

PKA News

By Gail Halada

The PKA Homeowner Association Manual describes responsibilities for waterways as follows: The director is responsible for all maintenance to association marinas: Brock Basin, Hall Haven and the boat ramp at Davis Landing from the bulkhead outward toward the water. Requests for maintenance or major additions to the mooring basins from the harbor master will be routed through the waterways director for consideration and prior approval. The waterways director will also be responsible for maintenance of channel markers, bulkheads, dredging and the removal of obstructions in the water (with notification of property owners in some cases).

Interview with Scott McMillan - Director of Waterways

Q. How long have you been overseeing the PKA waterways?

A. I have been Director of Waterways for two years.

Q. Who is your assistant?

A. Doug Browne has been my assistant.

Q. In maintaining our PKA waterways, how do you go about doing repairs?

A. Most everything has to be accessed by boat.

Q. How many volunteers do you have to help?

A. Depending on the situation, I seek help when needed.

Q. What is the most common repair?

A. We find that repairing the channel markers as they age quickly due to their environment as a real challenge.

Q. When a hurricane/storm hits, what do you do first? Then what?

A. There is not a lot of pre-storm prep we can do with the water, but after the storm, we scout the waterways for debris that may hinder navigation.

Q. How do you maintain the bulkheads?

A. Owners maintain their bulkheads. If a wall is falling and the owners have not noticed, we contact the town's building inspector, and he notifies the owner.

Q. How do you go about replacing channel markers?

A. We have extra markers, and if one is damaged beyond repair, we just replace it. We are fortunate to have members with boats who are willing to assist.

Q. What is the most challenging part of your job?

A. We want all members who want to use the waterways to have a pleasant experience. So keeping the waterways navigable and well marked is a priority.

Q. Any other comments?

A. We plan on installing reflective tape to the markers this year to help all navigating our channels.

Scott does a good job as director of waterways. If you wish to add your name to his volunteer list, call him at 725-1356.

Redeem this coupon for 10% OFF your home project!

 **ARTISTIC
TILE + STONE**

607 Atlantic Beach Causeway • Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

Phone 252-241-7579 / Fax 252-247-7579

www.artistic tile and stone nc.com

Come in for a FREE design consultation!

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

It has always been my contention that the best government is the government that is closest to the people. Some might argue that the best government is no government. But, back to my initial statement. The reason I say this is because I believe the people should be able to reach out and "touch" the people who represent them.

Last month, I talked about the importance of two-way communication. I would like to give you an example. In Pine Knoll Shores, we have open board meetings so residents can be aware of what decisions are being made. We also have many special meetings that are not necessarily board meetings. Right now, your board and I are planning for the upcoming fiscal year. By state statute, we must have a balanced budget passed by the end of June. The next fiscal year, 2012-2013, starts July 1.

As I write, we are in the fairly early stages of the budget process, but I feel confident here in April saying the tax rate will stay the same. That said, with inflation and the ever changing economic and political climate, we have some tough decisions to make.

The Mimosa Bridge will be completed, but we have many other things going on, and some things had to be cut from the budget. Some of our streets will be repaved the same time Salter Path Road is getting paved. We will continue to try to get the North Carolina Department of Transportation to approve our sidewalk plan, and we will do a reduced project for safety and connectivity. We will continue to build the best police force for our safety and security. Our force, led by Chief Lorrie Lepore, will continue its work to become CALEA certified. We want the best for our town, and this will help set the bar high.

Along with our General Fund operating budget, we will be investing in capital projects. These are unusually large or not common purchases. Some examples are computer equipment, software changes, vehicle and equipment replacements and plans.

Aside from our annual budget, we have two kinds of reserve funds: designated and undesignated. The designated reserves are funds set aside for specific items and projects. We had a designated reserve for the Mimosa Bridge. We also have designated reserves for streets, buildings, vehicles and emergency vehicles. We do this because, for example, a new fire truck costs around \$500,000. We don't have the annual budget for that kind of outlay, and this gives us a way to put some savings aside for those major purchases.

The undesignated reserve is comprised of money that basically can be used to operate the town, but we need to keep it at a certain level in case of an emergency, such as a storm or fire.

Outside of the day-to-day General Fund, your town also has a Water Fund to operate and maintain our water system. This past year, we did a lot to improve the water fund and the infrastructure. We installed new water mains on Pine-wood, Knollwood and Bay streets. We also had some pipes put in to equalize the water pressure in the system so we will have more equal pressure and fewer breaks.

To maintain our beach in great shape, we keep this area separate because it is taxed separately. This budget is where we fund such projects as the town wide sand fence project, the beach accesses and our rainy-day fund for beach renourishment.

As you can see, we have a fairly complicated job and process. The main point is that it is fair and efficient for the best operation for the least number of tax dollars. Please attend one of the town budget briefings we present before the budget is voted on. We want to communicate with you about your tax dollars because we are close enough for you to reach out and "touch" us.