

# Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

## Kevin E. Walsh

Sheriff



**For Release:** Immediate 8-16-2010

**Contact:** Sgt. John D'Eredita (315) 435-3033 DR# 10-407124

### Fatal Crash Closes Onondaga Lake Parkway

**Town of Salina, New York** – Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh reports that Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a fatal crash that claimed the life of a North Syracuse woman.

At approximately 12:33pm, Sheriff's Deputies and rescue crews were called to the Onondaga Lake Parkway, just south of the railroad bridge to investigate a four car crash that claimed the life of a forty year old, North Syracuse woman. Witnesses told deputies that a 2003 Volkswagen Jetta, operated by Matthew Stephan (22), of 3730 Theodolite Drive in Baldwinsville, was seen traveling south on Onondaga Lake Parkway at a high rate of speed attempting to pass another southbound vehicle. Stephan began passing the other vehicle on the left, crossing the center median markings and entered the northbound lane when he collided head on with a 2007 Ford Taurus, operated by the deceased.

The impact from the crash forced the victim's Taurus into a 2002 Chevrolet pickup, operated by Donna Tartaglia (48), of 706 Oswego Street in Liverpool, and caused Tartaglia off the east side of the roadway. The engine from Stephan's car was ripped from the Jetta's frame and debris was scattered across all four lanes of the Parkway. A fourth vehicle, a 2000 Dodge Caravan, operated by Robert Phillips (35), of 5937 Farrington Road, Cicero, was also traveling north when he inadvertently struck Stephan's engine, which was in the middle of the roadway.

Rescue crews from the Liverpool and Mattydale Fire Departments responded, and paramedics pronounced the North Syracuse woman dead on the scene. The victim's passenger Kristen Kelly (20), of 330 Plymouth Drive in Syracuse, sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported to University Hospital. Matthew Stephan also sustained multiple injures and was transported to University Hospital for treatment. Tartaglia was not injured, however was transported to a local hospital for evaluation and Phillips was not injured.

Sheriff's Deputies shut off all traffic on the Parkway so members of the Sheriff's Accident Investigation Team can process the crash scene. Accident Investigators will conduct a complete investigation and work closely with the Onondaga County District Attorneys Office to determine what charges will be filed against Stephan.

-continued-

407 South State Street Syracuse, NY 13202

Deputies are attempting to locate the vehicle Stephan was attempting to pass which witnesses described as possibly a silver colored older model Nissan sedan, being operated by a white male with a beard. Deputies believe the driver of this car may have witnessed the crash and may have additional information to assist the investigation. Anyone with information should contact the Sheriffs Office by calling **425-2111**.

The name of the deceased will be released once family notifications have been made. Onondaga Lake Parkway is expected to be reopened to traffic at 5:30pm.

####