

The Shoreline

August 2004 • Vol. 1, No. 2

A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Town Hall 247-4353



IT'S OFFICIAL Town officials snip a ribbon to officially dedicate the new McNeil Inlet Bridge. From left are Commissioners La Brie and Hunter, Former Mayor Gallo, Mayor Lamson and Commissioners Kanyha, Ashland and Danehy

McNeil Inlet Bridge Dedicated

By Bill White

After six years of planning and six months of actual construction, the McNeil Inlet Bridge was formally dedicated June 25 when Town officials gathered to snip a ceremonial ribbon.

The bridge, one of two such spans in Pine Knoll Shores, carries Oakleaf Drive over the canal that snakes through Town, providing water views and access for scores of water-oriented residents.

The dedication ceremonies attracted a sizeable gathering, including a group of neighbors who cheered the ribbon cutters on from kayaks in the water below. The new bridge, including wide walkways on either side, is some thirteen feet wider than the old, which was constructed in the early 70's. While the tonnage capacity of the new span has yet to be posted, Town Building Inspector Chris Jones points out that it will support anything on wheels in Carteret County.

Planning for replacement of the bridge began in 1998 after inspections disclosed that the original span was approaching the end of its life expectancy.

Under a state program, the bridges are inspected every two years. Construction began last December and traffic was detoured around the site until May, when the new bridge was opened to traffic.

Inspections indicate that the second bridge in Town, which carries Mimosa Boulevard over the canal, will not need to be replaced for at least five years, although a lower tonnage rating was recently posted. Jones says that planning for its replacement will begin now in order to qualify the project for state and federal funds well in advance. Eighty percent of the cost of such projects comes from the state and federal governments.

The Town is also in the process of applying for a state grant to carry out dredging of some stretches of the waterway. According to Jones, water levels are fine in most sections, but there is need for dredging at the inlets and around the bridges.

McNeil Inlet, and the park that borders the waterway at that point, was named for George H. McNeil, an attorney for the

Roosevelt Family interests, which developed Pine Knoll Shores. Hoffman Inlet, the other entrance to the canal farther west on Bogue Sound, was named for Alice Green Hoffman, wealthy New York socialite who owned much of Bogue Banks. Mrs. Hoffman lived on her Bogue Banks property for more than a decade before her death in 1953, at which time she left the land to her niece, Eleanor, wife of Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. A group formed by Mrs. Roosevelt and her children launched development of the area that became Pine Knoll Shores.

Unlike many of the parks and common installations in Town, the Mimosa Boulevard bridge was not named for a specific person and has simply been referred to by the name of the road it carries over the canal. Many of the canal offshoots are named for individuals, but the canal itself also does not bear a specific name. Jones sometimes refers to it as the Pine Knoll Shores Waterway, having seen it listed as such on some maps.

Mark Condra heads County EMS

Mark Condra is changing careers, but not his focus. As the new County Director of Emergency Services, the retired Marine colonel sees his new job as a continuation of his military training in leadership, coordination and cooperation.

A former chief of staff of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, he retired June 30 after 30 years of service to start work just 12 days later. "The job became available and I wanted to stay in the community," said Mr. Condra on his decision to apply. "This gives me an opportunity to do what I was doing in the military – support the community."

County Manager John Langdon felt Mr. Condra was a great facilitator, which will help as he looks at fire and rescue issues as well as paramedics in a system that's a mix of volunteers and paid staff.

"I think he's the right guy to take us forward," the manager said.

In his last positions in the military, Mr. Condra feels he's worked with issues emergency managers deal with daily – coordination with local authorities, fire departments, mutual aid, homeland security, federal and state regulations on hazardous material and EPA regulations.

As chief of staff, he worked as the chief operating officer of a 15,000-member aviation wing.

Before that, he was the assistant chief of staff for operations and training where he had to develop and execute destructive weather and anti-terrorism force protection plans and operations.

He's also commanded the Marine's air station at Yuma, Arizona.

"It's like being in charge of a small community," he said about that post where he managed the operations of the air station and training ranges across a two-state area covering 1.2 million acres.

That job involved managing 9,000 service members, a budget in excess of \$25 million, operations of more than 400 aircraft and providing emergency services including search and rescue aircraft.

He's served as the head of regional strategy and policy, developing the strategy and policy for U.S. military interaction with more than 40 countries, studied national security and foreign policy issues at the National War College and served as commander of a Marine All Weather Fighter/Attack Squadron.

Now his assignment will mean working with 23 agencies in the county fire system, 17 EMS stations and 31 ambulances, county paramedics as well as local, state and federal agencies.

Continued on page 13

Tour Of Gold Coast Homes Set



The Carteret County Domestic Violence Program invites everyone to take a tour of Homes on the Gold Coast on Saturday, August 14, 2004. The tours will raise funds for the group's programs.

This tour will give you the opportunity to have an exclusive look inside eight beautiful homes in the Ocean Ridge Road area. The featured homes on what is known locally as "Millionaire Row" will be open between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. There will also be a luncheon at the Coral Bay Club.

Many prominent Eastern North Carolina families

have summered here. Several of these homes go back to the 1940's and now have second generation owners. A few go back as far as four generations.

Each home has a unique history and breath-taking views. The homes are beautifully appointed and contain outstanding art collections.

The tour is sponsored and supported by Coldwell Banker Spectrum Properties of Atlantic Beach.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$15 or on the day of the tour for \$18. Tickets for the luncheon are \$15, sold with advance ticket only. Tickets are available at DeeGee's, The History Place, Tassels, J.R. Dunn in Morehead City, or by phone at 252-726-2336 or 252-354-2916.