

Keeping Up With the Clerk

By Charles Rocci
Pine Knoll Shores Town Clerk

Sidewalk survey results

I would like to thank everyone who took time to submit the sidewalk survey sent in early December. Of the 2,200 property owners we sent surveys to, we were able to receive almost 700 responses. In the world of survey collection, a 30% response rate is almost unheard of. Again, thank you to everyone who took the time to send us feedback.

Nuts and bolts. I am going to provide a brief breakdown of survey results. If you would like to view all of the survey data, we have posted anonymous results in the town's online document library. Visit tinyurl.com/ycktc8up to access the survey data and charts.

From all of the responses, 55% reported to be second-home owners, and 45% were full-time residents. In the ranking of the importance of sidewalks in town, the two largest selections were "very important," with 39%, and "not important at all," with 28%. About 33% of respondents rated somewhere in the middle. The final question asked owners for their opinion on a proposed sidewalk along Highway 58 funded solely through town taxes. The percentage breakdown of this vote was 51.52% in favor of town taxpayer-funded sidewalks and 48.58% against town taxpayer-funded sidewalks. For a fun piece of data, 31% of responses were sent through mail, and 69% of responses were sent online.

Comments from the survey provided a wide range of perspectives on the issue of sidewalks. I will be presenting an in-depth analysis of these comments at the January 12 Board of Commissioners meeting. Briefly, responses indicated those against the installation of sidewalks had concerns regarding the environment, taxes, location and other. Those in support of the sidewalks cited concerns regarding safety, access, health and other.

Conclusion. This raw data does not guarantee or reject the installation of a sidewalk along Highway 58 from Oakleaf Drive to Pine Knoll Boulevard. Tune in to the January 12 Board of Commissioners meeting to hear my breakdown of statistical indicators of this survey. The commissioners will then discuss next steps as they relate to sidewalks in Pine Knoll Shores.

PKS Police Bulletin

(Continued from page 3)

Norris," is a brilliant firearms instructor and has made a tremendous impact on our staff. He has instructed officers from all over the United States, and we are lucky to have him as part of our team.

At the beginning of December, two of our officers went to Meriwether County, Georgia, to extradite a fugitive to Carteret County. We obtained four felony warrants for his arrest for exploiting the elderly in a pine straw scam, and he also had several felony warrants out of Wake County for scamming individuals there. The fugitive extradition was time consuming to put together and involved collaboration between our District Attorney's office, the State Bureau of Investigation, and the Meriwether County Sheriff's office in Georgia. I am grateful that it was completed without incident and the individual was brought back to Carteret County to be held accountable for his actions. This serves as a reminder to us that, although we live in paradise, we are not immune from being taken advantage of. We need to remain vigilant and look out for each other. I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to Sgt. Cory Bishop for his outstanding work on this case. If you see him around town, stop him and give him a fist bump. Sgt. Bishop has worked tirelessly over the past five years to ensure scam victims in Pine Knoll Shores get the justice they deserve.

On the Grill

(Continued from page 9)

Author's note. The college football championship game is just around the corner on January 10, and with chicken wings always being a staple food served for your staycation/COVID avoidance football game, some adjustment may be necessary this year. Wings have become an expensive and often unavailable option at the grocery store, yet legs are almost always available (and inexpensive). Chickens have the same number of wings as legs so I cannot explain how that inventory problem exists. Try this tip to make your wings really crispy: steam them for 10 minutes and then let them rest in the fridge for at least 30 minutes or overnight. You can then cook them however you like, but what you are going to find is that the skin crisps up very nicely, and they will be superb with your guests asking for more. We tried this tip with some turkey wings recently and then fried them. The result was super crispy skins and delicious. Enjoy either, and if you have some leftovers from the rib roast, make up some great sandwiches for your game-time meal.

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