

Police Department Summary: 2017

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Just as I am getting accustomed to writing 2017 on everything, 2018 jumps out from a dark corner and surprises all of us. As some of us think about New Year's resolutions, I can't help but think of all the great things that your Police Department accomplished in 2017. Community outreach continues to be a priority for our department. In 2017, your Police Department hosted two pet outreach clinics, two Face Behind the Badge events, started a rock painting program, attended Morehead City Police Department's National Night Out, and we were selected for the Watch For Me NC pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the University of North Carolina. We expect 2018 will not be any different; keep an eye out for some big things to come in the next few months.

Here are some quick statistics on other activities that your Police Department completed in 2017:

- Over 5,000 foot patrols were done (department record) in residential areas and beach accesses.
- Over 2,500 business checks were completed at our local businesses.
- Almost 1,700 hours of training were completed by our officers.
- Our VIPS volunteered 800 hours of their time to work for the Police Department.
- Almost 2,000 motor vehicles were stopped for traffic violations.
- Officers issued almost 400 citations for various offenses, including motor vehicle and criminal violations.
- Officers arrested 71 individuals (at the time this article was written) for offenses including assault, driving while impaired, a multitude of narcotics offenses, carrying concealed weapons, and other traffic and criminal offenses.

We have a fantastic group of men and women who constantly put others' needs before their own. I am truly blessed to work in our community with such an outstanding group of police officers. Our residents and police officers will continue working together to make 2018 an enjoyable and safe year for everyone.

Scam of the month: the scammer's toolbox

Once scammers have convinced you to pay, how do they get their hands on your money? In addition to wire transfers, scammers now have other tools at their disposal. Crooks often instruct their victims to obtain a prepaid debit card. After the card has been activated and the victim has loaded money on it, the crook gets him or her to provide the account number from the card. The funds are then quickly and untraceably drained from the account. Scammers also use gift cards, including Target, Best Buy, Sam's Club and iTunes gift cards, to take possession of stolen loot when perpetrating frauds like the IRS, Jury Duty, Family Emergency and Grandparent scams.

In the heat of the moment consumers sometimes wonder, "Am I being scammed?" If you are being directed to make a questionable payment using one of these methods, the answer is probably "Yes."

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During November, there were 5 arrests; 11 911 hang-ups; 15 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 1 breaking and entering; 2 disturbance calls; 20 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 1 mutual aid call; 193 traffic stops; 47 citations issued (20 speeding, 5 registration/inspection, 3 license revoked/expired, 8 other traffic violations, 3 narcotics violations, 7 alcohol violations and 1 other criminal offense); 19 written warnings issued; 382 business checks; 556 foot patrols; and 238 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 157.5 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 68 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In November, responders handled 2 fires, 6 false alarms or false calls, 15 rescue and emergency medical service calls, 1 service call, and 1 good intent call. Personnel participated in 333 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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Fri., March 16	Apr.
Fri., Apr. 13	May
Tues., May 15	June
Fri., June 15	July
Mon., July 16	Aug.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.