

A Poignant Farewell

Submitted by Barbara Milhaven

Sandra Ehrler (our mail carrier) has had successful surgery and was released from Carteret General on Jan. 16. Preparations for her treatments of chemo and radiation are underway.

"I didn't mean to leave them this way" was the message Sandra Ehrler wanted me to pass on to all of the people in Pine Knoll Shores. Taking her job seriously with a dedication rarely seen, Sandra became a true friend and guardian to many people along her mail route. Being aware of people's routines and often knowing when they were away, she watched vigilantly over those mailboxes. Accumulating mail was one sign of something amiss and Sandra did not hesitate to bring this to the attention of someone who could provide necessary help if needed.

In 1985 Sandra began delivering mail as a "sub" for Nancy Stroud, carrying an auxiliary route from the Post Office west to Emerald Isle and east into Atlantic Beach almost to the Coast Guard Station. Her job eventually went from 19 hours per week to 64

hours per week as growth and expanded mail service occurred. In 1994 Nancy took the longer route and Sandra took most of Pine Knoll Shores. This route encompassed about twenty and a half miles and took two to two and a half hours (not counting preparation time at the Post Office).

Above all, Sandra wants you all to know that her replacement, Sandy Hurst, is an experienced letter carrier having delivered the mail in part of Pine Knoll Shores as an auxiliary carrier for the past four years. Sandy Hurst will be the permanent carrier along this route as soon as Sandra's disability pension comes through. According to Sandra we will be again in good, caring hands.

Although living in Beaufort, Sandra is very fond of Pine Knoll Shores, its people, history and future developments. She plans to stay "connected" through the *Shoreline*.

Please keep Sandra in your thoughts and prayers and let her know you are thinking of her by sending a card or note to her at 145 Windy Point Rd., Beaufort, NC 28516.

Building Permits Set Record

By Dick Reeves

At the January Board of Commissioners meeting Ronda Lambert, town clerk, reported that tax collections are on time and budget and that town finances are in good shape. Director of Inspections Chris Jones reported a record year for building permits, 368, and \$50,000 in permit fees. The year 2005 is off to a running start.

Police Chief Culpepper reported an array of minor violations and arrests. He also reported some cause for concern in an unusual number of break-ins in Atlantic Beach and Emerald Isle. He cautioned against too many unlocked doors in PKS and reminded us that the price of continued safety is constant vigilance, both for ourselves and our neighbors. Report any suspicious activity to the police and let them decide if it is important or not.

In new business, Commissioner Hunter asked for a change in the ordinance relating to unsightly, unregistered vehicles on private property. The commissioners agreed to limit the time for compliance (after receiving a warning letter) to 30 days. There was some discussion of unused boats and these were added to the ordinance.

There was a discussion of dogs on the beach in relation to turtle nests. No action

was taken to change present ordinances.

Bruce Flynt, acting Emergency Services Director, reported a very active 2004 with 233 fire and EMS calls, 3860 training hours and two serious fires. One residential fire with a \$175,000 loss is of suspicious origin and is currently under investigation. There was also a serious boat fire with a \$20,000 loss. Commissioner Hunter commended Flynt for the extraordinary competence and zeal he has brought to the job. Moreover, Chief Flynt has refused the substantial salary increase that goes with the job.

Mayor Lamson reported that most of the water surveys have been received and the project is continuing on schedule. With regard to the 933 sand project, although we will receive no sand this year we will have our credit applied to next year when the present dredging should yield acceptable sand for our beaches.

Lastly, the potential problem of the one driveway to the library and the police and fire Station was brought up. Hunter pointed out that this is further complicated by the town's acquisition of the Kirkman property to be turned into parking spaces for beach access.

Mayor Lamson reported that PKS is in conversation with County authorities and the problem will be solved in due course.

Meet the Staff

By Bill White



Linda Brickhouse

Linda Brickhouse didn't need much on-the-job training when she joined the Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall staff seven years ago as an administrative assistant in the inspections department. She had been performing similar duties for some ten years before that for the Town of Atlantic Beach, where she makes her home.

Actually, Linda's experience in processing all the paperwork and forms involved in municipal affairs goes way beyond the conduct of inspections and issuance of permits. Her service in Atlantic Beach also included stints as an accounting clerk and assistant town clerk, as well as various other duties.

In Pine Knoll Shores, up until the opening of the new Public Safety Building last year, she also served as secretary and administrative assistant to the fire and EMS departments as well as the inspections department.

Both she and Director of Inspections and Public Property Chris Jones are Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) officers for PKS. As such, they have to constantly keep abreast of ever-changing coastal regulations and activities designed to maintain, preserve and improve the waterways and water resources so vital to coastal Carolina communities. Each year she and Jones attend CAMA courses to bring themselves up to date on new developments and the progress of on-going initiatives.

As if all the municipal paperwork isn't

spent a good deal of time helping out and keeping things moving on the sidelines at soccer games and on the beach at surfing competitions.

You would think that with all of these demands on her time, Linda wouldn't have much energy left for an active lifestyle. But she has never been one to stay on the sidelines. As a high school freshman back home in her native Sampson County, she tried her hand at basketball before opting for cheerleading. She keeps in close touch with her family in Sampson, remaining close to her mother and brother and his family. Raleigh, where her son and his wife make their home, is another frequent destination.

For 10 years she has been a volunteer with the Atlantic Beach Fire Department, and she is an enthusiastic Shagger. For those of us who grew up doing the Jitterbug and perhaps even the Lambeth Walk, Shag dancing is the current rage.

Fishing, especially for Marlin, has also been a favorite pastime, but she doesn't get to do it much anymore despite her association with the annual King Mackerel Tournament. "I've been invited to go out on some of the boats," she says. "But one of the requirements is that once a boat puts to sea it can't touch land again until it puts back in at the tournament dock at the end of the day. If I were aboard, I'd probably have to swim ashore in order to get at the paperwork in time to get

Meet Your Neighbors

Martha & Clark Edwards



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In Memoriam

January, 2005

Marilyn Skarda
Richard Wiker
Robert Turner