

Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #80 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:



Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin

- **Tis the Season:**

With the advent of quick package delivery, there are many times that holiday packages are left on front doorsteps. Unfortunately, this has given rise to the “**Package Pirates**”, which are thieves that quickly run up and snatch packages off victim’s front doorsteps. Often, they will ring a doorbell first to see if anyone is home before committing their crime. Some residents now are buying doorbells which activate video cameras as a crime prevention tool. In Ocean Pines we had a recent case where a resident spotted an individual trying to take a package off a front porch. The video of this incident was utilized by us to identify the individual who attempted to steal a package.

- **Officers Assaulted:**

As a large residential community, police often deal with mental health issues, which sometimes can turn violent. Recently, our officers were dispatched to a residence where an individual was having a violent mental health issue. In an effort to control the individual, two of our police officers were assaulted before they were successful in controlling the individual, who was quite large. Once in custody, the subject was transported to Peninsula Regional Medical Center where he was evaluated and sent to a mental health hospital in secure custody.

Every week in our community we deal with mental health issues in some form. As you see on television, sometimes these events turn violent.

- **First Degree Burglary Arrest:**

A 36 year old female, believed to be homeless, entered several unlocked residences, taking minor articles from each residence. In one case, the resident was in the shower, and confronted the burglar, who fled the scene. Police were able to apprehend the suspect and charge her with several counts of burglary. Many homeless individuals have mental health issues which contribute to their condition.

These cases once again point out the need for basic crime prevention in Ocean Pines. Although Ocean Pines has a relatively low crime rate, **no community is immune from crime**. Had these victims locked their doors, and not taken safety for granted, they may not have become victims.

- **Domestic Violence Arrests:**

Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made two arrests for domestic violence. In another case, our police officers served an arrest warrant for a suspect wanted in Salisbury, Maryland for the attempted strangulation of his girlfriend. The suspect had re-located to Ocean Pines.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Police made two (2) driving while intoxicated arrests since our last Bulletin. With the holiday season in full swing, and parties to be attended, please use a designated driver or cab if you intend to drink to a level that affects your ability to safely drive. Police often hear the old, "I only had TWO drinks" when they stop an intoxicated driver!

- **Death Investigations:**

Every death that occurs in Ocean Pines requires a police investigation. While majority of these deaths are for natural health causes, other deaths require extensive investigation. Since our last report, police investigated a suicide death, by hanging. The victim appears to have had some mental health issues, with previous contact with the police. In addition to this tragic death, police also investigated two other deaths, which were determined to be by natural causes.

- **Disorderly Conduct Arrest:**

Disorderly conduct involves more than a police officer's opinion. It requires a disturbance of the public peace, with one or more citizens as the victim of the disturbance. Police arrested a local individual who continually disturbed his neighborhood with intoxicated ranting that kept up the neighborhood.

- **Special Events:**

The success that Ocean Pines has had in attracting more special community events often requires traffic control for vehicles and pedestrians to these events. Our Neighborhood Watch personnel, as well as our uniformed officers, are responsible for public safety at these events. These recent events required our presence:

1. Ocean Pines Tree Lighting
2. Health Fair
3. Veteran's Memorial Veteran's Day Ceremony
4. Thanksgiving Day 2.5K fun/run

- **Departmental Awards:**

Recently, PFC Jason Burns received the department's highest award, the **Silver Star Award** for bravery. He single-handedly disarmed a resident who was attempting to commit suicide with a knife. Police Officers can make split second decisions in life threatening situations, which are judged in the court of public opinion. In this case, PFC Burns risked his own safety to protect a resident. **GREAT JOB, Jason!**

Take a bite out of crime. Join Neighborhood Watch. Call Jim Hamlin 443-365-0601

Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.

Ocean Pines Police Department