



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Chatham County Police Department Charges Three Suspects in Connection with Thefts from Cemetery

Chatham County, GA (August 10, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department has charged three people after graves in a local cemetery were desecrated when memorial vases from headstones were stolen and sold for scrap metal.

“Damaging a gravesite for profit is a reprehensible act that we will not stand for,” said Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley. “Victims tell us it cost them several thousand dollars to add one of these vases to the gravestone of a loved one. For someone to remove those and sell them for scrap is a horrible crime that adds to the heartache of a grieving family.”

The Chatham County Police Department was called to Magnolia Memorial Gardens off Silk Hope Road on July 1, 2026, after a cemetery worker reported seeing two women removing vases from headstones and then walking into a nearby wood line.

The investigation by Chatham County Police Department patrol officers and Criminal Investigation Division detectives determined that after the vases were stolen, they were sold for scrap. Warrants were taken out for those believed to be involved in the July 1st incident.

The Chatham County Police Department arrested 39-year-old Alicia Hart and charged her with felony theft by taking. Forty-seven-year-old Kenneth Jenks was arrested on July 23, 2026, for felony theft by receiving stolen property after the vases were sold as scrap.

The Chatham County Police Department has outstanding warrants for 35-year-old Doris Friday who is charged with felony theft by taking and remains at large.

While the Chatham County Police Department was first alerted to the crime on July 1, 2026, the investigation has determined that as many as 150 vases may have been stolen from headstones at Magnolia Memorial Gardens in the last 18 months. Anyone with information regarding those crimes – or the whereabouts of Doris Friday -- is asked to contact police.

Anonymous tips can be sent through the Chatham County Police Department app, or the Department's online tip form found here: <https://police.chathamcountyga.gov/Tips> . You can also call Crime Stoppers at 912-234-2020, where tipsters are anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

The Chatham County Police Department is the lead investigative agency in this case, and any information that comes from another source may or may not be accurate at this time.

Note to Editors: Attached is a photo of some of the recovered memorial vases. Photo credit: Chatham County Police Department

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