

# End of the Season

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Another busy summer season in paradise is behind us. It is hard to believe because it feels like it was just yesterday that town staff was preparing for Memorial Day weekend. It was a great summer for the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department, and I would like to thank every resident of Pine Knoll Shores for partnering with us to make that happen. As everyone begins to make plans for the off-season, there are some things I would like you to keep in mind.

If traveling this off-season, please remember to sign up for our Out-of-Town Checklist. An officer or Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) will check your residence several times a week to ensure that it is secured. It is easy to sign up with a quick trip to the Public Safety Building to fill out a registration form. I highly encourage everyone to participate in this program.

If you will be out of town during some of the colder months, it is recommended that you turn your water off to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. This only takes a minute and could possibly save a hefty water bill or water damage to your home in the event of a broken water pipe. If you have any questions about your water system, please contact Interim Public Works Director Sonny Cunningham at 247-4353, ext. 27, or psd@townofpks.com, and he will be glad to assist you.

This is the time of year that we typically see a rise in residential break-ins. If you see anything or anyone out of place or suspicious, please call and report it to our dispatch center at 726-1911. If someone or something looks "wrong," then it probably is. The Police Department solves more cases working with and partnering with citizens than we do on our own. Be sure to lock the doors on your house and vehicle, do not leave items of value in view of the public, and take a home inventory and record make/model/serial number of valued items—including pictures, if possible.

If you have not picked up your hurricane re-entry pass from the Public Safety Building, it's not too late to get it. Bring identification or a utility bill with you to get it. Hurricane season isn't over, and you will need that pass to return to your home after a damaging storm requiring an evacuation. Let's keep our fingers crossed that it remains an uneventful hurricane season.

## Scam of the Month

**The "Grandma, it's me" scam.** Seniors get a call from someone posing as their grandchild who claims to have been arrested or in an accident while away from home. The phony grandchild says he or she doesn't want to bother Mom and Dad, and asks Grandma or Grandpa to send some money and keep it a secret. Victims may get a follow-up call from someone posing as a police officer, requesting more money on the grandchild's behalf.

Several recent victims of this scam told law enforcement they knew their grandchildren were on a trip, and that made the con more plausible. Grandparent scammers also sometimes use information they find on social networking sites like Facebook to make their impersonation more realistic.

—Source: ncdoj.gov

## In Memoriam

Hulda Argus  
Marjorie Green  
Robert Warnke

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

### POLICE

During August, there were 10 arrests; 42 incident reports initiated, generated by citizen calls or officer observations; 18 incident reports investigated; 29 incident reports closed or cleared; 30 state citations; 39 written warnings issued; 41 verbal warnings issued; 144 business checks; 201 residential checks; and 297 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 85 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 46.5 hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

In August, there were 2 fires, 33 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 3 hazardous condition (no fire) incidents, 2 service calls, 1 good intent call and 7 false alarms or false calls. Personnel participated in 506 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.

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Articles always welcome.