

Neighborhood Watch Crime Bulletin #63 To All Our Neighborhood Watch Personnel:

Our Latest and Greatest Crime Bulletin



Ocean Pines Safest Community in Maryland for its Size!!

The National Council for Home Safety and Security has named Ocean Pines, the Safest Community in Maryland for its size. The Council combined data from the most recent FBI Crime Reports, population data, and their own research to create its rankings. The report was formally released on March 6, 2017.

According to their report, Ocean Pines violent crime rate is .049 crimes per thousand population, while the state average is 5.0 crimes per thousand population. The National Council for Home Safety is a trade association comprised of security professionals across the United States. The Council advocates for safe communities and home safety with a strong focus on community involvement.

This is a great honor for our community, and it is a tribute to our citizens, government and our police officers. We must, however, remember that any community is vulnerable to crime, as the below noted incidents remind us.

It has been a while since our last Crime Bulletin, so note that these incidents occurred over a two (2) month period, January and February of this year.

- **Arrest for Felony Theft**

As the result of a police investigation, a 42 year old female was arrested for the theft of over \$13,000 in jewelry from a relative of her. Police recovered most of the property. The suspect is believed to have a substance abuse problem.

- **1st Degree Assault with a Knife:**

A 28 year old Ocean Pines man was charged with the 1st Degree Assault with a knife on his estranged wife.

- **Domestic Assault Arrests:**

Police arrested four (4) individuals for 2nd Degree Assault as the result of domestic incidents. In one case, both the husband and wife were arrested. for domestic assault. In cases where visible injury is present, police are mandated by law to make arrests. There were many other incidents where no injury was present, and police were called to calm the situation.

- **Felony Theft Arrest:**

The victim of an expensive surf board theft posted a picture of the board on Facebook. A suspect was later identified by a witness who recognized the board from the Facebook picture. The board was recovered and the suspect was arrested.

- **Drunk Driving Arrests:**

Eight (8) individuals were arrested for driving while intoxicated in Ocean Pines. There is a wide diversity of suspects for this offense. In this particular group, ages ranged from 18 to 75 years of age. There is no immunity for this serious charge, which results in thousands of deaths and injuries in our nation.

- **Biking in Ocean Pines:**

With warm weather approaching, a gentle reminder of bike regulations is in order. Bicycles are considered **vehicles** under Maryland traffic laws. Therefore, bikes must go with the flow of traffic (in the same direction). Bikes must also stop at stop signs and automated traffic signals, like a car. In short, bikes must obey the same traffic laws that cars do.

- **Service Calls:**

Ocean Pines Police handle a number of **non-criminal** calls for service, such as check on the welfare of residents, property checks of vacant residences (when owners are gone for long periods of time), checking on Association properties, mental health interventions and drug/medical overdoses. We also monitor the skate park, and handle animal complaints of a minor nature. Although January and February are by nature slower months of service, we are still quite active. For the first time in our history, the department handled over 1,000 service calls in both January and February.

Take a bite out of crime. Join Neighborhood Watch

Chief David C. Massey, Ed.D.

Ocean Pines Police Department