

From the Bench to Office of Sheriff

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Giardino earned his college degrees from Siena College and Albany Law School, where he graduated in 1984. After law school Giardino was hired as an Assistant District Attorney in Nassau County. In 1986, he returned to Fulton County as an Assistant District Attorney. In 1991, he ran for District Attorney. He was elected D.A. in a primary and became the second youngest District Attorney in the State. He was re-elected in 1995. In 1996, he was appointed by Governor Pataki as a County Court Judge and Surrogate. He ran and was elected twice to that position, serving 18 years. He also served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice.

Giardino is the only person in New York State history that could be found to have served in all three positions.

When describing his various positions, the Sheriff says that the district attorney position allowed for a tremendous amount of discretion and offered the opportunity to do the right thing.

During law school, Giardino served as a part-time police officer in a village in Fulton County, for the Sheriff's Office. He is pictured here as a young police officer with his sister and cousin.



"I sent violent criminals to prison and gave first time offenders the opportunity to reform," he said.

In the judgeship, Giardino had to put his personal opinions in check. However, as Sheriff, he says that he is able to speak up on issues and be a voice for his constituents.

In 2019, Sheriff Giardino was presented with the Honorable Anthony V. Cardona Award by the Capital Regional Italian-American Bar Association, which honors contributions to the legal profession. Former state Supreme Court Justice Richard Aulisi presented the award.

His time as a judge was marked by an easygoing, conversational style, which he credits to his parents. His father was a pediatrician, while his mother was active in politics and their church.

"I take my positions very seriously, but I don't take myself too seriously," the Sheriff said. "I try to make others feel comfortable and my favorite saying reminds me that my worse days are better than most people's best days."

Sheriff Giardino grew up with his three brothers and sister in Gloversville, a small town in the state's Mohawk Valley region, and attended Gloversville High School. Gloversville is the largest town in Fulton County, which has a population of 55,000. The area is located at the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains and is considered part of the state's Capital District, surrounding Albany.

As teenager, he enjoyed reading old legal briefs and transcripts that his Godfather, Attorney Charlie Caputo, gave him.

"That's when I got the bug for the law," he says. "I liked law

enforcement and respected police so I went to law school with the intent of becoming an FBI agent."

While in college and law school Giardino served as a part-time police officer in a village in Fulton County, for the Sheriff's Office and spent a summer in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. In 2014, this longtime Fulton County Court Judge serving the state's 4th Judicial District retired from the bench to run for Fulton County Sheriff.

"I wanted to retire while I was still young enough to do something else, and still serve the people of Fulton County," Giardino said.

Sheriff Giardino was first elected as the Fulton County Sheriff in 2015 and then re-elected in 2019, receiving 87 percent of the vote in the general election. He appreciates the people of Fulton County – a place where he was born and raised—and says that they have "always been very good to me."

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office has five Divisions, 145 full and part time employees and covers over 500 square miles serving 55,000 residence County-wide.

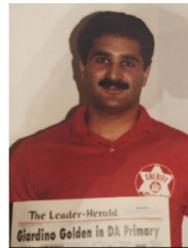
Sheriff Giardino has also served as a Drug Treatment Court Judge, the first in the 11 county Fourth Judicial District, and 7th in New York commencing in 1997. He tried over 200 cases including over 40 murder or attempted murder cases.

He was an adjunct instructor in Trial Tactics at Albany Law School, a 30-year criminal justice instructor at the local community college, he has lectured statewide on Drug Courts and he has been a New York State certified general topics instructor in law enforcement since 1990.

Giardino has served on the Board of the local Chamber of Commerce, as Fulton County's first Domestic Violence Task Force Chairman and was the Co-Chair of a local task force on the Quality of Life and Teen Violence.

Sheriff Giardino has served as a Gloversville volunteer firefighter for 22 years.

For more information on the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, visit www.fultoncountyny.gov/sheriffs-office or Fulton County Sheriff's office New York on Facebook.



Sheriff Giardino seen here holding a copy of The Leader-Herald newspaper announcing his win as Fulton County District Attorney in 1991.

Supporting Crime Victims

The New York State Sheriffs' Institute supports crime victims through www.Sheriff-Assist.org.



NEW YORK STATE SHERIFFS' INSTITUTE, INC.
27 Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207-1002

Thank You Hobie Cat Fleet 204

Sailing is one of the most exciting activities the kids experience each summer at the New York Sheriffs' Institute Summer Camp. In a summer, where that wasn't possible, the New York State Sheriff's Institute was so appreciative to have hosted visitors from Hobie Cat Fleet 204 out of Syracuse to help camp staff and counselors learn more about sailboats and how to maintain its fleet.

The sports club, which has a pair of members who have placed 9th in world sailing competition, also had members donate funds and sailboats, including a new Hobie 16 from the Krupke family, that will provide much enjoyment for campers.

Hobie Cat Fleet 204 is based on Oneida Lake and made up of people from around the Syracuse and Central New York area. Fleet 204 received its charter in 1976, and has hosted a Hobie Regatta known as Madcatter the weekend before Memorial Day each May.

During mid-July, members of Hobie Cat Fleet 204 trained camp counselors and staff on how to best fix and maintain its boats. The staff gained outstanding skills and knowledge, which they put in to practice by fixing the camp's fleet of sailboats and sails. The staff was even able to participate in a sailing training session on Oneida Lake with the club.

Three members of Hobie Cat Fleet 204 gave Hobies to the camp, including the "Betty II" Hobie 16 sailboat donated to the camp in loving memory of Bruce Krupke. Bruce was an avid sailor with Hobie Cat Fleet 204 and loved teaching sailing to new people. He passed away last March. Another member of the fleet also gave a \$1,000 grant to purchase Hobie supplies at cost.

On its Facebook referring to its visit to the Sheriffs' Camp, Hobie Cat Fleet 204 wrote, "To teach the love of sailing that keeps us all coming back for more." Undoubtedly, this knowledge will strengthen the camp's sailing program for many years to come. Thank you to Hobie Cat Fleet 204 and to the Krupke family for starting this ripple.

For more information about Hobie Cat Fleet 204, visit <http://www.fleet204.com/>.



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WINTER 2021

From the Bench to Office of Sheriff Fulton County's Richard Giardino is Honored to Serve

When New York State Andrew Governor Cuomo put in place a Thanksgiving Executive Order in November limiting indoor gatherings of more than 10 people at private residences, Fulton County Sheriff Richard C. Giardino pushed back. He appeared in regional and national media, stating that his agency would not be enforcing it against the Fulton County residents, citing that an executive order is unconstitutional and not a law in the sense that there are no penalties attached and you can't be arrested.

"Frankly, I am not sure it could sustain a constitutional challenge in court for several reasons including your house is your castle," said Sheriff Giardino. "I trust people in Fulton County to use their own judgement on whom and how many people they invite and urge people to use wear masks and social distance."

The Sheriff went on to say that there are limited resources with three patrol cars per shift covering a 500 square mile area and he needed to set priorities, so obtaining a search warrant to enter a person's home and monitoring family dinners aren't a priority.

This isn't the first time, the Sheriff has been outspoken with criticism of statewide policing policies. In November 2019, the New York State Legislature passed a bill that would



Sheriff Richard Giardino is the only person in New York State history to have served as District Attorney, Judge and Sheriff.

Top right photo: A local Fulton County family drops thank you cards off to Sheriff Giardino and his staff.



severely limit the ability of judges to set cash bail as a condition of release for people charged with crimes. Sheriff Giardino challenged the governor's approach and said it was created with very little input from law enforcement and would create unimaginable risks for public safety.

At the time, he shared an opinion piece that said, "We are in support of reforms that will actually improve the criminal justice system, but cannot in good conscious support reforms that are actually harmful to the public we serve."

Last summer, he also appeared on the Fox News Network program America's Newsroom with host Sandra Smith where he provided commentary around statewide police reforms and reaction to the disrespect police are experiencing across America.

"I think an attack on police is an attack on society," said Sheriff Giardino. "The police officers are given the authority to keep the peace and do public safety and we have a lot of issues going on right now that are dividing the country. The divide in this country is the widest and deepest it's ever been.

A true dialogue must include a discussion of both prejudice and racism. It is wrong to make broad generalizations about Black people based on our prejudices or implicit bias, or the conduct of a few. It is also wrong to make broad generalizations about the police because of a few bigoted, morally corrupt individuals who shouldn't be police officers."

Sheriff Giardino has a strong point of view and a deep bench of knowledge when it comes to the law. That's likely because at one time he was the bench, serving for more than 30 years as a Prosecutor and a Judge serving in Courtrooms across the State.

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A Different Kind of Summer Camp

For more than 30 years, the New York State Sheriffs' Camp has welcomed hundreds of kids from every county across the state each summer for a camp experience on the shores of Keuka Lake.

It's a place where boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 12 fish, swim and sail, while making friends, gaining confidence and forging positive relationships with law enforcement. Year after year, these kids, who for economic reasons would not have an opportunity to attend a summer camp or enjoy a summer vacation, have this experience at no cost to their families due to generous donations by people across the state.

In a normal summer, 800 kids would come to camp over the course of six weeks. Some would learn to swim for the first time. Some would find the Friday night campfire as their favorite thing. They'd pick up "Y" sticks—sticks shaped like the letter "Y" on the ground that are the same shape as Keuka Lake—and dedicate them to a friend, counselor or staff member who made their week memorable and special.

2020 was different.

It was different for many in so many ways. For the people who support this camp and who work with the children, it was a very different kind of camp season. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there could be no kids at camp. No field days. No luaus.

What did remain the same, however, was an enduring dedication by staff, law enforcement and community to keep making camp special. On this off year, these people worked together to update and improve the camp ground and facilities so that when campers come back, it will be better than ever.

In an update to the New York State Sheriffs' Institute, long-time Camp Director Dave Sherman, said "We deeply missed the campers, but it was an extraordinarily successful summer that will brighten our future."

This summer's camp staff worked all six weeks, extensive cleaning, painting and improving camp programs. They re-enacted and participated in nearly every activity that takes place during the

summer. Each activity was reviewed and new ideas developed for future evolution of popular camp activities, such as Project Adventure, Field Games, Skits, Ice Breakers, the Friday picnic and 6-mile hike to local landmark Garret Chapel. Many of the activities were videotaped and will be made available for training future staff.

Law enforcement officers from several counties, along with community support, donated time, materials and carpentry skills. They made a difference by building decks, installing gutters and replaced rotting walls. Others painted more than 25 cabins, recreations spaces and the dining hall, as well as pressure washed and sealed decks.

A stove donated from a church in Broome County was installed, along with a new convection oven. Deputies from Cattaraugus County Sheriff Office replaced the roof on the rec room porch. They also serviced the dryers. Cracks in the basketball court were filled and the court was sealed and painted through donations from the Genesee County Deputies Association.

Cracks in the rec room floor were addressed, and plumbing was updated. The Bruderhof Schools in Ulster County has donated the camp truck and dishwasher in the past. This year, they sent their 7th grade class and staff members to camp for their field trip, where they helped clean cabins and put equipment into storage for the winter.

The camp staff also spent a considerable amount of time strengthening their water skills – Sailing, Canoeing, Kayaking and Paddle boarding. Fifteen staff passed the Red Cross lifeguard course and everyone practiced the lost swimmer drill. They also worked on the fundamentals of the Staff Handbook.

Special thanks to Delaware County Deputy Sheriff Ladd Dawson, Dutchess County Deputy Sheriff Jeff Cohen, Livingston County Investigator Gene Chichester, Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Todd Thurston, Schenectady County Correctional Officer Shawn Hawkins, Seneca County Captain Roger Ward, Ulster County Sergeant Stuart McKenzie, and Delhi University Facilities Director Chris Harper. Gratitude is also extended to the entire camp staff, including Andres and Caroline Bucci, Tim Doughty, Dan Hand and Tony Lodico.

The New York State Sheriffs and Camp Director Sherman offer a heartfelt thank you for the continued support. Everyone is excited to welcome campers back next summer!



A Year of Community Connection

Local Sheriff's Officers in all counties throughout New York State are an integral part of the communities in which they live and serve. Most Sheriff's Offices share their own community news online. Please check their websites and other social media channels for updates all year long.



When Covid-19 closed schools this spring, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office School Resource Deputies still safely visited children at their homes and spoke to many by phone. Deputy Sheriff Rebecca Kane got an unexpected surprise during one visit—Cleo the goat tried to steal her patrol car!



Haleigh met Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Hanlon at the Sheriff's Summer Camp last year and formed a good relationship. When Haleigh's youth group was discussing their community service project, Haleigh immediately suggested Dep. Hanlon and the team at the MCSO. Haleigh and her mom Krystle dropped off over 60 goodie bags, making sure to include everyone at the C Zone Victim's Wellness and Advocate Center.



During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Broome County Sheriff's Officers wore purple masks to show support for crime victims and their families. Law Enforcement in the county responds to more than 550 domestic incidents each month. The Broome County Crime Victims Assistance Center helps victims on a daily basis to provide support, resources and tools to stay safe.



Welcome New Director of Victim Notification Services

Earlier this year, Jaymes W. Hurley joined the New York State Sheriff's Institute (NYSSI) as the Director of Victim Notification Services. This is a new position created after the retirement of long-time, dedicated victim service leaders Ed Wutzer and Ron Bill at the NYSSI.

Jaymes is a former Lieutenant in the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in Syracuse where he served as the Commander of the Civil Division. He also serves as an Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and has been deployed/recalled in support of different operations, including Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

In his role as the Director of Victim Notification Services, Jaymes will work alongside victim advocacy groups, law enforcement and the court system to provide support to crime victims through the Institute's victim service programs. Empire Sheriffs' Brief staff spoke with Jaymes about the importance of supporting crime victims and how that's best achieved by a collaborative effort with a shared goal: victim safety.

ESB: Why is a collaborative effort needed to keep crime victims safe?

JH: There are several pieces that need to work together to keep crime victims safe, including support by advocates, law enforcement and the court system. With services, such as Order of Protection Notification and Inmate Release Notification, law enforcement can share timely and accurate information that will help victims activate their safety plans.

ESB: Can you tell us more about these Victim Notification Services?

JH: Our services focus on getting information to victims to help keep them safe. The Order of Protection Notification system alerts crime victims when an order of protection has been served to their offender. The Inmate Release Notification system, which is powered by the national VINE program, alerts crime victims if their perpetrator has been moved or released from prison. People can also proactively track inmates and know their whereabouts at all times. We also offer a resource center for crime victims to be able to identify organizations within their county and state that can help them.

ESB: Why is it important for a crime victim to have a safety plan?

JH: Crime victims have often experienced very dangerous and scary situations and their offenders may or may not be in jail. It's important for crime victims to work with advocates to make sure they have a plan for their safety. "What to do if..." and "What to do when..." are scenarios advocates will help crime victims prepare for. Part of a crime victim's safety plan should be alerts and systems that give them access to information about their perpetrator's whereabouts and status of their order of protection.

ESB: How do these programs help law enforcement keep crime victims safe?

JH: One of the things that law enforcement struggles with is that at times our role can feel limited in terms of supporting the victim after an arrest or order of protection is served. However, these

programs allow us an opportunity to continue to support crime victims beyond these steps. We can make sure to help keep them safe throughout a difficult time by feeding them information they need and give them peace of mind.

ESB: What role does technology play here?

JH: With these victim notification alerts, people can immediately receive notification on their phones and other devices. Statistics tell us the first 45 minutes after an order of protection is served is when the highest probability for retaliation exists because emotions are heightened. Feelings of anger and revenge can lead to dangerous situations. I can tell you firsthand that when an offender is served an order of protection, more often than not it's stemmed from family court, and it comes as a surprise. Even though in most cases the victim is not present, you worry that it will instigate or trigger something. Without these alerts, a perpetrator could be served while the victim is at work and when they get home unknowingly walk into a hostile situation. With these alerts, we can text, call and email the victim the information they need to know to keep themselves and their kids safe.

ESB: When do crime victims sign up for these notification services?

JH: In order to take advantage of these alerts, we have to make sure that crime victims are registering for them. In the case of an order of protection, we strongly encourage victims to sign up once they receive their family court order. It's a quick, free online registration and they can manage their profile online. The inmate release alerts can be registered for at any time. Often victims and their family and friends will sign up as soon as the perpetrator is sentenced to prison. Signups for both alert systems can be accessed at www.sheriff-assist.org.

ESB: What lessons did you learn in the military that apply now?

JH: When I was in the military, I was surrounded by people from all over the country. Some were like me and some were different. Often, I found the best relationships were formed when you could grow together to accomplish something together. In this new role, I'm most looking forward to working alongside advocacy groups to build trust and achieve our common goals around victim services. We may have different roles and perspectives, but can help one another help crime victims feel safe. We can protect them better together.

ESB: Do you live by a guiding principle?

JH: I always try to be on the right side of things the best I can and truly want to leave things better than the way I found it. What I appreciate about the NYSSI Victim Notification Systems is that through talking with crime victims, advocates and law enforcement, I can see the difference it makes.



We can't reach... can you step up?

The peaks of some camp buildings were unable to be painted during the summer, as a tall ladder is needed for the job.

If you are able to help donate this item to the NYS Sheriffs' Camp, please contact us at Dsherman@stny.rr.com or 518 434 9091