

The Season is Here

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Our busy season has arrived and is in full swing. Our community thrives on the visitors who flock to our beaches and enjoy the amenities that Carteret County has to offer. This also means greatly increased traffic and travel times. A trip that would normally take 10 minutes can now take twice as long (or more). Admittedly, the longer travel times and heavier traffic can be frustrating.

Our police officers typically respond to more vehicle crashes on Highway 58 in the summer season, which can cause even more traffic delays. I point this out to remind everyone, including myself, to be patient this summer. Be patient with the visitors who don't know where they are going and are slowing down to look at every street sign they pass. Be patient with the visitors who stop and ask directions or for recommendations for a great place to eat. Be patient with the first responders who are sweating in the heat and trying to get traffic cleared out of the roadway from a vehicle crash.

We all love to tell everyone that we live and work in paradise, so it is only natural that everyone else who doesn't live or work here will want to come take a peek. I hear and see far too many negative comments about locals vs. visitors. Embrace them and help them enjoy what we all love so much.

Since hurricane season has officially started, don't forget to stop by the public safety building to get a hurricane re-entry pass if you don't already have one. It will be extremely difficult to get back on Bogue Banks in the event of a mandatory evacuation without one. Don't wait until eastern North Carolina is in the cone of uncertainty to get a re-entry pass. Our staff is spread thin during that time, and we usually have long lines of individuals who need a last minute pass. Don't be one of those people.

Scam of the month: IRS scams

The IRS scams have popped up again in Pine Knoll Shores. Fortunately, nobody has fallen victim to these scams and everyone has largely ignored them. Remember, the IRS will never call and threaten you with arrest if you do not give them immediate payment or personal information over the phone. If you think it might be a scam, it probably is. Never give out personal information over the phone and hang up.

Hurricane Program

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The Hurricane Good Neighbor Program is not an incentive to remain on the island during a hurricane. Remember that in the event of a Category 3 hurricane, all public safety personnel will leave the island and no one from public safety will be available to provide assistance until after their return. *You will be staying on the island at your own risk.*

Thank you for your participation in this important program.

In Memoriam

Robert Miner

James Pitzer

Brad Thigpen

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During April, there were 6 arrests; 23 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 6 larcenies; 1 damage to property; 4 disturbance calls; 16 assist Fire/EMS calls; 3 motor vehicle collisions; 6 mutual aid calls; 159 traffic stops; 38 citations issued (12 speeding, 1 stop sign/stop light, 3 registration/inspection, 2 license revoked/expired, 10 other traffic violations, 4 narcotics violations and 6 alcohol violations); 17 beach patrols; 325 business checks; 390 foot patrols; and 252 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 156 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 53 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In April, responders handled 4 false alarms or false calls, 2 fires, 2 good intent calls, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) call, 14 rescue and emergency medical service calls and 1 service call. Personnel participated in 404 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
Fri., June 15	July
Mon., July 16	Aug.
Wed., Aug. 15	Sept.
Wed., Sept. 12	Oct.
Wed., Oct. 17	Nov.
Mon., Nov. 11	Dec.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.