The Art and Science of Fingerprinting
(page 4)
Greetings,

I wanted to thank everyone for all of their hard work with the CALEA re-accreditation. This was nothing short of a collaborative effort on everyone’s part. I am very proud of all of you coming together to accomplish this esteemed recognition. What better way to hold ourselves accountable than to follow nationally accepted best Law Enforcement practices.

We are also in the process of our sixteenth Citizens Academy. It is remarkable how far we have come with this venture. This is mainly due to the dedication, passion and commitment of everyone involved that keeps this endeavor going. Thank you again for your hard work and your continued support.

Stay Safe and God Bless!

Sheriff Ed
The Vice/Narcotics Division of the Sheriff’s Office celebrated many accomplishments in 2017. The division made record seizures of heroin and cocaine.

Detectives worked many late hours away from their homes and families targeting drug trafficking organizations. The Vice/Narcotics Division made the largest seizures of both heroin and cocaine in the history of the Sheriff’s Office.

In June 2017, Detectives targeted a cocaine distribution network operating in New Hanover and Brunswick County. Detectives were able to seize 11 kilos of cocaine (22 pounds), 23 pounds of marijuana, 33 firearms and over $270,000 in cash from houses in New Hanover and Brunswick County. The total seizure of drugs has a street value of more than $1 million dollars. Multiple suspects have been charged and are pending prosecution in this case. The case is an example of law enforcement agencies working together to go after drug dealers. Drug dealers have no jurisdictional lines and with our law enforcement partners, neither do we.

In November 2017, Detectives learned of a heroin dealer living in Wilmington that was on the run from Pennsylvania for selling drugs. Detectives began targeting this dealer and learned that he was also supplying heroin to others in New Hanover County. Detectives executed a search warrant on the dealer’s home and seized 393 grams of heroin, 110 grams of fentanyl, 803 bags of heroin already packaged for sale, 8 grams of cocaine, 5 firearms and $47,000 in cash. The total street value of the drugs seized is over $1 million dollars. The dealer was charged and pending prosecution for his criminal charges in New Hanover County and Pennsylvania.

Captain J. A. Hart, Vice and Narcotics Division Commander, would like to thank everyone for all the hard work and dedication that members of the division put forward this year and for making a positive difference in the community. Captain Hart would also like to thank the community’s continued support and tips throughout the year that led to hundreds of drug arrests. “We could not be as successful without the help of the citizens!”

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Cold Case Profile: Tera Tracy

By: Det. Justin Varella

In the early morning hours of December 24th, 1999 (the morning of Christmas Eve), at the Pantry convenience store, at 5800 Castle Hayne Rd., the bread delivery driver walked in to find the badly beaten body of Tera Tracy on the floor behind the counter, clinging to life. Tera was the third shift clerk at the convenience store and had been working since 11 o’clock the previous night. The man who found her, unconscious and in a pool of blood, went outside to the payphone and called 911. Emergency responders arrived at the scene and began attending to Tera, who was still alive. She was transported to the hospital where she later succumbed to her trauma and was pronounced dead.

The crime scene inside the Pantry showed signs of a struggle and the defensive wounds on Tera’s hands indicated that she fought back at her attacker. The autopsy revealed that Tera actually died as a result of being stabbed multiple times in the head and torso, which was later found to have been done by a unique weapon. The cash register in the store had been knocked over and this could have been the result of the struggle between Tera and her attacker or from an attempted robbery.

Tera Tracy lived in a house just across the street from the Pantry store that she worked at. A house that is no longer there and store that has long since been renamed. She was a wife and mother, and had a love for horses. The last time Tera was known to be alive was at about 4:06 am on the morning of Christmas Eve, December 24th, 1999.

If anyone has any information that may be beneficial to this investigation, you are encouraged to call the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Cold Case Unit at (910)798-4260 or submit a tip through the Sheriff’s Office Website, which can be anonymous.
The New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office is privileged to have some of the most advanced chemical processes and equipment for the purpose of developing, capturing and comparing latent prints, in order to aid criminal investigations. We must not overlook that we are also extremely privileged to have some of the best latent print analysts that the State of North Carolina has to offer. The individuals that are authorized to perform testing in the CSI Section Forensic Laboratory must maintain annual training in their respective fields, must successfully pass practical exams put on by external vendors and must prove competency and proficiency within that field.

The New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Investigation Section has held ASCLD/LAB-International Accreditation in Latent Print Processing, Latent Print Comparison, 10-Print Comparison and Serial Number Restoration since August of 2013 and no analyst has ever failed an external proficiency test since that time. That’s something we in the Lab are extremely proud of.

Sheriff Liamson is one of the Sheriff’s Office Crime Scene Investigation Section’s best and brightest. Her years of experience in patrol and investigative work have allowed her to develop unique and effective criminal justice skills and techniques.

Many people think of fingerprinting as "twirling a brush and throwing some powder around"; but it is so much more than that, or at least, it can be so much more than that! Although fingerprint powder is often used to develop a latent print, it is simply just one tool in an expansive toolbox that the Sheriff’s Office has at our disposal. More often than not, we utilize chemical means in the Lab to help develop latent prints and use fingerprint powder as the final step in developing a print.

Some chemicals that we utilize to develop latent prints on porous surfaces like paper include Ninhydrin and Indandione, which react to the amino acids found in a print. Wetwop is a chemical we utilize to develop latent prints on adhesive surfaces like tape. Cyanoacrylate is the chemical compound found in super glue, which can be utilized to develop latent prints on non-porous items. Small Particle Reagent (SPR) is a chemical we utilize to develop latent prints on items that are wet. Rhodamine 6G and Basic Yellow are fluorescent dyes we use to make cyanoacrylate developed latent prints more visible for comparison purposes. An alternate light source (ALS) is used in conjunction with many of these chemicals, allowing the developed prints to be photographed. Chemicals, such as Indandione, Rhodamine 6G and Basic Yellow cause the latent prints to fluoresce when different wavelengths of fluorescent light are shown on it with an ALS, allowing the prints to be captured with a special Marco lens, applied to a camera.

Once prints are developed, enhanced and captured (either through photography or lifting the actual print), they are submitted for comparison to a suspect and/or entered in AFIS, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

Many cases that the NHSO latent print analysts work have resulted in identifying suspects, not otherwise identified, allowing the case officer to make an arrest and/or putting the preverbal "nail in the coffin" for a detective’s case. These matches and/or identifications often motivate the suspect in the case to plead guilty in court, in turn reducing the amount of time an individual stays in our custody at the NHSO Detention Facility and gets them into DOC, which reduces the amount of money we have to pay on a daily basis to care for that individual that would have remained in our custody, awaiting trial. In 2017 alone, the four accredited latent print comparison analysts (Special Deputy Beth Williamson, Latent Print Examiner Brian Dew, Detective Ginger Blake and Lieutenant Lauren White... but mostly Williamson and Dew) made a combined total of 495 finger/palm print identifications in criminal cases for the following agencies: New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office, Pender County Sheriff’s Office, Bladen County Sheriff’s Office, Wilmington Police Department, Carolina Beach Police Department, Wrightsville Beach Police Department, Wilson Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF-Wilmington).

People often think of some of the popular TV shows when it comes to searching prints in a database and visualizing prints rolling across a screen on NCIS or CSI! Miami, until a big flashing “MATCH” sign pops up with a suspect’s picture! I’m here to tell you… that’s not the case!

A latent print analyst puts in far more work than that! The analyst looks at the print and plots or identifies unique characteristics within the print. Those characteristics and the placement of those characteristics within that print are then searched against known prints in the database and the database sends back the top ten most likely prints that may or may not “match”. The analyst then looks at each individual responding print and determines whether or not the two prints were indeed made by the same individual or are a "match".

The world of forensic science and latent print processing is always evolving and advancing as new chemicals and new techniques are discovered. The analysts at the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office stay abreast of these new techniques and are fortunate enough to have the resources to apply them in our laboratory. These dedicated individuals consider it an honor and a privilege to do the work we do on a daily basis and serve the citizens of not just New Hanover County, but southeastern North Carolina.
The New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office (NHCSO) is filled with dedicated men and women. But did you know that most of them also perform extra duties, over and above their normal responsibilities?

One of these additional duties is serving on the Special Response Team — or SRT — in the New Hanover County Detention Facility, which is supervised by the NHCSO Detention Division. To understand the SRT, it helps to know something about the Detention Facility.

The NHC Detention Facility is a large operation. While the inmate population varies from day to day, it averages 569 inmates a day. In 2014, the Facility booked a total of 10,641 inmates (8,104 male/2,537 female.)

The facility is run by a staff of 98 Sheriff’s Deputies, 71 Detention Officers, and 9 civilians. Their around-the-clock mission ensures that inmates are housed in a safe environment, provided quality meals and medical care, and given access to family members and legal representation through supervised visitation.

The division is also responsible for inmate transportation to and from the facility, inmate classification, front desk responsibilities, and logistical duties. In addition, the booking/intake unit, is also staffed 24 hours a day and is responsible for processing those who have been arrested and are pending detention within the facility.

The facility’s Deputies and Detention Officers must remain constantly vigilant. Every day brings different challenges and unpredictable events. There are complicated schedules to implement and procedures to be followed. Putting in a normal work day would tax anyone’s attention-span and stamina.

But within the Detention Staff, there is a team of deputies and officers who volunteer to respond to unusual situations within the facility. This is the Special Response Team, which currently consists of 14 Deputies and Detention Officers. They are trained to use special techniques, gear, weapons, and procedures to ensure inmate-related threats are safely resolved.

One of the team’s members, Sergeant Pllaha, is a 12-year veteran of the NHCSO. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Sergeant Pllaha holds the full-time position of Front Desk Sergeant at the Detention Facility and, as a SRT member, he puts in extra time training for, and responding to, emergencies that occur within the facility.

When asked why anyone volunteers for extra work, Sgt Pllaha explains that it’s just part of the mentality and work ethic of the NHCSO. “Most people in this department are just really dedicated to the mission and so they want to do everything possible to make the Sheriff’s Office that much better,” says Sgt Pllaha. “And we also benefit because additional duties allow us to engage in extra training opportunities and gain exposure to different parts of the job.”

Sgt Pllaha says that when vacancies on the team arise, the word goes out for volunteers. Candidates then have to pass tests (administered by current team members) that measure physical, academic, and emotional strength. The team is open to men and women and both genders have served on the SRT.

Members are also trained to use special equipment designed to handle inmates who are determined to cause trouble. This includes wearing special gear (heavy clothing, stab vests, eye protection) and learning to use “less lethal” equipment (devices that cause non-harmful, short-term pain, similar to a paintball gun). The team also learns techniques for safely subduing inmates who are violent or combative. By using choreographed techniques to subdue combative inmates, the SRT minimizes the risk of harm to both inmates and officers.

The SRT also deters bad behavior by maintaining a ready and visible presence around the facility and by quickly resolving any challenges. Inmates who threaten others learn that anti-social behavior is addressed quickly and efficiently. Because the team is trained to control, not harm, inmates learn that there is little to be gained by acting out.

When asked whether SRT duty is dangerous, Sgt Pllaha is initially puzzled by the question. “Everything deputies and confinement officers do is potentially dangerous. But that’s as true out on the road stopping a car as it is working in confinement. Most danger comes from the unpredictable environment we all work in. But I don’t consider the SRT work dangerous because we train as a team and respond as a team. We trust each other’s reactions completely. To me, that’s makes the risk of harm involved in SRT duty pretty low.”

So, if the hallmarks of professionalism include a strong commitment to high standards, esprit de corps, constant training, and the courage to put service before self, the SRT members are true pros.
Deputy Owen Myles was nominated and received a Stellar Award for Professionalism & Accountability. His nominator described his actions as follows:

Deputy Myles met me at a business that was closed and going out of business. He intently listened to my situation an at one point checked the business mailbox and identified phone numbers for who the mail was addressed to. None of the numbers were active. After taking the report he explained the process and what the next steps would be at a very clear and concise level. He also clearly answered any other questions I had.

Surprisingly, rather than just turning it over to the detectives as a fraud case, he took an extra step and appears to have been able to locate the current owner who then had the business prospective buyer call me and offer to provide the services of the current contract. Taking this extra step reflects greatly on his commitment to his job and speaks well of the Sheriff’s Office.

Lastly, as he was leaving he noticed my DOD decal and rank insignia on my windshield and “thanked me for my service”….totally unexpected but appreciated.

Promotions

Sgt. Dean Olinger – Detention Division

Corporal Nick Brothers – Housing Task Force

Retirement

Sgt. Chad Lewis – 30 years of service
School Resource Officers — Guardians of our Schools

By Jane Love

Given recent tragedies at schools around the nation, it’s reassuring to know that the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office (NHCSO) has a robust and well-trained group of deputies who protect the public schools in the county.

Known as School Resource Officers (SRO’s), they are a group of experienced sheriff’s deputies. They are stationed in schools in order to perform the full range of law enforcement duties. Through their daily presence, they become well acquainted with school administrators, teachers, students and parents.

Currently, the Sheriff’s Office provides 38 full-time SROs to New Hanover County public schools. They serve along with 4 Wilmington Police Officers and one Carolina Beach Police Officer. The program covers 45 public schools ranging from high school to Pre-K grades and protects over 26,000 students. According to state records, New Hanover County has the 12th largest school district in North Carolina.

Deputies are not assigned to charter or private schools, nor to local colleges on a daily basis. These schools implement their own security programs and call on the Sheriff’s office as needed.

The SRO program is one of several handled by the Patrol Division, headed by Captain D.H. Price. The program itself is supervised by Lieutenant Eric Brown. Lt Brown served as a SRO from 2000 to 2004 before transferring to other NHCSO divisions. His other assignments include Detention, Patrol, Emergency Response Team, and traffic. After his most recent promotion, he was selected to lead the SRO program.

The NHCSO has protected local public schools since the early 1990’s, but the program expanded after the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, in Newtown, CT, December 2012. More recent incidents of school violence have reinforced the need for protection by professional law enforcement officers.

Sheriff Ed McMahon served as a School Resource Officer during his career, as have other senior Sherriff’s officials.

All SROs are fully armed, uniformed deputy sheriffs. In addition, within their first year of school duty, every SRO must successfully complete the North Carolina Justice Academy’s SRO School and take a full course of crisis intervention training.

The Sheriff’s SROs carry out several important duties.

- They ensure the physical safety of everyone in the school environment by walking the school corridors and classrooms every day, interacting with students, teachers and staff. They also provide law enforcement expertise to school administrators on the planning and training for incident responses (i.e., active shooter drills).

- They are trained to recognize situations that might develop into more serious problems, such as gang activities, bullying, child abuse, or mental health crises. Early intervention can keep students from turning small problems into life-or-death threats.

- They serve as role models, counselors and mentors for students. Students learn that law enforcement officers are not that different from the other responsible adults in their lives.

Lieutenant Brown notes that an important aspect of the SRO position is to cultivate relationships of trust with students, so that they are more likely to seek help when difficult events arise at home or at school.

Another challenge for SRO’s is the wide-spread use of social media by students and school personnel. Lieutenant Brown notes that students at every level are tapped into social media during the school day, which means that rumors and threats spread among students in real time. As most parents can attest, staying one step ahead of the latest troubling story is more challenging than ever.

So let’s give a sincere “thank you” to these dedicated professionals who train for the worst and hope for the best every school day. Lives depend on them!
The Permit section process's the pistol purchase permits and carry concealed permits for the citizens of New Hanover County. The processing of the permits consists of completing extensive background and mental health checks on each applicant.

How to Apply for a Pistol Purchase Permit

One can apply on-line at www.newhanoversheriff.com, click on forms permits and resources in the top right corner. Then under weapons click on pistol permit and start's the on-line application process. The approval/ Denial process can take up to 2 to 14 days. Once the permit is approved you will receive notice by phone call, text message and email. This lets you know that the application has been approved and the permit is now ready for pick up. If you are denied the same process will apply with the notification and a denial letter will be mailed to the applicants listed address. All applicant need to live in NHC and produce a NC ID with their current address listed.

How to apply for a N.C. Concealed Handgun Permit

Prior to completing the New Hanover County Application process, the applicant will need to complete the N.C carry Concealed Class. This class is given by a NC Carry Concealed certified instructor. Local gun shops offer this class or you may research instructors on-line. Once you have completed this class go to our website www.newhanoversheriff.com on the right hand side click forms permits and resources. Then the next screen will have Concealed Carry Permit New and Renewal, click on this to start the application process. Once you complete the application it will ask you to schedule an appointment. You will schedule your appointment and pay, then come see us on your appointment day. You will need to bring your original certificate and your Driver’s License. The approval process can take up to 90 to 120 days. We will notify you by email and phone once your permit is approved and ready for pick up. If you are denied the same process will apply with the notification and a denial letter will be mailed to the applicants listed address.

Animal Services Unit

A Lost Princess Is Found!  By: Jane Love

The Florida family of a lost 9-year old Shih Tzu, named “Princess”, was amazed that she was recently found and returned to them with help from the NHCSO Animal Services Unit (ASU). Princess disappeared two years ago from her home in coral Springs, FL and after a long search, they concluded their pet was gone forever. However, recently, Princess resurfaced in Wilmington, NC where she was found wandering the streets by a local resident. The good citizen brought Princess to the ASU, where personnel discovered that she carried a microchip containing her owner's information. The owner's father-in-law then drove from his home in Georgia to retrieve the little dog and deliver her to her Florida family. Congratulations to the

Mr. Cardosa, father-in-law, holds “Princess”.

Children with Princess
Lieutenant Robert K. Johnson  
Service Before Self Award  By: Capt. CL Wilson

Lieutenant Robert Johnson has been a member of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office for over 20 years. As a former United States Marine and in his current role as a member of the Sheriff’s Office his entire adult life has been one of service to his country and his community.

The past year has been no exception. He participated in a community engagement program called “Community Conversations” that was designed and implemented by UNCW with the goal of building trust and understanding between the citizenry and the law enforcement community in New Hanover County. It gives the public the opportunity to voice concerns and ask tough questions of the men and women who serve these communities through law enforcement. It also allows the men and women of law enforcement to share with the community the reality that they too live and work here, they have children attending the local schools here, they attend church here, they shop in the same stores and navigate the same streets. In short they are as invested in this community as the people they serve. This program has helped members of the community to see a person where they once only saw a badge and gun.

Lieutenant Johnson is also involved in the" 100 Black Men" initiative. Lieutenant Johnson recognizes the strain that in recent times exists between the Black Community and law enforcement. As a former Marine and as a Lieutenant with the Sheriffs Office he has been able to meet with local black youth and in particular school aged young black men to reinforce a positive picture in the minds of these young people as a counterbalance to stereotypes about law enforcement professionals and in particular black law enforcement officers that some may have. He has risen to the highest levels of the New Hanover County Sheriffs Office. His example as a successful black law enforcement officer has served as an inspiration to many of these young people and offered them hope about their own futures.

Lieutenant Johnson has been involved in the" Know Your Rights" initiative which began at Union Baptist Church and has spread to other areas of our community through 2016 and 2017. He has participated in the One Time Ministries Incorporated ( OTM1) which partnered with the Creekwood South Resident Association to improve relations there.

Lieutenant Johnson has participated in dozens of events throughout 2017. Most of these events have taken place after his normal work hours or on weekends. This is not something he was assigned to do; it is something that once he learned about he wanted to be engaged with in order to make a difference. He has a passion for the community as a whole but he sees with unique clarity the hurdles that are keeping segments of our community alienated from one another.

Lieutenant Johnson has a strong desire to build bridges and heal wounds as evidenced by his sacrifice of time to these endeavors. He has taken it upon himself to try to make a difference by using his role as an African American Man, a Sheriffs Deputy, and a Marine veteran to help change minds in a positive way. He has served his country and the citizens of New Hanover County his entire adult life to reach those among us who are often forgotten or ignored.
Most of us take it for granted that emergency help is a simple phone call away. Just dial 911 and stand by for help to arrive. But how does this call really work?

The three-digit “9-1-1” telephone number for emergency calls was established in 1968 by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) as a universal emergency number.

In New Hanover County, that 911 call is answered by the County’s Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC), a consolidated emergency response center for law enforcement (NHS, WPD, CBPD, KBPD, WBPD and UNCW), fire and rescue, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This all-purpose dispatch center is where trained Telecommunicators receive the 911 calls.

According to the PSCC website, in any given 24-hour period, over four hundred 911 calls are received from persons seeking emergency assistance. The Center may receive another one thousand calls a day from the public seeking other services and information.

Who are these Telecommunicators? The PSCC employs approximately 80 persons, the majority of which are trained Telecommunicators. There are typically 14-16 Telecommunicators on duty working 12-hour shifts. Each one is qualified to assist with any type of emergency and keeping them fully trained is one of PSCC’s top priorities.

According to the 911 Call Center Manager, Ms. Debora Cottle, when a person is hired as a Telecommunicator, he or she spends 320 hours in a class room setting learning about the emergency system. This includes learning the basics of the dispatch process and how to take and enter calls. During the 6 to 8-week training academy, telecommunicators are gradually transferred to working in the PSCC and begin many hours of supervised call-taking. After graduating from training, they are assigned to a specific shift and work towards obtaining full certification.

Ms. Cottle points out that in addition to the mental skills needed to handle multi-tasking duties in life and death situations, the emotional side of the work may also take its toll. All 911 calls are recorded and serve as a public record of the call, which may become critical evidence in investigations or prosecutions. To put it mildly, Telecommunicators work in a challenging environment.

One misconception about calling 911 is that the Telecommunicator automatically knows the caller’s location. While a landline phone call shows the caller’s address, the same is not true for cell phones. The FCC has addressed these issues by establishing new rules that require cell phone providers to display the latitude and longitude (“virtual address”) of the cell phone signal. However, the dispatcher is still required by departmental policy to request the caller’s location for a second form of verification.

The NHC 911 system also has the ability to receive text messages. If the caller is not able to speak, this is a wonderful feature to have. Ms. Cottle advises: “This is why 911 stresses: ‘Call if you can, text if you can’t.’ A text message works the same way a cell phone call does.”

But what happens if you have a disability that precludes a description of your location? The PSCC uses an enhanced 911 phone system that allows them to attach information to specific phone numbers, addresses, or locations. This feature, known as Additional Descriptive Information (ADI), helps callers who have a sensitivity or disability which responders need to know. Because this data must be manually entered into the system, a form for submitting ADI details is available on the PSCC website.

According to Ms. Cottle, public outreach on the 911 system is an important part of their mission. “We offer briefings to citizens at many locations, including community centers, schools, retirement communities, or civic group meetings to explain how the system works. Citizens and groups are also welcome to be briefed at our communications center, along with a tour of the facility.” The PSCC believes the more that citizens understand the system, the more effectively it will be used.

Hopefully, you will never need to contact the PSCC. But isn’t it reassuring to know trained professionals are ready – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year-- for any emergency encountered by anyone in New Hanover County? Now that’s what you call public service!

For more information on the NHC 911 system, including Frequently Asked Questions and tips on how to make an effective 911 call, visit the New Hanover PSCC website (https://em911.nhcgov.com) or call them at 910-452-6120.
Going on vacation – concerned about leaving an empty house at risk? Or, worried about some suspicious activity in your neighborhood? Or, it seems that there is unusual level of suspicious surveillance or interest in your business or its environs?

Fortunately, you can take action on one or all of the above scenarios using the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office citizen-requested patrols. Each patrol, its relevant scenario, and the information/process necessary to request the patrol is provided below.

**Empty house at risk?**

Once the proper form is submitted, a patrolling deputy will periodically check the residence during the requested period, including checking doors and doing a perimeter check.

The implementing form is available on the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office website at https://www.newhanoversheriff.com/. On the home page, click on “Forms, Permits, & Resources” found in the black band at the top of the webpage; once on the Forms, Permits and Resources page, click on “Residential Security Check” on the list found on the left hand side of the page; once on the Residential Security Check page, read the instructions and type in your responses in the boxes provided/answer the questions posed; when complete, click on the “Submit” button. The Sheriff’s Office will contact if any questions and will provide a control number, e.g., “Rxxx.”

Residents who return earlier than indicated on the form must notify the Sheriff’s Office of their return; if not, a deputy could mistake the returning resident for an intruder.

Other cautionary measures can and should be taken. Lights can be left on; neighbors should be advised and requested to “keep an eye out” for suspicious circumstances; if the residence is covered by an alarm company, they should be informed.

That’s it, risk remains, but is much reduced.

**Suspicious activity in the neighborhood?**

Suspicious activity can be, among other things, unruly teens, gangs, traffic issues, or other criminal activity.

Again, by submission of the proper form, the neighborhood of interest will receive special attention from the patrolling deputy for that area.

The appropriate form will be filled out by the Sheriff’s Office based on information provided by telephone; the telephone number to call is 910.798.4200; press 6 and ask for the “Front Desk.” When you reach the Front Desk, tell the responding deputy that you would like to submit a request for a “Special Patrol.” The deputy will take your information and submit it to the proper patrol entities. The deputy should give you a control number.

There is a 30 day limit to these patrols and extensions must be requested prior to the expiration of the patrol.

**Business suspicions?**

This patrol is similar to the “Special Patrol” for a neighborhood, but is specifically for a business or its environs.

See the form instructions above for the “Special Patrol.” Contact information is the same except that a “Business Check” is requested.

Note: These services are free and citizens are strongly encouraged to use them as needed.

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**Chaplain’s Corner**  
*By: Patrick Hall  Edited by: C.Scheidegger*

New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office has a robust Chaplaincy program. There are currently 9 chaplains serving. They led by Patrick Hall. Pat is our featured Chaplain for Q1, 2018.

Pat Hall is originally from Walterboro, SC. He says he was saved at the age of 18 from a life of alcohol and drugs. Pat joined the Navy in 1982 serving as an Intelligence Specialist and answered the call to preach while aboard the Battleship Iowa (BB-61). He got out of the Navy in 1987 and has been pastoring since then. Pat, his wife, and 4 kids came to Wilmington 20 years ago to start and establish a Free Will Baptist Church for the NC State Association. As of last year the church has been established as self-supporting and the building and property are debt free. His involvement with NHCSO started around two years ago when the church needed help with a desperate situation in the church. Pat was able to contact Capt. Wilson at NHCSO through a friend and that the Captain was very helpful. He said that not only did he witness the Sheriff’s Office do their job but saw them exhibit a great deal of compassion in the process. After this incident he wanted to return the favor and asked what he could do to help the Sheriff’s Office. Pat was told about the need for Chaplains and was grateful for the opportunity to serve. Since then he has been welcomed and received well whether it be for a 2am call to someone’s home during a tragedy or in the hallways at the Detention Facility. Pat says he is so very thankful for the opportunity to serve the Sheriff’s Office and the community.
Hang Up On Fraud!  

By: Carmen Mincey

Every year thousands of people lose money to phone scams. Scammers will say anything to cheat people out of money and some seem very friendly and convincing during a call. Everyone is a potential target. Fraud isn’t limited to race, ethnic background, gender, age, education or income, although some scams seem to target certain groups like the elderly more than others. This may be because the scammer assumes the elderly live alone, have a larger savings account, or maybe that they are more polite towards strangers. Often, scammers who operate by phone don’t want to give you time to think about their pitch; they just want you to say yes, but some are so cunning that they will take the time to answer your questions. If you get a call from someone you don’t know who is trying to sell you something you haven’t planned to buy or informing you that you have won a prize, Say, “No thanks!” and hang up.

Here are some red flags to help you spot telemarketing scams:

- Caller announces you are a prize winner, they want you to pay for the taxes on your prize prior to receiving it. If it’s free, why are they asking you to pay? Question fees you need to pay to redeem a prize or gift. Free is free. If you have to pay, it’s a purchase—not a prize or a gift.
- You’ve been specially selected
- You’ll get a free bonus if you buy our product
- They state they are from the IRS or other department of the government and threaten to place a warrant for your or a loved one’s arrest if you don’t pay, hang up, and call the IRS directly. The IRS does not do any communications via a phone call. ALL communication is done via US Mail.
- They state they are from law enforcement and indicate that you missed jury duty and are coming to arrest you or loved one due to missing your jury date unless you pay them a fee, Hang up call your local Law enforcement
- They state they are from law enforcement and they indicate that an arrest warrant has been issued for you or a loved one if you don’t pay. Hang up and call the local law enforcement office. Law Enforcement will not call you if you have a warrant for your arrest. They will serve you in person.
- Don’t ever confirm your personal information.
- Don’t agree to any offer for which you have to pay a “registration” or “shipping” fee to get a prize or a gift.
- Don’t send cash by overnight mail, money transfer, or the Green dot card. If you use these methods, rather than a credit card, you will lose your right to dispute fraudulent charges. The money will be gone.

Join the National Do Not Call List

Register your home and mobile phone numbers with the National Do Not Call Registry. This won’t stop all unsolicited calls, but it will stop most. If your number is on the registry and you still get calls. They are probably from scammers ignoring the law. Hang up and report them at www.donotcall.gov.

The NHCSO VIPR Unit hopes it has served to increase transparency and deepen the citizen’s awareness of the activities of the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office. Printed copies of the newsletter are available to read in various places throughout the county and on the Sheriff’s Website at www.newhanoversheriff.com, 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 NHSONews@nhcgov.com. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Carol Scheidegger, VIPR
cscheidegger@nhcgov.com

VIPRs opening night Sheriff’s Citizen Academy February 2018