



Kramer's Korner

Congrats to all the light blue fans in college basketball. The Devils will get you next year.

Here are a few of the things happening at town hall.

Fiscal year 2022-2023 budget. The Board of Commissioners is in the middle of budget

planning, as is normal for this time of the year. This is a tough year, and I expect I will request that the board approve a tax increase as part of my final recommendation. If you wish to follow the discussion on this, I recommend you attend or listen in to the May 11 and 25 commissioners meetings at town hall.

Pine Knoll Shores water system improvements. I mentioned here last month that we are submitting a grant to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to make system-wide upgrades in town. This involves replacement of water mains across large areas of Pine Knoll Shores on the east end of town, which has the oldest section of water lines. By the time you are reading this, we will have submitted the grant and will await word later this summer as to any funding that may be offered. Once we know the grant amount, we will zero in on what sections of town will be addressed. All water mains are on town or state property in the right of way, but there will unquestionably be issues with sprinkler systems, driveway cuts and other ornamental objects placed here over the decades. We will get the word out as soon as possible to those areas that will be impacted.

Replacement of steps at town hall. We now have the design completed to replace all of the wooden steps and ramps to all three entries at town hall. We will likely start this project later this summer. While you can expect to see construction activity in this area, we will always ensure one of the two public accesses is open.

2021 Pine Knoll Shores water system water quality report. Your electric/water bill from Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative will include a link for easy access to our water quality report (tinyurl.com/ycx7yprw). All measurements for various contaminants were well within acceptable parameters. Of note for those not familiar with water system operations: we have a 6% water loss level, which tells us how much water our system loses through leaks. This is a very good number for a system the age of ours and is a credit to Sonny Cunningham and his management of the system and his leak detection program. The acceptable parameters for a system of our age for water loss is 5 to 15%.

Request from Morehead City for help funding school resource officers (SROs). Morehead City is requesting that Pine Knoll Shores and Atlantic Beach consider contributing to the cost of the SROs at Morehead Primary (K-grade 3), Camp Glenn (grades 4-5), and Morehead Middle (grades 6-8), the three elementary/middle public schools that town kids attend. They are requesting \$8,500 from Pine Knoll Shores (and \$6,900 from Atlantic Beach). As a point of interest and lending to the position that our town demographics are changing: Pine Knoll Shores actually has more kids (102) enrolled at these schools than Atlantic Beach (66). Morehead City receives grants from the state to cover half of the SRO expenses at these three schools and receives some county funding. West Carteret High School isn't involved because state grants cover 100% of the expense at high schools. The board briefly discussed this at the April 13 meeting and will consider it as part of the FY 22-23 budget.

Inspection of bulkheads in the canal. Very soon, Pine Knoll Shores Town Planner Kevin Reed will tour the canal by boat at low tide to look at bulkheads. We do this occasionally to enforce our ordinance requiring bulkheads to be in good shape to prevent shoaling of the canal.

Garbage carts for sale and delivery. Our solid waste (garbage and recycling) contractor, Waste Removal of Morehead City, is selling heavy duty 95-gallon carts for \$95. This includes delivery to your home. These same carts are \$139 and \$145 at local national chain stores. Waste Removal will repair or replace any damage to these carts that is not the fault of the owner. If you are interested, please contact Waste Removal at 252-499-9710.

Yard waste collection. While we try to get the NC Department of Environmental Quality to reconsider the use of brown paper bags for yard waste, there is something you may be able to do to help Sonny Cunningham's Public Service Department handle our twice-a-month yard waste pickup. At right is a photo Sonny took last month during April's first pickup. These are the smaller size plastic cans (30 gallons) than many homeowners have. If your yard waste can fit in one or two of these, it makes it much easier for Sonny's crew to pick it up and place in the trailer. Placing yard waste in the larger 95-gallon cans creates a heavy lift for the men and slows down the pickup process. If your yard waste exceeds the capacity of these smaller cans, you can fill them and leave the remainder on the ground.



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