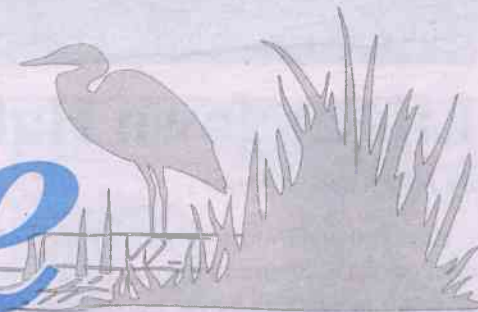


# The Shoreline



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A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Town Hall 247-4353

## Iron Steamer Pier, Motel Coming Down

By Bill White

The Iron Steamer Pier, a landmark on the Pine Knoll Shores beach for more than half a century, is being demolished to make way for a residential subdivision.

Demolition crews tore into the motel and support structures at the Iron Steamer complex in early December, then turned their attention to the pier itself. Originally built in the 1950's, and jutting some 1,000 feet into the ocean, the pier had been damaged by storms over the years, losing parts of the wings that extended at right angles from the main span at the seaward end. The main span was substantially rebuilt in 2002.

The site, rezoned last January from commercial to residential use, is slated to be subdivided into 10 building lots for single-family homes. Demolition of the pier and other structures is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with installation of infrastructure for the housing development starting right after that. The project is being carried out by Kinston developer Gerald Barfield.

Barfield, who fished from the pier as a boy, acquired the property after flagging business under previous ownership led to a foreclosure. He had hoped to restore the facilities to popularity as a fishing attraction, but even after renovations business remained disappointing.

In 2003 he moved to have the property rezoned with a view to selling it to a Wilmington developer who would carry out the residential development. The rezoning was approved in January, 2004. When the deal with the Wilmington developer fell through, Barfield reopened the pier for the 2004 summer season. Business remained slack, and Barfield elected to move ahead with the residential development himself.

Also weighing heavily in the decision to raze the pier and motel was the fact the pier was not insured because of prohibitive cost. That posed great loss and liability risks.

The Iron Steamer complex took its name

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*Etched against the sky, a remnant of the Iron Steamer Motel is framed by the arm of an excavator being used to tear it down.*

## The Year That Was

By Dick Reeves

As we look forward to 2005, it is fitting that we look back on 2004 as a year of significant progress for our town.

New administrations took over both in the town and the golf club. Both brought back the friendly, open volunteer-driven societies that make PKS such a great place to live

As a personal aside, on a Thanksgiving trip to New York we took several walks on the boardwalk of Jones Beach on Long Island. We passed many other walkers on the way. I remarked to our children, "Had we been back home in North Carolina, everyone we passed would have smiled, waved or said hello." That is not to say that New Yorkers are less friendly, they are just more cautious and reserved, sometimes with good reason.

Here at home in PKS we saw progress on all fronts. Our spiraling taxes took a breather and we will see only minor increases in 2005.

Our fire and EMS departments, already the best in the nation, have been strengthened even further with a new ladder truck, 24/7 paramedics, defibrillators in every police car and a public safety building to complement our own finest – the town employees and volunteers who do so much so well, so selflessly and cheerfully. We salute you and we thank you. We sleep well knowing that you are there for us every hour of the day and night.

We got some new sand for Bogue Banks beaches and although we have hit a temporary mud hole, we know our commissioners are up for the challenge.

Our parks, our roads, our trees are all better than ever and our few ongoing problems (water, high cable bills, etc) are all in very good hands.

Once again, we have a police department that understands that we are their friends, not their enemies, and that their mission is to protect, not harass the people who pay their salaries.

We thank the commissioners for recognizing the services provided by awarding complimentary memberships to the Sports Center for all town volunteers, and we urge all couch potatoes (like yours truly) to take advantage of this wonderful perk.

We have all seen our property values increase almost geometrically and it is a genuine treat to walk or ride about the town and see

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## Pine Knoll Shores 933 Sand Comes Up Short

Phase II of the 933 Project that was to have brought sand to Pine Knoll Shores was halted, as there was not enough dredged material from Brandt Island to stretch from Atlantic Beach to Pine Knoll Shores. The Corps of Engineers issued a stop work order to the dredging contractor.

The Phase II portion of the project was a Federal – non-Federal cost sharing that included sand renourishment for Pine Knoll Shores. The Federal Government, state government and Pine Knoll Shores funded the Phase II portion of the project. The cost to Pine Knoll Shores was \$471,000.

All appeared to be progressing as planned during the early phases of the Brandt Island pump out. The sand used for beach renourishment is shoal material from the Inner Harbor. This is sediment that fills the channel that must be periodically dredged to maintain a minimum depth for cargo ships entering the Port of Morehead City. This material is then stored on Brandt Island for disposal every ten years along the beaches of Fort Macon and Atlantic Beach on a least cost basis by the Corps of Engineers.

As work progressed it was found that the Brant Island sand contained clay and fine grain sediment causing the slurry to run down the beach without adhering. What should have required 70 cubic yards per linear foot was now consuming 200 cubic yards per foot. This resulted in the pump out not having enough material to continue to the Pine Knoll Shores Phase II section. On December 7, 2004 the Corps of Engineers issued a stop work order. The project was terminated for 2004-5.

While the cancellation was a disappoint

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The Shoreline

Deadline for February issue is Monday, January 17. Deadline for March issue is Monday, February 14. Articles always welcome!