BLUFFTON BEAT

"Committed to Community"

FALL 2016

Chief's Message

Fall is here! Soon the temperatures will be dropping and we'll all be wishing for the warmer weather again.

In this fall edition of the Bluffton Beat we will inform you on some safety tips to remember over the next few months. We also want to keep you abreast of what events and festivals will be coming up.

IRS Scam

In the last several weeks, the Bluffton Police Department has received complaints from residents regarding a phone scam.

The scam involves a person calling a home, cell phone or business, and saying they represent the IRS. The person then tells the resident they owe back taxes, and if it isn't paid, an officer will arrest them. The scammer then states the late balance can be settled by buying an ITunes or Target gift card in the amount owed.

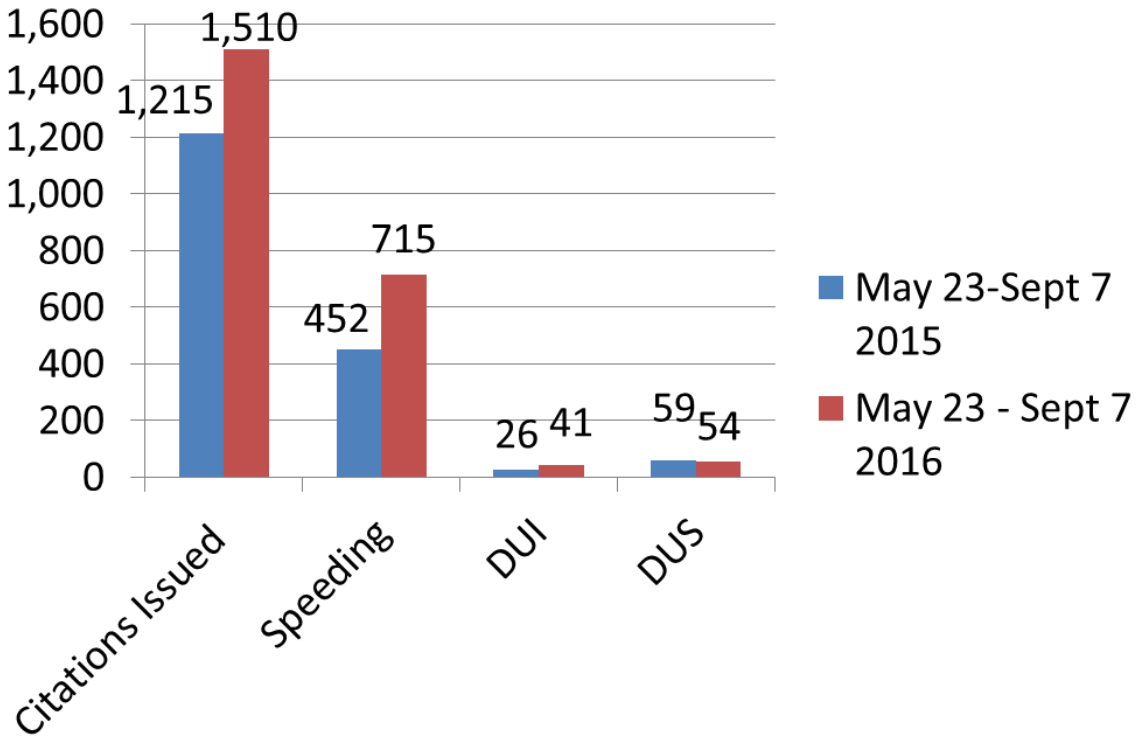
"What is concerning, somehow the Bluffton Police Department phone number is appearing on the residents' caller IDs who are receiving these calls. We want the public to know the Bluffton Police Department will not call you on behalf of another agency and threaten to arrest you if a payment isn't made," said Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds.

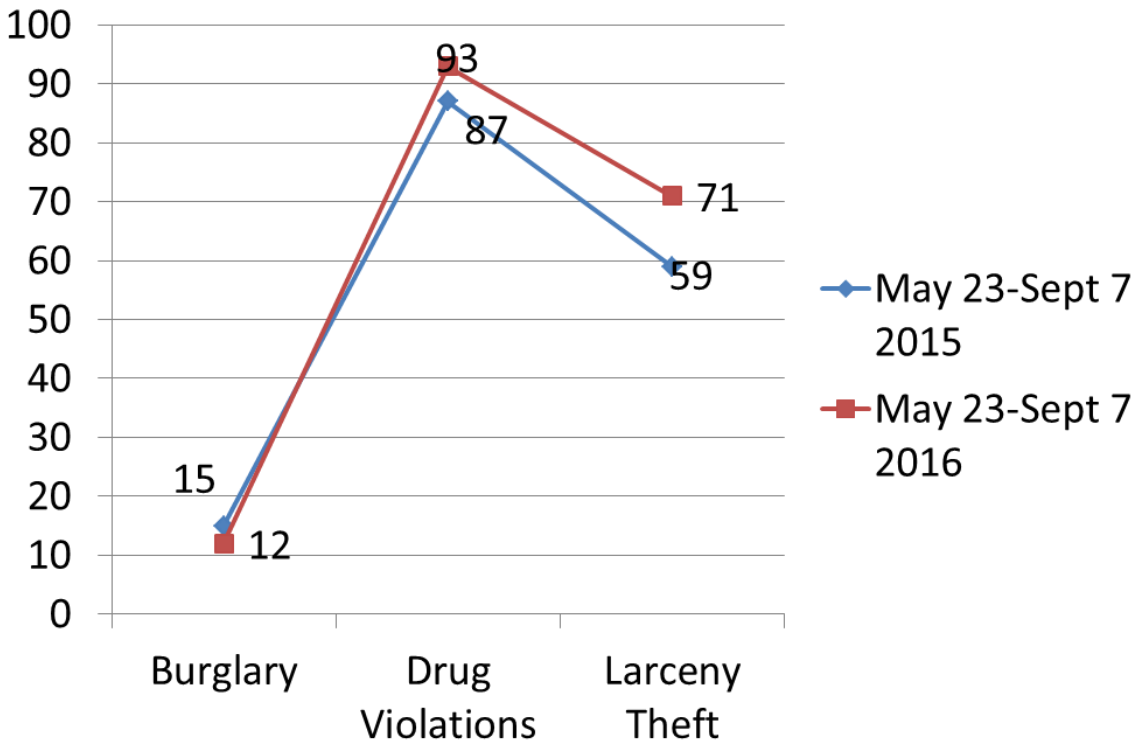
According to IRS.gov the IRS will never:

1) Call to demand immediate payment.
2) Demand you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount.
3) Require you to use specific payment method.
4) Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to make an arrest.

If you receive a phone call like this, hang up, and call the IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting phone number at 1-800-366-4484. You should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov.

CRIME





STATISTICS

Autumn Season

S A F E T Y T I P S

Autumn is a time for football, cooler weather and shortening days; but it is also the time to perform some simple maintenance tasks to insure we all continue to stay safe. This is also a good time to inventory any safety kits, such travel kits.

Home: Prune shrubbery away from windows before foliage blocks windows. Change your smoke alarm batteries.

Out and About: Drive safely, use your headlights since it is getting dark earlier each day. Lock all car doors and hide all items in trunk out of plain view. Make sure you are not encumbered with a large number of items. Women, carry your purse as close to your body as possible, no dangling straps. Men, carry your wallet in front pants pocket. Do not travel alone.

Recreation: Cyclists should lock bikes up and wear reflective safety equipment. Register your bike in case it is stolen or lost. Boaters should check their equipment and make sure it is serviceable and working properly.

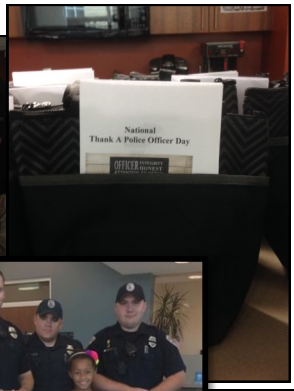
Businesses: Ensure an uncluttered and well lit view from the outside. Ensure staff has an unobstructed view of customers and they should know proper procedures if they spot a shoplifter. Train staff to recognize counterfeit currency, credit cards, and false ID's. NO UNDERAGE SALES!!! Excess cash should be transferred from registers frequently. Cash registers should be emptied every night. The money in the registers should be counted in a secure area out of view of customers. Surveillance cameras should be serviced and maintained regularly. Parking lots should be well lit and maintained to ensure customer safety.

Daylight Saving Time

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

THANK YOU!

Over the summer the kindness of the Bluffton Community was felt here at the police department. From candy, to flowers, to cards, to food, to gift bags, and stuffed animals; the officers here are truly blessed to have such a strong support system. Thank you to everyone for the goodies and thoughts of support you have given all of us.



FREE Child Car Seat Safety Checks

The Bluffton Police Department continues to offer free child car seat safety checks each month. You can come to the police department and have a certified child seat safety inspector make sure the seat is installed correctly in your car. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found 46% of car seats were installed or used incorrectly. The safety checks are available from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the last Thursday of the month. **No appointment is necessary.**

FREE CHECKS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

FOR THE PUBLIC

For the third year, the Bluffton Police Department hosted a National Night Out event at the Police Department located in Buckwalter Place. If you made it, you saw there wasn't a shortage of displays, fun or food.

Several exhibits were on-site including the Bluffton Township Fire District, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, Beaufort County Animal Control, EMS, Department of Natural Resources, SC Highway Patrol, and SC Forestry Commission. Several local businesses, sponsoring the event, also had tent displays. The Lowcountry Community Church graciously cooked all the food as they did last year.

In addition to the displays, Bluffton Police Department's new traffic team, who are certified child car seat safety instructors, provided free seat checks.

For the children there was an arts and crafts tent with coloring and painting, a water balloon contest, an extrication completed by the Fire Department and a tug-of-war contest between Bluffton Police and Bluffton Fire…..which I have to say with pride….. the Police WON!

If you missed the fun, pictures are below and plan on coming out for the event in 2017 on August 1st.

BLUFFTON POLICE

RECOGNITION

Chief Sworn In as FBINAA President

Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds was sworn as president of the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. (FBINAA) at the organization's annual conference in St. Louis in July.

The FBINAA is a non-profit, international organization made up of nearly 16,000 senior law enforcement men and women who have graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. It allows law enforcement leaders to network around the world, improving their skills and their departments' skills.

While the FBINAA provides training opportunities for those in law enforcement, it also provides members to share ideas, techniques, and experiences.

"This is a huge accomplishment for Chief Reynolds. It's a reflection of his talents as a law enforcement officer and how he leads the men and women who protect us," said Bluffton Mayor Lisa Sulka.

The FBINAA was created in 1935.

Bluffton Police Lt. Awarded International Honor

Lt. Joe Babkiewicz has been announced as a 2016 "International Association of Chiefs of Police 40 under 40 Award" recipient.

This award is designed to recognize 40 law enforcement professionals under the age of 40 from around the world who demonstrates leadership and exemplifies commitment to their profession. Award winners represent the law enforcement Leaders of Today as well as the Leaders of Tomorrow.

"I can't express how proud I am of Lt. Babkiewicz for achieving this honor. To be selected of only 40 in the world tells you how lucky we are to have him here in Bluffton," said Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds.

An application and letter of recommendation was submitted to the awards committee. Winners were then selected based on complying with the age and employment, demonstrates values and commitment to law enforcement and has a capacity for leadership.

Lt. Babkiewicz has been employed with the Bluffton Police Department since 2008.

Town 9/11 Ceremony

On September 11, 2016 the Town of Bluffton, along with the Bluffton Police Department and Bluffton Township Fire District came together to hold its 14th 9/11 ceremony remembering the lives lost that day that changed America forever.

More than 100 people from the community gathered under the flag in front of Town Hall to pay tribute with police officers and firefighters standing at attention.

The guest speakers included Deacon John Crapanzano, Mayor Lisa Sulka, Fire Chief John Thompson and Police Chief Joey Reynolds.

The St. Gregory the Great Catholic School choir serenaded the crowd with beautiful patriotic songs.

COMMUNITY KICKBALL

It was a community kickball game that, I don't believe, has ever been played here in Bluffton. Police and firefighters out playing and having fun with the Bluffton youth. On Sunday, September 25th the entire community was urged to come out and play kickball, eat ribs and hot dogs and even do some dancing.

The First Zion Missionary Baptist Church hosted the game. Kids of all ages got out on the field and had smiles on their faces the entire time while kicking and running bases.

We hope to keep this fun going every few months, so if you are in an organization or church that would like to sponsor the next "Community Day of Fun", contact Joy Nelson at the Bluffton Police Department at jnelson@townofbluffton.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

12th Annual Historic Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival is coming up Oct. 15-23. The week will be filled with art exhibits, live music, kayaking, May River tours, wine tasting and so much food, you won't know what to eat. For the full schedule of events and additional information go to http://www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com/

The 2016 Town Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade are coming up Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3. Santa will be arriving Friday afternoon for the Tree Lighting ceremony and then hand out gifts to the children. On Saturday, the annual parade will take place leaving from Town Hall on Bridge Street, down Calhoun Street, onto May River Road, through Bluffton Park, and ending at Red Cedar Elementary School. For those who would like to have a float in the parade, please fill out a community events application at http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/pdfs/community-event-application.pdf

There are many more events happening from now until the end of the year. For a list of some, visit the Greater Bluffton Chamber of Commerce website and look under the Events section to see what is coming up. http://blufftonchamberofcommerce.org/. Another place to look for upcoming events is the Town of Bluffton website's under the Community tab. http://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/

SAVE THE DATES