



Kramer's Korner

I hope everyone is ready for a breakout summer after two years in the doldrums. We are incredibly fortunate to live/work/own in such a wonderful area, and I think the 2022 breakout from COVID lockdowns will keep the crowds up. Be safe.

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

2022 beach safety. As Pine Knoll Shores Fire & EMS Chief Jason Baker notes in his article "Beach Safety" in this issue, the *two most important things related to beach safety are knowing your location and having a flotation device.* Let's make 2022 the best summer ever. Here are a few things we are doing this year to follow Chief Baker's recommendations.

- **Noodles and koozies will be available at the Iron Steamer and Memorial Park public beach accesses.** The noodles provide a means of flotation, and the koozies help us get the word out on rip current escape strategies.
- **Life jackets (PFDs).** Partnering with Sea Tow, we will again have life jackets for various ages available at the Iron Steamer and Memorial Park public beach accesses for use during your beach visit.
- **Know where you are on the beach.** See the map at this link for addresses for all of our public beach accesses: tinyurl.com/2uf3namt. If you are at a home or a private beach access, know the address of your location on Salter Path Road.
- **Beach mile marker.** We will have our mile marker signs on the beach, and the location of these signs will be programmed in the Active 911 system to improve response times onto the beach strand.
- **Beach safety classes for kids.** The Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department has already held one class on the beach, targeted toward our younger crowds, and will hold a second one on July 2 at 10 a.m. at the Iron Steamer beach access.
- **Free parking for surfers.** We will continue to offer free parking for surfers at the Iron Steamer and Memorial Park public beach accesses.
- **Efforts to keep emergency accesses clear for rescue vehicles.** We are repeating the use of signage to keep the emergency vehicle accesses from being blocked by beach patrons, which can severely slow down a rescue operation.
- **Beach patrols.** The police department will conduct four to five beach patrols per day.
- **Beach safety literature.** The police department will distribute literature to our area hotels/motels. If you want this material for a home in Pine Knoll Shores that will have multiple guests over the summer, contact Shelia Bupp at psbadmin@townofpks.com.
- **Life rings and ropes.** We will have rings and ropes at 10 beach locations throughout the town.
- **Electric sign usage.** We will continue the use of the electric sign we purchased in 2020 for surf condition warnings. The sign will be positioned on the north side of Highway 58 as you enter Pine Knoll Shores from the east.

- **Beach flag code for surf conditions.** Magnets with this code will be available free of charge at the public safety building. Get one for your home at the beach.

Water main replacement on Salter Path Road. The project to replace the water mains from Willow Road to the Atlantic Beach border on the south side of Salter Path Road is in the design phase. We met with the consultants in early May, and the preliminary design is nearly complete. The plan is to complete the design, solicit bids, and select a contractor this summer and start construction in the October time frame.

Use of brown paper bags for yard waste. We have reached out to Rep. Pat McElraft on this issue. She is in Raleigh for the short session, and we have asked her to take this directly to NC Department of Environmental Quality.

Bridge inspections. The NC Department of Transportation inspects our bridges every two years. They outsource this to engineering firms that do the actual analysis. Both of our bridges were inspected this spring and are in acceptable condition from a load-rating standpoint.

Hurricane preparation class. You will see email/Facebook notifications of an annual briefing in late June by Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Jason Baker regarding hurricane preparation. We do this annually, and it is a good way to get your head back into the game of preparing for the next storm. I believe one of the most valuable aspects of this annual meeting, particularly for new homeowners, is to meet property owners who have been here for years and can share their lessons learned.

Typical summer health and safety concerns in Pine Knoll Shores. We want everyone to enjoy their stay in Pine Knoll Shores this summer, whether you live here full time, part time, or if you are visiting for the first time. The following is a list of issues that seem to come up each year. Please consider all of the information below during your stay. Most important, have fun while you are here.

Crime prevention

- Lock your automobile doors. The police report that the common denominator for the vast majority of vehicle thefts in Pine Knoll Shores is an open vehicle. In my time here, the typical scenario is middle-of-the-night thieves walking (or riding bikes) down our streets simply looking for open cars. This is particularly important at beach access parking lots—even the private lots.
- Call 911 if you see anything suspicious.

(Continued on page 30)

Yoga on the Beach

Pine Knoll Shores resident Susan Toms will lead yoga on the beach at Hammer Park on four Sundays at 9 a.m.: June 26, July 3, July 10 and July 17. It will be a slow flow with modifications for most levels. Bring a beach towel or yoga mat and wear a bathing suit if you want to join in a swim afterwards. The sessions are donation based, with all donations going to support Boys and Girls Club summer programs. All are welcome.

