

Update on Crosswalks

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Crosswalks were the talk of the town at this point last year. I don't hear much talk about crosswalks these days, but the old saying of "no news is good news" comes to mind. Your town staff put in a lot of work last year addressing the safety issues and concerns at our three crosswalks, and the results were hard to dispute. Here is the CliffsNotes version of what we accomplished last year:

- We approached NCDOT and received approval for a seasonal reduction of the speed limit from 45 mph to 35 mph for the first half-mile section of NC Highway 58 coming from Atlantic Beach.
- We installed new crosswalk signs, with NCDOT's approval, at the Hampton Inn crosswalk.
- We applied for and were selected for the Watch for Me NC pedestrian and bicycle safety education and enforcement program, becoming one of only five new participants statewide.
- The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department spearheaded a public education campaign that included all of the law enforcement agencies in Carteret County.
- We hosted a "Zero Tolerance" Memorial Day weekend to kick off the safety campaign for pedestrian and bicycle law violations.
- We hosted several bicycle safety education classes at town hall.
- We conducted a crosswalk safety event at the Hampton Inn crosswalk.
- We partnered with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative and installed new LED lights at our crosswalks to make them more visible at night.

During the week of spring break April 2017, we had four motor vehicle collisions at the Hampton Inn crosswalk. For the rest of the summer, we had only one motor vehicle collision at that location. I believe that is directly related to the efforts of your town staff and the law enforcement agencies in Carteret County.

I am currently in the process of applying for the Watch for Me NC education and enforcement program again. The program provides free training for our officers and advertising that Pine Knoll Shores is a Watch for Me NC community—and a large supply of posters, bumper stickers, bicycle lights and reflective arm bands.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to make Pine Knoll Shores a safe community for pedestrians and bicyclists. We will host more crosswalk campaigns and safety events this summer, so stay tuned for information on these events. All of these efforts would not have been possible without the support of our residents. I sincerely thank you all for supporting these safety programs and your town staff.

Scam of the month

New twist on the IRS scam: text messages

Many consumers have received the call. A recorded message from someone claiming to be with the Internal Revenue Service

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During January, there were 3 arrests; 16 911 hang-ups; 8 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 5 disturbance calls; 25 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 2 mutual aid calls; 127 traffic stops; 28 citations issued (16 speeding, 1 stop sign/stop light, 2 registration/inspection, 5 license revoked/expired, 3 other traffic violations, 1 narcotics violation); 4 written warnings issued; 492 business checks; 532 foot patrols; and 137 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 148 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 25.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In January, responders handled 2 fires, 19 rescue and emergency medical service calls, 2 hazardous condition (no fire) calls, 2 service calls, 1 good intent call, and 14 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 315 training hours.

REMINDER: Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are an asset to the community.

The Shoreline

252-247-4353 ext. 19

e-mail: Shoreline@townofpks.com

www.townofpks.com

EDITOR:

Janie Price 240-2365

EDITORS AT LARGE:

Mary Battista 422-4063

Marilyn Brandt 919-377-2501

John Brodman 726-7643

Phyllis Makuck 726-8776

CONTRIBUTING

REPORTERS:

Frederick S. Boyce 723-6276

Paige Gillespie

Marian Goetzinger 422-9000

Jean McDanal

Barbara Milhaven 240-0678

Jacquie Pipkin 622-0340

Jim Scanlon 726-4174

Richard Seale 726-0478

Jim Turner 240-2474

Ken Wilkins

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Connie Shelton 247-4353

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Michelle Dobbs 726-7081

ADVERTISING:

Marie Lawrence 726-7081

ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Fri., March 16	Apr.
Fri., Apr. 13	May
Tues., May 15	June
Fri., June 15	July
Mon., July 16	Aug.
Wed., Aug. 15	Sept.
Wed., Sept. 15	Oct.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.