



# Coosa Journal



*News & Encouragement from the Coosa County Sheriff's Office*



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**"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."**

**(John 15:13)**

***Sheriff Terry Wilson***

**[www.coosacountyso.org](http://www.coosacountyso.org)**

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**Your Coosa County Sheriff's Office is here...  
To Serve and Protect**

**December 2017**

**Volume 9**

**Number 12**

## ***Police Officers Prayer***

Lord I ask for courage  
 Courage to face and Conquer my fears...  
 Courage to take me Where others will not go...  
 I ask for strength  
 Strength of body to protect others And strength of spirit to  
 lead others...  
 I ask for dedication  
 Dedication to my job, to do it well. Dedication to my  
 community,  
 To keep it safe...  
 Give me Lord, concern  
 For others who trust me  
 And compassion for  
 those who need me...  
 And please Lord through it all  
 Be at my side...

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*You are Invited to Attend:*

## **Rockford Baptist Church**

9575 Highway 231 Rockford

10:00 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM Worship

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# Point of View

## Sunshine On My Shoulders

By: Dr. Jeff Fuller

I know it is supposed to be fall, but this 80+ degree weather we are having is causing me to doubt the time of the year. There are a few trees changing color, the evenings are slightly cooler, and there are football games being played. You know it is fall when fans sit before televisions with popcorn and diet Pepsi to watch the state favorite “whip up on” a rival team. Yet, we will only talk about High School or College Football and not the NFL, for that is one which I will not “bow to” and refuse to watch those highly paid...

I am sorry, I digressed there, we are talking about fall. It is really my favorite time of the year. Though the cooler days and the color of the trees against the ridges set my heart afire with joy and much adoration of the Majestic God who created all things, there is something

about the sunshine on my shoulders that makes me happy.

American singer and songwriter John Denver was one of the greats from my time. His ballads always seemed to be able to give me a boost to the spirit with the simple words and the cords of his guitar. One song comes to mind today:

*“Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy*

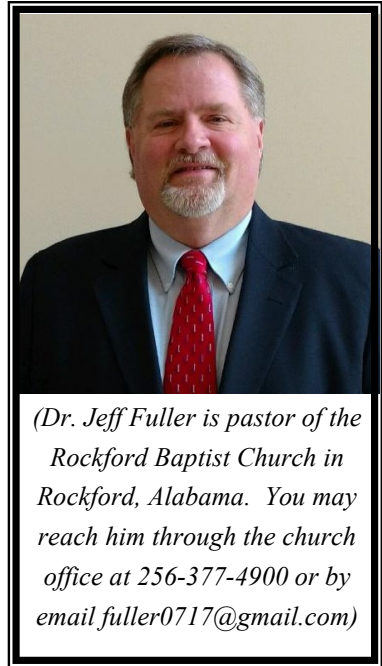
*Sunshine in my eyes can make me cry*

*Sunshine on the water looks so lovely*

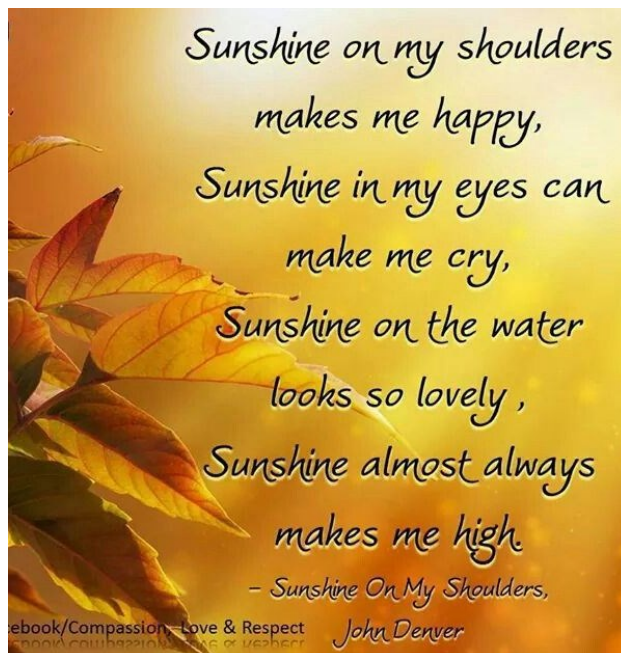
*Sunshine almost always makes me high.”*

Is it the fall weather or the beautiful sun which brings this blast from the past back to my memory? I have no clue, but it does make me think about something else.

This year fall comes with a special pleasure. It was a few months ago we



(Dr. Jeff Fuller is pastor of the Rockford Baptist Church in Rockford, Alabama. You may reach him through the church office at 256-377-4900 or by email fuller0717@gmail.com)



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purchased a new vehicle; well it is new to us. Our SUV is equipped with everything I have been missing in life. It has air conditioned front seats, heated front and second row seating, Sirius XM with Bose speakers, and a sun roof. A sun roof is something I have always wanted.

See, a sun roof is quite special to me, for various reasons. At night, we can open it up and feel the wind blowing across the tops of our heads as the stars twinkle in the heavens. If it is raining, the cover goes back so the sound of the pitter patter of the rain calms our fears. On a beautiful fall day as the sunshine floods the earth with its warm glow and the cool air blows gently we can enjoy a pleasurable drive through the country side as the sunshine warms our shoulders.

There is something else to note about a sun roof in a vehicle. This is a very serious matter to me. As a believer, I anticipate the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Should I be in my automobile, attending to the multitude of tasks as a minister of the gospel, I do not want to bump my head as He transports me from this world to my eternal home. Therefore, I bought an SUV with a sun roof.

“Listen! I am telling you a mystery...we will all be changed, in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this corruptible must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal must be clothed with immortality. When this corruptible is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:51-58 HCSB)

Be encouraged today, my friend. Allow the sunshine to warm your shoulders and the Son to warm your heart as you do the work of Christ in this this world, until He comes!

Until next time...



# December's *Sheriff's Office* Featured Article

## QUARTERLY UPDATE ON SHERIFF'S OFFICE

It is difficult to believe the year is just about over. Where did 2017 go? And why so quickly? Seems only yesterday we were getting ready to face a new year; planning for spring activities; getting ready for summer vacations. As is always the case, the years slip by without notice.

With a year about end, the Sheriff's Office gathered for the third quarterly review on November 3. Under the leadership of Sheriff Terry Wilson, the office has participated in quarterly meetings to review the goals of the office and plan for and anticipate the coming days of serving and protecting the citizens of Coosa County. Through these meetings four times each year, the ability to communicate and encourage the work of the team has been the focus, which has assisted those who are part of the work of law enforcement to share in the accomplishments.

As always, the meeting begins with a meal and time to talk and visit among the team members around the tables. There is always laughter.

The focus of the meetings each quarter is information, training and planning.

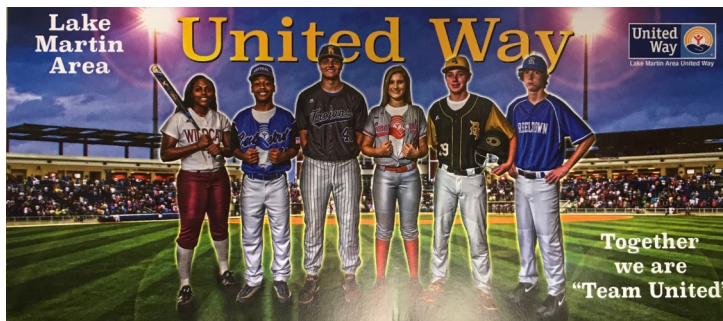
Sheriff Wilson takes the lead in getting the meeting started by sharing of those things which have been challenges for the past three months. The following is a snapshot of his remarks:

- Completed Filling Open Personnel Slots
- Accomplished an Aggressive Training Initiative for Employees
- Completed our C.O.A.C.H. Fundraising Efforts for the Year
- Finishing Up on Several Death Investigations
- Worked Tirelessly at Solving Many Burglaries and Thefts
- Began a Vigorous Plan Working on our Cold Cases
- Submitted and Received Approval 2017/2018 Annual Budget
- Reminder of Our 2017 Goal – The Year of “Stronger Leadership with Superb Teamwork”
- Have You Worked to Improve Your Leadership Skills?
- Are You Becoming a Better Teammate?

“Remember, we are a public safety team and we must constantly be striving to be better at what we do – Serving and Protecting Our Public,” Sheriff Wilson reminded his team. He took a moment to introduce Our Newest Teammates. The following were welcomed to the Corrections/Dispatchers Positions: David Lamberth & Kennedy Locklear

### United Way Presentation

During the Coosa County Sheriffs Office quarterly meeting members of the Lake Martin Area United Way: Sharon Fuller, Executive Director of Lake Martin Area United Way, Sandra Fuller, Vice Chair and Campaign Chairman, and Debra Lamberth, Coosa County Revenue Commissioner and Lake Martin Area United Way Board of Directors, along with Corporal Bradgel Moon SRO spoke about the upcoming yearly



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fundraiser for the agency. The Lake Martin United Way has almost 40 agencies within it serving Coosa and Tallapoosa counties. The United Way provides funding for the Coosa County Student Resource Officer program to assist in providing educational materials for drug prevention, bullying, and other issues to get children and the community informed of the dangers. The Lake Martin Area United Way slogan for this year is "Team United". If we, as a community, continue to support what they're doing within the area with their agencies great things can happen. For more info contact Lake Martin Area United Way phone 256.329.3600 [unitedwaylakemartin.org](http://unitedwaylakemartin.org) [admin@unitedwaylakemartin.org](mailto:admin@unitedwaylakemartin.org) PO Box 876 17Main Street Alexander City, AL 35011 and remember together as a community we are "Team United".

### **Safety Brief By Safety Officer**

At each quarter meeting, as deemed vital by the insurance provider, Deputy Tim Lipscomb-Safety Officer-shares information regarding safety of team members. He also highlights one Line of Duty Death among the Thin Blue Line Family. Information is gathered from the Officer Down Memorial Page at [www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org).

*Police Officer Justin Leo was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance call at approximately 10:15 pm. The subject was intoxicated and was known to have firearms inside the home. Responding officers made contact with the subject, who produced a handgun and shot Officer Leo. Another officer returned fire and killed the subject. Officer Leo was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. Officer Leo served with the Girard Police Department in Ohio \*-for five years. He worked for the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department and the Vienna Police Department prior to joining the Girard Police Department in 2012. Officer Leo is survived by his parents, aunt, and extended family.*



Within the year, the following are Line Of Duty Deaths in the United States to date:

9/11 related illness: <b>3</b>	Assault: <b>2</b>
Animal Related: <b>1</b>	Assault: <b>4</b>
Automobile accident: <b>23</b>	Boating accident : <b>2</b>
Drowned: <b>5</b>	Duty related illness: <b>2</b>
Exposure to toxins: <b>1</b>	Gunfire: <b>39</b>
Heart attack: <b>11</b>	Motorcycle accident: <b>4</b>
Stabbed: <b>1</b>	Struck by vehicle: <b>3</b>
Vehicle pursuit: <b>5</b>	Vehicular assault: <b>3</b>

Statically, information is vital to understanding what is going on in any organization; this is true within law enforcement as well. The following reflects the progress of the CCSO over the third quarter within three areas of the CCSO:

### **Admin Stats**

Pistol Permits Sold: July-89; August-107; Sept-69

### **Jail Stats**

Average Population: July-23; August-27; Sept-27

Arrests/Bookings: July-37; August-40; Sept-41

### **Law Enforcement Stats**

Calls/Activities: July-843; August-824; Sept-79

Warrants Served: July-35; August-47; Sept-63

Civil Papers Served: July-71; August-52; Sept-46

Incident Reports Taken: July-68; August-55; Sept-52

Tickets Issued: July-51; August-27; Sept-24

Each quarter General Accomplishments are outlined. The following reflects a widespread variety of areas in which activities were completed which were for the benefit of all:

- Initiated the 2018 Calendar Program (Layout & Pictures)
- Installed Courthouse Security Camera System
- Participated in our Annual National Night Out
- Started 2017/2018 School Year with New SRO (Cpl Moon)
- Completed 2 Special Elections (Primary & Run Off)
- Initiated Search Warrant on Suspects Grogan & Pearce Resulted in Discovering a Large Marijuana Grow Operation
- Initiated Search Warrant on Suspect Messing Resulting in Arrest of Felon in Possession of Firearms
- Revised/Launch New Sheriff's Website
- Submitted 2017-2018 Budget Won Approval - 3% Pay Raise
- Received Safety Award from Our Meadowbrook Insurance

Continual training is a priority with Sheriff Wilson. The following are training accomplishments over the past quarter:

- Jail Management Class – Podoll and Otwell
- Draeger Training – Jones, Royal, McAnally, Locklear
- APCO Certifications – Mull, Keel, Ebert
- APOST/Police Academy – Davenport
- Nims Training- House, Davenport
- Meth Awareness Class – Davenport



- Alabama Jail Conference – Keel
- Alabama Sheriff Conference – Sheriff & Chief Davidson
- LECC Conference – Burke & Hammond
- Election Poll Workers Training – Sheriff, Lipscomb & Keel

Each quarter, the Reserve Unit continues to make great contributions to the CCSO. During the three month period, Reserve Officers contributed 508 Hours of Service, with no pay.

- Provided Safety & Security for Numerous Community Events
- Cold Case Reviews and Opening School Days
- Football Games and Court Days
- Annual National Night Out
- Special Election Run Off

### Management Staff Reports

#### Office Manager – Shelia Thomas

- Processed 1 Writ of Possessions, 5 Unlawful Detainers
- Worked on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Amendments
- Enhanced Sound on TV in Lobby
- Coordinated Paperwork on Davenport's Academy Training and Classes
- Assisted with Paperwork to Destroy Condemned Evidence (Drugs)
- Coordinated with Southern Software and Brad Beldon for Computer Updates and Issues
- Assisted w/Suspects Pearce & Grogan Drug Bust Press Release
- Worked on FY 2017-2018 Budget Presentations
- Assisted Out of State Agency with Detainers and Reports
- Assisted the Sheriff w/Vehicle Fleet Management

#### Chief Deputy – Chief Joseph Davidson

- Holiday Season is here. Be Observant.
- Deputy Davenport will Graduate Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and we will be back to full staff.
- CTSP is starting back. Make sure you're considerate of dispatch and shift deputies.

#### Jail Administrator – Cpt. Mike Mull

- Completed Installation Courthouse Security Camera System
- Finally Fully Staffed
- Replaced Several Inoperable Computers
- Still Working with 911 Board to Enhance Radio (waiting FCC license)
- Worked with 911 Board to Extend Retention Bonuses for Dispatchers with over 1 year of service this year as well
- Began Exploring Options for Re-configuring Tower Controls

The 2017 Sheriff's C.O.A.C.H. Team has been very successful in raising money and awareness of Neighbors Helping Neighbors:

- Our Coordinator – Captain Mike Mull
  - 2017 Fundraising Goal - \$10,000
  - Event Total Results - \$ 16,786
  - Sheriff's "Brown Bag" Lunch - \$ 242
  - Sheriff's "All You Can Eat" Breakfast - \$ 902
  - Sheriff's Annual Café - \$2,721
  - Sheriff's Annual "Fishing Tournaments - \$7,681
  - Sheriff's Gun Raffle – \$5240
- Participation by all was Encouraged  
*Awarded – Crossbow to Jamie (226 Tix Sold) and Rifle to Mike(306 Tix sold)*

### Christmas Float Committee

- This Years Theme " Santa's Workshop"
- Need Volunteers to Form Our Committee and Help
- Design and Build Our Float: Parade Dates
  - Rockford December 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Weogufka December 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Alex City December 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Goodwater December 7<sup>th</sup>

*Hoping for Another Award Winning Float just like the past years!*

### Awards and Recognitions

Outstanding Performance Based Awards and Merit Based Awards were given to individual employees for numerous accomplishments. We appreciate all the hard work of the employees of the Sheriff's Office.



CO Davis and Dep House receiving his Outstanding Performance Awards



### Future Challenges

- COACH's "Holiday in the Country" – Nov 11<sup>th</sup>
- Circuit Court "Arraignment" – Nov 13<sup>th</sup>
- Annual Courthouse "Thanksgiving Lunch" – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>
- COACH Annual Banquet – Dec 14<sup>th</sup>
- US Senate Special Election – Dec 12<sup>th</sup>
- Sheriff's Office Annual Dinner – Dec 18<sup>th</sup>
- Baptist Association Annual Inmate Christmas Dinner Dec 24<sup>th</sup>

"While the 3rd quarter of 2017 was another busy quarter, we've accomplished a lot," Sheriff Wilson said. "Thanks to all for pitching in and tackling the demands on this office, and for your dedicated service."

## News from the Sheriff's



# Reserves

### *Shots Fired*

The words, “shots fired,” should get everyone’s attention. Recent tragedies have demonstrated we must all be aware of our surroundings. However, in our rural environment, hearing shots is not uncommon.

During this time of year, the Sheriff’s Office receives numerous calls from someone hearing gun shots. Often the caller reports shooting near their home and sometimes they claim the shooting is coming from fully automatic weapons. In my experience, many folks have a difficult time judging how far away shots are and what type weapon is being fired. Many people are surprised to learn citizens can obtain authorization to possess automatic weapons. However, the majority of weapons reported as fully automatic turn out to be semi-automatic. In our rural landscape where both target shooting and hunting are prevalent, it is not at all uncommon to hear shots in the distance. That being said, we must remain vigilant when we hear gun shots.

As a Conservation Enforcement Officer for 30 years the report of shots fired that quickly gets my attention are those reported at night. These shots are unfortunately often associated with night time deer hunting. There are some dangerous misconceptions about this type of illegal hunting activity. I have had numerous people relate to me their contention that people who shoot deer at night need the deer for food. In my experience, I have never found this to be the case. The truth is several deer killed at night are never even picked up by the shooter. Other folks have tried to justify the practice saying it might help control the deer numbers. I feel these people fail to realize that a shot fired into the dark could very well end up coming through the wall of their house, hitting their cow or tractor. I have witnessed all of these events. Don’t wait for this to happen before





reporting this illegal practice.

Anyone hearing a shot fired at night should report it immediately. Even if it is 2AM, call immediately. This can be done by calling 911. Be prepared to give the dispatcher your name, number and location. In addition, if you see a vehicle it will be helpful if you can give a description and the direction of travel. The poachers who shoot at night are stealing from legitimate hunters and may very well harm you or your property.

**Attn Reserves: No  
Meeting in  
December**

*Please attend the  
Christmas Dinner on  
December 18, 2015 at 6:00  
PM at the Sally Port*

By

Joel D. Glover

Coosa County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit

**The  
CCSO Reserves  
wish you a very happy and safe  
Christmas Holiday as you spend  
time with family and friends.  
Stay safe and Enjoy the Reason for  
the Season!**

## **Top 5 Reserve Deputy Hours November**

**Don Hodge ..... 72.5 hrs.**  
**Bill Embry ..... 53 hrs.**  
**James Ward ..... 41.5 hrs.**  
**Joel Glover ..... 31.5 hrs.**  
**Justin Howard ..... 23.5 hrs.**

**Total Reserve Deputy Hours**

**335 hours**



## **OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE**



REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

**Total Officers Down = 118**

*As of December 01, 2017*

### **Month:**

January: 13  
February: 10  
March: 9  
April: 10  
May: 11  
June: 11  
July: 6  
August: 14  
September: 12  
October: 11  
November: 8

### **Type Of Death:**

911 Related: 3	Gunfire: 42
Aircraft Accident: 2	Heart Attack: 12
Animal Related: 1	Motorcycle accident: 4
Assault: 5	Stabbed: 1
Auto accident: 24	Vehicular: 14
Boating accident: 2	
Drowned: 5	
Duty related illness: 2	
Exposer to Toxins: 1	



*Serving &  
Protecting*



# *Sheriff's November Arrest Report*

- On November 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy Rudd arrested Linda Kay Henry Brackin from Montevallo, AL. on a warrant for Failure to Appear/Possession of Alcohol on a State Management Area. She was processed and released on a \$300 bond to await trial.
- On November 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy Jones arrested Michael Luke Vermillion from Coldwater, AL. on the charge of Attempting to Elude. He was processed and released on a \$ 2500 bond to await trial.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup> Lt. Burke arrested Robert Deon Wright from Montgomery, AL. on the charge of Criminal Littering. He was processed and released on a \$ 500 bond to await trial.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup> Lt. Burke arrested Christopher Lamond Glover from Anniston, AL. on warrants for Failure to Appear/Driving While Revoked and Failure to Display Insurance. He was processed and released on a \$ 2000 bond to await trial.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup> Deputy Jones arrested Bobbie Joe Jordan from Kellyton, AL. on the charge of Public Intoxication. He was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$ 500 bond to await trial.
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> Lt. Keel arrested Devunte Leshun Moon from Goodwater, AL. on Grand Jury Indictments for Driving while Revoked, Failure to Display Insurance, Failure to Register Vehicle and one warrant for Failure to Pay/Driving While Revoked. He was processed and released on \$ 1300 bond to await trial.
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Eric Michael Hamilton from Sylacauga, AL. on warrants for Failure to Pay /Harassment and Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup>/ Assault. He was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$1250 bond to await trial.
- On November 8<sup>th</sup> Lt. Keel arrested Lavenda Jermaine Smith from Atlanta, GA. On warrants for Failure to Appear/Reckless Driving and No Visible Tag. He was processed and released on a \$ 2000 bond to await trial.
- On November 9<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Jamie Lynn Phillips from Rockford, AL. on a Grand Jury Indictment for Trafficking /Synthetic Narcotics and an additional charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance. She was processed and released on a \$ 35,000 bond to await trial.
- On November 10<sup>th</sup> Deputy Rudd arrested Charles Garfield White from Oxford, AL. on Grand Jury Indictments for Attempting to Elude and Using False Identity to Avoid Arrest. He was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$ 4000 bond to await trial.

- On November 13<sup>th</sup> Deputy Lipscomb arrested Michael Lee Bingham from Weogufka, AL. on the charge of Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup>/Assault. He was processed and released on a \$ 2500 bond to await trial.
- On November 13<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Michael Jerome Marshall from Eclectic, AL. on a warrant for Theft of Property 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was processed and released on a \$ 5000 bond to await trial.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Muriel Lorraine Hernandez from Prattville, AL. on a warrant for Theft of Property 4<sup>th</sup>. She was processed and released on a \$ 1500 bond to await trial.
- On November 16<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Vernon Dustin Johnson from Prattville, AL. on a warrant for Theft of Property 4<sup>th</sup>. He was processed and released on a \$ 1500 bond to await trial.
- On November 17<sup>th</sup> Deputy Jones arrested David Christopher Jordan from Goodwater, AL. on the charge of Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup>/Assault. He was processed and released on a \$ 2500 bond to await trial.
- On November 20<sup>th</sup> Chief Davidson arrested Loretta Britton Tharp from Dadeville, AL. on a warrant for Criminal Trespass 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was processed and released on a \$ 500 bond to await trial.
- On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Keel arrested James Matthew Mitchell from Goodwater, AL. on a warrant for Failure to Pay/Arson 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was processed and released on a \$ 1000 bond to await trial.
- On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Burke arrested Christina Davis Sayers from Stewartville, AL. on the charges of Shooting Into an Unoccupied Building and Attempted Murder. She was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$ 50,000 bond to await trial.
- On November 28<sup>th</sup> Deputy Davenport arrested James Walter Linch from Prattville, AL. on a warrant for Probation Violation. He was processed and placed in the County Jail without bond to await trial.
- On November 30<sup>th</sup> Deputy Rudd arrested Corey Allen Hosey from Rockford, AL. on the charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance and Carrying a Concealed Pistol Without a Permit. He was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$ 25,000 bond to await trial.
- On November 30<sup>th</sup> Lt. Hammond arrested Shane Anthony Vernon from Rockford , AL. on warrants for Escape 2<sup>nd</sup> , Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> x 2 , Theft of Property 1<sup>st</sup>, Unlawful Imprisonment x 2. He was processed and placed in the County Jail on a \$ 335,000 bond to await trial.
- On November 30<sup>th</sup> Deputy Rudd arrested Jalen Jacinto Whetstone from Talladega, AL. on warrants for Failure to Pay/Speeding and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.



Heavy police presents

# Recent News

## Inmate Escapes Coosa County Jail Twice and Recaptured



Shane Anthony Vernon

A Hissop man who escaped while initially being booked into custody at the Coosa County Jail was recaptured in less than 24 hours. On Sunday, October 29, Investigator Lt. Scott Hammond



responded to a call of a burglary in progress in the Stewartville community.

Upon Hammond's arrival, he met and spoke with the victim. The victim stated that when he came to check on the property, he found a white male subject inside the residence. The individual then reportedly fled into a wooded area behind the residence. At that point, the state's dog tracking team was called in. After a 2-hour search, Shane Anthony Vernon was apprehended.

Vernon, 27 years old of the Hissop community, was arrested October 29 and charged with third-degree burglary and second-degree theft of property of a firearm. The firearm was not recovered. Additionally, during this case, the victim showed Hammond a backpack that Vernon had allegedly left behind when he fled the residence. The backpack reportedly contained some of the victim's items, as well as items from a burglary case in Talladega County. Therefore, he is also under investigation in Talladega County for that case.

Vernon was being processed into the Coosa County Jail in Rockford on his felony charges of burglary and theft when he forcibly removed his restraints and ran from the facility. He escaped at 3:08 p.m. Sunday, and the Sheriff's Office issued a "be on the lookout" for Vernon, with his booking photo and description. The office mentioned that he had active felony warrants and asked that he be detained for the Coosa County Sheriff's Office.

A search ensued with K-9 units and a helicopter, in addition to law enforcement officers searching on foot for Vernon around the Rockford area. The search was temporarily called off at about 11 p.m. Sunday. However, Sheriff Terry Wilson found Vernon in the woods off of County Road 95 approximately two miles north of Rockford and off of Alabama Highway 22. He was then recaptured at 7:21 a.m. Monday, October 30.

This means Vernon was back in custody approximately 16 hours after he initially escaped. When Wilson found and apprehended him, Vernon was then also arrested for first-degree escape. His bonds were set at \$250,000 for the escape charge, \$25,000 for the burglary charge and \$10,000 for the theft of property charge. This made his total bond amount \$285,000.

Shane Vernon made national news this week with his second escape from the county jail on Sunday, November 19, was recaptured and apprehended in DeKalb County, Ga., Tuesday night. After approximately 80 hours on the run, Shane Anthony Vernon was located in DeKalb County, Ga., on November 21 at approximately 10:17 p.m. The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office in Geor-



gia made contact with Vernon, and he was taken into custody without incident.

The Coosa County Sheriff's Office reported that Vernon is currently being held in the DeKalb County Jail awaiting extradition to Alabama, where he will face numerous charges in both Coosa and Elmore counties upon his return.

In Georgia, he is being held on four charges, being in possession of an open alcoholic container, possession of marijuana, giving a false name, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Vernon's second escape's investigation revealed that he was allowed out of his cell to use the inmate telephone system. Initially reported, while Vernon was using the phone, he noticed that the corridor door was unsecured. He was then able to go through that door and gained access to the maintenance area in the ceiling of the jail, where he crawled through and went around the remaining four security doors and fled the facility.

The Sheriff's Office reported that after his escape, Vernon broke into a home on U.S. Highway 231 in Rockford where he robbed the residents, tied them up and fled the scene in their 2016 Ford Fusion. There, he stole guns, clothes, food, and other items, in addition to the vehicle. Vernon abandoned the vehicle near Living Water Baptist Church on Elmore County Road 80, just south of the Coosa County and Elmore County line, where he fled into the woods on foot.

The Sheriff's Office reported that many hours of a coordinated joint search was conducted with the Coosa County Sheriff's Office, Elmore County Sheriff's Office, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), the State K-9 Tracking Team, the ALEA Aviation Unit, and the U.S. Marshal's Office.

That search party revealed that Vernon had allegedly stolen a small red mini bike from a residence in the area and continued to avoid capture. The search was then turned over to the U.S. Marshal's Service for a nationwide search. The Coosa County Sheriff's Office obtained warrants on Vernon for four charges, first-degree unlawful imprisonment, first-degree robbery, first-degree theft of a motor vehicle, and second-degree escape.

Following his escape and first residential break-in Sunday, Vernon reportedly broke into another residence in Elmore County on Monday afternoon. That break-in occurred on Grass Farm Road in Titus, where Vernon encountered a mother, father and their young daughter. He reportedly tied up the mother and father and put them in a closet, but did not tie up the child. Those victims remained in the closet for several hours, according to reports, before managing to get free. In that residential break-in, Vernon reportedly stole their cell phones, keys and a 2005 Chrysler Pacifica Touring Van.

Following that incident, later that same day Vernon reportedly kidnapped a 67-year-old Wetumpka man from his home on Bradley Road. Vernon allegedly parked the silver van, taken during the earlier break-in, out of view in a highly vegetated area on the victim's property. He then reportedly broke into the residence and waited for the owner to come home. He then allegedly kidnapped the victim, stealing his car and driving to Douglasville, Ga., outside of the Atlanta area. Vernon later abandoned the victim and the victim's black Pontiac G2, at which time the victim was able to safely make it to a police station to report what had transpired.

According to reports, in addition to the pending charges in Coosa County, Vernon will also face charges of three counts of first-degree robbery, two counts of first-degree burglary and one count of first-degree kidnapping in Elmore County.

Throughout his crime spree, Vernon was considered "armed and dangerous," and Coosa Sheriff Terry Wilson confirmed that throughout his break-ins Vernon allegedly stole clothes, food, phones, vehicles, and more.

He said he wanted readers to know that it is a terrible thing that has happened to the Coosa County community, Elmore County community and the Georgia area, as well. Prior to Vernon's recapture, Wilson had said that he was confident Vernon would be caught and that it was just a matter of time, adding that when Vernon is recaptured he will face all of these charges and serve time in prison.

However, Wilson said, "During this investigation, I have learned that he [Vernon] has hatred in his heart for law enforcement."

Coosa County Sheriff Terry Wilson said Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> that it appears an electrical malfunction may have enabled Shane Anthony Vernon to escape from the Coosa County Jail. Initial review of evidence showed that it appeared a door was left unsecured, which allowed Vernon to escape from the Coosa County Jail. In a released statement from Wilson, he said that after a complete investigation, they learned of a malfunction that unlatched the door through which Vernon was able to go through an area where he climbed through the ceiling where he went around the remaining four security doors and fled the facility.

"The Corrections Officers on duty indeed verified that the door securing Vernon was secure prior to letting him out to use the phone," Wilson said in his statement. "Shortly after verifying the door was secure, an electronic malfunction occurred in the door lock control panel. This caused the door to the isolation corridor to become unsecure while Vernon was using the inmate phone. This malfunction was observed to happen at least three times during a six-hour period." "There have been malfunctions of this nature in different areas of the jail in the past, which were repaired when discovered," Wilson said. "This portion of the jail has been taken out of operational use until such repairs can be made." Wilson said limited staffing also played a role in the escape.

"The only two scheduled officers working were both actively handling 911 dispatch calls when the escape occurred," Wilson said. "The faulty control panel, the unsecure attic, and the lack of personnel to run the dispatch center and jail will be addressed to the Coosa County Commission in the near future."

He mentioned that he has raised concerns over the years about funding, as well as having to share duties and responsibilities of E-911 with the jailers. He said this has been a concern for years.

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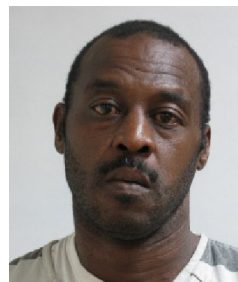
## **Eclectic Man Arrested For Firearm Theft**

An Eclectic man was arrested in connection with a theft case that began in October. On October 6, the Sheriff's Office took a report in the Equality area for the theft of a firearm from a motor vehicle. An investigator spoke with the victim and got information on the firearm and the vehicle.

Later in the investigation, a citizen who had purchased a firearm from another individual then learned about the firearm theft. The citizen then took the firearm to the victim, who confirmed it was his weapon.

The investigator spoke with the witness about the firearm purchase and learned that 44-year-old Michael Jerome Marshall of Eclectic was the suspect. Warrants were obtained, and on November 13, Marshall was arrested for second-degree theft of property of a firearm.

His bond was set at \$5,000, and he has since been released on bond to await trial. The firearm was recovered.



Michael Jerome Marshall

## Stewartville Man Arrested For Discharging Firearm,<sup>15</sup> Domestic Violence

A Stewartville man was arrested on charges relating to domestic violence and discharging a firearm. On October 25, the Sheriff's Office dispatch received a domestic violence call. A deputy responded to the call from County Road 53 in the Stewartville area.

Once arriving on the scene, the deputy was informed that the suspect had become agitated with the victim and produced a firearm. There was reportedly an altercation between the suspect and victim that resulted in minor injuries.

The suspect also reportedly discharged the firearm into a vehicle that was not occupied at the time. However, the suspect had left the scene prior to the deputy's arrival.

The deputy gathered evidence from the scene and information from the victim. He later also obtained warrants for the suspect, 31-year-old Shane Eugene Carden of the Stewartville area.

The next day, the Sheriff's Office learned of Carden's whereabouts, and he was apprehended on October 26 in the Stewartville area. Carden was charged with discharging a firearm into an unoccupied vehicle, third-degree domestic violence-menacing, and third-degree domestic violence-assault.

His bonds were set at \$5,000 per charge, for a total bond of \$15,000. As of press time he remained in custody at the Coosa County Jail.

The Sheriff's Office reported that this is an ongoing investigation. Additional charges may be forthcoming.



Shane Eugene Carden

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## Richville Woman Arrested On Drug & Indictment Charges

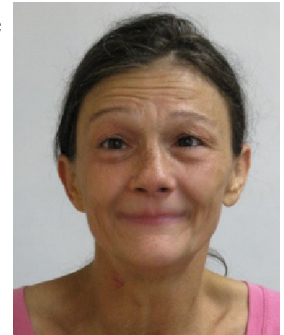
A Richville woman was arrested on a drug-related charge while deputies were in the process of serving warrants for her indictment in a previous case. Recently, Jamie Lynn Phillips was indicted by a grand jury for trafficking synthetic marijuana, a controlled substance. While serving her indictment warrants, deputies encountered two individuals in the front yard of Phillips' residence. During an investigation of those two individuals, the probation officer was notified because one of them was out on parole and the other was out on probation, and both were at a known drug house.

The probation officer and Sheriff's Office deputies entered the residence, and while inside the residence they came upon a controlled substance, which was synthetic marijuana. Phillips, 51 years old of Richville, was interviewed and arrested on November 9 for possession of a controlled substance, synthetic marijuana.

Her bond for that charge was set at \$10,000. Her bond for her grand jury indictment was set at \$25,000, making her total bond \$35,000.

Phillips has since been released on bond for both the indictment and the most recent charge.

Anyone who suspects or observes illegal activity is encouraged to report it to the Coosa County Sheriff's Office at 256-377-4922 or online at [www.coosacountyso.org](http://www.coosacountyso.org). Anonymous tips are also welcome.



Jamie Lynn Phillips

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for  
they will be called children of God.”  
Matthew 5:9**





*We would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Sheriff Terry Wilson  
& Staff*



**2017** THE YEAR OF  
*Stronger Leadership*  
*with Superb Teamwork*

## 2017 Monthly Stats

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Calls to Service/Activities	915	882	942	808	830	862	843	824	794	695	776		9,171
Daily Jail Inmate Average	25	25	26	41	36	32	23	27	27	30	28		29
Prisoner Transports Made	10	16	13	6	12	20	8	21	15	11	15		147
Incident & Offense Police Reports	47	42	57	59	46	51	68	55	52	53	43		573
Arrests Made	41	40	44	59	43	56	37	40	41	27	33		461
Warrants Served	49	50	69	84	75	65	35	47	63	28	34		59
Tickets Issued	41	62	47	22	45	62	51	27	24	30	12		423
Patrol Miles Driven	17,920	19,318	20,933	18,790	18,323	20,806	15,666	18,775	19,239	16,269	20,767		206,806
Civil Papers Served	47	59	49	66	75	51	71	52	46	54	34		607
Pistol Permits Issued	127	126	147	99	101	92	89	107	69	116	92		1164
DUI Arrests	3	3	1	1	0	6	5	4	1	4	0		28
Drug Arrests	3	4	12	8	5	7	7	6	6	2	3		63
Sex Offender Register	25	11	13	19	9	28	19	11	25	19	14		193

## I Feel like I'm Stuck inside a Soap Opera

I don't watch soap operas. I've always found them too unbelievable. All that stuff could not possibly happen to one person, or could it? As I review my own life over the past two months, I fear that not only are soap operas real, but that I may be stuck inside one. If so, I'm not sure what we might call mine. I love "As the Stomach Turns," but that one has already been used. How about: "As the Creek Rises," "As the Kidney-Stone Stops," or "The Old and the Stressed Out?"

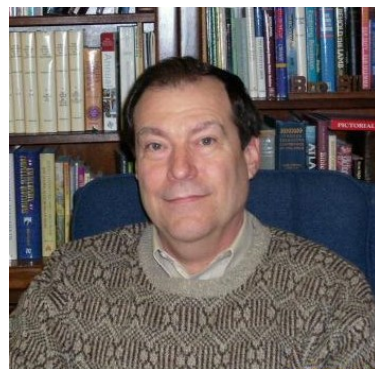
My journey began about two months ago, when my urologist confirmed that I had prostate cancer. After examining my options, I chose to have a prostatectomy to remove the cancer. During that same time, my oldest nephew was battling kidney failure, caused by diabetes. Labor-Day weekend, at the age of fifty-three, we lost him. The week after we buried Paul, Tropical Storm Irma blew in. Due to a severe weather threat, I cancelled a scheduled Billy Bob program in Tuscaloosa and stayed home. That afternoon, Irma blew through and planted a 105 foot poplar tree inside our house. She destroyed our garage and fireplace chimney, plus caused water damage inside the main part of our house.

A couple of days later, on her way home, one of Jean's tires separated and blew out. While this added to the aggravation of the days and could have been dangerous, we realized it paled in comparison.

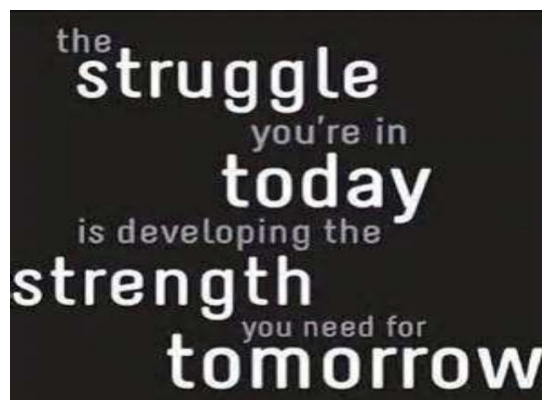
On Sunday, before my scheduled surgery on Wednesday, another storm blew in. This one was Hurricane Stone. Although kidney stones are not typically fatal, those in the midst of an attack may wish they were. If you've never suffered a kidney stone attack, you should praise God and drink lots of water. They feel like you've swallowed a live beaver and he's inside your mid-section gnawing his way out. If you visit the home of a kidney stone victim, you will most likely find the sufferer's teeth marks on their bedposts!

After a visit to the emergency room, I returned home. For the next three days I wallowed and swallowed. I wallowed in the floor in agony and swallowed pain pills like they were M&Ms. I prayed to pass the stone, pass out, or pass on. During that time, another storm blew in by the name of Nate. He dumped mud in our pool, which had sprung a leak, and caused our creek to rise. I let Ginger (sixty-five) and Cocoa (fifteen) out to do their business. When Fifteen didn't return, and I saw Ginger staring in the creek, I feared she had fallen in and been swept away. I'm not proud of this, but I went in the house and went back to bed. I think it was the combination of feeling so poorly and medication, but when Jean asked where Cocoa was, I replied, "I think she drowned in the creek!" I don't have pictures of Jean in her nightgown and house-shoes, wading in the creek as she searched for Cocoa, but I sure wish I did. It turned out that Cocoa wasn't dead at all. Jean found her next door, snuggling with our neighbor's two big white ducks.

Surgery day finally came. I donated one kidney stone that must have been the size of a C-130 aircraft, one prostate, and a few lymph nodes. I'm home now, the house is almost finished, and I'm watching General Hospital – not! James said, "Count it all joy when you fall into many kinds of trials." I've fallen but thankful Cocoa had not. I'm filled with joy, as well as thanksgiving. I'm counting, I'm counting.



Bro Bill King Columnist



# Devotional

## Mountain Top Experiences

By Pam Ford Davis



Both husband Norm and I are fans of the TV classic, *Green Acres*. I'm not sure how much we resemble the characters Lisa & Oliver Douglas but, like Lisa, I am from New York State. If you remember, she liked city life.

On the other hand, I'm a *country girl*. I was born in Syracuse but raised several miles outside of the city in the rural neighborhood of Mycenae. One of my fondest memories is of a fresh water spring.

*"He causes the springs to gush into the valleys; they flow between the mountains (Psalm 104:10 HCSB)."*

Maybe you've heard Christ followers reminisce about mountain top experiences.

They were not missing mountain climbing. It was the spiritual highs they recalled. One of my most memorable mountain tops experiences occurred in North Carolina. I was at Ridgecrest, the Southern Baptist North Carolina mountain retreat. I sat under the teaching of Ms. Bertha Smith, a retired foreign missionary to China.

I've walked through many valleys since that mountain top experience. But note the scripture passage; *He causes the springs to gush into the valleys...*

His waters bring refreshing down to His people. God's waters make things grow. Sure, I like the atmosphere of the mountains and the views are spectacular but I spend much of my time in shaded valleys.

### Scripture Encouragement

***"Now the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little."***

*1 Peter 5:10 HCSB*

### Smart Phone App

To download the app.

- Go to your app store
- Search and download the Mobile Patrol app
- Open the app and select Alabama
- Under Agency select Coosa



Some information in the app includes the Jail Population (Detention), Outstanding Warrants, Crime Tips and the Most Wanted in Coosa County as well as general contact information

# 2017 County Calendar of Events

## December

1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00	Rockford Parade
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4:00	Weogufka Parade
7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	Goodwater Parade
12 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	US Senate Special Election
14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00	COACH Annual Banquet
15 <sup>th</sup>	Noon	Coosa County Schools Out for Holiday Break
24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00	Feeding of Inmates by Central Baptist Churches
25 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Christmas Day
31 <sup>st</sup>	All Day	New Year's Eve



## Coosa County High School Basketball Game Schedule



Date	Time	Game - Location
12/1	4:30	Clay - Home
12/7	4:30	BB Comer - Home
12/8	1:00	Lafayette — Home
12/12	5:00	Childersburg - Home
12/15	5:00	BRHS - Home
12/19	4:30	Sylacauga - Home
12/27-12-29	TBA	Childersburg Tourny - Away



# ***Important***

## **Contact Information you may need!**

**Take this page and post near your phone or computer for future use.**

### **Coosa County Sheriff's Office**

Emergency Calls 9-1-1 .....	256-377-4922
Dispatch .....	256-377-2211
Office .....	256-377-1803
Board of Registrar's Office.....	256-377-2418
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative .....	256-377-2498
Circuit Clerk's Office.....	256-377-4988
Commissioners' Office .....	256-377-2420
Coosa County Extension Office .....	256-377-4713
Coosa County School Board .....	256-377-4913
Central Elementary School.....	256-377-1456
Central Middle School .....	256-377-1490
Central High School .....	256-377-4384
Science and Technology .....	256-377-4678
County Highway Department .....	256-377-2602
Department of Human Resources .....	256-377-2000
District Judge's Office.....	256-377-4957
First Bank in Rockford.....	256-377-1000
Goodwater Town Hall .....	256-839-6301
Juvenile Probation Officer .....	256-377-2687
Probate Judge's Office.....	256-377-4919
Revenue Commissioner's Office.....	256-377-4916
Rockford Family Health .....	256-377-4366
Rockford Post Office .....	256-377-4698
Rockford Town Hall .....	256-377-4911
Tag Office .....	256-377-4919



# Programs Offered by...



## Coosa County Sheriff's Office



### The Yellow Dot Program

The "Yellow Dot" program is designed to assist Alabama citizens and first responders in the event of an automobile crash or other medical emergency involving the participant's vehicle. The program can help save lives during the critical "Golden Hour" by improving communication at a time when accident victims may be unable to communicate for themselves. Pick up a "Yellow Dot" folder here at the Sheriff's Office, have your photo taken and printed.

A "Yellow Dot" decal on the driver's side rear window of a vehicle alerts first responders to check in the glove compartment for the corresponding "Yellow Dot" folder. Having this information following a crash helps first responders positively identify the person, get in touch with family or emergency contacts and ensures that the person's current medications and pre-existing medical conditions are considered when treatment is administered for injuries.



### Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver is a radio transmission system designed to assist law enforcement and rescue agencies in locating lost or missing persons who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Autism, Dementia, or other disorders that may prohibit them from communicating personal information such as who they are or where they live. Project Lifesaver can help provide peace of mind to caregivers. However, it does not replace the need for supervised care.

The transmitter is a small circular radio device on a wristband, approximately the size of a wristwatch. The transmitters and wristbands are worn 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are difficult to remove without the appropriate tools. If the participant becomes lost or missing, the Sheriff's Office and emergency response services have specialized tracking equipment to help isolate the location of the transmitter the participant is wearing. The search will start from the last known location of the participant and work outward until the transmission signal is obtained. The goal is to determine the location of the signal in a quick, timely manner, minimizing the risk of harm to the loved one.

CCSO is proud to participate, along with the other agencies in Alabama, in this very worthy and worthwhile program; Sheriff Wilson says this is another way we will live up to our motto, "To Serve and Protect" and he is extremely proud to offer this great service to Coosa County!



### Neighborhood Watch Program

A citizen's involvement program where citizens, in cooperation with their local law enforcement agency, directly participate in the detection and prevention of crime. These citizens keep well informed about their neighborhood and of any suspicious, criminal or dangerous activities that may be occurring. Coosa County has five communities that participate with the CCSO in this program. Their meetings are scheduled every month, the dates and times are indicated.

- December 5 - 6:00 PM - Union Square
- December 7 - 6:30 PM - Richville
- December 11 - 6:30 PM - Smyrna