

# The Shoreline

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A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

October 2012



October Fest  
See page 17



Photo by Dan Law

Jason Baker (PKS Fire Chief/Emergency Manager) receiving the Storm Ready Community Designation certificate from John A. Cole (NOAA Warning Coordination Meteorologist).

## Storm Ready Community

The National Weather Service has designated the Town of Pine Knoll Shores a Storm Ready Community. The designation was created in the late 1990s to recognize a community's ability to respond to severe weather emergencies. In order to qualify, communities must demonstrate their ability to receive severe weather threats and inform the public about them. North Carolina has 62 areas designated as Storm Ready - 48 counties and three municipalities, including Pine Knoll Shores.

Pine Knoll Shores demonstrated its capabilities to receive severe storm alerts and inform the public by having a severe-weather operations plan; a communications system, including a siren system and radio channel; and the ability to receive severe weather information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through its emergency operations center at the fire station.

In addition to warning infrastructure, Pine Knoll Shores has made efforts to educate the public on storm preparedness by having annual hurricane meetings. Storm Watcher training provided by the National Weather Service was recently held at town hall.

Emergency Management Director/Fire Chief Jason Baker says, "Our goal is to save lives through preparedness. We do a lot to prepare our community for major storm events, and this designation recognizes our efforts."

## It Is Your Right

Charlie McBriarty

This month has a number of holidays and celebrations. In fact, this column will be devoted to something that begins in October and concludes on the first Tuesday of next month. Fear not, all you spooks, goblins and sweet treat lovers, Halloween will be mentioned, but in another article in this month's paper.

The first Tuesday of November is Election Day, the last day citizens will be able to vote. Personally, I have been looking forward to this day for several months, for it will finally terminate the endless bombardment of political ads that infect television viewing 24/7 in the so-called "swing states," which include North Carolina. Let's hope, and perhaps even pray, there is no need for vote recounts that delay the eventual onset of relative peace and quiet over the airwaves.

As citizens, we all have an important role to play in helping to free our TV screen of pundits and prognosticators battling over the virtues and vices of various office seekers. **We can vote!**

Of course, voting is more important than just freeing up the TV airways of political clutter. Voting is a critical part of being a citizen of a democracy. Voting is a right we have that gives each of us a voice, a way to individually express our choice of who will or will not hold office.

The 2012 election is special because it is when we select who will serve for the next four years as:



- President and Vice President of the United States
- Governor and Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina
- North Carolina's Attorney General; Commissioners of Agriculture, Insurance and Labor; Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Treasurer.

We will also choose who will represent us in the US House of Representatives for this the 3<sup>rd</sup> District, for the next two years. In addition, we will elect our representative to the NC Senate and House of Representatives and our district's County Commissioner, as well as a NC Supreme Court Associate Justice, Court of Appeals Judges and District Court Judges. Finally, we will select the Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor.

Citizens who will be 18 years or older on November 6 of this year are eligible to vote if they have registered. As of September 4, Pine Knoll Shores has a total of 1,277 registered voters. If you are not registered, it is a relatively simple process that can be

(Continued on page 3)

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