

DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Thomas E. Mills
Sheriff

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Undersheriff

PRESS RELEASE

September 17, 2015

Aerial surveillance and domestic cannabis eradication efforts earlier this week by members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police Aviation Division and Community Narcotics Enforcement Unit (CNET) have led to the arrest of a Walton man and seizures of marihuana in the Towns of Walton and Harpersfield.

As a result of an anonymous tip received by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and an aerial overflight by New York State Police Aviation on Tuesday afternoon, Delaware County Sheriff's Investigators obtained and executed a search warrant in the Town of Walton and arrested the property owner for growing and possessing marihuana.

Following a search of a property and residence located on County Highway 23 in the Town of Walton by members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police and Delaware County Probation Officers, the property owner, 53 year old William J. Picinich, was arrested by Deputies and charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree (*Suboxone*), Unlicensed Growing of Cannabis and Unlawful Possession of Marihuana.



Picinich was issued an appearance ticket directing him to appear in the Town of Walton Court on September 23 to answer the charges.

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division is also continuing its investigation of another marihuana grow that was located by State Police pilots and State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Unit (CNET) investigators near the intersection of Tedle Brook and Quaker Hill Roads in the Town of Harpersfield following the receipt of an anonymous tip by the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators obtained and executed a search warrant at that location Tuesday afternoon and eradicated 29 large marihuana plants at that location.

The Sheriff's Office is urging anyone that may have information concerning the person or persons responsible for growing marihuana in the area of the Tedle Brook and Quaker Hill Road intersection in the Town of Harpersfield to call the Sheriff's Office Tip Hotline at (888) 914-9111. Undersheriff DuMond stressed: "You can make a difference. Your calls and the information you provide will help protect your families and communities from the dangers of this gateway drug."