



**STANDING WATCH One Person. One Neighborhood. One Community at a Time.**



**Office of the Sheriff  
County of Franklin  
Newsletter May 2022**

**Upcoming Events & Dates**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** - Mother's Day

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>** – National Police Week

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Last day of School FCPS

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – FCHS Graduation

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - Armed Forces Day

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** - Memorial Day

**Woodman Life Award**



Recently, Lisa Landes of WoodmenLife, recognized COPS member Louie Jones with the March 2022 Award. Jones has been a Citizen's on Patrol member for several years and volunteers many hours each week with the Office of the Sheriff. See this Facebook post for more great information about Jones and his spirit of giving back.

[Facebook Louie Jones](#)

**Scam Alert**



The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is alerting residents of a new scam in our area. Confirmed in the Roanoke area, the Office of the Sheriff wants everyone to be alert of a mobile group of people attempting to scam and target the elderly. From information we have received from our Roanoke area law enforcement agencies, plus agencies in the several South Carolina jurisdictions, this group is known by the name of Irish Travelers.

Reportedly, they offer to seal driveways and/or paint houses, sheds and barns. The product they use is diluted with gasoline and damages most driveways beyond repair. The painting of buildings is also done with a diluted paint (with gasoline again) and doesn't stay on the building.

No current photos at this time, but we are told they drive newer Dodge trucks with large tanks in the back. In our area, reports show they were using Dodge trucks that were white in color.



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Be vigilant and share this post with all your friends. If you have any information, any questions or you are with the Media, please contact Investigator Steve McFarling at 540-352-5221 or by emailing [Steven.McFarling@franklincountyva.gov](mailto:Steven.McFarling@franklincountyva.gov)

### Texting and Driving



April has been designated as National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Statistical data reveals texting and driving is the deadliest of all distracted driving incidents. The phone call and text CAN WAIT. Don't be on your phone while driving. It is the LAW! Sheriff Overton says, "Put down your phone while on the roadways and please, arrive home safe to your family."

### Girl Scout Group Gift



The Office of the Sheriff would like to thank Girl Scout Troop #8456 for their kind cookie donation to our deputies this morning! What better way to start a Friday than with some delicious cookies! Thanks for this very thoughtful gift!

### National Telecommunicators Week

Dispatchers are the "behind the scenes" folks who are really the FIRST responders in any emergency. Our communications office receives (on average) over 70,000 calls a year and has been as high as 90,000 calls. Can you imagine that in Franklin County?

We celebrated this excellent group in various ways during their week, along with posting several Shining Star awards featuring members of our E911 Center.

Sheriff Bill Overton said at the beginning of NTW, "We salute and congratulate our women and men who are the first voice you hear when you call for help. Personnel always at the ready to assist our residents during some of the most stressful times of their lives. We are blessed to have this wonderful group of trained professionals."



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### Shining Star Awards



Recently, Shift Supervisor Megan Fenner was awarded a "Shining Star" Award for her work at the Office of the Sheriff. Fenner, along with her regular duties, is also involved in several community outreach projects with our agency. Congratulations Megan!



Dispatcher Wanda Horton has been a Communications Officer for over 10 years. A very detailed employee and like many of our staff, takes on other responsibilities. Horton validates and double checks all Protective Orders that come across our desk, plus maintains the Project Lifesaver database while working her full dispatcher's schedule. Congratulations to Wanda Horton.



E911 Dispatcher Shift Supervisor Jennifer Gammons was awarded a Shining Star recognition recently. Jennifer has been with us for over 11 years and has 15 years of total dispatch experience. Along with her supervisory position, she fills in quite often with manpower shortages in our E911 Center. Congratulations Jennifer.

### SML Rotary Club Dock Sign Program

During the month of April, the Office of the Sheriff used our social media outlets and our





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website to help the SML Rotary Club promote an important project. The Smith Mountain Lake Rotary Club was highlighting the need for visible dock signage which will assist first responders.

When answering a call by water, dock signage is imperative in ensuring they arrive at the correct address. Anyone living on Smith Mountain Lake can purchase a dock signage through the SML Rotary Club and the club can also install.

If any residents on the lake wants a sign, please direct any questions / comments to Charlene Jones 540-874-7002 or email [smlrotary@outlook.com](mailto:smlrotary@outlook.com).