



# Juvenile Law



Juvenile Law is a five hour program presented to every 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in the Elmira Heights School District and every 6<sup>th</sup> grade class in the Horseheads School District. These sessions promote and teach law awareness and delinquency prevention. Each session is one hour long and is presented by the Youth Bureau's Executive Director, Bruce May and Youth Court Coordinator, Heather Carlyle. The program includes films, questionnaires, role playing, discussions and booklets about law, youth rights and responsibilities. A local police officer also attends one of the classes to discuss good citizenship and crime prevention.

Once all of the information is covered, students and their teachers discuss certain situations or behavior. Students are given the opportunity to ask questions and talk through situations to better understand certain activities and possible repercussions regarding the law. Some common examples are vandalism, stealing, drugs, and truancy.

This program helps youth become aware of the seriousness of crime and the consequences surrounding it. Students are given the opportunity to become familiar with not only the law and their rights and responsibilities, but with the legal system and Family Court procedures. This program aims to educate 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders so that they better understand how their actions can affect the rest of their lives. The education gained from this program truly is the best delinquency prevention.



## Patterson Scholarship



The Thomas I. Patterson Youth Court Scholarship Award was created in memory of Thomas I. Patterson by his family in 2004. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Tom passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. His death was not only a great loss to his family but to the local community as well. Tom was a devoted member of the Bethany Village Lutheran Church (Elmira) and served as a preaching deacon for over 20 years. He was also a past president of the Horseheads Kiwanis Club. From 1998-2003, Tom was a very active member of The Town of Horseheads Youth Bureau Youth Advisory Board and served as the board's chairman from 1998-2000. Since 2004, a graduating senior member of the Horseheads Youth Court has been chosen to receive this scholarship. Members interested in applying for the scholarship submit an essay in which they explain, based on their community involvement, why they think they are deserving of the award. The Patterson family then reads all applicants' essays and determines a winner. This year's recipient was Horseheads High School Senior Alexandria Stryker.

Miss Stryker served on Youth Court for six years and was also an active member in Youth Council. She is a bright, outgoing young lady who is sure to succeed in all her endeavors. Alexandria is currently studying at University of Pittsburg. We look forward to watching Alexandria grow and succeed.