

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

You've seen a lot about the subject of economic development on the local scene lately. In most people's minds, it means businesses, stores, industry and jobs. Economic development really depends on the environment and economy you have to develop. Pine Knoll Shores' economy is based on residency, and, therefore, we have to make sure it is managed appropriately.

The number of single family homes in Pine Knoll Shores is 2,363. The number of vacant lots available for single family homes is 222. So what lies ahead for residential development in Pine Knoll Shores? Should the town own property that isn't on the tax rolls and the town doesn't have access to? Will we have more development than redevelopment? Based on the recent census, we know the demographics of our town are changing. Pine Knoll Shores was previously made up of 39% full-time residents and 61% second-home owners (ref: the 2000 census). After the 2010, census these numbers have changed to 32% full-time and 68% second-home owners. Folks, less than a third of our property owners live here all the time. We also know the population of the state is increasing. While we can't duplicate or relive the past, we **MUST** plan for the future on the basis of economic facts *and* maintain the character and environment of our town.

There will be quite a few projects underway in our town over the next year. As most folks know, the Mimosa Bridge is due for replacement in the next year. This will take several months and be a short-term inconvenience to most. Highway 58, Salter Path Road, along the whole length of Pine Knoll Shores, is scheduled to be resurfaced this coming winter. We hope to add the resurfacing of several of our streets while the paving equipment is "in the neighborhood." The other project will be Phase I of our sidewalks. Remember the pedestrian plan that was completed as a result of the town's recreation survey? This plan, approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and our Board of Commissioners, will serve as the basis for all future sidewalks should there be any. Phase I will accomplish the task of connecting beach accesses and parking and several areas of town currently not pedestrian friendly. If you were in favor of the 2003 beach nourishment where the Army Corps of Engineers was requiring six additional beach accesses, it's now difficult to be against the sidewalks that connect the beach access with the associated parking area for safety's sake.

The only thing constant is change. Our entire society is based on cheap fuel. Have you ever sat at a traffic light with vehicles stopped at all four corners when the intersection was clear? When the most inefficient time a vehicle runs is on take-off from a stop, why do we stop so much? Have you ever wanted to buy some or all of your groceries in Pine Knoll Shores, but can't? Are superstores a thing of the past because of energy inefficiency? Maybe, as in many other developed countries, the local grocery store is on the way back. Is this something we need to be looking at? As you can see, there is a lot to look at when planning for tomorrow in Pine Knoll Shores. We need purposeful, well-planned development to maintain the best of our town for future citizens. We always welcome your thoughts and input on keeping Pine Knoll Shores the greatest place to live.

Carolina Squadrons' 40th Anniversary

On September 10, at 2 P.M., there will be a 40th anniversary celebration of the naming of Power Squadron Spit. The event will take place at the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters Museum at Cape Lookout National Seashore, where the official plaque commemorating the Carolina Power Squadron is installed. Hosting this event will be Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron Commander Bruce Brill. District 27 Commander Michael McCulley will speak.

Forty years ago, a new name appeared on navigation charts of the North Carolina coast. The efforts of 20 Carolina squadrons of District 27 of the United States Power Squadrons® were recognized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Survey and the United States Board on

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Crystal Coast Cruisers

By Tom Powers

With every month now, the Crystal Coast Cruisers are growing. This month, we added two new couples. A full Cruisers' caravan would now be 18 RVs. Our members all live in the area, from Beaufort to Emerald Isle, and they are a fun-loving group who just love traveling in their RVs. We have members who have just returned from trips to Wyoming, upstate New York, Assateague Island, Fort Myers, Charlotte and Savannah, and almost all of us have trips mapped out for the coming months.

Our next scheduled group getaway is later this month when we will be going for a long weekend to the Willow Tree RV Resort in Longs, South Carolina, which is just outside of North Myrtle Beach. Even though it's not on the beach, it is an award-winning campground with a lot of activities. Along with the beach, golf and shopping offered by the area, there's a pool, hot tub, bocce ball, horseshoes, billiards, lake fishing and hiking available right at the campground. Besides enjoying the amenities, we have a group dinner in town and a covered dish dinner at the campground. And, you can always find good conversation and a cold drink.

If you have an RV or are considering one, we welcome you to our dinner meetings, which are held the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. We now alternate the location between a few local restaurants. For more information, you can contact Tom Powers at 240-3164 or by e-mail at tom.powers@mac.com.

Annual Bulk Waste Collection

By Ernie Rudolph

A town-wide collection of unwanted bulk items will take place on Thursday September 22. Please have all bulk items at the roadside in front of your residence not more than three days before the collection day.

White goods, which include appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers and hot water heaters, will be picked up without charge separately from other bulk waste items. You must call Waste Industries at 223-4176 before Thursday September 22 to indicate that you have a white goods item to be picked up.

Bulk waste includes household furniture, mattresses, bedding, outdoor grills (no propane cylinders), outdoor furniture, bags of clothing, small quantities of construction and demolition material (windows, doors, trim boards vinyl siding, plywood, etc.) normally associated with minor homeowner repairs. Items other than furniture need to be bagged or tied in bundles. Long items should not exceed four feet in length. Paint, solvents, waste oil, petroleum products, lawn chemicals and fertilizers are considered to be hazardous or special waste and will not be collected. Electronic items such as televisions, radios, stereo equipment, computers, keyboards, modems, monitors, etc. are also excluded from the bulk waste pick up. Carteret County currently accepts household hazardous waste materials and electronics items twice yearly at designated locations.

Residents are requested to call Waste Industries directly (223-4176) if they have a question as to whether an item is acceptable bulk waste that can be collected without risk to employees or equipment.