

# What's Happening in Beacon's Reach

By Charlie McBriarty

It has been some time since information about Beacon's Reach has been reported. This absence is not due to any lack of things happening, but it is either a product of having too many irons in the fire or of a paucity of time. Whatever the reason, let's take a glimpse of what is going on in that part of town that was originally identified as Pine Knoll Shores West.

The new wastewater treatment plant should be completed by the time this edition hits the street. Most of the new plant has been operational since May, and it has been turning out a very high quality effluent that has met all state standards. It is notable that the new plant was on schedule and came in under budget.

The final phase of the project was the completion of a new storage tank. Until the tank was completed, the effluent was deposited into the lakes. This lake water was pumped to the irrigation system that helps Beacon's Reach maintain its lush green appearance. With the project's completion the effluent will go directly to the tank, and each evening it will go to the irrigation system, completely bypassing the lakes. This change means better quality water throughout the irrigation system and a resulting reduction of maintenance time and cost.

The advent of the new wastewater treatment plant will result in an increase in sewer fees for most of the residents of Beacon's Reach. The rate will increase

from \$30 to \$70 per month. This increase will be used to pay-off the construction loan required.

In a recent communiqué from the Beacon's Reach Master Association, members were reminded that the leasing of the East and West Ocean Parks as public beach access sites was previously approved by a vote of owners in exchange for beach nourishment. Ocean Beach East was formally opened to the public several months ago. The parking for this public access site, two-tenths of a mile east, is shared with the Clamdigger access site.

With respect to the Ocean Beach West access site, Beacon's Reach Master Association and the town have reached agreement that it will be designated as a public beach access once two contingencies are met. One of the contingencies is that the town and Trinity Center identify the location and construct the required parking area. The second contingency is that the town must identify and open another public beach access in the east end of town.

It is projected that the Ocean Beach West site will be opened at the end of the year or early next year. It will mark the third public beach access located within the confines of Beacon's Reach. The town has acquired an easement for the fourth and final public beach access within Beacon's Reach. This site, currently referred to as Qualls or Maritime West, will be located between the existing Iron Steamer and

Clamdigger public beach access sites. It is anticipated that this site will be finalized this fall or winter.

Recently, the Master Association affirmed the parking and towing regulations within Beacon's Reach and made it clear that they would be enforced. These regulations include the following:

- All vehicles within Beacon's Reach must display a valid owner, guest or renter pass.
- Renter passes must be Beacon's Reach issued passes, not those produced by a rental agency.
- Vehicles not displaying a valid permit will receive a warning ticket on the first violation and an orange (sticky) ticket on the second. Vehicles will be towed on the third violation.
- Beacon's Reach will engage a local towing company.
- The vehicle's owner will be responsible for all towing and retrieving expenses.

In other action, due to the popularity of certain time slots, the Master Association modified the rules pertaining to the scheduling and use of the clay tennis courts. The following rule change is now in effect: During the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day, no owner shall reserve a court or be a member of a group that plays in the same time slot during the morning hours more than two times per week. The morning hours begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 11:59 a.m.

On a lighter note, the landscaping of Beacon's Reach is reaping the benefit of extensive off-season work on the lawn areas. This effort by Crystal Coast Landscapes is evident to anyone passing through Beacon's Reach. The summer flowers that are still in full bloom, plus the well maintained public areas, are a testament to dedication and hard work of the landscaping crew.

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