

# The Shoreline

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A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

Town Hall 247-4353

## Departments Merge

By Charlie McBriarty

The Pine Knoll Shores Fire/EMS and Police departments have been combined and now form the Department of Public Safety under the leadership of William "Bill" Matthias, former Fire/EMS and Emergency Management Chief. Former Fire Marshall Jason Baker will assume responsibilities as the Deputy Chief for Fire/EMS Protection and Sergeant Jim Parks will now serve as Interim Deputy Chief for Law Enforcement.

These changes were announced in a December 7, 2009, press release by Town Manager Brian Kramer. In this release, Kramer noted that the acceptance of "resignations of Police Chief Joe Culpepper, Police Lt. Lee Rice, and Officer Sidney Lemay" was a factor in his decision to reorganize these departments. Kramer emphasized that the town will continue to have "one officer and one car patrolling the town 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year as has been the practice of the past." He noted that there are five

full-time law enforcement officers, and there continue to be eight part-timers. The resignations did reduce the number of supervisors within the police department, but the reorganization is expected to maintain effective supervision and support of the officers.

Both Kramer and newly appointed Director of Public Safety Matthias indicated that the law enforcement personnel needs were under study, and the status of the recently vacated positions is yet to be determined. However, Matthias noted that the need for new fire/EMS volunteers has already been identified, and he urged anyone interested stop by the Public Safety Building to find out more.

They also noted that re-organization will stimulate a reevaluation of the delivery of needed services to the town. Kramer explained that the public safety needs of the town are greater during the summer months, when the population expands from 1,600 to as many as 10,000 people, and noted that the summer also increases the need for public safety presence at the increasing number of public beach accesses and on the beach. Matthias indicated that his goal was to build a "better team working together." He explained that there will likely be adjustments with respect to responding to calls. The nature of the call will determine whether fire, EMS or law enforcement personnel or some combination are required.

Both Kramer and Matthias noted that the concept of merging fire, EMS, police and emergency maintenance is not unique, and it has been successfully implemented in a number of municipalities including nearby Kinston and Nags Head.



**Newly Appointed.** Former Fire/EMS and Emergency Management Chief was recently appointed to serve as the town's first director of the Department of Public Safety.



**Healthy and Happy.** Nineteen month old John Klors is pictured with Emma, the family dog.

## It Pays to Get a Second Or Even a Third Opinion

By Jill Cross

We all have a lot to be thankful for, but maybe not as much as Wes and Missy Klor of Willow Rd. Their first child, John, was born May 28, 2008, with the umbilical cord wrapped tightly around his neck, causing him to be on oxygen for the first 24 hours of his life. The next day, he appeared to be okay, but when John was about six months old, the Klors noticed he was missing milestones. Their fears were confirmed when they took him to a neurologist in Greenville and also to a pediatric neurodevelopmentalist in Wilmington. Both doctors diagnosed John with cerebral palsy based on his clinical symptoms and his difficult delivery.

Pediatric Neurodevelopmentalist Dr. Karen Harum encouraged the Klors to do an MRI and genetic testing

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**Deadline for February issue is Friday Jan. 15. Deadline for March issue is Friday Feb. 15. Articles always welcome!**