

Life at Town Hall – Big Town, Little Town

By Joan Lamson, Mayor

Have you ever lived in a big town? Many of my Pine Knoll Shores neighbors lived in, or close to, large cities before moving here. I would have to include myself in that group, too. We are glad to be away from the traffic, away from the noise, away from the hustle and bustle of crowded stores and crowded streets. And away from cold weather and snow, for those of us who moved here from “up north.”

We might appreciate a slower life style, more time for recreational activities, a little less concrete and fewer tall buildings but there’s one area where there are still a lot of similarities between the big city and a small town and that’s town government. City Hall and Town Hall have quite a bit in common. The scale of services between the two is quite different but the array is just about the same. Both sizes of municipalities have employees

so there’s the need for management of personnel policies and human resources. Both have a need to provide adequate public safety, so there’s a police department, a fire department and an emergency medical squad. Both have zoning ordinances, building codes, streets, public buildings and public areas. Some have parks and recreation, some have schools, some have cemeteries, and some have utilities. There’s still a need for planning, maintenance and all of that “Public Works” stuff in both models.

All towns, large or small, have to consider the future and what will be their sources of revenue. Whether a town is growing fast, slowly, or is stagnant, the cost of providing needed services to citizens will surely rise over time. Pine Knoll Shores is unlikely to attract much industry to help pay for these increased costs. In fact, the design of

the town precludes that. We are unlikely to annex nearby unincorporated areas because there aren’t any. More importantly, most of us chose to live here for exactly those reasons. The task for us will be to manage growth at a moderate level although that will be difficult if we have another year of 30 new homes. What we can do, though, is to be sure that our leaders work with our citizens to develop a clear vision of just what we want our town to be, that we have sound, enforceable ordinances to protect this vision, and strong, trained staff to carry it out. I encourage you to participate in the current Land Use Planning Project to put in “your two-cents worth” of opinion about what kind of a town you want to live in. Call Town Hall 247-4353 for information about dates and times of Land Use Plan Committee meetings or check the town website at www.townofpks.com.

Police Report

Submitted by Chief Culpepper

The Pine Knoll Shores Police Department responded to 74 calls for service during November. These included 10 Fire/EMS assists, 9 motorist assists, 6 town ordinance violations and 21 well-being checks. Eighteen citations were issued for speeding, one for driving while impaired, two driving without license, and one seatbelt violation.

Also reported were cases of breaking and entering. The country club was broken into and some items taken. A local residence was entered and two unlocked vehicles in a resident’s driveway were entered. One business and six residences were found unsecured.

Fire & EMS Report

Submitted by Bruce Flynt, Acting Director of Emergency Services

The department responded to 17 calls during November. Of these, 10 required emergency medical response and 7 were fire emergencies.

We need Emergency Fire & EMS Volunteers! If you have any interest in joining, we need you NOW!

Note: It requires a special type of person to take on the responsibility of preserving life. The training is extensive and the hours are long; but the rewards are everlasting.

If you have not received your File of Life packet, please pick one up today.



With the pier house already reduced to rubble (foreground), the Iron Steamer Pier itself awaits the attention of demolition crews.

Iron Steamer *Continued from Page 1*

from the wreck of the Prevensey, a Civil War era iron-hulled steamship with side paddle wheels that had been built in England. The ship ran aground off Pine Knoll Shores in July, 1864 after being attacked while apparently trying to run the Union blockade of southern ports.

The wreck lies off the end of the Iron Steamer Pier and could be seen at low tide from one of the now-missing wings of the pier. The remains of the ship attract marine life, making the pier a good fishing spot.

Anglers came from far and wide to cast their lines over its rails.

PKS Mayor Joan Lamson noted that one possible outcome from removal of the pier is that sand could then be pumped onto that section of the shore if and when the planned renourishment of the Pine Knoll Shores beach is carried out. If the pier remained in place, sand would not be pumped onto the beach for 500 feet on either side of the span so as not to interfere with use of the pier for fishing. With the pier gone, that 1,000-foot stretch could be renourished like the rest of the beach.

Habitat Dedicates “Jeremiah House”

The Elbert Family will be “Home for the Holidays!” The dedicated construction volunteers with Crystal Coast Habitat for Humanity have just put the finishing touches on to complete this building project. There was a dedication ceremony at the completed home on Sunday, December 19. Those who helped Habitat throughout this project attended the celebration and welcomed the family into their new home.

The name “Jeremiah House” comes from scripture, Jeremiah 1:7, “say not, I am too young,” and was given by the Annunciation Catholic youth group. To prove that they were not too young to help fund the building of a Habitat Home the group raised over \$23,000 during a two year period before starting the project this year. Now, with the help of the community, the Elbert family will be in their home for the holidays.

The Shoreline

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E-mail: shoreline@townofpks.com

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1423 South Glenburnie Rd., New

Bern, **633-1153**

The Year That Was

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the great curb appeal of ingenious and imaginative decoration of mail boxes, entrances and flags, statues and other enhancements.

We are a community that not only cares for its own but generously contributes to those less fortunate among us – Hospice, domestic violence, Martha’s Mission, Carteret General, the Soup Kitchen, the Community College and many other worthwhile charities.

We also know how to have fun, whether it be the great prime rib dinners at the BBCC, a beer and snack at the BT, the many golf and tennis tournaments, outings, picnics, clubs, parades and even informal get-togethers.

Lastly, The Shoreline is back and better than ever. Perhaps the most significant thing about The Shoreline is that there hasn’t been a single letter of complaint. That would not have been true a year or two ago.

Yes, it has been a very good year. Let’s make 2005 even better.