

PKS Police Bulletin

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

It is hard to believe that the summer is upon us. The smell of sunscreen on the beach and witnessing the celebrations that take place during family vacations are a welcome change to what felt like a long winter. As I write this, we are inching closer to Memorial Day Weekend, which is our official kickoff for our busy season. All our preparations and planning to address the additional needs of our permanent residents, second-home owners and visitors are being implemented. For the sixth year in a row, we have been selected as a partner community for the Watch for Me NC program.

Watch for Me NC is a safety and outreach program that focuses on a combination of education and enforcement to reduce the number of motor vehicle crashes with pedestrians and bicyclists. While we have been going at this on our own for the past six years, this year is different. This year we are partnering with the other Bogue Banks law enforcement agencies, and we formed the Watch for Me NC Bogue Banks Coalition. It is my hope that sharing a common goal and using the same approach to education and enforcement will help make all our communities safer for our pedestrians and bicyclists. I will keep you all updated as we make progress on this new coalition.

In April, I had the pleasure of swearing in two new full-time police officers with our department. Sgt. Kenny Castro comes to us with over 13 years of experience in a coastal community, has an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and several hundred hours of professional training in topics such as investigations, search and seizure, community policing, emergency management, and leadership. Sgt. Castro also has a Community Policing Certificate from the North Carolina Justice Academy, which required him to complete 400 hours of community policing-specific training. He is bilingual and previously served in the United States Marine Corps prior to his law enforcement career. Despite being a New York Yankees fan (kidding, but not really), Sgt. Castro brings a positive attitude and wealth of knowledge to our department.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During April, there were 5 arrests; 36 911 hang-ups; 9 alarm activations; 20 animal calls; 1 larceny call, 1 damage to property call, 8 disturbance calls; 36 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 3 assist other agency calls; 132 traffic stops; 42 citations issued, which included 27 speeding, 7 registration/inspection, 4 license revoked/expired, 4 alcohol violations, 1 other criminal offense, and 10 other traffic violations. There were 51 beach patrols, 3 bike patrols, 495 business checks, 556 foot patrols and 75 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 76 training hours.

FIRE AND EMS

During April, responders handled 27 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 6 false alarms, 4 service calls and 6 good intent calls. Personnel participated in 680 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

email: Shoreline@townofpks.com
www.townofpks.com

EDITOR:

Janie Price 240-2365

EDITORS AT LARGE:

Mary Battista 422-4063
Marilyn Brandt 919-377-2501
Alicia Durham 241-8930

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS:

Frederick S. Boyce 723-6276
Marian Goetzinger 422-9000
Jean McDanal
Barbara Milhaven 240-0678
Valerie Payne
Jim Scanlon 726-4174
Richard Seale 726-0478
Jim Turner 725-0430
Ken Wilkins

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Charlie Rocci 247-4353

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Michelle Dobbs 726-7081

ADVERTISING:

Marie Lawrence 726-7081

ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
Mon., June 13	July
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
Fri., Jan. 13	February
Mon., Feb. 13	March

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

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