

Traffic Safety in PKS

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

A hot topic of conversation in 2019 is traffic safety in our residential areas. It would be safe to assume that the increased number of contractors that have rushed into Carteret County following the destruction of Hurricane Florence are to blame for the majority of traffic violations in our residential areas. That is not always the case, however. Oftentimes drivers that are stopped by our officers for violations of traffic laws are our very own residents. The most common reasons that officers stop a driver in a residential area are for speeding and failing to stop for a stop sign.

Individuals who live in Pine Knoll Shores should have a vested interest in traffic safety and following signs that are posted throughout town. The two biggest complaints that I hear on a regular basis are speeding on Oakleaf Drive and vehicles that don't stop for the stop signs on the tree streets (Juniper, Yaupon, Willow, Holly and Cedar roads).

Not only is it embarrassing to get stopped by a police officer, it can be extremely costly. The total cost for a citation for failing to stop for a stop sign is \$238. This does not account for an insurance increase or attorney fees if you decide to hire one.

It is no secret that thousands of part-time residents and visitors flock to our quaint beach town to visit our beautiful beaches. Inevitably, this means that we typically see an increase in traffic violations throughout Pine Knoll Shores during the warmer months. Help us curb the rise in traffic violations by obeying the posted speed limit and following our traffic signs and signals. In 2011, the American Automobile Association (AAA) completed a study of vehicle speeds related to pedestrian fatalities. The numbers may surprise you:

- 23 mph: 10% chance of pedestrian fatality
- 32 mph: 25% chance of pedestrian fatality
- 42 mph: 50% chance of pedestrian fatality
- 50 mph: 75% chance of pedestrian fatality
- 58 mph: 90% chance of pedestrian fatality

As you can see, an increase by only 8 mph, from 42 to 50, increases by 25% a pedestrian's probability of being killed if he or she is struck by a vehicle. I often hear, "I was only going 10 miles an hour over the speed limit." Hopefully seeing the results from this study will help shed some light on why speeding can be so dangerous. The next time you stop at a stop sign, take a quick look around the area. It is likely that you will find a police officer nearby.

Scam of the Month: Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace

Online websites that allow users to post items for sale such as Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace are a hotbed of activity for scammers. If you are posting an item for sale online, never tell anyone your address. If you have to meet a stranger to complete a transaction, have them meet you at your local police department or sheriff's office. The public safety building in Pine Knoll Shores is a "Transaction Safe Place." You can meet a potential buyer in our parking lot or lobby to complete a transaction. If someone does not want to meet you there, you probably do not want to do business with them anyway. There are far too many reports of robberies that originate from Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace.

CONTENTS

Age-Friendly Community.....	9, 14
At the Aquarium	19
At the Library	23
Caught Doing Something Good	10
Crystal Coast Country Club	8
Current Crossword	27
Current Sudoku.....	27
Events Calendar	21
Fishing and Hunting.....	20
Garden Club	31
History of Pine Knoll Shores	6
Kramer's Korner	26
Mayor's Memo	24
Meet Your Town Staff	7
On the Grill	30
PIKSCO Happenings.....	8
Pine Knoll Shores Commissioners Meeting.....	19
PKA News.....	9
Puzzle Solutions	11
Town Crier.....	16-17
What's Up With PARC?.....	8
Women's Club.....	18



PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During April, there were 9 arrests; 58 911 hang-ups; 12 alarm activations; 17 animal calls; 2 larceny calls; 3 damage to property calls; 15 disturbance calls; 22 assist Fire/EMS calls; 2 motor vehicle collisions; 9 assist other agency calls; 354 traffic stops; 114 citations issued (22 speeding, 10 stop sign/stop light, 11 registration/inspection, 20 license revoked/expired, 44 other traffic violations; 6 narcotics violations and 1 other criminal offense); 29 beach patrols; 346 business checks; 486 foot patrols; 174 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 111 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 41.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During April, responders handled 5 false alarm and false calls, 3 fires, 2 good intent calls, 2 hazardous condition (no fire) calls, 18 rescue and emergency medical service incidents and 2 service calls. Training hours were not available at the time of this report.

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 assets to the community.

The Shoreline

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Fri., June 14	July
Mon., July 15	Aug.
Wed., Aug. 14	Sept.
Sat., Sept. 14	Oct.
Mon. Oct. 14	Nov.
Wed., Nov. 13	Dec.
Wed., Dec. 11	Jan. 2020
Wed., Jan. 15	Feb.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.