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“Cruise Night Safety”



It's a warm summer evening and time to roll that 1964 Mustang out of the garage and into the lineup of show vehicles of cruise night. Car enthusiasts love to participate in cruise nights by either setting up a lawn chair along the street to watch the modified and vintage cars go by or to have a seat in one of those vehicles gliding down the street.

Cruise nights are held each summer in Norfolk and draw many visitors from other communities to the city besides providing entertainment to many city residents.

With many more drivers on the road and hundreds of people sitting or standing on the roadside, the City of Norfolk Police Department officials want to make sure that the cruise nights in Norfolk are safe events.

According to NPD Captain Steve Hecker, there have been few problems with cruise nights in the past. “Our main issue with cruise night is that some people who are on the curbs watching have brought coolers of alcoholic beverages with them. That is a violation of the city’s law that restricts open containers of alcoholic beverages on public property,” Captain Hecker said.

He emphasized that all traffic laws are still in effect on cruise night. “Burning out” at stoplights or in the street or making excessive noise with a vehicle is considered negligent driving and citations will be issued to drivers violating those laws.

“It’s a safety issue. Drivers who spin their tires are taking a chance that they will lose control of their vehicle. That’s why those laws are in place. Having a cruise night doesn’t mean those laws can be ignored. There are a lot of people sitting and standing along the streets making it all that much more important to follow basic traffic laws,” Captain Hecker said.

He reminds cruise night participants that all vehicles involved must be road legal and meet all road safe requirements which includes being licensed. All drivers must be licensed and wear seatbelts as required by state law. Captain Hecker said a City of Norfolk Police officer will be assigned to patrol the cruise night routes as safety is the main concern when adding extra vehicles and extra spectators on the streets of Norfolk.

“It only lasts a couple of hours and we haven’t had significant issues in the past. We mostly want to make sure we don’t have any open containers of alcohol and that there are safe drivers on our streets. When alcohol is involved, a pretty quick tragedy can occur. A lot of people are at risk and our job is to keep the streets safe- cruise night or not,” Captain Hecker said.

For more information on safety issues surrounding cruise nights, contact the City of Norfolk Police Division at 644-8700.