and fraud/forgery cases.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT

The criminal investigation team conquered many challenges in 2017, including a record caseload in the unit and per investigator. The unit added two new investigators, who immediately forged ahead into large and complex caseloads. The team continued to be anchored by veteran investigators with a wealth of experience and knowledge. The combination of fresh talent coupled with experienced talent led the unit to obtain numerous full confessions and successful case charging in 2017.

ELECTRONIC CRIMES UNIT

Electronic crimes investigators had several notable successes in 2017, including obtaining a confession in a "revenge porn" case that led to the first such case to be charged in Ramsey County. Investigators also assisted in the investigation of a convicted sex offender and a case that led to charges against a medical company executive who stole thousands of dollars from his employer.

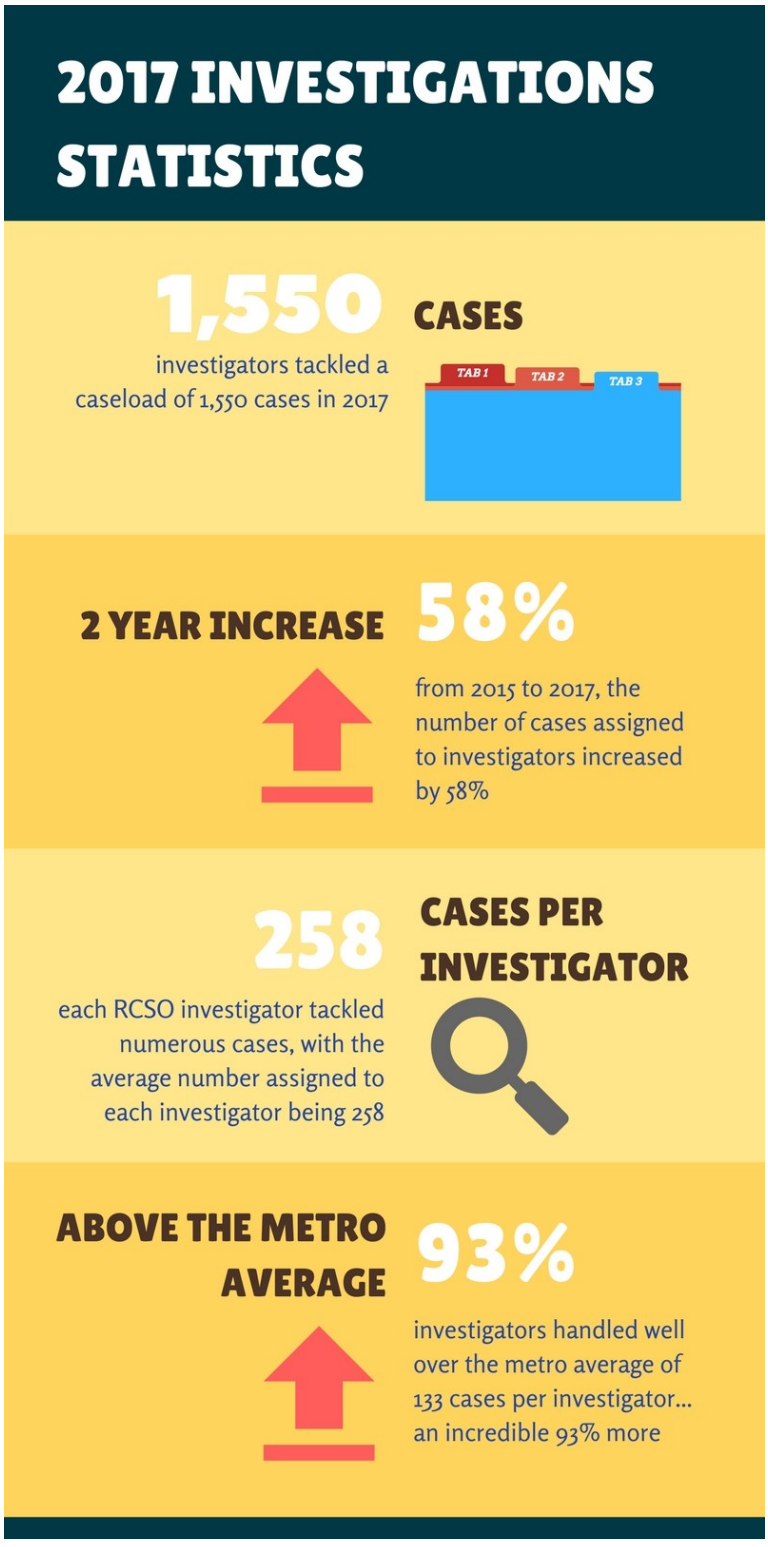
Investigator of the Year—Jessica O'Hern

Deputy Jessica O'Hern consistently sets herself apart through her commitment and ability to manage several large, complex and sensitive cases simultaneously and efficiently. In 2017, Jessica investigated over 240 cases, the majority of which were some of the most difficult cases that come through our agency—criminal sexual conduct, vulnerable adult and child abuse cases, robberies, missing persons and a homicide cold case, just to name a few. Jessica has an uncanny ability to establish trust and build relationships with victims, witnesses and suspects. Several have come forward to praise her professionalism, compassion and understanding. She has demonstrated leadership within our department working as a Field Training Officer (FTO) sharing her investigative knowledge with others. Jessica is a self-motivated, dedicated, professional who is thorough and conscientious, which makes her an excellent investigator.

Investigator of the Year

IN DEPTH ~ Notable 2017 Investigations

Domestic Assault by Strangulation — Investigators learned a suspect had physically abused and threatened his wife, then manipulated her into remaining quiet about the abuse. A toddler also witnessed the abuse. Investigators coordinated with child protection and family members to help the victim enact a safety plan while the case proceeded. This case highlighted the need for patience and the importance of helping a victim to not only move forward, but to also hold the suspect accountable for actions.



"Cat Fishing" — Investigators worked a case in which a juvenile female was lured into sending nude photos of herself to a group of suspects posing as someone else (cat fishing). Once the photos were sent, the suspects posted them online and texted the photos to others. Investigators obtained confessions from each suspect, resulting in felony charges for several of them.

Elder Fraud — An elderly Ramsey County resident reported her credit card was stolen from her purse while shopping at a grocery store, then used to make unauthorized purchases. Investigators worked across multiple jurisdictions to identify suspects and referred the case for charging.

Triple Shooting — One suspect, who claimed to be "jumped" by associates of a rival gang, removed a firearm from his vehicle and began shooting into a crowd at a local bar. Three victims were non-fatally shot by the suspect, who was ultimately arrested, charged, and convicted.

Jewelry Theft — One suspect was successfully charged and convicted after stealing jewelry from a 92-year-old vulnerable adult at a senior care facility where the suspect was employed. Investigators followed up with other agencies to ensure the suspect can no longer work with vulnerable adults.

Deputy Chris Moe and his K9 partner Tonto meeting our community members

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Patrol Services

Patrol Services actively patrols each contract community to prevent and deter crime, as well as enforce city/county ordinances and state/federal laws, while engaging in community policing practices.

INITIATIVES

Members of the Patrol Services Unit played an advisory role in the Humphrey Institute police-community engagement group, which will continue work on the Governor's Council recommendations on police/community relations. Members also continued their partnership with the North St. Paul Police Department in a Community Building Trust Roundtable.

ANIMAL CONTROL

2017 saw the implementation of standardized procedures and responses for animal control calls. These improvements led to decreases in animal bite incidents, ordinance and statute violations, and decreases in impounds and animal-at-large reports.

RECORDS UNIT

Members of the Records Unit worked hard in 2017 in several areas, including processing 473 gun permit applications, conducting 733 criminal history checks, processing 545 rental property checks in the City of Shoreview alone, and completing 60 liquor and tobacco checks.

Deputy of the Year—Andre Rongitsch

For several years, in addition to his regular patrol and canine handler duties, Deputy Andre Rongitsch has worked as a Field Training Officer (FTO) for the Public Safety Services Division. He is well known for his outstanding ability to teach and guide newly hired deputies in the vast responsibilities of patrol duties, especially officer safety tactics. These safety tactics came into play in April of 2017 when Andre and his new deputy trainee encountered a deadly force situation while on patrol. Incidents like these are not common, but his experience and commitment to safety played a direct part in saving the life of another deputy in our agency. Aside from being an excellent role model, Andre takes a very proactive approach to policing by actively working on warrant arrests. As a leader, he works with other deputies to coordinate these arrest attempts.

Deputy of the Year 2017

By the Numbers: Traffic Unit

Our Traffic Unit focuses on traffic enforcement and roadway safety within the contract cities. This includes enforcing state and local traffic laws and regulations, such as speed, seatbelt use, and driving while impaired, conducting directed commercial vehicle enforcement, and responding to citizen and community concerns about speed and driving conduct. In 2017, the Unit and members from across the agency

Responded to **219** drunk driving calls,

Made **8,421** traffic stops,

Wrote **7** citations for Texting While Driving

Responded to **218** motor vehicle accidents with injuries,

And responded to **956** incidents of accidental property damage

Seven School Resource Officers serve in our contract community schools

IN DEPTH ~ School Resource Officers

Our seven School Resource Officers (SROs) are based in several schools, including Bellaire School, Roseville Area Middle School, Capitol View, Lake Valentine, Turtle Lake Elementary, Island Lake, REACH Academy, and Moundsview High School, throughout our contract communities. SROs are tasked with responding to crimes that occur on school grounds and ensuring the safety of students and staff.

Our SROs would tell you, though, that a major part of what they do throughout the school year is not about fighting crime; it's about building relationships. They get to know the students in their schools, learn about their families and friends, help them navigate their struggles and challenges, and connect them with resources. In some cases, our SROs might be the only adult in a youth's life that can be trusted and counted-on as a source of advice and guidance. Our SROs are truly mentors, coaches, and positive role models.

An RCSO Dive Team member emerges from a training dive in Square Lake

2017 HIGHLIGHTS - Water Patrol

The Water Patrol Unit is responsible for law enforcement, safety instruction, and promotion of safe boating and riding habits on the county's lakes, rivers, and trails.

SEASONAL SAFETY PROGRAMS

Water Patrol members trained youth and adult community members in a series of 2017 seasonal safety programs including Boy Scouts Merit Badge Rifle Training, general Firearms Safety, and Youth Snowmobile Safety training.

DIVE TEAM

The Dive Team added three new members in 2017. The team also provided water safety services for the annual Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics, completed monthly trainings, and participated in multi-jurisdiction open water training and rescue exercises.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORERS

Our Explorers range from ages 14-20 and are exposed to education, training, and first-hand career experience through a variety of leadership and community service opportunities; many of them go on to pursue careers in public safety. In 2017, our Explorers received four awards at the Statewide Explorer Conference.

Promoting Water Safety

Each summer, our Water Patrol Deputies enjoy promoting water safety by rewarding kids who are spotted wearing their life jackets with a free DQ treat coupon.

Staying safe with life jackets

Young Ambassadors

In 2017, we welcomed twelve new Explorers into Explorer Post #2 and celebrated the promotions of five of our current members. We're proud of our young ambassadors and look forward to seeing the great things they do.

An Explorer receives new collar brass from Sheriff Serier

By the Numbers: Going After Grants in 2017

The Water Patrol Unit received significant grant funding in 2017, including:

$7,000
Awarded by the Minnesota Horse Council to purchase safety gear for the Mounted Patrol

$8,954
2018-2019 Snowmobile Safety Enforcement grant funding

$15,000
Federal grant funding for boating safety enforcement

$41,000
Minnesota DNR 2017 grant funding for county -wide boating safety enforcement

$14,834
Received by the Water Patrol Dive Team for the purchase of team equipment

Reserve Deputies volunteer their time at a variety of events throughout the year, including benefits for Special Olympics, Scouting Day, and Night to Unite

IN DEPTH ~ Volunteer Reserve Deputies

RCSO Reserve Deputies serve as part of our Water Patrol Unit and provide an array of invaluable volunteer services to our communities. On any given day, our Reserves might be patrolling parks, lakes, and trails, helping with large-scale events like Fright Farm or local sporting events, providing traffic and crowd control, interacting with our community members at local events, carnivals, and parades, conducting water safety inspections, or responding to emergency call-outs.

Each volunteer commits to serving at least ten hours per month or 120 hours per year.

Our top seven Reserve Deputies had a combined total of 2,462 hours of volunteer service hours in 2017.

Members of the Bicycle Rapid Response Team conducting nighttime training

REGIONAL SERVICES

The Regional Services Division delivers specialized law enforcement capabilities to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and supports other agencies throughout the region with those capabilities.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

In 2017, SIU officers partnered with Ramsey County Probation twice a month to conduct checks on predatory and high-risk offenders, with a dual goal of ensuring compliance with probation terms and ensuring probationers are on a positive path toward re-entering the community.

VIOLENT CRIMES ENFORCEMENT (VCET)

In response to a continued rise in heroin/opioid abuse and overdose cases in 2017, VCET responded with numerous operations targeting heroin dealers and sources. VCET officers also seized large numbers of guns from felons and drug dealers, while also seeing a surge in methamphetamine presence in the County. As a new member of the North Central Drug Trafficking Area in 2017, VCET received a $224K grant to continue its mission.

SWAT

SWAT members conducted 10 operations in 2017, including high-risk search warrants and a barricaded person with a firearm. Our negotiators added eight new members , including partnerships with Maplewood and White Bear Lake Police Departments.

Undersheriff Joe Paget

Undersheriff Joseph (Joe) Quinton Paget began his law enforcement career in 1988 as a police officer for the City of Arlington, Minnesota. Hired in 1989 by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Joe has worked in the Detention, Courts, and Patrol Divisions in a variety of positions including Patrol, Traffic Unit, Water Patrol, Community Support Services, and Civil Process.

Joe has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Mary's University and is currently working on a graduate degree from Hamline University. He completed his Minnesota Police Skills at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Joe is also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and volunteered as an EMT for the Bloomington Rescue Squad. Joe is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Undersheriff Joe Paget

By the Numbers: Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

In addition to partnering with Ramsey County Probation, SIU members are tasked with clearing specific outstanding warrants. In 2017, SIU members :

Made **300+**
Felony warrant arrests

Made **50+**
Gross Misdemeanor warrant arrests

Made **95+**
Misdemeanor warrant arrests

Made **460+**
Total warrant arrests

Had **85+**
Agency assists

Spent **1100+**
Hours on assists

Worked **65+**
Probate commitments

Picked up **60+**
Probate commitments

Mobile Field Force members train in mock scenarios at the MN State Fairgrounds

IN DEPTH ~ A Coalition to End Overdose Deaths

Ramsey County COALITION

EDUCATION | PREVENTION | INTERVENTION

In 2017, 72 opioid overdoses were reported in Ramsey County. In response to a growing local and nationwide opioid problem, several Ramsey County agencies, including the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, partnered with Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge and Know the Truth Prevention Program to create the Ramsey County Coalition under the hashtag #NotAnotherOverdose. The Coalition's focus is toward decreasing and ultimately eliminating overdose deaths through education, prevention, and intervention. Moving forward, the coalition will address opioid awareness and prevention and give guidance toward resources for the community through a series of public service announcements that will be aired at local movie theaters, through a community forum series at local schools, and a compilation of community resources as a means of guiding persons toward avenues of addiction recovery.

The cost of addiction is devastating.
Stop overdose in Ramsey County.
#NOTANOTHEROVERDOSE

Mission

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement and public service in accordance with our constitutional and statutory mandates. We are committed to leadership in public safety through professionalism and partnership with other agencies.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

- Has over 450 employees and over 200 volunteer members.
- Has an annual operating budget of approximately $57 million.
- Provides wide-ranging law enforcement and public safety services to an urban community of more than 540,000 residents in a metropolitan area of 3.2 million people.
- Serves as a regional partner, providing services to city, county, state and federal agencies.

www.ramseycountysheriff.us

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
425 Grove Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

(651) 266-9333

@RamseyCountySheriff
@RamseySheriff
@RamseySheriffMN

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office
425 Grove Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

PLACE STAMP HERE