

September 1, 2017

Dear Avalon Homeowners,

This year the Avalon annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. Once again it will be held at the HTC building on the corner of Carolina Forest Blvd & River Oaks Blvd. Registration will begin at 5:30pm and the meeting will start at 6:00pm. You will be receiving more information over the next few weeks.

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Lt Chuck Powell with the Horry County Police was invited to do a presentation at the Avalon amenities center in reference to crime in the area. The meeting was attended by about 25 Avalon residents and was informative and positive. Lt. Powell brought a spreadsheet with all "calls for service" that the HCPD responded to in Avalon over the past year and it was his opinion that with 738 homes the crime occurrences in Avalon was very low.



Lieutenant Chuck Powell - Horry County Police

Lt Powell reiterated some common sense crime deterrents that the board has been preaching for years; make sure your car doors are locked at night before you go to bed; make sure before you go to bed that all the doors in your house are locked and your garage is closed; keep the front of your house well-lit at night; be good neighbors and look out for each other's safety and property; and finally, if you see something suspicious then call Phoenix Security and 911 if necessary. It is better to call and be wrong then to not call at all.

Another thing that Lt. Powell pointed out during the meeting that many attendees found alarming was the current state of the police coverage in the Carolina Forest area and most of the county in general. During a WBTW news interview with new Horry County Police Chief Joseph Hill three months ago he stated that the HCPD was "severely understaffed" and the department had 21 vacancies. Chief Hill said in an area as large as Horry County (1,255 square miles) that the Horry County Police Department would need to hire 95 police officers just to meet the national average of officers per square mile. During the Avalon meeting with Lt. Powell he used an easel with a blowup map of the Horry County Police sectors. Lt Powell said that Avalon is part of the "North Sector". The North Sector is south to Hwy 501, west to Hwy 905 in Conway, east to the ocean, and north to the North Carolina border. The North Sector is a HUGE geographically and is divided up into 6 areas with each area having one (1) police officer. Lt. Powell explained that in a "perfect scenario" that at any given time in the North Sector there would be one officer for each area (six) and three supervisors. However, Lt Powell said if one of those six officers is sick or on vacation then the other North Precinct officers must cover that area in addition to their own which leaves coverage stretched thin. Lt Powell also said officers must regularly leave their areas to back-up officers in other areas anytime there is a domestic situation or any other dangerous call. This also leaves areas without any coverage for extended periods. Lt Powell explained that the calls that each officer gets for their assigned area are "prioritized". Meaning if you call about a suspicious person in Avalon and someone in the Farm reports a shooting, the suspicious person call drops to the bottom of the priority list and the officer will get to it when they can.



North Sector is area 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 (Avalon is in area 11)

The board has been receiving a lot of complaints about underage golf cart drivers. There are state laws that govern golf carts that many people may not know. South Carolina Code of Laws section 56-2-105(D) states that the driver of a golf cart MUST be at least 16 years old and have a valid driver's license. Section 56-2-105(C) states that a golf cart can legally only be operated during daylight hours (regardless of whether it has headlights or not). Section 56-2-105(D)(1) and 56-2-105(D)(2) state that a golf cart must be registered with the state and must have liability insurance. It is extremely dangerous and negligent to let unlicensed and underage kids drive golf carts and it needs to stop.



If you are allowing this to happen:

Then you are also allowing this to happen:



Recently on social media an Avalon resident reported seeing a coyote and it was cause for concern for many people. Coyotes are not native to South Carolina and considered an invasive species. Coyotes started migrating into the western part of the state in the 1970's. As with most wild animals if you leave them alone they will leave you alone. A <u>healthy</u> coyote is generally no danger to humans. If you see a coyote that is not attempting to hide (no fear) and is acting erratically then it may be sick or rabid. However, coyotes are a big danger to pets especially cats or small dogs. Coyotes are very smart and cunning and can snatch a pet from your yard in the blink of an eye. A backyard fence is little protection because coyotes can easily climb over or tunnel under.



Coyote (Canis latrans)



Coyote climbing a fence



Wile E. Coyote (Super Genius)

Finally, congratulations to Thong Le at 2032 Copper Creek Court for winning the September 2017 Yard of the quarter. This entitles Thong to one (1) quarter free dues!



Mike McGinnis – Vice President

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