



*A monthly report
by Town Manager
Brian Kramer on
events in town.*

Getting warmer, folks, and by the way: Go Phillies.

Budget Timeline. Here is a list of the public events related to budget planning for the next fiscal year. All meetings are at Town Hall. Check with the Town Clerk for any changes.

04/07/11 • 6 p.m.

Special Board of Commissioners meeting. Discussion of FY 2011-2012 budget

04/12/11 • 6 p.m.

First regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

04/28/11 • 10 a.m.

Second regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting: Water Enterprise Fund budget discussion, Prioritization of Draft Capital, Water Fund Projects and revisit other funds

05/10/11 • 6 p.m.

First regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting

Revisit General Fund discussion

05/12/11 • 6 p.m.

Special Board of Commissioners meeting. Discussion of FY 2011-2012 budget

05/26/11 • 10 a.m.

Second regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting. Budget message; presentation of proposed budget; call for public hearing

06/14/11 • 6 p.m.

First regular Board of Commissioners meeting & budget hearing

Sidewalks. Pine Knoll Shores has selected Stroud Engineering of Morehead City as our Engineering Consultant for this project. Expect to see surveying in the vicinity of the four segments over the next month.

Rec Cards. The Town continues to sell a discount card to support our Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC). To date, the following businesses offer discounts to cardholders:

Country Club of the Crystal Coast

Globe Kids & Gals, Atlantic Station

Ernie's Gifts, Atlantic Station

Milazzo (Restaurant), Atlantic Beach Sheraton

Molly's (Restaurant), Atlantic Beach Sheraton

The Old Beaufort Shop

Construction of the Right-of-way Near the PKS Traffic Light. We will be working on our water lines

on the north and south side of Route 58 (Salter Path Road) near the Pine Knoll Shores traffic light during the month of May.

Census Results. Local census data for Pine Knoll Shores is available at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/main.html>. In the Quick Start box, type "Pine Knoll Shores, NC" in the "geography" field, and then click on the first link titled *Race, Hispanic or Latino, Age, and Housing Occupancy: 2010*

Thanks to Sponsors and Donors for the June 11 4th Annual Kayak for the Warriors. At this point, I would like to thank all of this year's sponsors and donors to date. Please consider these businesses and organizations as you carry on your busy lives:

Amos Mosquitoes

Anonymous

Atlantic Beach Sheraton

Atlantic Breeze Storm Shutters

Atlantis Lodge

Col Dennis DelMauro, USMC (Ret.)

Country Club of the Crystal Coast

Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Food Lion Atlantic Beach

Geodynamics

Harris Teeter

Indian Beach Water Sports

Island Furniture

Jonathan Willis

Kinetico

Kites Unlimited

Lowe's Foods

Making Faces & Quietuoce

Morehead Builders Supply

Panera Bread

Party Place

PIKSCO Homeowner Association

RBC Bank

RBC Employee

Rid-A-Pest

Sea Hawk Motor Lodge

Smitty's Marine Service

Tangles Hair Salon

Turtle Reef Holdings, LLC

Wal-Mart

White Swan

Window and Wall Decor

Next Dinner with the Mayor. The next dinner with the mayor will be at Milazzo's at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton, on Friday April 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Beechwood Battle

By Richard Seale

As taught in every photography class, including the one Linda and I just hosted for Road Scholar at Trinity Center, the first step in taking good photos is to have a camera with you. Our trip seemed far from a photo opportunity since it was to take my mother to a routine doctor's office visit. No camera came with me on this trip. It was a big mistake.

As Linda drove down Beechwood, about two thirds of the way to my mother's house, she exclaimed, "What is that?" We had passed what she had seen, so she backed up. On the grass near the road, a dark brown bird and a white bird were rolling over and over, like young children "wrestling." The battle was fierce and the action continuous. After a minute or so, the exhausted participants stopped, and I could identify what was going on. A Northern Harrier, a common hawk in our area, had attacked a Laughing Gull. From where the birds were located, I guessed it had been an aerial attack and the birds had tumbled to the ground locked together. The hawk had its talons into the gull's neck. It was evident the battle we were witnessing was to be a fight to the death with a lot of risk on the part of both birds. "Wrestling" on the ground is a good way for a bird to injure a wing, and that is usually a fatal injury. Sadly, we did not have time to return home for the missing camera, so no photo of the participants was possible.

After picking up my mother, we drove slowly past the drama. In those few minutes the hawk had subdued the gull and was dragging the limp body into the heavy undergrowth of an empty lot.

While bringing my mother home, I stopped by our house and got a camera though I could not see anything as I drove by the battle site. After dropping mom off, I stopped at the site and pried my way into the grape and cat brier vines. Not far in was a mat of white feathers, a lot of them. It was evident the gull had been killed and eaten by the hawk. I searched around in all directions and looked in the trees, but there was no evidence of the body of either the gull or the hawk.

I took a photo of the mat of white feathers, but I sure missed out on a photo of a lifetime. My mind's eye can clearly see the fierce left eye of the hawk standing over the gull, but I sure can't show that image to you. Oh well, perhaps a photo of the mat of feathers will let you feel some of the intensity of that Beechwood Battle.