

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

By Susan Toms

Book Review

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Edward Humes takes readers on a surprising tour of the world of garbage in his latest book, *Garbology*. Take a journey inside the secret world of our biggest export, our most prodigious product and our greatest legacy—our trash. It's the biggest thing we make.

The average American is on track to produce a whopping 102 tons of garbage across a lifetime, \$50 billion in squandered riches rolled to the curb each year, more than that produced by any other people in the world. Humes offers plenty of other surprising, even shocking, statistics. For example, one in every six big trucks in America is a garbage truck.

But that trash doesn't just magically disappear. Our bins are merely the starting point for a strange, impressive, mysterious and costly journey that may also represent the greatest untapped opportunity of the century. Humes investigates the trail of that 102 tons of trash; what's in it; how much we pay for it; how we manage to create so much of it; and how some families, communities, and even nations are finding a way back from waste to discover a new kind of prosperity.

Along the way, he introduces a collection of garbage denizens unlike anyone you've ever met: the trash-tracking detectives of MIT; bulldozer-driving sanitation workers building Los Angeles' immense Garbage Mountain landfill; artists in residence at San Francisco's dump; and a family whose annual trash output fills not a dumpster or a trash can, but a single mason jar.

Garbology digs through our epic piles of trash to reveal not just what we throw away but also who we are and where our society is headed. Are we destined to remain the country whose number one export is scrap—America as China's trash compactor—or will the country that invented the disposable economy pioneer a new and less wasteful path? The real secret at the heart of *Garbology* may well be the potential for a happy ending buried in our landfill. "Waste," Humes writes, "is the one environmental and economic harm that ordinary working Americans have the power to change—and prosper in the process."

Local Recycling Meeting

In an effort to increase recycling efficiency in Pine Knoll Shores, we would like input from homeowners in multi-family units. On Saturday, September 29 at 9 a.m., join us at town hall for coffee and donuts. The town manager, commissioners and recycling coordinator will be there to discuss the needs of various units. We'd like to know what's happening at your unit in order to improve and streamline recycling services there.

Pine Knoll Shores VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is to provide a quality environment in which our citizens are safe and secure, where individual talents flourish, and everyone enjoys the natural resources of our area.

It is the mission of the town of Pine Knoll Shores to provide concerted and friendly means of promoting health, safety and social well-being; develop and implement plans for the continuous improvement of the town; and encourage the participation of residents in service to the town and community.

PINEKNOLL SHORES COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

By Yvette Bannen

The Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on July 26 at 6 p.m. to discuss two topics of unfinished business. During the public comment period prior to the start of the proceedings, the President of the Genesis Condominium Owners' Association spoke about what did and did not happen with the pruning that took place on the ocean side of Genesis.

Commissioner Danehy made a motion that the BOC deny the appeal of a fine of \$7,500 levied on Genesis for violation of the Town's ordinance regarding oceanfront pruning. The Association did not apply for a permit, but if it had, the Community Appearance Commission would have gotten involved, and 66 trees would not have been cut down. After discussion, the motion was approved 4-1.

Commissioner Danehy then made a motion that the replacement of the trees be delayed until January 2013, at which time a certified arborist would assess the health of the pruned vegetation. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The Town fleet management policy was reviewed again, and the policy was amended to include definitions of "emergency" and "safe driving record." The policy was accepted unanimously.

John Brodman, past chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee, presented a summary of the results of the Parks & Recreation 2012 survey. The purpose of the survey was to plan and prioritize future projects and activities. The survey was available online on the Town's Web site, and paper surveys were also available. The final total of responses from full-time residents, part-time residents and renters was 420. The full report, including comments, is available at townofpks.com, and a printed copy is also available at town hall. Based on survey results, John said the bottom line is that most respondents felt that Pine Knoll Shores is not the Jersey Shore or Myrtle Beach, and that no taxpayer funds should be used to create new recreation attractions or facilities. If recreational offerings were expanded, the preferred method would be in cooperation with other towns and associations, volunteer efforts, and through user fees. (See related article in this edition).

The regular Board of Commissioners' meeting scheduled for August 14 was cancelled. The next BOC meeting is scheduled for August 23 at 6 p.m. instead of at 10 a.m. (Results to be reported in the October *Shoreline*.)

TOWN OF Pine Knoll Shores

100 Municipal Circle • Main – 247-4353 • Fax – 247-4355 • Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR:

Ken Jones – 247-4353, ext. 17 – Two year term – elected in 2011
mayorjones@townofpks.com

COMMISSIONERS:

Larry Corsello – 247-0262 – elected in 2009 • admin@townofpks.com
Robert Danehy – 240-2945 – (Mayor pro tempore) elected in 2011 • admin@townofpks.com
Clark Edwards – 726-7429 – elected in 2011 • admin@townofpks.com
John Halada – 222-3940 – elected in 2009 • admin@townofpks.com
Larry Kacmarcik – 247-3610 – elected in 2009 • admin@townofpks.com

TOWN OFFICIALS

TOWN MANAGER: Brian Kramer – 247-4353, ext. 16 • manager@townofpks.com
TOWN CLERK: Scott Sherrill - 247-4353, ext. 11 • admin@townofpks.com
FIN & ADMIN: Julie Anderson – 247-4353, ext. 14 • janderson@townofpks.com
PLANNING & INSPECTIONS: Chris Jones – 247-4354, ext. 18 • biceo@townofpks.com
PUBLIC SERVICES: Ernie Rudolph – 247-4353, ext. 27 • psd@townofpks.com

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – 314 Salter Path Road – 247-2268 • Fax 247-2897
POLICE: Chief Lorrie Lepore – 247-2474 • llepore@townofpks.com
FIRE & EMS: Fire Chief Jason Baker – 247-2268 • jbaker@townofpks.com

Emergency Call 911

Emergency Communications Center (ECC) 726-1911 • Public Safety 247-2474