

Where Has the Summer Gone?

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

It is hard to believe that two of our three summer holidays have already passed. The good news is that as of this writing there has been little to no tropical activity in the Atlantic, but we do have several more months to go before we are in the clear.

It has been a busy summer for your Police Department. We just ordered two new Ford Explorers that will replace two of our police sedans that are aging out. Hopefully, they will be on the road and on patrol in September. We also just received six thermal printers for the inside of our patrol vehicles. These printers will allow officers to complete the majority of their paperwork inside their patrol vehicle, meaning that our officers will now spend less time in the office processing paperwork and spend more time in our neighborhoods and businesses. These thermal printers, valued at \$3,000, were given to the department at no cost by the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. We value our partnership with NC GHSP, and in the past two years we have received traffic safety equipment valued at approximately \$10,000 (including radar units, portable breath testing instruments, and these printers).

Our officers are also utilizing a program called "E-Citation" now. Officers are able to issue NC State citations and warning citations through this computer program that is linked to our court system. This decreases the amount of time officers are on traffic stops and reduces the amount of trips we have to take to drop paperwork off at the courthouse in Beaufort. Use of this program is free for our department and only requires a computer and printer in our vehicles.

If you don't already do so, please follow our Police Department on Facebook. We post weekly updates about major incidents, arrests, safety issues, upcoming events, and helpful information. Please look us up on Facebook and Like our page.

Scam of the month: in the name of charity

Scammers are creative, cunning and cruel—and they often mix in a little truth to spice up their big lies. This scheme shows just how low they can go.

Government imposters claiming to be with the FTC, or another agency like the fictitious "Consumer Protection Agency," are calling to inform people they have won a huge sweepstakes from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a well-known charity for very sick children. To get the money, the callers say, the "winner" must first pay thousands of dollars to cover taxes or insurance on the prize. The call may even come from a 202 (Washington, DC) area code to appear credible—since the headquarters for the FTC and most federal agencies are in Washington.

This is just a scheme using the well-known names of Make-a-Wish and the FTC to rob thousands of dollars from people. Once you wire money or send banking information, you will never see your money again.

Source: consumer.ftc.gov

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During June, there were 5 arrests; 24 911 hang-ups; 7 alarm activations; 10 animal calls; 3 larceny calls; 3 damage to property calls; 13 disturbance calls; 30 assist Fire/EMS; 6 motor vehicle collisions; 2 mutual aid calls; 213 traffic stops; 28 citations issued (3 speeding, 6 registration/inspection, 4 license revoked/expired, 13 other traffic violations, 2 narcotics violations); 37 written warnings issued; 108 business checks; 168 residential checks; and 390 foot patrols. Police personnel participated in 56 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 98 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In June, responders handled 6 false alarms or false calls, 2 fires, 1 good intent call and 31 rescue and emergency medical service incidents. Personnel participated in 359 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
Tue., Aug 15	Sept.
Fri., Sept. 15	Oct.
Mon., Oct. 16	Nov.
Sat., Nov. 11	Dec.
Tue., Dec. 12	Jan. 2018
Fri., Jan 12	Feb.
Mon., Feb. 12	Mar.
Tue., Mar 13	Apr.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.