

The Shoreline

Vol. 9, No.10

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

April 2013



At the Library

See page 35



Cierra Tomaso, left, and Destiny King represented the North Carolina Aquarium Ocean Action Club at the Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts in Washington, D.C. March 9 -12.

NC Aquarium Sends Students to DC

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores teamed up with area home school students to help protect the seas. The Aquarium launched the Ocean Action Club for middle school and high school students last September as part of the annual Homeschool Day activities. Two club members headed to Washington, D.C. March 9 - 12 to present their ideas to the National Student Summit on Oceans and Coasts.

In the inquiry-based club, said organizer and Aquarium Educator Gail Lemiec, members choose the topic to research and how to implement solutions they develop.

"They do something they want to do," she said. "It's a good way to get students involved."

Club members voted to tackle ocean acidification - ocean chemistry changes from increased carbon dioxide absorbed from the atmosphere. These changes reconfigure the ocean's ecological balance. While some shell-building animals and other organisms respond negatively to the altered conditions, other species tolerate or even thrive in them.

(Continued on page 3)

Water Department to Get Automatic Meter Readers

By John Brodman



Overview of Your Water Department

After years of contentious negotiation, Pine Knoll Shores purchased the town's water company from Carolina Water in 2005 for \$3.75 million, which was the assessed market value of the system at that time. The purchase was financed by a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to the purchase,

Carolina Water had a virtual monopoly on water delivery and was providing mediocre service at a relatively high price. Drilling and maintaining your own well was the only alternative open to residents, and the town felt it could deliver better water service for less money. From 2005 to 2008, Pine Knoll Shores owned the company, but Carolina Water managed it on a daily basis for a fee, doing all the routine repairs, maintenance, meter reading and billing. In 2008, Pine Knoll Shores took over full-time management of the water enterprise, hired its own certified, full-time water operations manager (Sonny Cunningham) and began to do its own meter reading and billing. Around the same time, the town also hired Cavanaugh and Associates, an engineering firm, to do a complete audit of the water system and develop maintenance schedules and a long-term water enterprise capital improvement plan.

Infrastructure

The town's water company (WC) now owns four wells and well houses, two water towers and about 29 miles of distribution

(Continued on page 4)

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