

Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #78 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:



Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin

- **4th of July Fireworks:**

As you are all aware, this year our 4th of July Fireworks celebration was held within Ocean Pines, over our pond, next to the Veteran's Memorial. This was quite a challenge to the Ocean Pines management team, but I am happy to report that the event was a resounding success. Although a motorist violated our traffic pattern, and was involved in a traffic accident, causing some delays in exiting the event, our residents were most patient in understanding the problem. THANK YOU for your patience!

- **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.

- **Ocean Pines Skate Park:**

One of the many benefits of living in Ocean Pines is the use of a Skate Park, located behind our Administration Building. The use of helmets is mandatory when using the skate bowl, and elbow and knee pads are recommended. Police are charged with monitoring activities at the park, through video surveillance, and enforcing all rules designed to keep patrons safe.

- **Anatomy of a Scam:**

Phone scams are, unfortunately, quite frequent in today's world. In this actual scam, the victim lost \$35,000. Here are the steps the scammer took to cheat the victim out of her money:

- 1) The victim receives a phone call from a person that sounded like her grandson.
- 2) The scammer says "Grandma, I need your help. Please don't call mom!" Then another individual gets on the phone claiming to be an attorney for the alleged grandson, stating the grandson needs "bail" money.
- 3) The victim is given an address in Rhode Island and told to mail the cash to that address.

- 4) The very next day the victim receives another phone call from the alleged attorney stating that MORE money is needed because the bail has now been raised,
- 5) The victim is told to wire money to the scammer's account, and that the grandson is lucky to have such a wonderful grandmother. The victim wires more money to the scammer's bank account.

Needless to say, everything is untrue, and professional scammers are at work. Wiring money is often impossible to trace, since the scammers constantly move. NEVER believe telephone solicitations without verification. In today's world, it is probably a SCAM!

- **Fake Email Addresses:**

In today's world, anybody on the internet can create a fake or false name and claim to be somebody else. Recently, a scammer claiming to be our General Manager or Board President sent emails to individuals, wanting the recipients to send money to the scammer. A quick way to check for scammers is to **examine the actual email address of the sender**. If it looks strange, it is strange! The next step would be to verify with the real individual that the email sender was a scammer. Never wire money or send money without actual verification of the real person, which YOU have initiated and personally verified!

- **Domestic Violence Arrests:**

As the largest year-round community in Worcester County, police frequently are called to handle family issues, which can range from unruly children to drug use, and even violence within the family unit. Since our last Crime Bulletin, we arrested two (2) individuals for domestic assault. In one of these cases, one of our police officers was assaulted, and the suspect was charged with resisting arrest.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made two (2) 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.

- **Fugitive Arrests:**

Sometimes, the people the police come in contact with are wanted for crimes that occurred outside Ocean Pines. In other cases, police from other jurisdictions locate wanted

individuals who may be residing in Ocean Pines. In those cases, Ocean Pines Police are tasked with apprehending wanted individuals by serving arrest warrants. We recently apprehended two (2) individuals which were wanted for crimes they were involved in outside Ocean Pines.

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