

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Refocusing on Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

For the past five months, the majority of the focus of town staff has been on Hurricane Florence recovery. As time goes on, we will return to a state of normalcy and begin focusing on other priorities. As I am pulling together this article in mid-February, I just submitted the application to partner with Watch for Me NC for the third year in a row. We have not forgotten about crosswalk safety, pedestrian safety or bicycle safety. I believe in 2019 you will all see more focus put on our efforts to make Pine Knoll Shores a safe community for walkers, runners and bicyclists alike.

Did you know that each year approximately 3,000 pedestrians and 850 bicyclists are hit by vehicles on North Carolina roadways? That is far too many. In fact, the number of collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists make North Carolina one of the least friendly states to walk, run or bike. Watch for Me NC aims to change that and make North Carolina a pedestrian and bicyclist friendly state.

Watch for Me NC is a comprehensive program run by the NC Department of Transportation. The two key elements to the program are safety and educational messages directed toward drivers, pedestrians and cyclists and high visibility enforcement by police departments to reduce violations of traffic laws.

We first applied to partner with the Watch for Me NC program in the spring of 2017. At the time, we were having a high number of motor vehicle collisions at or near our marked crosswalks. Our police officers stopped a lot of vehicles and issued citations for violations at our crosswalks, but this did not seem to make a difference in the number of vehicle collisions or the voluntary compli-

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TOWN OF

Pine Knoll Shores

100 Municipal Circle • Main – 247-4353 • Fax – 247-4355 • Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Ken Jones – 247-4353, ext. 17 – Two-year term – elected in 2017
mayorjones@townofpks.com

COMMISSIONERS

Four-year terms

Larry Corsello – 247-0262 – elected in 2017 – lcorsello@embarqmail.com
Alicia Durham – 241-8930 – appointed in 2019* – adurham@ec.rr.com
Clark Edwards – 726-7429 – (Mayor pro tempore) elected in 2015 – cse60@hotmail.com
Ted Goetzinger – 422-9879 – elected in 2015 – teddy1nc@gmail.com
Bill Knecht – 622-4038 – elected in 2017 – WLK253@aol.com
*Term expires in 2021

TOWN OFFICIALS

TOWN MANAGER: Brian Kramer – 247-4353, ext. 16 – manager@townofpks.com
TOWN PLANNER: Kevin Reed – 247-4353, ext. 11 – kreed@townofpks.com
TOWN CLERK: Sarah Williams – 247-4353, ext. 13 – swilliams@townofpks.com
FIN & ADMIN: Julie Anderson – 247-4353, ext. 14 – janderson@townofpks.com
TAX COLLECTOR: Erica Reed – 247-4353, ext. 12 – ereed@townofpks.com
PLANNING & INSPECTIONS: Jim Taylor – 247-4353, ext. 18 – biceo@townofpks.com
PUBLIC SERVICES: Sonny Cunningham, Director
247-4353, ext. 27 – SCunningham@townofpks.com

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – 314 Salter Path Road – 247-2268; Fax – 247-2897
POLICE: Chief Ryan Thompson – 247-2474 – rthompson@townofpks.com
FIRE & EMS: Fire Chief Jason Baker – 247-2268 – jbaker@townofpks.com

Emergency: Call 911

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) – 726-1911; Public Safety – 247-2474

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During January, there were 3 arrests; 12 911 hang-ups; 11 alarm activations; 5 animal calls; 1 larceny call; 17 assist Fire/EMS calls; 5 mutual aid calls; 165 traffic stops; 28 citations issued (8 speeding, 6 registration/inspection, 7 license revoked/expired, 5 other traffic violations; 1 alcohol violation, 1 other criminal offense); 3 beach patrols; 366 business checks; 381 foot patrols; 257 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 382 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 70 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During January, responders handled 29 calls: 4 false alarms or false calls, 1 fire, 3 good intent calls and 21 rescue and emergency medical service incidents. Personnel participated in 273 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.

Please see "Have You Heard . . ?" on page 24 for explanations of some of the terms used in the Public Safety report.

The Shoreline

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE ISSUE

Fri., Mar. 15 Apr.

Mon., Apr. 12 May

Mon., May 13 June

Fri., June 14 July

Wed., July 17 Aug.

Wed., Aug. 14 Sept.

Sat., Sept. 14 Oct.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.