

Police Report

In December there were 84 calls for service, including six assist other agencies, seven assist fire/EMS, seven Town ordinance violations, 19 welfare checks and four alarms.

There were 21 citations issued involving 24 charges: three driving while impaired, six speeding, one driving while license suspended, one seat belt violation, one drug violation, six alcohol violations and seven all other. Eleven warning tickets were issued. There were 134 residence checks and 375 business checks.

Fire/EMS Report

During December there were eight EMS calls and six fire calls. Of the eight EMS calls, six required transportation and three required paramedic assistance. Average response time was 4:23 minutes. The six fire calls were for two structure fires, one hazardous material incident and three activated alarms. Average response time was 5:30 minutes. Semi-annual hydrant checks were conducted in January.

Garbage, Yard Waste Guidelines

Here are some things to remember when placing items out for pick-up by the garbage collection service.

All garbage must be in containers not exceeding 35 gallon capacity. Heavy duty plastic trash bags are acceptable. The containers must not be put out more than 12 hours before scheduled collection and must be taken in within 12 hours after collection.

Yard waste is collected on the last Thursday of each month. It must not be put out more than 72 hours prior to the collection date. Debris, leaves, straw, shrubbery and bush clippings, grass and weed trimmings must be bagged, boxed or placed in approved containers. Limbs, shrubbery and other materials must not be longer than 4 feet and must be tied in bundles not larger than 18 inches in diameter and not to exceed 50 pounds. Put yard waste in front of your property, not on the property of someone else. **Note:** Citations will be issued to those who do not comply

Waste Industries picks up white goods on Fridays. You must call Waste Industries to schedule a pick-up. The removal fee is \$25.00. Bulk items are collected once a year in October.

A Reminder

You can help the recycling effort of the town immensely by disposing of your cardboard in the recycling bin behind Town Hall.

Funds to Cover Debris Cleanup Costs Expected

The Town is expecting to receive in the not too distant future some \$177,000 in federal and state funds as reimbursement for monies expended on the removal of debris that littered the community after the passage of Hurricane Ophelia last September.

Emergency Services Director Bill Matthias reported last month that all of the necessary paperwork to apply for reimbursement had

been completed and filed and that federal and state agencies were taking the final steps toward actual payment. Some \$170,000 of the total is for debris removal, while an additional \$7,000 will cover the cost of time expended by Town personnel and the use of Town equipment. The federal government is responsible for 75 percent of the reimbursement, with the remainder is coming from the state.

Aquarium Seeks 200 Volunteers

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, reopening in May after a \$25 million expansion, is now recruiting volunteers.

The new Aquarium is three times larger than the original, and Volunteer Coordinator Chris Carlin expects to double the previous volunteer force to 200.

Chris met with an enthusiastic crowd of returning volunteers in January at the Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall. She is currently recruiting both veterans and newcomers for Education positions and the new Information Desk. Most positions carry a commitment of 2-4 hours per week for a year.

Information Desk volunteers will answer questions about the Aquarium and the local area. For the Education department, Chris is looking for guides for the five major galleries representing the state's aquatic zones -- Mountain, Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Tidal Waters and Ocean. The new Aquarium's theme is "From North Carolina's Mountains to the Sea." Some displays, such as the Sportfishing exhibit, call for interpreters with special expertise.

Other Education positions include:

- Classroom assistants for crafts and educational activities
- Interpreters for touch tanks and Discovery Carts
- Media assistants to help with audio/visual equipment
- School-group greeters

Contact Chris at 252-247-4003, or at Christine.Carlin@ncmail.net for more information. Chris will talk with applicants and ask them to complete a questionnaire to help match interests with positions. More information and an application form for these positions are on the Aquarium's website, www.ncaquariums.com.

The new Volunteer Dive Program will begin recruiting certified divers later this month. Applications for volunteer Husbandry and operational positions, and the special summer Junior Volunteer Program for ages 15-18, will be accepted in the spring.

The website also carries updates on the expansion and other information about the new Aquarium.

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Public Safety Building

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After Hours Non-emergency Phone for Police: 504-4800

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