

The Police Report



December 2010
Southern Shores, North Carolina



Be Safe this Holiday Season

With the holidays rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to buying, giving and receiving gifts, visiting friends and family, and sharing delightful culinary experiences. However, there are others whose thoughts are occupied with unattended electronic/appliance-filled houses or apartments, distracted shoppers with extra cash in a purse or wallet, or the next “con job” in the name of Christmas charity.

Statistics show that crime usually increases during and after the holiday season and the reason is very simple. More people with more cash, gifts, gift cards, etc. are “out and about” which presents more opportunities for the criminal looking for an easy “score.” Of course, the happy shopper is rushing around, stressed out, absent-mindedly looking for last-minute gifts, and trying to get everything done in preparation for the holidays and holiday festivities. The happy shopper is not thinking about the person in the store or parking lot that has followed you and knows exactly where you keep your cash, what gift you may have just purchased, or where you parked your car. Even though the routine and structure of work, school, appointments, and meetings have altered somewhat, now is especially the time to be mindful of personal safety, online safety, and to practice crime prevention measures.

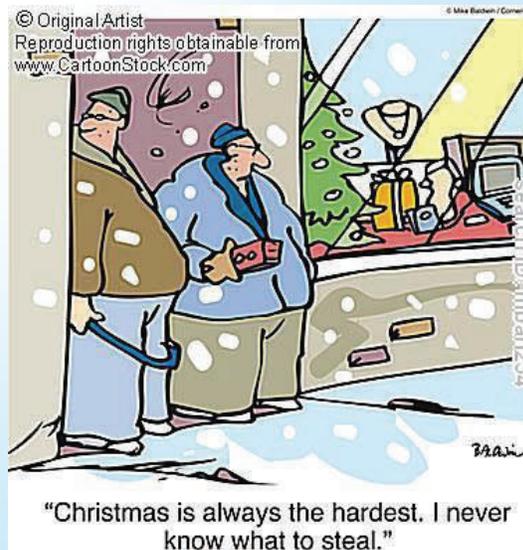
Here are just a few general tips to keep yourself and your property safe during and after the holiday season.

If you are traveling:

- Put an automatic timer on your lights
- Ask a neighbor to check up on your home
- Don't forget to have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped
- Sign up for email and text alert systems at your campus/local police departments to stay in touch if you may be away during the holidays

If you are out of the house:

- Turn on lights and music or the TV so it looks as if someone is home
- Be sure that your doors and windows are locked
- Don't display your gifts where they can be seen from the outside
- If you plan to have packages delivered to your home, make sure you are home to accept them. If not, as a neighbor or ask that the package be sent to the nearest post office



If you are shopping online:

- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check a company's background if you're not familiar with it.
- Be sure you or someone from your family or a trusted neighbor is home when a purchase is being delivered

If you are shopping at a mall or a store:

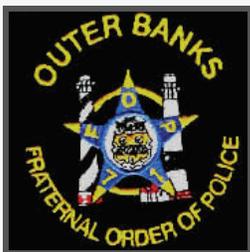
- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you
- Park in a well-lighted space
- Be sure to lock your car, close windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible
- Call to cancel missing and stolen credit and debit cards immediately
 - Make sure to complete warranty and/or product registration forms and mail them out as soon as possible since they may provide some kind of protection or replacement value if your property is stolen.
 - Don't overburden yourself with packages
 - Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Carry a purse close to your body in the front. If you are carrying a wallet, place it in an inside coat or front pants pocket
 - If shopping with kids, have a plan in case you get separated. For the older children, have a central meeting spot designated. For the younger children teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated. Be sure they know your name (not just mommy and daddy), cell phone number, and their address. Go over the dangers of strangers with them so they know who not to talk to or follow
 - Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out
 - Double check that you have your credit cards and check book after you pay for your items

If a crime is committed, make sure to report it immediately. It is crucial to remember that even though the holidays are filled lots of love and goodwill towards men, there are those who will look for opportunities to strike easy targets. The point of crime prevention is to make that as difficult for criminals as possible. Do not give a thief any chances this year. Practice safe crime prevention measures not only during and after the holidays, make them a habit for life. Happy Holidays!

courtesy of the National Crime Prevention Council

Goodbye Officer Clark!

The Southern Shores Police Departments regrets to announce that Officer Missy Clark has tendered her resignation effective 12/08/2010. Officer Clark will be joining the Duck Police Department as their new Sergeant. Officer Clark has been with the Southern Shores Police Department for 4 years and was a great asset to the department. We wish her the best of luck with her new position.



The Outer Banks Fraternal Order of Police works hard all throughout the year to help out in the community and to give to those in need. For several years, the local lodge has hosted "Shop With A Cop" during the Christmas season which serves as a reminder to what the season is all about - helping those who have fallen on hard times yet still deserve a joyous holiday. These angels in blue can always use your help and if you wish to donate your time or money for this or any of their wonderful programs, you can contact the lodge president, Officer Missy Clark or the lodge treasurer, Lt. Paul Terry. "Tis the season!



Statistics 10/2010



Total Offenses.....	15	Equipment.....	03
Breaking & Entering.....	04	Stop Light/Sign.....	04
Larceny.....	02	Registration Violation...	03
Damage to Property.....	03	Other.....	06
Fraud.....	02		
All Other.....	04	Ordinance Violations.....	01
		Parking.....	01
Arrests.....	03	Accidents.....	03
Larceny.....	01		
All Other.....	02	Calls For Service.....	926
		Alarm.....	28
Citations.....	16	Assisting Other Agency...	22
Speeding.....	03	Business Check.....	294
Expired Registration.....	02	Residence Check.....	197
Inspection Violation.....	02	Traffic Stops.....	48
No Insurance.....	01		
Stop Sign/Light.....	01		
Other.....	07		
Warnings.....	24		
Speeding.....	08		

(For more details, see Crime Reports at
www.southernshores-nc.gov)

Interesting Facts

April 14, 1865

On the day he was shot by the assassin John Wilkes Booth, President Abraham Lincoln approves the formation of what is now the United States Secret Service.

courtesy of www.nleomf.org



O' Christmas Tree!



§ 145-25. State Christmas tree.

The Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) is adopted as the official Christmas tree of the State of North Carolina. (2005-387, s. 1.)

*A North Carolina Fraser fir was the official White House Christmas tree in 1997 (as shown left) and in 2005.

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PO Matthew W. Cooke
PO Tracy M. Mann
AA. Jennifer P. Couture
Chaplain John Tyson