



The Avalon Home and

Land Owners Association

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

please note there is not a report given each month

June 2018 – see the report at “recent Speakers”

No reports December 2017 to May 2018

October 2017 - There has been a great increase in the number of cyclists stopped this summer for bike violations. All police officers have been equipped with body worn cameras. Two complaints made about officers were deemed to be false due to video recording.

Avalon participates in the national campaign known as "Operation Take Back". This allows anyone that has left over medication to drop it off at the Police Department, no questions asked. In addition the Department will accept unwanted prescription drugs at any time.

A report was also received from the Fire Department. So far in 2017 there have been 4 building fires. 49% of all alarms are false alarms or false calls.

July and Sept 2017 – no report

June 2017 – Please see the remarks by Police Captain Christopher and Fire Chief Dean on the “Recent Papers” page. The ad hoc Bike Safety Committee has met. The Borough would like to minimize the chaos and confusion exhibited by bike riders. In the fall there will probably be bike lanes northbound on Avalon Avenue from 32nd to 8th Street and on First Avenue southbound from 7th to 40th Streets.

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February 2017 - In regard to the bike safety program, it was reported that the program is built around the AHLOA Facebook page. It has been suggested that trinkets be given away at the Community Connections and Annual Meetings. It is thought that 20 helmets should be obtained from local bicycle stores and given away at these meetings. Several thousand bike safety brochures have been ordered from Cross Country Connection to be distributed to the public through the Police Department and realtors.

January 2017 - The bike safety initiative will continue. Social Media will be used to promote the program. A beach cruiser bike will be obtained to promote the program.

The Committee is trying to reduce the number of bikes in the business district of Dune Drive. One-way bike paths are being developed for First Avenue and Avalon Avenue. These will require painting the paths on the roads and signage. It is hoped to have the paths in place in the spring. Public education will be needed.

December 2016 - At a meeting with the Police Chief it was reported that one burglary has occurred in town. A suspect is being sought.



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Effective January 1, 2017 a new construction trailer ordinance will take effect. In the period May to September the only trailers that can be parked on the street must be associated with the adjacent construction site. There are no restrictions during the rest of the year. Motorcycle trailers are included in the ban.

November 2016 - Bike safety cards are given to offenders. In 2016 there were 1322 bike violations as opposed to 230 in 2015. The police don't want to get into a situation that charges are issued in all cases. In 2016 there have been 4 accidents, in 2015 there were 7.

Concerns were expressed that rental bikes do not have lights.

There is confusion over the laws on giving way to pedestrians crossing streets.

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September 2016 - It has been reported that there has been little crime in the Borough this summer. There were four overdoses and narcane was administered. A small boy was seriously injured on the beach when he was hit on the head with a bocce ball.

The Chief stresses that, now the summer season is over, burglaries increase because homes are vacant. Citizens need to notify the police if anything suspicious appears to be going on.

A concern was raised by a person attending the meeting about the lack of lights on bicycles at night.

July 2016 - It was mentioned that there does not appear to be any bike racks in front of Hoy's or Avalon Market. A lot of bikes are left on the sidewalk in front of these stores. There is increased police activity on bike safety. There were warnings on bike safety in 2015 and 298 so far in 2016. Hand-outs have been given to cyclists.

June 2016 - A bike path map has been developed to keep bikes off Dune Drive in the business district. This is currently being checked out. It will be proposed that bikes would go north on Avalon Avenue and south on First Avenue. Signs will be posted to keep cyclists in single file.

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May 2016 – no report

March 2016 - The Bike Safety Committee will meet at a future date. AHLOA is working on a new communication program for bicycle safety.

February 2016 - The Bike Safety Committee will meet later in February. The Chief has offered one of his police bicycles with a back reflector, headlight and helmet for use in the Community Connections program.

January 2016 - Two new officers will join the force after graduating from the Police Academy in January. They will replace two officers, one who is going to Ocean City and another who is going to the State police force.



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Ann Oberg has agreed to take up the effort to develop the Bike Safety program for Facebook since it is felt that the pamphlets have not been successful. Any changes in the program will be approved by the Chief of Police.

December 2015 - A committee has been formed to look into an update on bike safety. It is getting input on routing bikes so they may be kept off Dune Drive in the business district. A committee has been formed to look into an update on bike safety. It is getting input on routing bikes so they may be kept off Dune Drive in the business district.

November 2015 - Two officers have been assigned to other departments and will be replaced by two personnel currently attending the police academy.

The Chief has indicated that telephone calls purporting to come from the IRS are really a scam and people receiving them must be cautious when answering this type of call or giving personal information to unknown callers.

October 2015 - BIKE SAFETY

Following up on comments by Ramona Sanabria at the previous Trustees meeting, the President noted that while our pamphlets on bike safety are still requested and distributed by the police and realtors, there is a concern this method of disseminating our message may be falling short. Accordingly, the President has invited Monica Coskey to talk at our November meeting about how AHLOA might take advantage of electronic advertisement methods to better disseminate our message on bike safety into the larger Avalon community, especially youngsters.

A suggestion was made that school age youngsters can be enlisted to make videos, write essays etc. on the subject of bike safety, thereby becoming personally involved and committed.

The President mentioned that he had participated in an ad hoc meeting with Scott Wahl on the issue of bike safety and asked Councilman Covington that AHLOA be involved in any bike safety agenda, given our history on the subject.

September 2015 - Chief McCormick has reported that overall this summer went well except for the terrible bike accident at 32nd Street. The Borough has turned quiet now that Labor Day has passed, but the police and citizens need to stay alert to prevent thefts and burglaries through the months when most homes are vacant. As previously requested if you see anything suspicious don't hesitate to contact the police. The Department is already planning for next summer.

Jan- July 2015 – no reports

December 2104 - Three new officers will be graduating from the Police Academy this month and will join the force in January. The force will be fully staffed with 16 officers on patrol.

November 2014 - October 2014 – No reports

September 2014 - Three new officers will be graduating from the Police Academy in December/January and will join the force bringing it up to full strength. The bike patrol stopped after Labor Day and the Boat patrol will stop at the end of September. The Avalon Boat Patrol supplements the State Police on the back bays. The jitneys were very successful since they experienced fewer DUIs and bike thefts. The police have been actively enforcing the ordinance prohibiting the unlawful pick-up of trash and bulk items.



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The Police Department and Rescue Squad personnel have been trained in the use of Narcan to treat drug overdose. Avalon does not have the problem that other areas have, but there have been a few cases in past years.

The Chief thanked AHLOA for the purchase of one of the new bikes.

July 2014 - Two arrests have been made on copper thefts in Avalon and Stone Harbor.

There is a concern about the fact that many bikes do not have lights. Officers are stopping people. There is also a need to get the word out that lights are a requirement. Paul Short will check with Scott Wahl to see if something can be put on Comcast Channel 97. It is not known if rental bikes have lights and it was suggested that it may be a requirement for rental bikes to have lights.

The police require cars to stop at crosswalks, marked or unmarked if the pedestrian is in the street. Apparently the State Law does not require crosswalks to be marked.

June 2014 - The Committee has suggested to the Contributions Committee that consideration be given to donating a new bicycle to the Police Department. Dave Knoche will look into the cost.

Also see the remarks by Chief McCormick under "recent speakers."

May 2014 - The Avalon Police Department is in the hiring process. They have filled 10 summer bike patrol jobs. The two-man teams will patrol 5 different areas in late evening to early morning. The teams do their own repairs, however, the bikes are old and some need to be replaced.

In the marine area two boats will be manned this year with one shift on week days and two shifts on weekends. Both boats are 13 years old and a grant to purchase a new boat is being applied for.

April was a bad month for thefts. This included not only copper but also kayaks, statues and various items at construction sites. The Chief has asked again that if you see anything unusual don't hesitate to notify the police.

March 2014 - The Chief stated that the video cameras located in the Borough play an important in the investigation of various offences and are being utilized.

The shared services program with Stone Harbor for handling police calls is working very smoothly.

February 2014 - The Mayor swore in two police officers to new positions at the January 29 Council meeting.

The Chief reported that there has been a decrease in the copper thefts in the past few weeks. He continues to urge residents to report anything suspicious to the police and they will check it out.

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ffences and are being utilized.

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January 2014 - There has been a briefing on the joint dispatch process. The Police aspects of the program started around January 6. A presentation has been made to the Freeholders on County participation in the Medical and Fire dispatch process. No decision has been made by the County to date.



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The Chief has reported that copper thefts are active again and he asks that the public report anything suspicious.

It was suggested by a person attending the meeting that the public could assist in clearing snow from around fire hydrants in the Borough, especially those not in the vicinity of an intersection.

December 2013 – No report

November 2013 - Two promotions have taken place with one individual moving to Sergeant and one to Detective.

There has been an improvement in the Communication System and Avalon Dispatch will assume the responsibility for Stone Harbor Dispatch under a Shared Services Program.

AHLOA received a request from a resident regarding a stolen bike. The communicant was put in touch with the appropriate police officer. Unfortunately the bike has not been recovered.

October 2013 - Several Concerns raised by residents have been discussed with the Police Chief:

Concern about speeding police cars – Officers have been trained to react according to the nature of the emergency. Stressed is the need to slow down at intersections so that a car on an emergency run is not involved in an accident.

Concern about education and enforcement on bike rules - The bike safety pamphlet was revised and 10,000 copies printed and widely distributed. The police had almost 200 encounters with violators of bike safety between January 1 and August 15.

Three new full time police officers were added to the force in August to fill vacancies caused by retirements. Patrolman Sgt. Roscoe has moved to Admin. Sgt. Taking the place of Admin. Sgt. Hood, who has retired.

Fire Chief Eddie Dean has stated that there has been a big increase in kitchen fires this summer.

No reports for July, August, September

June 2013 - Chief McCormick has indicated that everything is pretty much a status quo. He asks that if anyone notices anything unusual or suspicious they should not hesitate to report it to the police.

May 2013 - The "Ride Bikes Safely" pamphlet has been updated, printed and distributed throughout the Borough. AHLOA paid for the cost of printing the pamphlet.

March 2013 - Working with Chief McCormick and Sergeant Roscoe AHLOA has revised the "Ride Bikes Safely" pamphlet that was developed several years ago. The pamphlet is distributed to all hotels, realtors, the bike shop and beach tag hut for insertion in the beach tag package. The following additions have been made:

No bike riding on sidewalks in the Dune Drive business district; bikes can be walked on the sidewalk.

No bikes on the boardwalk after 10:00 a.m.

Emphasis was placed on obeying traffic lights, stop signs and crosswalks.

Registration of bikes with the police department. Website and Facebook addresses have been added. The Executive Committee has agreed to order 10,000 copies of the pamphlet.



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February 2013 - The Department has completed the accreditation process. Talks have been ongoing with the Stone Harbor Police Department in regards to Avalon taking over dispatching for Stone Harbor Police, Fire, and Rescue.

January 2013 - It was reported that Sergeant Smith is retiring and a patrolman is leaving. One patrolman will be promoted and two patrolmen will be hired.