

Services Offered

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

In an effort to better serve the residents of Pine Knoll Shores, we offer many services that some of you may not be aware of. I urge everyone to take advantage of these programs and make the most of your town services. Please do not hesitate to call the police department at 247-2474 or email me at rthompson@townofpks.com if you have questions about any of these programs.

Medication drop box. We partner with the Carteret County sheriff's office and the Carteret County Substance Abuse Task Force to help eliminate unwanted or expired medication from residents' homes. If you have unwanted or expired prescription medication, you can dispose of it safely and anonymously at the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department. All medication collected is turned over to the Carteret County sheriff's office for destruction. To date we have collected and turned over in excess of 90 pounds of medication and pills.

Residential security checks. Under this program, when residents leave for an extended period of time or are on vacation, a police officer will check their residence several times a week. When an officer comes to your residence, he or she will check to ensure all doors and windows are locked. It only takes a few minutes to sign up for this program, and we recommend all residents take advantage of this service. To sign up please come by the police department and fill out a residential security check form. In 2016 we checked nearly 3,000 residences through this program.

Community First. Our Community First program is ideal for older residents who live alone and would benefit from an officer stopping to check on them several times a week. This gives the resident someone to talk to for a few minutes and gives family members who may not live in the area comfort to know that their loved ones are being looked after and checked on. To sign up for this program, please call the number above or stop by the police department.

Golf cart inspections. Golf carts operated on the streets in Pine Knoll Shores must be either inspected and registered through NC DMV or inspected and registered with the town of Pine Knoll Shores. Important note: golf carts are allowed only on streets with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. Golf carts must have working headlights, brake lights, turn signals, a rear view mirror, seat belts, a rear reflective orange safety triangle, and be covered under insurance. Application packets for golf cart inspections can be picked up at the police department. The annual sticker for a golf cart is \$20.

We are currently in the planning stages of a community event entitled "Touch the Truck" that will bring together first responders from the area with an emphasis on children interacting with police officers, firemen, and some of the equipment that it takes to do their jobs. More information on this program will be forthcoming soon.

Scam of the month: counterfeit checks

Here's how this one works: you receive a check for \$2,000 to \$5,000 that appears to be from an international lottery or company. Then you receive an international phone call saying that you have won a million dollar lottery or sweepstakes prize in Canada, Australia, or some other country. The scammer tells you that the check was sent to cover fees, taxes, or insurance on the award. You are instructed to deposit the check and then wire the money to pay those fees. Ultimately your bank determines that the check is counterfeit, but you have already wired money to the scammers—money that came out of your own funds. It may take your bank several days before they confirm the check is counterfeit and the funds are not available. At that point it is too late to stop the wire transfer.

Source: www.ncdoj.gov

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During March, there were 7 arrests; 13 911 hang-ups; 7 alarm activations; 2 animal calls; 4 disturbance calls; 20 assist Fire/EMS; 18 traffic hazards; 150 traffic stops; 28 citations issued (5 speeding, 7 stop sign/stop light, 4 registration/inspection, 5 license revoked/expired, 1 other traffic violation, 4 narcotics violations, 1 alcohol violation, 1 other criminal offense); 51 written warnings issued; 127 business checks; 326 residential checks; and 384 foot patrols. Police personnel participated in 219 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 65 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In March, responders handled 2 fires; 1 overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat incident (no fire); 17 rescue and emergency medical service incidents; 1 service call; 1 good intent call; and 2 false alarms or false calls. Personnel training hours were unavailable.

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

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
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Mon., May 15	June
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Thur., June 15	July
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Fri., July 14	Aug.
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Tue., Aug 15	Sept.
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Fri., Sept. 15	Oct.
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Mon., Oct. 16	Nov.
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Sat., Nov. 11	Dec.
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ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.