

# 2003 Annual Report Essex County Sheriff's Department & Jail

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## NEWS

04/13/03

### Essex shocked anew: State orders jail closed

ALBANY — The state gave Essex County 30 days Tuesday to shut down its County Jail, an order that stunned Sheriff Henry Hommes and sent local officials scrambling to figure out a new way to house inmates.



# Essex County Sheriff's

## 1799 to present

1799	<i>Thomas Stower</i>	1873	<i>Samuel S. Olcott</i>
1802	<i>Jonathan Lynde</i>	1876	<i>Judson C. Ware</i>
1806	<i>John Hoffnagle, Jr.</i>	1880	<i>Edward H. Talbot</i>
1808	<i>William Kirby</i>	1883	<i>Rollin L. Jenkins</i>
1812	<i>Delavan deLance</i>	1886	<i>Henry Allen</i>
1813	<i>George Throop</i>	1889	<i>O. A. Phinney</i>
1815	<i>Boughton Lobdell</i>	1892	<i>A. A. Boynton</i>
1819	<i>Luther Adgate</i>	1895	<i>John W. Nye</i>
1821	<i>William Kirby</i>	1898	<i>Joseph Wright</i>
1825	<i>Samuel Murdock</i>	1901	<i>Altus B. Adkins</i>
1828	<i>Leander J. Lockwood</i>	1904	<i>Sidney W. Barnard</i>
1831	<i>Samuel Murdock</i>	1907	<i>Wells F. Nye</i>
1831	<i>Solomon Everest</i>	1910	<i>J. D. Richards</i>
1837	<i>John Harris</i>	1913	<i>W. A. Knowlton</i>
1840	<i>Alanson Wilder</i>	1916	<i>Charles L. Pool</i>
1843	<i>Chilion A. Tremble</i>	1919	<i>Fred Dashnaw</i>
1846	<i>Norman Page</i>	1922	<i>James Wolfe</i>
1849	<i>Aaron B. March</i>	1925	<i>Charles W. Taylor</i>
1852	<i>Charles W. Ensign</i>	1928	<i>Robert S. McCoy</i>
1855	<i>Jacob Partmerter</i>	1934	<i>Hugh Moore</i>
1858	<i>Elisha A. Adams</i>	1937	<i>Percy T. Egglefield</i>
1861	<i>William W. Tabor</i>	1943	<i>John P. Crowley</i>
1864	<i>Ransom L. Locke</i>	1958	<i>Stanley Davies</i>
1867	<i>Abijah Perry</i>	1967	<i>K. E. Goodspeed</i>
1870	<i>Chauncey D. Bullis</i>	1980	<i>R. H. LaVigne</i>
1998	<i>Henry H. Hommes</i>		

## *Essex County Sheriff's Department Undersheriffs*

<i>Abijah Perry</i>	1862	<i>Milo Perry</i>	1868
<i>Abijah Perry</i>	1874	<i>Scott E. Phinney</i>	1889
<i>A. Ladue</i>	Jan 8, 1895	<i>Byron A. Perry</i>	Feb 16, 1895
<i>Joseph Wright</i>	1901	<i>Warren W. Hale</i>	1904
<i>Charles L. Pool</i>	1910	<i>Emmet W. Richards</i>	1911
<i>Charles L. Pool</i>	1912	<i>Fred L. Straight</i>	1916
<i>Frank Shumway</i>	1923	<i>Joseph E. Denton</i>	1924
<i>Joseph Dougan</i>	1925	<i>Albert W. Denton</i>	1926
<i>William H. Orr</i>	1927	<i>Harold B. Rushby</i>	Jan 5, 1931
<i>Percy Egglefield</i>	Apr 9, 1931	<i>Hugh J. Moore</i>	1937
<i>Ferris R. Nichols</i>	1939	<i>Lee J. Phinney</i>	1942
<i>Julius G. Burris</i>	1943	<i>Walter F. Smith</i>	1944
<i>George M. Young</i>	1951	<i>Virgil S. Clark</i>	1954
<i>Frederick L. Smith</i>	1963	<i>Terrance E. Walton</i>	1969
<i>Peter Zelinski</i>	1989	<i>Henry Hommes</i>	May 15, 1995
<i>Gary W. Wright</i>	1998		

# New York Police Officers Memorial

May 20, 2004 - Albany, New York

November 15, 1948 - Deputy Earl Torrance routinely goes about his day in the Essex County Jail. At approximately 9:00pm, he makes his rounds, locking down the inmates for the night. What he doesn't know is that Inmates Edmund Hart and William Moody have begun their escape plan.

Inmate Edmund Hart managed to free himself from the cellblock and attacked Deputy Torrance from behind with a steel bar. He brutally beat Deputy Torrance in the head with the steel bar and then freed Inmate Moody from his cell. On Moody's release he also struck the Deputy with the steel bar.

After this vicious attack, the inmates made good their short-lived escape. They were subsequently recaptured, convicted of Murder in the Second Degree and sentenced to "fifty years to life".

It has taken over 50 years to finally put the tragic death to rest with the recognition so richly deserved. Law Enforcement Officers regularly put their lives on the line for those they have sworn to protect, expecting nothing in return other than a safer place for their families, friends and neighbors.

State and Local recognition has finally come in the addition of Deputy Earl Torrance's name to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in May of 2000 and the New York Police Officers Memorial on May 20, 2003.

To honor Deputy Torrance, Sheriff Hommes and a contingent of officers from the Department traveled to Albany for Police Memorial Day. Officers marched in the memorial procession to the wall and were on hand along with Deputy Torrance's family members when his name was added to the memorial wall.

## JAIL

### **Overall yearly averages:**

Average Count Essex County Jail 19 per day  
Average Boarded Out Count 16 per day  
(High of 26)

Average "Intermittents"  
2 per day  
(High of 9 per day)

Among these bookings were:

191 Felonies;

260 Misdemeanors;

93 Other charges such as Violations, traffic offenses, Family Court Charges, etc.

## Boarding out

**Cost for overflow inmates for 2003 - \$491,763.00 - Up over 12%**

(Daily average for 2003 - 16 inmates)

The Essex County Sheriff's Department was forced to Board Out overflow inmates in excess of our jail capacity during 2003. For the calendar year of 2003, this amounted to 6,229 "bed days".

**"Out" days include:**

Albany Co. Jail	-	49 Inmates	-	903 days	Albany
Clinton Co. Jail	-	127 Inmates	-	2,089 days	Plattsburgh
Erie Co. Jail	-	3 Inmates	-	6 days	Buffalo
Franklin Co. Jail	-	66 Inmates	-	1,295 days	Malone
Fulton Co. Jail	-	30 Inmates	-	502 days	Johnstown
Jefferson Co. Jail	-	7 Inmates	-	174 days	Watertown
Madison Co. Jail	-	2 Inmates	-	19 days	Wampsville
Montgomery Co. Jail	-	1 Inmate	-	3 days	Fultonville
Oneida Co. Jail	-	1 Inmate	-	48 days	Oriskany
Orange Co. Jail	-	5 Inmates	-	86 days	Goshen
Saratoga Co. Jail	-	5 Inmates	-	234 days	Ballston Spa
Schenectady Co. Jail	-	2 Inmates	-	59 days	Schenectady
Schoharie Co. Jail	-	35 Inmates	-	698 days	Schoharie
St. Lawrence Co. Jail	1	Inmate	-	7 days	Canton
Washington Co. Jail	-	30 Inmates	-	106 days	Fort Edward
<b>15 Facilities</b>		<b>364 Inmates</b>		<b>6,229 days</b>	

***It is of note that Clinton & Franklin County Jails are fast approaching their capacity and we are finding it more frequent that we are unable to board inmates with either jail.***

Bed space in New York is getting to be a premium. On numerous occasions we have had to make calls to over a dozen facilities to find sufficient space to house our overflow inmates with the most extreme being one night of calling 21 different facilities and the Commission of Correction before space was found to accommodate our inmates. This was due to Franklin County being overcrowded with their own inmates and "evicting" our boarded out inmates.

In addition we house out for medical/mental health reasons and locations as follows:

Marcy Psychiatric Center	-	2 Inmates	-	26 days
Hospital Inpatient	-	2 Inmate	-	10 days
<u>Other Mental Health</u>	-	3 Inmate	-	32 days
<b>3 Facilities</b>		<b>7 Inmates</b>		<b>68 days</b>

## **Female inmates**

Female inmates were a large part of the "housing out". 2003 saw **49 female inmates for a total of 1,047 days.**

However, one female inmate was sentenced to 1 year of intermittent incarceration. This means that at least twice per week we were forced to take her to alternate housing and then return 2 days later to return her for release. This created an additional 46 female "entries" into the jail.

## St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Program

St Joseph's Substance Abuse Program has been active in the facility with the services of Nancy Dawson. During 2003, she performed:

63 Evaluations;  
215 Individual sessions;  
95 Group sessions;  
86 Screenings;  
33 Sessions with the Inmate's family;  
29 referrals were made to post release treatment programs  
with 16 following through with the appointments.  
9 transferred to state prison.

## Intermittent Inmates

***Last year, we had an average of 2 intermittent inmates every weekend with a high of 8.***

"Part time" inmates are a continual problem for jails with limited space. In order to allow a defendant to maintain gainful employment or remain in school or college but still satisfy a court ordered sentence, Judges hand down a sentence ordering the defendant to serve specific days in jail and be out for the remainder of the week. While the days to be served can be anything, the most common is reporting to jail on Friday night and serving until Sunday night. These sentences can run up to one year in duration. This means boarding out enough inmates on Friday to make room for these incoming inmates and then returning "our" inmates on Sunday - entailing transportation and overtime costs for both trips.

An average of 2 intermittent inmates per day translates to 730 bed days. These bed days, if all resulted in boarding out inmates translate to a minimum housing cost of almost \$55,000.

Of particular note is one sentence of a female inmate sentenced to 1 year of intermittent imprisonment. This translates to 52 terms of booking her in and transporting her to and from a housing facility requiring a severe drain on resources.

## Medical care

As we are legally obligated to "take and safely keep all inmates legally committed", we occasionally have inmates being hospitalized while committed to the Sheriff's custody. This requires 24 hour guarding of the inmate requiring overtime to accomplish.

***2003 had 2 Inmate hospitalized for 10 days.***

## Mental Health Services

A large part of jail treatment involves Mental Health Services. Essex County Mental Health, via Richard Jack as the primary Jail Contact has evaluated and counseled a high percentage of our jail inmates. Worry over legal issues, family separation, self destructive tendencies and self worth are all very serious concerns to those incarcerated. These concerns can be partially alleviated through an attentive ear and sometimes by just talking things out.

During 2003, Essex County Mental Health made 228 routine contact sessions inmates in the county jail.

Also, inmates come to jail in various states of mental distress. Some inmates exhibit dangerous tendencies to themselves and others and are immediately placed on a constant watch with Mental Health staff alerted. Due to these situations, mental health staff were called 95 times to see inmates in a crisis situation.

## **Inmate Transports**

### **Court Transports**

In 2003, Court, Board and medical transports resulted in the following:

Inmate Housing - 316 transports moved 647 inmates;

(1531 hrs regular paid time and 1,552 Overtime hours)

Justice Courts - 135 transports moved 175 inmates;

(265 hrs regular paid time and 497 overtime hours)

Medical, Prison, Etc

39 transports moved 47 inmates;

(118 hrs regular paid time and 156 overtime hours)

### **Juvenile Transports**

Juvenile transports (under 16 years of age) are always a budgetary drain.

2003: 14 Transports for 14 youths covering 4,255 Miles;  
68  $\frac{1}{2}$  regular staff hours;  
126  $\frac{1}{2}$  overtime staff hours.

Most juvenile transports come on a moments notice and can result in transportation to a local non-secure detention home or to one of the secure facilities anywhere in the state.

### **Transport Totals**

504 transports moved 883 inmates over 81,668 miles requiring 1982  $\frac{1}{2}$  regular time hours and 2331  $\frac{1}{2}$  overtime hours of staff time.

## **"State Inmates"**

State overcrowding is also reflected in our figures as we housed **10 Parole Violators for a period of 659 days** waiting for the return process to be completed and the offender to be returned to the State System.

***This is a 14% increase in housing over last year.***

## **State Ready**

We also have a problem with the holding of inmates between sentencing to a State facility and the actual transportation to prison. The Department of Corrections is under Court order to take these inmates within 10 days, but due to overcrowding, this deadline is not regularly met. When this happens, we receive \$34.00 per day for housing in excess of the statutory 10-day period. **Last year, we held 8 over the statutory 10-day limit.**

In 2003, we held **9 State Ready inmates** for a total of **138 days**.

## **Convicted Felons Sentenced to the County Jail**

Another area of "State" inmates in the county jail is an inmate convicted of and sentenced for a felony, but sentenced to a term of 1 year or less. This results in the inmates doing their time in the county jail without state reimbursement. In 2003, we had **34 of these inmates for a total of 2,349 days** of housing after their sentences.

### **To recap "state" responsible inmates:**

Parole Violators	Average 1.6 per day, high of 4
D & E Felons	Average 4.22 per day, high of 9
State Ready Inmates	Average 0.41 per day, high of 3

## **Jail Incidents & Discipline**

Operating any detention facility is a risky job to the employees. Essex County Jail expects the inmates committed to the jail to live by certain rules and regulations for the safety, security and good order of the facility.

Last year, we had 17 offenses serious enough for formal written Disciplinary charges as well as innumerable minor offenses handled by the officers.

Of these 6 were offenses involving contraband, fighting, unruly behavior, etc.

6 offenses involved fighting with one also involving an injury to an officer.

With the inception of the Direct Supervision housing pod, we are now better able to keep a handle on inmate behaviors and as the inmates are constantly under an officer's supervision, they are not as likely to act out and create situations where discipline is required.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY "BOUNTIES"**

The Social Security Administration has now implemented a program whereby jail incarcerations are matched against Social Security files. In the event we have booked in a recipient of Social Security whose benefits can be terminated due to his/her incarceration, Essex County then receives a \$400 "reward" for this information. In 2003, we identified 2 such offenders and received \$800 for this information.

## **VINE**

### **(Victim Identification and Notification Everyday)**

This program allows anyone to call a toll free number and determine if an offender is in a county jail, NYC lockup or state prison in New York State. If so, the caller can request notification upon the offender's release. Within 15 minutes of the offender's release, the computer will place a call notifying the interested party of the release. This is a completely anonymous computerized service and is free to the user.

While this system is designed for the victim, anyone can utilize the system - District Attorneys, police, press, defense attorneys, courts, virtually anyone with the name of an offender and the interest in knowing the release date.

Through this grant, we are able to provide posters, pamphlets, instructional videotapes, etc to all police agencies in Essex County as well as agencies such as End Domestic Violence, Probation, Mental Health, Hospitals, all courts, etc.

This system made 70 release notification calls in 2003 to notify 7 victims of an offender's release.

## **DNA Indexing**

New York State has implemented a system whereby certain felony offenders are required to provide a sample for DNA indexing. This is to build a database of convicted offenders for future reference where DNA trace evidence is left at a crime scene.

Through this program in 2003, Essex County Jail has identified 1 target convicted offenders in our jail and have harvested and forwarded the necessary biological evidence to the state for inclusion in the register. This brings Essex County's contribution to the register to 31 since the inception of the program.

## **Facility Nurse**

In order to better provide medical care for our inmates, to assist Dr. Herbert Savel and to comply with state requirements, Mary Murphy oversees the medical delivery inside the facility.

Ms. Murphy continues to make a significant impact on services in the jail. Her duties include, but are not limited to:

- testing all inmates for TB;
- medical screening of all incoming inmates;
- supervision of inmate medications;
- oversight of regular "sick call";
- supervision of special medical needs inmates such as diabetics, cardiac patients, post surgical, etc.;
- training of staff in medical areas;
- annual testing of staff for TB;
- inoculation of staff for flu, hepatitis, etc prevention, and;
- work closely with Dr. Savel to insure adequate medical services are provided to the inmate population, thereby reducing liability of the facility.

We are seeing a significant improvement in medical care to inmates primarily in screening of new inmates for medical, mental health and substance abuse cases as well as being referred to appropriate treatment programs to help defer recidivism in these problem areas.

Also with a trained professional working full time in the medical office we are able to better keep a handle on our medication budget through medication management and use of over the counter remedies in place of sometimes very expensive prescriptions.

## **SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY**

The law, which went into effect January 21, 1996 provides for individuals committing a sex crime and convicted after the date of the law's enactment to fall under certain reporting requirements. Sex offenders are classified in 3 levels: Level 1 offenders are the minimum level followed by Level 2 offenders and the highest risk category being Level 3.

Level 1 and 2 offenders are subject to an annual verification of their living address with the State as well as having their information on file with the police. Level 3 offenders are required to report to the appropriate police agency every 90 days and personally verify their address and any other information the police feel pertinent about their employment, living situation.

The New York State Sex Offender Registry makes notifications to the Police Entity having jurisdiction over individuals in the community. This means that in the case of someone living in a town or village with a police department, the PD would get notification.

All other notifications come to the County Sheriff for appropriate filing and action.

The appropriate police agency receiving the offender information is then responsible for making public notification to "vulnerable public entities". The Essex County Sheriff's Department has determined that in this age of easy transportation, any and all agencies such as schools - both public and private, nursing homes, day care providers, hospitals, Family Counseling agencies, Summer Camps, Senior help agencies will be notified. In addition, we share our offender information with neighboring County Sheriff Departments as well as all police agencies within the county. This translates to a mailing list of almost 50 agencies.

At the present time, the Essex County Sheriff's Department has:

8 Level 3 Offenders;  
27 Level 2 Offenders;  
27 Level 1 Offenders on file.

This office also routinely receives reports of offenders who have failed to register as required by state law. When we receive a report, we assign an officer to investigate and most failures result in a Misdemeanor arrest for a minimum of Failure To Register and can also include the misdemeanor of Failure to Change Address.

## **PATROL**

**In total, the Essex County Sheriff's Department logged over 250,000 (1/4 million) miles on patrol vehicles in 2003.**

During 2003, this department received 61 **Arrest Warrants** for execution. These warrants were for individuals anywhere in the state or country. As of January, 26 of these warrants were closed through arrests, vacated by the courts or otherwise withdrawn. The 35 outstanding warrants are still in process of locating the defendant/respondents or when located have been filed with other agencies awaiting the defendant to be available for arrest. Some are out of the state or country, others have moved and the whereabouts are unknown, still others are located in other counties in New York State and we are at the mercy of their Warrant Squads to make the arrest and turn them over to us.

Our patrols accomplished **134 arrests** during 2003. These were Family Court Warrants as well as criminal offenses ranging from felonies down to violations. Our patrols also issued **645 Uniform Traffic Tickets**.

These patrols also investigated numerous motor vehicle accidents. Of these, 13 were serious enough, either in physical injury or property damage for formal written investigations.

As a police agency, this department also logs incidents. An incident is a term given to any type of complaint, response or action. We logged **205 incident** for last year. Our incidents ranged from citizen assists, to stranded motorists, lockouts from cars and houses, prowler complaints, missing children, suspicious vehicles, loud parties, animal complaints, alarms, etc.

Also, in these incidents are assists to other agencies such as Police, Ambulance squads and assisting in the search for escapees such as the one from New York State Department of Corrections Shock Camp Moriah and Federal Correctional Institute Ray Brook in past years.

The remainders of the incidents range from domestic disputes and family offenses to alcohol complaints, DWI, traffic complaints, Burglary, dangerous drugs, vehicular accidents, etc.

One particularly noteworthy complaint involved an armed domestic violence situation. The male party, after becoming irate and hostile at home, took a handgun and entered a wooded area behind the residence. We immediately mobilized as many officers as possible and were on scene in minutes. The Essex County Sheriff's Department spent many hours in this search both in the woods, on the highway and setting up observation posts at potential exits from the area. This subject was subsequently taken into custody later that night without incident and incarcerated in jail.

Also included in our duties are security for special events and visits by dignitaries. Some noteworthy events during 2003 were:

- Buckle Up New York Seat Belt enforcement;
- ISUZU Ironman Triathlon, Lake Placid;
- Adirondack Marathon, Schroon Lake;

**Grants received and utilized by this department:**

- Buckle Up New York \$ 9,715
- Child Passenger Safety Seat Program \$ 6,500
- Impaired Driving Enforcement \$ 5,236
- Aggressive Driving Enforcement \$12,900
- D.C.J.S. Funding for Narcotic enforcement overtime and equipment upgrades - pending.
- Stop D.W.I. Grant \$20,000

## **NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT**

The year 2003 saw the Essex County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Officers forming the Essex County Drug Task Force. The Task Force is made up of various Law Enforcement agencies of the State and Federal Governments.

During the past year, surveillance and assistance from the public lead to the harvest of 1,577 marihuana plants. These plants had a street value of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. With more investigation and the public's help, we hope we can continue to eradicate as many plants as possible before they are distributed on the streets.

In 2003: the Task Force executed 4 search warrants as well as seizing:

- 5.5 oz of Crack Cocaine;
- 75.11 lbs of process marijuana;
- 2.5 oz of psilocybin;
- Countless narcotic pills;
- 1 illegal handgun.

During 2003, while assisting the U.S. Border Patrol at North Hudson, the Narcotics Unit made over 20 arrests for illegal drugs. In one of those cases, several motorists stopped to report a car backing up the Northway at a high rate of speed. After obtaining a description of the vehicle, members fanned out on the Northway as well as Route 9. A short time later, the car was observed coming out of a sand pit on Route 9 in North Hudson. Upon checking the vehicle, it was found to contain 66 pounds of high grade Canadian hydroponic marihuana. The two subjects who were in the vehicle were taken into custody and eventually pled guilty to the charges.

Another interesting case came about after the Department installed a toll free crime and drug tip line. The very first caller advised that a Lake Placid resident was growing marihuana in a shed behind his house. Upon interviewing the subject, he stated that he did not have any plants and that he did not do drugs. After being told the information that was received, he said "I'm pretty sure I know who told you, come on I'll unlock the shed so you don't break the door" He was subsequently arrested for cultivating marihuana and possession. He also entered guilty pleas to the charges.

During the past year, 71 new cases were opened and 45 cases were closed by arrest. Many cases are being actively pursued from the past year as well as 2002 cases.

## **NYSPIN**

Another tool that the Sheriff's Department utilizes in both the field of Corrections and Law Enforcement is the *New York State Police Information Network* computer terminal.

Every one of the 553 inmates booked into the jail has a criminal history printout from this system included in their file.

It is an automatic part of booking so that we are better informed on the type of individual that we are handling.

Also, we are the source for printouts for criminal histories for other departments authorized to access this information. During 2003, we also ran:

**377 for County Clerk Pistol Permit background checks.**

**54 Checks for Local Fire Departments concerning applicant's criminal history backgrounds (specifically Arson convictions)**

## **DISPATCH**

Essex County Sheriff's Department is also responsible for dispatching of Emergency Equipment in the county. These calls can range from a single ambulance dispatch to a multiple fire department mutual aid. Time involved can be as little as 20 minutes for a very simple call to tying up 2 or 3 men for an entire shift for a major incident such as flooding, forest fire, major structure fire, etc..

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 saw the advent of our Dispatch receiving cellular calls at our offices. These calls come from any phones in the receiving area and while most are legitimate Essex County calls, we frequently receive calls for assistance in other counties and even Vermont. These calls get transferred to the appropriate authority without delay, but with the ease of cell phones, more citizens are reporting more events and it is not uncommon to receive up to a dozen or more calls on the same incident. This ties up not only the dispatcher but another member as well so that the dispatch is not delayed.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup> - 944 calls.

July 1<sup>st</sup> - Dec 31<sup>st</sup> - 2,092 calls.

The Essex County dispatch office also has been listed as a call number for such other functions as jury duty and civil service testing in the event of cancellations. This also ties up a dispatcher for long periods on the occasion of bad weather or before a jury trial.

In addition, we are the after hours on-call and message/relay center for such county services as:

- Emergency fuel assistance;
- Child abuse on-call workers;
- Red Cross assistance;
- Arson investigators;

## CIVIL

By law, the Sheriff is the designated official in the County to affect the service of civil process, execute court mandated orders such as evictions, seize property ranging from vehicles to bank accounts, cash register contents, land and property, etc and conduct sales to raise funds necessary to satisfy court ordered judgments.

Total Monies Handled	\$574,983.13
Collected on behalf of Creditors	\$242,479.29
Essex County Civil Revenue	\$ 34,461.35
Bail Processed	\$270,725.00
Fines Collected	\$ 19,391.07

Any civil, Family Court, Grand Jury or trial action requires notification of the people involved. This notification comes in the form of a civil summons, subpoena, summons and petition, etc. These are the documents that the Sheriff is charged with serving. As you can imagine, people in serious legal difficulties are not easily found. We find that the services contain the address at the time of the incident and the people have moved numerous times since. This requires a large amount of time and resources to locate and serve the documents or take the mandated action necessary to satisfy the court order. Unfortunately, when the economy slumps, our business soars as credit and monies are not available and people are forced to default on their obligations.

Summons Served	938
New Collection Orders	241

## COURT SECURITY

As a part of our contract with the Unified Court System, we were reimbursed for services rendered on behalf of our part-time court attendants. This **reimbursement for 2003 totaled \$203,016.60.**

2003 saw Essex County Court System handling hundreds of Supreme and County Court appearances with **9 jury trials** as well as thousands of Family Court and Support Enforcement cases and appearances.

In 2003, excluding employees and Officers of the Courts, a total of over **52,800** visitors passed through the security desk in the lobby of the building.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

Unfortunately, this program was discontinued at the end of 2003, but during its run, we were a vital presence in the following schools for both the SRO program and D.A.R.E.:

Willsboro;

Westport;

Keene;

Crown Point;

Minerva;

Schroon Lake;

Ticonderoga Elementary;

St. Mary's;

Newcomb;

Moriah;

The D.A.R.E. program teaches a 17 week curriculum of recognition and resistance to pressures that influence drug use. This program is operating in Minerva, Schroon Lake, Ticonderoga, Willsboro, Westport, Keene & Crown Point, St. Mary's and Newcomb.

While active, the SRO program taught all facets of safety in the schools. Some of the many areas are:

- Fatal Vision Goggles (simulate intoxicated vision);
- Driver safety & issues;
- Performed simulated traffic stops so that students are not automatically afraid of police stops and know what to expect;
- Public speaker for police issues;
- Security at school functions such as Prom nights and big sports events;
- Monitor school bus safety especially for passing stopped school busses;

- Performed security checks of school properties;
- Member of safety committees for schools;
- Arrests of criminal complaints within the school, among these arrests were:
  - Possession of alcohol by a minor;
  - Traffic tickets for passing school bus;
  - Arrests for criminal mischief;
  - Aggravated harassment;
  - Forcible touching;
  - Bad checks.

Another function of these officers is that 2 are certified car seat technicians. This means that they are trained in the installation and use of child car seats. During 2003, 156 car seats were checked with 76 being replaced due to the current seat being unsafe. Of the 156 checked only 21 were installed correctly. This entire program is funded by grants and new car seats are provided to the public free of charge as a safety measure for the children.

