

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

# PKS Police Department Partners With NC Wildlife Volunteers

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department recently formed a partnership with the NC Wildlife Sea Turtle Program here in Pine Knoll Shores. Volunteers with the Sea Turtle Program do daily checks down the entire beach strand, looking for the formation of a new sea turtle nest. Once a sea turtle nest is located, the volunteers mark the nest with signs and monitor it to prevent tampering and allow the nest and eggs to reach their full potential.

Beginning in May, our Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) began using the town's four-wheel-drive beach vehicles for what I have begun to call "Sea Turtle Patrol." VIPS members Liz Mauser, Danny Frye, and newcomer Jayne Keifer go out almost daily in search of new nesting sites.

This partnership benefits everybody involved. The Sea Turtle Program gets the benefit of our beach vehicles, which cuts down on the amount of time it takes to cover our beach strand, and our VIPS get the benefit of giving even more back to the community and being an integral part of preserving an endangered species.

The driving force behind this partnership was VIPS member Liz Mauser. I am always looking for new ways for our volunteers to contribute to the community and to the Police Department, and Ms. Mauser brought the possibility of a partnership to my attention. I would also like to thank Peggy Deneau, volunteer coordinator for the Sea Turtle Program in Pine Knoll Shores, for helping to solidify the partnership.

At the time this article was written, VIPS have already volunteered over 25 hours on Sea Turtle Patrol. If you see them on the beach, please stop and thank them for their service.

## Scam of the Month: Surprise Prize Check Scam

Unannounced and via overnight courier, you receive a check for \$500,000 drawn on the account of a major corporation. It comes with a cover letter stating that you have won a major prize in an overseas contest. The letter says you should deposit the check immediately. Your bank may initially indicate that the check appears to be drawn on a valid account. Later that day, you receive a call from the scammers informing you that taxes were not deducted from the check, and a stop payment order will have to be placed unless \$10,000 to \$30,000 is wired immediately. Days after you wire the money out of the country, your bank informs you that the prize check was counterfeit—and you are out the money you wired. As in all things, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do not be caught by this scam; the goal of the scammers is to separate you from your hard-earned money.

—Source: ncdoj.gov

## *In Memoriam*

**Lee Brown  
Everette Edwards**

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During May, there were 5 arrests; 30 911 hang-ups; 12 alarm activations; 11 animal calls; 2 larceny calls; 1 damage to property; 1 breaking or entering; 19 disturbance/domestic calls; 26 assist Fire/EMS; 2 motor vehicle collisions; 21 traffic hazards; 126 traffic stops; 30 citations issued (3 speeding, 8 registration/inspection, 3 license revoked/expired, 1 other traffic violation, 9 narcotics violations, 6 alcohol violations); 28 written warnings issued; 257 business checks; 177 residential checks; and 308 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 164.7 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 83.5 hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

In May, responders handled 1 fire, 5 false alarms or false calls, 2 good intent calls and 19 rescue and emergency medical service incidents. Personnel participated in 436 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](http://www.townofpks.com)

### EDITOR:

Janie Price 240-2365

### EDITORS AT LARGE:

Mary Battista 422-4063  
Marilyn Brandt 919-377-2501  
John Brodman 726-7643  
Carla Dowler 808-3945  
Phyllis Makuck 726-8776  
Dennis Tomaso 622-4400

### CONTRIBUTING

#### REPORTERS:

Paige Gillespie  
Marian Goetzinger 422-9000  
Charlie McBriarty 726-0602  
Jean McDanal  
Barbara Milhaven 240-0678  
Jacquie Pipkin 622-0340  
Jim Scanlon 726-4174  
Richard Seale 726-0478  
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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Wed., Sept. 14	Oct.
Fri., Oct. 14	Nov.
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Mon., Dec. 12	Jan.

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The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.