



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Barry H. Babb, Sheriff **March 31, 2014**

Press Information

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The Sheriff's office has identified several suspects in the recent rash of burglaries and entering autos in the Whitewater, Highgrove, and Timberlake subdivisions near Redwine Road and Peachtree Parkway. Over the course of several months starting in December 2013, sheriff's detectives were investigating several entering auto cases and burglaries that were occurring in a concentrated area of the county. The perpetrators modus operandi was to enter unlocked cars and home garages to steal items like money, firearms, and personal electronics. Operating at night, deputies believed they were on foot or golf cart as some of the roadway gates did not seem to deter them. In early March, detectives pursued a lead which helped identify one of the perpetrators. After one of the perpetrators was identified, detectives were able to connect several of the crimes to two individuals. On March 25, 2014, 17 year old Ross Smith of Fayetteville was charged with 8 counts of burglary and 6 counts of entering auto. A male juvenile was also arrested and charged with 7 counts of burglary and 6 counts of entering auto. The investigation continues; anybody with information on the case is asked to call Det. Ussery at 770-716-4748.

On March 27, 2014, Fayette County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Kersey received an academic award from the first phase of the Drug Recognition Expert course hosted by the Georgia Police Academy. A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) is an officer trained as an internationally recognized expert in the identification of impaired drivers, in particular those drivers impaired by drugs. DREs use a twelve step evaluation process to determine three things: If the person is impaired, if the impairment is due to a medical emergency or drugs, and, if impaired by drugs, which drug category or categories are causing the impairment. To become a DRE the officer must successfully complete training where they learn about the physiology of the body, how each type of drug affects the body and the effects of drug use, among many other things. Upon successfully completing the classroom portion, students must go to Arizona to complete field evaluations of actual subjects impaired by drugs.

Sheriff Babb commented, "With training and hardworking deputies like Wallace and Kersey, we are discovering and taking more drug related DUIs off the street more than ever. It is our goal to tackle this serious crime and make our highways in Fayette safer". Investigator Chad Cowart is also a trained DRE in the traffic enforcement section.

Photo attached: Left to right, Investigator Chad Wallace received a Bronze Pin from MADD for 27 DUI arrests made in 2013. Center Sheriff Babb who attended the event in College Park, GA to see his officers recognized and right Deputy Robert Kersey received the academic award for the highest testing average in the 35th DRE class.



On March 28, 2014 Fayette County Sheriff's Traffic Investigators responded to a serious vehicle crash on Highway 92 South. The vehicle involved had been reported as stolen from a Fayette County Resident two days previous. The driver was transported by helicopter to Grady Memorial Hospital for treatment.

****Please attribute any quotes or statements to Sheriff Barry H. Babb****