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## The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



April 2017

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### Message from the Sheriff

Greetings and welcome to this month's edition of The Guardian Newsletter. I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue to share the accomplishments of our incredible team. It is my hope you will recognize that our employees are often an unrecognized team of heroes who are frequently overtasked and who work hard to accomplish their assignments even during times of understaffing and personal strife. Their jobs are not completed by people who are content to work a shift, check the boxes and look for the easy way. The quality of their work and the success enjoyed by this agency has been the result of extra effort, commitment to a common mission and values and pride in our Brotherhood, our calling and the badge we represent. They are all true professionals!

Check out this [link](#) to view just a couple of examples of supervisor reports regarding stellar squad performances by their folks under difficult conditions. I promise you will be impressed.

In spite of our large call volume, extra patrol requests, lengthy out-of-county transports and deputies out of work due to injuries, illness or training, our folks still find ways to give more of themselves. Their increased school security visits, commitment to using provided data for crime suppression and their extra efforts towards drug suppression have yielded great results. They have provided more effective school safety and netted significant reductions in breaking and entering and larcenies for four years straight. In addition to the investigative work and arrests made by the drug unit, extra efforts by patrol deputies have resulted in an increasing number of drug related arrests and reduction of criminal activity in certain high crime areas (HCAs). We are still working with other entities in the criminal justice system to join us in reducing domestic violence recidivism. Through partnerships with non-profit organizations such as Safelight, the Family Justice Center and others, this Sheriff's Office is committed to making a difference in our community.

Thank you for subscribing to this newsletter to become better informed about us and all that we do to deliver high quality, professional and courteous service to our customers. It is my firm conviction that the men and women who serve our agency across the board make the Henderson County Sheriff's Office second to none. I trust that you will agree.

Stay safe and God bless!!

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



## **Upcoming Events**

### **K9 Demonstration (4/19)**

The Edneyville Community Center and Henderson County Parks & Recreation will be hosting our K9 Deputy teams for a demonstration. If you want to learn about the capabilities of these working dogs and see them in action, join us on [Wednesday, April 19th at 3:45pm](#) at 15 Ida Rogers Drive.

### **Document Shred/Pill Collection Event (4/21)**

TRIAD Henderson County, along with Hope Rx, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Entegra bank, will be offering the community a free residential document shredding and drug take back event at Entegra Bank at 1617 Spartanburg Hwy on [Friday, April 21, 2017 from 10am-1pm](#).

### **Etowah/Horseshoe Town Hall Meeting (4/25)**

The next community meeting in Sheriff McDonald's Town Hall series will take place in the Etowah community on [Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#) at the Etowah Lions Club building located at 447 Etowah School Road. The Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Etowah Lions Club to disseminate information and crime prevention tips to our Etowah and Horseshoe residents.

### **Green River/Tuxedo/Zirconia Town Hall Meeting (5/16)**

The Green River/Tuxedo/Zirconia Meeting will take place on [Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 6-8pm](#) at the Green River Fire Department located at 1524 Old US Hwy 25 in Zirconia, NC. Thank you to the Green River Community Association for partnering with the Sheriff's Office to bring important information to the southern portions of Henderson County.

### **Crab Creek Town Hall Meeting (5/23)**

This event will be held on [Tuesday, May 23, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#) at the Crab Creek Community Center located at 53 Jeter Mountain Rd. Thank you to the Crab Creek Community Center for partnering with the Sheriff's Office!

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## **Hometown Heroes**

**Each month we would like to celebrate a few of the achievements and victories of our employees.**

The following is a letter sent in by a member of the public expressing appreciation to Deputy Gary Cox for going above and beyond what is required:

*I wanted to take a moment and send a note of thanks and gratitude to one of your officers. Today I received an unexpected visit from one of your deputies. As you can imagine I was concerned when I looked out my window and saw a patrol car in my driveway. Your officer very politely asked me my name and when I told him he asked if I had lost a set of dog tags. I said I had, but it had*

*been a long time ago. He then handed me a set of two different dog tags. One of these dog tags had belonged to my grandfather who was in World War I. The other dog tag belonged to my father who was in the Korean conflict. These were very special to me and I thought they were long gone. One of the officer's family members had found them and he had taken the time to go out of his way and locate me and return them. I shook his hand and thanked him but I forgot to ask his name. This was a very kind and thoughtful thing to do and it makes me very proud of the caliber of officers that we have in our Sheriff's Department. Please thank this officer once again for me.*

-Thomas F. Clark

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The 2017 Morris Kaplan Caring and Sharing Law Enforcement Award for the Henderson County Sheriff's Office was awarded to Julie Kidd on March 30, 2017. Julie wears many hats at HCSO in addition to her role as Evidence Custodian. She coordinates our successful Drug Disposal Program with lobby pill collection box and community collection events as well as teaching outstanding Emergency Preparedness classes throughout the county.



Read the [September 2016 Guardian](#) to read more about Julie's crucial role at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.

Read about the ceremony and other local law enforcement nominees in the [Hendersonville Lightning](#).

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club for honoring public servants with this award each year.

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A citizen who witnessed the Warrant Squad at work in early March called in to compliment the deputies who were involved in making the arrest. She called in to say Deputies Scott Lindsay, Justin Hoots and John Ross were very professional in their conduct. She specifically complimented Deputy Lindsay for the way he represented the agency during the arrest. She knew by the way

the team handled the call, everything would be fine. We appreciate this citizen who took time out of their day to pass along this observation.

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### **Public Safety Telecommunications Week - April 9-15**

Telecommunicators are always there to answer the call, providing an indispensable service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. During Public Safety Telecommunications Week (and every day or night of the year) we applaud the heroes behind the scenes! Below are some examples of the amazing work that goes on in the 911 Center.

---Corporal Vince Griggs wrote in to compliment a job well done by one of our telecommunicators:

*I would like to take a moment and express a job well done by Telecommunicator Wendy Smith. On March 24th a young lady having suicidal thoughts had called in for help. The young lady had a pistol and was planning on shooting herself. Smith was able to keep the caller on the phone. Doing this prevented a tragic incident from occurring. Smith was able to give the deputies time sensitive information without delay and was able to keep the caller from harming herself. Deputies arrived and were able to take custody of the young lady and she was transported to a local hospital for an evaluation. Others on scene had done a commendable job but without the calm communications from Smith this could have turned into a tragic ending. Thank you for all you do. Communications is the first contact someone has when they have an emergency and your training and dedication to serve your community was shown during this incident.*

---03/21/2017 saw another high volume of incoming calls handled by Baker Squad. Between 7 and 8pm on that Tuesday, there were 73 telephone calls processed (26 administrative phone calls and 47 911 calls). This was by far the busiest hour of the day. During that time, the calls they were handling included the following: a search mission for a runaway juvenile, road rage incident with an assault, multi-dwelling structure fire, motor vehicle accident with occupants ejected, suicidal subject, small child found alone beside roadway, report of shots fired, domestic disturbance calls, various medical calls, and a major brush fire-resulting in numerous 911 calls. (Just to name a few!) Even with this extremely high call volume, the overall percentage of 911 calls answered within 10 seconds remained above 95% for the entire day. Fantastic job by Tim Putnam, Mark Broadway, Lauren Brown and Stephanie Brackett!



Be sure to keep an eye on the [Henderson County Sheriff's Office Facebook page](#) during Telecommunications Week to learn more about our wonderful Communications staff!

## Behind the Badge

**Behind the Badge will give you a special glimpse into the lives of the men and women who are the heart and soul of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office.**

### STAR Jam

In order to raise funds for Camp STAR (read more in the [August 2016 Guardian](#)) and provide 5th grade STAR students with a fun after school activity, School Resource Deputies have been hosting STAR Jams at Flat Rock Middle School. These dances include a DJ, free throw competitions, concessions and the opportunity for kids to hang out with their friends and interact with law enforcement in a fun and positive way outside of STAR classes. Over six hundred students have attended the two STAR Jams held in 2017.



The gym converted to a dance floor



Student puts a donation in Cpl. Cantwell's Kiss a Piggy Jar

During the first week of March, the SRDs decided to hold a week long fundraiser at each of their schools to up the excitement at the March 10th event. The rules were the SRD who raised the most money would have to kiss a piggy at the conclusion of the Friday evening STAR Jam. The deputies collected donations at their schools as well as at the Sheriff's Office.

The grand total raised by the Kiss A Piggy competition was \$934.37. The winning deputy was: Deputy Lorie Levi

Unfortunately, Deputy Levi was unable to attend the STAR Jam because of a leg injury and subsequent surgery. In support of their teammate, ALL the School Resource Deputies kissed Cupcake the pig at the event.



Deputy Geyer kissing Cupcake the pig



Students waiting to hear who won

Thank you to the VIPs who provided traffic assistance during drop-off and pick-up, Camp STAR counselors and Jeremy Blankenship for bringing Cupcake the pig to get some sugar from the SRDs!



Sgt. Bishop, Cupcake and Jeremy Blankenship

## STAR Graduations

5th graders from across the county have been graduating from the seven week STAR (Sheriffs Teaching Abuse Resistance) Program. School Resource Deputies have been going into 5th grade classroom each week and teaching lessons on good citizenship and decision making, effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs as well as bullying and other topics. [Read more about the STAR curriculum](#)

We applaud our School Resource Deputies for equipping kids with important information and for being role models and allies as they head into middle and high school.



Upward Elementary STAR graduates wearing their STAR shirts



Atkinson Elementary's ice cream social celebration for STAR graduation

### **Pill Collection**

The School Resource Deputies used a teacher work day to host a pill collection day in honor of national poison prevention week. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and Ingles for hosting the event.



### **Kindergarten Readiness Rally**

Sgt. Ricky Bishop and Cpl. Jesse Blankenship attended the Kindergarten Readiness Rally to greet future students and their families. They shared information about Nixle Emergency Alerts with parents and made connections with students who'll be seeing them in their school's hallways in the fall.

## **Recent Events**

### **Story time with the Sheriff**

Sheriff McDonald visited Hendersonville Elementary on Dr. Seuss's birthday to read 'One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish.' The first graders were wonderfully attentive and enjoyed getting to meet the Sheriff of Henderson County.





## Civil Process

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office hosted a seminar on the Principles of the Service of Civil Process and Principles of Law Enforcement Intervention in Child Custody Disputes and Enforcement.



Kevin Smith with Smith Rodgers instructed 28 students from Alexander, Buncombe, Henderson, Polk and Rutherford counties. 12 of those students were HCSO deputies representing Detention, Criminal Investigations, Patrol and Support Services divisions.

Later in the month, Civil deputies hosted a civil sale on the steps of the courthouse.

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## Spring into Preparedness

Thank you to all the proactive residents who signed up and attended our Emergency Preparedness classes during the month of March. Evidence Custodian Julie Kidd taught two informative sessions. One aspect of being prepared is making sure you can communicate with loved ones during an emergency.



Sit down with your family and develop an emergency communication plan. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan> for tips and suggestions. If you've already created one, make sure you revisit it to make updates and refinements!

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## DOCC Graduation

Congratulations to our fourteen DOCC students on their graduation. They received excellent scores on their state exam and we wish them the best as they further their law enforcement careers. [Read more](#)



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## We Kare Bears

Thank you to Keller Williams for delivering Teddy Bears as part of the "We Kare Bears" program. This program provides stuffed animals to children in Henderson and Transylvania counties who have experienced a traumatic situation. Our deputies are now fully stocked in the event they are out on a call where a child needs comforting.



Thank you to Itzia Moreno, Laurie Hickman, Melanie Duttlinger and Cindy Campbell for stopping by to deliver the stuffed animals who were accepted by Patrol Captain Allan Corthell on behalf of our deputies.

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### **Spring Senior Projects**

Our Spring group of Senior Project students completed a series of classes with the Henderson County Sheriff's Office during the month of March. Local high school seniors with an interest in law enforcement learn about various divisions of the Sheriff's Office to further their knowledge and gain hours toward their project completion. They attended an overview presentation by the Office of Professional Standards, participated in a forensics demonstration in the crime lab, toured the Detention Center and 911 Center and learned about the SWAT and K9 units. Thank you to Sgt. Cecilia Rossell and Ashleigh Thomas for facilitating this educational program.



To view more photos of their program, visit the [Sheriff's Office Flickr page](#).

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### **Future Crime Scene Investigators**

The Nebula Navigators 4-H Club learned about forensic crime scene evidence with the help of Detective McClelland. He showed students how to detect their very own fingerprints and identity different fingerprints. Many of the students said they want to be Crime Scene



Investigators after participating in the demonstration!

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### **In-Service**

The training room at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office was busting at the seams every Thursday as Deputies, Detention Officers and Telecommunicators received the following in-service classes:



- Communication with the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
- Psychological Diagnosis & Autism
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Hazardous Materials
- IVC (Involuntary Commitment) - Merging the Legal Landscape with Use of Force Considerations
- NARCAN (Opiate antidote used to treat people who are overdosing)
- HCSO Personnel Processes
- Driving
- PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Annual Update

Training Coordinator Cpl. Stephanie Cantwell worked with supervisors and instructors to develop a diverse combination of both state/county mandated blocks, as well as additional courses that further the staff's education and skills in a variety of subjects and issues facing deputies and staff. Because of varying shift schedules and training room capacity, multiple days of instruction must be scheduled to accommodate the approximately 180 required attendees. Additional CPR, Firearms, Detention and Deputy specific training will occur within the next few months. Mandated online training classes will begin in May.

Thank you to our HCSO instructors Retired Sgt. D. McMurray, Sgt. Clamser, Lt. Fuss, Sgt. Matthews, Cpl. Cantwell, Staff Attorney Jason Smith as well as our guest instructors David Fitzsimmons and staff with the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHHS), Erin Fitzpatrick with Pardee Hospital and Maria Wagner with Mission Hospital for sharing their time and expertise with our staff.

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## **Sheriff's Citizens Academy**

The Academy members have had a jam packed month of instruction. Staff have made presentations on Animal Enforcement, K9, Violent Crimes Investigation, CCW (Concealed Carry Weapons), Emergency Preparedness, Volunteers in Partnership (VIP), Courthouse Security and Detention.

Jimmy Gunning, Citizens Academy member wrote, "The information that is being presented by the members of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office in support of the Citizens Academy lets the public know the commitment and work effort/ethics that the officers go through to perform their duties in protecting us. So proud of the men and women that serve and protect us here in Henderson County!"



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## **Personal Security**

Sheriff McDonald spoke to the Hendersonville Lions Club on personal security and home safety. A good way to reduce your chance of becoming victimized is to look at your home, vehicle and neighborhood through the lens of a potential criminal.



Lock your home and vehicle doors; utilize motion sensor lighting and security systems; don't broadcast when you are out of town on social media; communicate with your neighbors about suspicious vehicles in your area; these are just a few of the items he covered.

Someone once said, "The door to safety swings on the hinges of common sense." Don't get so busy in the hustle and bustle of life that you forget to take steps to keep you and your family safe.

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## Edneyville Town Hall

A wonderful town hall community meeting was held at the Edneyville Community Center of March 30th. Residents were presented with an overview of the Sheriff's Office, crime statistics and enforcement strategies for their neighborhood, safety tips and information about free programs offered by the agency. The VIPs also educated residents about their work and how to join their team. (Visit the [VIP webpage](#) for more information.)

Thank you to Henderson County Parks & Recreation (with special thanks to Karen, Eva and Lindsay) for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.



## Special Thanks



Patrick Benton retired from the Metro Police Department in Washington, D.C. He received the Inaugural Badge for President Trump's

inauguration and presented it to Sheriff McDonald. Thank you to Patrick for the heartfelt and unexpected gesture.



Thank you to Brian Ulbrich and his family for presenting this wonderful plaque to our Sheriff Office. We appreciate the support!

## Did you know?

Our Telecommunicators processed 191,106 calls last year. Take a look at a snapshot of our Sheriff's Office for 2016.

## Henderson County Sheriff's Office At a Glance - 2016

Sheriff: Charles S. McDonald

Chief Deputy: Jason A. Brown

Sworn Positions: 134    Non-Sworn Positions: 69    Volunteers: 85

Phone Calls Processed by Communications: 191,106

Henderson County Calls for Service (includes EMS, Fire, HCSO, Other LEO): 163,694

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Calls for Service: 126,647

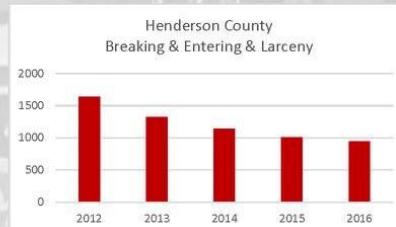
Incident Reports: 2,771

Arrests: 2,446

Average Inmate Population: 137

There were 1,224 Part 1 Crimes reported in 2016.

**This is a 35% reduction compared to the 2012 statistics.**



Following an agency-wide crime reduction initiative, Henderson County's breaking and entering and larceny numbers have dropped by 42% when compared to the 2012 statistics

School Checks (Deputy enters school & interacts with students & staff)				
School Year	# Weeks	School Checks	Avg. School Checks per week	% increase over '13 - '14
2015-2016	36	5,125	142	162%
2014-2015	36	3,729	104	91%
2013-2014	36	1,953	54	

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