

# PKS Police Bulletin

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

The world is full of scams, and it does not appear that is going to end anytime soon. Scam telephone calls, text messages and emails have sadly become an everyday fact of life for most of us. Clicking on the wrong link in an email can lead to years of hassle, heartache and potentially devastating financial consequences. According to CNBC, Americans were scammed out of \$29.8 billion due to phone scams alone in 2020 and 2021. The most common question that a police officer gets is not about spotting a potential scam, but what an individual should do after they fall victim. Many people don't know they have become victims of a scam or identity theft until they have been contacted by a financial institution. Early detection can help limit the damage done by an identity thief. Some indicators you should watch out for include:

- You notice errors or unfamiliar transactions on your bank and/or credit card accounts
- Your credit report includes unfamiliar accounts or charges
- You receive collection notices or calls about a debt that is not yours
- Bills, statements or other expected mail or email do not arrive
- Your medical records report a condition you do not have
- You are notified of a data breach at a company that involves your information

If you become a victim of identity theft, act quickly, which can help limit the damage that is done. The first steps you should take are:

- Call any business where you know fraud took place. Ask for the fraud department and request the accounts be closed or frozen so new charges can be prevented.
- Place an initial fraud alert on your files. Contact one of the three major credit bureaus (Experian, TransUnion or Equifax) to report yourself as a victim of identity theft. Whatever credit bureau you contact is required by law to contact the other two. Make sure to request confirmation that this has been done.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During January, there were 26 911 hang-ups; 17 alarm activations; 3 animal calls; 3 larceny calls; 4 damage to property calls; 3 breaking and entering calls; 1 disturbance call; 12 assist Fire/EMS calls; 3 assist other agency calls; 119 traffic stops; 26 citations issued, which included 18 speeding, 7 registration/inspection, 8 license revoked/expired, 1 other traffic violation, and 1 alcohol violation. There were 20 beach patrols, 539 business checks, 543 foot patrols, and 171 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 146 training hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

During January, responders handled 1 fire, 12 rescue and emergency medical service incidents and 4 good intent calls. Personnel participated in 370 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 assets to the community.

The Shoreline

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#### ARTICLE DEADLINE

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Fri., April 15	May
Fri., May 13	June
Mon., June 13	July
Fri., July 15	August
Mon., Aug. 15	September
Fri., Sept. 16	October
Fri., Oct. 14	November
Fri., Nov. 11	December

#### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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