

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10-11-2014

New Lebanon man arrested for Unlawful Surveillance

New Lebanon, N.Y.: Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that a 36 year old New Lebanon man has been arrested for Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree after his cellular phone was found hidden in the public restroom at the Stewarts Shop on State Route 20 in the Town of New Lebanon. The device had been set to actively record video, and was hidden in crumpled up toilet tissue within the bathroom.

The Sheriff's Office received a call from a private citizen at approximately 7:25pm on Friday October 10th, 2014. The caller reports finding the "smart phone" type device while using the public restroom at the store. The caller also reported a suspicious acting male subject who had been in the store at the time of the incident.

An investigation conducted by the Sheriff's Office determined that Sam C. Wassilie, age 36, of State Route 20 in the Town of New Lebanon, had intentionally installed the recording device in the bathroom. Wassilie was charged with one count of Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree; a Class "E" Felony. Wassilie was arraigned in New Lebanon Town Court by Town Justice Jack Nevers and remanded to the Columbia County Jail without bail. Wassilie is scheduled to reappear in New Lebanon Town Court on Thursday, October 16th, 2014 at 4:00pm.

The investigation has revealed that there are several unidentified victims in this case. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is asking anyone who may have used the restroom or witnessed suspicious activity at the New Lebanon Stewarts Shop Friday evening (October 10th, 2014) between 7:00pm and 7:25pm to contact the Sheriff's Office at (518) 828-3344.

The case is being handled by Deputy Scott Leggett and Investigator Mark Dunspaugh. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the New York State Police and the Office of the Columbia County District Attorney.