

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

A Day in the Life of a PKS Police Officer

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Oftentimes I am asked about what happens during the course of a police officer's shift in Pine Knoll Shores. It might surprise you to hear how many responsibilities are given to our officers and how busy they are. Our officers work a 30-day rotating shift, which means they switch from day shift to night shift every 30 days. Our shifts are 12 hours long, and officers will work three days one week and four days the next week.

When officers first come in for duty, they meet with the off-going shift and find out what happened in town since the last time they worked. Officers then look at any reports that have been sent back to them by a supervisor for correction, get a body camera from the equipment room, test the in-car camera in their patrol vehicle to ensure it is functioning properly, test all emergency equipment in the patrol vehicle, and search the back seat of the patrol vehicle to ensure nothing was left there during the last shift. If the officer is radar certified, he or she also must calibrate the radar unit at the beginning of each shift, without exception. The officer then begins his or her shift.

Some of the duties that are given to our officers include escorting the school buses to ensure motorists are stopping when the buses stop to pick up children, conducting a beach patrol, checking on local businesses, doing foot patrols at beach accesses, doing foot patrols in their assigned community-oriented policing zones, checking the welfare of some of our elderly residents who live alone, and enforcing traffic violations they observe while on patrol.

This does not include calls for service that typically happen during the shift. 911 hang-up calls, residential and commercial alarm activations, motor vehicle collisions, suspicious activity, and mutual aid calls for service in neighboring jurisdictions are normal calls for service that we answer most days. Domestic disturbances, assaults, breaking and entering, and suspected narcotics activities are also calls that our officers respond to and investigate.

What hasn't been mentioned yet is the paperwork. Just about every time an officer gets out of his or her patrol vehicle, the action is documented in our reporting software and through dispatch, including the officer's location and reason for his or her action. If an officer responds to a minor call for service where a report is appropriate, an incident report is completed. At a minimum, the most simple incident report is two pages in length. A normal arrest report for a driving-while-impaired case can easily be five to six pages long. Every time an officer stops a vehicle, he or she is required to complete the SBI Traffic Stop Report, which documents the age, gender, race, reason for stop, and whether or not a citation is issued.

At the end of the shift the officer must return the body camera to the equipment room and ensure all paperwork and reports have been sent to a supervisor. While a 12-hour shift seems long to someone who has never worked one, sometimes it isn't enough.

Scam of the month: jury duty scam

North Carolinians continue to receive calls from phony sheriff's deputies who claim they skipped jury duty and a subsequent court

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During April, there were 9 arrests; 21 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 11 disturbance calls; 27 assist Fire/EMS; 5 motor vehicle collisions; 9 mutual aid calls; 157 traffic stops; 44 citations issued (9 speeding, 1 stop sign/stop light, 3 registration/inspection, 3 license revoked/expired, 18 other traffic violations, 6 narcotics violations, 4 alcohol violations); 18 written warnings issued; 132 business checks; 212 residential checks; and 384 foot patrols. Police personnel participated in 57 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 57.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In April, responders handled 2 fires, 29 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 4 good intent calls and 6 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 381 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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Tue., Aug 15	Sept.
Fri., Sept. 15	Oct.
Mon., Oct. 16	Nov.
Sat., Nov. 11	Dec.
Tue., Dec. 12	Jan. 2018

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

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Articles always welcome.