

# TUCKER COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT

## Month of September 2023

- Felony Arrests (charges or indictments)	0	- DUI arrest (driving under the influence)	0	- Domestic violence petitions served	1
- Persons Arrested on Felony charges	0	- Motorist assists ie. broke down vehicle	6	- Job tasks completed	318
- Misdemeanor arrest (charges or indictments)	1	- Vehicle crashes where a crash report was generated	7	- Calls for service either through 911 or walk ins resulting in Police action	121
- Persons arrested on misdemeanor charges	1	- Felony cases fielded resulting in a police report	5	- Mileage report (total miles traveled by department patrolling)	7,283 miles
- Misdemeanor citations issued	3	- Misdemeanor cases fielded resulting in a police report	5	- Additional Notes: None	
- Hazardous moving violations tickets issued	6	- Drugs confiscated in dollar street value amount	\$180	- This monthly report has been prepared by Sheriff "Jake" Kopeck for educating the public as to how their tax dollars are being put to use at the Tucker County Sheriff Office.	
- Other traffic violations tickets issued	3	- Other contraband confiscated	\$10		
- Hazardous moving violations warnings issued	24				
- Other traffic violations warnings issued	48				

## Lantz, Mountaineer Garden Club Raffle Winner



Congratulations to Heather Lantz, an elementary school teacher at TVEMS who won the fall arrangement raffled off by the Mountaineer Garden Club. The funds raised by the Garden Club will go towards supporting two children's attendance at the local 4-H Club camp in the summer of 2024.

## October is Pedestrian Safety Month

CHARLESTON, WV – At some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian. Whether you walk your child to school or walk from your vehicle's parking lot to the office, each of us walk where vehicles travel. Unfortunately, in 2021 there were 7,388 pedestrians killed in traffic crashes, a 12.5 percent increase from the 6,565 pedestrians' fatalities in 2020. This is the highest since 1981 when 7,837 pedestrians died in traffic crashes. On average, a pedestrian was killed every 71 minutes and injured every 9 minutes in traffic crashes in 2021.

We rarely are more vulnerable than when walking in urban areas, crossing busy streets, and negotiating traffic. Even rural areas can be dangerous to walk in, as many areas have no sidewalks, crosswalks, or safe spaces for walking. Since we all are pedestrians from time to time, it is important to pay attention to what is going on around us. That is why the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is sharing information on pedestrian safety this month.

"As both pedestrians and motorists, we all need to pay more attention to our surroundings. Vehicles are deadly weapons and, when combined with a pedestrian, can be deadly," said Amy Boggs, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Coordinator for the GHSP.

"Thirty-six people died on WV's roadways in 2021, while they were walking. That is 36 too many. Nearly all pedestrian-involved crashes are preventable. It all boils down to all of us paying attention, not being distracted or impaired, and slowing down," Boggs concluded.

Follow these tips to stay safe as a pedestrian:

- Pay attention. That means: Head Up, Phone Down.
- Stay alert. Don't wear ear buds.
- Whenever possible, walk on the sidewalk; if no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Follow the rules of the road, obeying all traffic signs and signals.

- Cross streets at crosswalks.
- If no crosswalk is available and your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street, making eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you.
- Avoid alcohol and drug impairment.
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing and use a flashlight at night.
- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots.
- Children should cross the street with an adult.

Distracted walking incidents are on the rise, and everyone with a cell phone is at risk. We are losing focus on our surroundings and putting our safety at risk. The solution: Stop using phones while walking, and not just in crosswalks and intersections. Over half of distracted walking injuries occur in our own homes, proving that we need to stay aware of our surroundings whether indoors or out.

When driving, help keep pedestrians of all ages safe:

- Pay attention. Put your phone down and never drive while distracted.
- Obey all traffic laws, especially posted speed limits in school zones.
- Always watch out for pedestrians and be extra cautious when backing up.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, making eye contact to indicate that you see them.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at crosswalks.
- Do not drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

For more information about pedestrian safety, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety>.

For more information about the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, visit [highwaysafety.wv.gov](http://highwaysafety.wv.gov), or call 304-926-2509.

## WV IJDC approves grant and loan for Town of Davis Wastewater Project

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council announced \$4.25 million in funding for sewer and water projects around the state at its meeting on Oct. 4.

Town of Davis  
The council approved a \$178,000 grant and \$178,000 loan to the Town of Davis in Tucker County for improvements to its Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## Local Volunteer Group Wins Statewide Watershed Promotion Award

Statewide, WV. – Local volunteer organization Friends of Blackwater received the Promotion Award for their efforts to make everyone aware of beauty, fascinating natural assets, and history of the Blackwater River watershed. The West Virginia Watershed Network presented the award at the West Virginia Watershed Symposium held at Canaan Valley Resort State Park this year on September 29th -30th.

Friends of Blackwater (FOB) works to protect and promote natural beauty, diverse creatures, unique heritage, and the outdoor recreation economy in the Mid-Atlantic Allegheny Highlands - home to the magnificent, 10,000-acre Blackwater Canyon, which they label "West Virginia's Scenic Crown Jewel."

FOB has produced a cascade of events, volunteer days, and social media posts recently, which are all designed to increase pride, enjoyment, and interest in the Blackwater River watershed. The Network cited their series of nature walks with naturalists knowledgeable about birds, amphibians, moths, and plants. The Network also cited the group's volunteer workdays for removing invasive, non-native vegetation and planting native plants. Finally, the Network cited Friends of Blackwater's promotion of the story of Carrie

Williams, the teacher at the Coketon Colored School, who objected when the County wanted to reduce the school year at her school to five months when other schools had a nine month school year, and of J.R. Clifford, West Virginia's first African American attorney, who brought the case to court and won.

FOB has also released posts on social media, including more than 50 Youtube videos covering natural history, industrial history, water monitoring, and waterfalls in the watershed. They have more than



Friends of Blackwater receives recognition for promoting the Blackwater River Watershed from the West Virginia Watershed Network

160 posts on Instagram, many of them showing stunning views of Blackwater Falls, curious creatures, and majestic forests. They make residents and visitors proud to be connected with the watershed.

The WV Watershed Symposium (formerly Watershed Celebration Day) is hosted by the WV Watershed Network. The biennial event is held to provide resources for watershed groups' work, raise consciousness about watershed groups, and recognize the efforts and accomplishments of watershed groups in West Virginia. It provides an opportunity for watershed volunteers to meet, learn from each other, and engage

in statewide collaborative efforts. Awards presented at the event also included: Restoration for a group excelling at fixing issues in their watershed, Vigilance for a group working to ensure environmental water laws are followed, Education for a group that teaches its community about water, watersheds, and aquatic communities, as well as Watershed Hero to one person who goes above and beyond expectations for their own organization and for watershed organizations across the state.

See you there!

# Trunk or Treat

October 25  
6-9 PM

**The Inn at Canaan**  
6526 Appalachian Highway,  
Davis, WV 26260  
304-866-9166

Local Businesses Are Welcome to Participate.  
Please contact us for more information.