Honoring Law Enforcement
by Worshiping Together
Hello Everyone!

It has been a very busy summer for all of us and I’m excited to be entering the fall season, which is one of my favorite times of the year. I would like to sincerely thank all of the Deputies for their incredibly hard work and professionalism in the Douglas Edwards case. This predator will spend the rest of his life in prison!

We also could not have done it without the help of our Community. I’m extremely proud of all of you!

Sincerely,
Sheriff Ed
Law Enforcement Appreciation Day Celebration Hosted by the New St Luke AMEZ Church

By Jane Love

On Sunday, September 24th, the stirring sound of bagpipes and drums carried through a downtown neighborhood. The music, provided by the Wilmington Police Pipes and Drums, announced that the New St Luke AMEZ Church in Wilmington NC was hosting local law enforcement officers and their families from the Wilmington Police Department and New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office at their historic church at 709 Church Street, Wilmington NC.

The church’s congregation, led by pastor, Reverend Jeremiah B. Armour, warmly welcomed Wilmington Police Chief Ralph Evangelous and New Hanover County Sheriff Ed McMahon, along with their officers, detectives and detention officers. The church also recognized two outstanding officers from each law enforcement organization. Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo and New Hanover County District Attorney Ben David provided brief remarks to the congregation and, following the service, all participants enjoyed a generous lunch prepared and served by church members.

In addition, every law enforcement officer was given a “First Responder Care Kit” donated by the Operation Gratitude program, which is a non-profit, volunteer-based corporation funded entirely by private donations. Operation Gratitude sends gift packages filled with new products to military personnel, law enforcement officers and firefighters throughout the U.S. The care kits assembled for this event came from corporate donors in California.

In his sermon, Reverend Amour reminded all participants that when people from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods come together in one place, they can talk to one another and find common ground. By finding common ground, we build personal relationships. And “amazing things” can result from personal relationships, including increased respect and shared good will.

The New Saint Luke church is a part of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church and is one of the oldest parishes in North Carolina. The church traces its history from the Christian Chapel Church formed on Easter Sunday 1865 by James Walker Hood and 13 lay persons in Wilmington. After the Christian Chapel was destroyed by fire in 1877, a new church was built and named Saint Luke on October 22, 1882. The present church building was dedicated on October 21, 1945 after the earlier church burned in 1944.
Vice & Narcotics

Elements Graduate Receives State Level Award

By: Kristy Williams

Each year youth around our state are nominated for consideration by Gang Free North Carolina to be chosen as “Youth of the Year.” Gang Free North Carolina is a gang prevention, intervention, suppression and policy organization whose purpose is to develop, promote and sustain state-wide strategies, policies and laws that will reduce criminal gangs and their associated criminal activity. Gang Free NC is a branch of the North Carolina Gang Investigators Association.

The executive board of the NC Gang Investigators Association evaluates the nominations entered, and selects the winners based on the following criteria: promotes service to community and family, academic success, possess strong moral character, presents with life goals, presents with poise and public speaking ability, fosters growth in self and peers, overcomes obstacles with solution thinking, and possess leadership qualities.

We are honored to announce that Karen Demata Moreno was this year’s award recipient. Karen entered the Elements program in 2009 after her brother had participated. Karen came into the program as a middle school student who struggled with making poor choices to include fighting, ignoring the rules of the house, and lack of efforts in school, among other things. Karen quickly bonded with staff and utilized all that the program had to offer. She was engaged, committed and determined. Karen graduated the program in 2010 and has continued to excel and move forward since that time. After completing the program, Karen went on to finish high school and is currently in her second year of college, all the while maintaining a full time job.

Karen acknowledges the program staff for having helped her develop the skills she needed to move forward, pushing her to “excel and become greater”- in her words. Karen has always been appreciative of the help she feels like she and her family have received through the program. In her award acceptance speech, given at the annual state conference, she stated that “everything I do is for ‘them’ to show them all their energy they used to help me become a better person-it was not wasted.”

In return, Karen has dedicated herself to giving back to youth in need. Recently she completed an interview to be a part of a commercial to promote the Elements program and how it helps youth and families in our community. Karen, also mentors younger program youth in her free time, assisting with group activities and talking one on one with youth to help encourage them to make better choices. Karen’s energy, charisma, and love for people shines throughout all she does and we are so proud of how far she has come!

Karen is the third Elements program youth to receive this state level award in the past five years.

Karen before graduation from Elements

Karen mentoring other members of Elements

Karen receiving the “Youth of the Year Award” from Gang Free North Carolina

For additional information about Gang Free NC or North Carolina Gang Investigators Association please visit their website at http://www.ncgangcops.org/
The New Hanover County Detective Division 2017 Stellar Award Recipients

"On the morning of June 1, 2017 at about 07:34 hrs., NHCSO Detectives Beasley and Eslick responded to the New Hanover County Parking Deck at 214 N. 2nd Street in reference to a subject threatening to jump off the top deck (7 stories high). Upon the Detectives arrival with WPD Officer A. Phillips, they engaged in conversation with the subject, a male, 31 years of age. The subject advised the officers that his life was bad from drugs and other reasons. The subject said he wanted to kill himself by jumping off the top parking deck. After more discussion took place the subject came off the ledge that he was straddling and approached the officers without incident.

The actions and words of Detectives Beasley and Eslick, and WPD Officer A. Phillips helped save the subject’s life. Their bravery, professionalism, and human interaction played a vital role in this incident."

“NHCSO Det./Sgt. Kelly Sellers was recognized for her investigation regarding the Marcus Dent case. Dent was convicted of:

Indecent Liberties w/ a Minor (one 9-year-old and one 5-year-old, female victims)
1st Degree Sex Offense X2 (one 9-year-old and one 5-year-old, female victims)
3rd Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Child X 3 (3 videos)

Dent was sentenced to 33-51 years.

"On May 19, 2017 the trial of Robert Pole ended. Pole was on trial for:

Statutory Rape/Sex Offense with a Minor (Guilty)
2nd Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (2 Counts) (Not Guilty)
Indecent Liberties (Guilty)
1st Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor. (3 Counts) (Guilty)

Detective/1st Sgt. Craig Springer was awarded the 2017 APA Leonarde Keeler Award at the 2017 Nevada APA Polygraph Conference. His qualifications include 19 years conducting 800 + polygraphs (to include criminal, pre-employment, and internal admin). He has attended APA polygraph conferences in Illinois, Virginia, California, Nevada, and Florida. 1st Sgt. Springer was involved in the North Carolina Scarlett Wood homicide investigation, in which he traveled to Georgia to conduct a criminal polygraph on a suspect that was found to be deceptive and later confessed. This suspect has been labeled a serial killer due to the number of homicides that the suspect has been charged with or is a suspect in. 1st Sgt. Springer played a vital role in this investigation that included using his experience and knowledge of polygraphs and interview skills to obtain this confession. This is just some of the many accomplishments he has completed in his tenure with our agency.

1st Sgt. Springer will be retiring this November 2017 with 30 years with our agency, but will be employed as a citizen conducting polygraphs to assist us. He has represented our agency with honor and discipline, and we thank him for his service to the Polygraph profession and to our agency.
Stellar Awards

Sgt. Chris Smith
Stellar Award for his outstanding involvement and instruction in the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team)

MDS Mike Fields
Stellar Award for his performance in the School Resource Officer

Life Saving Awards

Sgt. Jon Almasy
Life Saving Award

Det. Miranda Johnson
Life Saving Award

Patrol Officers of the Quarter

MDS Adam Bondarek
Patrol Division - 1st Quarter

Dep. Timothy J. Wilson
Patrol Division - 2nd Quarter

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for CIT (Crisis Intervention Team)

Sgt. Chris Smith
Officer of the Year CIT

Promotions

Robert McCracken promoted to Detective
Laura Johnson promoted to Vice Detective
DETENTION DIVISION

Answer Corner  By: Perry Campbell

More information can be found at the “Sheriff 2 Citizen” FAQ page at www.newhanoversheriff.com.

Hello! We’re setting up a new section of the newsletter; its subject will be questions (and their answers) posed by you, the citizens of New Hanover County. As time goes on, we will, hopefully, cover many of the aspects of the interrelationship between the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office and the people it serves.

In the previous issue of this newsletter, we covered the process required for inmate visitation. In this issue, we’re going to discuss how to make funds available to the inmate.

If your ________________ (fill in the blank with e.g., son, daughter, brother, father, mother, boyfriend, girlfriend, etc.) has been arrested by law enforcement in New Hanover County and is presently an inmate at the New Hanover County Detention Facility, you are most likely going to want to provide him or her with some funds. Being incarcerated is rarely a positive experience; providing some funds to the inmate may, at least, make the experience a little less unpleasant.

As usual, there are processes which must be followed. Please review and comply with the following to ensure the fund transfer goes smoothly. There are three methods of providing funds to inmates:

There is a kiosk in the lobby of The New Hanover County Detention Facility which accepts cash and/or credit cards. The Detention Facility is located at 3950 Juvenile Center Road, Castle Hayne, NC 28429. The kiosk is easy to use and instructions thereon are, more or less, self-explanatory. However, if a user has any difficulties, he or she should seek assistance from one of the Front Desk deputies. There is a small charge for using the kiosk. Note: this kiosk is the only way that CASH can be deposited into an inmate’s account.

The process can be done online. Go to www.newhanoversheriff.com; look for the yellow block in the lower right titled “Deposit Money for an Inmate.” Click on this block; clicking will take you to jailpackstore.com/store/index; choose the appropriate block from “Create Account,” “Login,” or “Forgot Password?” and proceed as instructed.

If circumstances are such that you cannot use either of the above two methods, you can send a money order to the inmate. Money orders mailed to the inmate must be made payable to New Hanover County and the inmate’s name should be put in the “memo” section. If this is not done, the money order will be placed in the inmate’s property and will not be accessible from his or her account. Mail for inmates should be addressed to: (Inmate’s Name), New Hanover County Detention Facility, 3950 Juvenile Center Road, Castle Hayne, NC 28429

*NOTE*

Packages mailed to inmates containing any items other than letters, cash, or money orders, will be returned to the sender.

Inmates are allowed to accept magazines and soft-cover books, but only if purchased directly from the publisher and parcel-delivered to the Facility. Packages, books, magazines, or other items presented by visitors cannot be accepted for safety and security reasons.

Questions? – Contact the Detention Facility Front Desk at 910.798.4161.
JUDICIAL SERVICES

Reporting for Jury Duty  By Judicial Services

Wear long pants (no shorts) and closed-toed shoes (no flip-flops).

No tank tops or cut-off shirts.

Bring a light jacket as courtrooms can be chilly.

No food or drink is allowed in the Courthouse, except for Jurors. Citizens reporting for Jury Duty may bring beverages into the courthouse so long as they have a closeable lid. In order to bring beverages in, Citizens should present their Jury Summons or Juror Badge at the Security Checkpoint Entrance.

Jurors should park in the NHC parking deck located on 2nd Street beside the NHC Library in between Grace and 2nd St. Bring parking pass to Court with you and Jury Clerk will trade out for parking voucher.

Detention Officer Karen T. Lee — New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Detention Officer of the Year

Although she has been employed by the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office for less than two years, Officer Karen Lee has distinguished herself by her professionalism and “contagiously positive attitude” in carrying out her duties at the NHC Confinement Facility. From her professional appearance in uniform to her sound judgment, every aspect of her performance exceeds standards. And, in addition to the responsibilities of her Sheriff’s Office position, Officer Lee is a Sergeant in the United States Army Reserve and actively participates in military duties. Off duty, she spends time with her daughter, Malia, in school activities and sports (soccer and basketball). According to the award citation: Officer Lee has tremendous potential to make a deep impact as she continues to advance in her career. She reflects great credit upon herself, her community, and the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office.

Master Deputy Adam Bondarek — New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Deputy of the Year

Master Deputy Adam has been a law enforcement officer for 21 years, serving the last 7 years with the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. He has served as a Patrol Deputy and a member of the Sheriff’s Alcohol Field Enforcement Unit (S.A.F.E.) investigating violations of traffic law, with a focus on driving while impaired. And over the past two years, Deputy Adams has developed and implemented a new curriculum to address communication issues between the Sheriff’s Office and the community. As part of this effort, training is now in place to promote the professionalism and communication skills of NHCSO personnel. As a senior deputy, he continues to share his experience by taking on additional duties and by mentoring new members of his division. The Sheriff’s Office is stronger because of Deputy Bondarek’s presence on the force and his contributions are reflected in his selection as Deputy of the Year.
The Teen Court Program

Giving Youthful Offenders a Second Chance

By Jane Love

New Hanover and Pender counties offer a program that gives teenagers a rare “do-over” for criminal misconduct. The program, called “Teen Court,” is administered by the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center, a non-profit organization based in Wilmington.

Teen Court is a unique system of justice for middle school and high school students. The program helps keep first-time juvenile offenders who commit minor offenses out of the formal Juvenile and District Court System. A “minor offense” is defined as a misdemeanor crime and certain school policy violations. Teens who have violated the law, but are willing to take responsibility for their misconduct, have access to the program.

According to Teen Court Director Sheila Evans, the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office is a major partner of Teen Court. “We are fortunate here in the 5th Judicial District to get Teen Court participants directly from our Sheriff’s Office School Resource Officers, instead of referrals from Juvenile Justice, which takes longer.” Ms. Evans further advises: “Of the 69 referrals received in Teen Court in the 16-17 school year, approximately 55 came from the Sheriff’s office.”

To participate in Teen Court, offenders must appear in person before a jury of their peers in a real county courtroom. Because the offender admits his or her guilt at the start, the proceeding focuses on sentencing. The facts of each case are then set out by a teen prosecutor, while a teen defender represents the offender’s interests. The sentence imposed involves some type of community service and service in one or more future sessions of Teen Court. The jury may also impose additional sanctions from a program-approved list.

For example, a teen who is guilty of disorderly conduct may face 4 to 10 hours of community service and one session of teen court jury duty. A more serious misdemeanor, such as small value larceny or property damage under $200, might receive a sentence of 7 to 15 hours of community service and 2 or 3 sessions of teen court. Additional punishment for an offense might include a letter of apology, financial restitution, or participation in relevant educational classes. While the teen jury imposes punishment, the courtroom proceeding is led by an adult judge, who may be a practicing attorney or experienced law enforcement official (such as guest judge Sheriff Ed McMahon).

The program is primarily staffed by student volunteers who have committed no misconduct. They are encouraged to fill various roles, such as prosecutor, defender, clerk, bailiff, and juror. Ms. Evans states that the local Teen Court program has grown in recent years. “When I began managing this program 12 years ago, there were nights I wasn’t sure I would even have jurors to finish our hearings. But more recently, 485 different students volunteered for a total of 2714 hours, with average attendance of three (3) sessions. And at our February 2017 Teen Court session alone, we had 194 student volunteers sign in.”

And the program is showing promising results in terms of avoiding repeat offenders. Ms. Evans reports: “Our records show that 86% of offenders in the 2015-16 year did not re-offend within 12 months of completing their Teen Court sentence. And 96% of students completed the program successfully in the 16-17 school year.

In addition to the Sheriff’s Office support, Ms. Evans recognizes several long-term adult volunteers, including Assistant Public Defenders Emily Zvejnieks and Katie Corpening; Assistant District Attorney, Erika Jones; and local defense attorneys Emily Jones and Mark Ihnat. And for almost 13 years Russell Smith, a Ashley High School teacher, has served as a jury monitor. And since teens love their food, Nancy Wigley, a Lowe’s official, provides three employees to serve pizza and drinks to the students before Teen Court.

For more information on Teen Court, go to www.theadrcenter.org or contact them at The ADR Center, 102 Cinema Dr., Suite C, Wilmington, NC 28403. Phone: (910) 362-8000
Suddenly it’s autumn…we go out one morning to walk the dog and suddenly we wish we had grabbed a jacket! In some areas of the country the change from cold to warm is pretty quick. As pet parents, we need to be prepared like a small school portrait. The child is posed naturally, the background is plain, and the picture is digitally clear.

It’s important for parents to understand that the child’s information is NOT saved or stored by the Sheriff’s Office, nor is it saved in any database. The information is retained only long enough to print on the card and then is deleted. Also, the ID card does NOT serve as an official form of government identification, comparable to an adult driver’s license or passport.

According to Deputy First Sergeant William Montjoy, the program has been a great success. He says that NHCSO officials issued 1,161 cards in 2015 and the number of cards grew to 1,782 in 2016. At the recent “National Night Out” event in Carolina Beach, 125 cards were issued in just a few hours. “The county fair offers us a great opportunity for parents to take this important step in protecting their children,” says Deputy Montjoy. “The ID cards are produced on-the-spot and are free to every parent. It’s a ‘win-win’ opportunity.”

For more information on this program, please contact the NHCSO at www.newhanoversheriff.com or 910-798-4200.

Be sure to remember these four items:

1) Honk the horn 3 times or beat loudly on the hood of the car. Cats like to hide in engine compartments looking for a bit of warmth.

2) Let your pet’s fur grow. Keep up with grooming but don’t brush out the undercoat. Pets need it to stay warm and toasty.

3) Pay attention to your pet’s paws, particularly as temperatures drop towards freezing. Walking on frozen ground can cause frostbite.

4) Antifreeze has a sweet taste that pets are attracted to….but it is DEADLY! Be sure to keep it stored safely out of reach and remove any puddles or open containers that could occur while filling a radiator.
Lookout! School Crossing Guards are on Duty
by Jane Love

The next time you drive by a local elementary or middle school and watch for children, you might also watch for one of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office (NHCSO) most unique employees. These are the approximately 23 school crossing guards deployed throughout the county to ensure children can cross congested roads and drivers obey school speed limits.

This unheralded program has existed for several generations. It exists because of the Sheriffs’ legitimate concern over youngsters walking across heavily-traveled roads. That concern has only grown in recent years, given more hectic traffic in once quiet neighborhoods.

Armed with only a safety vest, a hand-held stop sign, and good judgment, the guards stand at school crossings on the busiest roads every morning and afternoon when schools are in session. They work in all types of weather - heat or cold, rain or shine – because they know the children’s safety depends on their presence.

One school guard, Mrs. Minnie M. Galloway, has been protecting school children for nearly 19 years. She explains that while working as a school employee one day, someone asked for a volunteer to help children cross a nearby road. When no one responded, she stepped up, thinking it would be a temporary extra duty. But as she waited to be replaced by someone “more qualified,” she carried out her duties day by day, then year by year. Today, she is retired from the school, but still guards “her children” every morning and afternoon.

“Some days I really love doing this, and some days I don’t,” says Mrs. Galloway. “But I always love the children and know that their parents really appreciate what we do.” Mrs. Galloway points out that even at crossings with a traffic light, younger children tend to be timid and the older ones tend to be bold. And any one of them might make a bad decision. But she is there to ensure that every child makes it to school and home safely. Ironically, Mrs. Galloway’s mother-in-law, Mrs. Marie W. Galloway, was one of the county’s first school guards and held that position for over 20 years. But perhaps it’s not that surprising – dedicated public service often runs through families.

15th Sheriff’s Citizens Academy
August 8 - October 10 2017
Next Academy—Spring 2018

For Information and an application go to
http://www.newhanoversheriff.com/
VIPRs and Deputies Assist With Preparation for Community Back 2 School Bash

The weather sure was hot on August 25th, but the job got done with gusto! Deputies (Desso, Moore, and Fike), along with VIPRs (Dziak, Brown, Jones, E Scheidegger, C Scheidegger, and ) assisted church members at Saint Luke AME Zion Church with relocating approximately 2500 book bags filled with supplies from Saint Luke Church to the Martin Luther King Center. They also helped stage them for the Community Back to School Bash that took place the next day. Here are a few of the photos….

The NHCSO VIPR Unit sincerely hopes you have enjoyed this newsletter. It is our hope that it serves to increase transparency and deepen the citizen’s awareness of the activities of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. There are many programs that can be of service to the citizens of New Hanover County and they will be highlighted through the newsletter each quarter. Printed copies of the newsletter will be available to read in various places throughout the county but we welcome you to sign up for electronic copies by sending your name and email address to NHSONews@nhcgov.com. Your comments and suggestions are always greatly appreciated, and can be directed to cscheidegger@nhcgov.com. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Carol Scheidegger, VIPR 128
csheidegger@nhcgov.com