

Niagara County Sheriff's Office roundup

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office and its Communications Center reported on the following activity over the past week by NCSO deputies:

•On Thursday, Aug. 18, deputies responded to a report a motor vehicle accident on Shawnee Road in the Town of Wheatfield that took the life of a bicyclist. The victim was later identified as David Meisenburg of the Town of Wheatfield.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation by the NCSO Accident Investigation Unit.

•On Friday, Aug. 19, Niagara County Dispatch was notified by a boater in the Lower Niagara River off Youngstown of a body found floating in the waters. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard responded to the call and transported the deceased individual from the water to Coast Guard Station Niagara at Fort Niagara State Park in Youngstown.

Those having any information

on the incident are asked to contact NCSO Investigator Hetrick at 716-438-3355.

•On Saturday, Aug. 20, deputies received a 911 call of a boating accident on Lake Ontario at the rear of an address on the 4500 block of E. Lake Road in the Town of Wilson. NCSO deputies and members of the Wilson and South Wilson fire companies responded and provided recitation assistance to a female party who was injured in the incident.

The female, identified as Ria E. Vannoort, 32, Canfield, Ontario, Canada, was taken by ambulance to Eastern Niagara Lockport Hospital where she was pronounced dead a short time later.

According to NCSO, an initial investigation by deputies found the female was attending a party at the listed residence and operating a personal watercraft offshore in the lake. Attendees at the gathering said the female had become dismounted from the watercraft and was seen floating in the lake.

The woman was placed onto a second vessel by attendees and returned to shore

An investigation into the incident by the NCSO Criminal Investigation Bureau and Marine Unit is continuing.

•On Sunday, Aug. 21, NCSO deputies responded to a hit and run accident call in the vicinity of Porter Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard in the Town of Niagara.

Initial reports found a vehicle went through a median, resulting in damage to multiple signs. NCSO deputies proceeded to canvass the area and located a 2021 Chevy Silverado pickup in the rear lot at 10225 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Deputies determined a female had driven the vehicle. She was also found to be operating the vehicle with her four children, all under age 16, inside as passengers.

Standard Field Sobriety Testing was then performed on the woman, who was deemed to have

failed all tests according to the NCSO report. The woman was also offered a breath-screening device, which showed positive results for the presence of alcohol.

As a result of the NCSO investigation, the woman was charged with driving while intoxicated; aggravated driving while intoxicated as a Leandra's Law offense; four counts of endangering the welfare of a child; and multiple other vehicle/traffic infractions.

•On Tuesday, Aug. 23, NCSO deputies responded to a motor vehicle fatality involving a dirt bike and a pickup truck that occurred on Youngstown-Lockport Road in the Town of Wilson. On Wednesday, Aug. 24, NCSO identified the deceased driver of the 2016 Kawasaki dirt bike as David K. Freatman, age 19, of Ransomville.

An investigation by the NCSO Accident Investigation Unit into the incident is continuing.

In other announcements:

•The Niagara County Sheriff's Office announced the third annual

Niagara County 911 Memorial Stair Climb would take place at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at Whirlpool State Park/Niagara Scenic Parkway in Niagara Falls.

The community is welcome to join first responders as they climb the park trails in memory of the heroes who lost their lives attempting to save others within the Twin Towers in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

Registration for the event is \$20, which includes a T-shirt and bottled water. All proceeds go to benefit the Tunnel for Towers Foundation. For more information, visit the NCSO page on Facebook.

•The NCSO reminds residents who may be intending to sell, give or provide an animal for adoption that they are required to consult the county's animal abuse registry before transferring their care in Niagara County. For more information, visit <https://www.niagarasheriff.com/animalAbuseRegistry>.

20th annual Technology and Cybersecurity Forum set for September

Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh recently announced the 20th annual Technology & Cybersecurity Forum will be held Sept. 20.

A press release stated, "The forum has been Western New York's leading technology event for the last two decades, featuring

cybersecurity/technology vendor displays, educational sessions, and nationally recognized speakers."

The event, put on by Niagara County Information Technology in conjunction with InfoTech WNY and InfraGard, attracts more than 350 attendees each year. InfraGard is a partnership between

the Federal Bureau of Investigation and members of the private sector for the protection of U.S. Critical Infrastructure.

"The forum will address how the security industry is using today's rapidly changing technology to drive productivity, comply with regulatory requirements,

and adapt to converging markets, products and investors," Wydysh said. "We are excited to once again host the forum after it was canceled the last two years due to the pandemic."

Registration is open for vendors who wish to participate in the event. Interested applicants

should contact Niagara County Information Technology at 716-439-7043 or email techforum@niagara-county.com.

Registration for attendees will open next month. The event will be held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is free for attendees.

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