

Life at Town Hall – Juggling

By Mayor Joan Lamson

It is just amazing to me, the number and diversity of balls in the air at one time. One might think that governmental activities follow some sort of linear sequence. When we think about “bureaucracies” we tend to think of personnel who are, sort of, automatons — creatures that do one step, then another, then another. Quite often we might think that all governments are run by “bureaucracies.” Let me assure you how far this is from reality.

The big attraction on TV these days is Reality TV. This is about people who will eat worms, dive from heights, face obscure fears and place themselves in a path of danger in order to prove themselves somehow worthy. The reality about local government is that it doesn't matter much, the size of the town, or the size of the budget, the issues are still the same. The main question, or “true north,” is: are the citizens receiving the services they need at a fair price? And, the reality is that it is a matter of juggling.

First of all, it's a matter for the mayor. The mayor has to be intimately involved in all of the issues the town is facing in order to recognize the priorities and set the appropriate agenda for board meetings. Prior to an issue coming to a board meeting, though, it needs to be thoroughly discussed by the “committee.” And who is the committee? The committee is the department head, the town administrator, and the two commissioners

responsible for the area, Public Works, Public Safety or Finance and Administration. If the mayor (ahem) has an idea, wish, concept, or whatever, it still needs to meet the test of “the committee.” So, the mayor's task is to be sure any concerns or issues, either personally conceived or coming from citizens, can stand the test of the committee. The staff enters the picture here with historical information and resources.

The second matter of the test is for the commissioners. They may need to research the issue, they may need to study, to question, to survey and to debate. The commissioners need to do their homework and they have as a resource—the staff, again, with historical information, pertinent data, and research capability.

The third matter of the test is for the staff itself. The test now is experience, education, training, attitude, style, and on and on and on. We have a staff that is experienced, educated, trained, holding certifications and encouraged to seek additional certifications, with a good attitude, a comfortable style and eager to serve. They help us juggle the balls in the air. We need flexibility in thought and deed; we need honest and critical feedback.

For us to adequately juggle the balls as we must do, we need the help of the citizens also. We need to know how we are doing. What do you think?

Thirty Years Ago in The Shoreline

A special meeting was held October 14. Mayor Redfield stated the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the issue of a new bridge. He pointed out that this meeting was a hearing and no action would be taken. Mr. Haller presented a petition protesting Board endorsement of a bridge with a terminal in Pine Knoll Shores. There was extensive and amicable discussion of the need for a third bridge and the effects of various possible locations. The Board will consider the viewpoints expressed by the many citizens present at this special meeting.

NEW NEIGHBORS ARTHUR and CONNIE BROWNE on the beach on Salter Path road, are particularly enjoying their yard work these first days in their recently completed house. Arthur was with the Dept. of Agriculture, working in Marketing and Consumer Services. He was Deputy Director of the Fruit and Vegetable Division. He is currently researching kinds of things that can best be raised here on our sandy shores. We trust he will share his findings with us at a later date. The Brownes have two sons. One is in California and the other in Delaware. Once the yard is under control, Arthur and

Connie hope to get themselves a sailboat and skim the Bogue waters. (Today Art and Connie live at the end of Walnut Circle. Ed.)

Pine Knoll Shores Golf and Country Club will soon be more than just the little pro shop we've all become so accustomed to. In fact, that little building is to be transformed into a tennis place beside the courts because the REAL country club that's taking shape now includes a pro shop as well as a ladies' and men's locker rooms, showers, and an office on its first floor, and a lobby, bar, food preparation room, and dining area on the second level.

The Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club is most enthusiastic about a great idea for community Christmas lighting suggested by Vern Wallace. In the Pittsburgh area in which the Wallaces lived, they call it Luminare. Each resident places brown paper bags, partially filled with sand and a candle, across the front of their property. The candles are lighted Christmas Eve. It would be a lovely sight! Anyone interested please call Vern by November 10th. Needless to say, the sand is no problem in PKS.

Fire/EMS Report

By Chief Melby

The department responded to 11 calls this month. Eight of the calls were emergency medical and three were fire calls. The department transported four of the emergency medical calls and four refused transport. All of the fire calls were for automatic mutual aid given to Atlantic Beach and Salter Path. County paramedics assisted with all requests and three calls required advance life support. Our average response time was five minutes.

Gene Sagmiller has filled the vacant position of Firefighter/EMT. Gene has been a volunteer with the department since February 2001. He is continuing his education and currently is enrolled in a paramedic class.

Police Report

By Chief Culpepper

The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department responded to 89 calls for service during September. These included two accidents, ten Fire/EMS assists, seven motorists assists and 23 well-being checks.

Also reported was a case of larceny of a cooler removed from a boat at Hall Haven.

Grand Old Trees Aplenty!

By Bill Schneider

More grand old Live Oak trees have surfaced in Pine Knoll Shores since our September “Shoreline”.


I and/or Jerry Hyatt of the Louisiana Live Oak Society have been called on to measure some oaks. We have responded, measuring tapes in hand, and with large sticks to beat back snakes and dogs!

All of the following have been measured and found to meet the criterion of an eight foot girth, measured from the ground.

1. Jerri and Phil Matthews, 122 Dogwood Circle.

2. Joe Clarke, 149 Loblolly Dr. – this tree leans over the canal but seems healthy enough for another 100 years. Joe has two others but they didn't measure up.

3. Jim Cox, 116 Willow Road – a dog problem here but Jim restrained him.



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Published by
the Shopper
1423 South Glenburnie Rd., New Bern,
633-1153

4. Judith Collier, 118 Willow Road, right next door. This tree has two main trunks so had to be measured below the separation. It measured ten feet in circumference

5. Andy and Marge Turney, 138 Juniper Road – two oaks, nine feet, eight inches and eight feet, ten inches.

All of the above have been duly registered with the Live Oak Society in Louisiana.

I measured two other trees in other Pine Knoll Shores but they didn't “measure up”.

At the Seafood Festival an organization called the Carteret County Tree Awareness

Group gave out posters and data showing how wood products and the enzymes from wood are in everyday products such as scotch tape and soap. Jerry Hyatt had a six foot Live Oak tree in a large pot at this awareness group exhibit.