



**Southeast Patrol Division**  
2451 South College Road  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28412  
(910) 341-0111



**July 2009**  
**Newsletter**

## **What's New on the Police Front**

**Follow WPD on Twitter:** Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Now you can receive important traffic alerts and other notifications by following WPD on <http://twitter.com/WilmingtonPD>. Join today to start receiving Wilmington PD's updates.

**Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR):** ALPR is the latest piece of technology WPD has added to its equipment arsenal. A marked patrol unit assigned to SE Patrol Division has been equipped with this technology. ALPR is an image-processing technology used to identify cars by their license plates. Cameras, mounted to a police car take photos of license plates at the rate of hundreds per minute. The license plates are then run through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and compared to the stolen files to identify cars involved in crimes. The system then alerts the officer of "hits" it receives on stolen cars. In the future it is hopeful that the system will aid in the detection of wanted persons also.

**City Code and Storm Water Conveyances:** We are in hurricane season and because of the heavy rains and street flooding we have been experiencing recently we would like to inform you about storm water conveyances and the importance of keeping them clear. In these most recent instances, we believe the size of the drainage pipes may have contributed more to the flooding than actually trash inside the pipes; however, this is a good opportunity to educate everyone about storm water conveyances. According to City Code if a storm water conveyance is located on or in front of your property you are responsible to keep those drains clean and open and ditches free and clear of obstruction. Grass clippings for instance should never be dumped into a storm drain or drainage ditch. Code Enforcement requests that if you see litter in your storm drains that you please fish it out via fishing net, shovel, or trash tongs, etc.; however, under no circumstances should you ever go down into a storm drain.

The storm water department "vacuum trucks" cannot get to all storm water conveyances throughout the city. They focus on problem spots and accumulated obstructions. The trucks will not respond to clean litter from a drain, only for blockages. If the drain is too deep and item large enough to cause an obstruction, please call 343-4777 to report it. If you have any questions you may contact Code Enforcement Officer Beth Nunnally at 341-0092 or visit the city's website, <http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov>. The listing of City Ordinances is available at the bottom left of the page. Go to Chapter 18, Land Development Code, Section 734 to learn more.

## **Know Your Southeast (SE) Patrol Personnel**

Each month we would like to introduce you to one of the officers serving your community. This month we would like to introduce you to Officer James F. Bell.

Officer Bell has served with the Wilmington Police Department for 7 ½ years. During this time he has served as the Information Technology Officer for the Support Services Division where he was instrumental in getting Mobile Field Reporting functional. This software program allows officers to write and submit reports via computers in the car while on the street. Officer Bell has also worked as a Motorcycle Officer with the Traffic Unit, where was certified in Traffic Crash Reconstruction, LIDAR (Laser RADAR), RADAR Intoximeter and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing. He has attended Police Law Institute Training which covers laws of arrest, search and seizure. Officer Bell graduated from High School in Canton, Ohio and enjoys riding his motorcycle, hunting and spending time with his family on his days off. He is currently one of two officers assigned to handle traffic complaints for SE Patrol Division.



Officer James F. Bell

## **Police Beat**

**5, 989** - Number of calls for service SE Patrol Division Officers responded to during June 2009. This number includes **2,522** calls that were officer initiated.

The officers in the SE Division continue to be extremely busy and productive. Below is an end of month breakdown of SE Patrol activity for June 2009.

### **Arrests:**

- 3 – Breaking and Entering (Residential, Business, Auto/Larceny: Misdemeanor & Felon)
- 2 – Narcotics Related
- 4 – Resisting Arrest/Assault on Law Enforcement Officer
- 11 - Assaults
- 38 – Larceny/Shoplifting/Fraud Related (Embezzlement)
- 9 – Traffic Related (DWI)
- 15 – Quality of Life Violations (affray; panhandling; trespass; disorderly conduct; etc.)
- 85 - Warrants served (just in Districts 5 & 6)
- 866 – Citations issued (just in Districts 5 & 6 for Traffic Violations/On-view Misdemeanors)

### **District 5:**

SE Patrol Officers need your assistance. Lighting has been proven to be the number one crime prevention tool. Please help us by keeping an eye out for street lights that are not working and report them to Progress Energy. The information Progress Energy requires is the pole number, location of the pole, and nature of the problem [street light out; street light

cycling on and off; street light on during the day; or broken]. Citizens can call 1-800-452-2777 to report street light outages; or fax the information to 919-235-3169; or email the information to [governmentalservices@pgnmail.com](mailto:governmentalservices@pgnmail.com).

District 5 officers have been working diligently this past month to serve outstanding warrants. During the month of June they served: 24 warrants for arrest, 11 criminal summons, and 21 orders for arrest; for a total of 56. Also, officers also are continuing to hold license checking stations around the district and respond to your traffic complaints.

Additionally, officers have been working with City Code Enforcement to clean up homeless camps and remove the litter and shopping carts behind Best Buy, TJ Maxx, and AC Moore stores. The responses from these businesses have been positive. We will continue to monitor the area. If you are aware of any run down houses, overgrown vegetation, or trash dumping, please call either myself or SE Command (341-0111) to report it and we will follow-up on your information.

Between officers and our telephone response unit, 260 reports were taken in District 5 for the month of June. The large majority of those reports were for larceny (75), followed closely by breaking and entering (62) reports (of coin operated machines, vehicles, etc). On the other end of the spectrum, we only had two common law robberies reported which is a positive. The locations of these crimes vary; however, the common link in many of them is that they occurred in and around parking lots and commercial businesses. Please be alert while out shopping and call either 911 or the non-emergency number to 911 (452-6120) if you see any persons acting suspiciously or lurking on the parking lots. Getting these folks identified is in all of our best interests.

Summarized below are some notable arrests made by officers for crimes committed in District 5.

<b>Suspect</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Crime</b>	<b>Crime Location</b>
Tracey Mary A. Sevast	N. Cardinal Dr.	B&E (2 counts)	S. College Rd.
Maurice L. Maurice Jr.	Raleigh, NC	B&E	S. College Rd.
Rodney T. Calhoun	S. Wallace Ave.	Assault LEO/Drunk & Disruptive	Market St.
Francisco V. Hernandez	Castle Hayne Rd.	Discharging Air Gun in City	S. College Rd.
Steve M. Hutchison	Dallas Dr.	Property Damage/Resist Arrest	Dallas Dr.

**District 6:**

During the month of June 2009, officers and our telephone response unit took a total of 168 reports for District 6. That number is about average compared to the same time frame last year. The majority of the reports were for Larceny (48), followed by Burglary/B&E (38), Motor Vehicle Thefts (7), Aggravated Assaults (6), and Attempted Rape (1). In the case of the Attempted Rape, the suspect was known to the victim by first name only, and the case is under investigation. Fortunately, there was only one Armed Robbery reported. None of these crimes can be narrowed down to one specific area or suspect(s) at this time. Being unable to identify a

crime pattern, makes it difficult for officers to concentrate in a specific area, where the suspects decide to move to another area within hours to days. The majority of residents who recently contacted SE Patrol have expressed their concern about Breaking & Entering/Burglary of residences and Auto/Larcenies. To address this we are researching past arrestees and their methods of operation and comparing them to those crimes occurring now. On average most B&Es are still occurring during the overnight hours and mostly to vehicles that have been left unsecured. Remember **“Society prepares the crime, the criminal commits it.”** Leaving vehicles, residential doors and windows unsecured, as well as leaving property out, is an invitation to be a victim. Don’t be a victim! We encourage all residents to report any activity you may deem as suspicious. The smallest thing can result in big arrest.

A lot of you have noticed and commented on the increased presence of officers in your neighborhoods. We will continue to maneuver officers into what are considered the “current” hot spots of activity at various times. The goal is to increase our presence in these areas through foot patrols, focus patrols, license checking stations, and overall saturation. We will also continue to work with City Code Enforcement Officers and property owners to clean up our neighborhoods of dilapidated and overgrown properties. Please do not hesitate to call SE Command or me personally, should you have any questions or suggestions as to how we may better serve you.

Summarized below are some notable arrests made by officers for crimes committed in District 6.

<b>Suspect</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Crime</b>	<b>Crime Location</b>
Aaron M. Barringer	Richmond Circle	Assault w/ Deadly Weapon	Masonboro Loop Rd.
Rose Cromartie	Boardwalk Ave.	Poss. Stolen Weapon/Drug Viols.	Boardwalk Ave.
Derby E. Gillespie	Camellia Ln.	Concealed Weapon/Drug Viols.	Clearbrook Dr.
Sair F. Hernandez	Greenville Loop Rd.	Resist, Obstruct, Delay (False Info)	Greenville Loop Rd.

**District 5 Commander**

Lt. Kathy Cochran  
910-343-3689

[kathy.cochran@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:kathy.cochran@wilmingtonnc.gov)

**District 6 Commander**

Lt. Obbie Blanton  
910-341-0158

[obbie.blanton@wilmingtonnc.gov](mailto:obbie.blanton@wilmingtonnc.gov)

**REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO 911 IMMEDIATELY!!**

*“The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.”*

*Sir Robert Peel*