

Police Report

Police Chief Joey Culpepper reported that police handled 161 incidents in July, including the arrest of a 16-year-old from Beaufort in connection with the rash of vehicle break-ins that occurred in May and June. Charges in the case are pending.

There were also arrests in connection with two incidents at local hotels, one involving an assault on a female and the other involving the alleged theft of cash by an employee.

On July 4 there was a stabbing on Arborvitae Ct. where several Hispanic subjects were staying in a residence while doing some painting for the owner. Two of the male subjects had an argument over a female in Atlantic Beach. When they returned to Pine Knoll Shores, one of the subjects stabbed the other. The victim was transported to the hospital and the suspect fled to Cary where he was arrested by Cary police.

Fire/EMS Report

By Director Bill Matthias

The department responded to 56 incidents during the month of July; 26 EMS calls and 30 fire calls. Of the 26 EMS calls, 19 required transport and 23 required paramedic level care. The majority of the fire calls were because of lightning strikes triggering automated alarms. Lightning also caused one structure fire in Salter Path that the department assisted in extinguishing. The average response time for EMS calls was 3:14 and for fire calls was 5:12. Training in July included water supply, laying of hoses, pre-planning, driver's training and water rescue.

The History Place Offers New Book

By Cindi Hamilton, Executive Director

The much-anticipated book, *The Masons of Eastern North Carolina* by William Mason, has been published by the History Place and is now available. The book costs \$40 in the Museum Store. The History Place is located at 1008 Arendell Street in Downtown Morehead City. For more information or to reserve your copy, call the History Place 252-247-7533 ext. 106.

In Memoriam August

Blanche Creamer

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Public Safety Building

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After Hours Non-emergency Phone for Police: 504-4800

Emergency call: 911

August Board of Commissioners Meeting

By Yvette Bannen

The first item of business was a public hearing on a rezoning request for the property at the corner of Oakleaf Drive and Salter Path. This is currently zoned as commercial and the request is to change it to Multi-Family 2 with Conditional Use.

Several residents and interested parties spoke in favor of the change, but there was also a caution about the proximity to the public access parking and the need for better signs directing people to the proper pathway to the beach.

After much discussion, at the morning briefing session and during the BOC meeting, the rezoning request was tabled until all the details are acceptable. The sticking points are the density (the number of living units) and the performance bonds. Attorney Whitford suggested that a special meeting be called by the Commissioners to deal with those items.

After the consent agenda was accepted, there was clarification about one of the items in that agenda, namely acquiring the Knollwood beach access. The Town has applied for a \$30,000 grant to acquire it.

Tax Collector Shelton mentioned that tax bills would be going out at the end of August or early September. The audit process is underway for fiscal year 2004-2005. It was noted that the Town meeting room has gotten some new carpeting (approved in the budget) to replace the old one that was getting threadbare.

There will be possible vacancies on the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Community Appearance Committee and they will be advertised. Volunteer forms are available at Town Hall or on the Town's website where there are also job descriptions.

A debris removal contract with Robert Youngblood for Beacon's Reach and

McGinnis Point was approved. A three-year mowing contract was approved with Copeland Nursery.

Emergency Management Director Matthias gave his report and introduced Fire Captain Buddy Tweed who has replaced Mr. Matthias, and the three new positions were filled by Fire Captain Jason Baker, Firefighter/EMT Landon Nowlin and Firefighter/EMT-I David Jones.

The parking tickets and fines for illegal parking on the rights of way following the July BOC meeting were rescinded and replaced by a warning.

The Federal budget is holding up the Project 933, but work is going on assessing the volume of sand available, etc.

Items of interest are being accumulated to place in a Time Capsule at Town Hall to be opened sometime in the future.

During the citizens' comment period, a question was raised about the water system and softening the water at the source, but this will not be done because of health concerns.

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