

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

A September to remember

This year's saying again could very well be, "Off to the races!" It has been a good and busy year for Pine Knoll Shores. Many issues have come up, and people have asked me to write something about the issues that we talk about.

When the *Island Review* shut down a couple of months ago, I heard a lot of you asking what happened and whether it will return. The answer is a resounding "Yes." The editor of that publication, and some others, have taken up the challenge to bring that publication back. Amanda Dagnino will restart publishing the *Island Review* in November. Thank you, Amanda, and all the best in your future.

Pine Knoll Shores is a Tree City USA, and we want to keep it that way. Our 2019: Year of the Tree certainly has had some changes with pine beetles and a visit from Hurricane Dorian. With a long-term and big-picture philosophy, we did the right thing early on when we planted over 1,200 trees during the first quarter of this year. I hear stories, as I know you do as well, about storms and this beetle years ago. Again, the long-term effects will be minimal; our town has had this happen before.

I keep hearing how we dodged a bullet with Hurricane Dorian flying past us. It was very worrisome when a waterspout skipped onto land and spawned a tornado in an Emerald Isle trailer park. One of our newer police officers was staying there. Fortunately, he had just come on shift that morning and was in our town. And even more fortunate is that no one was hurt during this entire storm event. Thank you to our very own Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative for working feverishly to restore power. They had as their backup five utility crews from Statesville—who were just as great as the Middle Tennessee guys we had after Hurricane Florence. Again, this group worked tirelessly to get our power restored quickly. Thank you to everyone involved in our return to normal.

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's Halloween celebration at Brock Basin. I personally love Halloween. It's not a federal holiday, and there is nothing required by anyone—and I love to grow pumpkins. I know the mothers of Pine Knoll Shores work hard at this to give their own children and other children in our town a night to remember. I look forward to seeing you again this year.

I extend sincere thanks to all of you who continue to volunteer to keep Pine Knoll Shores and our citizens safe and energized and to keep our town beautiful. If you aren't currently volunteering, please come over to town hall and fill out the one-page application. If you love it here in Pine Knoll Shores, like most of us do, please volunteer and join our town's team. It's like having a National Guard unit right here in town; sometimes I hear it called the Pine Knoll Shores militia. Without your help we are missing a key ingredient to our town's community: you. One team, one town, one Pine Knoll Shores.

Crystal Coast Country Club

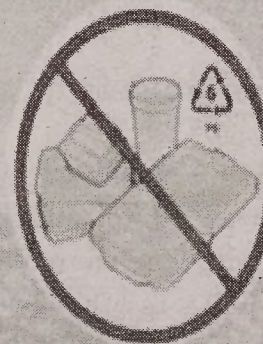
...where friends connect

By John Ferguson

I don't know about you folks, but I am tired of thinking about hurricanes and dealing with their aftermath. Many of us are still working through the damage that Hurricane Florence created just a bit over a year ago, and we just went through the long process of getting through the Dorian fiasco. Although the Crystal Coast Country Club had minor issues as a result of Hurricane Dorian, we have little to complain about in comparison to those in the Bahamas. The devastation there is mind boggling. I am sure that I speak for all of us at the club and our community that our hearts are broken for these folks who have lost loved ones and much of what they own.

As these neighbors of the United States start to go through the long and difficult process of recovery, I am heartened to see the efforts of many to assist these people. Monetary donations are pouring in from celebrities in huge amounts, but we are also seeing the many donations from individuals in small amounts that rise to significant contribution totals. Isn't it amazing how people reach out when these crises occur? The giving nature of the World Central Kitchen, led by renowned chef Jose Andres, who immediately arrived in the Bahamas to feed thousands of people; the emergency personnel who arrived from Miami to assist in the search and rescue operations; the Coast Guard assistance; and the many other heroic efforts show that, despite all the disagreement and divisiveness in our world today, when the going gets tough, these issues fade in comparison to the human needs resulting from a crisis.

After thinking about these folks and their very difficult time, the Crystal Coast Country Club has come together as a group to provide a donation to assist in Hurricane Dorian disaster relief. During the month of September, the club took up donations from our membership and donated to the Red Cross for the hurricane recovery as a group effort. As president of the club, I am proud to be part of this organization each and every day.



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