

Mountain Lakes PD Town Hall

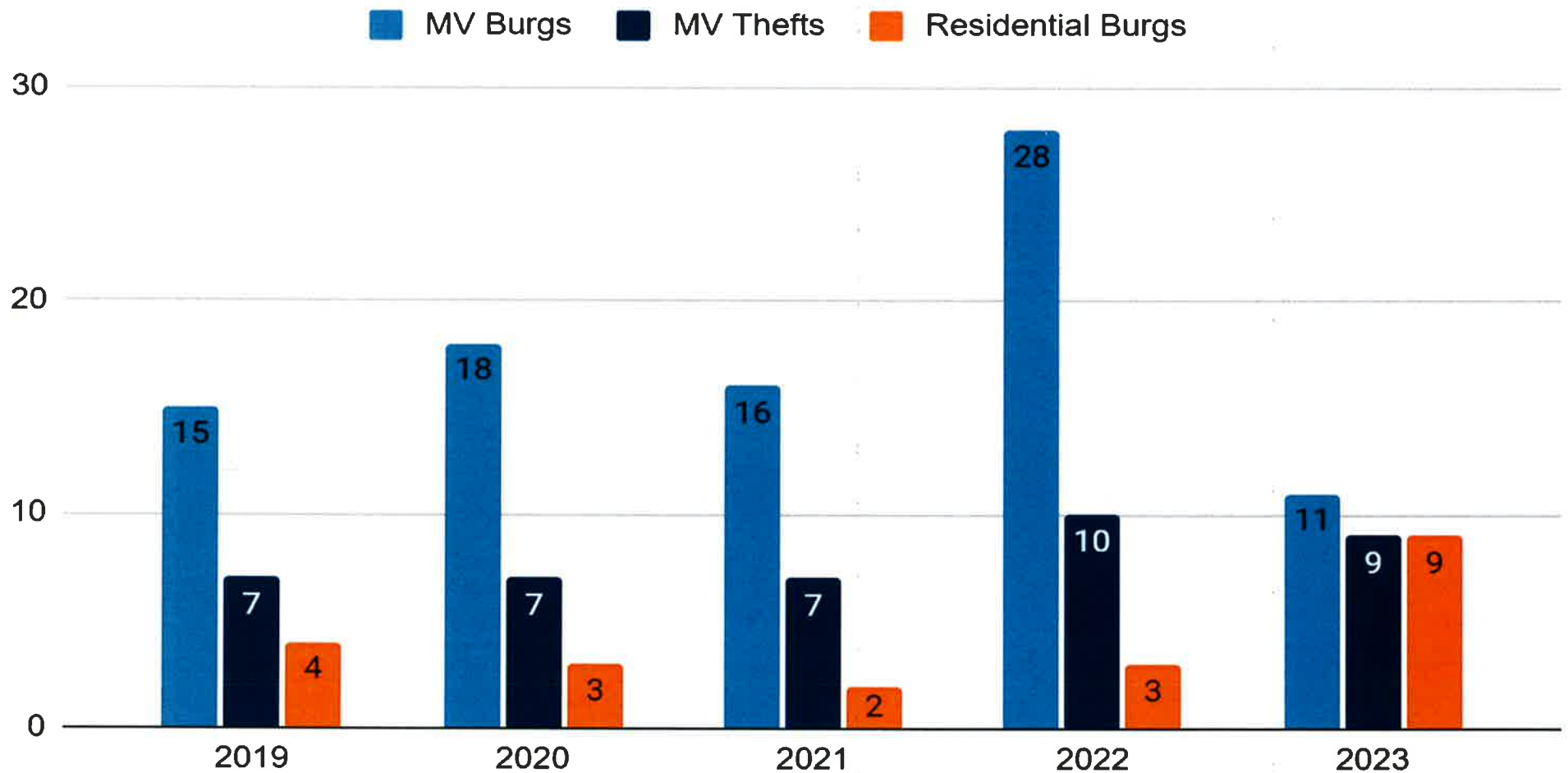
February 6, 2024
Mountain Lakes High School Media Center
7 PM



Agenda

- Mountain Lakes Police Department
 - Chief Shawn Bennett
 - Presentation
- Morris County Prosecutor's Office
 - Prosecutor Robert Carroll
- Morris County Sheriff's Office
 - Sheriff James Gannon
- Morris County Department of Law and Public Safety
- Q & A

Mountain Lakes Incidents 2019-2023



Stolen Motor Vehicle Statistics (2022-current)

Stolen Motor Vehicles

Year	State	Morris County	Mountain Lakes
2022	15898	292	10
2023	16605	197	9
2024	1265	13	0

Stolen Motor Vehicle Statistics (2023)

- Mountain Lakes accounts for **only** 4.5% of total stolen motor vehicles in Morris County (Parsippany 16%, Montville 6%)
- Mountain Lakes accounts for **only** .05% of total stolen motor vehicles in New Jersey
- Overall as a county, down almost 67% from 2022

How did we manage this?

- Partnership with our community and successful campaign in securing our vehicles
- Officers participated in numerous joint operations with NJSP ATTF, MCPO, MCSO and local agencies
- Directed patrols based on intelligence
- Proactive patrols
- Motor vehicle stops
 - 1/1/2023 to current: 3,765 pro active motor vehicle stops
- Property checks
 - 1/1/2023 to current: 1579 property checks
- Automated license plate reader equipment from Morris County Sheriff's Office

How did we manage this?

- Change of policies at AG level
- Change in legislation to include new offenses as it relates to auto theft:
 - A4930/N.J.S.A. 2C:5-6 – upgraded/added language to Key Fob statute (link if the attachments got stripped: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4930/bill-text?f=PL23&n=100>)
 - A5034/N.J.S.A. 2C:20-18b – 3rd degree participant in MV Trafficking Network (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A5034/bill-text?f=PL23&n=102>)
 - A5189/N.J.S.A. 2A:162-17 – eliminates presumption of release for defendants re-arrested for stolen auto offenses within 90 days of prior arrest or conviction (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A5189/bill-text?f=PL23&n=103>)
 - A4931/N.J.S.A. 2C:20-10.1/2 – theft/receiving stolen autos (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A4931/bill-text?f=PL23&n=101>)

Residential Burglaries (2022-2/1/2023)

Residential Burglaries

Year	Morris County	Mountain Lakes
2022	148	3
2023	182	9
2024	19	0

For comparison, five year average for Mountain Lakes is 4 residential burglaries per year.

Residential Burglary Statistics (2023)

- Mountain Lakes accounts for approximately 5% of the total residential burglaries in Morris County
- Overall as a county, up approximately 23%
- In Mountain Lakes specifically, up 200%
- Not one incident of anyone being injured in any of the aforementioned incidents in Morris County

Analyzing the Data

- **9 residential burglaries (3 in 2022)**
 - 3 attempted
 - 6 gained entry (open doors and windows)
 - 1 of the 6 had evidence of force being used
- **12 motor vehicle burglaries (28 in 2022; down 127%)**
 - 4 attempted
 - 5 unlocked with no items stolen
 - 3 unlocked with stolen items
- **9 motor vehicle thefts (10 in 2022)**
 - 3 from keys left inside vehicles
 - 6 from residential burglaries (4 of the 6 from just two incidents)

Analyzing the Data

- Most targeted vehicle(s): BMW (7), Porsche (4), Range Rover (2)
- Video Available: only 28.5% of the time (6 out of 21 incidents)
- Highest number of incidents/month: June (4), December (4), April (3)
- Lowest number of incidents/month: January (0), August (0)
- Ave time from 911 call to Dispatch: 1:39
- Ave time from Dispatch to arrival: 3:00
 - Response mode (emergency, priority, routine)
 - Call specifics

Current Trends

- Luxury vehicles targeted
- Most are SUV or sports sedan
- Most frequently occurs between 12 am and 6 am
- Winter months (January-February) and summer (July-August) slowest
 - Criminals focus on shore areas where people have second homes and spend the summer
- Target selection by criminals
 - Previous trends showed criminals were opportunistic
 - Pulled on door handles until they were successful in locating vehicle with keys
 - Easy to ID “open” vehicles (mirrors in or out)
 - As we have gotten better at locking our vehicles, crime trends have shifted
 - Current trend has identified specific “crews” are committing residential burglaries to obtain vehicle keys; still opportunistic

Current Trends

- Vehicles used to further commit crimes
 - Steal other vehicles
 - Violent crimes
- Stolen vehicles offer anonymity to criminals
- Specific vehicles targeted by non traditional criminal organizations and exported to foreign countries (Africa, Asia)
- Specific vehicles flaws are exploited (Kia, Hyundai, Stellantis products)
 - 2012-2021 no immobilizer
 - Reprogrammers
- Information easily shared on social media and online platforms like youtube
- Juveniles being utilized to commit these crimes
- Difficult time prosecuting juveniles due to jurisdiction

Current Trends

- Zillow used by criminals to locate target areas
 - Mountain Lakes has avg home sale over \$1,000,000
- Google Earth
- Current investigation(s) ongoing into specific crews committing residential burglaries
- Reconnaissance prior to committing crimes potentially posing as Amazon or similar drivers

Preventative vs Proactive

- Nothing provided here will mitigate entirely the possibility of becoming a victim
- Primary goal is to have you thinking and create a plan before you do
- Secondary is to stack the odds in your favor and make it more difficult than its worth for the criminal
- Tertiary goal is to maximize time and distance creating that space for you to contact police
- “Target hardening”

Proactive Measures

- Personal
 - Social media accounts
 - Be cognizant of your surroundings
 - Report anything suspicious
 - Know how to access your electronic devices accounts Lifelock or similar products
 - Companies that “scrub” the internet for your digital footprint
 - Smart 911

Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Lock you vehicle
 - Do not keep valet keys, or digital keys in the vehicle
 - Some vehicles you can use your phone as a key or use a credit card style key
 - Be familiar with your vehicle's capabilities
 - Park vehicle in a garage if available
 - Park in well lit area
 - Aftermarket security system
 - “The Club”

Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Remove valuables from the vehicle (wallets, phones, luggage, high end purses, electronics)
 - Remove garage door openers from vehicle

Proactive Measures

- Vehicle Tracking

- Airtags (keys, hidden in vehicle)
- Redundancy - “two is one, one is none”
- GPS Trackers
- Criminals immediately remove factory capability to track vehicle



Tracki

Subscription required per device for as low as \$9.96 per month for two year plan, compared to other trackers whose 2 year plan is \$14.99 per month per device.

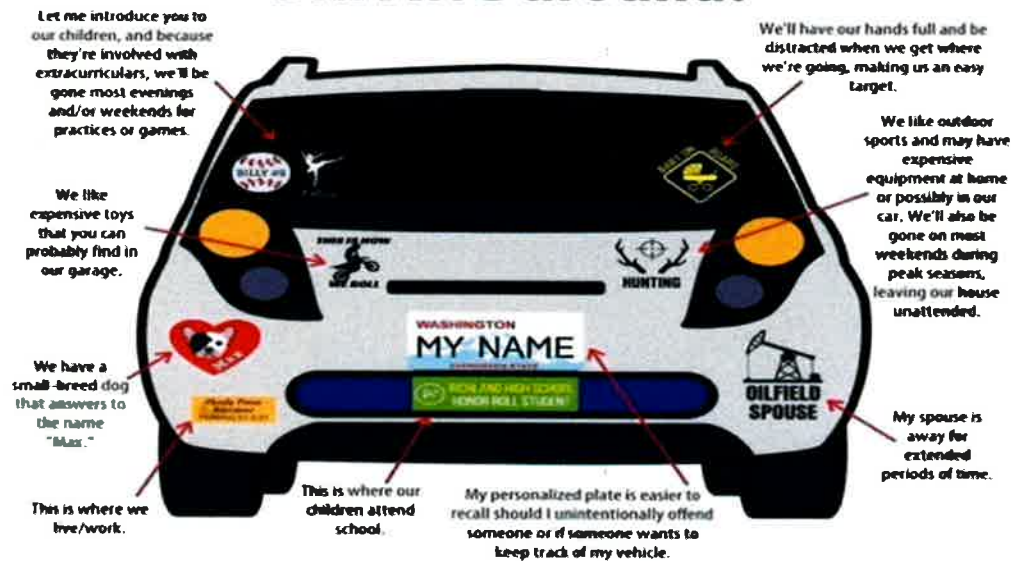
2 YEARS	1 YEAR	6 MONTHS	MONTHLY
\$9.96 per month	\$13.95 per month	\$16.60 per month	\$19.95 per month
\$239.00 Prepaid every 24 months	\$167.40 Prepaid every 12 months	\$99.60 Prepaid every 6 months	\$19.95 Paid month to month

Premium 15 and 30 second tracking plans are available on the app

Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Remove any and all bumper stickers on your vehicle

What information are you DRIVING around?



Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Dash Cam
 - Most have 3 channel systems now which also record interior



Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Tamper resistant screws for vehicle registrations



Proactive Measures

- Vehicle
 - Have your VIN or registration readily available
 - Almost every car manufacturers has their own apps, some of which allow you to check on their status remotely, remote start, remote lock, track, connect to roadside, report the vehicle stolen, etc.
 - Frequently, criminals immediately remove this capability by disconnecting or ripping out tracking system
 - Some products (Onstar) can even remotely “slow roll” their vehicle to a stop if police are present
 - Have this downloaded and your account information available if need be
 - Companies are much more likely to speak to your as their customer than police
 - Some require legal processes such as subpoena or search warrants

Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Remove packages from porch/exterior in timely manner
 - If you are going away, have neighbor take your mail in
 - Keep keys in a secure location out of view from outside
 - Keep high value items out of view from outside
 - Vacant Home Check Request
 - Text notification

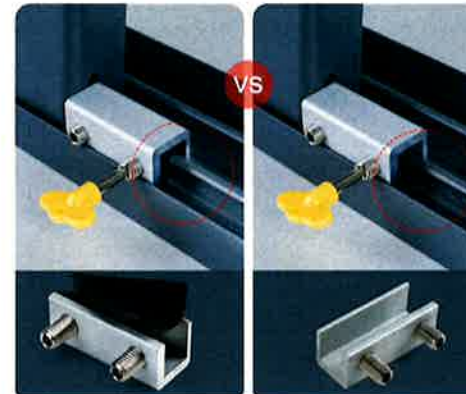
Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Lock your doors and windows



FRAME PROTECTION

Comes with a removable rubber lining, which prevents scratching damage.



Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Dogs



Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Technology
 - Motion sensor alerts for driveway or property boundaries
 - Motion sensor lights (Ring, Simplisafe, Nest, etc)
 - Camera (Ring, Simplisafe, Nest, Lorex, etd)
 - Alarm (AC Daughtery, ADT, Ring, Simplisafe, etc)

Proactive Measures

- Home



Proactive Measures

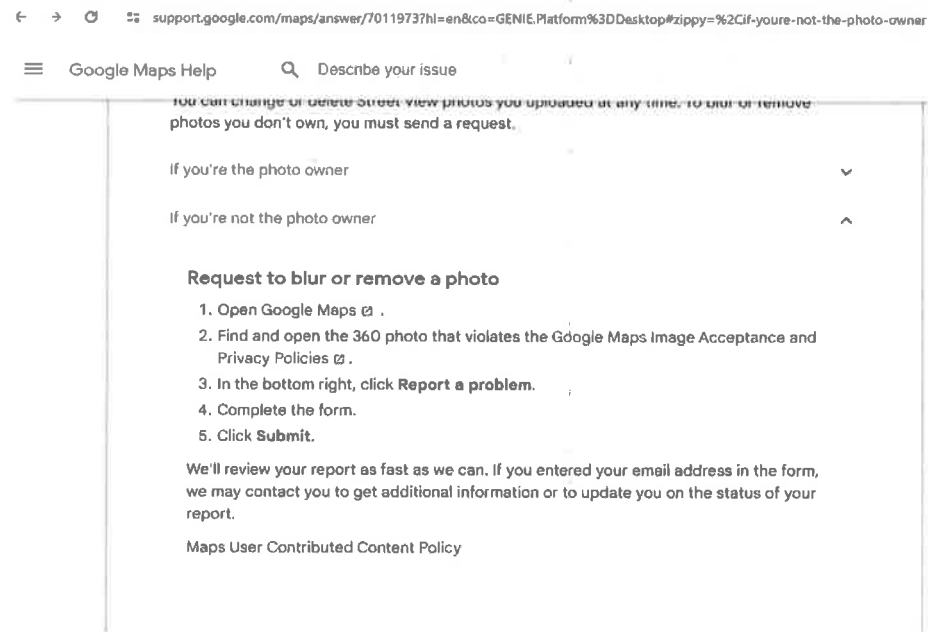
- Home
 - Real estate sites like Zillow
 - Listing photos including vehicles

Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Google Maps (street view)
 - Redact your home

Proactive Measures

- Home
 - Redact your home



Considerations

- Depending on nature of the call, officers may or may not respond directly to your residence (attempted MV burg/theft, officers will canvas the areas and likely egress routes vs. home invasion)
- Very little evidence is collected due to gloves/masks being worn
- Cameras are vitally important (captures clothing, suspect vehicles)
- Processing recovered vehicles yields more evidence
- Most evidential value comes between working collaborative cases with other agencies (labor intensive and takes times)

Considerations

- Automated License Plate Readers
 - Would not prevent crimes from occurring
 - If entered stolen, would immediately alert officers (Dispatch gets a notification, pushed to our computers)
 - Would capture plates for the following investigation to identify vehicles
 - Morris County Prosecutor's Office awarded \$372,000
 - Mountain Lakes one of only a few getting funding (7 cameras)

What If You Do Become a Victim?

- Have a plan ahead of time
 - “Shelter in place” or have a designated safe area(s)
 - Get accountability of everyone in your home
 - Pass this information to 911 call taker (who should be home, where they are, stay on the phone until police arrive)
- Call 911
 - DO NOT CALL SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN THE DEPARTMENT
 - He/She may not be working and delay the response
 - Provide clear/concise information to the call taker
- DO NOT CONFRONT THE SUSPECT
 - No property is worth a potential altercation
 - Criminals are unpredictable and can act spontaneously
 - Best thing you can do is be a good witness for police

Success Stories

- 2/2022: MLPD intercepts attempted thefts three consecutive days results in pursuits
- 2/2022: Five suspects caught in stolen vehicle after pursuit through multiple counties (firearm recovered)
- 2/24/23: Man sentenced four years state prison from investigation conducted by MLPD stemming from MV theft on Elm Rd
- 5/11/23: MLPD assisted Montville in apprehension of suspects who fled in stolen motor vehicle
- 7/13/23: MLPD intercepts suspicious vehicle; occupant inside linked to previous stolen MV in Mtn Lakes that was previously arrested
- 8/18/23: MLPD arrests suspect in stolen motor vehicle
- 10/26/23: MLPD arrests man in attempt of stolen mail

Looking Forward...

- Targeted patrols based off intelligence
- Partnering with agencies: NJSP ATTF, MCSO, MCPO doing targeted operations
- Installation of Automated License Plate Reader cameras Route 46 and Boulevard (grant funding)
- Capital fund projects to implement new technology and build safer community
- Creation of intelligence officer position within the department
- Officer(s) assigned as task force officers at County/State
- Video surveillance registry
- Site assessment program
- Continued and improved usage of social media for alerts, crimes, etc.

Looking Forward...

- New proposed legislation
- Inter-county cooperation in case management of juveniles

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