

Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #77 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:

Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin



Since our last Crime Bulletin:

It has been awhile since our last Crime Bulletin, so I will summarize below our activity from May 1 until the present. The summer season brings an influx of summer and weekend residents to Ocean Pines. Activity levels for our police increase about 33 percent during the busy summer months, compared to off-season months. It is important to remember that Ocean Pines has the largest year-round population in our County, and we average nearly 1,000 police calls for service in the non-summer months.

- **Bikers and Joggers:**

With the summer season, we are seeing an influx of bikers and joggers along our Parkway. Drivers should pay particular attention when pulling out from intersections. Bikes must obey all traffic regulations, and obey traffic control devices. The Police Department has free helmets for kids who need them. State law requires that all kids under the age of 16 must wear helmets. Bikes must also travel with the flow of traffic and not against it.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made eight (8) drunk driving arrests in Ocean Pines. There are many local cab and ride services available for residents to use, if they anticipate alcohol consumption that may impair their ability to operate a vehicle safely.

- **Domestic Violence Arrests:**

The police department made eight (8) domestic violence arrests. As a residential community, we are unfortunately involved in family violence issues, and we proactively prosecute domestic violence offenders.

- **Drug Overdoses:**

As first responders, police often are the first on the scene of reported drug overdoses, assisting our emergency medical personnel. Since May 1, police have assisted in eight (8) reported drug overdoses.

- **Disorderly Conduct Arrests:**

Unfortunately, police may have to deal with residents and/or visitors who act in a manner that disturbs the public peace. This can occur at, traffic accidents, domestic disturbances, or other calls for service. Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made two different disorderly conduct arrests, one of which resulted in an additional charge of resisting arrest. Alcohol is often a factor in these types of arrests.

- **Burglary/Rogue and Vagabond Arrests:**

Police charged an individual with burglary and another individual with the charge of rogue and vagabond. If a person is found in possession of burglary tools and in a time and place which indicates a crime is ready to occur, the charge of rogue and vagabond applies.

- **Trespassing/Protective Order Violations:**

Police enforce domestic protective orders to ensure our vulnerable residents get protection from danger. These orders separate domestic partners under a court order for a specified period of time. Persons who violate these orders will be arrested by police. In two separate cases, police arrested violators for protective orders or trespass violations.

- **Emergency Mental Health Commitments:**

As in most large communities, police respond to a variety of mental health incidents. Unfortunately, some rise to the level of emergency mental health evaluations, when the individual makes suicidal threats or threatens to injure another. Police took four (4) individuals into custody for emergency psychiatric evaluations since our last Bulletin.

- **Renovation/Expansion of the Police Department:**

Recently, the Board of Directors approved a renovation/expansion of the Police Department. Currently, the police operate out of a tiny 1,700 square foot facility that was never properly designed to be a police facility. Renovating our existing space and adding additional new square footage will bring our police facility up to 5,300 feet. A new safer design will ensure that our police officers and citizens will be adequately served for years to come.

- **New Officers:**

To fill existing police vacancies, we recently hired two new police recruits, Colin Morris and Joshua O'Ferrall. Both recruits will attend our local police academy at Wor Wic Community College in Salisbury for 25 weeks of training to be a certified police officer, per state requirements.

- **Special Events/Traffic Control:**

Our police officers, as well as our Neighborhood Watch volunteers, frequently assist in directing traffic at special events in Ocean Pines. Recently, Ocean Pines hosted its first Fourth of July Fireworks Display within Ocean Pines. Previously we had utilized Showell Park for the display, outside our community. Working with our Recreation and Public Works Departments, a completely new traffic pattern was devised to get our residents safely to and from the display, which was held over our pond at the Veteran's Memorial.

I am happy to report our event was a huge success, and the lessons learned in this first event will make the next year's event even better!

Take a bite out of crime. Join Neighborhood Watch. Call Jim Hamlin 410-422-2736

Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.

Ocean Pines Police Department