

# PKS Police Bulletin

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

It should come as no surprise to anyone reading this that our town experiences a massive influx of second-home owners, visitors and people who are unfamiliar with our area during the warmer months of the year. Because of this, we typically increase our pedestrian and bicycle safety outreach and enforcement. It stands to reason that the more pedestrians and bicyclists who are enjoying our beautiful community, the more negative encounters with motor vehicles they are likely to have. With new home developments going up all over Carteret County, and the impending completion of Interstate 42, it is expected that our county population and tourism will steadily increase for the foreseeable future. With that in mind, we are trying out new community outreach methods to raise awareness and increase the safety of everyone, especially pedestrians and bicyclists.

Historically, North Carolina has been one of the least safe states in our country for pedestrians and bicyclists, with a combined almost 4,000 people struck by vehicles every year. It is because of this, along with concerns we had with our crosswalks, that we joined the Watch for Me NC program in 2017. I have written about the program many times, but if you are unfamiliar with it, please visit [watchformenc.org](http://watchformenc.org) for more information. While we have had great successes with the program, but knowing the challenges that we face in the future, it was time to change things up a bit—so this year we did something a little different.

All four beach police departments combined under the Pine Knoll Shores Watch for Me NC program, and we formed the Bogue Banks Coalition. We have hosted monthly meetings and invited the UNC Highway Safety Research Center and Coastal Bike Impact to join us. Coastal Bike Impact is a local non-profit organization that aims to advocate for cyclists in Carteret County, and you can find out more information about them at [coastalbikeimpact.com](http://coastalbikeimpact.com). At these meetings, the four police departments have combined their efforts to put out unified messaging on things like yielding at crosswalks and sharing the road with bicyclists. We have put up educational posters in the lobbies of hotels, real estate offices and retail establishments, and we are collecting data on all the marked crosswalks on the island with the

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During July, there were 9 arrests; 63 911 hang-ups; 13 alarm activations; 11 animal calls; 2 damage to property calls; 12 disturbance calls; 44 assist Fire/EMS calls; 1 motor vehicle collision; 8 assist other agency calls; 178 traffic stops; 59 citations issued, which included 24 speeding, 20 registration/inspection, 10 license revoked/expired, 1 alcohol violation and 20 other traffic violations. There were 75 beach patrols, 5 bike patrols, 548 business checks, 691 foot patrols and 25 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 154 training hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

During July, responders handled 3 fires, 28 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 17 false alarms, 1 hazardous condition call, 1 special incident call, 1 service call and 5 good intent calls. Personnel participated in 322 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

DUE DATE	ISSUE
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
Mon., Mar. 13	April
Fri., April 14	May

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