



Kramer's Korner

It's hard to believe that we are already reporting in the December issue of *The Shoreline*. Time flies when you're in Pine Knoll Shores. Here are some of the things going on in town.

Thank you to Larry Corsello. In December Larry will step down from the Board of Commissioners after serving for 12 years. I can state

objectively that there is not an elected official, current or going back to 2007, who is more responsible for (a) the current outstanding financial position of the town, or (b) the current condition of the Pine Knoll Shores beach strand. Famous (infamous?) for his Corsello Spreadsheets and laser-focus on the budget, Larry served as a commissioner on the Finance Committee for years. He also serves as a member of the Carteret County Beach Commission, and I have watched him in action as he ensures that all of the decisions of that group keep the town's interests in mind. See you around campus, Larry.

Thank you to Greg "Rudi" Rudolph. Any of you who have been interested in all of the activity that takes place to keep our beach strand (and all of Bogue Banks) in great shape know that there is one person who makes all of this happen. That person is Rudi, and I am writing this article on his last day as the Carteret County Shore Protection Officer. Rudi had the position for 20 years, and he literally wrote the book on beach management in eastern North Carolina. He is respected statewide, and Pine Knoll Shores has been the beneficiary of his incredible talents. Fair winds and following seas, Rudi.

Suspension of use of brown paper bags for yard debris. In early November the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) inspected the landfill in Morehead City where Sonny Cunningham and his crew have been taking yard debris for years. Incredibly, the brown paper bags are not authorized by the state to be disposed of in these facilities. We have been doing this for over 10 years and apparently this is the first time they have noticed it. We're going to do our best to get this reversed, but I believe it's going to take a while to convince the right person to change this policy. I'm very sorry for the inconvenience and ask for everyone's patience.

FEMA funding. The town has submitted a request to FEMA to use approximately \$3.2 million in remaining funds from Hurricane Florence for projects related to resilience. We submitted this request in January of this year and heard just recently that, following a 30-day public notice, we should receive the funding and will be allowed to use it for the projects we requested. The list includes new metal roofs for town hall and the public safety building, updated dual band radios for fire and police, additional storm water pumps and other storm clean-up equipment for Public Services Director Sonny Cunningham, a new ladder truck to replace the 20-year-old truck at the fire department, and the hardening of our buildings that house our water system wells.

Sidewalk survey. By the time you are reading this, the surveys will have been mailed and we will be in our three-week response window. If you have received this newspaper in the mail, you should have received a survey as well. If you have not received a survey, please contact Town Clerk Charlie Rocci at clerk@townofpks.com. The deadline to respond is December 10.

Important note for those in a flood zone who have flood insurance. This past month we received the good news that the town has maintained a score of 6 in the Community Rating System program run by the federal government. This

In Memoriam

William "Bill" Crawford

Dorothy Miller

Robert Montgomery

Michael Poremba

Mary Rice

is a program that allows local governments to take steps to mitigate the impacts of flooding, which in turn allows for discounts on flood insurance premiums. *If you are in a special flood hazard area, and most who are know it, the score will give you a 20% discount on your flood insurance premiums.* If this is all mystery to you, please call Town Planner Kevin Reed at 252-247-4353, ext. 11.

Transition to new solid waste contractor. In January the town will begin working with a new contractor to pick up our garbage and recycling. The service schedule we are all familiar with will remain the same, and the convenience site at town hall will remain in operation. For those of you who rent carts or dumpsters from our departing contractor, GFL, be advised that you should receive a letter from Assistant Town Manager Julie Anderson regarding continuation of this with the new contractor.

Get in the know—long range planning. In January the Pine Knoll Shores Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Commissioners will have a joint meeting as the Strategic Planning Committee presents recommended changes to our town's strategic plan. This will provide a good window into seeing what town leaders view as important going into the next 5 to 10 years. With the interstate coming into the county, the housing market, and the rate of permitting and new home construction in Pine Knoll Shores, planning for the future takes on added importance. Keep an eye out for a message from Town Clerk Charlie Rocci for the webinar link to this event.

Another opportunity to get in the know. Each February the mayor, the commissioners and staff plan out the upcoming year in terms of capital projects and priorities. This is a shorter term planning evolution from the one described above. Keep an eye out for this session as well, which is open to the public—as are all town meetings.

Repaving of Beechwood Drive. We have a quote in hand to repave the entire length of Beechwood, from Mimosa Boulevard down to the most eastern cul-de-sac. I expect that we will do this after the holidays and well before the summer.

Water main replacement on Salter Path Road. Another project planned for the current fiscal year is the replacement of a water main on the south side of Highway 58 from Willow Road east to the Atlantic Beach border.

Sign up for town emails for storm alerts (and everything else). We send email alerts during all storm emergencies as well as all year on everything from lost pets to local events. This is a good way to keep apprised of all things town related. Visit the town's website at townofpks.com, scroll down on the homepage, and click to sign up for Constant Contact to add yourself to this email list.