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*Mayor Pro Tem*

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*Councilman*

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## ***News Release***

Issued: Friday, February 20, 2004  
*Photo Opportunities*

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### ***D.A.R.E. Graduation Feb. 24 at Carolina Beach Elementary***

#### ***Brunswick Co. Sheriff Ron Hewett is Keynote Speaker***

CAROLINA BEACH, NC---The Carolina Beach Police Department (CBPD) will host the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation ceremony for fifth graders at Carolina Beach Elementary School on Tuesday, February 24, 2004 at 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Each student will receive a D.A.R.E. graduation certificate and the ceremony will focus on celebrating their accomplishments.

Brunswick County Sheriff Ronald E. Hewett is the guest speaker at this event, which recognizes students' achievement in the area of drug abuse resistance education. Sheriff Hewett is a former National D.A.R.E. Officer, a title awarded annually to one outstanding D.A.R.E. instructor in the nation. Lt. Kurt Bartley of the CBPD is the D.A.R.E. instructor for Carolina Beach Elementary and he has trained extensively to be able to teach the continually updated program.

Students at Carolina Beach Elementary have completed the 10-week curriculum of substance abuse prevention education. D.A.R.E.'s in-school curriculum focuses on giving children practical skills to avoid becoming involved in drugs, gangs, and violence. Lt. Bartley has been a supportive role model for the students. He encourages the students to develop healthy self-esteem as a way to prevent substance abuse.

In addition to the fifth grade students, achievement awards will be presented to Ms. Alyson Peck and Mr. Wesley Barbour, both of Carolina Beach. The two Ashley High School seniors have served as role models in the D.A.R.E. program for the past three years.

D.A.R.E. was founded in 1983 by the Los Angeles Police Department, which faced an overwhelming drug use problem among juveniles and saw the need for a program to educate children and young adults about the destructive realities of substance abuse. Since that beginning 20 years ago, DARE has grown to reach 36 million students in more than 300,000 classrooms in the U.S.

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