

Lynchburg Sheriff's Office



2015 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 - 2015

The following are details, activities, events, and accomplishments in 2015 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 2015 41,395
 The following is a breakdown of civil process served.

Subpoenas	17,594
Jury Summons	1,583
Levies	49
Other Civil Process Served	22,169

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 1,070 court sessions in 2015. No major security breach or incident occurred within the courtrooms in 2015.

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

Circuit Court	375
General District Court	345
<u>Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court</u>	<u>350</u>
Total Court Days	1,070

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 2015 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 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. During 2015, the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office detained 548 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 2015. All transports were accomplished in a timely and professional manner.

Total Transports	409
Criminal Transports- noted in above total	294
Mental Commissions to other hospitals in state	26
Temporary Detention Orders	85
Extraditions	4

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 2015 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	<u>11</u>
Total Traffic	14

Criminal Offenses:

Property Damage	1
Total Criminal	1

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 2015 the Sheriff’s Office handled the following additional duties:

Temporary Detention Orders 85

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 170 uniform deputies that allowed 170 uniform police officers to stay in Lynchburg and on the city streets policing for an extra 991 hours in 2015.

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 2015 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 79 overtime slots filled by deputies working 355 hours on city events in 2015. 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 2015 included:

Angel's Race	April 26, 2015	2 Deputies
Music Festival	May 09, 2015	5 Deputies
Friday Cheers	May 29, 2015	1 Deputy
Wine & Music Festival	May 30, 2015	5 Deputies
Lynch's Landing	June 05, 2015	2 Deputies
Lynch's Landing	June 12, 2015	1 Deputy
Friday Cheers	June 19, 2015	2 Deputies
Tribute to Rock	June 20, 2015	4 Deputies
Human Kind 5K	June 21, 2015	3 Deputies
Friday Cheers	June 26, 2015	1 Deputy
Friday Cheers	July 03, 2015	3 Deputies
Friday Cheers	July 10, 2015	1 Deputy
Rhythm & Blues Festival	September 29, 2015	6 Deputies
Get Downtown	September 11, 2015	5 Deputies
Day in the Park	September 12, 2015	7 Deputies
Beer & Wine Festival	September 19, 2015	4 Deputies
Amazing Mile Race	September 25, 2015	6 Deputies
VA. 10 Miler	September 26, 2015	7 Deputies
I Am Woman 5K Run	October 31, 2015	7 Deputies
Turkey Trot Race	November 26, 2015	5 Deputies
Christmas Parade	December 06, 2015	2 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 2015, Lynchburg Sheriff's Office deputies assisted at 7 accident scenes by providing traffic control.

Alarm

On 01-31-2015, LynCom dispatched an alarm call at Party City in Candler's Station,

3700 Candler's Mountain Rd. Sr. Spc. G. Berry responded to assist LPD units. Upon arriving, Sr. Spc. G. Berry checked the rear of the building while the LPD unit checked the front of the building. The building was found to be secure.

Domestic

On 4/16/15 Sr. Spc. L. White heard Lyncom dispatch PD Officers to a disturbance call at 609 Grace St. and responded to that location. Sr. Spc. White observed two black males and a black female arguing on the sidewalk. He separated all three of them and found one of the males and the female to be husband and wife. The PD then arrived and took over the scene.

Medical Assistance

On 05-16-2015, Sr. Spc. G. Berry was working at Candler's Station when he heard Lyncom dispatch Lynchburg Fire Department to a medical call in reference to "chest pains". The call was in Candler's Station in the area of the old TJ Maxx building. Upon arriving, he found a white male subject who stated that he was having a reaction to an anti-biotic he had taken. Sr. Spc. Berry stood by with the subject until Lynchburg Fire Department arrived and they took over the scene.

Missing Person

On July 07, 2015, 1st. Sgt. T. White, Senior Specialist L. White and Senior Specialist G. Berry, responded to 1220 Gilmore Cir. to help The Lynchburg Police Department in searching for a missing child. The child was located in a wooded area near the neighborhood. Sr. Spc. Berry provided information to the family about the Project Lifesaver program.

Domestic Violence

On Oct 09, 2015 Sr. Spc. G.T. Berry, was approached by an unknown subject. The subject stated that there appeared to be a domestic dispute on Langhorne Rd. and that a white male was assaulting a white female. Sr. Spc. Berry found the couple in front of 2104 Langhorne Rd. and they were not fighting at that time. While talking to the subjects, several Lynchburg Police Department officers arrived and Sr. Spc. Berry turned the case over to them.

Community Services

The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office was involved in several community events in 2015. 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 27 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 2015, 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 11, 2015 Lynchburg Project Lifesaver hosted its 6th 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 \$18,834 including other monetary donations to the Lynchburg Project Lifesaver. After expenses, Lynchburg Project Lifesaver netted approximately \$13,057.61. Half or \$5,776.39 was donated to Commonwealth Autism Service. A \$300 donation from Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was made to Special Olympics

Community Relations

Members of the Lynchburg Sheriff's Office also participated in numerous other community events in 2015 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 6th. 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

Lynchburg Project Lifesaver was an event sponsor for the Hillcats Autism Awareness night on Saturday April 18, 2015. 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. Cpl. Hudson, Spc. Jones and Sgt. Rogers worked this event.

Community Event with Eddy Eagle

On 06-20-2015, Senior Deputy K. Wooldridge and Cpl. W. Shumate attended the Fathers, Leaders, and Teachers event with Eddy Eagle. The event was held at the Providence Transformation Church International located at 400 Oakley Ave. There were approximately 25-45 children at the event and 5-10 children came up to see Eddy Eagle and get stickers. Pastor James Coleman and Former Lynchburg City Mayor Carl Hutcherson came up and thanked us for being there.

Honored 2015 Ceremony

On 05-30-2015, Sen. Spec. Keith Sandidge had the honor of attending a ceremony at the Holiday Inn Select at 601 Main Street in Lynchburg. The ceremony was sponsored by Andre' Whitehead (Whitehead Media Ventures). The purpose of the ceremony was to recognize some of our community leaders for their outstanding achievements. The ceremony was titled HONORED 2015 and there were 8 guests recognized this year. This was the third annual event to sponsor community leaders. The Lynchburg Sheriff's Office sponsored a table. Spec. Keith Sandidge led the benediction.

Community Event on Bullying

On 07-11-15 Sen. Spec. Sandidge went to Forest Level Baptist Church to give a presentation on bullying. Topics Spec. Sandidge 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? The group was given the opportunity to ask question. After the presentation, all that were interested came outside of the church to see vehicle #13 and take pictures with Spec. Sandidge.

VALEAC Training Conference

On October 6-8, 2015, the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition held its annual training conference in Virginia Beach with over 175 law enforcement personnel in attendance. Lynchburg Project Lifesaver donated \$450.00 in order to help sponsor the training conference.

Training

During 2015 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 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.

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.