

In Memoriam

Yvette Bannen
Linda Corsmeier
Carolyn Gibson Lauffer
Susan Walsh

PKS Police Bulletin

(Continued from page 3)

The One Mind Campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between law enforcement and individuals with mental health conditions. The initiative focuses on uniting local communities, public safety organizations and mental health organizations so that the three become of one mind. To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies must pledge to implement three promising practices over a 12- to 36-month time frame. These practices include:

- 1) Establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with one or more community health organizations
- 2) Developing and implementing a model policy addressing law enforcement response to individuals with mental health conditions
- 3) Training and certifying 100 percent of sworn officers in mental health awareness courses.

I am proud to report that your law enforcement agency in Pine Knoll Shores has been recognized as one of the few One Mind Campaign agencies in North Carolina. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with Integrated Family Services, an approved model policy, and 100% of our officers, including part-time officers, are trained in Crisis Intervention Team Training. Crisis Intervention Team Training, or CIT, is a 40-hour training course that is designed as a jail diversion program and helps officers identify an individual in crisis and get them to medical help faster. The national standard is for departments to train 20% of their staff in CIT. I will never strive for anything less than 100% because I believe it is beneficial to our residents, visitors and officers. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition, and one in 20 Americans lives with a serious mental health condition. These are our relatives, friends and neighbors.

One resource that we desperately need more of in our communities is more mental health care providers and emergency bed spaces. There are a very limited number of bed spaces available in North Carolina, especially in eastern North Carolina, for individuals in a mental health crisis. We simply do not have the community resources that we need, which sadly means our officers are routinely interacting with the same individuals in crisis over and over. Please keep this in mind when you talk to elected officials at the local, state and federal level.

Our officers demonstrate patience, restraint and empathy when responding to these types of situations, and I could not be more proud of their efforts. Mental health conditions impact people from every ethnic group, socio-economic group, people of all ages, and males and females alike. It does not discriminate. Before judging anyone, remember that you do not know what that person has gone through or what their life experience has been.

Good numbers to keep on hand: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 and Suicide and Crisis line: Dial 988.

PIKSCO Happenings

By Tom Kowalski

The PIKSCO Board of Directors would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. Hopefully, everyone was able to enjoy some events that were held in our parks over the last couple of months, which included Music in the Park, the annual Turkey Trot and the Christmas Flotilla. We love our parks and our local events; please continue to help keep the parks beautiful by always leaving them better than you found them.

As we reported last month, we are looking at placing a living sea wall at Garner Park to help protect the shoreline. Living sea walls can be made with three different types of materials: bagged oyster shells, granite or man-made quick reef. PIKSCO may be eligible for a grant of \$55/foot, or a max of \$10,000, in the building of the sea wall through the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF). We are currently waiting on quotes for all three options; however, we have been told that the cost of sea walls ranges from \$130 to \$200 per foot, so we will need to come up with between \$75 and \$145 per square foot, plus. If you are interested in more information on the types of living seawalls, visit NCCF's website at nccoast.org.

We are also discussing, watching and researching options for the sea wall at McNeill Park. While the wall has not completely failed, it is always something that we need to be watching closely.

Please be invested in your homeowners association. Our meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at McNeill Park (weather permitting) or at town hall. If you are a PIKSCO member, please be certain that we have a current email address on file so you will receive our newsletters, which are sent via email.

PIKSCO contact. For questions, concerns, to express a willingness to volunteer or to offer feedback, please feel free to contact our Secretary/Treasurer Erica Reed by call/text at 252-247-4818, email at pikSCO@gmail.com, through our website at pikSCO.com or by mail at PO Box 366, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512.



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