

## Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #81 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:



Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin

**It has been an extended period since our last Crime Bulletin in December of last year, so our statistics shall appear somewhat inflated.**

### **First the GOOD News:**

- **Ocean Pines is the Safest Community in Maryland for its size, in 2019!**

According to one community safety website survey, based upon just recently released FBI crime statistics for 2019, Ocean Pines is the **safest community for its size in Maryland**. This is one of the best reasons to live in our community. When people re-locate or purchase property in Ocean Pines, public safety is one of their primary concerns. Safety keeps our property values high.

- **Elder Abuse Arrest:**

Some of our most vulnerable victims can be the elderly in managed care. Our police department is an active participant in the recently created Vulnerable Adult Task Force. This multi-agency task force, headed by our States Attorney, coordinates the investigation of elder abuse. I am happy to report that our police department, in cooperation with the task force, recently convicted a health care worker who victimized an elderly patient by stealing the victim's credit card and using it for theft. PFC James Brasure of our department was specifically commended by States Attorney Heiser, for his many hours of investigation on this case.

- **Burglary Arrests:**

Vacant homes can sometimes be the target of juveniles seeking property or a hangout for drugs or alcohol. We recently arrested 4 juveniles, ranging in age from 11 to 16 years of age, for 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Burglary. In these types of cases, the juveniles are typically released to their parents, and the matter is handled from there by the Juvenile Justice Department. If you are leaving your residence vacant for at least 30 days in a row, the police department can do periodic security house checks.

- **Thefts from Vehicles:**

Unlocked vehicles are the number one target of thieves in Ocean Pines. Many would-be thieves just pull door handles on vehicles, entering the ones that are unlocked, and stealing property. We recently arrested three individuals, who were not from Ocean Pines, for multiple thefts and misuse of stolen credit cards. **NONE** of the vehicles they entered was locked. Please lock your car doors. It is just good crime prevention!

- **Domestic Violence Arrests:**

Since our last Crime Bulletin, police made three arrests for domestic violence. If you suspect a domestic dispute could escalate by overhearing loud arguments in your neighborhood, please call us to check it out. Often, police can calm a domestic situation down by intervening, without having to make an arrest.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Police made thirteen (13) driving while intoxicated arrests since our last Bulletin. With the winter season in full swing, we have noticed an uptick in the number of drunk driving arrests we made. With Uber and local cabs readily available, there really is no excuse for drunk driving today.

- **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, we conducted a death investigation of an elderly female who was suffering dementia. In the early morning hours, she wandered off her residence and a full-scale police search, including our police drone, later located her deceased, in a canal. Death was by accidental drowning.

- **Auto Theft Arrest:**

A 13 year old runaway from Pennsylvania was charged with auto theft of her parents car. The Pennsylvania State Police alerted OPPD that the runaway was believed to be in Ocean Pines, and an alert officer observed her behind the wheel in Ocean Pines. Her charges were referred to the Juvenile Justice Department. She drove from PA to Ocean Pines without an accident!

- **Drug Overdoses:**

Ocean Pines is not immune from the opioid epidemic, as we are the largest year-round residential community in Worcester County. Since our last Crime Bulletin, our officers responded to three drug overdoses, two of which were heroin.

- **Emergency Mental Health Evaluations:**

Not every mental health incident requires an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician. In those cases where the subject expresses suicidal thoughts, however, police take the subject into custody and transport them to a hospital for an in-depth psychiatric evaluation by a physician. Since our last Crime Bulletin, police had four incidents in which they took into custody three adults and one juvenile for emergency psychiatric evaluations.

- **Suicidal Subject**

Police responded to a call of an individual threatening suicide with a knife. The individual had a history of mental health encounters. The individual, who was in mental distress, had threatened his parents with a knife. When police arrived on the scene, they observed him leaning out of a second floor window, with a knife to his throat, threatening suicide. After a 3 hour negotiation with police, he surrendered , without injury. He was taken to a local hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation by a physician.

**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**