

**Milledgeville Police Department**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**MPD has award winning year**

With a new year upon us, officials at the Milledgeville Police Department have been reflecting on the stellar awarding winning year the department has had while making plans for the future.

“As we move forward to another year, we will continue to provide comprehensive law enforcement services to our community as well as provide more community outreach programs and educational opportunities for citizens,” said Chief of Police Dray Swicord.

MPD was awarded its 5<sup>th</sup> State Certification from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police on Jan. 1. According to the associations’ website, “certification is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performances.”

Certification acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. MPD has been continuously State Certified since its initial award in 2001.

In addition to state certification, the previous year also proved to be a year of recognition and achievement for the police department.

2017 ended with recognition of Officer Michael Thompson as Officer of the Year by The Masons of Benevolent Lodge No. 3. Swicord presented Thompson with the Community Service Award on behalf of the police department during the Lodge’s bicentennial celebration at Georgia College’s Magnolia Ballroom.

“He’s certainly done a fantastic job and has made our department proud,” Swicord said when presenting the award. “I couldn’t ask for a more dedicated person.”

In September, MPD announced instructor accomplishments of Officer Eugene McKinney and Detective Scott Goodwin. McKinney and Goodwin became one of 5 officers in the state of Georgia who are VALOR for Blue instructors.

The VALOR Program was established in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), as a response to growing trends in violence against law enforcement

officers. VALOR Training is designed for law enforcement to promote officer safety and to help prevent injuries and deaths of law enforcement officers and the people they serve. McKinney and Goodwin plan to make use of this instructor opportunity by training others at the police department throughout the year.

MPD's Public Information Officer Felicia Cummings was nominated for a 2017 Jefferson Award in August of last year. The Jefferson Awards Program recognizes those individuals whose commitment to community service has had a positive impact on the communities they serve. Nominees are chosen from the Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Dodge, Dooly, Hancock, Houston, Jones, Laurens, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Taylor, Telfair, Treutlen, Twiggs, Washington, Wheeler, Wilcox and Wilkinson County area.

As a local Jefferson Award winner, Cummings was presented with a Jefferson Award medallion and her contributions to the City of Milledgeville as a P.I.O. was highlighted in a WGXA news broadcast. Her award nomination secured her as a finalist to be chosen as a Middle Georgia representative to compete in the National Jefferson Awards competition in Washington D.C. in June.

April of 2017 officers with the Milledgeville Police Department as well as the local law enforcement agency were honored for their continued efforts in reducing the number of fatalities caused by impaired drivers. For a second year in a row, officers Ryan Chapple and David Descoteaux were among many law enforcement officials from across the state of Georgia who were recognized for DUI enforcement at the 13th Annual MADD Golden Shield Honors banquet at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta. These two MPD officers were honored for obtaining more than 25 DUI arrests in 2016.

The Milledgeville Police Department was also awarded the Statewide Agency of the Year Award at the MADD Golden Shield Honors ceremony. The award is given to a law enforcement agency in the state of Georgia that has demonstrated excellence in implementing innovative techniques in the detection and deterrence of traffic violations, DUI, and underage drinking prevention. Based on supporting data and information provided, the panel of judges chose MPD among law enforcement agencies from across Georgia as the most deserving of the honor.

2017 was MPD's first year being nominated on the statewide level for the Golden Shield Awards. The creation of the agency's Specialized Patrol Unit, along with its continued efforts in traffic and DUI enforcement, gang intelligence and drug and alcohol awareness put the agency above others in the state, securing the win for the prestigious award.

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