



## **Yates County Sheriff's Office**

**Penn Yan, New York 14527**

**Ronald G. Spike, Sheriff**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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#### **YATES COUNTY SHERIFF LAUNCHES 'YATES TIPS' APP**

*This is a free app that allows residents to send anonymous crime or drug tips directly to law enforcement from their smart phone*

"Crime and Drug Tips for all police in Yates County can now be sent anonymously 24X7 through social media from android or iPhones," said Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike, "This is a contemporary means for the public to share important public safety information anonymously with police by sending them a secure message, digital picture, or video clip about crimes or suspicious activity via a free smartphone app."

Developed by Citizens Observer tip411, the 'YATES TIPS' App puts a powerful new crime-fighting tool into the hands of community members of all ages. The 'YATES TIPS' App can be downloaded for free via the Google Play Store, or iTunes App Store. Simply search on YATES TIPS. The Sheriff's Office emblem is the icon.

We believe the public is our greatest law enforcement resource," said Penn Yan Police Chief Mark Hulse, "I thank the Sheriff for installing this anonymous text tip system, as it will help our residents play a more active role in keeping our village safe and drug-free."

This tip system goes beyond the 315-536-5558 tip land-line which has been in place for years, and enables the public to share information with law enforcement in real time, and lets the dispatcher or officer's respond back creating an anonymous two-way conversation. The technology removes all identifying information before police see the tips, and there is no way to identify the sender.

"This system has been successful in over 1,400 communities across the U.S.," said Terry Halsch, President of tip411. "Departments have been helped tremendously by members of the public who have sent anonymous messages to police with important information that often leads to arrests."

Sheriff Spike said, "This tip App concept came out of our Yates Substance Abuse Coalition partnership as a need for this community." Those with questions are asked to call the Yates County Sheriff's Office at the non-emergency number 315-536-4438.

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