

## Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #79 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:



Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin

- **2018 Federal Criminal Victimization Report:**

The longstanding general trend of declining violent crime in the United States, which began in the 1990's, has ended. From 2015 to 2018, the total number of violent victimizations **increased 28 percent**. Increases in sexual assault, aggravated and simple assaults all increased. These rates are still behind 1990s figures, but the trend indicates that violent crime is increasing in our country. Recent initiatives to release prisoners from prison early, may be factor in future victimizations.

- **Domestic Violence Arrests:**

Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made two arrests for violations of domestic protection orders. Protective orders are issued to protect potential victims from the threat of domestic violence. The order requires one of the parties to be legally separated from contact with the potential victim. Unfortunately, these orders are not always obeyed and police arrest violators of these orders.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Police made ten (10) driving while intoxicated arrests since our last Bulletin. One of the suspects, who was a habitual offender, later took his own life at his residence. One arrestee had a breath test reading of .31 , which is very high, as legal limits for arrest are normally .8 for blood alcohol concentrations.

- **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, two of these deaths required extensive investigation:

The first case involved an individual arrested for driving while intoxicated within Ocean Pines. He had an extensive history of arrests for this crime. After being released from custody, and returning to his residence, he committed suicide.

The second case involved the sudden death of a 21 month old infant. The child died in a crib. Investigation and an autopsy revealed no suspected criminal activity in this accidental death, at this time. These types of cases are traumatic on police personnel as well as the families of victims.

- **Theft Arrests:**

Two individuals were arrested for the theft of an expensive bicycle. The suspected thieves were observed by a homeowner on video placing the victim's bike into a pickup truck and leaving the scene. Utilizing this video, police were able to identify and charge two individuals with theft under \$1,500.

- **Drug Arrests:**

In two separate incidents, police made arrests for the possession of a large amount of suspected marijuana. While possession of small amounts of marijuana is a civil violation, distributing or possessing large amounts of marijuana is still a criminal offense.

- **Handgun Theft Arrest:**

An arrest was made on the theft of a handgun from an Ocean Pines residence. Investigation reveals that the stolen weapon was used in a home invasion in New Jersey. Working closely with New Jersey police and prosecutors, charges have been filed against the suspect for theft in Ocean Pines.

- **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 Flea Market
2. Craft Fair
3. Veteran's Memorial Vietnam Chair Dedication
4. Platform Tennis Tournament
5. Bay Day

**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**