

Lend Us a Hand

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Several weeks ago, I met with Commissioners Bill Knecht and Ted Goetzinger to talk about ordinance violations in Pine Knoll Shores and how the police enforce them. We discussed strategies and created a list of some of the more commonly violated ordinances. I wanted to share some of our findings and ask for everyone's help in their enforcement.

1. **Right-of-way parking:** Section 50-5 of our Code of Ordinances restricts vehicles, including trailers, from being parked in the right-of-way between the hours of 12 a.m. and 6 a.m.
2. **Dogs on leashes:** Section 6-2 of our Code of Ordinances requires that dogs on the beach strand, in parks or public rights-of-way be on a leash.
3. **Dog waste cleanup:** Section 6-2 of our Code of Ordinances requires pet owners to clean up and properly dispose of their pet's waste.
4. **Glass bottles on the beach:** Section 46-23 of our Code of Ordinances prohibits glass containers on our beach strand.
5. **Holes on the beach:** Section 46-23 of our Code of Ordinances requires holes that are dug on the beach strand to be filled in.

To varying degrees, all of these ordinances, when violated, impact the quality of life for our neighbors. I believe the most effective method of ordinance enforcement is a combined effort between our Police Department and our residents. Talk with your neighbors, and let them know that we have a right-of-way parking ordinance. They may simply not know that we have it. Having an open line of communication with your neighbors and community to help us solve some of these issues will benefit everyone. If you haven't talked with your neighbor about picking up pet waste or parking their vehicles in the right-of-way overnight, try talking with them before calling the police. As friendly as we are, sometimes our involvement can make things worse between neighbors. If that doesn't work and you need to report an ordinance violation, please call our communications center on their nonemergency number at 726-1911, and we will be more than happy to respond.

We have already put strategies in place to address several of these commonly violated ordinances, and it is my hope that everyone will help us with this moving forward. While it is important that we all work together to comply with these (and other) ordinances, we do understand that there can be extenuating circumstances in the case of right-of-way parking. If you are having work done in your yard (such as driveway paving) and need an exception to the right-of-way parking ordinance, visit the Police Department or call the number above and ask for a police officer to contact you *before* your work begins, and we will work with you to solve the situation.

Scam of the month: insurance scam

The North Carolina State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (which administers the plan) are reporting that some of their members are receiving phone calls from scammers. The callers identify themselves as representatives of BCBSNC or the health

(Continued on page 5)

CONTENTS

Country Club News.....	6
Garden Club.....	6
Puzzle Solutions.....	6
Women's Club.....	7
PIKSCO Happenings.....	8
Age-Friendly Community.....	9
PKA News.....	9
Fishing and Hunting.....	14
Town Crier.....	16-17
Anderson's Answers.....	20
Current Crossword.....	21
Events Calendar.....	22
History of Pine Knoll Shores.....	23
Pine Knoll Shores Commissioners Meeting.....	24
At the Library.....	26
Book Talk.....	27
Current Sudoku.....	27
Mayor's Memo.....	29
What's Up With PARC?.....	31



PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During March, there were 7 arrests; 27 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 12 animal calls; 3 larcenies; 1 damage to property; 1 breaking and entering; 11 disturbance calls; 12 assist Fire/EMS calls; 8 mutual aid calls; 158 traffic stops; 25 citations issued (10 speeding, 4 registration/inspection, 1 license revoked/expired, 1 other traffic violation, 6 narcotics violations, 3 alcohol violations); 16 beach patrols; 354 business checks; 398 foot patrols; and 383 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 396 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 75.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In March, responders handled 11 rescue and emergency medical service calls, 1 structure fire, 3 service calls and 4 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 506 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



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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Tues., May 15	June
Fri., June 15	July
Mon., July 16	Aug.
Wed., Aug. 15	Sept.
Wed., Sept. 12	Oct.
Wed., Oct. 17	Nov.
Mon., Nov. 11	Dec.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.