

# PKS Police Bulletin

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

## Thwarting boat thieves

Imagine spending hours getting your boat ready for the big holiday weekend family outing that you have been planning for weeks. Washing, waxing, checking safety gear, checking your fish sonar and monitoring the weather are a lot of work.

You get up early the day of the family outing to go over everything one more time only to find out that your fishing rods, coolers, sonar units, GPS unit, and anything else that wasn't tied down has been stolen off your boat. You also find that the people who owned the boats in the marina slips all around you were victims of theft as well.

This is incredibly frustrating and has the potential to bring your holiday weekend outing to a stop. The good news is that the scenario I just mentioned has not happened yet so there is still time to make sure your weekend plans aren't interrupted by a thief. A fact of life that we should all know is that nothing you do is ever going to guarantee that your property will not get broken into or stolen. Your goal in any effort or security measure you make should be to make your property as inconvenient as possible for someone to take. The hope in any security measure is to prevent someone from believing they can get away with taking your property without getting caught.

One advantage that the marinas in Pine Knoll Shores have is that they are all located in residential neighborhoods—and our town is located in the middle of an island. This means that someone must be truly motivated to drive to our area and risk being seen while navigating our neighborhoods. While the location and geography of our marinas are a natural deterrent, thefts still happen. The last series of thefts from boats was in 2012. Fishing rods, coolers, expensive GPS and sonar units, and a few outboard motors were all taken from boats in our marinas. We were never able to solve those cases, and we believe it was an organized group that was specifically targeting marinas and traveling up and down the east coast.

Security cameras are always a great option, and the technology continues to get cheaper, but that is a decision that likely would have to be made by the

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During March, there were 3 arrests; 35 911 hang-ups; 6 alarm activations; 4 animal calls; 7 disturbance calls; 22 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 3 assist other agency calls; 138 traffic stops; 34 citations issued, which included 1 stop sign/stop light, 22 speeding, 4 registration/inspection, 6 license revoked/expired and 10 other traffic violations. There were 37 beach patrols, 3 bike patrols, 542 business checks, 616 foot patrols and 98 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 104 training hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

During March, responders handled 2 fires, 26 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 6 false alarms, 1 service call, 3 good intent calls and 2 hazardous conditions. Personnel participated in 579 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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Fri., July 15	August
Mon., Aug. 15	September
Fri., Sept. 16	October
Fri., Oct. 14	November
Fri., Nov. 11	December
Thurs. Dec. 15	January 2023

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Articles always welcome.