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Horry County Police Department develops new initiative to clear up phone lines

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HORRY COUNTY, SC (WMBF) New Horry County Police Chief Saundra Rhodes is working on an initiative to help keep officers out watching the streets. It all has to do with when you decide to pick up the phone and call "911." In the South Precinct, which protects Myrtle Beach, **Carolina Forest**, Socastee, Murrells Inlet and Garden City, the Horry County Police Department gets more than half of their calls for service. Officers want to make sure your needs are going to the

right place, so patrol officers can focus on keeping neighborhoods safe. It can be as simple as knowing the difference between an emergency and a non-emergency. Non-emergencies still require an officer's attention, like general questions or to file a police report, where you can always call your local precinct. The department has desk officers there, so when you have an emergency, patrol officers won't have their hands tied up with calls. "This is a big county," said Sgt. Robert Kessler with the Horry

County Police Department. "And there's different needs for different areas of the county. And it may just be something as simple as wanting to speak to an officer over the phone. And we have that capability." The E-911 Director Toni Bessent says only **30 percent** of the calls they get are actually emergencies. So knowing who to call can really cut down the time for waiting on help to arrive. Plus, many times calls can be backed up waiting on an officer to answer, and officials don't want to have calls stacking up

without an officer to send.

Horry County is divided up into four different districts with their own phone lines: The South Precinct, Central Precinct, West Precinct, and North Precinct.

The South Precinct, 843-915-7953, serves Murrells Inlet, Garden City, Socastee, the Myrtle Beach sections of Horry County and Carolina Forest.



**Covington Lake
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The social committee had it's Easter candy grab bag on March 25 down at the play ground by the pool . Thanks to all that attended to make this a success and also **a big thanks to Jen Kramer and Sheila Karsevar** for organizing the event.

Also please watch for future announcements of other fun days in Covington Lake.

