

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

March 2025



Chief's Monthly Summary

"Congress shall make no law respecting... or abridging the freedom of speech... or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The sentence above is an excerpt from Amendment 1 of the United States Constitution and is partly the reason this country exists in the first place. Being unable, our founding fathers desperately needed a way to guarantee a person's right to speak out against the government without fearing the kind of retribution imposed then by the King of England.

What should be highlighted is the word "peacefully." In no part do our founding documents guarantee a person's right to "violently" assemble. Moreover, the United States Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech does not extend to violent or threatening language. It is us, the police, who are sworn to defend your constitutionally protected rights. An oath we take very seriously.

In a time when so many people are at odds with each other and with our government, the protection of the First Amendment is critically important to maintaining our civility. We wholly support the right of the people to peacefully assemble, and we will protect that right regardless of the issue at hand. You want us to. No, in fact, you need us to.

Our position as viewed by an opposing person may look like preferential treatment. But, imagine for a moment a world where the police chooses one side to support over another. Not 80 years ago, German Police Officers rounded up Jewish citizens at the order of the government. And, not even five years ago, law enforcement was charged with enforcing controversial COVID restrictions that split our nation in two? Any of that ring a bell?

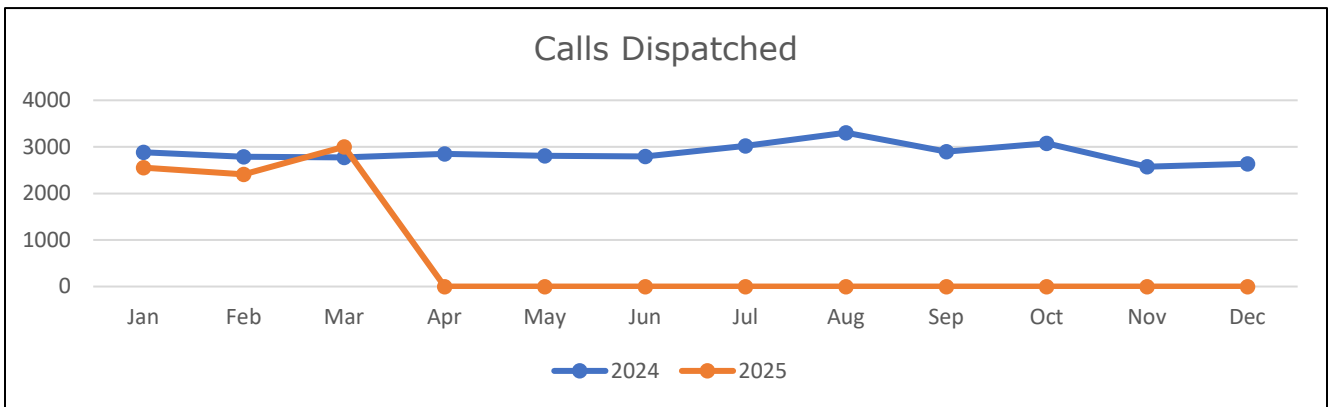
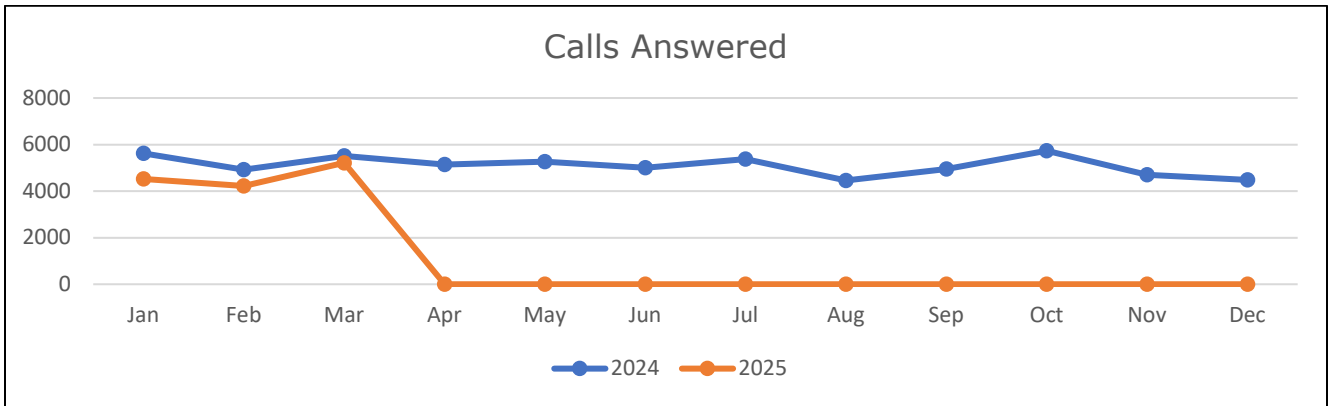
I want to be plainly clear; the Hendersonville Police Department will always and vehemently defend your right to free speech and to peacefully assemble. This commitment extends to everyone. We promise to simply serve everyone equally and to never take sides. My only requirement is that you make the same commitment to follow the constitution that we do. Speaking your voice and assembling peacefully is your only duty.

Remember, we have been through a lot together, both conservatives and liberals alike. We live next door to each other. We work together. We shop at the same stores and eat at the same restaurants. We are the same! We might have differing opinions, but we should always respect each other. It is our differences that make us great. In other words, give each other grace.

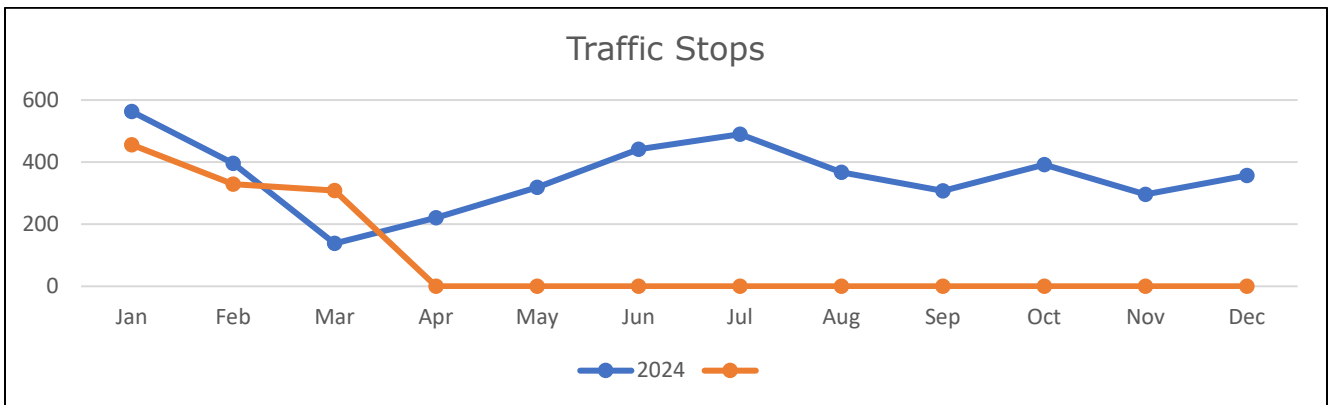


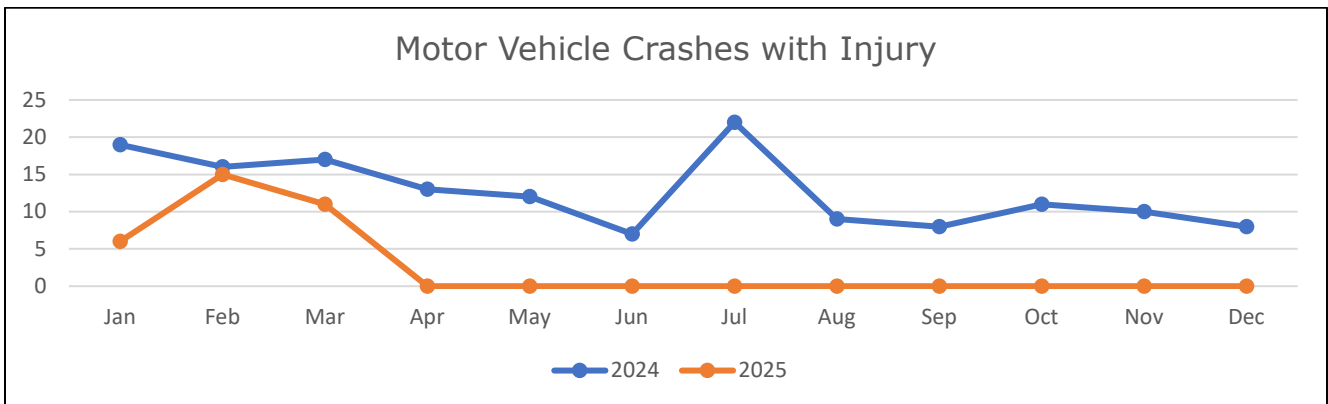
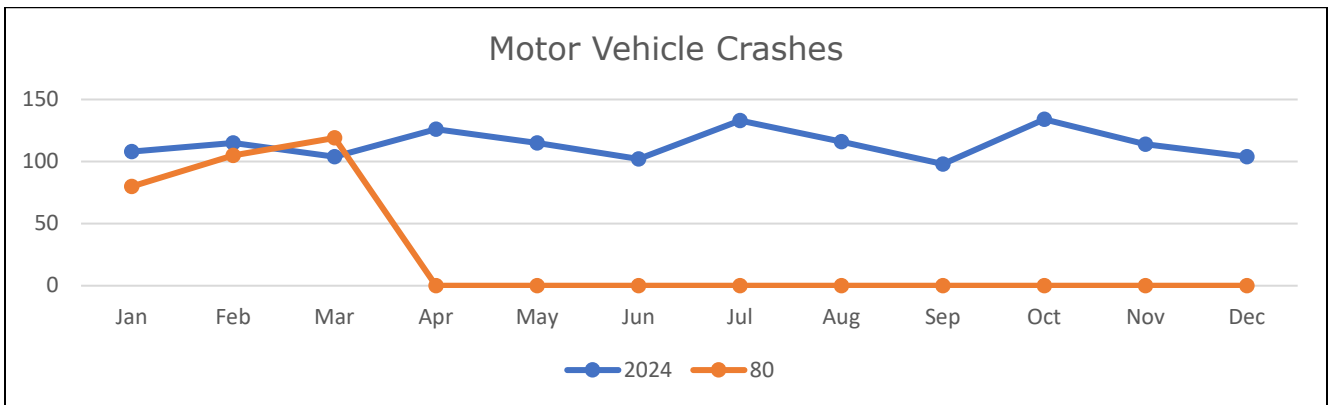
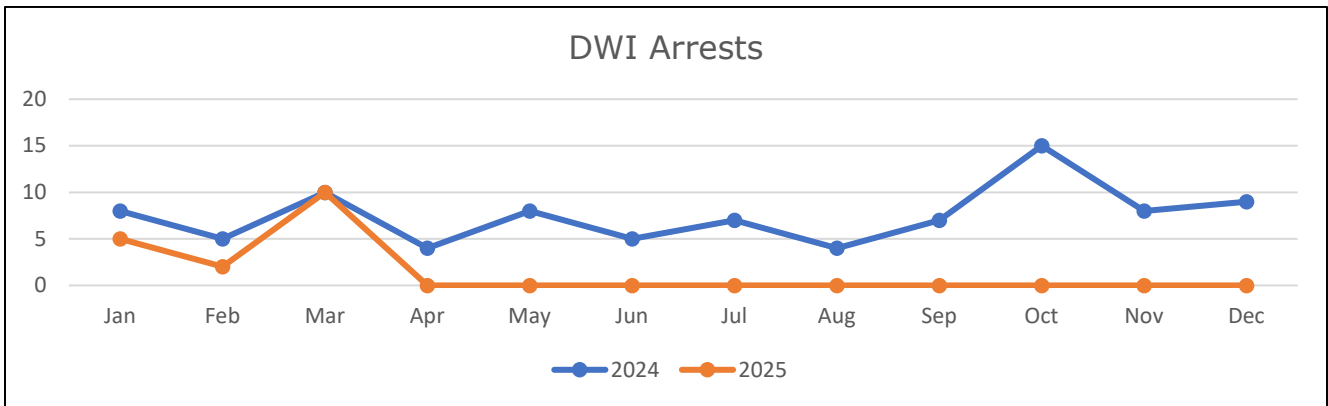
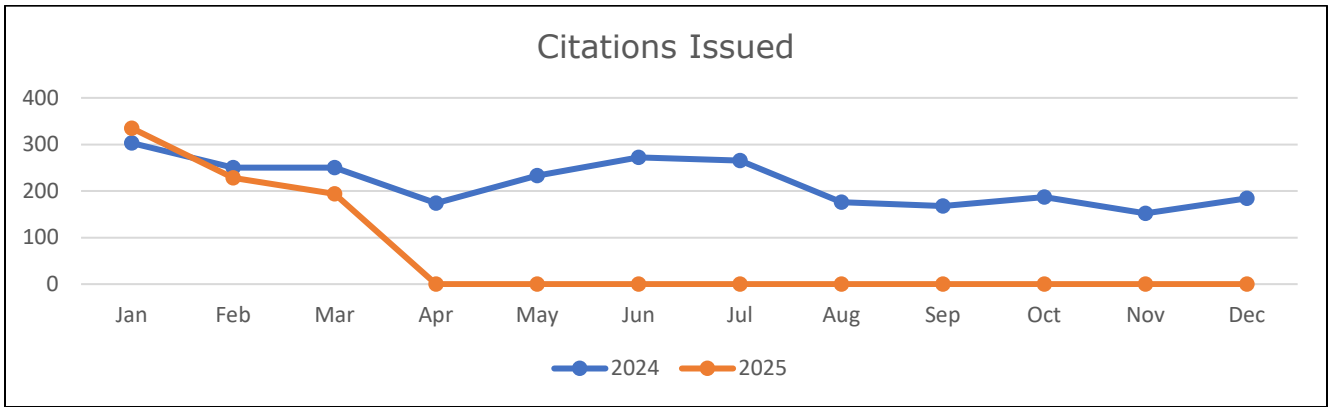
Blair Myhand
Chief of Police

Calls For Service



Traffic Safety

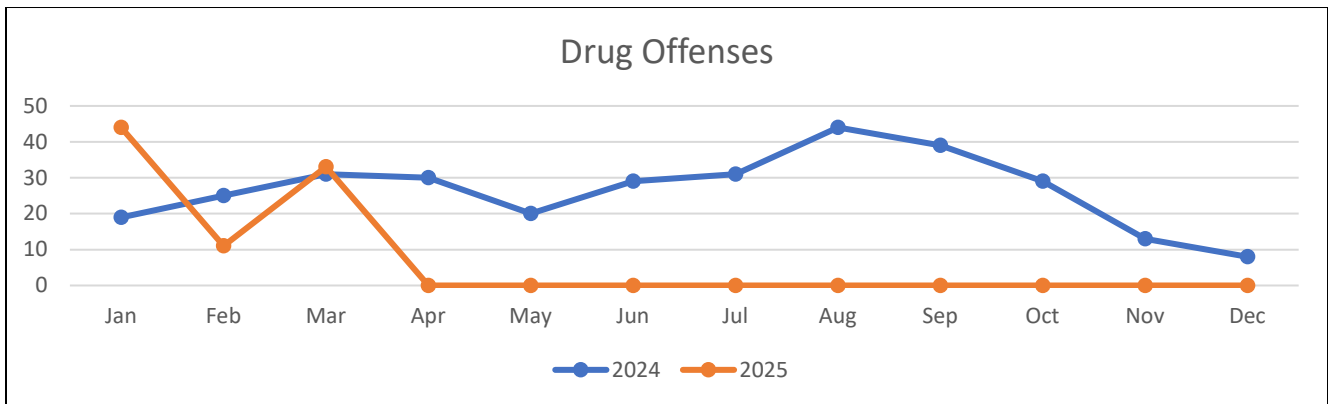
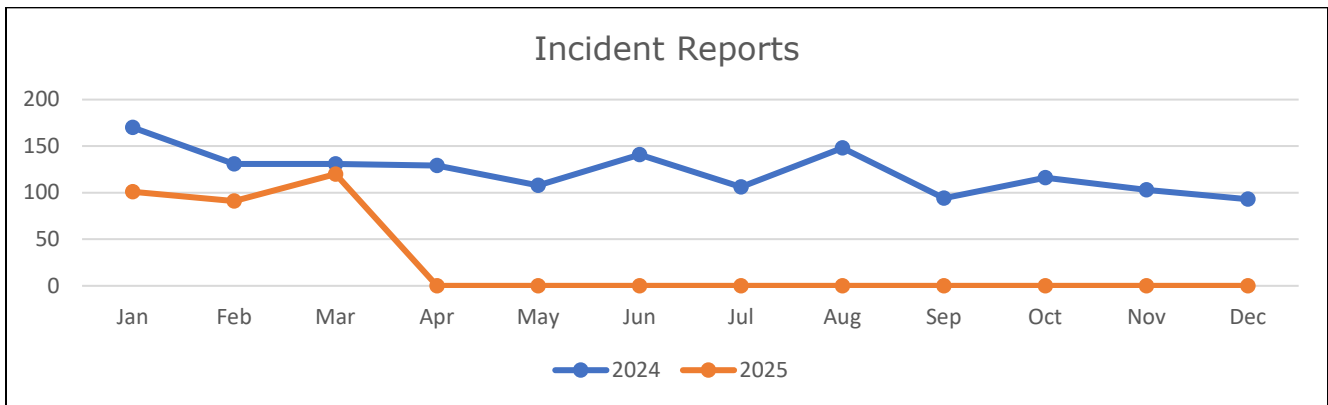
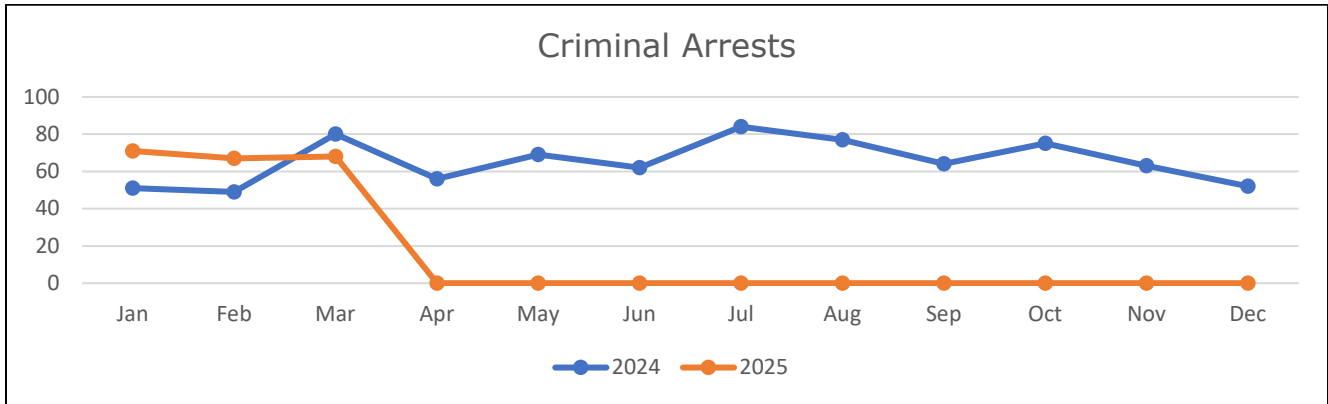


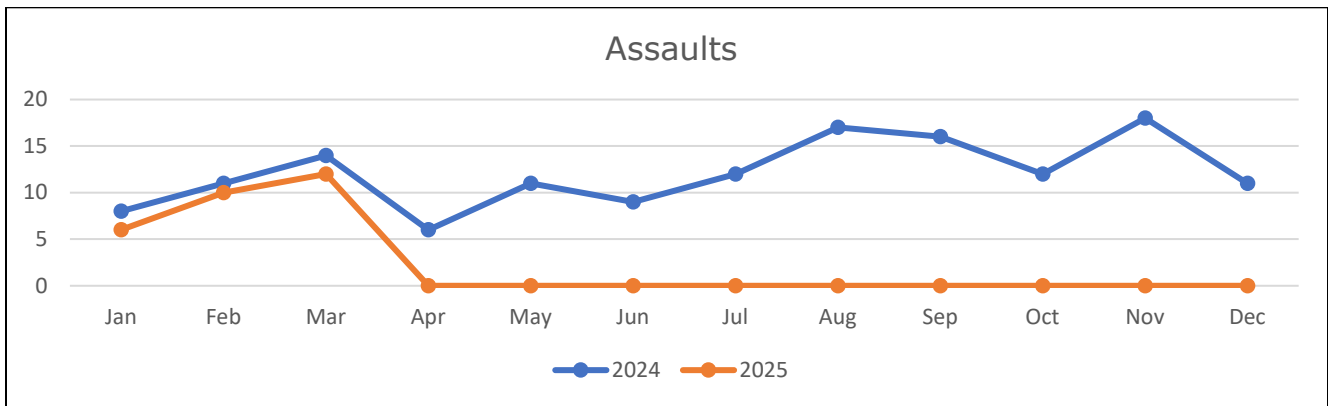
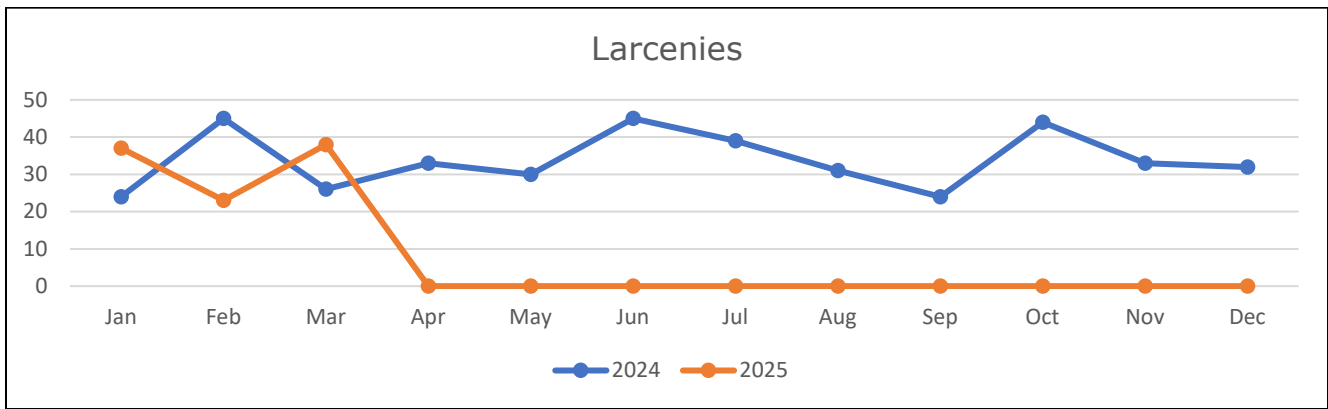


Top five crash locations:

#1	Public Vehicular Areas
#2	Four Seasons Blvd at Freeman St/Thompson St
#3	Chimney Rock Rd at Howard Gap Rd
#4	Spartanburg Hwy at Shepherd St
#5	5 th Ave West at Church St/US 25B

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests





Employee Actions

- Captain Trae Laws graduated from the 293rd Session of the FBI National Academy. Selection into this 10-week program is highly competitive with only 1,000 law enforcement leaders attending annually from around the world. Trae is only the fourth graduate of this program in the history of the Hendersonville Police Department. This is a major accomplishment.
- Joshua Lynch accepted an offer to be a Police Officer. He comes to us with five years of law enforcement experience in the Burlington and Rutherfordton Police Departments.
- Officer Baird and his wife are new parents.
- Chief Myhand, Captain Laws, and Lieutenant Capps traveled to Greenville, NC for the NC FBI National Academy Associates spring training event.
- Officer Zack Dickman represented the department at the Gardner-Webb University Career Fair as part of ongoing efforts to broaden recruitment outreach. The event was attended by approximately 75-100 students, the majority of whom were college freshmen exploring potential career paths. In addition to student attendees, the fair hosted representatives from 25-30 other departments and organizations.

Safety Tip – Home Security and Safety

Now that Spring is here and we are opening our windows and doors to let in fresh air, we thought that it would be a good time to remind everyone of a few home security safety tips:

Lock It Up:

- Lock all doors and windows before bed and when leaving home.
- Ensure all external doors have sturdy, well-installed deadbolt locks.
- Lock garage doors and the door leading from the garage to inside.

Reinforce Entry Points:

- Install peepholes or wide-angle viewers in all entry doors.
- Consider installing a doorbell camera for added security and to see who is at the door.

Lighting:

- Use timers on indoor lights and tamper-proof, motion sensor lights around the perimeter of your home.
- Ensure all entrances are well-lit.

Security Systems:

- Install a security system with cameras.
- If you have a home alarm system, ensure it is properly maintained and that you know how to use it.

Get to Know Your Neighbors:

- Introduce yourself to neighbors so they know who belongs at your home.
- Join or participate in Neighborhood Watch programs.

Security Routines:

- Develop a routine for locking your doors, shutting your windows, and turning on your alarm system before you leave and at night before you go to bed.

Complaints and Findings

- A citizen filed a complaint alleging unprofessional conduct by an officer. A thorough review of the incident was conducted, and the allegations were determined to be unfounded.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers engaged in a foot pursuit with a wanted suspect. Officers tackled the suspect to the ground at which time the suspect was taken into custody without further resistance or force. Neither the suspect nor Officers were injured during this incident. This matter is still under review.
- While attempting to take custody of an assault suspect, the suspect resisted arrest and was forced to the ground using light hand techniques. While on the ground, the suspect stopped resisting and was taken into custody without further incident. The suspect was not injured in this incident. One officer sustained a minor injury and was treated by EMS. This matter is still under review.
- While assisting a Laurel Park Police Officer on a traffic stop, an HPD officer was assaulted by two suspects. The officers then took both suspects to the ground where light hand techniques and joint manipulation were used to gain control of the suspects. The suspects were not injured in this incident. One officer was struck several times in the head and sustained minor abrasions. This matter is still under review.
- Officers used joint manipulation to remove a driver from a vehicle after the driver refused lawful commands during a traffic stop. The suspect was then taken into custody without further force being applied. This matter is still under review.
- An officer used a single hard hand to a fugitive's head after the suspect grabbed the officer and attempted to overpower him. The officer knocked the suspect to the ground and quickly handcuffed the suspect. The suspect was treated on scene by EMS for a small laceration. No officers were injured during this incident. This matter is still under review.

Operations/Notable Events

- Officers responded to a motor vehicle crash involving serious injuries on 5th Ave W near N Washington St. A pedestrian and the driver were transported to Mission Hospital for trauma care. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.
- Detectives investigated an arson inside Burger King on Four Seasons Blvd with significant damage to the male and female bathrooms. It was determined later that the suspect was a special needs juvenile. A referral was made to the Department of Juvenile Justice for consideration.
- Several vehicle break-ins occurred near Chimney Rock Rd. These were "smash and grab" incidents where the suspect broke windows of vehicles and stole items in plain view. The investigation is ongoing.
- Numerous storage units at Williams Mini Storage in Hendersonville were broken into. Charges were filed against Scott Melanson of Hendersonville and Shelby Laughter of Hendersonville. Both subjects have been arrested, and most of the stolen property was recovered.
- Officers and detectives responded to the area of Woodcock Drive to investigate a report of three gunshots in the area. No one was hit or injured in any way. People of interest have been identified. This is an active investigation.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 75% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$5,131,198 or 69% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Officer Dickman hosted a high school civics class. He explained working as a police officer to encourage interest in the profession.
- Sgt. Capps assisted a local homeschool group with a 'mock trial' to teach students more about the judicial system.

Grants Management

- GHSP Grant – Applied for grant for Overtime Enforcement Activities – Pending Award

Recruiting/Retention

- 1 of 14 non-sworn employee vacancies exist.
- 4 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - (3) applications received
 - (4) in background
 - (1) conditional offer made
 - (1) rejected
 - (2) withdrawn