

# Stolen Vehicle Sighting Leads VPD to Arrest 3 Juveniles

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – Valdosta Police Department (VPD) Officers were called out, Monday, January 22 about 11:45 a.m. when citizens called E911. The caller told emergency personnel that people in a silver vehicle had shot at several houses and a vehicle in the 2300 block of Frederick Place, Valdosta. Within a short time, another citizen placed an E911 call. That citizen stated that he observed his own stolen silver Kia Optima in the area of Woodlawn Drive and Barack Obama Boulevard. That victim had reported his vehicle stolen the prior day.

VPD Detectives drove to the Vallotton Park location and immediately observed the stolen Kia in the area of Vallotton Park. As they attempted to stop the vehicle, the three occupants ran from the vehicle, causing it to roll into bushes. After a brief foot chase, and with the assistance of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, all three occupants were located and detained. They were later identified as Coreion Flucas (17), an unnamed male juvenile (16), and a third unnamed male juvenile (14).

Through evidence collected at both of the scenes, officers and detectives determined that the stolen Kia was the vehicle seen during the shooting of residences on Frederick Place.

Flucas and both juveniles were charged with:

- Aggravated assault-felony;
- Possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony-felony;
- Criminal damage to property-felony;
- Theft by receiving stolen property-felony;
- Possession of a firearm by a minor-misdemeanor;
- Discharging of a firearm from the roadway-misdemeanor; and
- Obstruction of a law enforcement officer-misdemeanor.

Flucas was transported to Lowndes County Jail, while the two juveniles were detained at Regional Youth Detention Centers.

This case is still under investigation and further charges are pending.

This was a rapidly evolving situation and the great teamwork between our officers, detectives, and the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office led to these three offenders being arrested quickly. These three subjects had no regard for human life when they recklessly shot firearms toward residences in the middle of the day," said VPD Chief Leslie Manahan. "We are extremely lucky



that no one was seriously injured or killed."

The public's help is requested by the VPD. If anyone has any information on this case, please contact the Valdosta Police Department Bureau of Investigative Services at 229-293-3145, or the crime tip line at 229-293-3091.

# VPD Arrests Convicted Felon Found With Stolen Firearm

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

VALDOSTA, Georgia – The Valdosta Police Department (VPD) has provided information about a citizen calling E911 to report that there was a vehicle acting suspiciously in the citizen's neighborhood. The call came about 11:00 p., on Saturday, January 20th.

The Valdosta Police Department sent an officer immediately in response to the call. When the officer arrived in the area, he observed a vehicle matching the description that was given by the E911 caller. As the officer began speaking with the occupants of the vehicle, a passenger, later identified as Eddie Dolf Erving (46) ran from the vehicle. After a short foot

pursuit, Erving fell on the ground, and he refused to cooperate with the officer. Erving kept reaching into his front pocket. After attempting to get the man's cooperation, the VPD officer used his Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) or TASER to control him.

As the Lanier County News (LCN) has learned, a CEW is a battery-operated conducted energy device that uses compressed gas to propel two probes to a target. The probes remain connected to the weapon by wire to administer an electrical shock which disrupts the person's voluntary motor response.

After Erving was placed into handcuffs, the VPD officer found a firearm that had been reported stolen

out of Ohio. Eddie Erving was also found to have an active arrest warrant, not related to this case.

Erving was transported to Lowndes County Jail, and he has been charged with:

- Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon-felony;
- Theft by receiving stolen property-felony;
- Possession of drug-related objects-misdemeanor; and
- Obstruction of a law enforcement officer-misdemeanor.

Information from the VPD states that this case is still under investigation. Further charges are pending.

# Lanier County Fur and Friends Program Serves 27 Rescued Dogs: Saving Strays and Surrendered Animals

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LANIER COUNTY, Georgia – Lanier County Animal Control is doing more to save strays and surrendered animals with its Fur and Friends program. In the 4th week of January 2024, Lanier County's Animal Control Officer Jessica Ganas has rescued 27 dogs this year so far! With the program, Jessica hopes to rehabilitate these animals rather than euthanize them. Jessica hopes that incoming shelter animals will not only be rehabilitated, but they will rapidly move toward their "forever" homes.

Ganas serves as Lanier County's Animal Control Officer as well as Lanier County's Shelter Manager. When asked, she indicates that there has been a radical increase in the number of animals that need her help.

"I am finding animals out in the woods or dropped off," said Ganas, "in locations where I've not seen them before."

According to Jessica, the Lanier County Animal Shelter holds dogs for up to 72 hours. After a series of behavioral tests, the shelter determines whether the dog will be rehabilitated for adoption or euthanized. Currently, the shelter is full of adult dogs and puppies, because of strays and surrenders.

In her continued effort to be a "no kill shelter", the Lanier County Animal Shelter is using a new volunteer program known as the Fur and Friends Volunteer Program. In this program, volunteers work to rehabilitate animals to increase a dog's chances for adoption.

Ganas loves talking about the new program. She explains that the Fur and Friends Volunteer Program gives an opportunity for people to get a dog for the day. They get the animals out of the shelter and let them walk around helping them get socialized.

Nationwide, it is estimated that there are about 70 million strays in the U.S. Of those strays, national statistics estimate there are 5 million to 7 million strays which wind up in one of the nation's 3,500 shelters.

Because of the numbers of stray animals across the country, animal shelters are

overburdened. Many of our country's shelters are full. When shelters are full, their only option is to euthanize the animals.

Persons, who are interested in volunteering in the Lanier County Fur and Friends Program, Volunteers are encouraged Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Lanier County Fur and Friends program. Email Lanier County Animal Control for more information: LanierAnimalControl@LanierCountyBOC.com/.