

Here are a few things happening at town hall.

Public Services Department (PSD) winter work plan. PSD Director Sonny Cunningham will have a busy winter over the next four months. There are a number of projects I would like to make the public aware of heading into the cool weather. This list is not the entirety of his workload, but will have the most impact within our neighborhoods.

- *Hydrant and valve replacement*. Throughout the town, but particularly on the east end, Sonny is going to replace a number of old fire hydrants which have no valves from the mains to which they are connected. This will cause some water service interruption as we move through town, and we will do our best to keep everyone apprised.
- Road repaying. We will do some road repaying at several cul-de-sacs that are in particularly bad shape as a continuation of work started last year.
- *New steps at town hall.* We are going to replace all of the steps and ramps at the front and back entrance of town hall. These are quite weathered and likely out of code.
- Public beach access upgrades. The beach accesses at the Hampton Inn on the far eastern end of town and the Ocean Glen condominiums on the far western end of the town will be replaced. These are two of the original accesses that were installed nearly 20 years ago, and they are in poor shape.

East End Phase II stormwater project. We expect this to be under construction by the time you are reading this. Our easements have been acquired, and we hope to have this work done prior to Christmas. In January we will start work on the golf course grounds once we work out our final agreement with the country club. We have been sending out messages to impacted homeowners on the east end. Please let us know if you want to be added to this list.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) tree trimming. As of this writing this trimming has been delayed by CCEC to December. In early November, we began marking trees that are problematic for powerlines and will be heavily disfigured by the line clearing. Our plan is to coordinate with homeowners and replace trees where possible. We want to balance the protection of our trees with the public safety issue of maintaining reliable power supply.

Water leaks on our system. PSD Director Sonny Cunningham has completed a leak detection effort along all 29 miles of our water mains in town. He found three significant leaks with an acoustic device and has addressed all of these.

Cyber security analysis. In early December a contractor endorsed by the North Carolina League of Municipalities will conduct a cyber security analysis at town hall. Some communities in North Carolina have been impacted by ransomware attacks, and we are trying to avoid this.

For oceanfront homeowners: static line exception update. Ten years ago Pine Knoll Shores, along with Indian Beach and Emerald Isle, applied for a static line exception to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. This exception allows property owners to use the *existing* vegetation line as their setback anchor (that is, the landward setback distance at which a structure must be built), rather than a line drawn on a map nearly 20 years ago. Generally

speaking, the exception was granted in 2010, and we must submit a renewal report that needs to be approved every five years. We completed one in 2015, and last month had this extended again. Greg "Rudi" Rudolph in the county Shore Protection Office did the heavy lifting for us. If you are an oceanfront owner and this is all Greek to you, contact Town Planner Kevin Reed at kreed@townofpks.com.

Issues with garbage and recycling services. Next year is our five-year renewal with our garbage and recycling hauler, GFL. This past summer we received a larger than normal number of complaints concerning poor service and rough handling of garbage cans. We are considering hiring an outside consultant for next year's request for proposals and bidding. Our intent is to try to create some competition and get the best service possible.

Receive town email updates. If you are not signed up for the town's email alerts, go to the town website at townofpks.com and scroll down to Town Information on the homepage and click on a link to add yourself to Constant Contact, our web-based email delivery service.



This Month's Puzzle Solutions

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