From the Desk of Sheriff McMahon

I would like to personally thank you for taking the opportunity to get to know your Sheriff’s Office through this Newsletter. It is my goal as your Sheriff for this office to be as transparent as possible. Our goal through this Newsletter is to share with you some of the great things we are doing in the community as well as keeping you aware of any potential challenges that may be going on. I would also like to personally take this opportunity to invite you to attend our next Sheriff’s Citizens Academy beginning in February 2017. Applications are available online at www.newhanoversheriff.com.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Ed McMahon
Vice & Narcotics

ELEMENTS is an all-inclusive program within the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Gang Task Force designed to implement a combination of education, prevention, intervention and diversion strategies to address the many factors that cause and sustain youth violence.

We work directly with youth, their family, school personnel, law enforcement and the community to help prevent youth violence. Some of the methods we use include: impulse control, conflict resolution, behavior modification, problem solving, teaching social and coping skills, peer mediation, tutoring and extra-curricular activities. We also work to improve family communication and increase family activities, provide parenting education including effective discipline in the home.

ELEMENTS helps to reduce association with delinquent peers and build positive relationships with others by providing exposure to new activities and character building lessons.

For more information please call 910-798-4300 or e-mail us at elementsprogramnhc@gmail.com.

Detention Division

Shopping or Selling On the Internet???

The Detention Division announces that you can now come to the Sheriff’s Office for a safe place to pick up your internet purchase when shopping on-line sites.

Buyers and sellers can now meet in the main parking lot at 3950 Juvenile Center Road. Spaces are clearly marked with the Internet Purchase Exchange location signs. Additionally, these areas are under camera surveillance to aid in fraud prevention as well as helping to ensure the safety of all participants.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to remind you that your unused medications can be a hazard to you and your family. You can dispose of these medications by taking them to a drop off box at one of our two locations.

Location 1: 3950 Juvenile Center Road

Location 2: New Hanover County Civil Front Desk Historic County Courthouse Room 201

For more information contact New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office at 910-798-4200.
The Crime Awareness and Prevention Unit is proud to announce its 2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics of North Carolina has raised $25,236.31. It has been a HUGE success! One hundred percent of all monies raised goes to support the nearly 40,000 athletes within New Hanover County and North Carolina. The money will go toward sports equipment, uniforms, coaching, transportation and housing to local, regional, and statewide competitions for Special Olympic North Carolina Athletes and their families.

This year the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office hopes to raise even more money and fundraising efforts will begin on February 11, 2017 with the Polar Plunge. For more information on this event or to find out how you can help with our fundraising efforts please contact Sergeant Billy Montjoy at 910-798-4245 or e-mail him at wmontjoy@nhcgov.com.

Stellar Awards – New Hanover County Government has made a promise to be the model of good governance by providing the best possible service to our customers and citizens. Reach for the Stars is a recognition program that now gives you the opportunity to share superior customer service experiences you’ve had with county employees.

Tell us about your positive experience with an employee who provided superior service by nominating them for the Community Service Award or the Stellar Award. The application process is simple and your effort is very much appreciated.

Submit your nomination at: www.nhcgov.com

Uniform Patrol

Deputy Justin Tyson received a Stellar Award for an outstanding community service by interacting with a child when he was on dinner break while on duty. The child was celebrating his birthday and was dressed up as a police officer. Deputy Tyson commented on the boy’s outfit and found out that one of the boy’s birthday wishes was to see the inside of a police car. He immediately gave the boy a tour, allowing him to turn on the lights and pretend he was driving. He also took the time to explain what law enforcement officers do on a daily basis and that they were there to help. The boy expressed his desire to be a policeman when he grew up so he could also help people.

Deputy Tim Lougher received a Stellar Award for outstanding community service by going above and beyond while counseling young boys that had vandalized a construction site.
Detective Division

Over the course of six months, the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office, along with the Wilmington Police Department and the Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office received numerous reports of residential break-ins at new construction sites across the area, in which, various appliances were stolen.

Detectives investigating these cases worked around the clock and after months of investigation, two subjects were apprehended and subsequently confessed to the crimes.

Both of the suspects were charged with approximately 40 to 45 charges each of Breaking and Entering, Felony Larceny, and Felony Conspiracy. During the investigation, several appliances were recovered. This is just one example of hundreds of cases detectives are investigating.

You can report crime at www.newhanoversheriff.com/submit-a-crime-tip/ or Text-a-Tip: Text “TIP708” and your message to “CRIMES” (274637)

Judicial Services

The Judicial Services Division is pleased to announce you can now apply for a concealed handgun permit online. Simply visit our website at newhanoversheriff.com, click on “forms, permits & resources” to select the permit you would like. There is a $4.00 convenience fee applied to all online credit card purchases. If you prefer not to use the internet, hard copy forms are available at the Records Division in the Historic Courthouse. The North Carolina Concealed Carry Class must be completed prior to submitting an application. If you have any questions about gun permits please refer to our website at http://www.newhanoversheriff.com/forms-permits-resources/

McGruff Says

ANTIFREEZE!

Cold weather chemicals like antifreeze are DEADLY POISON for pets.

COOKED BONES!

Splintered bones from meat dishes can cause FATAL DAMAGE to your pets.

OUTDOOR PETS!

Fresh water, warm bedding and wind-free shelter for outdoor pets.

YOUNG & OLD

Elderly and young pets are most VULNERABLE in cold weather. Remember if you are cold they are cold too!

SHOTS!

Always make sure your pets are up to date on all shots and vaccines

For more information on Pet Safety during the winter please contact the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Animal Services Unit.

910-798-7500

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910-798-7500
14th Sheriff’s Citizens Academy
February 21, 2017 to April 25, 2017

Academy Objectives

- Increase communication and build relationship of trust and understanding between the Sheriff’s Office and the citizens of our community.
- Provide education and insight to citizens of the community concerning the functions and duties of the Sheriff’s Office.
- Create an open environment for citizens to share their concerns with Sheriff’s Office employees.
- Overtime fosters, a growing pool of well-informed “graduates” who will share newly acquired knowledge and insight with others.

Qualifications

- Be 18 years of age.
- Not have any prior felony convictions or any misdemeanor convictions that question moral character of the applicant.
- Be willing to commit and attend at least one three hour class per week for ten weeks.
- Be able to handle graphic material

Structure

The Sheriff’s Citizens Academy lasts for ten (10) weeks. The Classes will be at least three (3) hours per session, with classes beginning at 6:00 P.M. and ending at 9:00 P.M. nightly. The location for each class will vary depending on the course material. The Academy coordinator will provide the location of each class session.

Purpose

The Sheriff’s Citizens Academy is designed to expose participants to different aspects of law enforcement including the day-to-day operations of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office.

Contact Information

If you are interested in attending and can commit to attend all ten (10) sessions, please fill out and print the SCA Application at www.newhanoversheriff.com and deliver to

Vikki Ulrich
New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office
3950 Juvenile Center Rd
Castle Hayne, NC 28429
(910) 798-4200
In a phone interview, I spoke in depth with Sgt. Justin Stegall about the K-9s and was really amazed at the level of training and commitment that goes into this specialized unit of the Sheriff’s Office. The K-9 Unit is made up of 8 dogs and their handlers which are grouped by special skill sets. The first group includes 5 dual purpose patrol dogs along with their handlers (Stegall, K-9 Jango; Cummings, K-9 Flash; Gregory, K-9 Hanno; Day, K-9 Timo; and Baxley, K-9 Artie). Each of these dogs have multiple skill sets such as evidence recovery, article searches, locating lost children or the elderly, and also sniffing out narcotics. They are also totally capable of assisting with apprehension of any criminals that are being sought. The other three dogs each have specific skills. One is a tracking hound named Bane handled by Master Deputy Dixon. A Springer Spaniel named Stanley handled by Detective Luther, is specialized in finding narcotics and Louie, a Labrador handled by Master Deputy Chapman, is an explosive detection dog.

Sgt. Stegall told me that the K-9s are specifically bred for the work that they do and come from select breeders in Europe. The dogs receive basic skill training by the breeders for about 2 years before they come to New Hanover County. At that time each dog is assigned to a deputy who becomes the dog’s partner. The deputy handler assumes the specialized law enforcement training of the dog. The dogs live with their handlers and become part of the family. They are highly trained to be obedient to commands and clearly know when they are working and when they are off duty. At the end of their service life which on average is 8-10 years, the K-9s are typically adopted by their handlers and live out their days as family pets. Stegall’s partner, Jango, is 7 years old and has been with him for 5 and a half years.

Another interesting fact is that commands are given in the native language of each dog. Jango comes from Belgium and his commands are spoken in Flemish. Each K-9 officer has to learn approximately 20 commands in the native language of their K-9.

The K-9 Unit has a rigorous training schedule that includes 10 hours per week of intense training with the entire unit. In addition, each handler and dog train on a daily basis. Stegall said that even when playing with the dogs, obedience is highlighted. For instance, if a ball is thrown, the dog isn’t allowed to go after it until the command to retrieve it is given. He also told me that training is based on Pavlov’s Theory with an abundance of praise and rewards.

Sgt. Stegall told me that being a K-9 Officer requires a high level of commitment and passion for the job. He said you can’t just be a deputy that likes what you do, you have to be totally dedicated. In the K-9 unit, you don’t say, “See you tomorrow,” at the end of the day, you take your partner home with you.

Sergeant Stegall with Jango at the National Trials
K-9 National Awards

The New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Unit attained National Certification at the US Police Canine Association’s National Patrol Dog Trials held in Gloucester Township, NJ in September. This competition takes place once a year with as many as 150-200 K-9s from across the country competing for national certification in various categories such as agility, scent work, obedience, and overall performance. NHCSO K-9s have attained national certification for the last 5 years and 2016 was no exception. The awards for 2016 were as follows:

- Jason Cummings — 10th place overall / 5th place scent work / 3rd place agility
- Justin Stegall — 6th place overall / 3rd place obedience / 1st place scent work
- Wes Baxley — 4th place agility
- Team — 2nd place in the nation

Chapman Named Patrol Deputy of the Quarter

Master Deputy Charles Chapman was named Patrol Deputy of the Quarter. He completed training with Louie, the new Explosive Detection K-9. Louie has been conditioned to detect explosives, explosive residues, and post blast evidence. As a bonus, because of his conditioning to smokeless powder and other explosive fillers, K9 Louie can detect firearms and ammunition hidden in lockers, vehicles and those that might have been tossed into open fields by a suspect fleeing from law enforcement. Master Deputy Chapman and Louie train every day plus several hours once a week with the K-9 Unit. In order to become a certified explosive dog, K9 Louie has to pass a blind test administered by the United States Police Canine Association consisting of 12 different hides in 4 different venues.

The NHCSO VIPR Unit sincerely hopes you have enjoyed this newsletter. It is our hope that it serves to increase transparency and deepen the citizen’s awareness of the activities of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. There are many programs that can be of service to the citizens of New Hanover County and they will be highlighted through the newsletter each quarter. Printed copies of the newsletter will be available in various places of business throughout the county but we welcome you to sign up for electronic copies by sending your name and email address to NHSONews@nhcgov.com. Your comments and suggestions are always greatly appreciated and can be directed to this same email address. Best Wishes for a happy and prosperous 2017!

Sincerely,

Carol Scheidegger, VIPR 128

A few of the VIPRs at the “Make a Child Smile” 2016 event