It is my pleasure to introduce Tyler Bovee as May's Employee Spotlight.

"I'm super passionate about my job!" Tyler exclaims. Born and raised in Martin County, Tyler was enmeshed in law enforcement while growing up. His dad worked for the Martin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), and his fondest memories are when he and his mom met his dad at Atlanta Bread Company after his dad's shift. He sat and listened to the stories the deputies told from the previous night. "It was awesome to hear what they would talk about," he remembers. He was an Explorer with MCSO and during his high school years, began riding along with the Stuart officers, who were very welcoming. At the young age of 19, Tyler became a part-time reserve officer with the Stuart Police Department while also working part-time at the courthouse in the criminal and traffic divisions. Several nights a week, he went to the police department after his job to continue working alongside the officers. As a self-proclaimed night owl, he jumped on the opportunity to ride at night with the officers and experience a different side of Stuart – one that he found exciting and intriguing. Tyler knew he wanted to be a full-time officer on the night shift. While field training with Officer Delancy, he missed 11 calls from the police department, and one of them from (former) Chief David Dyess. Upon returning his call, Tyler was advised to give his 2 weeks' notice to the Clerk of Court. "Ok," Tyler responded, "but may I ask why?" "Because I'm hiring you!" Chief Dyess responded. Tyler gladly accepted the full-time position and hasn't looked back.

In October, 2015, he was approached to become one of the 2 K-9 officers in the department, and he enthusiastically accepted. Tyler and Bady became a team after 8 months of training and are still a team today. The training with a K-9 never stops – every Wednesday is a training day, and right now Bady is a little under the weather as he had several surgeries on his mouth. Tyler's proudest moment with Bady happened last August. After a call in which everything seemed to go wrong, Bady spent 3 hours tracking a bad guy and was able to apprehend the suspect. It was a hot, sweaty, exhausting chase but Bady held his tail high and had a little swagger in his step when he proudly walked back to the squad car alongside Tyler after the arrest. In 2019, Tyler and Bady received the K-9 Cigo Achievement Award.

In addition to his responsibilities as a K-9 officer, he is also on the SWAT team, a field training officer, a corporal and a member of the Honor Guard. He finds his job really challenging and a source of healthy stress. He would like to become a sergeant in the future and works closely with Sergeant Duran, who provides Tyler with a healthy dose of training opportunities to broaden his skill set. He is appreciative of the trust his commanding sergeant has in him.

When not working, Tyler takes one day a week to totally decompress. "It's a do nothing day," he explained. However, he does enjoy getting out on the water and fishing and going out with his friends and co-workers. He and his girlfriend enjoy hiking in the North Carolina mountains, and he makes it a priority to take a trip to Blowing Rock, North Carolina at least once year.

When asked what he likes best about working for Stuart Police Department, Tyler states, "the level of respect we all have for each other, across all levels of the department. There is a lot of trust, and we are a big family."