

Safety/Security – January 2023

Bottom Line Up Front:

- Black Ice
- Control of Dogs
- Short-Term Rental Points of Contact

Black Ice: Happy New Year! This year begins with some of the coldest weather we've had in a long time. When the ambient temperature is below freezing (32° F), otherwise damp pavement can acquire a glaze of ice that is not always visible. Test your brakes while going slowly in the neighborhood to see if the road is icy. Be mindful that even on sunny days, elevated roadbeds, bridges, roadways in shadows, or the edges of curves may be slick even when the rest of the road seems clear. Drive cautiously and defensively. If you skid, ease off the throttle and steer into the skid. Final note: four-wheel drive helps you “go,” it doesn't help you “stop.”

Control of Dogs: I regret having to address this issue, but I received a report of a dog attack in Croatan recently, as well as several complaints of barking dogs disturbing the peace. City Code addresses these situations and **I request that landlord recipients of this Newsletter share its contents with renters.** Here are some excerpts from VB City Code on the subjects:

Chapter 5 – Animals and Fowl, Article V – Animal Welfare, Division 2 – **Dangerous and Vicious Dogs** defines a “dangerous dog” as “a canine...that has bitten, attacked, or inflicted injury upon a companion animal that is a dog or cat...” There are caveats, of course, such as no injury being inflicted, or the attacking dog is on its own property. Regardless, Animal Control or Police should be called in such instances in order to make a determination of risk and observe injuries. Proper number for such incidents is 757-385-5000. Call 9-1-1 if death of another animal or serious injury to a human (beyond a nip or scratch) has occurred.

VB City Code § 5-532(a) – **Barking Dogs** – “It shall be unlawful for any person to keep a dog without exercising proper care and control of such dog to prevent it from disturbing the peace of others by barking, whining, howling, or crying without provocation in a loud, continuous or untimely manner.” Some dog breeds are more prone to barking than others, but owners owe a responsibility to their neighbors to train their dogs not to bark except as a warning.

VB City Code § 5-534 – **Allowing dogs or horses to urinate or defecate on public or private property** - “It shall be unlawful for an owner or person in immediate control of a dog or horse to: (1) Allow his/her dog or horse to urinate or defecate on private property of other persons without their consent...”; (2) Allow his/her dog or horse to defecate on public property...unless...the owner or person in immediate control of the dog or horse immediately removes the [excrement] and disposes of it in a safe and sanitary manner.”

Short Term Rental (STR) Points of Contact (POC): The owner of the aggressor dog in the aforementioned attack was staying in a STR and departed before Animal Control arrived. A newspaper article last week reported a case of burst water pipes in an unoccupied rental property located in Sandbridge. Both issues highlight the need to have the name and number

of an accountable individual (owner or agent) who can respond within thirty (30) minutes on file with the City for contact in emergencies. City Zoning Ordinance § 241.2 requires this.

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC): There was no CAC meeting in December. The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM in the conference room of VB Volunteer Rescue Station (green roof) (740 VB Blvd – aka: 17th Street. Park and enter on the east side. CAC meetings are open to all.

M. C. "Connie" Agresti,
CCL Safety and Security Director