

# AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

**The Augusta County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following information as to its 2021 Annual Report.**

**Throughout the year, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office has continued its dedicated efforts to keep the streets of Augusta County safe for all citizens and visitors. 2021 was a very challenging year for our agency and our Nation as a whole, as our efforts were adversely affected by the continuing 2019 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. We successfully balanced the challenges that 2021 brought us, and we are proud of our efforts and accomplishments throughout this challenging year.**

**We look forward to continuing our committed service in the coming year and steadily improving our quality of service to our community.**

**AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

***Donald L. Smith***

*Sheriff*

# Augusta County, VA



## HISTORY

Augusta County was formed in 1738 and named for Augusta, the Princess of Wales and Mother of King George, III. The county boundaries once stretched to the Mississippi River. Currently, the County covers 967 square miles, more than half of the size of Rhode Island. It is the second-largest county (in land area) in Virginia.

## POPULATION

According to the 2020 Census, there are 76,264 people in Augusta County. Combined with Staunton and Waynesboro, VA, the combined area population exceeds 110,000. The median age in Augusta County is 45.1 years.

## GOVERNMENT

Augusta County is governed by a seven-member Board of Supervisors. The County is divided into seven magisterial districts with Board members elected from each district. The Board of Supervisors meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## ECONOMY

Augusta County has a diverse economy. While manufacturing accounts for approximately 30% of the jobs in the County, the governmental, services, and trade sectors are also very strong. The Augusta Correctional Center and Target are two of the County's largest employers. There are 4,978 businesses in Augusta County.

## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has traditionally been an important part of the County's economy. This remains true today. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,665 farms in Augusta County covering more than 290,911 acres of land. The average farm in the County is 175 acres and the market value of items sold in 2017 was \$292,547,000.

# DONALD L. SMITH

## SHERIFF OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Donald L. Smith was born and raised in Augusta County, Virginia. He graduated with honors from Fort Defiance High School in 2001, and during his free time in school, he participated in the Augusta County Sheriff's Office Ride-Along Program where he shadowed the deputies and learned about their responsibilities. That experience had a tremendous impact and inspired him to pursue a career in public service where he could serve and protect the citizens of Augusta County.

In 2003, Donald graduated Magna Cum Laude from Blue Ridge Community College with an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences with a Major in Administration of Justice. In the same year, he also graduated from the Police Academy and was hired as a patrol deputy for the Augusta County Sheriff's Office. He returned to college and earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Liberty University.

For the past 15 years, Donald has been faithfully serving the community and moving up the leadership ranks within the Sheriff's Office, due to hard work and motivation. He became a Firearms Instructor in 2005 and was assigned to the SWAT team as an operator. He became a Master Deputy in 2006 and because of his leadership and hard work, was the youngest deputy ever in Augusta County to earn the title of Assistant SWAT Commander in 2009. Sheriff Smith took office on January 1, 2016, and was re-elected to a second term on November 5, 2019.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office will commit its resources in partnership with the community to:

- Promote a safe and secure environment, free from crime and the fear of crime
- Maintain order and provide for the safe and expeditious flow of traffic
- Practice our core values of integrity, respect, service and fairness

**Integrity:** Integrity is the hallmark of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office and we are committed to the highest performance standard, ethical conduct, and truthfulness in all relationships.

We hold ourselves accountable for our actions and take pride in a professional level of service and fairness to all.

**Respect:** We treat all persons in a dignified and courteous manner, and exhibit understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity, both in professional and personal endeavors. We guarantee to uphold the principles and values embodied in the constitution of The United States and the State of Virginia

**Service:** We provide quality service in a courteous, efficient, and accessible manner. We foster community and employee involvement through problem-solving partnerships.

**Fairness:** We treat all people impartially, with consideration and compassion. We are equally responsive to our employees and the community we serve

# AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office consists of 78 full-time deputies and 11 civilian staff. Employees serve in the Patrol, Investigations, Civil Process, Courts, Crime Prevention, School Resource, and Administrative Divisions. Sheriff's Office Support staff includes an Administrative Assistant, an Office Manager, Dispatchers, and services support personnel.

The Sheriff's Office reinstated the Reserve Program in 2019, and during 2021 Reserve Deputies added 1,668.50 volunteer hours to the agency.

During 2021 our agency responded to 24,219 calls for service and we had 40,097 self-initiated incidents for a combined total of 64,316 incidents. We also completed 13,390 Extra Patrol requests in 2021.



# ACSO STAFF OFFICERS



**MAJOR BRIAN JENKINS**  
CHIEF DEPUTY

## PATROL / COURTS



**LT. JAMES SNYDER**

## INVESTIGATIONS



**LT. STEVEN CASON**

## ADMINISTRATIVE



**LT. LESLIE SNYDER**

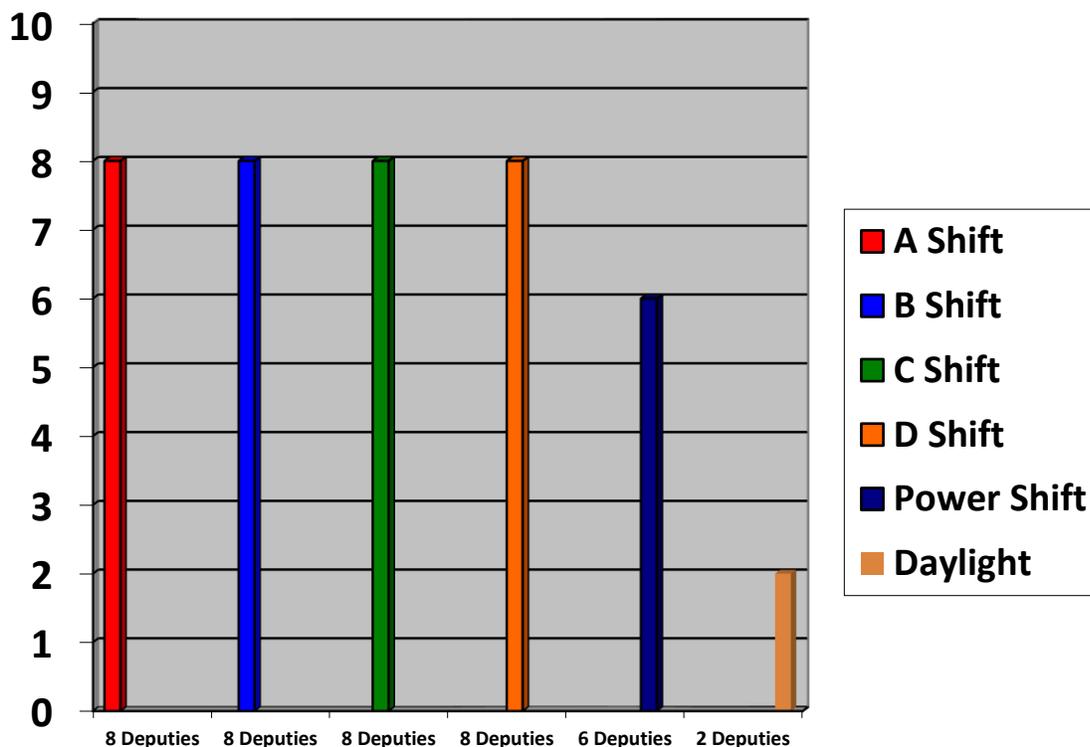
# SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNITS

## PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department's enforcement efforts and with 40 authorized personnel and 1 Division Commander, the division not only answers calls for service and investigate all manner of criminal complaints, but they also contribute the lion's share of effort that is directed by the Department in the area of enforcement. Each year, manpower fluctuates and the demands on the division's resources are stretched, but the division manages to successfully combat all types of violations.

The Division is divided into 4 rotating shifts that work 12 HR tours of duty and Patrol Shifts are assisted by the Power Shift at peak busy hours. Patrol shifts are commanded by First Sergeants. The Division is commanded by Lieutenant James Snyder and in 2021 the Division completed 3,863 Crime Incident Reports, they made 2,436 arrests and wrote 4,925 traffic summonses.

## ACSO PATROL DIVISION



## **PATROL POWER SHIFT**

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Power Shift, staffed with 4 members in 2021, answered 4,332 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 1,437 occasions, for a total of 5,769 incidents. The shift generated 226 crime reports, and 3 motor vehicle crash reports. The members also issued 1,242 summonses and made 457 arrests during 2021.

## **RESERVE DEPUTIES**

Eight (8) Augusta County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputies completed initial training in 2019, and during 2021, the Reserves logged 1,668.50 Hours of service to the community by riding with full-time deputies and staffing community events. Deputy M. Mader contributed the most reserve time this year, logging 865 hours in 2021. In 2021, we also began our second class for Reserve deputies, and 14 deputies are in training.

## **COURT SERVICES DIVISION**



The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Court Services Division currently consists of First Sergeant Jerry Shifflett and 7 Bailiff's and one part-time Bailiff. The Division provides court security in three county courts and is responsible for transporting prisoners to and from the court complex. In 2021 the Division screened 46,713 court complex visitors and served 4,147 total civil papers. They also completed 139 jail transports, and they handled 189 inmates. Additionally, the Court Security Division made 47 arrests, processed 277 individuals, and conducted 18 security escorts to parking areas.

**The prisoner transport van is used for the bulk of the Court Security Division's transports outside of Augusta County. Use of the transport van generated the following numbers for 2021:**

- **Total states traveled: Virginia** *(all transports were in-state due to COVID19)*
- **Total inmates transported: 20**
- **Total miles: 3,951**
- **Total facilities: 14 Jails and**

**Total Days in session: Circuit Court – 288  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations – 280  
General District Court – 192**

\* The total number of court days reflects the fact that there are days when multiple courtrooms are in session simultaneously for a particular court (i.e. JDR court), requiring additional personnel to staff those courtrooms.

### **Impact of Covid-19 on Court Services:**

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the operations of the Augusta County Court system and the operational protocols of the Court Security Division. Court orders currently place restrictions on the number of persons allowed to attend court hearings. Those allowed to attend are generally limited to attorneys, plaintiffs, victims, defendants, and subpoenaed witnesses. The Augusta County Circuit and General District Courts conduct most hearings involving persons in custody via Polycom, thus reducing the number of persons transported to the court facilities. While the Covid-19 pandemic has caused some year-end numbers to drop over the last couple of years, court caseloads and the number of dockets are increasing steadily.

## **CIVIL PROCESS DIVISION**

**The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Civil Process Division consists of Sgt. Jeff Dietz and 3 fulltime deputies and one P/T Deputy. In 2021 the Civil Process Division served 13,508 pieces of civil process of all types. The civil division responded to calls for service on 2,737 occasions and backed up other deputies on 575 occasions. The four members of the Civil Division wrote 49 reports, 194 citations, and made 14 arrests in 2021.**

**The civil division also completed 68 evictions, 27 repossessions, and 15 complaints on inoperable vehicles from the Augusta County Community Development Department in 2021.**

## 2021 STATS

### SKYLINE DRUG TASK FORCE

Narcotics Investigations are handled by Sheriff's Office members assigned to the Skyline Taskforce which during 2021 had Three ACSO investigators assigned.

In 2021, Task Force investigators wrote 119 reports and executed 44 narcotics Search warrants. Investigators made 92 Narcotics arrests in 2021.

Total assets seized were \$269,873.25 in U.S. currency and 108 Firearms.



#### Methamphetamine

10,615 GRAMS  
23.40 pounds

#### Psycociblin Mushrooms

19.5 GRAMS

#### Marijuana

2,588 GRAMS  
5.70 pounds

#### Prescription Pills

(Mostly Fentanyl)  
1,375 DOSES

#### LSD

12 DOSES

#### Heroin

87 GRAMS

#### Fentanyl

1200.80 GRAMS  
(2.64 pounds)

#### Street Value of Narcotics seized:

\$12,158,830.00

### INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division is commanded by Lt. Steven Cason and consists of a Sergeant and six investigators in General Investigations. Investigators are on call for all manner of criminal investigations and in 2021 they wrote 380 initial reports and handled 662 assigned cases. Additionally, Investigators responded to or generated 494 incidents, and backed up other deputies' 416 times in 2021. Investigators also wrote 9 traffic summonses and made 11 arrests in 2021.

Investigators fielded numerous interagency referrals in 2021:

*Child Protective Services Referrals: 189*

*Adult Protective Services Referrals: 144*

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**In 2021, our agency processed 37 post-arrest DNA samples and 2,163 concealed weapons permit applications and renewals. Additionally, 241 citizens were fingerprinted for employment and background checks. Support Services were drastically affected by our COVID19 lobby closure, and our lobby was access restricted for much of 2021.**

## **EVIDENCE ROOM**

**In 2021, our agency processed 1,606 items of evidence and completed quarterly and bi-annual audits of the Evidence Room. In 2021, the Evidence Custodian submitted items of evidence from 346 cases to the Department of Forensic Science for forensic examination. 16 trips to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science were completed in 2021.**

**In 2021, we continued to lawfully dispose of evidence and property in the Sheriff's Office Evidence Room. We currently have 6,733 items of evidence on hand, down from over 12,000 items of evidence in 2020. This effort has been greatly aided by Mary Wood, who is a part-time employee who generates requests for Destruction Orders and Declinations of Prosecutions, which are the legal process required for lawful disposal.**



## **ACSO DRONE TEAM**

**In 2020, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office established a new Drone Team. During 2021 we had 4 deployments for search and rescue, 5 training events, and 3 deployments involving suspect searches. The Drone Team completed 12 total deployments of all types in 2021.**



# CRIME PREVENTION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Office is manned by Sergeant Josh Graves. During 2021, above and beyond his Crime Prevention duties, he completed 10 crime incident reports, 144 calls for service, and he backed up other deputies on 74 occasions. Graves also wrote 2 citations and made 8 arrests in 2021.

During 2021:

- Sgt. Graves also completed the DCJS Crime Prevention Specialist Certification that requires 120 hours of additional training.
- Presented 8 Active Shooter training classes to local businesses and Medical Offices.
- Conducted numerous Neighborhood watch seminars on Staying safe in our Neighborhoods and tips for preventing Crime.
- Deployed the Radar trailer in 14 different areas in Augusta County to warn drivers of speeding in residential neighborhoods.

# DRUG TAKE-BACK

Sgt. Graves coordinated with Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on our agency's Drug Take-Back Days. The Sheriff's Office has had a collection point for prescription drug disposal since 2016, and we hold a Take Back Day twice a year.



## 2021 ACSO Results

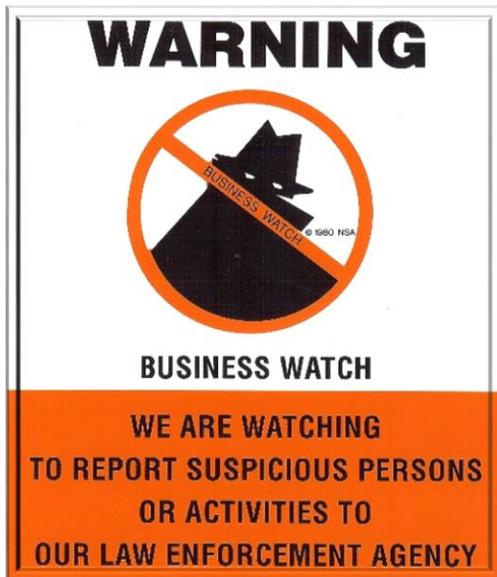
Saturday, April 24, 2021 – 482.5 lbs.

Saturday, October 23, 2021 – 304.5 lbs.

# BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Business Watch Program is managed by Sgt. Graves and spearheaded by Reserve Deputy Guy Williams. Business Watch is a network of neighboring businesses working with the Augusta County Sheriff's Office to:

- Promote communication and understanding between law enforcement and the business community.
- Encourage cooperation between neighboring merchants.
- Teach merchants to crime-proof their properties and to watch over neighboring businesses and report any suspicious activity to authorities.
- Develop a telephone tree system for quick dissemination of information regarding criminal activity in the area.
- Encourage the development of signals to activate in adjacent businesses when someone needs help.



During 2021, Reserve Deputy Guy Williams conducted 997 Business Watch checks at area businesses. Deputy Williams also assisted Patrol deputies on 16 occasions in 2021.



## SCHOOL RESOURCE DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office School Resource Division is commanded by Sgt. Chris Pultz and oversees four School Resource Officers and two part-time SRO's. These deputies provide police services at all of the County's High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools, during school hours, and at after-hours events. In 2021, the School Resource Division completed 154 crime incident reports. SRO's also handled 1,235 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 483 occasions, and wrote 23 citations, and made 54 arrests in 2021.



## DEPARTMENTAL CHAPLAIN

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office was pleased to add Chaplain Mike Wood to our team in 2021. Mike took over from Chaplain Robert Johnson, who left our area and relocated to Memphis, Tennessee. Chaplain Mike assists in death notifications, rides along with patrol deputies, and frequently sends out inspirational video messages to our agency.



# 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS



Many of our community events were limited due to the COVID19 Pandemic, but we were still able to participate in many community events in 2021.

## FIRST RESPONDER NIGHT AT WILSON HIGH SCHOOL



# 2021 AUGUSTA COUNTY FAIR



## SENIOR LIVING OUTREACH MAY 13, 2021



## ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS



# CHURCHVILLE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PARADE



## CANINE TEAM DEMONSTRATION JUNE 2021



# 2021 ACSO FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT



2021 Titleist #1 ball in golf. EVENT ACSO TOURNAMENT

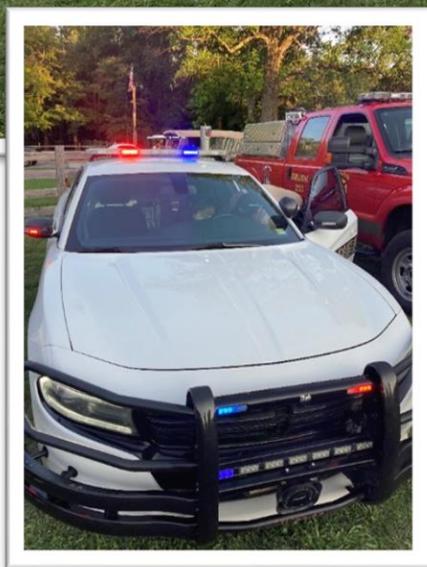
FORMAT	TEAM #	TEAM PLAYERS	IN	OUT	DATE	TEAM SCORE
	1A	MORAN GOREK PARSONS AIRGINS			2 <sup>nd</sup>	56
	1B	GARVIN COBB BISHOP HOEMAKER				60
	2	SONNERS WYDONOUGH SOLOMON DULANEY WHITESSELL			3 <sup>rd</sup>	58
	3	DICE BRADLEY ROBBY'S SERVICE				72
	4A	SHIELDS SOKELMAN HILL MELAMROCH				62
	4B	BATTLE SHAPFER GABLER				60
	5	HALE SNYDER SNIFFLETT HALE WHITEHALL				63
	6	RAZIER AUSTROP HARRIS DEWIS			1 <sup>st</sup>	55
	7	GRIZZARD STEWALE STAVISKY SAUNDERS				78



## AUGUSTA COUNTY 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



## SHENANDOAH ACRES 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



## CANINE KARA MEMORIAL FEBRUARY 2021



Portrait presented to Captain Ryan Insana created by ACSO's own skilled artist, Sgt. Patrick Fuchs.

## CANINE KARA MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION SEPTEMBER 2021



# FUNERAL PROCESSION FOR ARMY STAFF SGT. RYAN C. KNAUSS KIA



RYAN  
KNAUSS

May your service, sacrifice and  
courage never be forgotten.



# HOMECOMING FOR RYLAND!

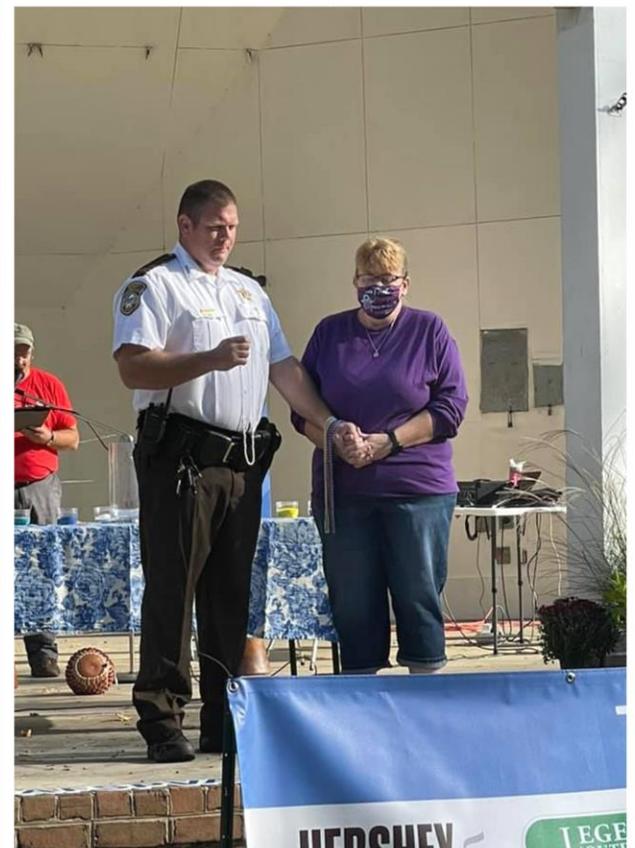


## POLICE PARADE FOR BENJI AT AUGUSTA HEALTH - SEPTEMBER 30TH

The ACSO D-shift paid Benji a visit at Augusta Health yesterday with a small parade and goody bag. Benji has been in the hospital for a while now and told his caretaker that he didn't understand why no one could come to visit him. He loves police officers.



## OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK AT GYPSY HILL



**10TH ANNUAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**

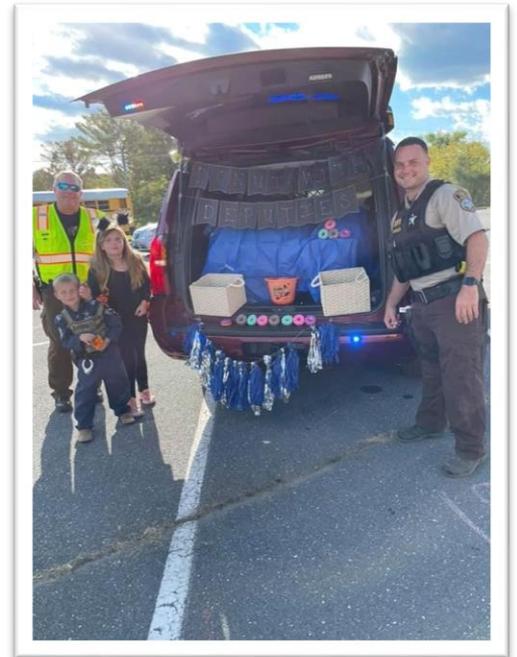
REGISTER AT [HELPLINE.DELMAR.ORG/WALK](https://helpline.delmar.org/walk)

## DRAFT VFD LAWN PARTY

## 2021 TRUNK OR TREATS



Wenonah Elementary  
Bridge Church  
Dooms VFD  
Hugh K. Cassell



**BUCKLE UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS CANDY CANE GIVEAWAY**



**2021 STUARTS DRAFT CHRISTMAS PARADE**





## CHRISTMAS 2021 GIFT DELIVERIES

This year on Christmas Eve, members of the Augusta County Sheriff's Office continued our tradition of delivering Christmas to needy children in our community. Instead of giving bicycles this year, we bought clothes and presents for approximately 90 children from all of the county schools.

ACSO makes special deliveries ahead of Santa's arrival



*This event was sponsored and made possible through the generous anonymous donations of local businesses and community members throughout Augusta County.*



# 2021 AWARDS

**In 2021, deputies received the following recognition on our Traffic Safety Enforcement Awards Perpetual Plaques**

**2021 Occupant Protection Award – Sgt. William Mikolay - 98 Citations**

**2021 DUI Enforcement Award – Deputy Cody Stroop -13 Arrests**

**2021 Speed Enforcement Award – Cpl. Shamica Spears - 665 Citations**

**Individual 2021 Departmental Awards will be announced in February of 2022.**

## DAWBARN AWARD

This year School Resource Officer Robert Hildebrand was a recipient of the prestigious Dawbarn Award. The purpose of the Dawbarn Education Awards is to improve public education in the area by recognizing and rewarding individuals who have demonstrated dedication and willingness to go beyond the expected level of service to students, consistently exceeding normal standards of performance, extraordinary commitment to finding effective ways to encourage students to reach their full potential, leadership in motivating, and inspiring young people to learn, to excel, to set high personal goals, and to value education as a life-long pursuit.



Robert Hildebrand, Dawbarn Education Award recipient for 2021  
Photo Provided By The Community Foundation Of The Central Blue Ridge

# 2021 PROMOTIONS

**First Sergeant** – Matthew Carter  
**Sergeant** – Matthew Wilcher, Jeff Dietz  
**Corporal** – Wes Breeden, Tyler Kirby, Cody Stroop  
**Investigator** – Matthew Vincent, Leonardo Cancino



# 2021 RETIREMENTS

Lt. Aaron Leveck  
Sergeant Jonathan Sholes  
Corporal Edward Mock  
Deputy David Lots  
Deputy Robert Hildebrand  
Deputy John Callison  
Dispatcher Nina Valadez

# IN REMEMBRANCE



James Edmund "Jim" Mader

May 02, 1945 - October 08, 2021

**Lt. James Mader, UNIT 313 who retired in January of 2013 after forty-three years of service to the Augusta County Sheriff's Office passed away on Friday, October 8, 2021. Jim was a staple at the Sheriff's Office and loved by all. Rest in peace 313!**



# **STATISTICS FOR 2021**

**Total Civil Process Served: 17,702**

**Total Crime Incident Reports: 3,553**

**Criminal Warrants Served: 2,342**

**Criminal Summons: 232**

**Order of Protection Served: 134**

**Child Protective Order Served: 8**

**Capias Served: 1,651**

**Probation Violation: 25**

**Temporary Detention Orders Served: 349**

**Emergency Custody Orders Served: 295**

**Mental Health Transports Out of Jurisdiction - 16**

**Mental Health Transports within Jurisdictions – 649**

**Extraditions - 17**

**Juvenile Detention Orders Served: 45**

**Traffic Charges: 5,157**

**Augusta County DUI Arrests: 62**

## 2021 TOTAL OFFENSES: 2,212

-7.00% Decrease from 2021 (2020 TOTAL 2,367)

Incidents	Total
<b>Offense Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
All Offense Types	2,212
Crimes Against Person	512
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter	2
Negligent Manslaughter	0
Justifiable Homicide	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	13
Forcible Rape	17
Forcible Sodomy	4
Sexual Assault With An Object	3
Forcible Fondling	38
Incest	0
Statutory Rape	1
Aggravated Assault	61
Simple Assault	319
Intimidation	54
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0
Crimes Against Property	1,371
Arson	2
Bribery	1
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	120
Counterfeiting/Forgery	32
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	237
Embezzlement	25
Extortion/Blackmail	4
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	59
Credit Card/Automatic Teller Fraud	55
Impersonation	13
Welfare Fraud	0
Wire Fraud	117
Identity Theft	91
Hacking/Computer Invasion	31
Robbery	3
Pocket-picking	0
Purse-snatching	0

Shoplifting	19
Theft From Building	58
Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device	1
Theft From Motor Vehicle	126
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories	120
All Other Larceny	168
Motor Vehicle Theft	87
Stolen Property Offenses	2
Crimes Against Society	329
Drug/Narcotic Violations	175
Drug Equipment Violations	67
Betting/Wagering	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0
Sports Tampering	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	27
Prostitution	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0
Weapon Law Violations	54
Animal Cruelty	6
Missing	0