

Lynchburg Sheriff's Office



2014 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 – 2014

The following are details, activities, events, and accomplishments in 2014 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 2013 42,447

The following is a breakdown of civil process served.

Subpoenas	17,853
Jury Summons	1,748
Levies	63
Other Civil Process Served	22,783

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 1,054 court sessions in 2014. No major security breach or incident occurred within the courtrooms in 2014.

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

Circuit Court	370
General District Court	338
<u>Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court</u>	<u>346</u>
Total Court Days	1,054

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 Lieutenant.

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 2014 part-time deputies from the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office logged approximately 8,000 hours protecting the judicial centers in Lynchburg. Encompassed within the 8,000 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 this 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.

Transportation-Prisoner & Mental Commissions

Uniform members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office transported inmates throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia without incident or escape in 2014. All transports were accomplished in a timely and professional manner.

Total Transports	472
Criminal Transports- noted in above total	412
Mental Commissions to other hospitals in state	22
Temporary Detention Orders	35
Extraditions	2

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 2014 no uniform summonses for traffic offenses were issued but 3 warnings, 2 parking tickets and 3 criminal charges were issued. The following is a breakdown of what was issued.

Traffic Offenses:

Traffic Summons	0
Warnings	3
<u>Parking Tickets</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Traffic	5

Criminal Offenses:

Assault and Battery	1
Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer	1
<u>Trespassing</u>	<u>1</u>
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. The Sheriff’s Office also enhanced the inmate program by providing uniform deputy sheriffs to expand the productivity and response of this program within the city of Lynchburg. In 2014 the Sheriff’s Office handled the following additional duties:

Temporary Detention Orders 35

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 70 uniform deputies that allowed 70 uniform police officers to stay in Lynchburg and on the city streets policing for an extra 412 hours in 2014.

Extraditions 3

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 three extraditions by the Lynchburg Sheriff’s Office in 2014 which saved the Lynchburg Police Department 86 man-hours providing for greater patrol coverage for the City..

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 58 overtime slots filled by deputies working city events in 2014. 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 2014 included:

Music Festival	April 26, 2014	3 Deputies
Angel's Race	April 27, 2014	1 Deputy
Friday Cheers	June 18, 2014	1 Deputy
Softball	June 18, 2014	1 Deputy
Ribs, Rhythm & Blues	July 30, 2014	5 Deputies
VDEM Exercise	August 06, 2014	2 Deputies
Get Downtown	September 12, 2014	1 Deputy
Day in the Park	September 13, 2014	6 Deputies
Beer & Wine Festival	September 19, 2014	4 Deputies
Amazing Mile Race	September 26, 2014	3 Deputies
VA. 10 Miler	September 27, 2014	6 Deputies
Sunset By the James	October 04, 2014	4 Deputies
Run for Their Lives	October 11, 2014	4 Deputies
I Am Woman 5K Run	October 25, 2014	5 Deputies
Turkey Trot Race	November 27, 2014	5 Deputies
Christmas Parade	December 07, 2014	7 Deputies

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 2014, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office deputies assisted at 12 accident scenes by providing traffic control.

Missing Person

On 13 January 2014, Cpl. Sandidge, Deputy Shumate, and Cpl. Pedigo all responded to E. C. Glass High School to help The Lynchburg Police Department in searching for a missing student. The student was located at the school.

Missing Person (Project Lifesaver)

On 02-19-14, Cpl. Sandidge Cpl. Pedigo. Sr. Dep. Hudson and Deputy M. Jones responded to a Project Lifesaver page from LYNCOM at the address of 2546 Green Street. The subject was located at the address of 2343 Mosby Avenue with the aid of the Project Lifesaver equipment and all the officers involved.

Hazardous Materials Spill and Evacuation

On April 30, 2014 Several railroad tanker cars derailed in the area along the James River at the end of Ninth Street. The tanker cars spilled a large amount of fossil fuels along the river and had ignited. Due to the hazardous material spill and resulting fire, the Circuit Court of the city of Lynchburg was evacuated following the decision made by the Honorable F. Patrick Yeatts. The courthouse was cleared by 1st. Sgt. T White, deputy Perrigan, and deputy Watson. Senior Specialist Keith Sandidge was dispatched to E.C. Glass High School. He was directed to remain at the school to assist with the arrival of the evacuees that were to arrive at the High School from downtown Lynchburg.

Assisting LPD with a Fight Call

On 08-08-14, Spec. Sandidge responded to a call from LYNCOM of a fight in progress at the apartments at 901 Madison Street. Spec. Sandidge located the subjects involved and kept them separated until LPD arrived on the scene and took over.

Assisting LPD

On 10-09-2014, Cpl. Shumate heard LynCom dispatch units to The Plaza near the Super Dollar store in reference to a subject threatening to “slit the throat” of a female at that location. Cpl. Shumate was the first to arrive at the scene and located the subject. Cpl. Shumate held to subject at gun-point until LPD units could arrive and took the subject into custody.

Inmate Program

The inmate program was started on March 15, 2004 with the assistance of Lynchburg City Council. This program involves part-time deputy sheriffs taking out work release inmates to help clean up problem areas in the city of Lynchburg. This program helped double the work output for clean up and grass cutting efforts for the city utilizing approximately 1,100 hours of community service by inmates for the citizens of Lynchburg in 2014.

Community Services

The Lynchburg Sheriff’s Office was involved in several community events in 2014. 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 31 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 2014, this maintenance alone encompassed 300 visits and took more than 150 hours.

The Lynchburg Project Lifesaver teams were called out for 1 missing client during the year 2014 which resulted in successfully locating and safely returning the client to his loved ones.

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 26, 2014 Lynchburg Project Lifesaver hosted its 5th annual “2nd Chance Prom” at Phase 2 Dining and Entertainment Club of Lynchburg. Live music was provided by “The House Band” and “DJ ED”. There were fifteen businesses (event sponsors) which donated at least \$600 each. More than sixty businesses donated between \$100 and \$200 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 \$18,293 including other monetary donations to the Lynchburg Project Lifesaver. After expenses, Lynchburg Project Lifesaver netted approximately \$13,636.76. Half or \$6,513.38 was donated to Commonwealth Autism Service. A \$250 donation from Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was also made to Special Olympics.



Community Relations

Members of the Lynchburg Sheriff’s Office also participated in numerous other community events in 2014 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 5th. 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.

Lynchburg City Schools

Eddie Eagle at T.C Miller Elementary School City of Lynchburg

On September 26, 2014, Cpl. Shumate and Sgt. Rogers visited the kindergarten class at T.C Miller Elementary in the city of Lynchburg to talk about gun safety and calling 911. They then showed the Eddie Eagle video and Eddie Eagle made an appearance for the meet and greet. There were about 46 students and each one was provided with an Eddie Eagle work book, sticker and Lynchburg Sheriff's Office pencil.



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

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was an event sponsor for the “Hillcats Autism Awareness” night on Saturday April 19, 2014. All proceeds from this event go to Commonwealth Autism Service which we are partners with for our Project Lifesaver Second Chance Prom. We sat up a table at the game and provided information to families about project lifesaver, gave out Sheriff's Office coloring books, badge stickers, and Eddie Eagle gun safety coloring books. Eddie Eagle was able to be there and walked around giving out Eddie Eagle stickers. Cpl. Berry, Deputy Shumate and Sgt. Rogers worked this event.



Vacation Bible School at Fifth Street Baptist Church

On 06-23-14 through 06-27-14, Senior Specialist Keith Sandidge was asked to teach and attend the Vacation Bible School which was held at The Fifth Street Baptist Church in Lynchburg, located at 1007 5th Street. Spec. Sandidge was given the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade group. The theme for the week was GOD Our Strong Tower. The hours of teaching, were from 1800 hrs until 2000 hrs. The kids were given different crafts each night to work on along with games and Bible teachings. The Bible lesson came out of the book of Proverbs. Each night the kids received prizes donated by the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office and Project Lifesaver. Spec. Sandidge thanked the church for the opportunity to give of his time and allowing him to represent The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office.

CPR Training at Fifth Street Baptist Church

On September 6, 2014, Cpl. Shumate taught a Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) "heart saver" class at the Fifth Street Baptist Church. Cpl. Shumate taught a group of five people that were a part of the Usher Board. Everyone completed the class successfully and was certified in "Heart Saver" CPR. Heidi Johnson assisted with teaching the class.

VALEAC Training Conference

On October 22–24, 2014, the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition held its annual training conference in Virginia Beach with over 180 law enforcement personnel in attendance. Lynchburg Project Lifesaver donated \$450.00 in order to help sponsor the training conference.

Training

During 2014 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, CPR/AED, 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 X26 Class	VALEAC
Defensive Driving/Van Safety	Advanced Civil Process
Domestic Terrorism and Hate Groups	Basic Internal Affairs

Achievements

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office received its second Re-accreditation on December 18, 2014 by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the re-accreditation based on the

recommendation of the Assessment Team that reviewed all 190 files (604 bullets) and had zero returns. This is the second “perfect assessment” for the Lynchburg Sheriff’s Office.

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.