

Pine Knoll Association

By Bud Daniels

The annual Pine Knoll Association (PKA) general membership meeting was held on Friday, June 19 at the Pine Knoll Shores town hall. Four new members of the Board of Directors were elected to serve three year terms on the board. The 2009-2010 association budget was presented and plans for maintenance and improvements to the parks, waterways and marinas were reviewed and discussed. Additional details of the election results and meeting discussions will be in the PKA article in the August edition of *The Shoreline*.

The Town of Pine Knoll Shores applied for and received a grant from the State of North Carolina for maintenance dredging of the town's waterways. The grant for \$50,000 is a matching

grant project with the state providing 80% (\$40,000) and the Town of Pine Knoll Shores being responsible for the remaining 20% (\$10,000). Pine Knoll Association has agreed to partner with the town on this project and provide the matching funding of \$10,000, since the majority of the dredging will take place in the canals of the Pine Knoll Association. The town and PKA have worked together to complete the grant requirements, CAMA permitting processes and determining the specific areas that require dredging to maintain the canals to navigable depths for our members' and guests' boats. There will also be some dredging done at Hall Haven Marina in conjunction with the replacement of the remaining fixed

docks which should begin in July.

PKA members and guests have enjoyed the summer weather and cool ocean breezes at Ocean Park during the summer. Parking is not allowed outside the gate to Ocean Park nor on the public right of way on the south side of Dogwood Circle. Persons using the park and parking area should try to car pool or make multiple trips during the busy times due to the limitations on available parking.

There are currently a few available kayak racks at Brock Basin and Davis Landing. PKA members interested in renting kayak racks can contact Kathy Kimel, PKA secretary at 240-1717 or at pka@ec.rr.com.

June Commissioners Meeting

By Yvette Bannon

Mayor Lamson read a proclamation declaring June 9, 2009 as "Bill White Day" in honor of his nearly five years' service as the managing editor of *The Shoreline*. Bill given up the reins and moving to the Charlotte area.

A certificate of appreciation was presented for Jack Cummins to thank him for his service on the planning board. A public hearing was held on the proposed FY 2009-2010 budget but no comments were made. The budget was then adopted unanimously. Work

on Veterans Park is progressing well and the contractor should meet the June 30 deadline.

Under unfinished business, the town has been awarded a grant to dredge the canal but to avoid interfering with summer boat traffic, this work will wait until after Labor Day. The grant is for \$40,000 and Pine Knoll Association (PKA) agreed to pay the town's match of \$10,000.

An amendment to the solid waste ordinance was unanimously approved.

Property owners are required to place their household, recycling and yard waste on the right-of-way in front of the property where the waste was generated and not on an adjacent property such as an empty lot.

Kathy Werle was appointed to complete Jack Cummins' term on the Planning Board.

The commissioners then went into closed session to discuss a lease agreement and personnel.

Second Commissioners Meeting

By Yvette Bannon

The second commissioners' meeting was held on May 28 and was presided over by Mayor Pro Tem Bob Danehy.

Under new business, the storm recovery contracts were approved and it was confirmed that a 5' strip of land at 121 Dogwood has been obtained for a beach access at a cost of \$50,000.

The FY 2009-2010 proposed budget was discussed. The commissioners have been working on the budget since January 22 and the town's ability to finance its anticipated expenses has been severely affected by the economic downturn. Brian Kramer, town manager, gave the budget

message. Limited capital expenditures for FY 09-10 include dredging of the canal and channel, updating the town hall HVAC system and purchase of a "bucket" truck for trimming of the town rights of way.

The town's water enterprise fund has reimbursed the general fund \$240,000 for its payment of legal fees associated with the purchase of the water company. In the recommended budget, \$100,000 of that money will be appropriated to aid in the effort to maintain the current *ad valorem* tax rate.

The proposed budget includes a 25% increase in inspection fees. The fees

have not been increased since 2002 and it places the town in a comparable fee structure with other area towns. There will be an increase in ambulance transportation fees revenue due to the elevation of the emergency medical services to an EMT-Intermediate level. The police department's budget has been reduced by approximately \$45,000 due to a reduction in personnel. The current beach sand tax rate of 10.5 cents for oceanfront property and 1.6 cents for non-oceanfront property will be maintained in the recommended budget.

"Water Angels"

By Phyllis Makuck



Matthew McGuthry rescued from shores of Iron Steamer beach on May 24, 2009.

Ocean rescues take place each summer. Having help on the scene when someone is in trouble can make the difference between positive and tragic outcomes. Kathryn McGuthry, mother of Matthew McGuthry, a near drowning victim, credits surfers with saving her son.

Here is her account of an incident that took place at the Iron Steamer beach on May 24th: "My son and his friend were swimming in the ocean on Sunday afternoon after having arrived in the Pine Knoll Shores area for a vacation with family friends. During their swim, my 14-year old son and his 15-year old friend were caught up in a rip tide." The other boy was able to "break free," but Matthew was not. "The family encouraged him to swim parallel to the shore assuming that he would eventually find an exit path from the current."

Seeing that Matthew continued to be in danger, the father of the other boy went in to try to help. Mrs. McGuthry continues: "They both were pulled further out into the ocean and struggled to keep afloat...." Their screams attracted the attention of surfers, who got to them and put each one on a surfboard. Two surfers moved each board safely to shore.

The Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department also received the call, and according to Fire Chief Bill Matthias, "An ambulance, beach rescue, and water rescue unit responded." After assessing all three swimmers who had been in trouble, the emergency team determined Matthew was still showing signs of distress so they took him to the hospital, where he was examined and, later, released.

Before he was put in the ambulance, surfers responsible for the rescue talked briefly with the family and had words of encouragement for Matthew, but, his mother says: "They were gone before anyone could contemplate an appropriate response. Subsequent to the

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