

Street Address

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The requests for voluntary action have yielded few results. With this in mind the board of commissioners this past September amended the street ordinance to make it mandatory that a post bearing the house number be placed at a specific spot next to the driveway of a residence. The amendment provided for a three-month compliance period. There was not much of a stir immediately following passage of the new requirement, but as the compliance date, December 9, drew closer, elected officials started to get more and more phone calls from homeowners complaining that for one reason or another the requirements were too restrictive.

Many reported it would be impossible to place the post as specified because an impediment existed. Time was also a concern because owners of second homes who had not been in the area for the past several months were not aware of the requirements or the deadline. A frequent complaint was that a mailbox prominently displaying the house number was already doing the job the post would do. And, Commissioner Vince Larson reported, some volunteer firefighters opposed the change because it required the numbers to be posted too far back from the street.

Faced with a goodly number of legitimate concerns, the board of commissioners decided to revisit the issue. They did so at the board's December 9 regular meeting with the passage of an amendment to the earlier amendment that it is hoped will clear the way for compliance. The new requirements by and large follow

language suggested by Commissioner Ted Lindblad.

For one thing, mailboxes qualify as long as the numbers on them are easily visible from the street and they are in the right place. There is an exception, addressed by a suggestion from Commissioner Clark Edwards. If all mailboxes are on one side of the street, as is the case in many spots in PKS, then a separate post bearing the address must be placed on each respective property "no closer than six (6) feet and no farther than ten (10) feet from the street pavement..." The earlier amendment required a placement no closer than ten feet to the roadway, too far back in the minds of many, including Police Chief Joey Culpepper.

The time constrictions were also addressed, with a new compliance date of next April 30 being set, providing time to try to insure that even out-of-towners are brought up to date. The board also provided a pretty painless method of complying for those who have to install a numbers display. Homeowners may request, either in writing or by phone, that town fire/EMS staffers install, for a reasonable fee, a sign that satisfies the ordinance. Fire Chief Bill Matthais suggested that that fee be \$30.

As for the numbers themselves, they must be at least three inches high and be of contrasting color to the background on which they are mounted. Reflective numbers are recommended.

Did you Know?

PKS has a Heritage Tree designation program. In a town known for its beautiful trees, the program is important because it encourages participation in the recognition and preservation of our unique environment. Any person may nominate a tree to be designated as a Heritage Tree. A tree is officially identified as a Heritage Tree upon a finding by the PKS Community Appearance Commission (CAC) that it is unique and important to the town for any of the following characteristics:

- It is an outstanding specimen of a desirable species
- It is one of the largest or oldest trees in PKS or NC
- It has a distinctive form, size, age or location
- It has historical significance

For further information or to make application contact CAC Heritage Tree committee member Kathy Werle 725-2211.

Energy Drive

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comparisons started in August were more than 18 percent greater than the November increase of 11 percent. There is hope for better cooperation from Old Man Winter in the next few months.

The goal of the energy conservation campaign is to achieve an overall reduction of 10 percent in electrical usage in the community by next July. To help promote conservation on the part of residents a tip on practical ways to use electricity more efficiently is published each month in *The Shoreline*.

The Tip of the Month for January, you will note, suggests keeping the thermostat in your home at 68 degrees for a satisfactory comfort level and a good degree of efficiency. CCEC, which compiled the list of tips, once again stresses the importance of changing the filters in your home HVAC system. Your heat pump will have a lot less work to do if it doesn't have to contend with clogged filters.

Changing a couple of filters regularly might not seem like something that will add up to real savings in energy. That would probably be true if it only occurred in a house here and there. But consider if almost everyone in town followed the practice. On that kind of scale small things can add up to big savings pretty quickly.

While small things are really important when it comes to conserving electrical energy in our homes, CCEC and the other electric cooperatives in the state recently took a big step toward moving the nation along the road to energy independence. All of the North Carolina electric generating and transmission organizations are under a state mandate to achieve specific levels of conservation on two fronts, first by phasing in renewable energy resources such as wind and solar and second by promoting efficient use of electricity.

The conservation component of the equation is well on the way through programs such as that in Pine Knoll Shores. The renewable resources part of the mandate presents real challenges because facilities such as large scale wind and solar farms are still being perfected and developed and will not be readily available in this section of the country until they can be effectively and affordably put to use.

To help meet their renewable resources mandates the North Carolina cooperatives, through their statewide organization, recently banded together with electric consortiums from five other sections of the country to participate in operation of a large wind farm that recently began generating power in Iowa. In return for their participation the electric cooperatives involved will receive certificates that can be used as credits towards compliance with their renewable resources mandates.

CCEC General Manager Craig Conrad said that "this project, while located in Iowa, presents an opportunity to gain further insight into large-scale wind energy resources, an option not currently available in North Carolina." He added that it is "an important addition to the participating cooperatives' portfolios of renewable resources."

CCEC also announced it is furthering its renewable resources efforts in many other ways, including providing customers with information on the operation of facilities they can install at their homes to further the drive toward energy independence. Among other things, a demonstration, residential-scale solar PV system is being installed at the cooperative's main office and output data from a residential wind turbine installed by a member on Harkers Island is available on the CCEC website, www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

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