

Kramer's Korner

Happy football season everyone. Good luck to your chosen team, even if it is the University of Nort . . . never mind. I got in trouble for my last joke about that school.

Please sign up for town emails. Please visit the town's website at townofpks.com and click on the "Subscribe to Updates" button on the home page to get emails from the town. We put the subject line in each email, so if you don't want to read about lost pets but do want to know of storm preparation, road closures, and water outages, you can easily make that decision.

Not a good summer for recycling in Pine Knoll Shores. The summer of 2022 was not a one regarding recycling discipline here in town. We spent a considerable amount of town funds sending material to the trash landfill (at \$52/ton) rather than the recycling center (~\$30/ton). Soon I will send out a message asking for a volunteer to help the town with a better coordinated effort to let everyone know what needs to be done to fix this. The short version is this: stop placing plastic bags in recycling containers. It may seem minor, but when this is done on the scale of the entire town while at the same time we are demanding from our new contractor that we want all town-provided services to be done in one day, it is impossible for the contractor to sort through the recycling containers of 1,100+ single family homes as well as all of our condominiums. *Please help this effort by not placing any plastic bags in your recycling.*

FEMA projects. This is a continued update on the progress of the \$3.2M FEMA grant, which includes information on some of the expenditures utilizing these funds:

- At the September 14 Board of Commissioners meeting, the board approved the purchase of a new ladder truck for the Fire Department. This mid-mount fire apparatus will provide us with a means for fire rescue at our multi-story buildings and will alleviate the problem of having an important piece of equipment that is often out of service due to maintenance issues. In addition to other issues, the existing ladder truck has a steel ladder which has required ongoing maintenance over the last decade due to corrosion.
- On September 16 we sent out a request to purchase multi-band radios for both the Fire and Police departments. This will allow us to speak on both VHF and 800 MHz, the latter being key for disaster readiness.
- We will soon submit a request for proposal to construct an equipment building for Sonny Cunningham's Public Services Department. This will house equipment, related to disaster readiness such as pumps and a backhoe.

Pine Knoll Shores 50th Anniversary. In September we started detailed planning on the 50th Anniversary festival to be held on the town hall grounds on September 22, 2023. Anniversary t-shirts and the History Committee's updated booklet, *The Story of Pine Knoll Shores*, are available at town hall. See "What's Up With PARC?" on page 25 in this issue for details on the cost of t-shirts. There is no cost for the updated booklet, but small donations are appreciated to help offset the cost of printing.

Community Rating System (CRS) recertification. The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Last month the town received word that we have been recertified by FEMA as one of the two Carteret County local governments that have achieved a Class 6 CRS rating. This will save Pine Knoll

Shores homeowners who live in the most risk-prone flood zones in excess of \$160,000 in premiums.

Taking a look at saltwater intrusion. Saltwater intrusion is the movement of saltwater into freshwater aquifers, which can cause contamination of fresh drinking water. One of the items that came out of last year's Strategic Planning Committee discussions was to take a harder look at what the threats are here in Pine Knoll Shores. This is happening on the island already, so this is not a 50-years-from-now type of item. In early October we will have Dr. Richard Spruill here to speak about this. He has been studying saltwater intrusion on the east coast for decades and will give us some insight on what we can do to monitor this.

Audit of town finances. At the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 9 at 6 p.m., we will have our annual briefing by Martin Starnes and Associates of Hickory, which will include the status of our reserves and other key indicators of the town's financial position. If you cannot make it to the meeting, it will be broadcast via webinar, as all board meetings are. Contact Town Clerk Charlie Rocci at clerk@townofpks.com to sign up for this webinar.

Updated staff contact list. Below is contact information for the town staff with new telephone extension information.

Brian Kramer Town Manager (252) 247-4353, ext. 5 manager@townofpks.com	Julie Anderson Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director (252) 247-4353, ext. 4 janderson@townofpks.com
Jason Baker Chief of Fire/EMS Department (252) 247-2268, ext. 30 jbaker@townofpks.com	Sonny Cunningham Public Services Director (252) 723-0055 scunningham@townofpks.com
Jim Taylor Building Inspector (252) 247-4353, ext. 1 biceo@townofpks.com	Ryan Thompson Chief of Police (252) 247-2474, ext. 20 rthompson@townofpks.com
Lois O'Leary Tax Collector (252) 247-4353, ext. 3 taxcollector@townofpks.com	Charlie Rocci Town Clerk/Planning Administrator (252) 247-4353, ext. 2 clerk@townofpks.com
Paige Taylor-Ward Permit Technician/Admin Assistant (252) 247-4353, ext. 0 admin@townofpks.com	Shelia Bupp HRO/Public Safety Admin (252) 247-2268, ext. 10 PSBAdmin@townofpks.com

This Month's Puzzle Solutions

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