FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF Rich Donoghue Recognized for Volunteerism

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

Pine Knoll Shores resident receives Coastal Community Action Volunteer of the Year award

In early June I nominated Richard Donoghue to be considered for the Coastal Community Action RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Volunteer of the Year award. Rich has been a volunteer with our Police Department for over two years and has volunteered several hundred hours of his time to make Pine Knoll Shores an even better place to live and vacation. In addition, he also became a volunteer fire fighter with our Fire Department last year.

When I heard about the award, Rich was the first person who came to my mind. Rich can always be counted on to assist our officers in any way. He routinely completes our "Out of Town" checklist program, has helped with some of our regular welfare checks, and has conducted beach patrols. Rich can be seen volunteering at any number of special events throughout Pine Knoll Shores, including the Kayak for the Warriors events, Trick or Treat Under the Sea at the North Carolina Aquarium and the various parades during holidays. There were two incidents in particular that I will not forget and for which I remain forever grateful.

As part of our Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program, our volunteers will occasionally go on a ride along with a police officer to get a better idea of what our officers are tasked with doing on a daily basis. On one such ride along, an officer received a call about an intoxicated individual. The individual became combative with the officer, resulting in a struggle to make an arrest. Without hesitation or fear of injury to himself, Rich jumped out of the passenger seat of the patrol vehicle and assisted the officer. Although this was not something that I expect any of our volunteers to do, Rich was determined to help the officer.

The other incident involved a drowning victim for whom we had difficulty finding an identity. Officers knocked on dozens of hotel and residence doors, hoping to find the family of the unfortunate victim. We flooded the area with business cards and requests to call the Police Department with any potential information on the victim. This incident occurred during the night hours on a weekend, and I needed someone to take phone calls that came in to the Police Department. I called Rich and within five minutes he was at the Public Safety Building ready to assist in any way he could. He helped us make phone calls, took phone calls, and went on a beach patrol that night with a police officer in hopes of finding family members of the victim.

(Continued on page 4)

In Memoriam **Frances Miller Karen Rice**

CONTENTS

Pine Knoll Shores Commissioners Meetings	6
Age-Friendly Community6	, 12
Country Club News	
Current Puzzle Solutions	
Current Sudoko	12
Get to Know Your Commissioner	15
Town Crier	5-17
At the Library	18
Fishing and Hunting	
PKA News	
Kramer's Korner	20
PIKSCO Happenings	21
Mayor's Memo	22
At the Aquarium	23
Women's Club	24
Book Talk	25
On the Grill	
History of Pine Knoll Shores	26
From the Neighbor's Kitchen	
K4TW Recognition of Donors	28
Current Crossword	30
What's Up With PARC?	
Events Calendar	



POLICE

During June there were 8 arrests; 35 911 hang-ups; 13 alarm activations; 8 animal calls; 1 larceny; 4 breaking and entering calls; 15 disturbances; 23 assist Fire/EMS calls; 3 motor vehicle collisions; 40 traffic hazards; 102 traffic stops; 22 citations issued (5 speeding, 4 other traffic violations, 11 narcotics violations, 2 alcohol violations); 32 written warnings issued; 181 business checks; 181 residential checks; and 269 foot patrols in residential areas, parks, beach accesses and businesses. Police personnel participated in 318.5 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 109.5 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In June responders handled 4 fires, 5 false alarms or false calls, 1 good intent call, 6 service calls and 20 rescue and emergency medical service incidents. Personnel participated in 139,5 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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ARTICLE DEADLINE

DUE DATE	ISSUE
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Wed., Sept. 14	Oct.
Fri., Oct. 14	Nov.
Fri., Nov. 11	Dec.
Mon., Dec. 12	Jan.
Fri., Jan. 13	Feb.
Mon., Feb 13	Mar.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.

3