



Southeast Patrol Division
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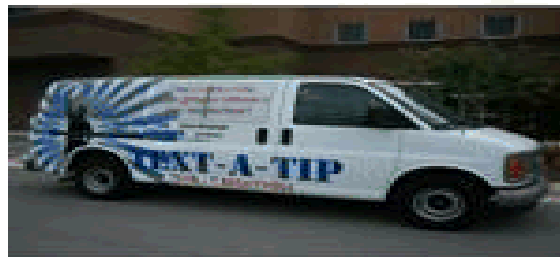


October 2009 Newsletter

What's New on the Police Front

The WPD Crime Lab has an amazing new piece of equipment, the Gas Chromatograph / Mass Spectrometer. This new piece of equipment will enable our forensic chemist, Bethany Pridgen, to conduct analysis of blood alcohol samples and controlled substances in our own Crime Lab. Local testing will significantly reduce the waiting time for results. For example, we will have blood alcohol results for DWI cases within about ten days, compared to waiting up to several months when samples are sent away.

WPD recently had one of our vans wrapped with Text-A-Tip decals. The van has been parked at different high volume locations such as Mayfaire and Wal-Mart in an effort to gather crime intel.



Effective Monday, October 19th, Lt. Kathy Cochran is being transferred from Southeast Patrol Division to the Vice and Narcotics Unit in Special Operations Division. Lt. Mike Fanta will be the new District 5 Commander. We will feature information on Lt. Fanta in our November newsletter. Welcome aboard to Lt. Fanta and good luck to Lt. Cochran in her new assignment.

On Tuesday, Sept. 29th, Southeast Patrol Cpl. R. Metcalf was invited to speak to a classroom at the Cape Fear Center for Inquiry, 3131 Randall Pkwy. The students, which were comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, had been studying the US Constitution, and recently read a book entitled "Nothing but the Truth." Cpl. Metcalf led the students in a discussion of issues ranging from cigarettes to guns. The discussion, which lasted approximately one hour and thirty minutes, allowed the students to interact with a police officer in a positive and enriching environment.

The Wilmington Police Recreation Association's Celebrity Autograph fund-raiser held at Independence Mall was a success. The event raised just over \$4,000. Those monies will go toward the construction of a Police Memorial.

Sadly, the old police headquarters building located at 115 Red Cross St. was reduced to rubble the week of October 5th. Members of the Police Recreation Association were able to salvage 500

plus bricks thanks to the construction foreman. If you would like a little piece of history, the bricks are selling for \$5 each with proceeds going to the Police Memorial. Please contact Lt. Cochran if interested, kathy.cochran@wilmingtonnc.gov .

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 are introducing you to Officer James A. Merritt

Officer Merritt, known to WPD as “Anthony”, is a native Wilmingtonian and has served with the Wilmington Police Department for 5 years. Prior to coming to WPD he worked with the Bald Head Island PD for 6 months. He is currently attending Cape Fear Community College working toward his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Merritt has attended the Police Law Institute Training relating to laws of arrest, search and seizure, as well as being a certified Police Training Officer. During his time with WPD he has worked with the Patrol Organized Response Team and the Downtown Patrol Unit. He has also served as a delegated Traffic Officer for his squad at SE Patrol. In his off duty time Off. Merritt enjoys participating and watching all types of sports and spending time with his family.



Officer James A. Merritt

Police Beat

6,071 - Number of calls for service SE Patrol Division Officers responded to during September 2009. This number includes **2,852** calls that were officer initiated.

Below is an end of month breakdown of SE Patrol activity for August 2009.

On-View Arrests:

- 1– Robbery (Armed/Common Law Robbery)
- 4– Breaking and Entering (Residential, Business, Auto/Larceny: Misdemeanor & Felony)
- 8– Narcotics Related
- 1– Weapons Related
- 7– Assaults
- 1 – Tampering with Auto
- 1 – Property Damage
- 1 – Contributing Delinquency of a Minor
- 26 – Larceny/Shoplifting/Fraud Related (Embezzlement)
- 25– Traffic Related (DWI, No Operator’s License, Driving During Revocation, Hit & Run)
- 8 – Quality of Life Violations (affray, panhandling, trespass, disorderly conduct, etc.)
- 223 – Field Interview/Contact Reports (generated just in Districts 5 & 6)
- 62 - Warrants served (just in Districts 5 & 6)
- 807– Citations issued (just in Districts 5 & 6 for Traffic Violations/On-view Misdemeanors)

District 5:

We have begun targeting rental property owners whose tenants continue to violate the City’s Noise Ordinance. Officers issue the tenants a written warning civil citation for a first offense; a second violation results in a \$250 civil citation to the tenants; and a third violation escalates to a \$500 fine to the tenants. Upon the issuance of the third civil citation the owners of the property are notified via certified mail, return receipt requested, that any further violations of the City’s Noise Ordinance at their rental property will subject them to civil penalties in the amount of \$500 for each subsequent violation. To date, we have put on notice two Hillsdale Drive property owners. Please continue to call and report noise violators.

The amount of reported breaking and entering of cars and houses has slowed somewhat in our district; however, the ones reported often have been left unsecured or have left an item of value (computer; GPS) in plain view. Please be alert for suspicious individuals walking through or unfamiliar cars passing through your neighborhoods, especially during day time hours. A lot of breaking and entering of houses occurs during the day when no one is home. The typical method of operation is for the criminal to knock on a door to see if anyone is home, make up an excuse if someone does answer the door, like “have you seen my lost dog?” If no one answers the door the criminal will kick in either the front door or go around and kick in the rear door to gain entry. If it looks suspicious to you, go with your gut, and call 911 to have an officer check it out.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed being the District 5 Commander and working with the citizens residing in the Southeast Patrol area. It afforded me the opportunity to meet a lot of fine folks. I look forward to the challenges of my new assignment. My contact information shall remain the same, so if I can be of assistance to you in my new role please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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

| Suspect | Address | Crime | Crime Location |
|------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Carleton Pringle | Henry St. | Possess. w/Intent to Sell & Deliver Marijuana / Possess. Stolen Property/ & Armed Robbery | 465 Racine Dr |
| Drew E. Conlon | Teal St. | Breaking & Entering | 1600 Soft Wind Way |
| Justin Cribb | N. Kerr Ave. | Armed Robbery | 5200 blk Penny Lane |
| Nathan Cheek | Lullwater Dr. | Assault w/a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury | 101 Lullwater Dr |

District 6:

This month has been filled with community meetings and local festivals. Some of the activities we have been involved with include: a Residents Meeting at Crosswinds Apartments, the Governour’s Square Apartment’s Residents Fun Day, and a luncheon for the “I Am My Brother’s Keeper” volunteer group to be held at UNCW. This volunteer group will be donating hand made sleeping bags for the homeless to various organizations throughout the city, to include WPD. Bexley subdivision residents having been kind enough to invite their District Officers to stop by their upcoming community get together. The Southeast Patrol Division Officers appreciate your invitations to speak and participate at community meetings and events. .

Our officers will also be at the upcoming Latino Festival held at Hugh McRae Park on November 7th and WPD will have a Crime Prevention booth at the upcoming New Hanover County Fair and Expo. Please take the opportunity to visit our booth and speak with an officer about crime prevention. Also the Lighthouse Beer Festival is occurring this Saturday, Oct. 17th at Hugh McRae Park; the proceeds go to benefit the Carousel Center for Abused Children. The New Hanover County Sheriff’s Department will be working the actual festival and WPD will be responding to any issue in the areas surrounding the park that are related to the event. We are hoping for a good time for all and no misconduct.

Additionally, a Southeast Officer observed flyers posted throughout the Southeast Patrol area advertising a Beer Festival “After Party” at a residence on Brightwood Dr., just down from Hugh McRae Park on off of Pine Grove Rd. An application for a Noise Permit has been denied and all indications are that the party host will not be able to obtain the proper ABC Permits. Capt. Key and Lt. Blanton met with the host of this “private” party and explained the laws and concerns regarding a party of this magnitude in a residential neighborhood. Please be aware that WPD Officers will be taking every action possible to insure that should the party proceed efforts will be made to keep the party under control.

In reference to breaking and enterings, as I have noted previously, there is not a direct “hot spot” for these crimes, therefore there is no way to pin point a single location for concentration. When officers are assigned to keep a close check on one area, i.e. Greenville Loop Rd. or Wrightsville Ave., the crimes shift to another area, i.e. Masonboro, St. Andrews Dr., etc. Please be aware that we are making every effort to concentrate increased patrols as needed in hopes of protecting everyone in District 6 accordingly. I will be more than happy to sit down with anyone, upon request, and explain the district layout in order that you have a better understanding of the problems facing us.

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

| Suspect | Address | Crime | Crime Location |
|------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Michael s. Ward | Martin St. | B&E Auto/Larceny | Peachtree Ave. /Park Ave. |
| Neal T. Brooks | Oakhurst Dr. | Tampering with Auto | Wrightsville Ave. |
| Jack M. O’Malley | Wrightsville Beach | B&E | Herring Ln. |
| James D. Bullard | Skystasail Dr. | Possess. w/ Intent to Manufacture/Sell & Deliver a Schedule I Controlled Substance | Skystasail Dr. |

Halloween Tips for Trick or Treating

- Children should go out during daylight hours only unless accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves
- Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas.
- Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween. Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.
- Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.
- Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.



“Be Safe, Be Alert and Be Aware”!!

SE Patrol Division Commander

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District 6 Commander

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