

ERIC R. FINCH
MPA, CHIEF OF
POLICE

www.montezuma-ga.org



MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024

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



Presented by
Eric R. Finch, Chief of Police

A message from the Chief



ERIC 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”** summarize our determination to give you the most modern, well-trained, best equipped

police department possible. The slogan, **“Together- we can make a 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

Over View of Montezuma Police Department

Currently, the Montezuma Police Department consists of 15 full-time employees and 15 part-time employees for a total of 27 employees. The Montezuma Police Department is made up of the following employees which handle the day to day operation for the department.

- **1 Chief of Police**
 - **1 Captain**
 - **4 Supervision Certification**
 - **6 Field Training Officer Certification**
 - **1 Child Abuse Investigator**
 - **1 Crime Scene Investigator**
 - **2 Evidence Custodians**
 - **1 K-9 Position**
 - **5 Officers**
 - **3 Part-Time Officers**
 - **2 School Crossing Guards**
 - **1 Records Manager**
 - **1 Certification Manager**
 - **1 Municipal Clerk**
 - **1 Police Chaplin**
 - **1 Judge**
 - **1 Solicitor**
 - **1 Probation Officer**
 - **1 Indigent Attorney**
-

The Montezuma Police Department has proud itself as becoming a self-sufficient department and depends mainly upon itself to solve most of the crime with the City of Montezuma. Members of the Montezuma Police Department officers have 50 different types of degrees/ certification to achieve the above task. They consist of the following:

- **1 Georgia Command College Graduate**
- **1 Professional Management Graduate**
- **1 Executive Management Graduate**
- **1 Management Certification**
- **1 Officer w/ Master Degree**
- **4 Officers w/ Bachelor Degree**
- **6 Officers w/ Associate Degree**
- **2 POST Certified Instructors**
- **1 Firearm Instructor**
- **1 Certified Clerk of Court**
- **1 Sexual Offender Investigator**
- **1 Certified K-9 Handler**
- **2 Certification Managers**
- **10 Radar Operators**
- **4 Supervision Certification**
- **2 Intermediate Certification**
- **2 Certified SWAT Members**
- **1 GCIC TAC Officer**
- **1 Certified Police Chaplin**

***Officer of the Year Awarded to:
Avery Cruthirds***



Ofc. Avery Cruthirds has been selected Officer of the year 2024. Ofc. Cruthirds have been employed with the City of Montezuma since November 05, 2024. He graduated from SGTC Law Enforcement Academy in April of 2023 and also graduated from Middle Georgia State University with a Bachelors in Criminal Justice. Ofc. Avery Cruthirds has conducted the most follow up investigations in the department and assisted in closing the most cases for 2024. 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, Ofc. Cruthirds also serves as a 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.

***TAC of the Year Awarded to:
Nathandriel Williamson***



*The Men and Women of the Montezuma Police Department want to personally congratulate our Municipal Court Clerk, **Mrs. Nathandriel Williamson** on receiving Central Regional TAC Officer Of The Year.*

The Montezuma Municipal Court is in the top 1% in the State of Georgia. "Mrs. Williamson is a very hard worker who is dedicated to excellence every day when she enters the doors of the Montezuma Police Department, and I am super proud of her accomplishments." - Chief Eric Finch

Montezuma Police Department K-9 Program “K9 PUCKY”



The Montezuma Police Department was awarded a grant through the Flint Energy Corporation for \$5,000. The Montezuma Police Department was able to buy a drug dog named “Pucky”. “Pucky” is a state and Nationally Certified K-9. Since the program has been implemented, the Montezuma Police Department has filed on \$170,000 worth of property and cash. “Pucky” has been invited to visit at several churches, schools programs and the Beaver Creek Festival. “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. Currently, our K-9 Officer Steven Polkinghorn. K9 Officer Polkinghorn and “Pucky” completed the Georgia Canine Academy in Dooly County, Georgia

ACHIEVEMENTS

01 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 award. The E-911 Center serves 9 counties, Schley, Sumter, Macon Dooly, Marion, Webster, Stewart, Taylor and Talbot.

02 Patrol Division

The Montezuma Police Department is responsible for patrolling the street of Montezuma and responded to 9,727 calls for service. The Montezuma Police Department responded to 553 incidents, 63 accidents, 227 miscellaneous calls, 144 arrests, 2,148 traffic stops and 1,941 citations.

03 Training Division

The Montezuma Police Department provided training for over (30) different law enforcement agencies during the year of 2024. The Montezuma Police Department is known throughout the State of Georgia as a premiere agency within the State of Georgia with excellent police policies and training. Our instructors teach on Federal, State and Local levels.



UPGRADES IN OUR DEPARTMENT



UPGRADE

TextMyGov

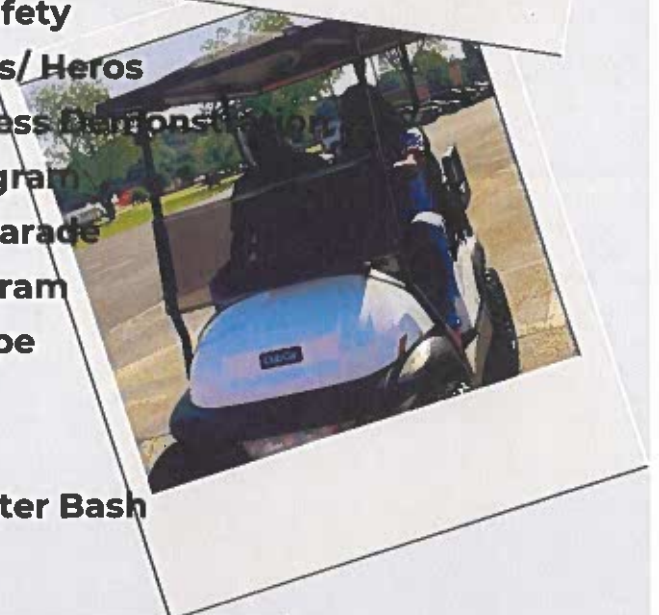
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- Convenience of paying tickets on-line (www.montezumapay.com)
 - New Standard operating procedure manual was developed
 - PowerDMS Management Data System
 - Courtroom Security
 - New filing system in records
 - Yearly training on domestic violence, firearm, vehicle pursuit, use of force, legislature update
 - Conducting follow up investigations
 - Establish hiring and promotion polices
 - Computerized and Modernized Patrol Cars
 - National and State certified K-9 Program
 - Computerized Evidence Room
 - Crime mapping Program
 - Computer Generated Tasers
 - Sig Saue Pistols with mounted Optics
 - MyGov App
 - Text Msg briefings of shifts to all police personnel daily
 - Establish the Boys and Girls club in June 2,2014
 - Added 32 Flock Cameras around the city
 - Community with Cops
 - Chief's Diploma Program
 - Added a Special Response Vehicle
 - Added a Speed Detection Trailers around the community
 - Facial Recognition Software
 - Remolded the Montezuma Police Department
-

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONS ARE VITAL TO THE MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT BY FOSTERING A POSITIVE REPUTATION, BUILDING TRUST WITH RESIDENTS, AND ENSURING MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR COMMUNITY.

HERE ARE SOME OF MANY EVENTS MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN...

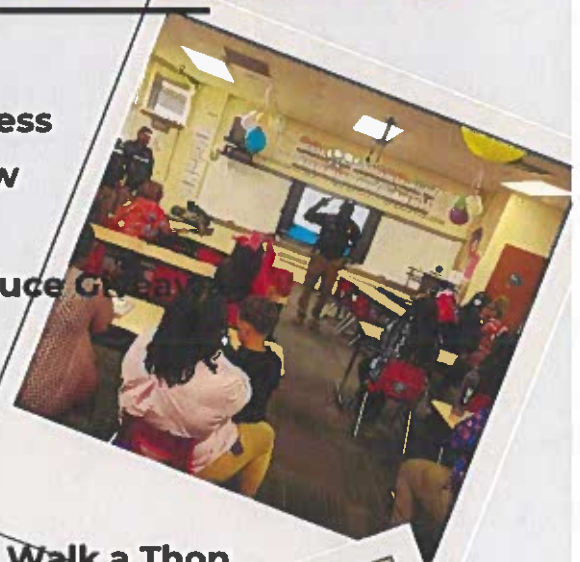
- Oglethorpe Pop-Up Shop
- Macon County Dr. Seuss Read across America Program
- Macon County Easter Egg Hunt
- Macon County Holy Week
- Oglethorpe Clean Up Day
- Macon County High School Career Day
- Oglethorpe Downtown Market
- Montezuma City Clean Up Day
- Oglethorpe Kick Ball Tournament
- Ga Cities Week Beaver Hunt
- Roquan Smith's Football Camp
- Macon County Elementary Public Safety
- Montezuma's Meet Your City Leaders/ Heros
- Macon County Teen Traffic Awareness Demonstration
- Macon County Senior Capstone Program
- Macon County Annual Wheelchair Parade
- Macon County Chief's Diploma Program
- Juneteenth Celebration in Oglethorpe
- Macon County Summer Camp
- Macon County Back To School Rally
- City of Oglethorpe Spanish Splash Water Bash



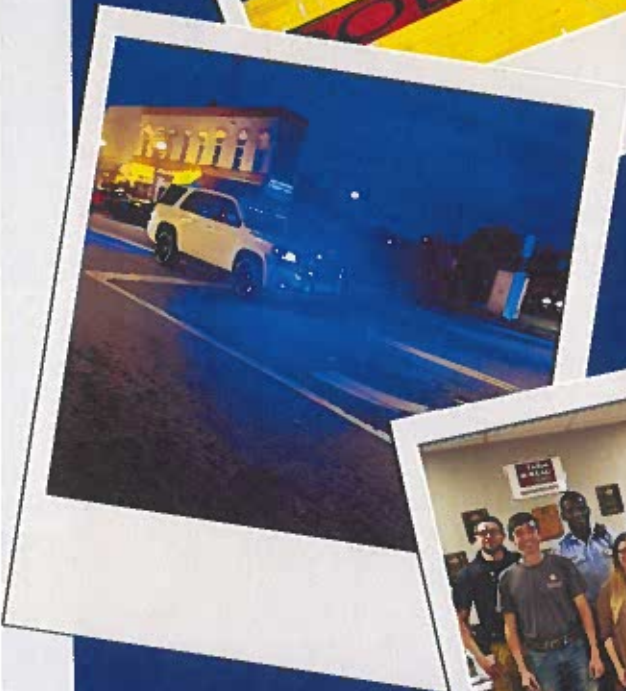
COMMUNITY RELATIONS CONT.

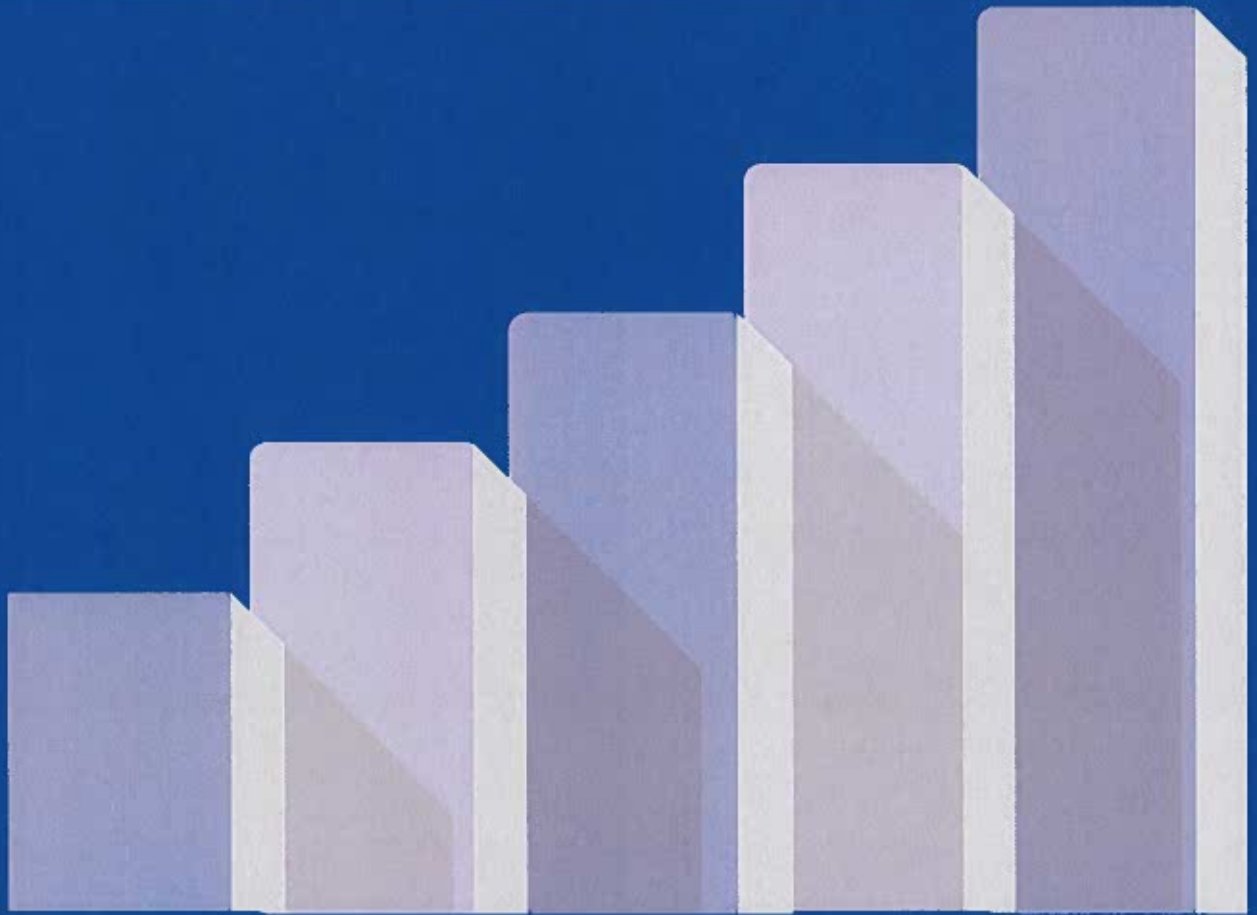


- Drug Free Macon County
- Macon County Active Shooter Awareness
- Garden Valley Back to School Car Show
- Faith and Blue Week
- Macon County Community Fresh Produce Giveaway
- Beaver Creek Festival
- Macon County Duck Race
- Oglethorpe Annual Trunk or Treat
- Montezuma Annual Trunk or Treat
- Montezuma Breast Cancer Awareness Walk a Thon
- Coffee with Cops
- Roquan Smith's Turkey Giveaway
- Macon County Head Start Fall Festival
- Oglethorpe Christmas Parade
- Montezuma Christmas Parade
- Toys for Tots Drive
- Macon County Safe Driving Summit
- Macon County Annual Christmas Luncheon
- Montezuma Christmas in the Park



PHOTOS OF OUR COMMUNITY

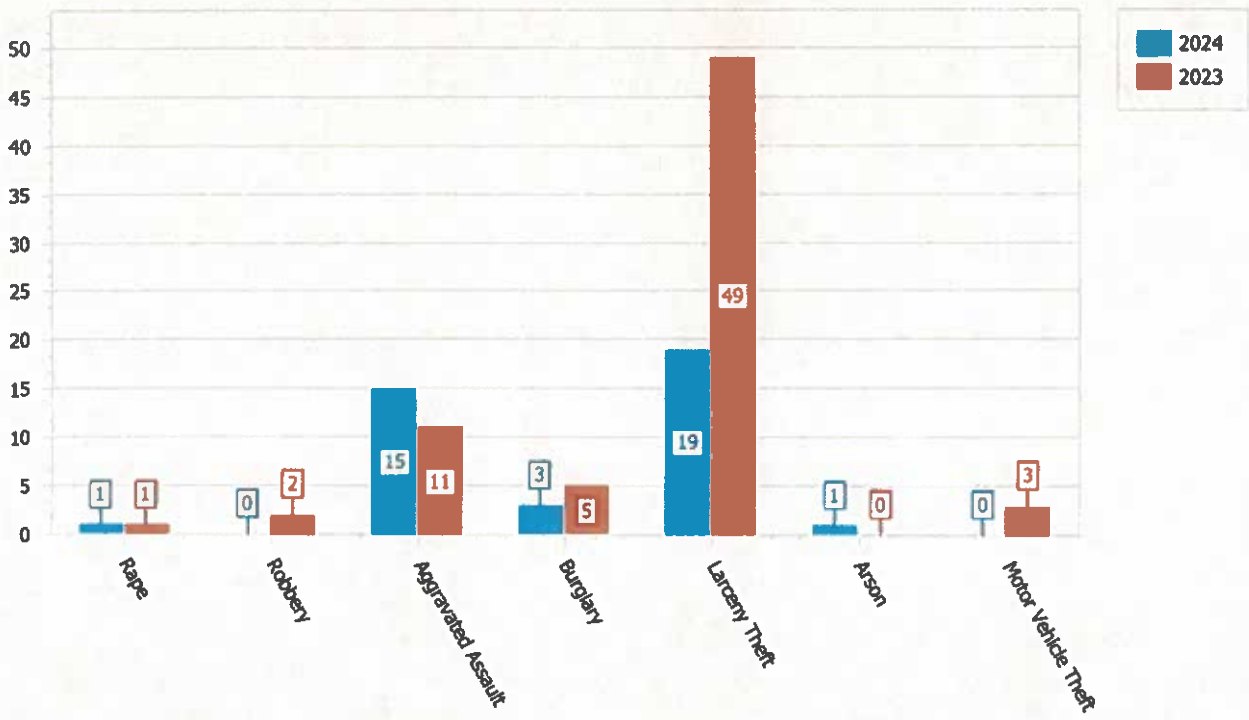




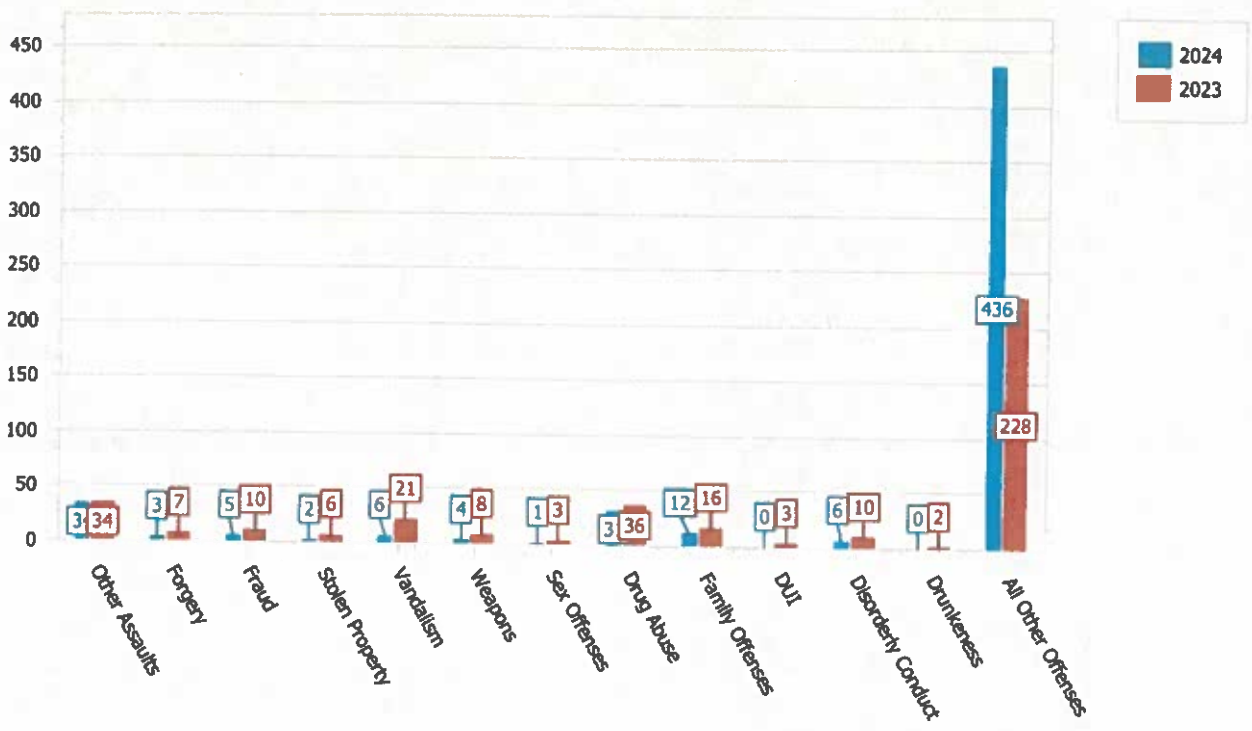
MONTEZUMA **STATS**

WHERE WE ARE....

PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS YTD



PART 2 CRIME STATISTICS YTD



Crime Statistics Report

Printed:01/02/2025 15:30:43

Date Range: 1/01/2024, 00:00:00 - 12/31/2024, 23:59:00

Agency: Montezuma Police Department

Violation Category	Comparison Date Range	Current Date Range	% Difference
PART 1	01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	
Murder (09A, 09B)			
Rape (11A, 11B, 11C, 36B)	1	1	0.00%
Robbery (120)	2	0	-100.00%
Aggravated Assault (13A)	11	15	36.36%
Burglary (220)	5	3	-40.00%
Larceny Theft (23A - 23H)	49	19	-61.22%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	3	0	-100.00%
Arson (200)	0	1	100.00%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	71	39	
PART 2			
Other Assaults (13B, 13C)	34	34	0.00%
Forgery (250)	7	3	-57.14%
Fraud (26A - 26H)	10	5	-50.00%
Embezzlement (270)			
Stolen Property (210, 280)	6	2	-66.67%
Vandalism (290)	21	6	-71.43%
Weapons (520)	8	4	-50.00%
Prostitution (40A, 40B, 40C)			
Sex Offenses (11D, 36A, 360, 64A - 64B, 370, 90H)	3	1	-66.67%
Drug Abuse (35A, 35B)	36	31	-13.89%
Gambling (39A - 39D)			
Family Offenses (90F)	16	12	-25.00%
DUI (90D)	3	0	-100.00%
Liquor Laws (90G)			
Disorderly Conduct (90C)	10	6	-40.00%
Drunkenness (90E)	2	0	-100.00%
All Other Offenses (720, 510, 100, 90J, 90B, 90A, 90Z)	228	436	91.23%
TOTAL PART 2 CRIMES	384	540	
Arrests			
Adults	215	133	-38.14%
Juvenile	14	10	-28.57%
TOTAL Arrests	229	143	



Montezuma Police Department

ERIC R. FINCH, CHIEF

408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388

Montezuma, Georgia 31063

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260

Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch 
From: Captain Hill 
Subject: Forgery/Fraud Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Incident Trends:**
 - **Forgery** decreased by **57.14%** compared to the previous year.
 - **Fraud** decreased by **50%**, with a total of **8 reported cases** in 2024.
2. **Incident Analysis:**
 - The department responded to **8 cases of Forgery/Fraud**, occurring on different days and times throughout the year.
 - Many cases involved **checks stolen from mailboxes and washed** for fraudulent use.
 - The banks targeted included **PNC Bank** and **Truist Bank**.
3. **Arrests and Warrants:**
 - Arrests were made in **three cases**.
 - A **warrant** was issued for an **Offender** in connection with one of the incidents.

Case Numbers and Details:

1. **24-02-00934 (117 S. Dooly Street):**
 - Incident: Caller scammed a new employee to withdraw cash and purchase bitcoins.
 - Findings: Bitcoin purchase location lacked surveillance camera coverage. Investigation remains unresolved.
2. **24-03-02326 (408 S. Dooly Street):**
 - Incident: Fraudulent use of a local business credit card by a suspect from Texas.
 - Findings: Method of access to the credit card remains unknown.
3. **24-07-05157 (118 Walnut Street):**
 - Incident: A suspect from Florida fraudulently cashed a check at **Truist Bank**

- Findings: Contacted the Broward County Sheriff's Department for assistance in identifying the suspect, but they did not assist. Case unresolved.
 - 4. **24-10-08304 (115 N. Dooly Street):**
 - Incident: Washed check from William Wall Towing.
 - Outcome: Arrest of **Charmeca Mathis**; warrant issued for **Keith Walker**.
 - 5. **24-10-08252 (115 N. Dooly Street):**
 - Incident: Washed check from William Wall Towing.
 - Outcome: Arrest of **Shannon Allen**.
 - 6. **24-11-08855 (118 Walnut Street):**
 - Incident: Fraudulent deposit of a check belonging to Ellen Yoder.
 - Outcome: Arrest of **Marlene Lester**.
-

Conclusion:

- The reduction in Forgery and Fraud cases highlights a positive trend, but the issue of **check washing** remains significant.
- Increased vigilance and public awareness campaigns, particularly regarding mail security, may help prevent such crimes.
- Coordination with external agencies (e.g., Broward County Sheriff's Department) is critical to improving outcomes in inter-jurisdictional cases.



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408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388

Montezuma, Georgia 31063

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260

Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch
From: Captain Hill
Subject: Battery/Other Assaults Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Incident Trends:**
 - The number of Battery/Other Assaults remained unchanged at **34 reports** compared to the previous year.
2. **Incident Analysis:**
 - The incidents occurred on both weekdays and weekends, between **0316 and 2330 hours**.
 - The assaults were spread across various locations throughout the city of Montezuma.
3. **Arrests:**
 - Arrests were made in all 34 cases.
 - Many incidents involved disputes between **boyfriends and girlfriends, juveniles, and girlfriend-on-girlfriend** altercations.
 - In each case, officers either made an arrest at the scene or obtained a warrant for the offender's arrest.

Case Numbers and Arrest Details:

1. **24-02-00892:** 809 Christopher Dr – Offender: Arrested
2. **24-02-01206:** 711 Lavender Street – Offender: Arrested
3. **24-02-01221:** 103 West Walnut Street – Offender: Arrested
4. **24-04-02679:** 417 Spaulding Rd – Offender: Arrested
5. **24-04-02685:** 157 Oak Grove Ct – Offender: Arrested
6. **24-04-02712:** 511 Sumter Street – Offender: Arrested
7. **24-04-02815:** 412 Monta Street – Offender: Arrested
8. **24-06-04406:** 104 Pecan Dr – Offender: Arrested
9. **24-07-06675:** 124 Oak Grove Ct – Offender: Arrested
10. **24-07-05989:** 854 Spring Street – Offender: Arrested
11. **24-07-05921:** 601 Engram Street – Offender: Arrested
12. **24-08-06461:** 711 Lavender Street – Offender: Arrested

14. **24-08-06935**: 511 Richardson Street – Offender: Arrested
 15. **24-09-01713**: 509 Sumter Street – Offender: Arrested
 16. **24-10-07778**: 508 Spaulding Rd – Offender: Arrested
 17. **24-10-08102**: 509 Sumter Street – Offender: Arrested
 18. **24-12-09370**: 511 N. Dooly Street – Offender: Arrested
 19. **24-12-09495**: 829 T.E. Moone Street – Offender: Arrested
-

Conclusion:

- The consistent arrest rate highlights the department's proactive response to incidents of Battery/Other Assaults.
- Continued vigilance is recommended to maintain this high level of enforcement and resolution.



Montezuma Police Department

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408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388
Montezuma, Georgia 31063
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260
Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch
From: Captain Hill 
Subject: Rape Case Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Incident Trends:**
 - Reports of rape remained unchanged from the previous year, with **one reported case** in 2024.
2. **Details of Incident:**
 - The incident occurred on a **Saturday** at approximately **23:30** at **625 S. Dooly Street**.
 - The offender was identified using **AI software** that matched a provided picture and suspected nickname.
 - The offender was arrested and charged with **Rape** and **several drug offenses**.
3. **Case Summary (Case #24-02-01101):**
 - **Offender Status:** Arrested
 - **Details:** The offender admitted to having sex with the victim and claimed that he believed the second encounter was consensual.
 - **Outcome:** Arrest made, with charges filed for Rape and additional drug-related offenses.


Conclusion:

- The successful identification and arrest of the offender underscore the department's effective use of technology and investigative resources.
- Continued reliance on AI tools and rapid response protocols can enhance resolution rates in similar cases moving forward.



Montezuma Police Department

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408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388
Montezuma, Georgia 31063
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260
Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch 
From: Captain Hill
Subject: Burglary Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

- Burglary Trend:**
 - Burglary incidents decreased by 40% between January 2023 and December 2024.
- Incident Analysis:**
 - Three burglaries were reported and investigated during the analysis period.
 - The incidents occurred during weekdays, between 0900 and 0430 hours.
 - Two of the burglaries took place on Vienna Road, while the third occurred on Plant Street.
 - No discernible patterns were identified among the victims.

Case Numbers and Details:

- Case #24-04-02925 (830 Vienna Road):**
 - Suspect: Arrested.
 - Charges: Forced burglary and theft of a 50-inch TV and a washing machine.
 - Status: Arrest made.
- Case #24-08-06238 (643 Plant Street):**
 - Suspects: Arrested.
 - Charges: Forced burglary and theft of cologne.
 - Status: Arrests made.
- Case #24-12-09341 (710 Vienna Road):**
 - Suspect: Unknown.
 - Details: The victim reported a break-in through a smashed window. No items were reported missing.
 - Investigation: Area canvassed; no surveillance footage located. Case closed due to lack of leads.

Conclusion:

- A significant reduction in burglary incidents is noted compared to the previous year.
- Two out of three investigations resulted in successful arrests, demonstrating effective response and investigation strategies.
- Continued monitoring and vigilance on Vienna Road may be prudent given repeated incidents in that area.



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408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388
Montezuma, Georgia 31063
Emergency: 911
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Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch
From: Captain Hill
Subject: Aggravated Assault Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Aggravated Assault Trend:**
 - Aggravated assaults increased by **36.36%** between January 2023 and December 2024.
2. **Incident Analysis:**
 - A total of **15 aggravated assaults** were reported and investigated during the analysis period.
 - These incidents occurred at various times, with a significant concentration on **weekends between 0720 and 0030 hours**.
 - Locations were spread throughout the city of Montezuma, with no specific area showing a consistent pattern.

Case Numbers and Locations:

- 24-01-00742: 601 McKenzie Drive
- 24-03-01720: 213 E. Adams
- 24-03-02516: 103 W. Walnut
- 24-04-02820: 432 Spaulding Road
- 24-04-02919: 507 McKenzie Drive
- 24-04-03356: 285 Travelers Rest Road
- 24-06-04695: 407 Spaulding Road
- 24-07-05848: 204 White line Street
- 24-08-06752: 541 Richardson Street
- 24-10-08054: 100 Flint Drive
- 24-12-0922: 127 Cherry Street
- 24-12-09433: 343 Averill Street
- 24-08-06372: 500 N. Dooly Street
-

Additional Information:


Next Steps:

- Continue monitoring patterns to identify trends or emerging hotspots.
- Strengthen weekend patrols, particularly during peak hours.
- Assess existing strategies to mitigate the rising aggravated assault rates.



Montezuma Police Department

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408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388
Montezuma, Georgia 31063
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260
Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch 
From: Captain Hill
Subject: Larceny/Theft Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Evaluation of Compiled Data

Period Covered: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Key Findings:

1. **Incident Trends:**
 - Larceny/Theft incidents decreased by **61.22%** compared to the previous year, with **19 reported cases** in 2024.
2. **Incident Analysis:**
 - The department responded to **19 theft cases** that occurred on various days and times throughout the year.
 - Offenders were identified in several cases, charged with **Theft by Taking**, or issued **banning notices** (e.g., from Dollar Tree properties).
 - One case involved theft from a property owner, resulting in the arrest of the offender.

Case Numbers and Details:

1. **24-10-08093 (602 Hosie Waters Street):**
 - Incident: The Offender was arrested for taking property from a homeowner.
 - Outcome: Offender identified and charged.
2. **24-10-08102 (112 Oglethorpe Rd):**
 - Incident: An unknown offender stole batteries from a Mack semi-truck at a mechanic shop.
 - Findings: Lack of surveillance cameras prevented identification of the offender. The case remains unresolved.
3. **24-11-08403 (Duplicate Case Number in Record):**
 - Incident: A complainant accused a suspect of stealing a cell phone.
 - Findings: Investigation revealed insufficient evidence to charge the suspect. Case closed without charges.
 -

Conclusion:

- The significant decrease in larceny/theft cases is a positive outcome for the year.
- Efforts to prevent theft, including enforcing banning notices and arresting identified offenders, have contributed to this decline.
- Further measures, such as enhancing surveillance at vulnerable locations (e.g., mechanic shops), could improve case resolutions.



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Montezuma, Georgia 31063

Emergency: 911

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Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch
Fr: Captain Hill
Re: Use of Force Analysis
Date: January 10, 2025

Montezuma Police Department Use of Force Analysis

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Prepared in compliance with Policy SOP 2.000, Use of Force

Summary of Analysis

This report provides an analysis of the Use of Force incidents reported by the Montezuma Police Department from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The analysis includes incidents across all divisions and adheres to the department's Use of Force policy.

- **Review Process:**
 - Use of Force reports were completed by the initiating officer applying the force and submitted for review. Each report was reviewed for this analysis.
- **Compliance with Policy:**
 - 100% of the Use of Force incidents were determined to be within policy.
 - The level of force used was deemed appropriate in all reviewed incidents.
- **Patterns Identified:**
 - No patterns indicating unwarranted repeated Use of Force by individual officers were identified.
 - No instances of excessive force were noted.
- **Training Recommendations:**
 - No specific deficiencies requiring immediate training were identified.
 - The department should continue ongoing Use of Force training through in-service programs, specialty training, and practical exercises.

Overview of Use of Force Incidents

Total Incidents: 6

Types of Force Used:

- 2 Taser deployments
- 1 Dry stun
- 2 Hands-on force
- 1 Handgun drawn

General Times of Occurrence:

1. **Evening (1800-1900):** Taser deployment
2. **Afternoon (1300-1400):** Hands-on
3. **Evening (1630-1730):** Taser deployment
4. **Evening (1800-2000):** Hands-on
5. **Morning (0800-0900):** Handgun drawn during house clearing for a fleeing suspect.
6. **Afternoon (1000-1100):** Combative suspect fled on foot, kicking officers during arrest.

Types of Incidents:

1. Disabled vehicle in the roadway
2. Male subject causing a disturbance at the Oasis Restaurant
3. Traffic stop (Flock alert verified, expired tag and no insurance)
4. Suspect fled a traffic stop
5. Suspect fled on foot and became combative during arrest
6. Suspect refused arrest

Suspect Resistance Levels

1. **Active Violence:** Fighting with officer; flight/elude; active warrant
2. **Flight/Elude:** Escape from custody; possession of drugs
3. **Active Violence**
4. **Active Violence:** Kicking Officers
5. **Refused Arrest**
6. **Fled traffic stop and entered residence**

Injuries Sustained

- **Officer Injuries:**
 - 1 officer sustained minor injuries.
- **Suspect Injuries:**
 - No injuries requiring advanced medical care.
 - Basic first aid administered (e.g., Taser prong removal).

Conclusion

The Montezuma Police Department's Use of Force incidents for 2024 were thoroughly reviewed, showing compliance with policy and appropriate application of force. Continued emphasis on training and adherence to established guidelines will ensure consistent performance and accountability.

Recommendations:



1. Maintain routine reviews of Use of Force incidents.
2. Continue in-service and scenario-based training.
3. Monitor incident data for emerging trends.

This analysis underscores the department's commitment to professionalism, transparency, and adherence to best practices in the application of force.



Montezuma Police Department

ERIC R. FINCH, CHIEF
408 S. Dooly Street- Post Office Box 388
Montezuma, Georgia 31063
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (478) 472-6260
Fax: (478) 472-5960

To: Chief Finch 
Fr: Captain Hill 
Re: Annual Complaint review
Date: January 08, 2025

Per policy, I conducted a thorough analysis of complaints received against Montezuma Police Department officers for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Below are the findings from each complaint investigation:

Complaint 1

Date: 01/23/2024
Complainant: Local Complainant
Incident Summary:

- The complainant alleged that the officer made an inappropriate remark by asking if someone was playing a prank on her based on her account of events.
- The complainant requested to speak with the Chief and ended her interaction with the officer.
- Body camera footage revealed that the officer listened to the complainant and offered assistance. However, the complainant became upset and demanded the Chief be called to the scene. The officer advised her to visit Montezuma PD to meet with the Chief and then returned to his patrol vehicle.

Disposition:
Unsubstantiated. The footage showed that the officer acted professionally and provided assistance. The complainant's frustration appeared to stem from the officer's suggestion to meet the Chief at the police station.

Complaint 2

Date: 02/26/2024
Complainant: Local Citizen
Incident Summary:

- The complainant alleged that the officer was unprofessional during a traffic stop for failing to completely stop at a stop sign.
- Body camera footage confirmed that the officer remained professional during the interaction.
- The complainant was observed to be upset and used profanities toward the officer multiple times, but the officer-maintained professionalism throughout.
- Footage was downloaded and saved on a compact disc for future review.

Disposition:

Unsubstantiated. The officer acted professionally during the stop, despite the complainant's behavior.

Complaint 3

Date: 03/22/2024

Complainant: Local Citizen

Incident Summary:

- The complainant disputed a citation issued by the officer for allegedly failing to stop at a stop sign.
- During the interview, the complainant confirmed that the officer was neither unprofessional nor violated his rights.
- The complainant was advised of his right to present his case to the Municipal Court judge.

Disposition:

Unsubstantiated. The complaint pertained to the citation itself and not officer misconduct. The complainant was encouraged to resolve the matter in court.

Complaint 4

Date: 04/04/2024

Complainant: Local Citizen

Incident Summary:

- The complainant alleged police brutality against three officers' during her daughter's arrest.
- Video footage showed the offender fleeing from officers, resisting arrest, and biting an officer on the leg.
- Interviews with the shift supervisor and confirmed that force was used to gain control of the offender due to her resistance.
- The body camera footage fell during the altercation but captured the offender's refusal to comply with commands before the struggle.

Disposition:

Unsubstantiated. The use of force was deemed appropriate for the circumstances, as the offender actively resisted arrest.

Complaint 5

Date: 05/07/2024

Complainant: Local Citizen

Incident Summary:

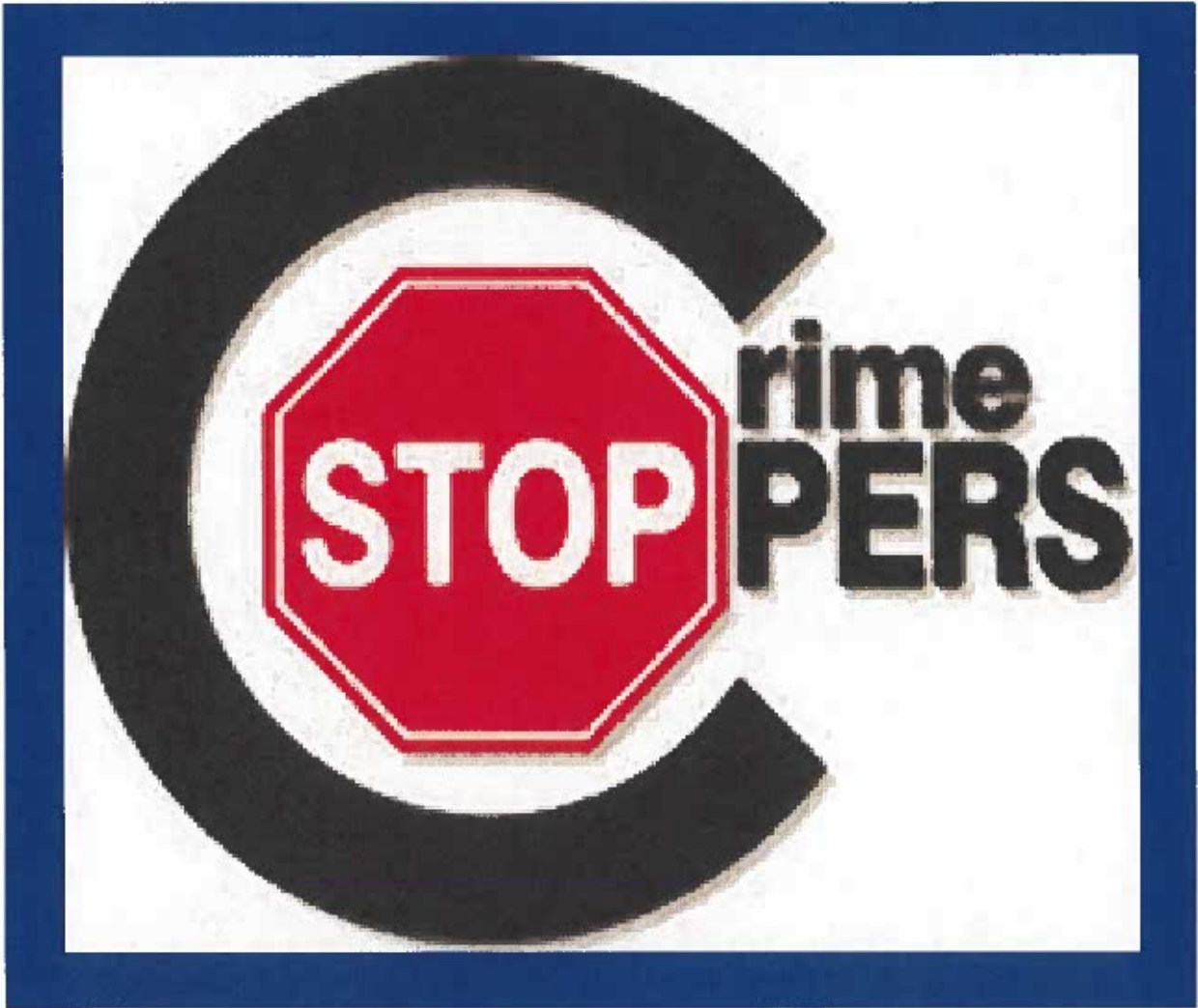
- The complainant alleged that the officer falsely accused her of failing to use her turn signal before turning.
- Body camera footage confirmed that the complainant turn signal was not illuminated during the turn. The officer demonstrated the difference between an active and inactive signal, which the complainant acknowledged.

Disposition:

Unsubstantiated. The footage validated the office's observation, and the complaint lacked merit.

Conclusion:

Each complaint received during this reporting period was thoroughly investigated, including reviews of body camera footage and interviews with involved parties. All complaints were determined to be **unsubstantiated**, as the evidence consistently supported the professionalism and proper conduct of the officer and other involved officers. All body camera footage has been saved on a compact disc, and attached to the complaint form, and placed in the officer's employee file.



“SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING!”

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

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 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?



Lighting

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 window still 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.



Avoid being alone

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!



Being followed

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

If robbed, stay calm and don't resist! Attempt to get a good description of your attacker and call police immediately.

NOTHING THAT YOU CARRY ON YOUR PERSON IS WORTH YOUR LIFE!



BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for easy targets. During the day they see uncut lawns, stuffed mailboxes news papers 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 home” is an easy target. The best way to stop the 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 garen tools away. Never leave a not saying you are gone on the door



Locks

Get the best. No lock is 100% burglar proof, get advice from a lock smith to find the best fit for your home. Change locks if you lose your keys



Outside of the house

Have adequate lighting, trim trees and shrubs to prevent a 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 you zone will monitor your residence while you are away.

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 area 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 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 asses the overall security of the church (call Chief Eric Finch)
- Designate safety monitors to check on the church periodically.

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 series of meetings. The basic premise of the watch program is You watch my house and I 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.



SENIORS BEWARE!

SCAM ALERT!

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, such as 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 you valuables. When you open your purse to show her some identification, she grabs your purse and runs out the door.**

Remember: These scams can involve criminals from different races and they can be 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 you 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 part of your daily routine, whether your car is parked in your driveway or in the 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.

BEING PART OF THE TEAM

ALL APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY:



01

NEEDS

- U.S. Citizen
- Minimum age of 21 (Police Officer)
- High school diploma
- Honorable Discharge (if applicable)

NO'S

- NO Felony Convictions.
- NO convictions for crimes involving false statements or moral turpitude
- NO pattern of misdemeanor or traffic convictions which would represent a disregard for the law.

02



03

WANTS

- Good moral character
- Good physical condition
- Successfully complete ALL phases of hiring process
- Former police officers must have good standing with P.O.S.T.

In remembrance of Martha Jean Hardy

November 5, 1953 - November 24, 2024



For the past 28 years, Ms. Hardy has been by my side. Every decision I've made at the Montezuma Police Department, I've asked for her opinion because she saw and witnessed things I hadn't. She was one of the few people I totally trusted because of her faith, wisdom, and straight forwardness. My prayers are with her family especially Jeremy who was raised at the Montezuma Police Department. Even though in sickness, Mrs. Hardy still wanted to return to the Montezuma Police Department, and I advised her "No, because if we are going to be great, I needed her to be at her best". -Chief Eric Finch

The Men and Women of the Montezuma Police Department want to express our deepest sympathy to the Hardy family during this difficult time. Ms. Hardy was a dedicated member of our team and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Rest in Peace Ms. Martha Hardy.