

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF VIPS Provide Valuable Service

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Volunteers are the backbone of this community, and I firmly believe that we have the most passionate volunteers in North Carolina. There are many opportunities for volunteer service in Pine Knoll Shores. Among them are the Planning Board, Community Appearance Commission, Board of Adjustment, History Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC), Strategic Planning Committee, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), *The Shoreline*, as a volunteer fireman or member of the Fire Auxiliary and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). These volunteers take time away from their families and personal obligations to make Pine Knoll Shores a better place to live and visit.

In 2015, Volunteers in Police Service worked 734 hours at the Police Department. In 2014, Independent Sector, a leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations, rated a volunteer's value in North Carolina at \$21.47 per hour. This means that in 2015 VIPS saved Pine Knoll Shores more than \$15,750.

These volunteers can be seen patrolling in marked vehicles throughout the town, conducting welfare checks on older residents, checking on houses on our "out-of-town" list and conducting beach patrols. In addition to these services, in 2015 VIPS took our court documents to the courthouse, performed data entry, filed case paperwork, answered telephones and assisted in search-and-rescue operations. In 2016 VIPS will add assisting with monitoring sea turtle nesting areas to their duties—and possibly much more.

I would like to recognize our VIPS members who make this program the success that it is: Sylvia Brodman, Rich Donoghue, Danny Frye, Kay Lannoye, Liz Mauser, Pete Palazzotto, Ike Pipkin and Andy Turney. If you know these volunteers, please thank them for their selfless service next time you see them.

Even though we have a fantastic volunteer base, we are still in need of more. If you would like to learn more about the VIPS program or are interested in volunteering, please contact me at 247-2474 or email me at rthompson@townofpks.com.

Scam of the Month

Wake County residents are receiving phone calls from a phony sheriff's deputy saying they skipped jury duty and a subsequent court date. The caller goes on to say that a warrant has been issued for their arrest, or soon will be—but that they can pay a \$900 fine now and avoid being arrested.

Con artists have tried this scam in different locations across North Carolina over the years. They want to exploit your fear of getting on the wrong side of the law and attempt to squeeze money out of you before you realize it is a scam. Reports of this scam are up in the state, and there were more than twice as many reports of this scam attempt in 2015 than in 2014.

Don't fall for this scam. Real notices for jury duty arrive by mail, and legitimate public officials won't call to threaten you with arrest if you don't show up for jury duty or fail to pay a fine immediately. Hang up on jury duty scammers and other crooks who try to trick you out of your hard-earned money.

If you get one of these calls, report it to the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department by calling 726-1911, and file a complaint with the Attorney General's office by calling 877-5-NO-SCAM (566-7226), or by completing a form online at ncdoj.gov

—Source: ncdoj.gov

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During December, there were 4 arrests; 16 incident reports initiated, generated by citizen calls or officer observations; 17 incident reports investigated; 8 incident reports closed or cleared; 28 state citations; 14 written warnings issued; 72 verbal warnings issued; 266 business checks; 524 residential checks; and 373 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 110 training hours, and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 46 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In December, there were 2 fires, 12 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) incident, 1 service call, 1 good intent call and 9 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 210 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.

In Memoriam

Donald Brock
Delphine Ogle
Jeanne Umbarger

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Fri., Feb. 12	Mar.
Mon., Mar. 14	Apr.
Fri., Apr. 15	May
Fri., May 13	June
Wed., June 15	July
Fri., July 15	Aug.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.