

Dog Ordinance Concerns

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Chief of Police

In recent weeks I have received numerous questions regarding our ordinances on dogs. Dogs are popular pets in Pine Knoll Shores, which means violations of our local ordinances are likely to occur more frequently due to the sheer number of dogs in town. Let's take a look at some of the areas that I am commonly asked about in our ordinances:

- Dogs are required to be on a leash at all times while on public streets, public property and the beach. The leash must be no longer than 16 feet and must be in hand at all times. This includes if the dog is near the ocean or is playing in the ocean.
- No resident shall keep more than three dogs on their premises.
- Loud continuous barking from a dog is considered to be a violation of our Noise Ordinance.

I have also been asked how a police officer handles a situation if he or she observes someone with a dog that is not on a leash. The officer will make contact with the individual and ask if he/she is aware of our ordinance requiring a dog to be on a leash. Typically the answer is "no." The officer will educate the individual on our ordinance and the requirement for a leash and ask that corrective action be taken. The majority of the time the situation is resolved and does not require any further action on the officer's part. We try to handle violations of our ordinance through education instead of issuing citations unless there is an extenuating circumstance such as an aggressive dog or property damage.

If you see someone with a dog off leash, please call and report the incident to our Communications Center at 726-1911. Callers can remain anonymous if they wish.

Scam of the Month

The scenario can go this way: you receive a call from someone who claims to be a representative of a utility company. The caller says that your payments are past due and that your service will be disconnected if you don't pay immediately. After obtaining your bank account or credit card number, the scammer makes withdrawals from your account. In some variations of this scam, you are asked to wire money to a distant city in order to avoid interruption of service.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative does not handle collection of overdue bills in this way. "We will never call our members to demand immediate payment," says Cheryl Slater, CCEC Vice President of Customer Service. "They will get past due notification before we disconnect power for nonpayment."

If you ever doubt the identity of someone claiming to represent your electric provider over the phone, hang up and call your utility. CCEC members can call 247-3107 or 800-682-2217 with questions regarding their utility bills.

Sources: NC Department of Justice (www.ncdoj.com) and Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

In Memoriam

Gerry Walters
Emily White

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During July, there were 2 arrests; 29 incident reports initiated, generated by citizen calls or officer observations; 19 incident reports investigated; 15 incident reports closed or cleared; 41 state citations; 53 written warnings issued; 91 verbal warnings issued; 163 business checks; 247 residential checks; and 249 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 92 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 42.5 hours.

FIRE & EMS

In July, there were 7 false alarms or false calls, 4 fires, 1 good intent call, 3 hazardous condition (no fire) incidents, 27 rescue and emergency medical service incidents and 4 service calls. Personnel participated in 388 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 an asset to the community.

The Shoreline

252-247-4353 ext. 19

e-mail: Shoreline@townofpks.com

www.townofpks.com

EDITOR:

Janie Price 240-2365

EDITORS AT LARGE:

Marilyn Brandt 919-828-4231

John Brodman 726-7643

Carla Dowler 808-3945

Sherryl Janosko

910-362-8765

Betty Johnson 247-7389

Phyllis Makuck 726-8776

Dennis Tomaso 622-4400

CONTRIBUTING

REPORTERS:

Yvette Bannen 240-1528

Paige Gillespie

Marian Goetzinger 422-9000

Henry Kahen 269-5600

Charlie McBriarty 726-0602

Jean McDanal

Barbara Milhaven 240-0678

Jacquie Pipkin 622-0340

Jim Scanlon 726-4174

Richard Seale 726-0478

Kathy Falandys Tilyard

247-7221

Jim Turner

240-2474

Ken Wilkins

CIRCULATION MANAGER:

Scott Sherrill 247-4353

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Lianne Won-Reburn 646-1713

ADVERTISING:

Marie Lawrence 726-7081

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Articles always welcome.