

**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

*Sheriff*  
Al St. Lawrence

*Undersheriff*  
Donald E. Anderson

*Jail Administrator*  
Colonel McArthur Holmes



*Enforcement Administrator*  
Major Thomas L. Smoak

*Enforcement Operations Administrator*  
Major Terry L. Enoch

*Asst. Jail Administrators*  
Major Howard L. Harn  
Major John T. Wilcher

## **NEWS ADVISORY**

---

**From: Sheriff Al St Lawrence**

**Contact: Lt. Thomas Tillman**

**652-7681 office**

**660-7604 cell**

**Date: May 18, 2009**

### **Project Lifesaver Comes to Savannah**

Members of Project Lifesaver will begin showing deputies how their program works on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. in the Muster Room of the Sheriff's Complex. The instructors will be traveling here from Project Lifesaver's home in Virginia. The training will take three days with the first day focusing on classroom work on the operation of the program, utilization of the equipment and search techniques. Wednesday's training will consist of the actual application of the equipment and search techniques with the officers actually doing live searches. The third day of training will involve the training of our staff to become instructors to teach the program to additional personnel.

Project Lifesaver will train our teams not only in search and rescue and the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but also in the methods necessary to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. Locating the individual is only part of the mission. The person who is located will be disoriented, anxious, and untrusting. During the training sessions this week, Project Lifesaver's instructors will train our search teams on how to approach the person, gain their trust and put them at ease for the trip home.

As you may know, Project Lifesaver is a non-profit organization that train law enforcement in how to utilize reliable radio technology to track individuals with brain injuries or defects. Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1500 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to get footage of this training.

#####