

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On July 18, the quarterly dinner with the Town Manager convened at the Clamdigger. This summer Saturday evening dinner targeted second homeowners and weekenders. We had the largest turnout (approximately 20 residents) since we started this. I will run through the items I presented.

• **The recently passed budget for FY 2009-2010-** In June, the Board of Commissioners approved the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget. The general fund budget is set at \$3,005,000. Our tax rate will remain at 11.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This year's budget is \$40,000 below last year. The entire budget is available for viewing at the town website.

• **Hurricane Prep-** We reminded folks to get reentry passes ahead of time. The two or three days before a storm are hectic here, so please see Pat Forbes at the Public Safety Building. The phone number is 247-2268. The town radio station at 1610 AM is a good source of information in the days leading up to an event. *I was asked by homeowners if there was a way the website could be used after a storm to let them know of street conditions, damage, bridge openings, etc. More to follow on this.*

• **Recent beach near-tragedies-** We have had three near-drownings in PKS this summer. We reminded folks about

flag/surf conditions and recognizing riptides. All incidents involved people who did not know how to negotiate a riptide. Note: two of the three were saved by surfers.

• **Beach Access-** We ran through the current status of the beach access requirements. At present we are working on parking solutions to beach accesses at Dogwood Circle and in the area of Hammer Park, as well as the exact location of an access across Highway 58 from the Public Safety Building.

• **Beach Renourishment-** The county is about to embark on an island-wide programmatic approach to monitoring and nourishing the beach. We will participate in this. The question for PKS: what is the best way to prepare (financially) for the next renourishment? This will be an issue as we head toward the end of the "beach tax" in June 2011, when we pay off the bond from the 2002-2003 locally funded beach renourishment.

• **Sidewalks in PKS-** I updated the group on the status of the preparation of the Pedestrian Plan that the Town is working on. The endstate of this effort is a plan that the town will be able to use to seek funding for construction in the future. *One resident requested that we immediately address crosswalks at Mimosa and 58, and Oakleaf and 58. Crosswalks (and safety in general) will unquestionably be addressed in the plan. I will address the crosswalk issue with DOT now. More to follow. I was also asked if the sidewalks will facilitate bikers as well as walkers/joggers. Though the sidewalk will be designed for pedestrians, from a practical standpoint it will allow for bicycles as well.*

• **Mimosa Bridge Replacement-** The bridge will be replaced in 2011. *I was*

asked if plans include a temporary pedestrian bridge during construction. The answer is yes.

• **Trash prep/pickup-** This year we are experiencing increased issues with garbage left on the road outside normal windows (12 hours prior to pickup at 7 a.m. on Mondays with cans to be removed from the road 12 hours after pickup---essentially Monday evening), as well as issues with folks putting out garbage in white bags which are then investigated by raccoons and birds. I requested that owners (particularly renters) ensure that they have enough cans to hold all the trash generated in the home, and that we all make plans to have a friend/neighbor move cans off the road after pick-up. *Note---The Board of Commissioners has asked me to look into acquiring a dumpster during the summer months to accommodate weekenders. We will do this. The location of the dumpster will be in the recently cleared lot next to the firehouse. We will do this only during the summer months.*

• **Rodent/Pest issues in PKS-** We reminded folks not to engage with raccoons in the town. Please call the police if you think you have a rabid animal in your area (we have had one this year). *We also spoke about rats. They seem to be worse this year. I urged folks to refrain from killing our best ally: black snakes. More to follow in the September column.*

• **The 2009 Kayak for the Warriors event -** Thanks to the efforts of the volunteers of the Town's Recreational Advisory Committee, we presented Camp Lejeune's Hope for the Warriors Foundation with \$3800 at our Board Meeting on July 14. Thanks to everyone. **Save the date for next year: June 12, 2010.**



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