

The Holiday Season Is Upon Us

By Ryan Thompson, Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief

It seems like just last week I packed my holiday decorations at the back of my attic and started thinking about breaking out the summer clothes to prepare for the warmer weather that was just around the corner. It is hard to believe the Christmas shopping rush has arrived and families are looking forward to putting up a Christmas tree. Unfortunately, the Christmas season doesn't bring only joy, cheer, presents and eggnog. We tend to see an increase in property crime and scams around the end of the year as well. My goal is to make crime as hard to commit in Pine Knoll Shores as possible so that eventually the criminals will stop coming here. You can do your part to bring this about by following these guidelines:

- Lock your car doors and do not leave anything of value in plain sight.
- Do not put empty boxes for expensive electronics at the curb for pickup. Break the boxes down and put them in the recycle bin or take them to the recycle container at Lot C. Putting an empty box for a 70-inch flat screen television at the end of your driveway is akin to putting a flashing sign on your front door that you have expensive items inside your home.
- If leaving to go out of town, sign up for our Residential Check program by stopping by the Public Safety Building. Officers and volunteers will check your property to ensure doors and windows remain secured and no unauthorized access is gained to your property. Signing up will take only a few minutes of your time.
- Before leaving town, close your blinds and lock your windows, and ensure all exterior doors are locked. If you are able to do so, consider getting a timed exterior light or motion sensor lighting for your home.
- Be extremely cautious of door-to-door solicitors as noted below in "Scam of the Month."
- Never give personal information to someone over the phone. A legitimate banking organization, credit card company, or the Internal Revenue Service will never call and request personal information from you.
- If you see someone or something that looks out of place, please call and report it to the communications center at 726-1911 so that a police officer can be quickly dispatched to your location. We solve and prevent more crimes with help from citizens of Pine Knoll Shores than we do on our own. This partnership is extremely important to us.

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In Memoriam
Bruce Chadwick

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PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

During October, there were 8 arrests; 17 911 hang-ups; 14 alarm activations; 2 animal calls; 3 larcenies; 1 breaking and entering; 2 disturbances; 14 assist Fire/EMS; 1 motor vehicle collision; 19 traffic hazards; 72 traffic stops; 13 citations issued (4 speeding, 2 registration/inspection violations, 3 license revoked/expired, 1 other traffic violation, 2 narcotics violations and 1 other criminal offense); 9 written warnings issued; 141 business checks; 162 residential checks; and 318 foot patrols. Police personnel participated in 141 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 63 hours.

FIRE AND EMS

In October, responders handled 1 fire, 7 false alarms or false calls, 1 hazardous condition (no fire) call, 19 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, and 1 service call. Personnel participated in 340 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
Mon., Dec. 12	Jan.
Fri., Jan. 13	Feb.
Mon., Feb 13	Mar.
Wed., Mar. 15	Apr.
Fri., Apr. 14	May

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.