

# Lightning Strike

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proper was not accessible from that point, as was a third section of attic on the far side of the building. Both of these attic spaces had become fully involved in the fire.

Teams from Atlantic Beach and Salter Path fire units, which had automatically rolled in answer to the first alarm, entered the house from the front and sought to attack the fire

from below through the second floor ceiling. Unable to extinguish the blaze with that tactic, all the teams withdrew from the house, played exterior water streams on the building and regrouped to give the interior tactic another try. Also on hand were fire units from Emerald Isle.

One last route of interior attack was decided upon and a combined team of firefighters reentered the building and succeeded in bringing the fire under control. Chief Matthias had words of praise for the firefighters from four different departments who worked together to successfully stop a blaze under difficult circumstances. While the roof was virtually destroyed, the ground floor and second floor spaces suffered mostly from smoke and water damage. One upbeat note was provided by the fact that firefighters were able to locate and retrieve an antique guitar about which Mrs. Curtis was particularly concerned.

Fire units remained on the scene until 11 a.m. to help with salvage efforts, and Mr. and Mrs. Curtis reported that a furnished condo on the island had been made available to them. At last report Lee Roy the cat was comfortably being cared for by neighbors.

## Police Report

The June police report shows that there were 147 calls for service including 2 accidents, 17 assist to other agencies, 16 assist to fire/EMS, two domestic, 36 town ordinance violations, 48 welfare checks, two alarms and two unlocked doors.

Police Chief Culpepper was glad that one statistic is going down; namely, unlocked doors when house checks are done. Citizens are being more diligent about locking their doors.

There were 103 citations involving 121 charges for 11 driving while impaired, 23 speeding, 10 driving with suspended license, 36 seatbelt violations, 4 drug violations, 11 alcohol violations and 26 other; 35 warning tickets were issued.

Police did 103 residence checks and 352 business checks.

## Emergency Services

In June, there were 29 calls for service. There were 14 EMS calls and seven patients were transported, four of whom required paramedic assistance.

The fire department responded to 15 calls; four calls were activated alarms, four service calls, one water rescue, two structure fires and four mutual aid.

If the public finds an unknown or dangerous item on the beach, authorities should be notified immediately. Commissioner Danehy noted at the BOC meeting that Fire/EMS personnel are patrolling the beach.

Jason Baker has assumed the position of fire marshal. Bruce Flynt has retired but will volunteer as the safety officer.

## Emergency Management

Three hurricane preparedness classes were conducted and an expanded public education program is now on 1610 AM.

Work is continuing on re-activating the old siren system plus adding a third siren and the electronics to activate the system from the public safety building for use during emergencies. The sirens are located at town hall and the country club and a third one will be installed across the street from the Clamdigger Inn for the western part of town. The siren will be an indication to tune to 1610 AM for complete information on the alert.

## Town Hall Target Of Lightning Too

On Friday July 20, two days after the hit on the Curtis home, another storm crackled through and a lightning bolt struck the communications mast atop town hall.

The strike knocked out phone and internet service and disrupted the air conditioning system. Little further damage was done, due in part to the fact computer systems in the building

had been turned off as a precautionary measure as the storm approached.

Town employees were busy striving to get things back to normal when town hall opened for business the following Monday morning. Solutions proved harder to come by than first imagined and most of the kinks were not ironed out until late the next day..

## Two-Way Mayoral Race

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in the race for seats on the board of commissioners are Bob Angle, a director and past president of the Ocean Glen Homeowners Association; Clark Edwards of Carob Court, also a member of the town planning board; Ed Erickson, president of the Beacon's Reach Master Association; Bruce Flynt of Oakleaf Drive, who formerly served as the town's interim director of emergency services, and Charlie McBriarty, vice chairman of the town's community appearance commission and a member of the Beacon's Reach Single Family Homeowners Association Board of Directors.

Angle is a retired insurance broker who has lived in PKS since 2000 and has served on the Ocean Glen board for some five years. Erickson has had a condo in Beacon's Reach since 1980 and has served as president of the master association there for some 10 years. He retired last year from North Carolina State University where he

taught economics and served in several administrative posts.

Edwards has owned a home in PKS since 1999 and retired in 2004 from the University of Massachusetts where he served as coordinator of the career planning and placement program. Flynt moved to Pine Knoll Shores 14 years ago and has been a member of the town's fire department since then. He formerly ran an oil business in Forsyth County and was fire chief of the South Fork Fire Department in that county. Also a retired educator, McBriarty worked in the area of student services for more than 30 years at the college level. He moved to PKS in 2002 after concluding his professional career as special assistant to the president of Youngstown State University in Ohio.

Biographical sketches of all of the candidates will be published in the September issue of The Shoreline.



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#### Published by



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