

# Kramer's Korner

It's hard to believe that fall is (technically) just a few weeks away. I'll believe it when the temperature tells me so, not the calendar. Here are a few things going on in Pine Knoll Shores.

**Near tragedies with rip currents.** In early August we had two incidents during which we came very close to losing swimmers in the ocean. In one case, a family was caught in a rip current, and the mother within the group was saved by a boogie board. In another case, two young adults came very close to perishing in a rip current. They were caught in a very strong current and had no flotation whatsoever. Our jet ski made it to them in the nick of time. We cannot stress this strongly enough: anyone entering the water, except for the strongest or most experienced of ocean swimmers, should have a means of flotation. Additionally, everyone who goes to the beach should be able to recognize a rip current. It is almost always a relatively calm and flat area with no breakers, with white breaking waves to the left and right. The photo below is a good example of this, and it was taken on our beach the day after one of the incidents. We stressed at the beginning of the summer when we discussed our beach safety initiatives that we wanted this to be a summer without incident. Let's keep it that way for the remainder of the ocean swimming season.



A dangerous rip current in Pine Knoll Shores very near the location of one of the rescues on August 8. Note the flat water between the waves on each side.

—Photo by Captain Brooks Graham, PKSFD

**Expenditure of FEMA funds.** Over the next year we will continually update here and at our monthly commissioner meetings any activity related to the expenditure of \$3.2 million in FEMA funds that we were awarded following Hurricane Florence. This month we sent out requests for qualifications to engineers to replace the roof on the public safety building. Leaking has been a continual issue with the current roof since 2007, and we want to address it. We also sent out a request for a proposal to purchase a new ladder truck for the Fire Department. In addition, we have prepared a request for a proposal

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