



## ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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*Grady M. Hartman*  
Sheriff

*Daniel L. Hess*  
Chief Deputy



### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – December 11, 2017

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office has recently become a Project Lifesaver member agency. There are numerous other member agencies throughout northern Wisconsin to include Vilas County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and Langlade County Sheriff's Office. Project Lifesaver is a non-profit organization that assists law enforcement in implementing a program to assist citizens with cognitive conditions who may wander. Citizens with cognitive disorders such as autism, Alzheimer's, or dementia who may wander from their homes as well as their families may benefit from the program. The program requires persons participating in the program to wear a device that would allow them to be located if they were to become missing.

There have been several instances this year involving Oneida County citizens that have caused Sheriff Grady Hartman to believe the implementation of the program in Oneida County was essential to the protection of citizens of Oneida County. Sheriff Hartman began the process in early 2017. After acceptance by Project Lifesaver, member agencies purchase the initial starter equipment and then attend basic operator's training. The training includes how to use the equipment as well as a basic understanding of cognitive conditions to better comprehend the behaviors of individuals with these cognitive conditions.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Team has been forming throughout the year. A committee of citizens that work with or have family members with cognitive disorders has formed to review applications for those who wish to participate in the program. Personnel from the Sheriff's Office have been training throughout the summer and fall on how to use the locating equipment. The team is now ready to assist families in keeping their loved ones safe.

If you or someone you know is in need of this program, please contact Emergency Management Director Ken Korten Hof at 715-361-5167. There is a cost for the purchase of the locator and the batteries, which must be changed on a monthly basis. There is outside funding that can be used for those who qualify.

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