

## KRAMER'S O A monthly Report R by Town Manager N Brian Kramer E on events R in town.

• **Mimosa Bridge: Canal Widening Decision-** I am forming a short-term work group to determine if it makes sense to widen the canal at the same time the bridge is replaced. We now know that the town will have to fund the widening. While there will be a cost to us for this, there are efficiencies gained by doing both tasks at the same time.

• **Beach Access-** As of the time of this writing, we have reached an agreement with the Beacon's Reach Master Association for an access on the western edge of town. We are talking to other home associations for accesses on the eastern end of town. We still intend to have a town hall meeting on this issue before we present our final plan to the Army Corps.

• **Road Repair-** Public Services Director, Ernie Rudolph has identified 22 road "hot spots" in town that we will address

## BOC BITS N' PIECES

By Charlie McBriarty

Public Services Director Ernie Rudolph reported that the recent change from out-sourcing the mowing of the town's roadways to having public services department personnel do it has already saved the town more than \$5,000. He indicated that Ernie Guthrie does the mowing and it takes him 32 hours to do it all. He observed that in addition to saving money the results are better and more area is being mowed.

Fire/EMS Chief Bill Matthias noted that the oncoming holiday season provides a good opportunity for citizens to check their kitchen fire extinguisher to ensure that it full and operable. He also urged the family chefs to be extra cautious in the kitchen while preparing their holiday feast. He is hoping that there will be no kitchen related calls this season.

Police Chief Joey Culpepper reported that his office has been receiving an increased number of calls concerning sick

in the next few months. They have been marked with spray paint, so expect to see some work in these areas.

• **EMS Upgrade-** We are now EMT-Intermediate capable on all three shifts in Fire/EMS. This is a very significant and positive increase in capability that Chief Bill Matthias has created through a steady training emphasis. Our ability to address diabetic, respiratory and cardiac related problems is now far improved from where we were two years ago. This was accomplished without changes in structure and/or salary---Chief Matthias gets the credit for this.

• **Review of the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Audit by Citizens Committee-** As you may recall, we formed a citizens committee for finance last year. Included in this group are a CPA, a retired IBM finance specialist, and a federal budget analyst. We will meet this month to take a look at our audit.

• **Purchasing With Other Municipalities-** We are taking a look at forming a purchasing group with our neighboring towns. While we aren't entirely certain what savings might be realized, we are going to make an attempt to see efficiencies are out there.

• **How 'bout those Phillies??**

Be safe and hope your Turkey Day was happy, Brian

wildlife. He noted that most of these sick animals are rabid and encouraged citizens to report any they observe. In addition, a number of telephone calls received have reported various scams in operation, some via phone and others on the internet. He advised, "If it sounds too good to be true, it more than likely is."

Officer Cliff DeVore received the Meritorious Conduct Award from Pine Knoll Shores Police Chief Joey Culpepper at the November 12 board of commissioners meeting. Officer DeVore received the award because of his extraordinary action when he became involved in response to a domestic disturbance call. The call came from a woman in the Sheraton Hotel who reported that her husband had threatened her with a gun. Officer DeVore was one of the early responding officers and served as the negotiator in a situation that evolved into a hostage situation. A series of telephone calls between the husband

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and Officer DeVore over an extended period of time eventually ended when the husband surrendered and was taken into custody with no one being hurt.

The amended ordinance requiring house numbers to be displayed near the drive way of each house in Pine Knoll Shores goes into effect this month. Chief Culpepper offered the following guidelines to be followed in compliance with this amendment:

- House numbers at least three inches high need to be posted near the street and driveway to the house.
- The posting may be on a separate post/sign within 10 feet of the street, or
- If your mailbox is on the same side of the street as your house and the mailbox is not clustered with neighbors', the house numbers may be displayed on the mailbox post as long as they can be seen from the road.
- If the house is on a corner lot, the house number post should be located near the driveway, even if it exits on the other street.

If you are uncertain about your situation use your common sense or call the police department at 247-2474 for guidance.

## Did you Know?

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 85% of the artificial trees begin in overseas factories where working conditions are less than ideal and these trees are made with materials that sometimes include PVC or lead. Many of these trees eventually end up in landfills. On the other hand, natural trees supplied by tree growing farms:

- are a renewable, sustainable resource;
- provide jobs for workers in rural areas;
- offer the typical benefits of trees producing oxygen, uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>, control of erosion and habitat for wildlife;
- preserve open space;
- are biodegradable and recyclable;
- can be made into chips or compost;
- support conservation efforts by filling eroding gullies;
- enhance fish habitat when sunk in lakes; and
- reduce the erosion of sand when placed along ocean dunes.

*Community Appearance Commission*