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The Guardian

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Newsletter



3/5 of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad

June 2017

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Message from the Sheriff

We couldn't ask for a more beautiful beginning to the month of June, than what we have seen so far. Beautiful weather encourages a sense of hope and well being that is good for the soul. In the same way, as we take our Sheriff's Town Hall Meeting to various communities in the county, I feel a sense of hope and encouragement for the future of Henderson County.

These meetings allow your sheriff and his staff to present an hour long overview of the vision, mission and values of our office and how they impact our service and relationship to our community. Citizens get to meet other staff and deputies and review the crime data in their community, and ask questions. They get an overview of the history of the office of sheriff and what makes that office unique from any other law enforcement model in our nation. Citizens learn about our strategic plan and how it has resulted in effective and efficient utilization of our resources. As a result of a data driven approach to crime reduction, we have reduced breaking/entering and larceny four years in a row.

These meetings are a great venue for me to share our vision of meaningful and effective partnerships with our community. We are committed to solving community problems together, maintaining our quality of life, and enhancing the safety and security of our county. We aren't looking to implement generic PR programs from around the nation. We are committed to looking at the interests and needs of our specific community, and tailoring our programs and goals for Henderson County.

The [STAR](#) program is a great example of that philosophy. When deputies who were involved in the DARE program came to me and said that they felt we could present a better model that was specific to our county and its demographic, I gave them my blessing. They put together a program with the input of our county schools that has been a great success. I continue to hear positive feedback from the schools, students, parents, and my dedicated STAR deputies.

Our mental health system in NC isn't failing; it has failed. As a result, our deputies and detention staff deal with incredibly difficult situations. The numbers of calls dealing with mental health issues, often coupled with drug dependence, make our job increasingly difficult, especially when those folks end up in our jail. We are partnering with several groups to find better options for treatment, counseling, and hopefully life skills enhancements, in an effort to reduce the number of times people return to our jail.

We are partners with [HopeRx](#), raising awareness of opioid abuse and prescription accountability. We offer pill drops and drug disposal opportunities around the community and at the Sheriff's Office. We offer classes in Emergency Preparedness, Church Security seminars, Protection from Identity Theft and Fraud and much more. These are just a few of the "other services" that we perform while we carry out law enforcement mission. We do these and others at no cost because they are important and because we want our community to know who we are and how we can work together.

We are your partners first, and we are most effective working together to solve problems and prevent crime. It is true that, "A house divided cannot stand." A Sheriff's Office laboring without the support of the community it serves will never operate as effectively as it was designed to. Thanks to all who take the time to learn about our sheriff's office, and the great men and women who serve. This Guardian newsletter is an excellent way to stay informed. Thanks for reading and be sure to pass it on. God bless and stay safe.

Sheriff Charles S. McDonald



Upcoming Events

Henderson County Tax Sale (6/7)

There will be a Civil Sale on [Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 10am](#) at the Henderson County Courthouse Door (200 North Grove Street in Hendersonville). Visit the [Sheriff's Office Civil Sale webpage for more details](#).

Animal Enforcement Pig Auction (6/13)

On May 15, 2017, the Henderson County Sheriff's Office Animal Enforcement Unit responded to the area of the pond at 2129 Locust Grove Road to the report of a found pig. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 68-20 this pig shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Bidding shall start at \$25.00. The public auction will be held on [Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 10am](#) at Animals R Us located at 725 Crest Rd, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

Touch A Truck (6/24)

On [Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 10am-1pm](#), the Edneyville Community Center, located at 15 Ida Rogers Drive, will be hosting a Touch A Truck event. Join Henderson County Parks and Recreation, Edneyville Grange, Jr Grange and Edneyville Lions Club for this fun, learning event. Sheriff's Office deputies will be there with some of the equipment they use to save lives!

Fletcher & Surrounding Communities Town Hall (7/11)

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office will be holding a Town Hall Meeting for residents in the Fletcher, Hoopers Creek, Fruitland, Naples and Mountain Home communities. The meeting will involve a Q&A with Sheriff McDonald and his staff as well as a presentation on crime statistics, safety tips and community programs. This event will be held on [Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#) at the Boiling Springs Baptist Church Fellowship building located at 1291 Fanning Bridge Road in Fletcher, NC. Thank you to Boiling Springs Baptist and Pastor Cody Sturgill for partnering with the Sheriff's Office to bring important information to the northern portions of Henderson County.

Church Security Class (8/22)

Members of the public have requested another Church Security class be held and the Sheriff's Office has set a date. This class is free of charge for any and all churches to attend. This presentation will assist church leaders and congregation members in making their place of worship a safe and peaceful

place. It will be held at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office located at 100 North Grove Street on [Tuesday, August 22, 2017 from 6pm-8pm](#). Please RSVP to anock@hendersoncountync.org with Name, Church/Organization Name, Number of Attendees and Contact Phone Number and Email Address.

To view all upcoming events, visit HCSO's [News and Announcements page](#).

Hometown Heroes

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

Back in April, deputies were assembling for an ATV safety class at the WNC Agricultural Center in Fletcher, NC. During the site preparation, the ATV Instructor (a fellow first responder) suffered a cardiac arrhythmia, resulting in sudden cardiac arrest. Without missing a moment, deputies reacted admirably and responded immediately to the emergency.



Three deputies deserve special recognition for exceptional actions which directly resulted in the successful resuscitation of the patient. Lt. Brandon Staton immediately provided chest compressions, Captain Allan Corthell retrieved the AED and managed the patient's airway while Lt. Mike Marsteller applied and operated the AED which provided the essential electric shock needed to restart the patient's heart. Deputies and HCSO staff receive CPR certification every two years as part of in-service to better serve our community and each other.

Without the collaboration and quick response of these three deputies, a fellow first responder would likely not have survived this medical emergency. Their efforts embody the Mission, Vision and Values of our agency and their actions saved the life of a fellow public servant through application of medical efforts exceeding the normal call of duty.

We received a call about a distraught juvenile who was running away from home. Deputy Messer was able to quickly locate the 11 year old. Messer sat down on the side of the road with the juvenile and the duffle bag the young man

had packed. Deputy Messer did an outstanding job deescalating the situation and made the young man feel safe.

The conversation between the two led to the young man making the decision to return home to the care of his foster parents. Thank you to Deputy Messer for locating the juvenile, showing patience and compassion and taking the time to make a great impression on this young man.

Cpl. Aaron Lisenbee was awarded a Certificate of Merit for his outstanding work identifying armed robbery suspects and collaborating with patrol deputies to bring about arrests.



Communications personnel received a 911 call from an individual about a possible robbery, but the caller hung up before dispatchers could locate them. Cpl. Lisenbee was able to research and guide deputies to the residence. Lisenbee arrived on scene and was able to gather information and secure warrants. Cpl. Lisenbee, along with deputies from Charlie Squad developed a plan to serve the warrant at the suspect's residence. Multiple people were interviewed, linked to other robberies and arrested.

Fantastic investigative skills were exhibited by Cpl. Lisenbee along with seamless collaboration with Charlie Squad. Their wonderful work led to a prompt investigation with the end result of bringing a group of offenders to justice.

Our 911 Center recently received a note of recognition from Deputy Fire Chief Miller. He wrote, "I had to take the time and make you aware of an outstanding job by your staff. Unfortunately, we seldom take the time recognize great teamwork. On Friday April 28th during a lunch time frenzy... your squad handled over twelve calls simultaneously, with flawless execution and no issues. To create even more challenges, many were fire calls with numerous apparatus responding and providing command scene reports. Once again, great job by you and your staff."

Way to go Darlene Cook, Nick Zecher, Ashley Phillips, Susan Jones and Niki Long on a job well done!

Detective Michael Lolley accepted a team award on behalf of our Property Crimes Unit. The certificate of merit was awarded to detectives for their successful investigation of a [price swapping scam](#) impacting local retailers. Twelve people were charged and investigators worked seamlessly with SWAT and the patrol division to execute search warrants and make multiple arrests. Thank you to Lolley and his team for the diligence, patience and collaboration it took to bring these offenders to justice. We are happy to report all twelve offenders have been arrested.



Congratulations to Deputy Robert Grindstaff on his retirement from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office after 28.5 years of dedicated service.

Deputy Grindstaff has faithfully served as a dispatcher, patrol deputy, field training officer, parks deputy and most recently, the fleet manager for the agency.



Thank you Robert for serving the citizens of Henderson County for all these years!

Henderson County Sheriff's Office Deputies made 217 arrests between May 1st and May 28th. Below are links to some newsworthy arrests and events from the past month:

[Mills River man charged with felonies after traffic stop](#) (Times News)

[Two arrested on meth charges](#) (Hendersonville Lightning)

Great work by Deputy Owen and the Special Victims Unit for working to keep Registered Sex Offenders in compliance.

[Registered Sex Offender arrest in Henderson County](#) (WLOS)

[Registered Sex Offender arrested for operating social media account](#) (Fox Carolina)

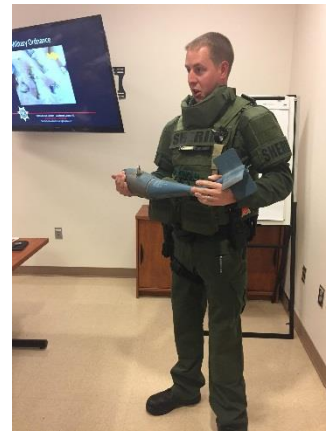
NC provides an online [Sex Offender Registry](http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov/) resource to help protect the public. Visit the database at: <http://sexoffender.ncsbi.gov/>

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.

Bomb Squad 101

Are you aware the Henderson County Sheriff's Office is equipped with a bomb squad? We hope this article will give you a glimpse into a specialized unit of the Sheriff's Office and how lucky our county is to have this team in our midst.



Deputy Reece presenting to the Sheriff's Citizens Academy

Who is on the HCSO bomb squad?

Unlike some larger agencies, where serving on a bomb/arson team is their primary job, HCSO bomb squad members serve on the team in addition to their primary assignment.

The HCSO Bomb Team has two certified FBI Hazardous Devices Technicians on the team. Deputy Rick Dudney is a School Resource Deputy and Deputy Brad Reece is an Animal Enforcement Deputy. They have three support personnel: Deputy Jason Stepp (Animal Enforcement), Deputy Chris Stepp (Parks Deputy) and Deputy Steve Ridgeway (Fleet Manager).

What are the main functions of a public safety bomb squad?

There are three main facets involved in a bomb squad. There is the training aspect, the operational missions and the equipment used to carry out those missions. In some areas of the nation, fire departments and municipalities have bomb squads. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Asheville Police Department are the only teams in Western NC. Henderson County's team responds to calls within our county and provides assistance to neighboring counties when they request it.

What kind of training goes into joining the bomb squad?



Deputy Reece in the bomb suit during a call out

The first step is to become a Hazardous Materials (hazmat) technician by attending the Center for Domestic Preparedness because every bomb call can potentially involve Hazardous Materials. In order to become a Certified FBI Hazardous Devices Technician, personnel must complete the Hazardous Devices School (HDS) at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. This is the facility that

trains and certifies every one of the nation's public safety bomb technicians, ensuring that training is standardized and technicians can work seamlessly with other teams during call outs. In addition to completing the HDS (and the corresponding recertification course that occurs every three years), bomb techs must take a yearly 40 hour class in a bomb related class and an annual Hazardous Materials refresher course. Technicians must also complete sixteen hours of additional training each month. The bomb team's support personnel take an ongoing combination of training courses.

What types of operational missions does a bomb team respond to?

The most common call out for bomb teams are suspicious package calls. Bomb teams also respond to bomb threats, hazmat incidents and the disposal of explosive materials that can range from found military ordnance to commercial explosives. Teams respond to Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) whether they were created as an experiment, for a terrorism purpose or to aid in the execution of a crime. Teams also provides support to agencies' SWAT teams.

What types of equipment does the bomb squad use?

The bomb team is equipped with a robot that can travel distances, communicate wirelessly, drag a person if they are in danger, and manipulate items (to an extent) preventing personnel from always needing to go down range in close proximity to potentially dangerous materials/devices. In SWAT operations bomb team members have utilized the robot to communicate with barricaded suspects or to aid in reconnaissance. In high risk situations the bomb squad can be called upon to assist in explosives breaching. The team is equipped with an x-ray machine that can be utilized to see inside suspicious packages and backpacks. Another tool is the EOD 9 bomb suit; the suit weighs 85 pounds and limits mobility, but provides some protection for personnel when they are in close proximity to devices and explosive materials. The team also relies on a variety of explosives, boosters, blasting caps, detonating cord and initiators when they are called out to safely dispose of explosive materials.



Deputies C. Stepp & Dudney set up for a demonstration

Where does the team train?

The HCSO Bomb Team trains locally as well as participating in regional training.



Greenville County's Bomb/Arson Team with HCSO members at regional training

Recently, Deputy Dudney participated in a regional training in South Carolina hosted by the Greenville County Sheriff Office involving Rock Hill Police Department, Anderson County Sheriff's Office and Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Charles McDonald presented Greenville County with a plaque and letter of appreciation for all the guidance and assistance GCSO has provided to our team as we became reaccredited by the FBI in the fall of 2016.

The Henderson County Bomb Team provides training opportunities for other entities as well. Each year the team provides demonstrations to the North Carolina Justice Academy's Specialized Explosives and Hazardous Materials Instructor Course. The bomb team is often called upon to teach classes and

demonstrations to educate fellow law enforcement and the general public about what they do and the equipment they use.



Deputy Ridgeway & Dudney set up for a NCJA Hazmat course

What types of calls has HCSO responded to?

In 2017 the bomb squad has responded to more than a dozen callouts including recovery of explosives, disposal of explosives, suspicious packages and hoax/threat calls. Using standardized techniques and the available tools, the team was able to determine the safest possible way to investigate the suspect packages. The bomb team also uses best practices in the safe treatment and disposal of found or seized commercial explosives.

By having a public safety bomb squad the Henderson County Sheriff's Office is part of the National Strategic Plan. The team can be called upon as a national asset and help any other agencies in this area of need including the SBI, FBI, and ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). The HCSO team has been called upon by the FBI to help in surrounding counties for things like high risk search warrants, when the suspect has known history of making improvised explosive devices and booby traps.

With the news these days it is nice to know that the Henderson County Sheriff's Office is prepared and ready for whatever challenges the future may hold.

Recent Events

Pill Collection Events

The Sheriff's Office participated in two successful onsite pill collection events during the month of May.

The Village of Flat Rock pill collection event yielded 47.34 and the City of Hendersonville event yielded 30.95 pounds of unwanted medications turned in for safe disposal. Thank you

to [TRIAD](#), [Hope Rx](#), [Hendersonville](#) and [Flat Rock](#) municipalities, [Hendersonville Police Department](#), [HCSO Cadet Corps](#) and [HCSO VIPs](#) for partnering to offer this important service to the community.



Visit the [Sheriff's Office website](#) for upcoming pill collection events. The public can always bring their unused medications to the [permanent collection box](#) in the Henderson County Sheriff's Office lobby every Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Stand T.A.L.L. donates funding for training

Recently the non-profit Stand T.A.L.L. (Thank a Local Lawman) has provided funding for various training opportunities benefiting employees at HCSO as well as other local law enforcement organizations. A \$500 donation was provided for mission essential training that included a Taser instructor recertification course and a class on law enforcement safety when encountering the potentially lethal drug Fentanyl.



[Mission Essential Training Funding](#) (HCSO Facebook)

[Stand T.A.L.L. provides tuition aid to BRCC BLET](#) (Times News)

Sheriff's Town Halls

Sheriff McDonald and his staff held two Town Hall meetings over the past month. Big thanks to the Green River and Crab Creek communities for their attendance, curiosity and feedback. In addition to safety tips and crime statistics, the Smart 911 program was covered. If you haven't signed up for a safety profile yet, do so by visiting www.smart911.com. Filling out a profile for your family can save precious seconds in emergency situations. The [next town hall](#) is scheduled on July 11 for Fletcher and surrounding communities.



Police Week

Members of Henderson County's Honor Guard, made up of members from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and Fletcher Police Department, paid their respects in our nation's capital during Police Week and in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day. Thank you to Deputy Tweed, Officer Fulmer, Deputy Dunn and Sgt. Gutierrez for representing our county.



[Watch a slide show of their time at the National Mall](#)

Law Enforcement Appreciation

Progress Baptist Church provided care packages for 50 of our deputies during Police Week. The congregation also brought care packages for our detention officers earlier in May for Correctional Officers week. We thank the congregation at Progress Baptist for reaching out and showing our men and women how much they are supported in this community!



STAR Jam

The May STAR Jam had 262 5th grade STAR (Sheriffs Teaching Abuse Resistance) students in attendance. These young people have graduated from their STAR program where they were equipped with knowledge and information to help them make good decisions and remain drug free as they head into middle school. Many of these students will attend one of five sessions of this summer's STAR Camp where the instruction and fun continues.



Photo credit: VIP Patrick Sullivan

[View the STAR Program's pre- and post- test results](#)

STAR Jams are conducted by School Resource Deputies and the funds raised go toward offsetting costs of providing the day camp and STAR program.

A big thank you to our middle and high school STAR camp counselors for assisting at the event and our [VIPs](#) for volunteering to help with drop-off and pick-up. It was pouring rain during pick-up and our VIPs were still getting the job done!

Training Corner

As always, our staff at the Sheriff's Office is continually training. The seated portion of May's In-Service classes included classroom and practical portions of less-lethal force training, a report writing class taught by the Office of Professional Standards, the classroom portion of firearms training and more. Additional training for specialty certifications are ongoing. During the month of June our sworn personnel will be completing their online block of classes.



Cadet Corps

This month, during their Thursday evening meetings, the HCSO Cadet Corps learned about traffic stops, how to properly and safely behave if they are being pulled over by a law enforcement officer and basic subject control and arrest techniques.

If you know of any students ages 14-21 who are interested in the Sheriff's Office, would like to build leadership skills or are seeking a future career in the military or law enforcement, encourage them to consider joining our team of Cadets. More information can be found on their [webpage](#) or by emailing [Deputy Hurn](#).



VIPs Accepting Applications

The Volunteers in Partnership (VIP) have been ramping up their recruitment efforts at Sheriff's Office Town Hall meetings. Director Dale Coerver recently spoke to Rotary Club of Hendersonville about the great services VIP donates to Henderson County.



[Read more about VIP and how you can join our team!](#) (WHKP)

Memorial Day

The Henderson County Heritage Museum Tribute to Veterans was a beautiful ceremony honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom. Sheriff McDonald was honored to be invited to be a part of the program.



Thank you to those who gave all.

Bowen Workout

The Times News published an article on an upcoming fundraiser supporting the family of fallen Asheville Fireman Captain Jeff Bowen.

Deputy Hawkins from HCSO is quoted in the article because of his upcoming participation in the Hero WOD (Workout of the Day) on July 15 at Blue Ridge Crossfit. Thank you to Deputy Hawkins and all who are supporting this great cause.



[Workout, fundraiser honors fallen Asheville firefighter](#) (Times News)

Did you know?

Sheriff McDonald and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office recommend the public take the following steps if they find a dog or other missing animal.

Please call Henderson County Animal Enforcement Deputies at (828) 697-4911 and they will work with the Henderson County Animal Shelter in filing a found dog/animal report. This report allows the caller to give a description of the found animal and information about where the animal can be located.

Providing the Animal Shelter and AE Deputies with this information allows them to more quickly facilitate the reuniting of lost pets with their owners.

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