

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Missing Our Community Events

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

2020—The year of a pandemic, civil unrest on a scale that has not been seen in decades, a presidential election that will be debated for years to come, and the loss of our beloved mayor. I think I can speak for many of you in that my New Year's resolution is to not have a repeat of 2020.

Because of the dangers of COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place by our governor, our Police Department has been forced to scale back our community events during the past year and adapt how we interact with our residents. It has certainly been a challenge that we are still learning how to overcome. Your officers thoroughly enjoy stopping and chatting with residents who are out walking dogs, riding bikes, or enjoying time on our beautiful beach. Our pet adoption and vaccine clinics, community meetings, and Cookout with the Cops events were sorely missed last year. If nothing else, the inability to host those events for the moment is a reminder of how important they are to keeping Pine Knoll Shores the paradise it is.

I have always thought that Pine Knoll Shores is considered paradise for our well-maintained beaches (thanks to Sonny Cunningham's Public Services crew and conscientious citizens), but I know the true reason. Pine Knoll Shores is paradise because of the wonderful friendliness of the people who live here. I have never seen a group of people who are as willing to volunteer or help a neighbor as I have for the past 12 years in Pine Knoll Shores.

Along with the rest of our town staff, I am fortunate to be able to work in such a wonderful place. Navigating all the stressors and challenges of a pandemic would be much more difficult anywhere else. The support from our residents has been second to none and is truly a difference maker. For that, I am incredibly grateful. Here is hoping that we can all get back to some semblance of normal soon. We certainly miss all of you.

Lock every door. The common factor in almost all break-ins is an unlocked door. Pine Knoll Shores, Atlantic Beach and Indian Beach recently had many vehicle break-ins reported. Every victim left the

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During November, there were 5 arrests; 33 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 2 animal calls; 1 larceny call; 3 breaking and entering calls; 12 disturbance calls; 19 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 6 assist other agency calls; 113 traffic stops, which included 12 speeding, 4 registration/inspection, 4 license revoked/registration, 9 other traffic violations, 4 drug violations, 3 alcohol violations and 1 other criminal offense; 10 beach patrols; 413 business checks; 734 foot patrols; and 89 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 122 training hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During November, responders handled 6 false alarm or false calls, 2 fires, 2 good intent calls, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) call, 19 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 2 service calls and 1 special incident call. Personnel participated in 432 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.

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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE ISSUE

Thurs., Jan. 14	February
Fri., Feb. 12	March
Mon., Mar. 14	April
Mon., April 12	May
Wed., May 12	June
Wed., June 16	July
Wed., July 14	August
Fri., Aug. 13	September

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

The 15th of the month prior to desired issue
Articles always welcome.