

# Officer Wants To Reduce Opportunities For Crime

BY SUSAN USHER

Anna Redmond says community involvement is the key to making Sunset Beach a crime-free town—and that is her goal as the Sunset Beach Police Department's new crime prevention officer.

"Why make it easy for the criminal?" she asked in a recent interview. When you do, she said, two victims result—the person whose property or person has been injured and the community as a whole.



REDMOND

"This way, working together, community residents can feel safer," she said.

Much of crime prevention involves simply changing habits or looking at things from a different perspective, she suggested, such as learning to lock car and house doors, to not leave cash registers unattended, to alert police to suspicious activities, to mount house numbers to speed police response in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Redmond has been a patrol officer with the department since September 1987, but is now gearing up for her new responsibilities. She said crime prevention is important, even in a small community like Sunset Beach.

"We have such a variety of people down here you just can't take it (security) for granted," she said. "also, there's nothing for the kids to do. I hope I can involve them in the program in some way."

"It's going to take a while to get them in place," she said.

She plans to develop a full range of crime prevention programs, starting work with the business community after the holidays and then expanding gradually into residential areas as she recruits volunteers to help with programs such as Community Watch and Operation ID.

After holding a general meeting with local business owners, Ms. Redmond plans to offer free security surveys of business premises by appointment. Her services will include instruction in ways to help prevent robbery or burglary or theft by employees; identifying potential shoplifters and robbers; and what steps to take in the event of a robbery or theft.

Through Operation I.D., which will start a little later in the year, Ms. Redmond wants to encourage residents of the town to engrave an identification number on all property, such as their driver's license, to deter theft and improve chances of recovery in the event of a theft.

She also wants to recruit volunteers to begin a Community Watch program, dividing the island and mainland areas of the community by streets or housing clusters into groups. Members will learn how to improve the security of their own homes and persons, as well as the neighborhood as a whole.

Ms. Redmond has a particular concern for the elderly, who happen to be a major target of criminal activity and also happen to make up a large segment of the town's population. Their safety can be increased through simple steps that range from learning how to walk down the street properly to having the shrubbery trimmed around their homes, she said. The elderly also need to learn how to recognize common scams, which often involve home improvements or maintenance.

For the programs to succeed, Ms. Redmond says she will need community volunteers, and contributions of equipment and materials or the funds with which to buy them. Her needs include a videocassette recorder, 16mm film projector, desk, computer, audiovisuals, engraving tools, seat belt use awards, gifts of locks or lighting materials that can be used as incentives for implementing other security measures, funds to buy activity materials and refreshments for various special events and activities.

Other programs are possibilities as well, depending upon community interest and support. "I'm kind of leaving it open for suggestions as to what is needed," she said. "If we see a need, we may start some programs geared toward women and/or children."

Ms. Redmond is proud of Sunset Beach's low crime rate, but it could be even better, she said. "We would like to make Sunset Beach a crime-free community."

Any Sunset Beach residents or property owners interested in supporting the crime prevention program can call Officer Redmond at the town police department, 579-2151.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Local Volunteers Honored

Norma Buckbee (left) and Shirley Campbell are shown accepting Governor's Awards for outstanding volunteer service and "State of the Hearts" pins from Gov. James Martin at an eastern regional reception and awards ceremony held at East Carolina University. Mrs. Buckbee was honored for her volunteer work with the Brunswick County Literacy Council, while Mrs. Campbell was honored for her work as volunteer coordinator for Lower Cape Fear Hospice's Brunswick County office. Also receiving awards, but not present for the reception, were Pearl Aldridge, Doshier Hospital volunteers, and Pfizer Inc., both of Southport.

# Winnabow Driver Hurt After Truck Overtakes

A Winnabow teenager was seriously injured Monday after his pickup truck overturned several times in an accident on N.C. 87 near Bolivia.

Larry Neal Young Jr., 16, was charged by State Trooper T. W. Caulder with an unsafe movement and seat belt violation following the 3:15 p.m. wreck.

According to Trooper Caulder's report, Young was traveling north on N.C. 87 when he attempted to pass another vehicle about 3.7 miles north of Bolivia. His 1990 Toyota pickup then struck the side of a third vehicle which had slowed to make a left turn into a private driveway.

Stephen A. Raleigh, 17, of Bolivia was uninjured when the Young vehicle struck the left side of his 1987 Ford pickup. Young's truck then slid out of control and overturned several times, Trooper Caulder reported.

Young was taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

Damage was estimated at \$6,000 to the Young truck and \$2,500 to the Raleigh truck.

In another accident last Thursday, a Shallotte woman was injured

when she attempted to make a U-turn on U.S. 17 just north of Shallotte and pulled into the path of another vehicle.

Sherry Kay Inman, 20, was taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply where she was treated and released in good condition, said Frances Fowler, hospital spokesperson.

Ms. Inman was charged with an unsafe movement violation by State Trooper B. L. Wilkes in the 5:30 p.m. accident.

According to Trooper Wilkes' report, Ms. Inman was traveling north on U.S. 17 when she pulled onto the right shoulder and attempted a U-turn. Her 1989 Ford pickup collided with a 1985 Nissan driven by Ricky James Wester, 24, of Shallotte.

Wester also received minor injuries and was taken to the Brunswick Hospital. A passenger in the Inman car, Chandee Conner, 3, was also transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

Damage was estimated at \$6,000 to the Wester car and \$4,500 to the Inman truck.

In another accident early Sunday, a Shallotte man was injured when his car ran off the road and struck a tree before hitting a house on N.C.

# Alzheimer's Victim Found; Mother, Son Said Missing

An 86-year-old Alzheimer's patient reported missing Sunday was later found in Tarboro, about 130 miles from his Riegelwood area home in northern Brunswick County. Meanwhile, authorities are still searching for a mother and child reported missing from their Leland home since last Friday.

David Ashley Caldwell of Mayfair Estates told Brunswick County Sheriff deputies that his wife and 7-year-old son were last seen Friday evening driving toward a shopping center in Leland. He reported them missing Saturday around 4:30 p.m.

Kathy Lunsford Caldwell, 37, and Mathew David Caldwell were in a 1980 two-door, white, Ford Thunderbird when they were last seen around 3:05 p.m. Friday. A neighbor spotted them driving toward the shopping area.

Ms. Caldwell is confined to a wheelchair but can drive a vehicle.

She reportedly has her medication with her.

Caldwell told Deputy Joseph Scoggins that he became concerned when his son did not return from school. Ms. Caldwell was last seen wearing a green sweater and blue jeans. The boy was also wearing blue jeans and tennis shoes.

Authorities were able to locate the Riegelwood man after issuing a statewide search for the Nissan pickup he was driving. Police in Tarboro stopped the vehicle and notified the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department around 11:30 p.m.

The Riegelwood man had been seen earlier in the day traveling east on U.S. 74-76 toward Wilmington. His granddaughter told Deputy Scoggins that he was last seen around 5 p.m.

He is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, which affects the central nervous system causing premature senility and memory loss.

estimated at \$1,000 to the car and \$50 to the Spencer yard.

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