

INTRODUCTION

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Annual Report is written to describe accomplishments and to highlight the department overall. It is in hopes that providing this information will share the efforts of the sworn personnel, as they continue to provide the most professional services and quality law enforcement available to our citizens of the county.

GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Charlotte County is located in the south central part of the Commonwealth of Virginia with a total area of 478 square miles. The county population is approximately 12,586.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Thomas D. Jones began his career at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office in 1981 as a jail officer. He graduated the criminal justice academy basic jail school in 1982. In 1983 he began working as a patrol officer and graduated basic law enforcement at the academy in 1983. Sheriff Jones is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He was a member of the 146th Session. In 1987 he was elected Sheriff of Charlotte County, taking office in January of 1988. Sheriff Jones is a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy. In 2006-2007 he was the President of the Virginia Sheriff's Association. He has been a member of the Virginia Sheriff's Institute Board. He currently serves on the Virginia Sheriff's Association Board and a member of the Legislative Committee and was Chairman of the Legislative Committee for seven years.

MISSION

The mission of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office: The members of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office shall, through a partnership with the citizens of our community, provide for the highest possible degree of protection for the county residents, guests and their properties. The Charlotte Sheriff's Office shall endeavor to develop community responsibilities devoted to the reduction of crime and the enhancement of public safety. These efforts shall include problem solving strategies, crime analysis, crime suppression and crime prevention techniques, a business/ community/law enforcement alliance and other approaches designed to establish an environment where the criminal element will not prosper.

EMPLOYEES

The Sheriff's Office consist of 45 employees (35 full time and 10 part time).

ANNOUNCEMENT

New in 2015 was the launch of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office website. The site includes information about the office and each of the divisions, in addition to photos, and contact information. There is an area of the website for the citizen to access forms such as home security checks that can be filled out and sent to the office online. The Crime Stoppers sections is used to provide information for community involvement that could result in arrest relating to

recent or current crimes and provide a safer place for our citizens. The site includes an area for press releases so that proper news and information can be made available to the public in a timely manner.

ACCREDITATION

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office received their second re-accreditation status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission in January 2015. The Sheriff's Office received their initial accreditation in January of 2007 and their first re-accreditation in January of 2011. Being an accredited agency is an ongoing program for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office that began in January 2005. The Virginia Law Enforcement Standards Commission sets forth the highest of standards to be followed. Even though the terms run four years, proper documentation and inspections are done and accounted for on a yearly basis. There are 190 Standards, which include Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training. The proofs and documentation used came from the day-to-day activities and operations of the jail/dispatch staff, the road staff, the tactical team, investigations, evidence custodians, school resource officers and supervisors. The Sheriff's Office has to be in full compliance with all 190 standards to receive their re-accreditation status. Deputy R.T. Elder serves as Accreditation Manager for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and is responsible for maintaining the files and proofs.

INVESTIGATIONS

Investigation handles all major crimes against persons and property. Investigators are specially trained in forensic science, latent prints, gang crimes, and crime scene investigations. The investigators have been trained and completed graduation from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy. The Criminal Investigations Division consists of Sergeant of Investigations, J.O. Wright and Captain of Investigations, H.D. Hobgood. In 2015, 81 cases ranging from serious assaults, to property crimes, to murder, were worked by investigations.

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has one investigator, R.M. Kolich, assigned to the Tri-County Drug and Gang Task Force which is comprised of narcotics investigators from the Lunenburg County Sheriff's Office, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, and the Virginia State Police. There were 22 narcotics cases investigated in 2015.

PATROL DIVISION

R. S. Freeman serves as the Captain and J.R. Grissom serves as Lieutenant over the Patrol Division of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. Patrol deputies engage in a wide variety of activities including enforcement of traffic and criminal laws, answering complaints, conducting investigations, community relations activities, transporting prisoners, and crime prevention. In 2015, there were 351 arrest made, 706 warrants served and 4053 civil papers served. The Patrol Division conducted 51 checking detail in the county.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE

The School Resource Officer Program is to provide armed physical on site security and safety to the counties elementary, middle and high schools. The goal of this program is to foster positive interactions between students, parents and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office by being a positive and supportive resource for the citizens of the county to call upon. Deputy T.A. Elder serves as the elementary education SRO for the counties three elementary Schools, Deputy C.B. Childress serves as the middle school SRO and Deputy J.A. Colbert serves the high school SRO. In 2015 the SRO's made 32 in-school referrals, 12 court referrals, requested 12 petitions, counseled 42 students and instructed 5 classes.

PROJECT LIFESAVER

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, Autism, and other related conditions or disorders. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal. Deputy L.E. Scruggs heads the program and in 2015 there were 4 individual enrolled, and 1 recovery made.