



BLUFFTON BEAT

“Committed to Community”

Chief’s Message



Welcome to the Bluffton Police Department’s winter 2017 newsletter. The Bluffton Police Department is committed to the community and therefore, we want to make sure you know what we are doing to serve and protect you. Each day we are out in the community to ensure the public is abiding by the law but more importantly, keep you and your family safe.

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Bluffton is the 5th Safest Town in South Carolina

SafeHome.org ranked the Town of Bluffton the 5th Safest City in South Carolina. SafeHome.org is a professional review site dedicated to enhancing communities’ safety.

“The Town of Bluffton continues to be ranked as one of the state’s safest cities due to our community partnerships and community policing programs,” Mayor Lisa Sulka said. “Every day, Bluffton police officers are involved in our neighborhoods and business communities as our residents, business owners and officers work together to proactively prevent crime and promote public safety.”

Bluffton Police Chief Joseph Manning attributes this high ranking to Town Council’s investment in the department’s training and tools.

“Police departments must have the resources to prevent and combat crime at every level,” Bluffton Police Chief Joseph Manning said. “This year, our department has established its own K-9 team, implemented more traffic safety checkpoints, hired a DUI enforcement officer and has held community events such as National Night Out and free child car seat inspections. I am proud our Town invests in the department so our officers can strive to continually raise our professionalism standards with our programs, policies and community involvement.”

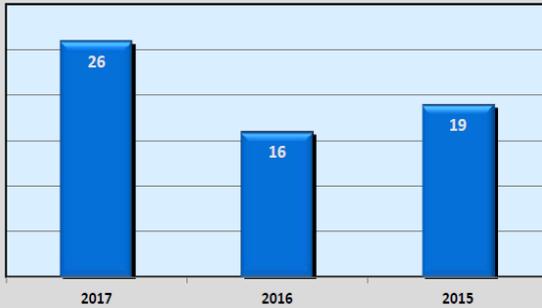
SafeHome.org used a variety of data and factors to determine its scores and ranking, including the following: the FBI crime report on number and types of crimes committed throughout a single year, the city’s crime trends, number of law enforcement officers compared to population, demographic metrics such as population density, population trends, unemployment rate, median income and education level.

CRIME

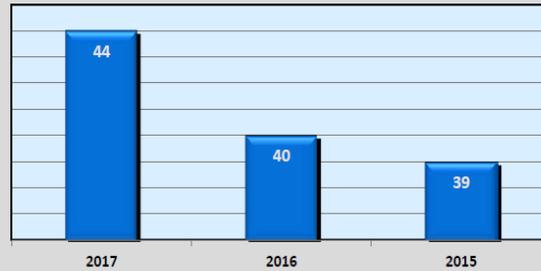


STATISTICS

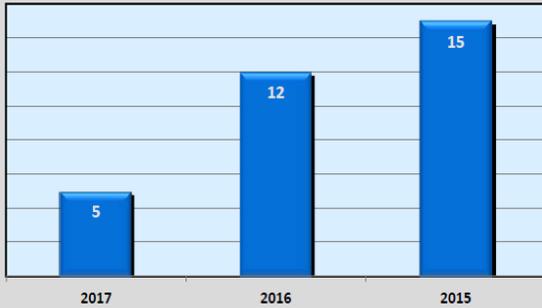
November Theft Comparison



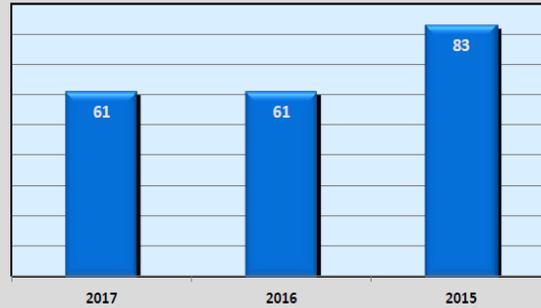
November Domestic Calls for Service Comparison



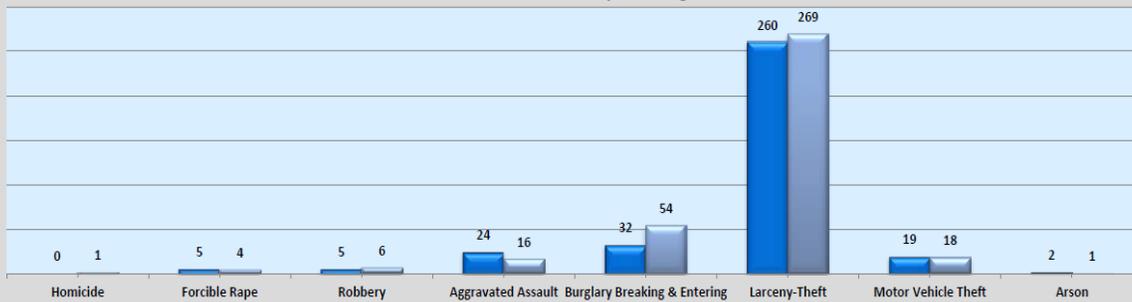
November Assault Comparison



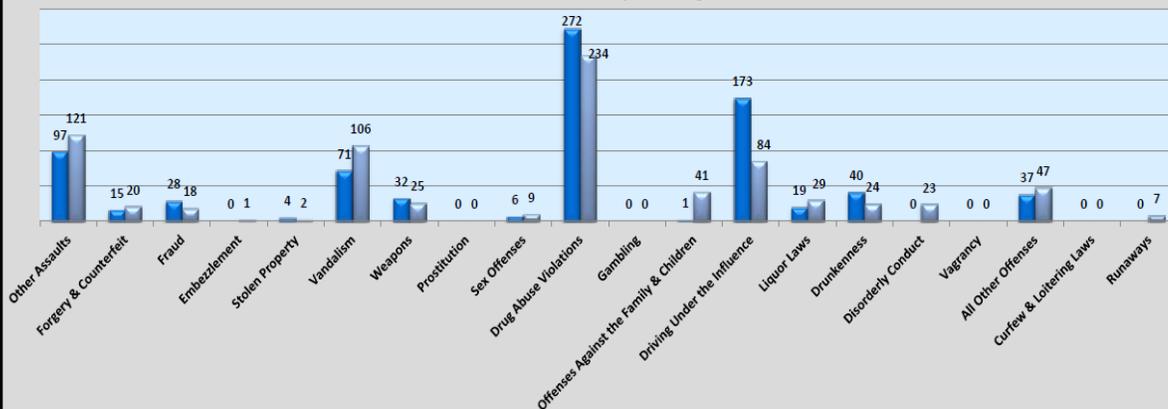
November Arrest Comparison



2017 Prior 3 year average



2017 Prior 3 year average





SOBER OR SLAMMER

Over the next few weeks, there will be several holiday parties. That's why it's important to remind the public about the Sober or Slammer campaign in which law enforcement will be watching motorists closer to ensure they aren't driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

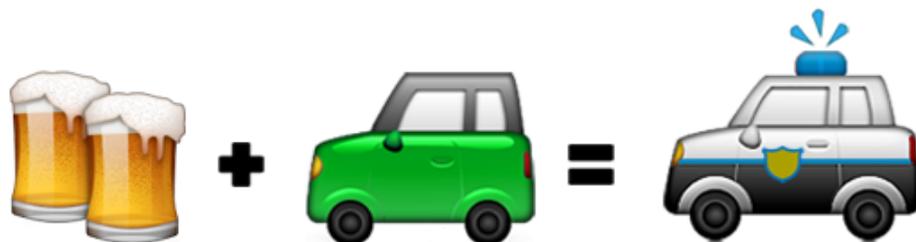
Sober or Slammer isn't just a campaign slogan. It is life or death.

"Nearly 22,000 people were arrested for DUI in 2016, and nearly half of all fatal crashes in South Carolina involve an impaired driver. These numbers are a driving force behind Bluffton officers watching the roads closely from now until after the New Year. In addition to our patrol officers, our Traffic Enforcement Team will be monitoring our roadways and identifying traffic violators throughout the Town to ensure everyone's safety," said Bluffton Police Chief Joseph Manning.

South Carolina law prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol to the extent that the person's faculties to drive are materially and appreciably impaired. If you are convicted of causing great bodily injury or death while driving under the influence, you face:

- A mandatory fine of \$5,100 to \$10,100 and imprisonment from 30 days to 15 years when great bodily injury occurs.
- A mandatory fine of \$10,100 to \$25,100 and imprisonment from one to 25 years when death occurs.

SC Code of Laws Sections 56-5-2933 and 56-5-2940



SOBER OR SLAMMER

TARGET
ZERO
SCDPS

HOLIDAY SAFETY



During the month of December there is shopping, parties and traveling. All three can be distracting and taken to an extreme level. That's why it is important to lay out some holiday safety tips. Here are a few to get you through the New Year.

- Use a designated driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol, over-the-counter or illegal drugs all cause impairment.
- Decorate the tree with your kids in mind; move ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks toward the top.
- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you. Park in a well-lit space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide **shopping** bags and gifts in the trunk. While using an ATM, choose one that is located inside a well-lit area and only withdraw the cash you need.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Help prevent your vehicle from being stolen by always locking your car and using anti-theft devices. And although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store—even if for only a minute or two
- Conduct a pre-trip vehicle inspection. If you find your vehicle needs repairs, be sure to address them in a timely manner so they can be performed by a trusted technician before your journey.
- If you are going out of town and would like the Bluffton Police Department to check on your home periodically, please call 843-706-4550.



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NEW OFFICERS



Officer Brian Grant



K9 Frankie



Officer Craig Karafa

Not Pictured:
Officer Richard Riney

Recruits:
Officer Bethany Hopkins
Tyrell Rock
Craig Trotto

Welcome to all the new officers and their families to the Bluffton Police Department. Some of these officers are already on the road, while others are currently or will soon be at the SC Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia.



GIVING BACK

Officer Oscar Frazier wanted to make sure as many families that needed it, had a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. He reached out to the community and was able to collect more than 100 turkeys to give to local families. Thank you to all the individual turkey donations, along with the donations that came from local businesses.

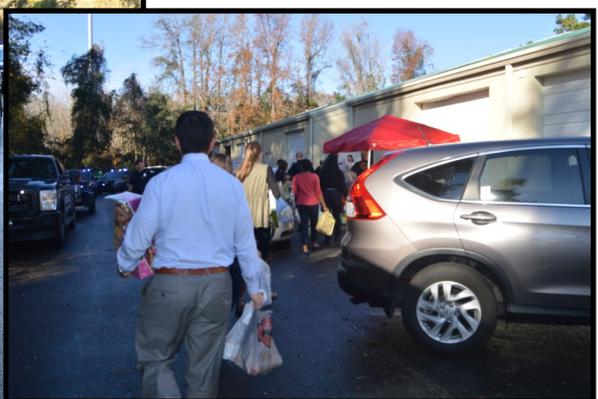
Meanwhile, Chief Joseph Manning decided he wanted to give back by serving lunch to children at MC Riley Elementary School. The Chief along with some other officers and firefighters from the Bluffton Township Fire District all served lunch on the Friday before Thanksgiving.





TOY DRIVE DELIVERY

This year, the Town of Bluffton partnered with Bluffton Self Help to ensure Bluffton children were going to have a very Merry Christmas. Thanks to the amazing community, we collected more toys and bicycles than we every have before. Tuesday morning, a handful of officers loaded up the toys and delivered them to Bluffton Self Help where volunteers were waiting to sort the toys and prepare Santa's workshop. Thank you to everyone who donated!



BEING INVOLVED



Officer DeCrane and K9 Frankie gave a Boy Scout Pack a tour of the police department on December 6h.



On October 21 the Bluffton Police Department participated in the Arts and Seafood Festival by informing the public about distracted driving. Officer Elkin had the “beer goggles” out there for people to look through to show your impairment after three beers.



Chief Manning and Community Relations Manager Joy Nelson taught a course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute . The course focused on the police department and what police do on a daily basis the public may not know



The Bluffton Police Department is very active with the local HOAs and POAs in the Bluffton Town limits. Each month officers attend these meetings at the request of the neighborhood or subdivision to offer a variety of information. Recently, officers attended The Farm HOA meeting and Hampton Hall’s annual HOA meeting. If you would like a Bluffton Officer come to your next meeting, please contact Joy Nelson at jnelson@townofbluffton.com .



CHRISTMAS PARADE



Parade Winners:

Best Performance: Battery Creek High School Marching Band

Best Float: May River Montessori

State of Mind: Cub Scout Pack 213

