

News From the Police Department

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Officer Joseph Patton Joins the PKS Police Department

The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department recently swore in our newest full-time police officer, Joseph Patton. Officer Patton comes to us from the Beaufort Police Department where he served for one year as a police officer. He has also been in the National Guard, stationed out of Fort Bragg for the past seven years, and is currently a sergeant with his unit. He graduated from West Carteret High School and from the Basic Law Enforcement Training program at Carteret Community College. Officer Patton is married with two children and enjoys spending his free time on the beach, as well as feeding his passion for aviation.

Transaction Safe Place

The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department is now officially a Transaction Safe Place. If you are selling an item online and the buyer will need to pick it up from you in person, you should consider meeting at the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department to conduct the transaction. This could prevent you from being a victim of a financial scam or robbery. It is a good idea to be cautious with your personal information, such as your home address, and inviting a stranger into your home can be risky. If the prospective buyer does not want to meet you at the Police Department instead of your home, you should avoid doing business with him or her. No appointments or reservations are required.

Scam of the month: craigslist scammers

If you have ever sold anything on an online website, such as craigslist, then someone has probably tried to scam you. Scammers will try to avoid talking on the phone with you at all costs and normally resort to email and text messages only. They may use broken English, and common words will frequently be misspelled. Often you will receive a check in the mail for double or triple the amount of the item you are selling. The scammer will claim this was a mistake and request you to deposit the check in your account and send him or her a check in return for the difference. By the time the scammer's check has been rejected by the bank, your check is already in process. If something seems too good to be true, it more than likely is. If you have any concerns about a possible scam, or if something doesn't seem right, please contact the Police Department for assistance.

—Source: ncdoj.gov

In Memoriam

**David John Finefrock
Jacque Passino**

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During July, there were 4 arrests; 32 911 hang-ups; 7 alarm activations; 9 animal calls; 1 larceny; 1 damage to property; 1 breaking and entering; 9 disturbance calls; 36 assist Fire/EMS; 7 motor vehicle collisions; 37 traffic hazards; 128 traffic stops; 27 citations issued (7 speeding, 6 registration/inspection, 4 license revoked/expired, 3 other traffic violations, 6 narcotics violations, 1 alcohol violation); 37 written warnings issued; 249 business checks; 95 residential checks; and 284 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 57 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 92 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In July, responders handled 3 fires, 27 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 2 hazardous condition (no fire) calls, 2 service calls, 2 good intent calls and 10 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 398 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
Wed., Sept. 14	Oct.
Fri., Oct. 14	Nov.
Fri., Nov. 11	Dec.
Mon., Dec. 12	Jan.
Fri., Jan. 13	Feb.
Mon., Feb 13	Mar.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.