

Office of the Sheriff

Newsletter



December 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

December 7th

Come Home to Franklin County
Christmas - Downtown Rocky Mount
4pm - 8pm

December 8th

Franklin County Christmas Parade
3pm

December 19th

Operation Christmas Joy
Gifting Day at Essig Center -
Ceremony at 4pm

December 25th

Christmas

December 31st

New Year's Eve

NOT SO NEW FACES AT THE OFFICE

Celebrating Milestones in December 2024



While we recognize members for their 5-year service milestones at our annual awards banquets, we don't want to discount the annual milestones that are just as important! Thank you all for your service!

- HL Nolen - 48 Years of Service
- Terry Dameron - 18 Years of Service
- Travis Dillon - 7 Years of Service
- Michael Moorman - 6 Years of Service
- Michael Dacre - 4 Years of Service
- Matthan Drew - 4 Years of Service
- Sam Messer - 2 Years of Service
- Zion Wade - 2 Years of Service
- Beau Custer - 2 Years of Service
- Cierra Rumley - 2 Years of Service
- Ethan Greer - 2 Years of Service
- Josh Newton - 1 Year of Service
- Michael Hurley - 1 Year of Service

MILITARY LEAVE - CHRISTIAN HALEY



Patrol Deputy Christian Haley was deployed on active duty with the US Army effective July 25th, 2024 for a period of 400 days.

He has been deployed overseas but is doing well and thanks everyone who has checked in on him.

Please keep Deputy Haley and his family in your prayers for a safe deployment.

We thank you for your service to this country!

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Navigating the Stress of the Holidays and Winter Months



Chaplain Gareth Stephenson
540-556-2093
Stephenson@ShieldChap.org

The holiday season and winter months can bring joy, but they can also bring unique challenges, especially for those in law enforcement. Increased responsibilities, longer hours, and heightened community needs can pile on stress. At the same time, colder weather, shorter days, and family obligations can impact your emotional and physical wellbeing. During this time, it's essential to focus on self-care and stress management. Here are a few tips to help you stay healthy, both mentally and physically:

- **Take Care of Your Body:** Stay active, even if it's just a quick walk or stretch between shifts. Maintain a balanced diet and stay hydrated, even when schedules get hectic.
- **Acknowledge Your Emotions:** It's okay to feel overwhelmed, exhausted, or even blue during this time of year. Reach out to a trusted friend, family member, or chaplain to share your thoughts—it can make a world of difference.
- **Find Moments of Gratitude:** Despite the chaos, take a moment to reflect on the positives in your life. Gratitude can help reframe stressful situations and bring peace.

Your chaplain team understands the unique pressures of this season and the demands of your role. We're here to support you in any way you need, whether it's a listening ear, a quiet moment of prayer, or guidance in navigating challenges.

Remember, you're not alone in this journey. Take care of yourself and lean on your support systems. You matter to us, to your coworkers, and to the community you serve so faithfully. Wishing you peace and strength this season!



Pastor Justin Likens
540-312-4280
RevLikens@gmail.com



FCSO WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE K9 HANDLER AND NEW K9 PARTNER



The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce a historic milestone for the agency as Sergeant Morgan Moorman becomes our first female K9 handler. Sergeant Moorman will be partnered with **K9 Shebang** (as in "she's gonna find the whole shebang"), a 16-month-old female yellow Labrador retriever trained in Electronic Scent Detection and as a Therapy Dog.



K9 Shebang, donated by O.U.R. Rescue—an organization dedicated to ending child exploitation and trafficking—has undergone rigorous training with Jordan Detection K9. Her unique skillset allows her to detect electronic storage devices that may contain evidence related to criminal activities, particularly in cases involving child exploitation. Sergeant Moorman recently completed a two-week handler course with Jordan Detection K9 in Indianapolis, Indiana, to finalize their training as a team.

Sergeant Moorman has been with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office since July of 2018 and currently serves as the Sergeant over the Criminal Investigations Division. Known for her exceptional dedication, professionalism, and leadership, Sergeant Moorman excels in her role and continues to set a high standard within the agency.

Adding K9 Shebang to our team marks an important step forward in our mission to combat crime and protect the children of Franklin County. In addition to serving our community, K9 Shebang will also be available to assist other local jurisdictions as needed.

We are proud to make agency history with Sergeant Moorman as our first female K9 handler and excited to have K9 Shebang as a vital resource in ensuring justice and safety for all.



SHINING STAR AWARDS GIVEN



Dispatch Supervisor Janna Foley and Dispatcher Charlie Crews

Excellence Award for their dedication and abilities to multi-task effectively during an extensive call for service shift, to include local storms from a Hurricane



Deputy William Hoyt

Outstanding courage and swift action in a moment of crisis, exemplifying the highest standards of bravery and dedication to save another man's life

SHINING STAR AWARDS GIVEN



SRD Carolina Knotts

Outstanding dedication and commitment to Franklin County Public School students by delivering the DARE Program across our elementary schools, while also maintaining service as a full-time School Resource Deputy in her assigned school.

Sergeant Elizabeth Hall

Outstanding performance in successfully completing multiple departmental audits within the same year, exemplifying attention to detail and organizational skills.

SRD Chad Huston and K9 Hunter

Excellence Award for successfully tracking and locating a runaway teen with autism, and ensuring the safety of the vulnerable individual to return them home to their family.



ROCKY MOUNT VETERAN LAID TO REST ON VETERAN'S DAY

Roy Fred Sprouse was born May 19, 1928 in Albemarle, Virginia to Frederick and Mamie Sprouse. He was drafted into the military and served in WW2. It is unknown which branch of service he served in. Roy was never married, nor did he have any children. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings. After working many labor jobs throughout his years, he eventually ended up in Rocky Mount, Virginia where he passed on April 21, 2009.

Due to no family being found, Sprouse was taken care of by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, who has held on to his cremains since his death.

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2024 at 2pm, Investigator Lurena Huffman and Evidence Technician Chad Sacra, with the help of Chaplain Justin Likens, Linda Stanley of the Franklin County Historical Society, and members of several philanthropic organizations laid Sprouse to rest in the historic Tanyard Cemetery in Rocky Mount, VA. A plaque was provided, and a small service was conducted to honor his life and service.

Thank you for your service, Mr Sprouse.
Rest easy.



MEDIA RELEASES - ARREST MADE



Franklin County Sheriff's Office Investigates Storage Unit Break-Ins; Arrest Made

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is investigating a series of break-ins at Bolt Storage located at 230 Lakewood Forest Road in Moneta. At this location, multiple storage units were unlawfully entered, and various items were stolen, including firearms, a gun safe, fishing poles, tools, tires, household goods, and guitars.

Through a thorough investigation, an arrest has been made in connection with these break-ins. **Jamie Lewis Guilliams**, 37 years old of Roanoke, was arrested on October 24th, 2024, for one felony count of Grand Larceny and one felony count of Statutory Burglary to Commit Larceny.

Since Guilliams' arrest, additional victims have reported stolen items from their storage units, so the cases remain active as the investigation continues. Investigators are working diligently to recover the stolen items and identify any additional suspects involved.

The Sheriff's Office encourages anyone with information about these thefts or the whereabouts of the stolen property to contact our office at 540-483-3000.



MEDIA RELEASES - ARREST MADE

On Thursday, November 14th, 2024, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office arrested a local high school teacher on charges related to sexual acts with a student.

Artem Robert Moyer, 30 years old of Rocky Mount VA, was charged with one felony count of Indecent Liberties with Child by Custodian and one felony count of Object Sexual Penetration.

Moyer is being held without bond pending court proceedings.



The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division recently conducted an extensive investigation following information related to suspected drug trafficking activities involving Christopher Jackson. During this investigation, investigators made contact with Jackson, who was found in possession of both cocaine and methamphetamine. As a result of this evidence, Jackson has been arrested and formally charged with three counts of Distribution of Cocaine and one count of Distribution of Methamphetamine, totaling four counts of Manufacture/Distribution of Schedule I/II controlled substances.

This case is currently pending trial in Franklin County Circuit Court.





MEDIA RELEASES - ARREST MADE

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division has successfully concluded a significant investigation into methamphetamine trafficking at the Lake Inn hotel, located in the Westlake community of Franklin County. Acting on received intelligence, the Division conducted a thorough investigation, which culminated in the execution of a search warrant at the location.



As a result of this operation, Stephen Patten Jr. has been charged with three counts of Distribution of Methamphetamine and one count of Possession of Methamphetamine. Additionally, Melody Patten has been charged with one count of Possession of Methamphetamine.

This case is currently pending trial in the Franklin County Circuit.



MEDIA RELEASES - ARREST MADE

On August 15, 2024, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division received intelligence indicating a significant quantity of methamphetamine would be traveling through Franklin County. Acting on this information, investigators conducted a targeted operation and successfully intercepted the suspect at the intersection of Booker T. Washington Highway and Jubal Early Highway.



Upon further investigation, deputies discovered Joseph Michael Truse Jr., a 42-year-old resident of Roanoke, to be in possession of approximately 69 grams of methamphetamine, along with other controlled narcotics.

Truse was arrested on October 9, 2024, and faces multiple felony charges, including:

- Four counts of Manufacture/Distribution of Schedule I/II Narcotics (2nd Offense)
- One count of Distribution of Methamphetamine Mix exceeding 10 grams

The investigation remains ongoing, with additional charges pending the results of forensic lab testing.