THE GEEK CORNER

By Dan Law

As noted in February's column, I have been trying out many varieties of anti-virus software and have now concluded the free versions just aren't secure enough for me. After uninstalling each trial version, I ran a full system scan using Malware Bites (free version), which located and removed 18 adware programs left behind after uninstalling the free anti-virus software. These adware programs were not viruses, but they were causing my computer to run slower and were rated by Malware Bites as medium threats. A great software that can speed up your computer is IObit Advanced System Care. There is a simple free version with limited tools and an advanced version for a fee.

Currently I am trying out a version of the anti-virus software Kaspersky Internet Security 2011, which you do have to pay for, and so far, it seems to be doing a great job at protecting my computer, but its customer service is close to non-existent. The best thing about Kaspersky is that it does not slow the computer down as much as my old Norton 360 4.0 anti-virus software did. I'm still not sure if I will stay with Kaspersky long term. I want to try out the new Norton Internet Security 2011 mostly because Norton's customer service is the best around, and I'm hearing that this version performs much better than Norton's other anti-virus software.

The April Geek Corner will have a different look that will respond to computer and software-related questions from readers. I can't promise that I can thoroughly answer every question, but I will make every effort to answer as many as possible by return e-mail and will place as many questions and answers in the Geek Corner as space allows. The following is a sample of you can expect:

Question: "When trying to view a photo in an e-mail, why would I be getting a small red "x" where the photo should appear?"

Answer: Anti-virus software when set to the default or high security level will automatically block some text and photos to protect your computer and your identity. Blocking this info does not mean spyware or other dangers have been detected; the anti-virus software is just blocking the type of files that could contain undesirable software or tracking cookies. You can resolve this problem, if you know and trust the sender, simply by clicking on the highlighted line at the top of the e-mail and then clicking on the drop-down menu to either download the photo or add the sender to your trusted list. I will only add a sender to my trusted list if I truly know the sender, such as a family member, close friend or from a company whose e-mails I have subscribed to. Otherwise, to just see the photo, click on the line in the drop-down menu for "download the photo." This will make a one-time exception for only this single e-mail.

I hope everyone is staying warm and safe this winter. Personally I am getting pretty tired of winter and can't wait until spring for some sailing, fishing, gardening and traveling. In the meantime, send in those nagging computer questions to dlaw2@ec.rr.com.

Shore Line 1976

By Phyllis Makuck

Among big news stories in 1976 were a marine resources center in Pine Knoll Shores, a miniature golf course on the town's eastern border, a high-rise bridge over Cape Carteret, more condominiums east and west of Pine Knoll Townes, plans for a Fire Department, formation of a Community Appearance Commission and *Shore Line*'s introduction of new staff members. As the town marked another year of growth, Betty Hammon and Mary Doll remained as editors and received official commendation for "the valuable contribution to the life of the community made by their paper."

In July, they announced: "As the town grows so grows the Shoreline group." Joining those collating and mailing issues were a typist and four new writers— Verna Armstrong, Audrey Hoffmer, Newell Haller and Louise Baker. All were volunteers, but mailing costs had risen, so 237 residences receiving *Pine Knoll Shore Line* were asked to pay $3.50 for a year's subscription, up a dollar from 1974."

The January issue began with two announcements: the town had collected $54,683 in property taxes and had just added $1,373,000 worth of new property to its tax records. Following these reports was an amendment to the zoning ordinance preventing construction of a freestanding convention center. All year long, the paper would reflect an acceptance of growth and a desire to control it.

Indicative of this tension was some discussion every month of small and large issues concerning the town's appearance—litter, garbage, zoning and the need to preserve the island's pristine natural environment. Then, in December came news of a Community Appearance Commission, "which shall attempt to assure 'that proposed construction will make effective use of the terrain and environment, …preserve to the extent possible existing trees and vegetation, and advise on exterior design and materials that harmonize well with the natural environment….' Town Attorney Taylor pointed out that such a Commission can advise only."

Following the Appearance Commission announcement came an explanation of a "new provision" in the zoning ordinance, which "while maintaining the allowable density of ten living units per acre, permits density to be varied on specific lots in a subdivision up to a maximum of 15 living units per acre in order to achieve best use of land and terrain, provided the average density of the entire subdivision does not exceed 10 living units per acre." This provision would ease the way for developers who were about to build condominiums, while still controlling the size of those complexes.