



Warren C. Evans
Sheriff

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Operation LASSO targets suburban sex offenders

◆ ***Sheriff Evans and local law enforcement keep offenders honest, arrest those who aren't***

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office and Westland Police Department, along with a team of local suburban, State and Federal law enforcement agencies have joined together to for the first ever **Operation LASSO**, an effort to arrest sex offenders wanted on felony warrants and make those on probation or parole are playing by the rules, Sheriff Warren C. Evans announced today.

Operation LASSO, which stands for *Locating And Securing Sex Offenders*, has targeted nearly 300 registered sex offenders on active parole and probation, as well as more than 200 individuals who have felony sex crime related warrants issued for their arrest. Operation LASSO is geared specifically towards the county's suburban communities, while a similar effort took place in the city of Detroit last month.

"Unfortunately, history has shown that this is a specific criminal population that requires intensive supervision because they tend to re-offend more frequently," said Evans. "It's up to us in the law enforcement community to remain vigilant and to use all of the resources at our disposal, to protect citizens."

During the first two days of the three day operation, officers arrested 42 individuals on felony warrants, many of them including Criminal Sexual Conduct (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th degree) and failing to register as a sex offender at a new address, which is a maximum four-year felony. A portion of that number included arrests made when officers, in the course of their investigations, encountered individuals wanted on unrelated felony warrants.



Among the sex offenders arrested was **Larry Shortridge**, 32, of Redford, who was wanted on a probation violation warrant stemming from a 2006 conviction for assault with intent to rape. According to investigators' reports, Shortridge had tried to force himself upon his adult female victim, who was able to break free and escape. The offense occurred in the city of Taylor. Shortridge also had two prior drunken driving convictions on his record.

"It's important for these offenders, and the public at large, to understand that each police agency involved in this operation is taking a proactive approach here," said Westland Police Chief James Ridener.

"By making these types of arrests, we may be preventing future victimization from occurring."

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Officers also arrested **Charlie Yeary**, 30, of Canton, who is registered as a sex offender in Canton, but was found living at a new address in Ypsilanti. He faces a new felony charge and up to four years in prison.

Deputies and Michigan Department of Corrections agents that make up the Sheriff's Spot Check Unit also conducted unannounced visits to the homes of registered sex offenders on active parole and probation to make sure they were in compliance with the terms of their supervised release.

While most were found to be in compliance, deputies did find several significant violations, which included the possession of pornographic materials, which is strictly forbidden for all such offenders. In the first two days of the operation, Spot Check officers visited nearly 200 homes and 18 of the targets were found to be in significant violation of their probation, which will result in requests for arrest warrants.

"At the home of one sex offender, we found 12 sexually explicit DVD movies and at another home, we found pornographic material on the person's computer," Evans said. "This clearly indicates the compulsive nature of most sex offenders to continue their behavior, which is the very reason we created Operation LASSO in the first place."

Other agencies participating in Operation LASSO are:

- United States Marshals Service
- Michigan Department of Corrections
- Michigan State Police
- Canton Township Police Department
- Livonia Police Department
- Melvindale Police Department
- Northville Township Police Department
- Plymouth Township Police Department
- Redford Police Department
- Taylor Police Department
- Wayne Police Department