

Lynchburg Sheriff's Office



2016 Annual Report

Lynchburg Sheriff's Office

Our Mission

To promote an atmosphere of safety and cooperation within the Judicial System for the citizens of Lynchburg, while providing a safe and secure environment for all judicial officers, victims, witnesses, jurors, visitors, and defendants in order to maintain the sanctity of the courtroom process which promulgates justice for all.

To protect the citizens of Lynchburg through security measures involving medical evaluation and criminal transports and to respect the dignity and rights of all those transported.

To process and serve all civil matters in a timely manner ensuring and enforcing the rights of every citizen.

To discharge all obligations mandated by Federal, State, and Local Laws, while maintaining professional standards and integrity in public service.

Our Purpose

To provide our citizens and judicial system with qualified and competent services in public safety and security, while partnering with other law enforcement agencies and civic leaders within the Lynchburg community. To utilize innovative and creative methods to educate, assist, and involve the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office within the Lynchburg community.

Our Values

Leadership

The Sheriff's Office directs safety, security, and service for our citizens, courts, and transports. We value competent and caring leadership demonstrated through teamwork, problem solving and community involvement. Innovative leadership directs the Sheriff's Office for the future, down the right path and doing the right things. We not only want to make good decisions, but we want to make the right decision. Competent leadership helps us to accomplish our mission and it is leadership you can trust.

Service

The Sheriff's Office dedication is to serve and service the Lynchburg community through teamwork. We value competent, professional; and courteous service and security demonstrated through our staff. Our key service is public safety in the courts, in the city, and to the citizens. We provide it with care and concern.

Order

The Sheriff's Office duties are to provide an orderly and safe environment for the uninhibited function of the judicial process. We value order in the performance and professionalism of our duties. Order demands standards of integrity and ethical behaviors by which we align our actions and access the accountability of our actions. Order provides structure and strength to all those engaged in the constitutional rights of every individual.

Sheriff Ronald L. Gillispie – 2016

The following are details, activities, events, and accomplishments in 2016 showing continued growth and city involvement for the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office under the leadership of Sheriff Ronald L. Gillispie. Since taking office in January 2002 Sheriff Gillispie has made it a priority for this office to assist the city of Lynchburg and the Lynchburg Police Department by providing highly trained deputy sheriffs to work beyond their mandated duties in areas needed by the city. Working hand-in-hand for the protection of our community is Sheriff Gillispie's mandate.

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office maintains office hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. The Sheriff's Office is closed during all state holidays recognized by the Governor of Virginia.

Mandated Duties

The primary mandated duties of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office are three-fold involving civil process, courtroom/courthouse security and transportation of prisoners and mental commissions. These duties consume the majority of manpower and equipment utilized by the Sheriff's Office in carrying out these daily functions.

Civil Process

Total civil process served for calendar year 2016	39,509
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The following is a breakdown of civil process served.

Subpoenas	16,290
Jury Summons	1,477
Levies	61
Other Civil Process Served	21,681

Courtroom Security

Uniform deputy sheriffs provided physical security for Circuit Court, General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with each located in a separate facility. Each court facility has two active courtrooms and judges and accounted for 1,105 court days in 2016. No major security breach or incident occurred within the courtrooms in 2016.

The court days for each court were broken down as follows:

Circuit Court	410
General District Court	340
<u>Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court</u>	<u>355</u>
Total Court Days	1,105

Field Training

All deputies are consistently cross-trained on each courtroom and courthouse and their individual complexities. Field training is in addition to the training deputies receive in the local law enforcement or jail basic academy. Field training is a vital aspect of hands-on training, which each new recruit receives. This involves assignments in each of the three courthouses handling civil process papers and transportation of prisoners and mental commissions. Prior to being released on their own each new recruit is trained in each mandated area to the satisfaction of the field training deputy and supervising Captain.

Part-time Deputies

Part-time deputies have handled courthouse security since October 2002. These duties were taken over by the Sheriff's Office from Wackenhut Security in agreement with the City of Lynchburg. This has provided enhanced security for all courthouses by manning each entrance station with an armed and certified deputy sheriff. Many of these part-time deputies are retired police officers or retired deputy sheriffs from Lynchburg. Each security checkpoint is set up with a walk through metal detector operated by a part-time deputy sheriff. Hand-held metal detectors are also utilized at each security checkpoint. In 2016 part-time deputies from the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office logged approximately 13,208 hours protecting the judicial centers in Lynchburg. Encompassed within the 13,208 hours are law enforcement and civil process in-service training, firearms and other specialized training conducted by the Sheriff's Office. The goal of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office is to reduce the number of confiscated items through visible and physical means of security and encouraging court participants to come to court without contraband. The Sheriff's Office has successfully seen a significant drop in these numbers since 2004 when the number of confiscated items was 219.

On July 1, 2013, The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office began providing a security checkpoint for the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. This position is also manned by part-time deputies. It has become apparent that the need for extra security at the clerk's office was long over-due and the implementation of the security checkpoint is providing much needed peace of mind for employees and visitors. During 2016, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office detained 580 items which included knives (nearly 400), tools, box cutters, and firearms.

Transportation-Prisoner & Mental Commissions

Uniform members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office transported inmates throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia without incident or escape in 2016. All transports were accomplished in a timely and professional manner.

Criminal Transports- noted in above total	356
Mental Commissions to other hospitals in state	26
Temporary Detention Orders	132
<u>Extraditions</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Transports	517

Summons and Tickets Issued

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office's primary duties are civil; however traffic and criminal infractions committed in a deputy's presence are handled according to the Code of Virginia and deputy discretion. In 2016 no uniform summonses for traffic offenses were issued but 3 warnings, 11 parking tickets and 1 criminal charge were issued. The following is a breakdown of what was issued.

Traffic Offenses:

Traffic Summons	0
Warnings	3
Parking Tickets	9
Total Traffic	12

Criminal Offenses:

Possession of Marijuana	1
Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer	1
Property Damage	1
Total Criminal	3

Additional Duties

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office by agreement continues to provide assistance with the following additional duties in order to assist the City of Lynchburg and specifically the Lynchburg Police Department. The main areas of assistance involve out of town Temporary Detention Orders, out of town Capias/Warrants, out of town Juvenile Detention Orders, Extraditions and City sponsored events. In 2016 the Sheriff's Office handled the following additional duties:

Temporary Detention Orders

132

These TDO's were taken from a local facility in Lynchburg and transported to another mental health facility within the Commonwealth of Virginia. This transportation process involved 264 uniform deputies that allowed 264 uniform police officers to stay in Lynchburg and on the city streets policing for an extra 1,500 hours in 2016.

Extraditions

Extraditions involve those wanted individuals who are (extradited) picked up outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia but within the confines of the United States. There were four extraditions by the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office in 2016 which saved the Lynchburg Police Department 87 man-hours providing for greater patrol coverage for the City of Lynchburg.

City Sponsored Events

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office provided uniform deputy sheriffs to work city-sponsored events for traffic and crowd control with a total of 118 overtime slots filled by deputies working 544 hours on city events in 2016. These city events do not include other off-duty jobs worked by uniform members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office. Those city events worked in 2016 included:

Brew Madness	March 12, 2016	4 Deputies
St. Patrick's Day Downtown	March 17, 2016	3 Deputies
Point of Honor 5 K	April 02, 2016	1 Deputy
611 Train Event	April 09, 2016	4 Deputies
Lynchburg Music Festival	May 14, 2016	7 Deputies
Lynchburg Air Show	May 21&22, 2016	5 Deputies
Wine & Music Festival	June 11, 2016	3 Deputies
Batteau Festival	June 18, 2016	3 Deputies
Human Kind 5 K	June 18, 2016	3 Deputies
Harley Cheers	June 24, 2016	6 Deputies
Lynch's Landing	July 08, 2016	4 Deputies
Rashad Jennings Foundation	July 10, 2016	4 Deputies
Friday Cheers	July 15, 2016	5 Deputies
Friday Cheers	July 22, 2016	6 Deputies
Friday Cheers	July 29, 2016	5 Deputies
Friday Cheers	August 05, 2016	4 Deputies
Friday Cheers	August 12, 2016	3 Deputies
E.C. Glass Football	September 02, 2016	3 Deputies
Get Downtown	September 09, 2016	6 Deputies
Day in the Park	September 10, 2016	5 Deputies
Beer & Wine Festival	September 17, 2016	5 Deputies
Amazing Mile Race	September 23, 2016	5 Deputies
VA. 10 Miler	September 24, 2016	4 Deputies
BOCCE Tournament	October 15, 2016	3 Deputies
Heritage Football	October 21, 2016	2 Deputies
Thomas Road	October 23, 2016	1 Deputy
Heritage Football	October 28, 2016	1 Deputy
I Am Woman 5K Run	October 29, 2016	5 Deputies
Casa Super Hero Run	November 05, 2016	1 Deputy
Turkey Trot Race	November 24, 2016	3 Deputies
Christmas Parade	December 04, 2016	3 Deputies
Glow Party	December 10, 2016	1 Deputy

Assistance to Lynchburg Police Department

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office consistently provides assistance to the Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) and other agencies as a matter of routine. While performing state mandated duties, deputies monitor the LPD radio frequencies and will respond to assist as

back-up or whenever LPD officers require extra help.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

In 2016, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office deputies assisted at 4 accident scenes by providing traffic control.

Assistance to Motorists

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office provided assistance to 5 disabled motorists during 2016.

Malicious Wounding

On 9/17/2016, Deputy M.T. Jones was working off duty at the Ellington at 421 Rivermont Ave. when at approximately 2:08 a.m. he heard about eight to ten gun shots. He stepped outside of the building to see what was going on. At that time he saw three people lying on the ground. When he approached, he found that they had been shot. Deputy Jones called Lyncom and asked that they send Lynchburg police and three Medic units. He then took his patrol vehicle and blocked the north lane of Rivermont Ave. to protect the injured and the crime scene. When LPD arrived, he took them around to the injured victims. LPD secured the scene by blocking both lanes of traffic off and Deputy Jones and the Lynchburg Police Department officers started providing medical assistance to the injured. Moments later the Medics arrived. They were taking care of the three people that had been shot, only to find that a fourth person was shot as well. After the victims had been taken care of and removed from the scene, LPD started their investigation. All witnesses were asked to remain to give statements as to what had happened.

Community Services

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office was involved in several community events in 2016. Included were the ongoing programs of Project Lifesaver, The "Eddie Eagle" gun safety program and other programs where deputies teach and interact with school children and adults allowing them to see the positive side of law enforcement.

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was inaugurated in April 2002, through the direction of Sheriff Ron Gillispie, and became operational in June of that year. Lynchburg Sheriff's Office is the lead agency in Lynchburg with assistance from the Lynchburg Police Department. Lynchburg Project Lifesaver utilizes state-of-the-art technology to bring loved ones home who suffer from Alzheimer's, Autism, Downs Syndrome and other related Mental Dysfunctional Disorders. Since its inception search teams from Project Lifesaver have conducted over 92 successful searches and returns of missing residents within the program. The average time of recovery is under thirty minutes once the search has been initiated. Persons who wander from their care provider can walk up to 4 miles in an hour and depending upon weather conditions their survival rate is only 50 % after the first 24 hours. Thus it is paramount to find these victims of these terrible mental disorders or diseases in a timely manner. The Lifesaver motto of "Bringing your loved ones home" is not just a motto, but is our mission for

the family's and victims who suffer from Alzheimer's, Autism, Downs Syndrome and other related Mental Dysfunctional Disorders.

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver currently has 29 clients in the program with calls often received requesting additional information on this lifesaving program. Lynchburg Sheriff's Office deputies visit each client at least once per month to verify that all equipment is functioning properly and to address any other concerns family members or guardians may have. During 2016, this maintenance alone encompassed 300 visits and took more than 150 hours.

Project Lifesaver Community

On December 22, 2004 Sheriff Ron Gillispie announced that the city of Lynchburg was the first community in the United States to display the newly issued "Project Lifesaver Community" signs. The project Lifesaver Program assists local authorities in locating people with Alzheimer's, Autism, Downs Syndrome and other related Mental Disorders that have wandered away from their caregivers or care facility. The first "Project Lifesaver Community" sign was placed at the John Lynch Bridge located at the city limits coming from Amherst County with then Mayor Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr. and Chief Deputy Donald T. Sloan in attendance. In Central Virginia the surrounding Sheriff's Offices are also members of the Project Lifesaver Community thus enhancing the area of coverage for residents and visitors in the program.

The Project Lifesaver Community signs notify citizens and visitors who enter the corporate limits of the city of Lynchburg that we are a Project Lifesaver Community. A Project Lifesaver unit is able to track persons who are assigned a specific frequency and are involved in this lifesaving program from another Virginia community or state. A person visiting Lynchburg can advise the local Project Lifesaver agency of their location during their visit and the information on their family member who is in this program with their specific frequency number. If a family member should wander off while in Lynchburg, a call would be placed to the Lynchburg Communications Center (LYNCOM 911) dispatch and they would contact the Lynchburg Project Lifesaver search team by pager and a search for the missing person would be conducted beginning at the last known point of origin.

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver annual fundraisers

On April 16, 2016 Lynchburg Project Lifesaver hosted its 7th annual "2nd Chance Prom" at Phase 2 Dining and Entertainment Club of Lynchburg. Live music was provided by "Casper" and Dj ED. Eighteen businesses (event sponsors) donated at least \$600.00 dollar's each. More than sixty businesses donated between \$100 and \$200 dollars each for an ad on the 2nd Chance Prom T-shirts. All sponsors, VIP guests and the first 200 general admission guests received a free event t-shirt. The T-shirts were provided at a discount by Universal T's Inc. Everyone that attended the event also received a rose. The roses were donated by Lynchburg Wholesale Floral. Commonwealth Autism Services donated the decorations.

This year's fundraiser brought in \$20,275 including other monetary donations to the Lynchburg Project Lifesaver. After expenses, Lynchburg Project Lifesaver netted

approximately \$13,548.25. \$6,726.75 was donated to Commonwealth Autism Service. A \$250 donation from Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was made to Challenge Sports Exchange

Community Relations

Members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office also participated in numerous other community events in 2016 in an effort to develop improved relations and to provide better service to the community. In addition Community Relations Coordinators have also *established successful partnerships* with the following local business and corporate entities. A brief synopsis follows:

Phase 2 Dining and Entertainment Club

The Lynchburg Sheriff's office is an active partner with Phase 2. Gary Shotwell, owner, was a sponsor in the 7th. annual "Project Lifesaver Second Chance Prom". Mr. Shotwell donated his building for the night of the event along with his staff. Mr. Shotwell also assisted with the online tickets sales and the ticket sales at Phase 2. Mr. Shotwell also listed our Fundraiser on his web page, www.phase2club.com, to help advertise this event.

Interaction with the Community

United Way Golf Tournament

The Lynchburg Project Lifesaver sponsored a golf team for the amount of \$400 to play in the United Way Golf Tournament.

"Autism Awareness at the Hillcats" game

On April 23, 2016 Spc. Jones and Sgt. Rogers attended the Autism Awareness night at the Hill Cats game in Lynchburg City. The Lynchburg Project Lifesaver and Commonwealth Autism have partnered on The Second Chance Prom Fundraiser and with the donation the LPLS gives to Commonwealth Autism we are listed as an event sponsor. Sgt. Rogers helped collect Items from local businesses to help with the silent Auction prior to the event and attended a planning meeting at the Hill Cats stadium. Sgt. Rogers and Spc. Jones worked the Project Lifesaver table providing educational information about the program to families and displayed the search and rescue equipment. They also handed out coloring books, badge stickers and tattoos. Sgt. Rogers also helped with the silent Auction tables and bid sheets.

Community Event with Eddy Eagle

On September 15, 2016, Cpl. Billy Shumate and Sgt. Margaret Rogers visited the T. C Miller Elementary school Pre-k class. They spoke to approximately 37 pre-k students about gun safety and what deputies do and wear as Law Enforcement officers. The students watched the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety video and Eddie the Eagle mascot (Cpl. Shumate) made a special appearance for a meet and greet. The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office also provided the teachers with coloring books, parent gun safety brochures, pencils and stickers to give to each student.

Community Event on Bullying

Chapel Grove Baptist Church

On 04-03-16, Sen. Spec. G.T. Berry went to the Chapel Grove Baptist Church to give a presentation on bullying. A table was provided to display brochures, coloring books, and stickers from the Sheriff's Office which were available to the children. Spec. Berry spoke to the group which included nearly fifty people of all age groups from 6 years to Senior Citizens. After Spec. Berry introduced himself and informed the audience of his duties at The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office, he began his presentation. Topics discussed included "What is a bully?" "Who do bullies pick on?" "Why do bullies do what they do?" "What to do if someone bullies you?" "How should Christians respond to bullies?" and "What is cyber bullying?" After the presentation the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. Breakfast was then served and Spec. Berry met and talked with many of those in attendance.

Providence Transformation Church International

On 08-20-16 Sen. Spec. Sandidge went to Providence Transformation Church International at 400 Oakley Avenue to do a presentation to the youth and adults on bullying. Spec. Sandidge was accompanied by the Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Matthew Vordermark who gave valuable input on the office of the Commonwealth Attorney and what they stand for. Sen. Spec. Sandidge informed the group that he worked for the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office and of his duties at the department. Topics on bullying included:

- What is a bully?
- Who do bullies pick on?
- Why do bullies do what they do?
- What to do if someone bullies you?
- How should Christians respond to bullies?
- What is cyber bullying?
- Bullying by Demographic

The youth and the adults were encouraged to ask questions. There were also items prepared for them from the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office. Pamphlets were on hand pertaining to Project Lifesaver and Bullying as well. Rev. James Coleman, who is the pastor of Providence Transformation Church International (PTCI) and his family were there to witness the presentation on bullying. After the presentation, the youth and the adults went outside for a demonstration of how the department vehicle and its restraints are used.

Family Life Christian Church

On 09-14-16 Spec. Sandidge went to the Family Life Christian Church in Timberlake to speak with the children about bullying. There were about 20 children, some as old as age 10 that were present. Spec. Sandidge introduced himself and explained the duties of a deputy at the Sheriff's Office. Topics discussed included:

- What is a bully?
- Who do bullies pick on?
- Why do bullies do what they do?

- What to do if someone bully you?
- Be aware of frenemies or backstabbers.
- How should Christians respond to bullies?
- What is cyber bullying?
- Bullying by Demographic
- Female Bullies
- Parents that Bully Children and others
- Teenage Bullying
- Bullying Teachers
- Adult Bullying
- Child Bullying

During the presentation, the children were asked questions and were given treats for their answers. The children were escorted to the parking lot by the adults present to see the Sheriff's vehicle with the lights on. After the presentation and the trip to the parking lot, the children and the adults had the opportunity to take pictures with Spec. Sandidge.

Interagency Cooperation

VALEAC Training Conference

On October 18-20, 2016, the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition held its annual training conference in Lynchburg with over 160 law enforcement personnel in attendance. Lynchburg Project Lifesaver donated \$450.00 in order to help sponsor the training conference.

Training

During 2016 all members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office received the required in-service training, such as firearms and legal up-dates, mandated by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. In addition Blood Borne Pathogens, Cultural Diversity, and Use of Force were also taught to satisfy the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission standards. Several members of the Sheriff's Office also received specialized training as noted below:

General Instructor	Sovereign Citizens
Consular and Diplomatic Immunity	Project Lifesaver
Lawful Employment Practices	Civil Process
Line of Duty Death Benefits	Courtroom Security
Taser Training	VALEAC
Defensive Driving/Van Safety	Advanced Civil Process
Domestic Terrorism and Hate Groups	Firearms
Counter Terrorism Prevent & Deter	Counter Terrorism CBRNE
AR15/M16 Armorer Certification	Bomb Threat Response
Active Shooter Training	Monadnock Baton

Achievements

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office received its second Re-accreditation on December 18, 2014 by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. Each year, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office must review all 190 files (604 bullets) and verify compliance with each standard. For 2016, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office is once again in full compliance with all VLEPSC standards.

Concluding Remarks

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office continues to cooperate with all aspects of city government and the law enforcement community in order to do our part in protecting our community. As Edmund Burke wrote in the mid 1700's, "***All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing***". We choose to be part of the solution and do something positive for the City of Lynchburg and our citizens.