

PKS Monitoring Usage Apparent

By Charlie McBriarty

There is evidence that electricity conservation in Pine Knoll Shores is occurring. As contrasted to the "high" usage month of February, the month of March had a decrease of nearly 11%, while the April usage dropped another approximately 7%. By factoring in degree days where there was a potential for heating or cooling, the data reveal that the citizens of PKS

are making efforts to monitor their usage. Congratulations, this is good news for each of us and for the environment.

The situation is likely to change during the month of June with the on-set of warm weather. While this may mean the heat

thermostat is turned off, as the temperature rises the coolness of the air conditioning beckons. An alternative to premature air conditioning is judicious use of the ceiling fan. In warmer weather, a ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel much cooler. However, this is only useful when someone is in the room, since fans will not actually cool the room. So the last person to leave a

room should remember to turn it off, since there is no reason to use electricity when you don't need it.

The June "Tip of the Month" offers another method of reducing your heating and cooling costs this month.

Tip of the Month

Seal the Deal. To avoid losing cool air in the summer make sure to caulk and weather strip your windows and doors where they meet the wall. This can also be done in places where plumbing, ductwork and electrical wiring pass through exterior walls, floors, ceilings and over cabinets.

Pam's Pick for the End of the World

By Pam Hanson

No "chick lit" this month! I took a dive into a really interesting apocalyptic thriller set in the mountains of North Carolina, specifically Black Mountain, North Carolina. An idyllic place with a small college town atmosphere where neighbors know each other and life is truly Southern and peaceful.

A fictional tale, *One Second After*, by author William Forstchen, tells of very real threat to our county. This book was cited on the floor of Congress and in the halls of the Pentagon months before its publication. The Wall Street Journal warned the doomsday weapon of choice in this tale could shatter America and send it spiraling to a place worse than the Dark Ages.

Retired officer John Matherson leaves the hubbub of Washington to take his cancer stricken wife back to her hometown in the mountains. After her death, John stays to raise his two daughters as a single parent, realizing that's what his wife wanted for them.

As he is speaking with a buddy in the Pentagon on his cell phone, the line goes dead. John thinks nothing of it and assumes his friend will call back. The dishwasher won't work, the lights don't

come on. Perhaps sunspots disrupting the grid he guesses. After all, remember the electrical outages in California and New York?

Then he gets word from his daughters and mother-in-law, who hike back to the house after their car dies that all traffic on Interstate 40 is stopped. He is stunned! John reluctantly recalls a project he was assigned to research after 9-11 on the effect of an EMP, Electro Magnetic Pulse. This device is the perfect way to take down the United States or any country dependant on technology without firing a shot, or messing up resources with radioactive fallout, by effectively knocking out anything with a computer chip.

Done in the style of *Alas Babylon* and *On the Beach*, *One Second After* asks the hard questions: How long does it take society to fall apart? In this novel it takes approximately 60 days. Imagine no food being shipped, no medicines, no vehicles working except pre-computer era vehicles, no communications, no resources and no help from the government or anyone else because EVERYONE in the country is in the same predicament. How long would you survive? How would you protect you and yours?

Pine Knoll Association

By Bud Daniels

The annual Pine Knoll Association (PKA) general membership meeting will convene Friday, June 19, at the Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. While there are no major financial or facilities issues pending, this is an excellent opportunity for members to meet neighbors and other PKA members and to be an active part of the Association by voting for directors for the 2010-2012 term. The membership will have the opportunity to meet the candidates for the four director positions that are to be filled and to have dialog with the incumbent directors. Members have received a proxy ballot and profiles for each of the nominees for the vacant director positions. If PKA members are unable to attend the general membership meeting, they can exercise their voting rights by mailing their proxy ballots prior to June 16. At the meeting, the 2009-2010 budget will be presented; the directors will report on the status of and long range plans for the association's parks, waterways, marinas and amenities; and votes will be tallied for filling the four vacant director positions. The annual assessments were due by June 1. Dues received after June 30 are subject to a \$25 late fee.

A special recognition and thanks go to Jack Cummings, Reid Strader, and Gerry Walters, who are rotating off the board.

Turtle Time

By Peggy Sagmiller

The 2009 sea turtle nesting season in Pine Knoll Shores is here! Volunteers are needed to walk the beach early in the morning to discover the turtle crawls (tracks) made the previous night. If you're lucky, you might even see the mother turtle heading back out to sea!

Volunteers are also needed to baby-sit the nests until they hatch. The hatchlings must be protected from predators and pitfalls on the way to the ocean. Ghost crabs, feral cats, rodents, opossums, and raccoons all eagerly await the hatch. Dogs running loose on the beach will dig into nests. As hatching time nears, the ammonia odor given off by the nest strengthens, alerting predators. The pitfalls can be footprints, seaweed, sea grass, large shells, and large holes dug

Each has provided unique guidance and leadership to our organization and our community, both as directors of PKA and as community volunteers and neighbors. Even though they will not be serving as directors of PKA, they will continue to be active members of our organization and volunteer program.

The PKA Director of the Month is Richard Belanger. Rick and Donna, his wife of 40 years, moved to Pine Knoll Shores in 2006 and hit the ground running. Rick is active in Habitat for Humanity, as a PKA volunteer and director, and enjoys boating, golfing and biking with his wife. Rick's 33 plus years of experience and expertise in management positions in engineering, supply management, software project management in the power generation industry and in home repair in his native Connecticut have been great assets to the Association. He has provided draft drawings of the many improvement projects and has researched and become our resident expert on the gates and gate repairs for the entry gates at Ocean Park and Brock Basin.

There are currently a few available boat slips and kayak racks at the association's marinas. PKA members interested in renting slips or kayak racks can contact Kathy Kimel, association secretary, at 252-240-1717 or at pka@ec.rr.com.

by humans that were not filled in. Any one of these can prevent hatchlings from making it into the ocean.

Sea turtles can begin nesting as early as mid-May and continue through August. Hatching can take anywhere from 50 to 90 days. The time is determined by temperature, rainfall, overwash, sand type, and nest depth.

If you live in Pine Knoll Shores and would like to be part of the excitement and discovery with the Sea Turtle Project, we would love to have you! Anything you want to do will be appreciated. To become a volunteer and learn more about the program, please call Peggy or Gene Sagmiller at 222-0237. We are looking forward to the 2009 season!