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Pinehurst Groups Donate More Police Bikes

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A number of lucky little ones will get a new bicycle for Christmas.

Pinehurst police officers may be doing double duty on the nice list because there were two for them under a tree at the Pinehurst Trace clubhouse Friday.

These shiny sport bikes are a bit above the average 6-speed.

The Pinehurst Trace community, the Red Hat Society and Pinehurst Civic Club presented a \$540 check to Pinehurst Police Chief Earl Phipps for the Pinehurst Police Department bike program.

"I didn't think last year we'd get this far this fast with our bike program," Phipps said.

This past spring, Phipps and the Pinehurst Civic Club challenged the Pinehurst Trace community to raise money for the police bikes, which cost \$900. The Civic Club promised to match the amount raised.

"These are not the bikes you had as a kid," Phipps said.

The 50-pound lightweight frame sports blue and red lights, 21 speeds, front and rear braking, along with everything from a water bottle holder to a place for extra pens. The only thing missing is a siren.

The bikes are purchased locally from Velo Smart.



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"The turn lights make us more visible, and hopefully that will help," Sgt. Thomas Carpenter said.

The two bikes at the meeting are part of the five bikes owned by the Pinehurst Police Department. The Pinehurst community has donated all five bikes.

Wally Mauch and David Word, from Pinehurst, and Patrick Henry from the Pinehurst Civic Group, spoke at the meeting. Word presented the check to Phipps.

"It is such a blessing to come to work in the village; everyone cares," Phipps said.

The bike program will have eight mobile bike officers. The bikes allow them to get face-time in the community, according to Phipps. Traveling at a slower speed, the officers will be able to hear and see more.

"You'll see more and more of us in the neighborhoods, because that's where we need to be," Phipps said.

The bike officers have been specially trained on police mountain bikes. Officer Ron Szurgot and Carpenter scored high enough in their training classes and will be going to Louisiana to become instructors.

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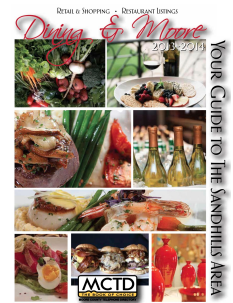
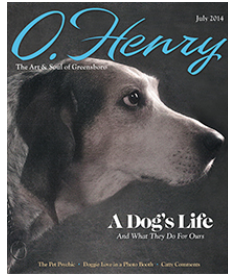
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