

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF KNOX COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SHERIFF DAVID SHAFFER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Knox County Sheriff's Office is a full service law enforcement agency.

Our duties are to maintain a safe and secure jail, perform services of the court, and perform law enforcement services to residents of the county while upholding the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Our mission is to perform these duties fairly, impartially, professionally, and efficiently. We will strive to conduct ourselves with honor, integrity, and the highest ethical standards.

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**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
KNOX COUNTY**

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SHERIFF DAVID SHAFFER

To the citizens of Knox County,

On behalf of our officers and staff, I would like to thank you for your support this past year. This report contains statistical information, activity, and notable accomplishments relating to the Knox County Sheriff's Office for 2023.

We welcomed eight new employees to the agency in 2023. Three of them are assigned to the patrol division. Three are assigned to the jail division. One is part of the jail support staff and one is part of the administrative support staff. This year, one deputy retired, three transferred to other law enforcement agencies, and one support staff member left for other opportunities.

A wellness program began with all employees being able to receive a private interview session with professionals specifically trained in first responder wellness. Our staff has the opportunity to follow up with counselors either regularly, or on as needed basis. Critical incident services are also available.

Our jail-remodeling project designed to increase housing for female inmates was completed. The jail is now equipped to house up to 24 female inmates. A contract was established with Team Health, a medical provider that specializes in inmate care. The contract increases the hours of coverage for medical services and reduces the liability burden of the county.

This year's state mandatory training topics included school threat and safety training, legal updates, arrest, search and seizure.

Thank you,

Sheriff David Shaffer

COMMAND STAFF

SHERIFF

Sheriff David Shaffer was first elected as the Sheriff of Knox County in 2012. He was re-elected in 2016, and again in 2020. He has 30 years of service with the agency, and 36 years of full-time law enforcement experience. He is an active member of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association and serves on the board of directors as a district representative. He serves on the legislative and community corrections committees. He has received the designation of Certified Law Enforcement Manager from the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association's Accreditation Program for the past eleven years. He also is an associate member of the Knox County Township Trustee's Association. Sheriff Shaffer serves on the executive board of the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team and is involved with the Crisis Intervention Team Steering Committee, Suicide Prevention Coalition, and several other local groups.



CHIEF DEPUTY

Chief Deputy Jay Sheffer is second in command of the agency and a member of the administrative staff. He has over 28 years of full time law enforcement experience. His duties include coordinating training, preparing and overseeing grant proposals, equipment acquisitions, information releases, public relations, and assisting in personnel and labor contract issues. He is a certified firearms and TASER instructor. He is also an Ohio peace officer academy instructor. Chief Deputy Sheffer is an active participant with the Knox County Safe Communities Coalition, and Project Lifesaver. He serves as a member of the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Chief Deputy Sheffer is a *Run, Hide, Fight* (active threat) instructor. He has helped provide safety and security training to numerous county schools, government offices, churches and organizations.



CAPTAIN

Captain William Shaffer is third in command of the agency and part of the administrative staff. He has over 20 years of full time law enforcement experience. He also serves as the jail administrator and oversees all aspects of the jail facility. His duties also include preparing budget proposals, coordinating training, assembling the required documentation for the annual state jail inspection, and assisting in personnel and labor contract issues. He is a certified Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy instructor and teaches multiple courses at the basic jail academy. He is an active member with the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association and received their designation of Certified Law Enforcement Manager in 2023.



REPORTS SUMMARY

REPORT TYPE

REPORT TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ASSAULT	35	34	33	42	36
BURGLARY	73	67	64	68	43
DEATH INVESTIGATIONS	36	43	52	49	41
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	152	131	69	97	89
DRUGS	135	106	92	66	70
EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PERSONS	42	45	41	57	42
FRAUD	116	105	180	122	184
HOMICIDE	1	0	0	4	0
MISSING PERSONS	22	13	20	25	21
RAPE / SEX OFFENSE	44	34	49	44	46
STOLEN VEHICLE	17	23	20	17	17
SUICIDES, ATTEMPTS & THREATS	129	97	94	66	104
THEFT	202	170	256	185	138
VANDALISM	115	97	93	90	68
VEHICLE CRASH NO INJURY	186	133	206	209	227
VEHICLE CRASH WITH INJURY	33	34	38	46	59
TOTAL VEHICLE CRASHES	219	140	244	255	286
WARRANT / ARREST	160	94	78	51	62
TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS	3609	2590	2721	2538	2611

CALLS FOR SERVICE - TOTAL

2022	10,549
2023	11,429

CALLS FOR SERVICE AND REPORTS BY TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP	CALLS FOR SERVICE 2022	CALLS FOR SERVICE 2023	REPORTS WRITTEN 2022	REPORTS WRITTEN 2023
Berlin	265	263	77	62
Brown	218	245	64	55
Butler	242	260	60	63
Clay	195	227	56	65
Clinton	1291	1277	349 (updated)	282
College	96	97	24	25
Harrison	162	200	43	61
Hilliar	368	407	96	89
Howard	1193	1175	301	279
Jackson	136	155	40	45
Jefferson	109	120	20	25
Liberty	408	432	101	102
Middlebury	196	229	37	43
Milford	180	185	53	53
Miller	185	172	49	41
Monroe	612	678	157	160
Morgan	213	250	66	68
Morris	481	613	122	155
Pike	215	229	60	58
Pleasant	289	354	65	84
Union	239	271	56	52
Wayne	178	201	34	39

CALLS FOR SERVICE AND REPORTS BY VILLAGE

VILLAGE	CALLS FOR SERVICE 2022	CALLS FOR SERVICE 2023	REPORTS WRITTEN 2022	REPORTS WRITTEN 2023
Bladensburg	26	16	8	2
Brinkhaven	12	1	0	0
Centerburg	588	620	178	193
Danville	150	185	15	27
Fredericktown	346	416	22	45
Gambier	287	265	116	118
Martinsburg	94	165	20	36

REPORTS – CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

CITY	REPORTS WRITTEN 2022	REPORTS WRITTEN 2023
Mount Vernon	251*	308*

* Includes reports taken at the Knox County Sheriff's Office and jail facility

PATROL / ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Patrol / Enforcement Division is responsible for providing law enforcement services to the residents of Knox County. Their duties include, but are not limited to, responding to criminal complaints, traffic enforcement, serving court issued summons, subpoenas, and warrants.

The Villages of Centerburg and Gambier have contractual agreements with the Knox County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. Two officers are assigned to Centerburg and currently one officer is assigned to Gambier.

PATROL / ENFORCEMENT DIVISION STAFF

Lieutenant: **Tim Light**

Sergeants:

David Devolld	Jeremy Carpenter	Jesse Ramsier
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Deputies:

Ryan Burgess	Josh Montgomery resigned in 2023
Kreig Cline	David Nally
Mike Collins resigned in 2023	J. P. Paul
Breyer Ehrnfield resigned in 2023	Tre Phelps
Brandon Feeney	Connor Prince medical disability
Devin Fritz	Thomas Queen
Masen Gilbert	Shari Rice
Luke Guthrie	Fred Rosch
Josh Jones	Jared Scoles
Curt Kelly	Brian Sindel
Annette Mercer	Joshua Spearman
Zac Miller	Richard Wise

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Knox County Sheriff's Office has three school resource officers working in Knox County Schools. Deputy Annette Mercer works in the Centerburg School District. Deputy Josh Jones and Deputy David Nally are assigned to the East Knox School District. These deputies work in the schools full time, instructing, mentoring, and interacting with students. They work to build positive relationships with both students and school staff and provide an important added layer of security. They assist with patrol operations when school is not in session.

K9 TEAMS

Deputy Luke Guthrie and Feyd.

Feyd is a four- year old German Shepherd that is trained for tracking and article search. He is certified in drug detection.

Deputy Shari Rice and Eri

Eri is a five-year old Labrador Retriever. She is certified in drug detection.

MARINE PATROL

The Knox County Sheriff's Office receives funding assistance from the Ohio Division of Watercraft to operate and maintain a part-time Marine Patrol Unit. The unit conducts patrol, enforcement and educational activities on the 1400 acres of waterways in Knox County. Apple Valley also pays for additional patrol hours that are focused on Apple Valley Lake.

	2023
Total Personnel Hours	493
Total Boat Patrol Hours	122
Reported Boat Accidents	0
Full Inspections	101
Decals Issued	35
Citations	1
Boater Contacts	1585
Boaters Assisted	4
Vessels Assisted	4
Vessels Terminated	12
Written / Verbal Warnings	196

DETECTIVE DIVISION

DETECTIVE DIVISION STAFF

Lieutenant: **Craig Feeney**

Sergeant: **James Ferenbaugh**

Deputies:

Kenny Aurand	Brandon Minot	Aaron Phillips (Resigned in 2022)
Matthew White	Terry Wolfe	

CENTRAL OHIO DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

The Knox County Sheriff's Office is an active member of the Central Ohio Drug Enforcement Task Force (CODETF). The task force is comprised of agencies from Coshocton, Guernsey, Knox, Licking, Muskingum and Perry Counties. These agencies include sheriffs' offices, prosecutors' offices and police departments. The mission of the task force is to provide professional investigative and technical resources, with an emphasis on narcotics, vice and organized crime investigations to the enforcement agencies and citizens throughout our region.



Task force drug case investigations conducted by Knox County detectives.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES
2021	66
2022	42
2023	59

JAIL DIVISION

The Knox County Sheriff's Office operates a full service jail that houses several classes of inmates: Those who are awaiting trial on either misdemeanor or felony charges, those who have been sentenced on either misdemeanor or certain felony charges, and those who have been sentenced on felony charges and are awaiting transport to prison. The Knox County Sheriff's Office also has a contract with the U.S. Marshal's Service for housing federally charged inmates.

The Knox County Health Department and the Mount Vernon Fire Department inspect facilities at the Knox County Jail regularly. In addition, the jail is inspected and certified annually by the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. In 2023 the jail received a **100%** compliance rating. There are 53 *essential* and 123 *important* standards

JAIL DIVISION STAFF

Lieutenant: **William Shaffer** promoted to captain in 2023

Sergeants:

Nate Miray	Bryan Price	Jeremy Talbott
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Deputies:

Bruce Butler	Tony McFarland
Nick Byers	Fred Michael
Brianna Copley	Zachariah Michael
Dustin Davis	Brandy Moore
Logan Dodd	Cole Nethers
Shannon Eyster	Griffin Rothgeb
Lindy Good	Joseph Stiltner
Andy Grubaugh	Allison Whaley
Eddy Johnson	Matt Wilson
Tammy Lutz	Christopher Wyant
Heaven Martin	

JAIL STATISTICS

TOTAL PRISONERS HOUSED

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1820	2070	1979	1349	1142	1114	1139

TOTAL MALE PRISONERS HOUSED

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1290	1475	1468	835	848	854	860

TOTAL FEMALE PRISONERS HOUSED

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
530	595	505	185	210	260	279

AVERAGE DAILY JAIL POPULATION

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
85	82	88	73	68	69	82

PERSONS BOOKED INTO THE JAIL BY MONTH 2022

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
83	102	90	82	100	103	103	97	98	82	88	88

PERSONS BOOKED INTO THE JAIL BY MONTH 2023

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
106	81	105	96	104	93	111	98	87	97	80	81

PERSONS BOOKED INTO THE JAIL AGE GROUP

AGE GROUP	MALE	FEMALE
18-24	123	24
25-34	261	99
35-44	211	83
45-54	197	59
55-64	68	14
65 & Older	18	0

FOOD SERVICE STAFF

Cooks: **Christina Ballantyne** **Jennifer Legros** **Tracy Montgomery,**

Carol Dailey **Lisa Perrine** (resigned in 2023)

COST PER MEAL

AVERAGE FOOD COST PER MEAL \$ **1.72**

PERSONNEL COST PER MEAL \$ **1.80**

TOTAL AVERAGE COST PER MEAL \$ **3.26**

TOTAL MEALS PREPARED 81,875

MEDICAL STAFF

Physician: **Dr. William Elder** (retired in 2023)

Nurses: **Kristin McKeever** (retired in 2023) / **Ginger Harris** (resigned in 2023))

TEAMHealth was selected in 2023 as the healthcare provide for the Knox County Jail. They also provide services to over 20 other Ohio county jails and correctional facilities.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 2929.37 & 2929.38, the Knox County Jail has established a reimbursement program for convicted inmates. Any prisoner who has been convicted of an offense is required to pay all or part of the costs of confinement.

MEDICAL COSTS

Self-initiated non-emergency requests that require a co-payment

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Medical staff assessment | \$5.00 |
| 2. Physician sick call | \$10.00 |
| 3. Dental Clinic | \$10.00 |
| 4. Pharmacy handling fee | \$5.00 |
| 5. OTC Medicines | \$.10/per pill |

Co-pays are deducted from the inmate's commissary account

All sentenced inmates booked into and released from the Knox County Jail are assessed an inmate processing fee (IPF) of \$20.00 to assist in defraying the cost of intake processing and release. The fee is deducted from the inmate's commissary account.

JAIL SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Video Visitation

The Knox County Jail utilizes a video visitation feature that allows inmates to visit more often with family and friends. Visitors can participate from a video screen located in the lobby, or use a computer or cell phone from any location.

Mail Scanning

A mail scanning system has been implemented to reduce contraband. Mail that is sent to inmates goes to a location that scans and uploads all mail to an inmate account that is viewable in each dorm.

SPECIAL INMATE SERVICES

Freedom Center

Substance abuse counselling services are provided for inmates. A full-time staff member from the Freedom Center provides assessments, individual and group counseling, as well as support services.

Behavioral Health Partnership

Mental health assessments and counseling services are provided to the inmates. Behavioral Health Partnership staff averages approximately 40 hours per week at the jail. They also assist with arrangements for housing, medical, and counseling assistance after release.

Health & Human Services Administration (HRSA): *Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Grant*

The Knox County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with the Freedom Center, Mental Health & Recovery for Licking & Knox County, along with other community agencies and organizations have been awarded a three year grant to expand substance abuse education and treatment. Knox County Jail inmates who qualify, are eligible to participate in the program.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jan Wasiluk: Her duties include budget preparations, preparing and analyzing agency billings and accounts. Maintaining records of agency financial transactions. Maintaining personnel documents, processing payroll, scheduling, and all other duties required of an administrative assistant.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Jarrold Laslo: Jarrold is an I.T. Technician for Knox County and assists part time at the Knox County Sheriff's Office. His duties include maintaining and servicing office and mobile computers, network systems, software, and storage devices

FRONT DESK ASSISTANT

Teresa Morris-Brate: Her duties include answering phone calls, assisting with walk in visitors, processing concealed carry weapon permits and background checks. Teresa also assists with processing public records requests.

Jill Wells (resigned in 2023)

EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT

Michael Glaser: His responsibilities include recording, sorting, storing, and returning evidence in accordance with procedures established by the Ohio Revised Code and the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESSOR

Grant Lyons: His duties include fingerprinting civilians for concealed carry permits and employment background checks. He assists in scheduling inmate transports and sex offender registrations. He also assists with front desk duties.

CIVIL PROCESS DIVISION

COURT SECURITY AND INMATE TRANSPORTS

The four deputies assigned to this position are responsible for security at the Knox County Common Pleas Court and adjacent county office buildings. They also perform inmate transports to and from hospitals, treatment facilities, other county jails and prison facilities. They perform sex offender registration duties and assist in conducting random verification checks on the offenders. Additionally, they perform fingerprinting duties for the Knox County Common Pleas Court and the Mount Vernon Municipal Court.

Mark Fincato	David Merillat
Brett Higgins	Jason Stachler

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Deputy Chad Kennedy (retired in 2023) and **Deputy Kyle Johnson:** The Knox County Sheriff's Office contracts with the Knox County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) to provide additional services for their agency. As part of the agreement, the county receives a reimbursement from the State of Ohio on a portion of the officer's wages, equipment, and expenses. The two deputies are responsible for the serving of summons, subpoenas, and notices of hearings. They also work to locate individuals with outstanding warrants and manage the *SEEK WORK PROGRAM*. Officers monitor the participants in the program on a regular basis to verify that they are actively seeking employment. Participants are also required to provide documentation verifying their activity.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

	2022	2023
Papers Served	474	415
Persons on <i>SEEK WORK PROGRAM</i>	311	342
Funds collected for child support	\$706,584.79	\$631,415.36
Warrants served	53	43

RECORDS CLERK

Karen Hall: Her duties include processing subpoenas, warrants and all other documents issued by local, out of county, and out of state courts. Filing and maintaining all reports and case files. Processing public records requests and background requests.

Type of Order	2022	2023
Writs / Orders of Possession	7	6
Writs of Execution	0	1
Civil, Temporary, and Stalking Protection Orders	304	232
Indictments	138	134
Inmate transport orders to and from prison and rehabilitation facilities	136	138
Juvenile Orders to Convey	7	8
Summons (All types)	178	173
Subpoenas	281	191
Warrants	693	718
Other types of papers	91	551**
Total Papers Processed	1835	2152
Sealing of Records/ Expungements	79	72

* Additional summons and warrants are covered under the CSEA calculations

** Includes processing multiple filings within the same case

SHERIFF SALES

Marie Blubaugh: Her duties include processing all foreclosure paperwork including orders of sale, appraisals, deed preparations and filings. She also assists with processing background checks, court documents, electronic fingerprinting, billing, concealed carry weapons permits and staffing the lobby office for public walk-ins.

Online Foreclosure Sales: As part of the Ohio Legislatures statewide requirement, a transition was made from in person sales, to an online auction format. Persons interested in participating may register at the following link. <https://knox.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov/>

Sheriff Sales

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
65	64	37	48	44

	2022	2023
Orders of Sale	48	44
Withdraws / Dismissals prior to sale	22	21
No bid / No Sale	0	1
Total Properties Sold	26	22
Total Sales	\$2,596,913.26	\$2,805,373.29

CONCEALED CARRY WEAPONS PERMITS

	2022	2023
License Issued New	128	65
License Renewed	490	719
License Suspended	8	4
License Denied	4	1

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATIONS

The Knox County Sheriff's Office is responsible for registering all convicted sex offenders who live in Knox County. Deputies do random checks to verify the offenders are complying with all of their registration requirements. Deputies also investigate any cases of offenders who fail to register.

Citizens are able to search the offender database through the Knox County Sheriff's Office website. They can also sign up to receive email alerts if a registered offender moves to their area.

SPECIAL DEPUTIES UNIT

Captain: **William Watson** (retired in 2023)

Special Deputy J.T. DeChant	Special Deputy Wayne Noggle
Special Deputy Tom Durbin	Special Deputy Mark Prince
Special Deputy Tim Knell (resigned in 2023)	Special Deputy Trent Randall (resigned in 2023)
Special Deputy David Light (retired in 2023)	Special Deputy Gary Rohler (retired in 2023)
Special Deputy Mark Maxwell	

The special deputies unit is comprised of Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certified officers who are able to supplement full-time officers. They provide volunteer time in areas such as:

- Security at the Knox County Treasurer's Office
- Supplemental jail and patrol functions
- Traffic control
- Security at fairs, festivals, school functions, and special events

2023 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

PATROL DIVISION

Sergeant David Devolld



Sergeant Devolld began his career with the Knox County Sheriff's Office in the jail division in 1999. He has served over 23 years as a patrol deputy. His first assignment was in the Village of Centerburg, and he later transitioned to county patrol duties. He was promoted in 2015 to sergeant, and he currently serves as a shift supervisor in the patrol division.

2023 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

JAIL DIVISION

Sergeant Jeremy Talbott



Sergeant Jeremy Talbott began his career with the Knox County Sheriff's Office in 2019 in the jail division. He was promoted in 2021 to sergeant, and he currently serves as a shift supervisor in the jail division.

2023 LIFESAVING AWARDS



Deputy Zachary Miller Deputy Joshua Spearman Deputy Kenneth Aurand

Three of our deputies were presented with the Lifesaving Award from an incident in 2023. A suicidal female had severe wounds on both arms and was violent with family members. These deputies responded and were able to apply lifesaving measures and calm her, allowing medical personnel to stabilize the patient and provide transport to a Columbus area hospital.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS

Representatives from the Knox County Sheriff's Office participate in various groups and organizations. Some of these organizations include the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team, Safe Communities Coalition, Domestic Violence Collaborative, Suicide Prevention Coalition, Child Protection Team, Sexual Assault Response Team, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Healthcare Coalition, Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Rescue Task Force training.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Officers regularly attend various functions throughout the county to help inform and educate the public on a variety of safety issues. Presentations are made to civic clubs and organizations, scouting groups, schools, universities, church groups, businesses, and neighborhood watch groups. Several officers are trained instructors in the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) program.

CRIME TIP LINE NUMBER

Citizens are encouraged to use the confidential tip line to leave information on suspected criminal activity, including drug activity, burglaries, wanted persons, child and elder abuse, and welfare fraud. The tip line is not for reporting crimes in progress or when an immediate officer response is needed.

The 24 hour tip line is 740-399-3959

DRUG DROP OFF BOX

The Sheriff's Office maintains a secure drop off box where anyone can drop off unused pills for proper disposal. The box is located in the lobby and is available twenty-four hours a day. Persons need to remove the pills from their original container and place them into a clear plastic bag. The bag can then be deposited into the drop box. In 2023, **385.24** pounds of pills were collected for destruction. LIQUIDS AND NEEDLES ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

PORTABLE DRUG INCINERATOR



To help dispose of the large amount of medications that are collected in the drop box, we utilize a portable incinerator. The device is also used to dispose of illegal drugs that are no longer needed for evidence.

KNOX COUNTY ALERTS

Residents may sign up for free email and text alert messages. This service enables citizens to be informed of road closures, emergency notifications, and weather alerts. Users are able to custom select the types of notifications they wish to receive. Citizens can sign up for alerts by going to the website below.

http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/knox_co_oh/wens.cfm



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Knox County Sheriff's Office uses social media to relay information to the public. We invite you to follow our postings for current information including press releases, wanted persons, criminal activity, and articles about the agency. Information on activity and reports are regularly sent to local media outlets for publication.

Facebook 



WEBSITE

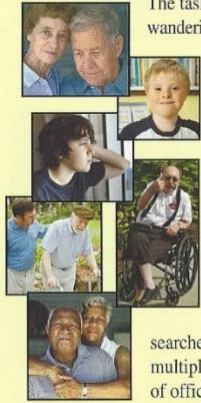



To help make information available to the public we have several features on our website, <http://www.knoxcountysheriff.com/>.

Items on the website include:

- the current list of jail inmates along with their information and visiting times
- the list of foreclosure properties set for sheriff sales
- the ability to search for registered sex offenders in your area
- the procedure for completing a CCW permit
- Links to other services and county offices
- Employment opportunities

PROJECT LIFESAVER

PROJECT LIFESAVER aids caregivers and families of persons suffering from Alzheimer's, wandering, and other related disorders such as Downs Syndrome and Autism. Clients who are enrolled in PROJECT LIFESAVER wear a wristband that emits a tracking signal 24 hours a day on an individually assigned FM radio frequency. That signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles, should the client be reported missing. The Knox County Sheriff's Office has joined with the Knox County Health Department, Station Break, Region 5 Area on Aging, Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities as well as local citizens and groups to provide this service.

What is Project Lifesaver?	How it works	How it can help you
<p>The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related conditions or disorders.</p> <p>The task of searching for wandering or lost individuals with Autism, Alzheimer's, Pick disease, Down syndrome, dementia or other cognitive conditions is a growing and serious issue. Without effective procedures and equipment, searches can involve multiple agencies, hundreds of officers, countless hours and thousands of dollars.</p> 	<p>Currently, 1,200 agencies in 45 states participate in the program—police, sheriff, fire, public safety departments and other emergency responders. The method relies on proven radio technology and specially trained search and rescue teams.</p> <p>Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small transmitter on the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal.</p>  <p>If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. Most who wander are found within a few miles from home, with search times reduced from hours and days to minutes. Recovery times for Project Lifesaver clients average 30 minutes</p>	<p>If you have a loved one who is prone to wandering, Knox County Project Lifesaver can provide them with a transmitter which will track their whereabouts should they wander away.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that each participant have a 24-hour caregiver.</p> <p>The transmitter can be worn on either the ankle or wrist. Each participant receives six bracelets and six batteries, good for 60 days each - plus a battery tester.</p>  <p>A home health aide with the Knox County Health Department will make arrangements with each family to visit the participant and change the batteries on a regular basis.</p> 

For information contact;

The Station Break at 740-397-2417 or meredith@stationbreak.org

or

Knox County Board of D.D. at 740-397-4656 or lifesaver@knoxdd.com