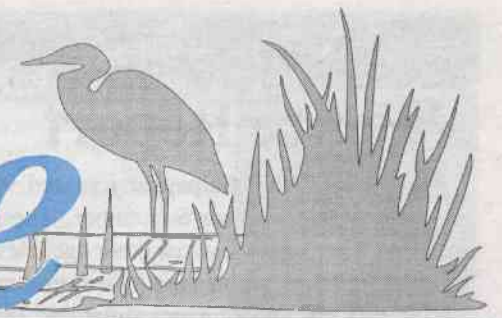


The Shoreline



November 2005 • Vol. 2, No. 5 A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

Town Hall 247-4353



CERT is Growing

New members of the Bogue Banks Community Emergency Response Team, headquartered in Pine Knoll Shores, learning the basics of using a fire extinguisher and first aid.



Tape at 11:00!

By the time you read this the people of Pine Knoll Shores will have already voted or will be just about to vote in the Nov. 8 municipal election. As a monthly publication with relatively long lead times for printing and distribution, The Shoreline does not have the luxury of yelling "hold the presses" in order to bring you news as it happens. As it happens in this case, our November issue, printed a week or so earlier, will be reaching our readers right

around Election Day.

So, those of you who live here year round or visit frequently will have to rely on other local media for up-to-the-minute reports on election results. For those of you who will not be hereabouts on Election Day and do not have access to local media The Shoreline will carry a full account of the Election Results in our December issue. Hope you all voted wherever you are.

The Shoreline Staff



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Pets of Pine Knoll Shores

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Is It Gone Yet?

By Mayor Joan Lamson

Of all of the problems to face the Town of Pine Knoll Shores in the last two years, the question of debris pick up after Hurricane Ophelia has been the worst. If we measured citizen concern (AKA dismay, unhappiness, unrest, irritation, anger, hostility) by number of phone calls, emails, personal visits to the office, word-on-the-street, home phone calls, home emails, threats to life and limb, I expect we would find that H. Ophelia debris far exceeded any issue this town has ever experienced.

Let us look first at standard operating procedure as practiced over time and as called out in our Emergency Preparedness Plan. Well before hurricane season starts, we solicit bids for various contracts to be in place if needed. One contract (Phase I) is for the first 72 hours after a storm. This means that the streets get cleared for access by emergency vehicles. No debris is removed in this phase. Another is for removal of vegetative debris and another is for removal of construction and demolition materials (C & D) (Phase II.) Due to the ever-changing regulatory environment of governmental agencies, the Town of Pine Knoll Shores has also contracted with a FEMA consultant for the last several years. This consultant helps select and qualifies the field of potential contractors, prepares the bid packages, checks references and so forth. These bids are presented to the Board of Commissioners by mid springtime with a recommendation from our Emergency Services Director. As "keepers of the public purse" in Pine Knoll Shores, it is essential that we follow FEMA guidelines and regulations so that IF we are declared a "state of disaster" after a storm or some other horrendous event that we will qualify for FEMA reimbursement. The Town does have a reserve of funds, but that allows us to cover the immediate payment of expenses related to the storm. These monies need to be replaced, if possible, to keep the town in a healthy financial state. And that

requires us to choose the bid of best value to the town. In the past, this has meant the "lowest qualified bid." Our early estimate of the cost of the Phase II contract was \$200,000. That equals approximately a four-cent tax increase for one year.

So, what was so different about this one? First of all, H. Ophelia was acutely stubborn. Thirty hours or more of relentless wind and rain caused far more damage than past hurricanes of categories 2 or 3. The direction of the storm, coming from the sound side, tore up docks, piers, steps, marinas, porches, etc. like we have not seen before. Many of us were too complacent, thinking that this was "only" a category 1. I think we have learned respect for the fury of a hurricane no matter its category.

Secondly, the storm occurred on Wednesday, September 14. Contractors were called the next day and the Phase I contract was completed within a few hours. Our FEMA consultant and the Phase II contractor could not get here until September 20, due to the other storm damaged towns with which they had contracts. This did not appear to be a problem given the amount of debris citizens were going to have to move from back yards to the street rights-of-way. All parties agreed that one crew would probably be enough, but little did we know about how much debris there actually was. The other factor was that much of their equipment was in Wilmington and in Mississippi. (Rumors flew back and forth about where their equipment was... it was where they said it was.) September 21 was the start date of removal. On September 22, it was obvious that the need was underestimated and a second crew was called in to start on September 24 and a third crew to begin on September 27. On September 26, the second crew "quit" due to county landfill operation procedures. On September 27 a new second crew arrived and

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The Shoreline

Deadline for November issue is *Wednesday, Oct. 19*. Deadline for December issue is *Wednesday, Nov. 17* Articles always welcome!