

Halloween Safety

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Ghosts, ghouls, goblins, ninjas and superheroes will soon invade our neighborhoods, and they will be looking for candy and treats. That's right—it is almost time for Halloween. I am convinced that adults love Halloween just as much as children. Not only do we get to watch our children dress up, have fun, and hang out with their friends and neighbors, we get to go through the candy first to make sure it is safe . . . and by "go through" I mean pick out the best and eat it.

Over the past 12 years, I have seen the number of children trick-or-treating increase quite a bit. Typically, children gather at Brock Basin on Halloween and go out together as a group. We normally don't have any issues on Halloween other than a speeder here and there, but that is usually prevented with the presence of a few of our police officers.

Here are some good safety tips and advice to make sure Halloween is safe and enjoyable for everyone:

- Drivers are reminded to allow extra travel time if traveling through residential areas—and to *slow down*. Kids are excited on Halloween and don't always look before crossing the street. I can't emphasize this enough.
- Make sure that children are supervised by an adult or by a responsible youth at least 12 years of age.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to use. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Make sure children trick-or-treat in a group.
- Teach your children to only trick-or-treat in well-lit areas and never go into a stranger's home or car. Go over this with your children as Halloween gets closer.
- Establish a return time for trick-or-treaters, and inspect the candy before children eat it.
- If trick or treating after dark, make sure someone in the group has a flashlight so drivers are able to clearly see the group.
- Don't assume that drivers can see your group after dark. Gather children off the roadway when drivers approach.
- Discourage inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During August, there was 5 arrests; 100 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 7 animal calls; 1 larceny call; 1 damage to property call; 12 disturbance calls; 50 assist Fire/EMS calls; 3 motor vehicle collisions; 6 assist other agency calls; 190 traffic stops; 52 citations issued, which included 21 speeding, 2 stop sign/stop light, 3 registration/inspection, 9 license revoked/registration, 25 other traffic violations and 2 drug violations; 51 beach patrols; 417 business checks; 687 foot patrols; and 31 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 20 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 14 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During August, responders handled 16 false alarm or false calls, 4 fires, 6 good intent calls, 35 rescue and emergency medical service incidents and 2 severe weather and natural disaster calls. Personnel participated in 323 training hours for the month.

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
Thurs., Oct. 15	November
Fri., Nov. 13	December
Fri., Dec. 11	January 2021
Thurs., Jan. 14	February
Fri., Feb. 12	March
Mon., Mar. 14	April
Mon., April 12	May
Wed., May 12	June
Wed., June 16	July

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The 19th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.