

# **DEPUTIES TRY OUT FOR SHERIFF'S DIVE TEAM**

## *Marine, Dive units strengthen emergency preparedness*

**Wednesday, April 24** -- Deputies from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office will take to the water Thursday (April 25) in Brownstown Township as they try out for two openings on the 10-member Sheriff's Dive Team.

The applicants will be tested on their swimming ability, comfort level in water and related skills. Sgt. Mike Wasil, head of the Dive Team, will conduct the tryouts at the Brownstown Middle School pool.

The Dive Team is responsible for the recovery of drowning victims and evidence from crimes throughout the county. It also assists the U.S. Border Patrol in Homeland Security issues along the U.S. – Canada border. Officers are assigned on a part-time basis. Divers have assisted police in Westland and Brownstown Township this year.

Under Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon's leadership, the Marine Unit and Dive Team are key responders for Wayne County's emergency preparedness. The Marine Unit patrols all waters in the county, including the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and Belleville Lake.

Officers are trained to operate powerboats for patrol and rescue and conduct accident investigation. Last year, the Sheriff's Marine Unit helped close the waterways on the Detroit River following bomb threats at the Ambassador Bridge and Windsor Tunnel. The majority of officers are assigned on a seasonal basis.

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