

2024

NELSON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL
REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Citizens of Nelson County,

I am pleased to present the Nelson County Sheriff's Office **Annual Report for 2024**. It is a pleasure to provide you with the following details about the operations and significant accomplishments of the Nelson County Sheriff's Office over the past year. All of our achievements are a direct reflection of the dedicated and professional staff members of our agency. All of our employees have worked diligently to provide professional, high-quality services for each of you, as well as working to make our communities safer.

Perhaps our greatest achievement has been our ability to fill prior vacancies, which has attributed to our Office reaching fully-staffed status. Currently, the Sheriff's Office retains **(28) sworn Deputies**, and **(2) full-time civilian** positions. As we are the primary law enforcement agency in the County of Nelson, the Nelson County Sheriff's Office is a 'Full-Service' law enforcement agency. This means that our sworn staff handle all law enforcement calls-for-service, all Civil Process service, and we provide security for our courts and county government entities within the judicial complex.

Community outreach was a huge success in 2024. In June we implemented '**Cop Camp**'. This was a one-week program that was held at Tye River Elementary School, which was designed to introduce our county's youth to the law enforcement and public safety environment. With approximately twenty-five campers between the ages of 8-11, these youths were introduced to Deputy Sheriff's, Firemen, Rescue personnel, and Conservation Police Officers, who all brought a recurring message and demonstration throughout the week. This program was a huge success, as it built relationships between our county's youth and law enforcement.

In October 2024, our agency held weekly **two-hour seminars** that were geared towards educating Senior Citizens about Fraud, Scams, and other related topics of concern that effect Seniors on a daily basis. This event was held at Calvary Baptist Church, and each week focused on a different topic and keynote speaker(s).



In July, we introduced the inaugural, '**Nelson Night Out**', to the community. Located at Nelson County High School, this was a free event that was open to the public. Our Office provided free hot dogs and drinks to all who attended. Our Office was joined by every Fire and Rescue Company that serves the Nelson County community. This was an effort to bring the community together for a night of fun, laughs, and memories, with all public safety officials.



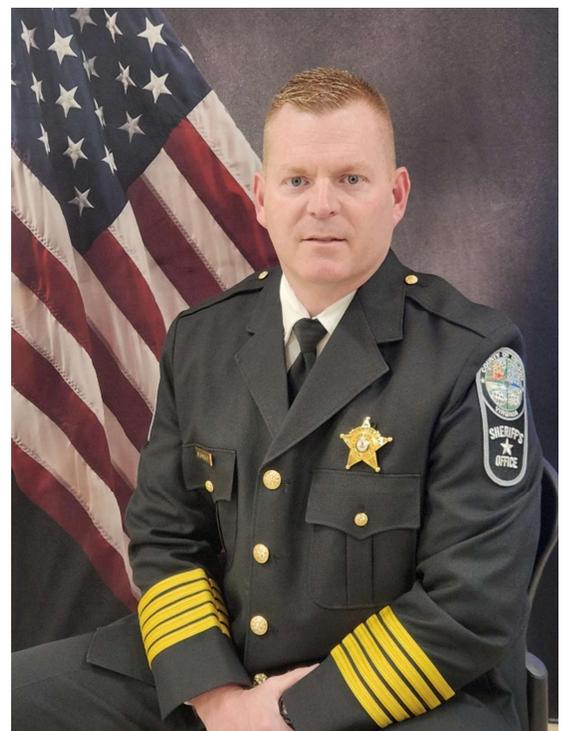
The year was ended with our agency spreading holiday cheer through our inaugural '**Bikes and Badges**' program. This program incurred local donations from businesses, churches, and private individuals, where all monetary contribution were used to purchase bicycles for local county youth. In partnership with the Nelson County Public School and Nelson County Social Services, twenty-five children were identified as recipients of new bicycles. Our Office purchased new bicycles through Walmart, and personal delivery was made on Saturday, December 20, 2024, bringing smiles and enjoyment to so many.

As I look to 2025, our Office will continue to implement the afore-mentioned programs, while continuing to build on our '**Active Shooter**' programs for public schools and community safety and preparedness. Our agency's pursuit for 'Accreditation' status continues, as we hope to reach this goal by the end of the calendar year 2026.

This past year has been challenging, however, I am incredibly proud of our staff and the support from the Nelson County Community. Please follow our Office's Facebook page for updates on events and county matters. Communication through transparency has been our goal, along with continuing to meet with the public through out quarterly Town Hall events. It is an honor to serve as Sheriff of this great county.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Mark Embrey



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nelson County Sheriff's Office is to provide professional law enforcement officers who always operate with integrity and honor, who respect the constitutional rights of all people, reflect and acknowledge the diversity of the people it serves while protecting the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Nelson County.

2025 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1

Transparency: The Nelson County Sheriff's Office is committed to fostering trust through transparency, ensuring open communication and accountability with the community we serve.

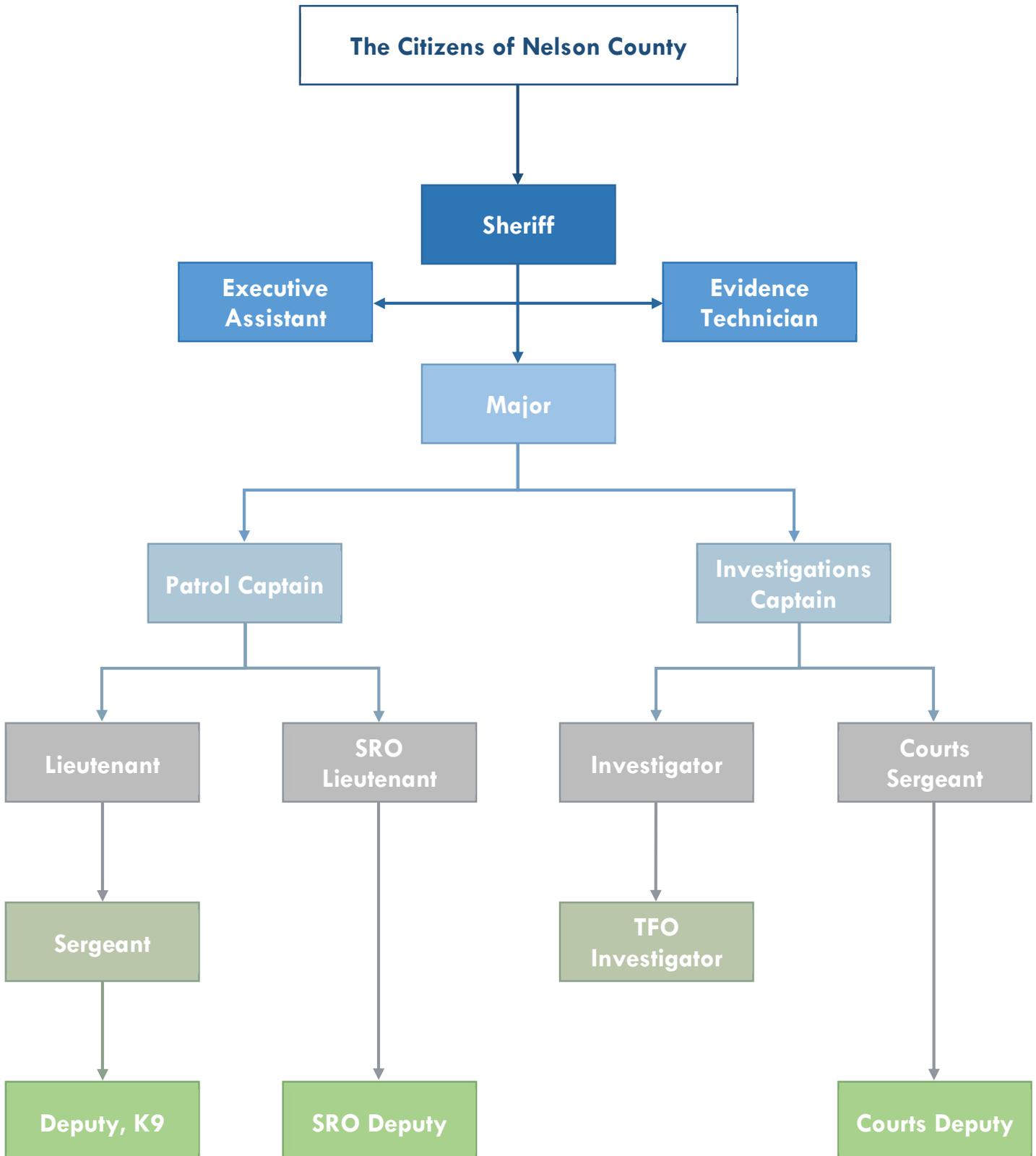
2

Community Programs: We remain dedicated to continuing community programs, focusing on public safety, preparedness, and ongoing initiatives to support local schools and residents.

3

Accreditation: The Nelson County Sheriff's Office is committed to achieving VLEPSC accreditation, reflecting our dedication to continuous improvement and excellence in service.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



RECOGNITIONS



In March, the Sheriff's Office held its Inaugural Employee Recognition and Promotional Ceremony. Each Deputy within the Sheriff's Office was recognized and presented their Badge or Rank Insignia by a family member! The night was capped off with a plaque presentation to the Office's Executive Assistant, Ms. Jennifer Thomas, for her 18 years of selfless and dedicated service to the Nelson County Sheriff's Office! Sheriff Embrey was taken by surprise when he was presented with a banner by the entire Office!



Over the course of 2024, **Sergeant Bodek, Sergeant Gibson, Sergeant Harris, Deputy Brown, Deputy Johnson, Deputy Walz, and Deputy White** all received the Quarterly Citizen's award.

During 2024, **Sergeant Bodek, Sergeant Harris, Deputy Brown, and Deputy Walz** all received the Quarterly Sheriff's Award for their selfless, 'above-and-beyond' service to the Sheriff's Office, fellow employees, and the community.

Throughout 2024, **Sergeant Gibson, Investigator Woody, and Deputy Brookins** and all received the Deputy of the Quarter award for their enforcements efforts.

In the second quarter, **Ms. Jennifer Thomas** and **Ms. Taylor Martin** were 'sworn' as Auxiliary Deputies, granting both the lawful authority to execute civil process service to private citizens. Ms. Thomas and Ms. Martin received their "Auxiliary Badges" which they proudly accepted!

The Sheriff's Office is proud of each of these employees and for all their hard work and dedication to the Nelson County community!



Sergeant Gibson

Deputy Brown & Walz



Sergeant Bodek

Ms. Thomas & Ms. Martin



Investigator Woody

Sergeant Harris

PROGRAMS

In 2024, Deputy Brown and Deputy Walz are certified in **D.A.R.E.** curriculum and instruction. The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to developing community-centered programs that promote positive youth development and well-being!



The Sheriff's Office was presented with the 'One Nelson' award by Dr. Amanda Hester, Superintendent of Nelson County Public Schools, and the members of the Nelson County School Board for traffic safety initiatives implemented at public schools in 2024. On October, Deputy Brown saved the life of a student experiencing medical emergency on a school bus by performing CPR, leading to the student's full recovery. We are proud of Deputy Brown for his heroic actions and dedicated service to the community!



In 2024, the Sheriff's Office created a **SENIOR SESSIONS** program designed to bring awareness and education to specific issues that greatly affect the Senior Citizen demographic in our community. Each week during the program, various presentations were given discussing financial exploitation, highway and accident scene safety, self-wellness, self-defense, and available services and resources for the senior community. It is the goal of this program, to prevent the residents in our community from becoming victims of these incidents.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Nelson County Sheriff's Office values transparency and is committed to keeping the community informed about agency highlights. Follow our Office's Facebook page for updates on press releases and important news.



TRAFFIC STOP DRUG BUST

The Nelson County Sheriff's Office, along with the assistance from the Virginia State Police and the 3A Regional Drug and Gang Task Force, have been actively investigating multiple individuals for the distribution of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine in the central Virginia area. In May, these investigative efforts led to a traffic stop in Nelson County and resulted in multiple search warrants being obtained and executed. The search warrants resulted in the seizure of \$8,000 in U.S. currency, \$370,000 in cocaine, \$34,000 of methamphetamine, \$2,300 in fentanyl, \$23,000 in mushrooms, \$34,000 in marijuana, (2) pistols valued at \$750, and (2) rifles valued at \$1,500. Keep up the good work!



LOWESVILLE DRUG BUST

Later in the year, the Nelson County Sheriff's Office and the 3A Regional Drug Task Force executed a search warrant in the Lowesville community as part of an ongoing investigation. These efforts resulted in the recovery of narcotics, firearms, and stolen property, and led to the arrest of John Brogan, 32, who faces multiple charges. We would like to thank the Virginia State Police, 3A Regional Task Force, Amherst County Sheriff's Office, and the Campbell County Sheriff's Office for their assistance with this investigation!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the Sheriff's Office, we're dedicated to community engagement through fun and meaningful connections. Whether it's attending local events or organizing youth programs, we're here to build a safer, stronger, and happier community for everyone!

SAFETY PATROL

In January, Safety Patrol students from Tye River Elementary School visited the Sheriff's Office and made banners, cards, and drawings that are displayed throughout the hallways of the Sheriff's Office.



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

In March, Sheriff's Office employees read a variety of books to students at both Tye River and Rockfish River Elementary Schools as part of "Read Across America Week".



SHOP-WITH-A-COP

In December, Lieutenant Brandon and Deputy Brown traveled to Charlottesville where they participated in the annual holiday favorite, "Shop-with-a-Cop"!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COP CAMP



Cop Camp 2024 was a big success! Campers saw police vehicles, fire trucks, and bulldozers; participated in a mock crime scene and forensic investigation; and fed the local trout at the Montebello Fish Hatchery!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out 2024 was a huge success! First responders from various departments throughout the county and from neighboring jurisdictions were able to participate. The Sheriff's Office is appreciative of local sponsors and the Sheriff's Office Auxiliary who were able to make this event possible. We couldn't have done it without you and look forward to next year's Nelson Night Out, as we plan to make it bigger and better!



TRAINING

In 2024, the Sheriff's Office participated in several training opportunities to equip personnel to better serve the community! Some of these trainings included: active shooter training and identify explosive devices.

ACTIVE SHOOTER



EXPLOSIVE DEVICES



AGENCY STATISTICS

Agency Summary

2024

Kidnapping/Abduction	2
All Rape	3
Criminal Sexual Contact	5
Assault	69
Intimidation	7
Bribery	1
Property Crimes	49
Financial Crimes	12
Fraud	19
Hacking/Computer Invasion	1
All Larceny	66
Motor Vehicle Theft	7
Stolen Property Offenses	4
Drug/Narcotic Violations	44
Pornography/Obscene Material	4
Weapon Law Violations	6
Disorderly Conduct	16
DUI	20
Family and Domestic Offenses/Nonviolent	11
Trespassing	9
All Other Offenses/Information	10
Calls for Service	20,594
ECO/TDO	66
Traffic Citations	3,667
Criminal Warrants Served	1,315
Civil Papers Served	2,986

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

