

# AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                         | <b>PAGE 2</b>     |
| <b>COUNTY OF AUGUSTA</b>                    | <b>PAGE 3</b>     |
| <b>SHERIFF</b>                              | <b>PAGE 4</b>     |
| <b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>                    | <b>PAGE 5</b>     |
| <b>THE AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>  | <b>PAGE 6</b>     |
| <b>COMMAND STAFF</b>                        | <b>PAGE 7</b>     |
| <b>UNITS</b>                                | <b>PAGES 8-16</b> |
| <b>2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>                | <b>PAGE 17-30</b> |
| <b>2022 AWARDS, PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS</b> | <b>PAGE 31-33</b> |
| <b>2022 STATISTICS</b>                      | <b>PAGE 34-36</b> |

# INTRODUCTION

**The Augusta County Sheriff's Office respectfully submits the following information as to its 2022 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. 2022 was a very challenging year for our agency and we successfully balanced the challenges that 2022 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**

*Sheriff Donald L. Smith*

# 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 20 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 has an authorized strength 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. A successful 2022 SRO grant for twelve (12) additional deputies, has increased our agencies final authorized but as of yet unfilled strength at 106 full-time deputies.

The Sheriff's Office reinstated the Reserve Program in 2019, and during 2022 Reserve Deputies added 5,122.25 volunteer hours to the agency.

During 2022 our agency responded to 22,356 calls for service and we had 40,389 self-initiated incidents for a combined total of 63,224 incidents. We also completed 9,771 Extra Patrol requests in 2022.



# ACSO COMMAND STAFF



**MAJOR BRIAN JENKINS**  
CHIEF DEPUTY

## PATROL / COURTS



**LT. JAMES SNYDER**

## INVESTIGATIONS



**LT. STEVEN CASON**

## ADMINISTRATIVE



**LT. LESLIE SNYDER**



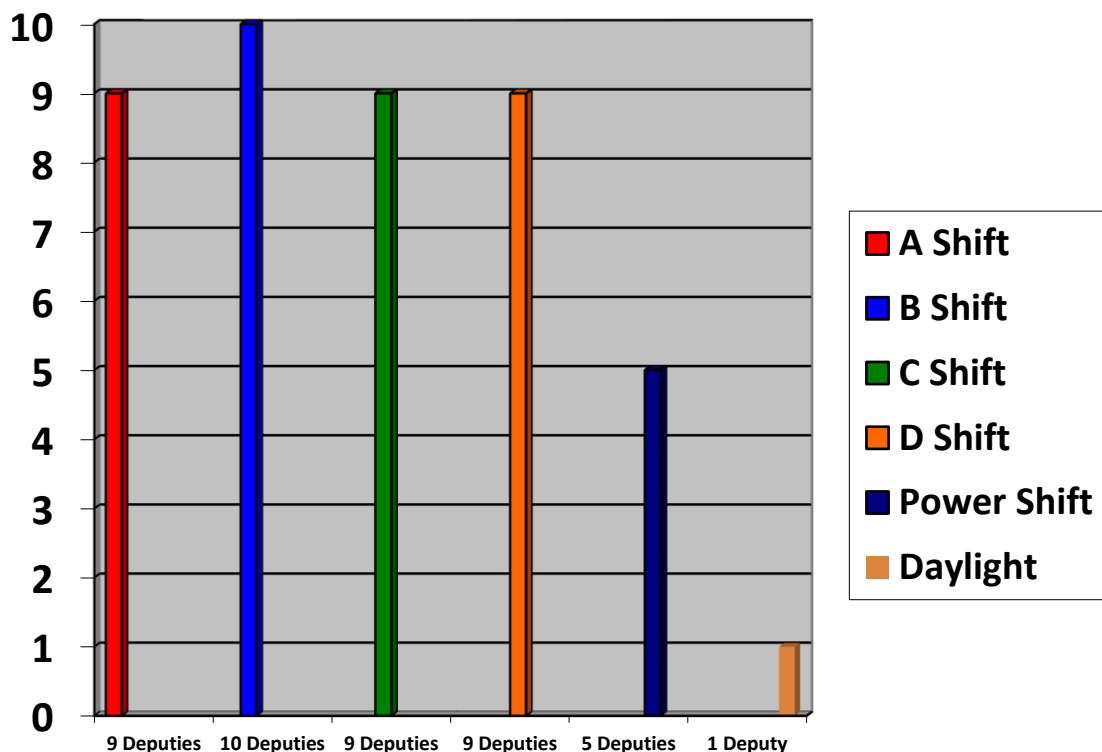
# SHERIFF'S OFFICE UNITS

## PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Department's enforcement efforts and with 43 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 2022 the Division completed 2,548 Crime Incident Reports, they made 3,789 arrests and wrote 4,490 traffic summonses.

## ACSO PATROL DIVISION



## **PATROL POWER SHIFT**

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Power Shift, staffed with 4 members in 2022, answered 4,384 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 1,962 occasions, for a total of 6,346 incidents. The shift generated 298 crime reports, and 4 motor vehicle crash reports. The members also issued 675 summonses and made 945 arrests during 2022.

## **RESERVE DEPUTIES**

During 2022, the Reserves logged 5,122.25 Hours of service to the community by riding with full-time deputies and staffing community events. This is a 206.99 % increase in hours from 2021. Deputy Eric Gilbert contributed the most reserve time this year, logging 749 hours in 2022.

## **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 2022 the Division screened 50,096 court complex visitors and served 4,620 total civil papers. They also completed 208 jail transports, and they handled 231 inmates. Additionally, the Court Security Division made 48 arrests, processed 122 individuals, and conducted 33 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 2022:

- Total states traveled: Virginia and Georgia
- Total inmates transported: 11
- Total miles: 1,632
- Total facilities: 6 Jails

**Total Days in session: Circuit Court – 297**  
**Juvenile and Domestic Relations – 297**  
**General District Court – 187**

\* 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.

## **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 2022 the Civil Process Division served 13,433 pieces of civil process of all types. The Civil Division responded to calls for service on 1,951 occasions and backed up other deputies on 679 occasions. The four members of the Civil Division wrote 51 reports, 150 citations, and made 9 arrests in 2022.

The civil division also completed 79 evictions, 41 repossessions, and 16 complaints on inoperable vehicles from the Augusta County Community Development Department in 2022.

## **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 2022 they wrote 455 initial reports and handled 684 assigned cases. Additionally, Investigators responded to or generated 959 incidents, and backed up other deputies' 427 times in 2022. Investigators also wrote 66 traffic summonses and made 27 arrests in 2022.

Investigators fielded numerous interagency referrals in 2022:

*Child Protective Services Referrals: 163*  
*Adult Protective Services Referrals: 198*

## 2022 STATS

### SKYLINE DRUG TASK FORCE

Narcotics Investigations are handled by Sheriff's Office members assigned to the Skyline Taskforce which during 2022 had Three ACSO investigators assigned.

In 2022, Task Force investigators wrote 113 reports and executed 40 narcotics Search warrants.

Total assets seized were \$74,357.10 in U.S. currency and 22 Firearms.

#### Methamphetamine

6,971.84 GRAMS

15.37 pounds

#### Psychedelics

1134.30 GRAMS

2.5 pounds

#### Marijuana

16,795 GRAMS

37.02 pounds

#### Prescription Pills

(Mostly Fentanyl)

4,262 DOSES

#### Heroin

32.47 GRAMS

#### Fentanyl

1200.80 GRAMS

(2.64 pounds)

**Street Value of  
Narcotics seized:**

**\$ 6,971,840.00**



## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**In 2022, our agency processed 42 post-arrest DNA samples and 9 post-arrest court ordered fingerprints. During 2022, we processed 1,783 concealed weapons permit applications and renewals. Additionally, 193 citizens were fingerprinted for employment and background checks.**

## **EVIDENCE ROOM**

**In 2022, our agency processed 1,719 items of evidence and completed quarterly and bi-annual audits of the Evidence Room. In 2022, the Evidence Custodian submitted items of evidence from 319 cases to the Department of Forensic Science for forensic examination. 24 trips to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science were completed in 2022.**

**In 2022, we continued to lawfully dispose of evidence and property in the Sheriff's Office Evidence Room. We currently have 3,764 items of evidence on hand, down from 6,733 items of evidence on hand in 2021. 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 2022 we had 3 deployments for search and rescue, 7 training events, and 3 deployments involving suspect searches. The Drone Team completed 13 total deployments of all types in 2022.**



# CRIME PREVENTION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Office is manned by Sergeant Josh Graves. During 2022, above and beyond his Crime Prevention duties, he completed 27 crime incident reports, 139 calls for service, and he backed up other deputies on 23 occasions. Graves also wrote 5 citations and made 2 arrests in 2022.

During 2022:

- Presented 9 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 8 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, in conjunction with the DEA.



## 2022 ACSO Take-Back Results

April 2022 – 321 lbs.

October 2022 – 420 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 2022, Reserve Deputy Guy Williams conducted 693 Business Watch checks at area businesses. Deputy Williams also assisted Patrol deputies on 16 occasions in 2022.



Guy Williams. Submitted.

## Guy Williams goes from world of finance to volunteer patrol duty: 2022 Newsmakers

2022 NEWSMAKERS



**Brad Zinn**

Staunton News Leader

Published 8:58 p.m. ET Dec. 19, 2022

## SCHOOL RESOURCE DIVISION

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office School Resource Division is commanded by Sgt. Chris Pultz and oversees six (6) School Resource Officers and two (2) 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 2022, the School Resource Division completed 170 crime incident reports. SRO's also handled 1,122 calls for service, backed up other deputies on 362 occasions, and wrote 15 citations, and made 10 arrests in 2022.



On June 17, 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced more than \$37.5M in Criminal Justice Grant Funding, including funding for 86 SRO positions and 15 SSO positions for FY23 in school divisions throughout the Commonwealth. In July of 2022, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office submitted a proposal and grant application to the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for this FY23 SRO/SSO Incentive Grant Program.

In August of 2022 our agency was awarded a grant for the Augusta County SRO Program. This grant award totals \$778,583.00. These DCJS grant funds will be utilized to hire, train and deploy twelve (12) new School Resource Officer positions for Augusta County Public Schools.



## DEPARTMENTAL CHAPLAIN

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office was pleased to add Chaplain Mike Wood to our team in 2021. Chaplain Mike assists in death notifications, rides along with patrol deputies, and sends out inspirational video messages to our agency.



# 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS



## 2022 RELAY FOR LIFE



## MAY 16, 2022 NAACP PRAYER BREAKFAST



## May 2022 - ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



## BISON BEGINNINGS EARLY LEARNING CENTER IN CHURCHVILLE



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA PARADE AT GYPSY HILL PARK**



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



## STUARTS DRAFT FIREMAN'S PARADE – AUGUST 2022



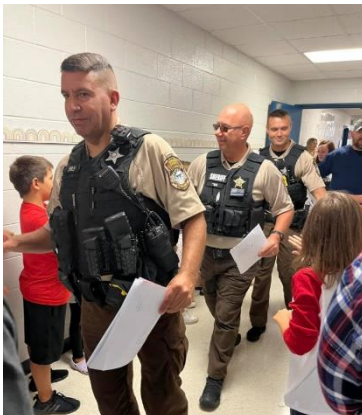
## STUARTS DRAFT HIGH SCHOOL FIRST RESPONDER TRIBUTE



## SEPTEMBER GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL AND DAYCARE



## CLYMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 9/11 MEMORIAL

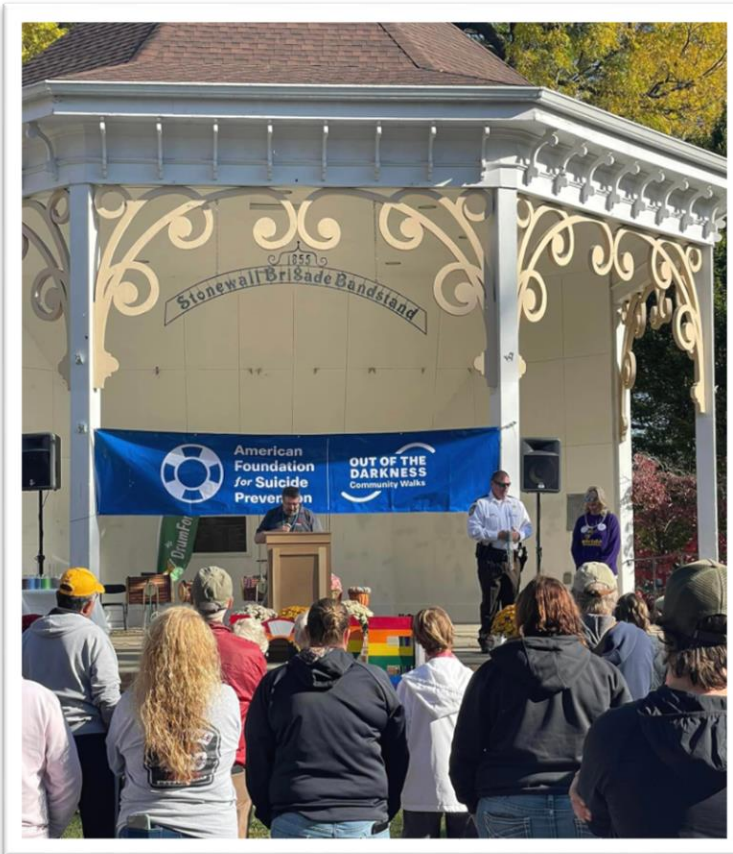




# 2022 ACSO FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT



# OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK AT GYPSY HILL OCTOBER 20, 2022



## 2022 TRUNK OR TREATS





# 2022 DONUTS WITH A DEPUTY AT CLYMORE ELEMENTARY



## Augusta County Sheriff's Office Annual Donuts with a Deputy



## 2022 DISPLAY AT GYPSY HILL PARK



# 2022 STUARTS DRAFT CHRISTMAS PARADE



## 2022 VERONA CHRISTMAS PARADE



## 2022 NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS PARADE



## NATALIE COMES HOME!

On December 18, 2022, we were honored to join the community in welcoming home Natalie Dodge who is fighting cancer. She is home for the holidays from St. Jude's Children's Hospital to celebrate Christmas at home with her family!



## DECEMBER 19, 2022 RURITAN BREAKFAST

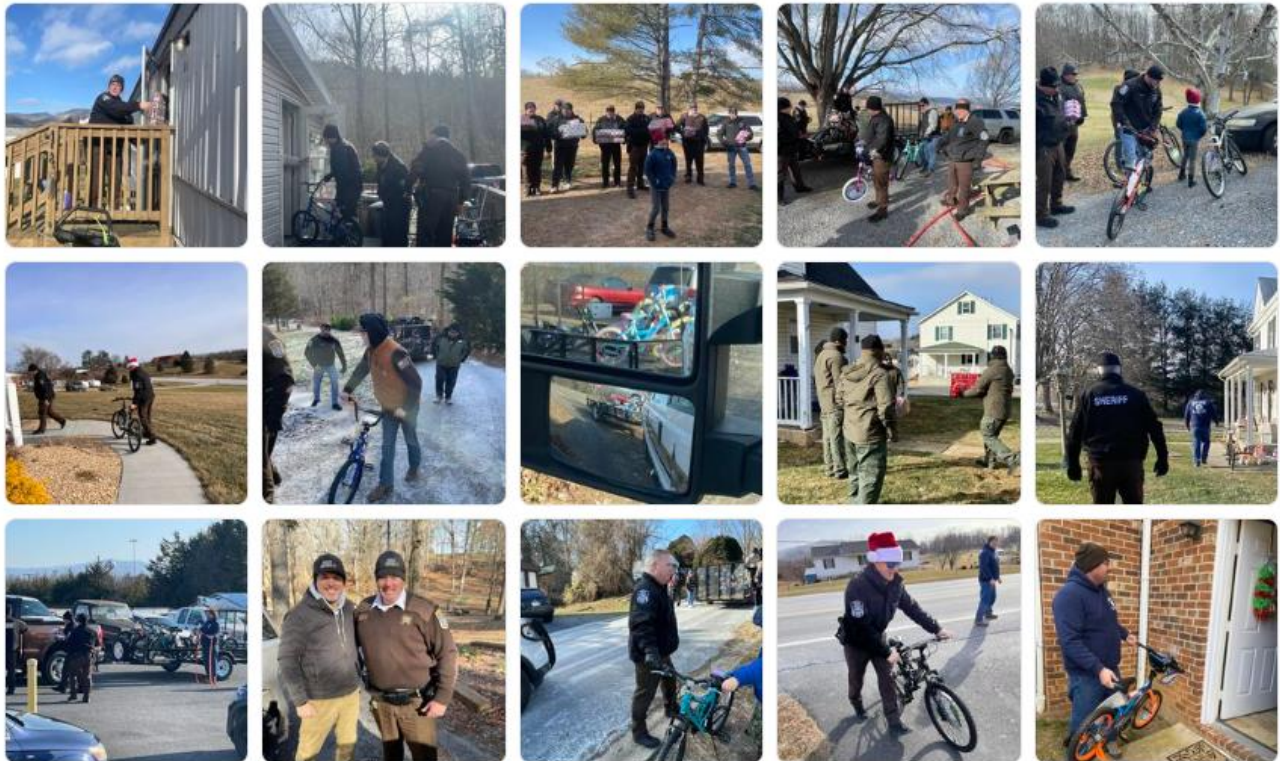




## CHRISTMAS 2022 GIFT DELIVERIES



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.



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

# CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

For the last several years before Christmas, Deputy Steve Davis, Christy Kerr, the Ag teacher at Fort Defiance High School, and Shannon Brake, the Principal at Cassell Elementary collectively purchase candy, supplies and snacks to fill Christmas stockings for children at the Valley Mission in Staunton and the Woman's Shelter in Waynesboro. With the help of the Ag students at Fort Defiance High School, they filled over 30 stockings to hand out.





THE AUGUSTA COUNTY SHERIFF  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# 2022 AWARDS

**In 2022, deputies received the following recognition on our Traffic Safety Enforcement Awards Perpetual Plaques**

**2022 Occupant Protection Award – Cpl. Shamica Spears - 100 Citations**

**2022 DUI Enforcement Award – Sergeant Patrick Fuchs - 8 Arrests**

**2022 Speed Enforcement Award – Cpl. Shamica Spears - 420 Citations**

**Individual 2022 Departmental Awards will be announced in February of 2023.**

# 2022 PROMOTIONS

Investigations Sergeant – Ryan Martin

# 2022 RETIREMENTS

Deputy Rennie Bowersox – 28 Years of Service  
Part Time Deputy C.R Randy Miller – 15 Years of Service



# 2022 ADDITIONS

## 145<sup>TH</sup> BLE GRADUATION



Deputies Peter Davis, Calvin Heatwole, Michael Thornton and Lloyd McDaniel graduated from the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy on May 19, 2022.

## 146<sup>TH</sup> BLE GRADUATION



Deputies Jared McNeal and Jack May graduated from the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy on November 17, 2022.

# 2022 LOSSES

Deputy Patrick Overbey (*Retired*) 1954 - 2022



Deputy Sheriff Patrick Overbey served the citizens of Augusta County for 28 years as a Deputy Sheriff from 1985 – 2013.



# STATISTICS FOR 2022

**Total Civil Process Served: 17,230**

**Total Crime Incident Reports: 3,780**

**Criminal Warrants Served: 5,350**

**Criminal Summons: 177**

**Order of Protection Served: 135**

**Child Protective Order Served: 9**

**Capias Served: 1,957**

**Probation Violation: 43**

**Temporary Detention Orders Served: 264**

**Emergency Custody Orders Served: 209**

**Mental Health Transports Out of Jurisdiction – 56 *(250% increase)***

**Mental Health Transports within Jurisdictions – 388**

**Extraditions - 15**

**Juvenile Detention Orders Served: 82**

**Traffic Charges: 4,752**

**Augusta County DUI Arrests: 57**

## 2022 TOTAL OFFENSES: 2,285

3.30% Increase from 2021 (2021 TOTAL 2,212)

| Incidents                                | Total        |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Offense Type</b>                      | <b>Total</b> |
| All Offense Types                        | 2,285        |
| Crimes Against Person                    | 527          |
| Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter     | 1            |
| Negligent Manslaughter                   | 0            |
| Justifiable Homicide                     | 0            |
| Kidnapping/Abduction                     | 19           |
| Forcible Rape                            | 14           |
| Forcible Sodomy                          | 8            |
| Sexual Assault With An Object            | 6            |
| Forcible Fondling                        | 38           |
| Incest                                   | 0            |
| Statutory Rape                           | 2            |
| Aggravated Assault                       | 41           |
| Simple Assault                           | 344          |
| Intimidation                             | 54           |
| Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts   | 0            |
| Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude | 0            |
| Crimes Against Property                  | 1,413        |
| Arson                                    | 5            |
| Bribery                                  | 0            |
| Burglary/Breaking & Entering             | 148          |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery                   | 57           |
| Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property | 245          |
| Embezzlement                             | 23           |
| Extortion/Blackmail                      | 4            |
| False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game  | 80           |
| Credit Card/Automatic Teller Fraud       | 46           |
| Impersonation                            | 20           |
| Welfare Fraud                            | 3            |
| Wire Fraud                               | 97           |
| Identity Theft                           | 88           |
| Hacking/Computer Invasion                | 2            |
| Robbery                                  | 3            |
| Pocket-picking                           | 0            |
| Purse-snatching                          | 1            |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Shoplifting                                | 49  |
| Theft From Building                        | 63  |
| Theft From Coin Operated Machine or Device | 7   |
| Theft From Motor Vehicle                   | 97  |
| Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts/Accessories   | 109 |
| All Other Larceny                          | 199 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft                        | 66  |
| Stolen Property Offenses                   | 1   |
| Crimes Against Society                     | 345 |
| Drug/Narcotic Violations                   | 178 |
| Drug Equipment Violations                  | 57  |
| Betting/Wagering                           | 0   |
| Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling     | 0   |
| Gambling Equipment Violations              | 0   |
| Sports Tampering                           | 0   |
| Pornography/Obscene Material               | 25  |
| Prostitution                               | 0   |
| Assisting or Promoting Prostitution        | 0   |
| Purchasing Prostitution                    | 1   |
| Weapon Law Violations                      | 74  |
| Animal Cruelty                             | 10  |
| Missing                                    | 0   |