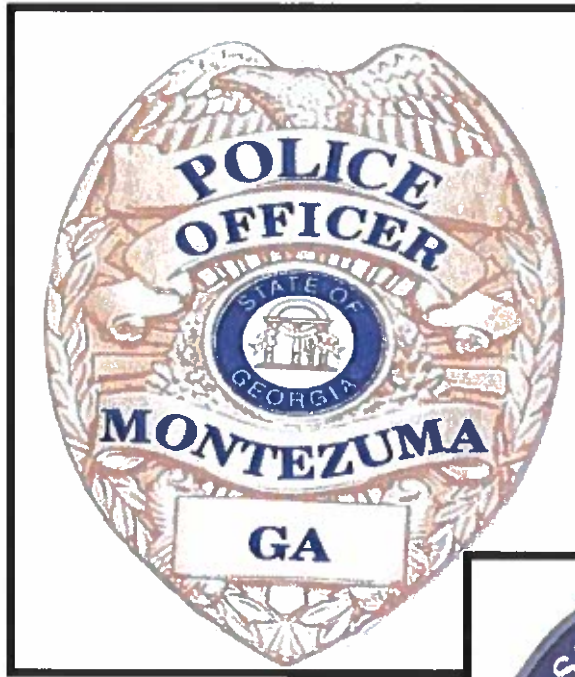


MONTEZUMA

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2019 Annual Report

Eric R. Finch MPA, Chief of Police



Montezuma Police Department 2019

“Setting the Pace...For Today’s Law Enforcement”



Presented by
Eric R. Finch, Chief of Police



Greetings!

On behalf of the Montezuma Police Department and the entire City of Montezuma, it is my pleasure to welcome you into our City and into a partnership that can benefit both of us.

Our motto, “Setting the Pace...For Today’s Law Enforcement” Summarizes our determination to give you the most modern, well-trained, best equipped police department possible. The slogan, “Together-we can make a difference” emphasizes our commitment to work with our citizens, businesses and visitors to combat crime and cooperate on issues involving public safety. Our pro-active stance on problem solving allows us many times, to avoid situations which would lead to property loss, damage or personal injury.

The mission of the Montezuma Police Department is to:

- **Determine and Apprehend Criminals**
- **Maintain strong police-community relations**
- **To continually enhance the training and expertise of each member of the police force**

At the Montezuma Police Department we stand ready, willing and able to assist you or your family in any way possible. We encourage you to get to know our citizens and other City employees and look forward to a long and continuous partnership.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Finch, Sr.

*Eric R. Finch, Sr.
Chief of Police*

State Certification

The Montezuma Police Department was awarded State Certification on February 15, 2005. The Department now serves as a model for smaller law enforcement agencies seeking certification. The department has two Certification Managers and two State Assessors. The department was recertified on July 1, 2009, 2012, 2016 and 2019. The Montezuma Police Department is one of 121 police and sheriff departments certified out of 750 in the State of Georgia. The Department is up for re-certification in 2019.

E-911

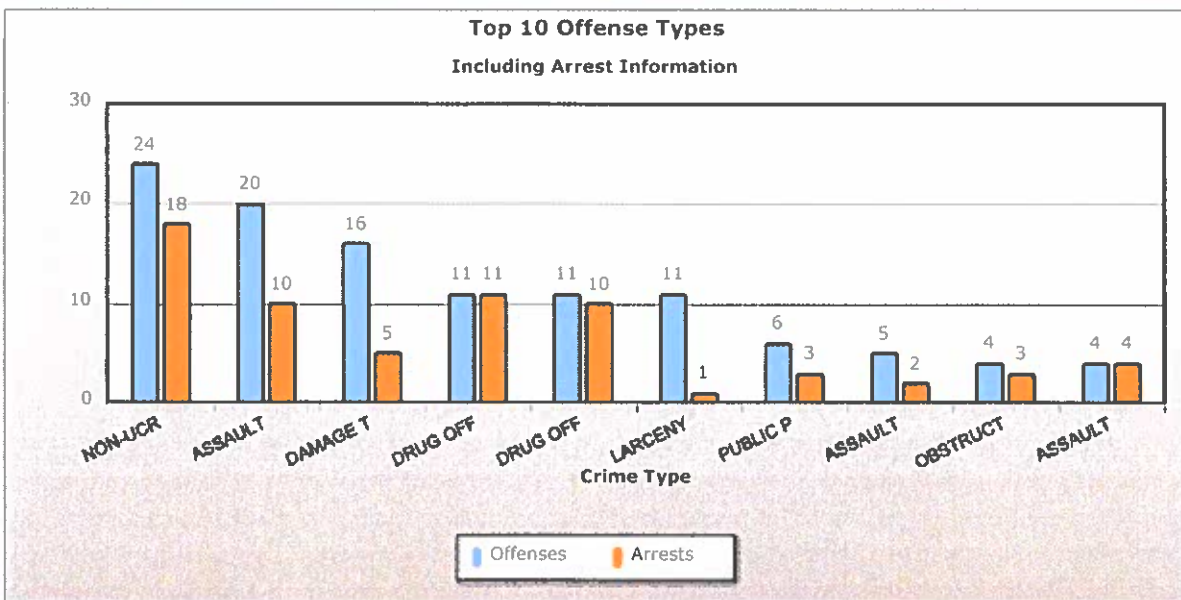
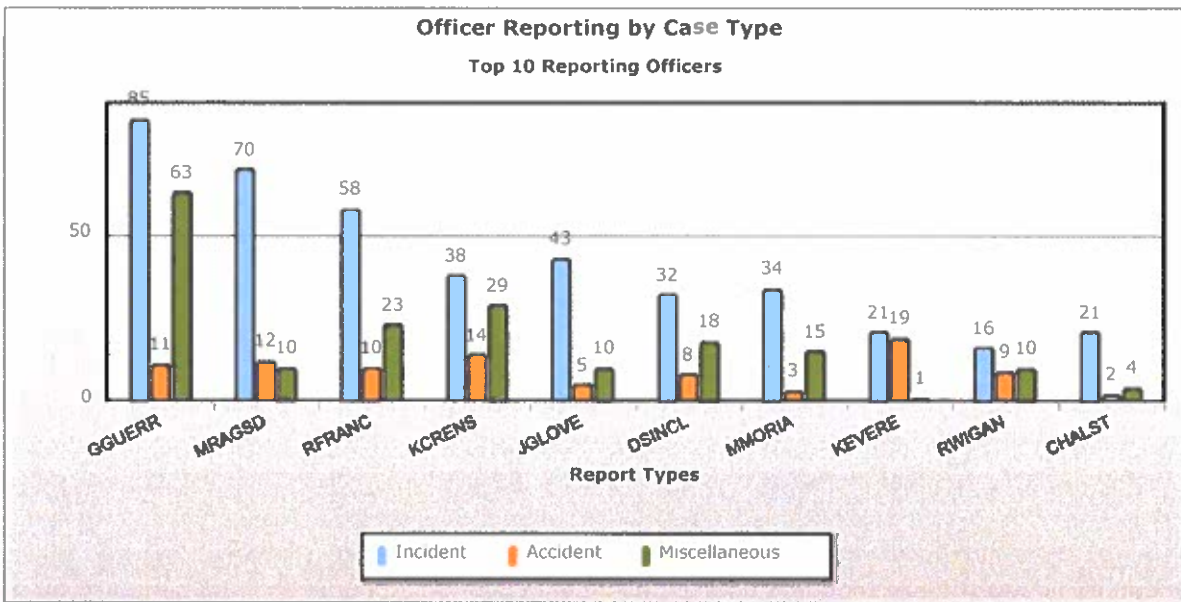
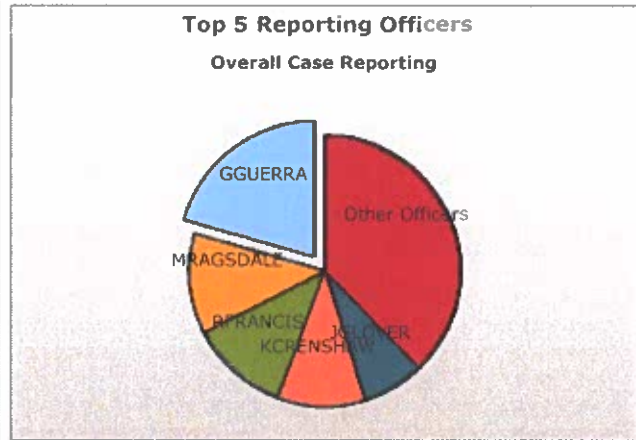
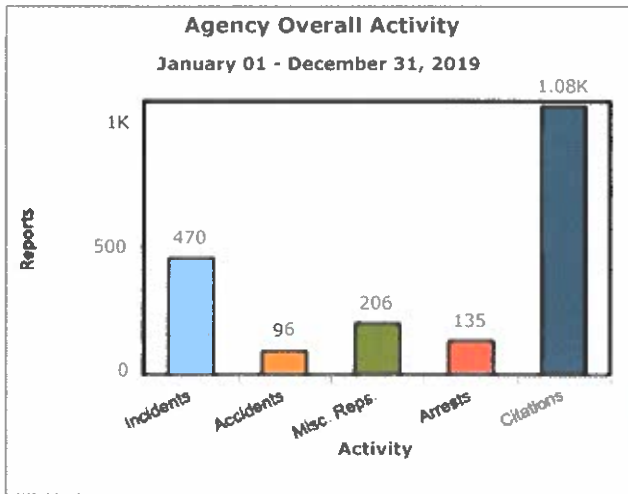
The Montezuma Police Department was the driving agency to help open the Middle Flint Regional E-911 Center in Ellaville, Georgia. The center is the largest E-911 Center in the Southeastern United States. The E-911 center serves seven counties. The Middle Flint Regional E-911 Center has been awarded several communication awards. The E-911 Center serves 9 counties, Schley, Sumter, Macon, Dooley, Marion, Webster, Stewart, Taylor and Talbot.

Patrol Division

The Montezuma Police Department is responsible for patrolling the streets of Montezuma. The Montezuma Police Department responded to responded to 470 incidents, 96 accidents, 206 miscellaneous calls, 135 arrests and wrote 1060 citations. In 2019, the officers of the Montezuma Police Department boasted the lowest crime rate in the cities history over the last 10 years over 55%.

Training Division

The Montezuma Police Department provided training for over forty (40) different law enforcement agencies during the year of 2018. The Montezuma Police Department also assisted (112) agencies to become State Certification or reviewed their police operations. The Montezuma Police Department is known throughout the State of Georgia as a premiere agency within the State of Georgia with excellent police policies.



Built by Courtware/RareElement Solutions

Crime Statistics Report

Reporting Month: December

Part 1 Crime Statistics

Incident Type	December 2018	December 2019	Percent Change	Year to Date 2018	Year to Date 2019	Year to Date Percent Change
Homicide				1		-100.00%
Rape				1	1	
Robbery	1		-100.00%	4		-100.00%
Aggravated Assault		3	100.00%	17	15	-11.76%
Burglary	4	1	-75.00%	26	10	-61.54%
Larceny	5	2	-60.00%	59	51	-13.56%
Vehicle Theft		2	100.00%	2	4	100.00%
Arson					5	100.00%
TOTAL	10	8	-20.00%	110	86	-21.82%

Part 2 Crime Statistics

Incident Type	December 2018	December 2019	Percent Change	Year to Date 2018	Year to Date 2019	Year to Date Percent Change
Other Assaults	4	6	50.00%	55	53	-3.64%
Forgery/Counterfeiting				1	6	500.00%
Fraud	1	3	200.00%	10	16	60.00%
Embezzlement						
Stolen Property		1	100.00%	2	3	50.00%
Vandalism	8	6	-25.00%	90	79	-12.22%
Weapons	1	2	100.00%	22	14	-36.36%
Prostitution						
Other Sex Offenses				7	1	-85.71%
Narcotics Total	17		-100.00%	106	60	-43.40%
Gambling Total						
Family/Children		3	100.00%	26	14	-46.15%
DUI	4		-100.00%	19	5	-73.68%
Liquor Laws				1	1	
Disorderly Conduct		5	100.00%	42	45	7.14%
Other						
TOTAL	35	26	-25.71%	381	297	-22.05%

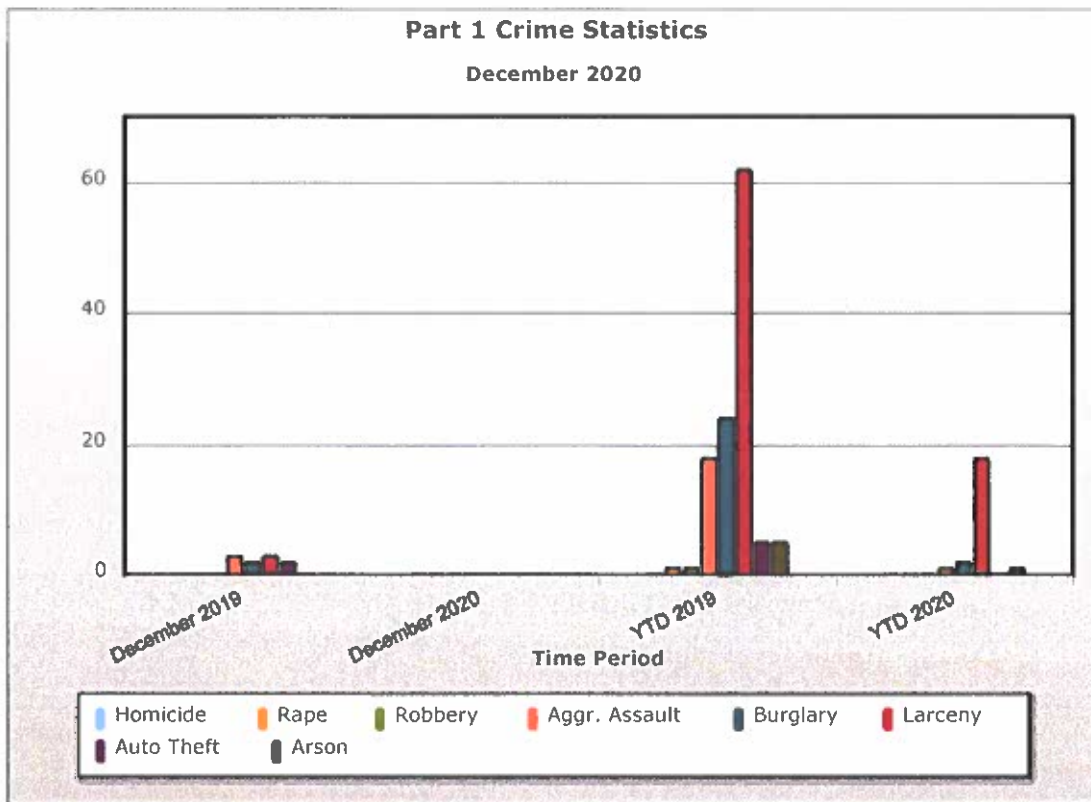
Arrests

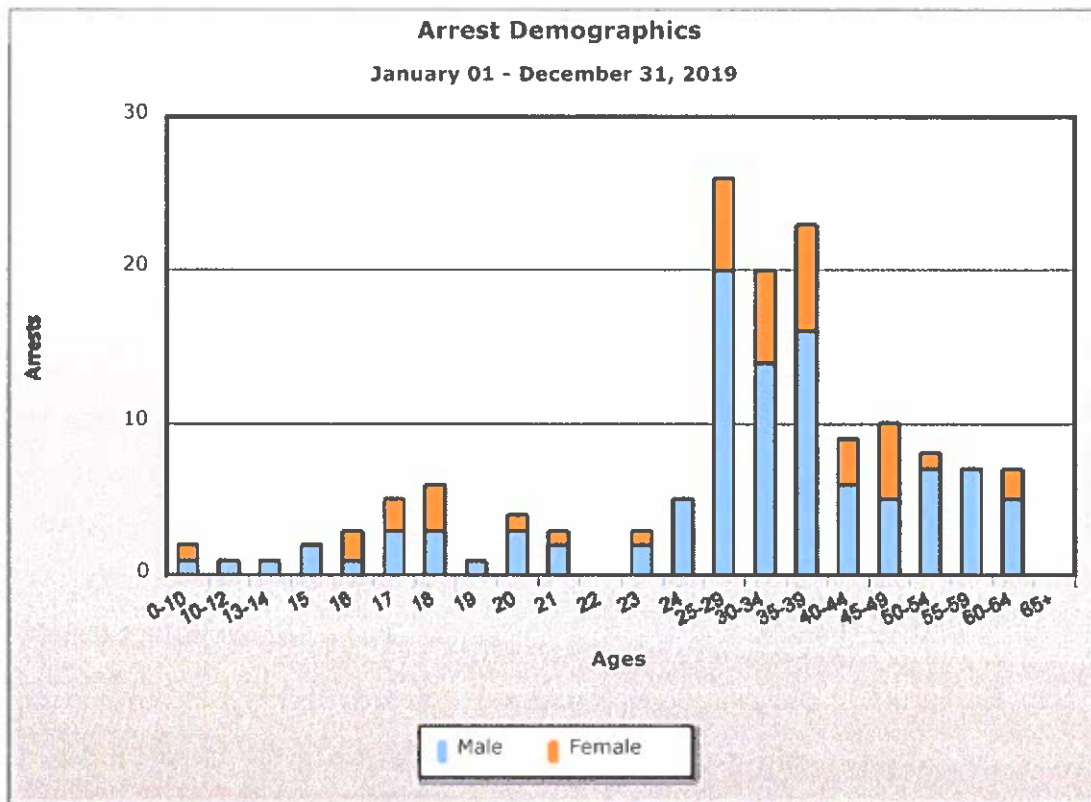
Demographics	December 2018	December 2019	Percent Change	Year to Date 2018	Year to Date 2019	Year to Date Percent Change
Adults	32	2	-93.75%	264	140	-46.97%
Juveniles		1	100.00%	14	8	-42.86%
TOTAL	32	3	-90.63%	278	148	-46.76%

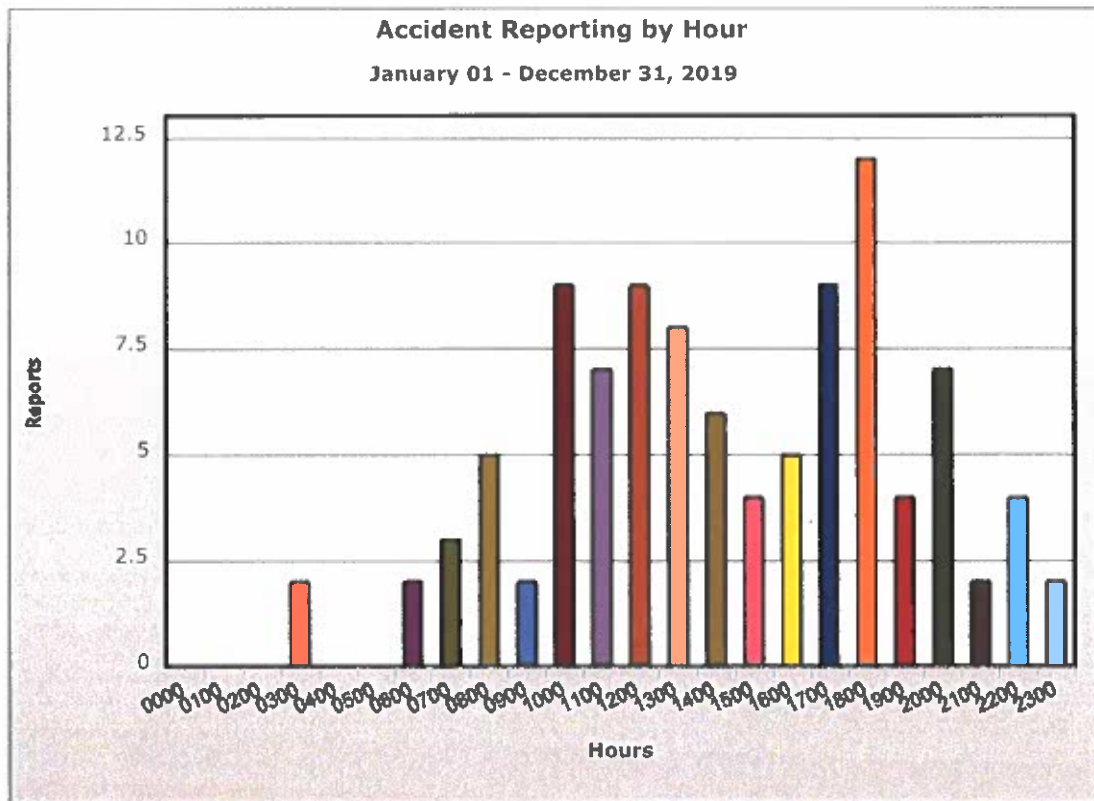
Total Criminal Offenses

Total Non-Criminal Offenses

Total Calls for Service







Officer of Year Awarded to Officer Gregory Guerra



Officer Gregory Guerra has been selected Officer of the Year. Officer Guerra has been employed with the City of Montezuma since February 24, 2017. He graduated from the South Georgia Technical College Law Enforcement Academy and currently working on his Bachelor's Degree at Georgia Southwestern University. Officer Guerra has conducted the most follow up investigations in the department and made the most cases for 2019. In that period of time, he has truly distinguished himself and received the respect and admiration of his peers, supervisors, and the City of Montezuma. In addition to his patrol duties, Officer Guerra also serves as the Department's Tag Reader and Community Service Officer and performs all his duties in an exemplary manner. He is, without question, a highly effective team player who strives to continuously make the Montezuma Police Department a model statewide.

Montezuma Police Department K-9 Program

The Montezuma Police Department was awarded a grant through the Flint Energy Corporation for \$5,000.00. The Montezuma Police Department was able to buy a drug dog named "Pucky". The K-9 handler is Cpl. Ryran Ragsdale. Cpl. Ragsdale and "Pucky" are both State and Nationally Certified. Since the program has been implemented, the Montezuma Police Department has filed on \$170,000.00 worth of properties and cash. The program has netted approximately 73 drug cases and over 200 vehicles searches. Cpl. Ragsdale and "Pucky" has been invited to speak at several churches, schools, programs, and the Beaver Creek Festival. Cpl. Ragsdale and "Pucky" has been very instrumental in assisting other agencies with drug investigations. The Montezuma Police Department was able to purchase a Special Response/Command Vehicle through this program.



“K9- “Pucky”





Upgrades in the Department

- ❖ Convenience of paying tickets on-line (www.montezumatix.com)
- ❖ New standard operating procedure manual was developed.
- ❖ Courtroom security
- ❖ New filing system in records
- ❖ Yearly training on domestic violence, firearm, vehicle pursuit, use of force, legislature update.
- ❖ Conducting follow-up investigations.
- ❖ Establish hiring and promotion policies.
- ❖ Computerized Patrol Cars
- ❖ National and State Certified K-9 Program
- ❖ Computerized Evidence Room
- ❖ Crime mapping Program
- ❖ Text messaging briefings of shifts to all police personnel daily
- ❖ Establish the Boys and Girls Club in June 2, 2014
- ❖ Added a Special Response Team
- ❖ Community with Cops
- ❖ Chief's Diploma Program
- ❖ Added a Special Response Vehicle
- ❖ Updated the Speed of the Computer System at the Montezuma Police Department

CALEA or State Certified Agencies in Georgia

Adel Police Department
Albany Police Department
Alpharetta Police Department
Americus Police Department
Athens/Clarke County Police Department
Atlanta Police Department
Baldwin County Sheriff's Office
Barrow County Sheriff's Office
Bloomington Police Department
Braselton Police Department
Canton Police Department
Carroll County Sheriff's Office
Carrollton Police Department
Cartersville Police Department
Catoosa County Sheriff's Office
Chamblee Police Department
Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team
Cherokee County Marshal's Office
Cherokee County School District Police Dept.
Cherokee County Sheriff's Department
Clarke County Sheriff's Office
College Park Police Department
Cobb County Police Department
Columbus Police Department
Conyers Police Department
Cornelia Police Department
Covington Police Department
Dalton Police Department
Dawson County Sheriff's Office
Decatur Police Department
DeKalb County Police Department
Doraville Police Department
Dublin Police Department
Duluth Police Department
East Point Police Department
Fairburn Police Department
Fayetteville Police Department
Fitzgerald Police Department
Floyd County Police Department
Forest Park Police Department
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office
Forsyth Police Department
Fort Valley Police Department
Fulton County Police Department
Gainesville Police Department
Garden City Police Department
Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Georgia Health Sciences University Police Dept.

Georgia Southern University Division Public Safety
Georgia State University Police Department
Georgia World Congress Center Police Department
Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
Glynn County Police Department
Greene County Sheriff's Department
Griffin Police Department
Gwinnett County Police Department
Gwinnett County School Police Department
Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department
Habersham County Sheriff Office
Hall County Sheriff's Office
Hapeville Police Department
Henry County Police Department
Hinesville Police Department
Hogansville Police Department
Jefferson Police Department
Johns Creek Police Department
Jones County Sheriff's Office
Kennesaw Police Department
LaGrange Police Department
Lavonia Police Department
Lumpkin County Sheriff's Department
Marietta Police Department
MARTA Transit Police Department
Milledgeville Police Department
Milton Police Department
Monroe Police Department
Montezuma Police Department
Morrow Police Department
Moultrie Police Department
Newton County Sheriff's Office
Norcross Police Department
Peachtree City Police Department
Perry Police Department
Pooler Police Department
Richmond County Board of Education
Richmond County Marshal's Office
Richmond Hill Police Department
Riverdale Police Department
Rockdale County Sheriff's Office
Rome Police Department
Roswell Police Department
Sandy Springs Police Department
Savannah-Chatham Campus Police Department
Senoia Police Department

10 Tips for Avoiding Auto Accidents

1. **Avoid drinking and driving.**
2. **Minimize distractions** such as reading newspapers or talking on the cell phone when driving
3. **Properly maintain vehicles.** Tune up cars according to maintenance schedule, and especially take note monthly of tire condition.
4. **Do not encourage aggressive drivers.** Let other aggressive driving behavior roll off your back, or call the police. Losing your temper could worsen the situation.
5. **Leave a safe distance between your cars and others.** For every 10 miles per hour of speed, leave at least one car length space between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead.
6. **Maintain a constant speed.** Don't continually slow down or speed up.
7. **Adjust mirrors properly** and check the side and rear-view mirrors every 15 seconds.
8. **Take defensive driving classes** to improve your ability to drive and be better prepared for the unpredictable behavior of other motorists.
9. **Proceed with great caution through intersections.** Intersections are the center of most accidents. When entering an intersection, look left, then right, then left again to ensure the area is clear.
10. **Be sufficiently aware of road conditions** and be more visible. Keep your lights on at dusk and dawn and during rain, as is the law in most states. Understand basic vehicle dynamics, such as knowing how to recover from a skid.

Motorists can minimize distractions by: pulling over to a safe place to ...

- Dial numbers and talk on cell phones
- Pick up items from floor mats
- Change radio stations
- Change CDs
- Look at a map or read newspapers
- Take care of personal needs such as eating or personal grooming

General Crime Prevention Tips

AT HOME

- ✓ Make sure your main front door has a door viewer (peep hole).
- ✓ Install solid core wood or metal doors on all exterior door openings
- ✓ Always lock all windows and doors when going out. This includes short trips next door or out to the mailbox.
- ✓ Do not place keys in hidden locations.
- ✓ Keep all landscaping trimmed back to allow a clear view onto the property. Shrubs should be at 36" or lower, trees and tall plants should have at least 6" clear below. Do not allow plants to obstruct the view of windows and doorways.
- ✓ Know your neighbors - be aware of who belongs and who does not belong.
- ✓ Always acknowledge anyone who knocks at the door or rings the bell. You don't have to open the door, but you should always let them know you are home.

PURSES, BACKPACKS AND BRIEFCASES:

- ✓ Do not carry what you cannot afford to lose.
- ✓ Do not advertise what you have in your purse or backpack.
- ✓ Carry purses/backpacks close to your body. Protect them by holding your arms across them.
- ✓ Carry keys, wallet or other valuables in your pockets.
- ✓ Always keep your wallet, purse, backpack closed or zipped up.
- ✓ Do not leave your purse or backpack unwatched. Purses and backpacks hung on chairs or left in shopping carts are easy targets.

WALKING or SHOPPING:

- ✓ Always be alert to where you are.
- ✓ Pay attention to others around you - are you being watched or targeted.
- ✓ Use well lit streets and sidewalks where many persons are around or businesses are open.
- ✓ Occasionally look behind you
- ✓ Do not carry large sums of money or unused credit cards and identification.
- ✓ Do not resist a robber - do as asked and follow the instructions given.
- ✓ If you feel someone is following or watching you - go into a populated location and ask for help -
- ✓ Call the police.

ON-LINE SHOPPING:

- ✓ Use only well known established businesses.
- ✓ Do not give out personal information or credit card numbers to unknown persons or companies.
- ✓ Before placing an order with a company or with an unknown company, call the company by phone and get a feel for their business practices and professionalism.
- ✓ Always check your statement for unauthorized purchases.
- ✓ Do not purchase from direct marketing phone calls to your home or business. Although many companies are legitimate, many are not. Get a name, address, phone number and way to contact the business in order to check them out. Call the Better Business Bureau.
- ✓

- ✓ If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is too good to be true. If the offered price is only good during the phone call or while being solicited, be weary of fraud.

GENERAL CRIME PREVENTION TIPS (CONT'D)

HOLIDAY SHOPPING:

- ✓ Know where you are and where you are going.
- ✓ Pay attention to your surroundings.
- ✓ If possible do not carry a purse or backpack. Take a small coin purse or card wallet that will fit in your pocket.
- ✓ Is anyone watching what purchases you make or what you have in your wallet.
- ✓ Do not leave wallets or purses unattended in a shopping cart.
- ✓ Do not leave packages alone – have packages shipped home or to the office.
- ✓ Do not leave anything in the car. Criminals watch for you to place packages in the car or trunk of your car and walk away to continue shopping.
- ✓ Do not carry anything that you cannot afford to lose.
- ✓ Park in well lighted locations if shopping when dark.
- ✓ Park in locations close to heavily traveled entrances and locations.
- ✓ Look around as you approach your car. Have your keys in hand and ready.
- ✓ Always shop with someone else – the buddy system.



ROBBERY PREVENTION

We have all been told at one time or another to take a moment out of our hectic schedules to enjoy the small things around us...the sunset...dew on the grass...a child's smile...a loved one's laughter...and of course the sight and smell of beautiful roses. Paying attention to our surroundings is also a key element in robbery prevention.

- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Criminals count on you being preoccupied with shopping, banking or getting in/out of your vehicle instead of paying attention to them. Take a moment to observe who is in the parking area or close to the building before you exit your car. Does it make sense to walk past someone just standing around?
- ✓ If the area is dark, you can't see if someone is hiding behind shrubbery, trees or other obstructions. At home install additional exterior lighting and keep shrubbery at windowsill level and trees trimmed to prevent hiding places. Speak with management about inadequate lighting or overgrown shrubbery around your apartment or businesses that you frequent.
- ✓ While walking, do not take short cuts through wooded or isolated areas, alleys, and dark, poorly lit areas. Plan your route. If the area is unfamiliar to you, consider walking with a friend or traveling by car. If approached by a stranger, maintain the distance of an arm's length. Project a no-nonsense attitude and quickly walk away. Move with confidence and stay alert!
- ✓ If you think you are being followed, cross the street, walk quickly or run to a busy store, restaurant, gas station or lighted house.
- ✓ If a car is following you, turn and run in the opposite direction. If you suspect that you are being followed while driving, don't drive home!
- ✓ Go to the nearest police station, fire station, or business. Blow your horn to draw attention to your vehicle while driving up to the location.
- ✓ Nothing that you carry in your purse or wallet is worth your life! If robbed, stay calm and don't resist!
- ✓ Get a good description of the attacker call the police immediately.

BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for easy targets. During the day they see uncut lawns, stuffed mailboxes, newspapers piled up, and valuable items. These conditions act as clues to burglars that "this home" is an easy target. At night they see darkened houses or ones with the same light on for the same length of time every night. Again these are signals to burglars that "this house" is an easy target. The best way to stop the crime of burglary is through prevention. The following tips are basic to help you prevent crime in your neighborhood and to reduce the chance that the crime of burglary will effect you.

- *Don't be a temptation to a thief* - Put lawn equipment, bikes, grills, and garden tools away. Never leave a note saying you are gone on the door.
- *Locks* - Get the Best. No lock is 100% burglar proof, get advice from a locksmith to find the best fit for your house. Change locks if you lose your keys
- *Outside the house* - Have adequate lighting, trim trees and shrubs to prevent burglar from hiding in your yard or breaking in without being seen
- *Windows* - Most windows can be pinned for security. Some windows come with security locks, USE THEM!
- *Alarms* - An alarm system is an excellent way to have home security as it provides peace of mind, especially while you are away from home.

Remember, if you are going to be out of town take advantage of the Montezuma Police Department's free house check service. To activate a house check call the police department before you leave and request a house check. Officers patrolling your zone will monitor your residence while you are away.



SENIORS BEWARE!



There are dishonest people pretending to be Social Workers, agency or church volunteers so that they can get inside your home and steal your personal information, credit cards, money and other valuables. Please follow these simple tips:

- ✚ Do not let strangers in your home!
- ✚ Don't judge a book by its cover – well dressed people commit crimes and so do women!
- ✚ If you have not called or signed up for social services, free groceries or medical attention, do not let a stranger convince you that you need their services.
- ✚ If you have called for services, check the person's identification before they enter your home. Ask them to press the ID card against the window or slide it under the door.
- ✚ DO NOT TRUST A CHAIN LOCK; IT CAN BE EASILY BROKEN WITH ENOUGH FORCE!
- ✚ Never let anyone know that you live alone or are at home alone.
- ✚ As soon as a stranger appears, call a trusted neighbor and ask them to watch your home. Remain on the phone with them, until the stranger leaves.
- ✚ WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911

- ✚ **These are some of the latest scams:**
- ✚ A woman states that she is a Social Worker and needs to give you a hearing test.
- ✚ When you turn away from her, she grabs your valuables or you discover items missing after she has left.
- ✚ A woman pretending to be a church or charity worker brings you a box of free groceries and steals your valuables. When you open your purse to show her some identification, she grabs your purse and runs out of the door.
- ✚ Remember, these scams can involve criminals from different races and they can be a male or female working alone or as a team.

VEHICLE SAFETY

So you've finally found a parking place for your car,
but did you remember to...

- ✓ Remove all valuables from the seats and/or floor area BEFORE arriving at your destination?
- ✓ Avoid parking on deserted street?
- ✓ Report suspicious activities to the police or parking attendant?
- ✓ Check your vehicle/tag when you return?

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR TAG/DECAL LATELY?



Many criminals count on you never noticing that your decal or tag is missing, until they have left the scene.

- ✓ When was the last time you actually walked around your vehicle to check your tag/decal? Most people can honestly say “almost never”,
- ✓ Checking the exterior of your vehicle should be a part of your daily routine, whether your car is parked in your driveway or in a parking lot!
- ✓ Running into the gas station or the store for a moment? Check your tag when you return to your vehicle.
- ✓ Do you know your tag and/or decal number? You should carry the information in your wallet for a quick reference.

My tag # is _____

My decal # is _____

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

ARE YOU IN A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD?

Being a good neighbor is the primary reason that neighborhood watch programs work!

Good neighbors concerned about that delivery man or a unfamiliar car driving slowly through the neighborhood will stop and take notice.

Good neighbors meet their neighbors and exchange vital information for emergency purposes.

The Neighborhood Watch Program...

Works! It strengthens the relationship between the community and the police, while providing a cost effective method to reduce crime!

A daily part of neighborhood living, not a series of meetings. The basic premise of the watch program is: You watch my house and I will watch your house.

Teaches the resident about proactive strategies and techniques in the fight against crime.

Creates an awareness among residents to assist in the prevention of criminal activity in their communities.

Helps build community pride and provides the mechanism for residents to address other neighborhood concerns.

CHURCH SAFETY



We hear the phrase often about the “good old days”...One of the things that is definitely different today are incidents of crimes involving churches. We encourage you to take proactive steps to reduce the opportunities for criminal encounters to occur on your church grounds.

Exterior Security:

- 🔦 Install additional lighting in parking lots and entryways if areas are poorly lit.
- 🔦 To prevent hiding places, keep the shrubbery trimmed away from doors and windows.
- 🔦 Install solid wood or sheet metal faced doors.
- 🔦 Check all windows for defective locking devices for replacement or repair.

Key Control:

- 🔦 Maintain an accurate key distribution list and check with the recipients periodically to identify lost or stolen keys.
- 🔦 Consider changing locks every 3-5 years and reissue keys.
- 🔦 Create a User Form to track who is in the church and list the responsible key holder. Ideally, one person should open and close the church to eliminate the need for excessive keys being distributed.

Church Safety Team:

- 🔦 Ask neighborhood residents and businesses to join you in establishing a community watch.
- 🔦 Form a safety team to assess the overall security of the church (call Chief Eric Finch)
- 🔦 Designate safety monitors to check on the church periodically.
- 🔦 Engrave all valuables with an identifiable number and record your inventory.

The Montezuma Police Department is committed in achieving a positive relationship with the community in which it serves. The department must win and retain the confidence and respect of the public. This can be accomplished by constant and earnest endeavor on the part of all members of the police department to perform their duties in an efficient, honest, professional manner and with the highest level of ethical conduct.

Today it is more vital that the conduct of the department is exemplary in the public mind. The police are endowed with the public trust and the legal authority; in the exercise of this power, justice and equity should be ever the actuating motive to secure a safe and positive image for the basics of good law enforcement service.

Integrity:

We hold ourselves to the highest standards and we are accountable for our actions as an organization.

Commitment to Excellence:

We are committed to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property, promote individual responsibility, community commitment, acting responsibly and carrying out our duties with competence and efficiency.

Service:

We value the community we serve and meeting the community's needs while working together to build and maintain channels of communication between this community and ourselves. We do this by being personally involved in our community, working together in an effort to identify and resolve our problems within the community.

Respect:

We value the people of the community and will treat them with respect, sensitivity and compassion.



The Montezuma Police Department believes in working together as a community. Working together with the residents and local business owners in attempts to make this fine city a safe and enjoyable place to live and work. We rely heavily upon what people see and hear. If you don't report it, we may not be aware of it. Having a sense of pride in your community means working together with your local police to maintain a peaceful and safe place for you, your children, and friends to live.