

Sunset Beach Police Woman Stresses Positive Thinking

BY DOUG RUTTER

"I think anybody can handle any situation at any time if they put their mind to it. But if you put negative thoughts in their head, they're going to think negative."

That's the attitude of Anna Redmond—a wife and mother of two who happens to serve the Town of Sunset Beach as a police officer.

A 33-year-old native of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the female patrolman is a graduate of Arlington High School and has roots in a large Italian family with 14 brothers and sisters.

Following her first marriage and a stint as owner of an Italian restaurant, Mrs. Redmond went to work for Atlantic Design Company, a subsidiary of IBM in upstate New York. She was later transferred to Charlotte where she helped establish a computer and electronics manufacturing plant and train approximately 200 employees.

After nearly eight years in that field, she taught electronics and new industry training for one year at Alamance College before moving to Brunswick County about four years ago. She lives in the Shallotte area with her husband of the past seven years, James M. Redmond.

Approximately two years ago, she entered the field of law enforcement. Sponsored by the Town of Sunset Beach, she was trained at Cape Fear Technical College in Wilmington and started as a part-time, auxiliary officer for the town.

Following the retirement of Joe O'Brien Jr. from the Sunset Beach Police Department last February, she was promoted to full-time status as a patrol officer.

One of five department members, Mrs. Redmond said she is called on to wear many hats as a police officer at Sunset Beach. Her duties range from investigations and assisting rescue efforts to helping tourists and directing traffic across the town's one-lane, pontoon bridge.

She explains her duties in these simple terms: "If something happens, you just need to handle it, no matter what it is."

As the only female in the department and the only female municipal officer in the South Brunswick Islands, Mrs. Redmond said handling various situations have not presented problems so far.

"In law enforcement, you just have to prove yourself, whether you're male or female."

—Anna Redmond
Sunset Beach Police

"You have some people that find it difficult to work with females, but they get used to it eventually," she said. "In law enforcement, you just have to prove yourself, whether you're male or female."

Mrs. Redmond noted that her husband had some trouble adjusting to her occupation at first. "He just wishes that I could be home more than I am," she said. "If he had his way, I would be working a nine-to-five."

However, she has no plans of leaving the force of law enforcement anytime soon and encourages other females to enter the field. "It's got it's ups and downs, but overall I enjoy it because it's always something different," she said. "Right now, I couldn't see me being in anything else."

Despite the number of siblings, she is the only member of her family in law enforcement. "Most of my brothers and sisters work for IBM or do their own thing—own their own business," she said.

"It's just something I always wanted to do," she said of law enforcement. "I just enjoy working with people, and it's not the same thing every day. You get a variety."

Although she admits that police work at Sunset Beach, especially during the winter months, can be boring, Mrs. Redmond said police officers must always be on their toes.

"All police work is dangerous at one time or another," she said. "We take every call seriously because the day you get slack is the day you're going to get killed."



SUNSET BEACH POLICE OFFICER Anna Redmond discusses a case with Police Chief William Hill.

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