

## Kramer's Korner

The cause of the fire is officially unknown. A plastic cigar tip was found nearby and may have started the fire. This plastic tip could have been debris from the beach/ocean; we don't know and probably never will know what started the flames. The lesson learned is the need for situational awareness for fire hazards in Pine Knoll Shores. Whether involving fireworks, cigarettes/cigars, sparklers, or hot coals from a grill, the common denominator for danger is readily accessible and highly combustible fuel sources in Pine Knoll Shores, which include dune grass, pine straw and wooden decks. We have witnessed property damage involving all of these fuel sources in the past nine years. Let's be safe and avoid tragedies. Maintain receptacles for cigarettes and hot coals from the grill. And flying fireworks, which are illegal to begin with, are extremely hazardous in a windy, dry environment. The photo on page 30 shows the close call.

**Did you know this about your staff?** Effective June 1, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Officer Julie Anderson will become the president of the Outer Banks Chapter of National Charity League, Inc. This chapter has over 200 members, and is the only one in Eastern North Carolina. The mission of NCL, Inc. is to foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. The senior girls and their moms from Carteret County completed almost 9,500 hours of community service over six years ending in 2016. Girls in grades 7-12 participate, so this number is just one class's total. In our area they currently support the following charities: Beaufort Historical Association, Boys and Girls Clubs of Coastal Carolina, Carteret County Humane Society, Crystal Coast Hospice House, Domestic Violence Program of Carteret County, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Mission (Kitchen & Shelter), Leon Mann Center, Marine Corps Family Team, Building/Operation Homefront, Relay for Life, Salvation Army and Take a Kid Fishing.

**Hurricane season.** Hurricane season begins June 1. The staff of Pine Knoll Shores has been in contact with the county's emergency management office and has compiled a list of useful information in case a storm hits. Please see "Hurricane Readiness" by Fire Chief Jason Baker in this issue of *The Shoreline* for helpful information on hurricane preparedness. We care about our citizens and want them to be prepared.

In addition to the information provided by Chief Baker, below are some tips to help you be prepared in the event of a serious storm:

Carteret County operates shelters as a short-term location for residents to

go to escape the effects of a hurricane. The shelters are not intended to be used for the long-term housing of persons and have not been stocked to provide this type of sheltering. Long term shelters that provide cots and food for persons displaced from their homes will be established after a storm has passed. Therefore, persons evacuating to one of the pre-hurricane shelters should bring adequate supplies to last two to four days, including but not limited to the following: baby supplies, bedding (cot, lounge chair, blankets, pillows), nonalcoholic beverages, changes of clothing, cooler with ice, entertainment items (board games, playing cards and reading materials), food that does not require refrigeration or cooking, and medications.

Carteret Health Care operates a shelter for persons with special medical needs at the Leon Mann Enrichment Center at 3820 Galantis Drive in Morehead City. Persons wishing to use the special needs shelter must preregister with Carteret County Emergency Services, which can be reached at 222-5841.

Those with small domesticated pets can shelter with their pet at the Newport Middle School. Pets must be registered by going to [carteretcountync.gov/Document/Center/View/1285](http://carteretcountync.gov/Document/Center/View/1285).

The county website ([carteretcountync.gov](http://carteretcountync.gov)) has additional useful information, or you can contact Natalie Gible at Pine Knoll Shores Public Safety, 247-2268, with questions. Again, we want to stress to you the importance of being prepared and not waiting until a threat arises.

**Beach clean-up day.** The Pine Knoll Shores Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) is coordinating the annual post-Fourth of July beach cleanup on Tuesday, July 5. The Fourth of July is the biggest beach holiday in America, and also the dirtiest. Please join members of the Parks and Recreation Committee and other volunteers at the Iron Steamer public beach access at 9 a.m. on July 5.



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## Portable Recycling Containers Available

Portable recycling containers are available for residents' use and can be checked out at the Pine Knoll Shores town hall on a first-come, first-served basis. *Important note:* these are not bins for residential curbside use, but are intended to be used for gatherings to make recycling easier—and then returned to town hall.

The containers are wire racks designed to hold a plastic bag (which is provided) and are very light weight and easy to transport. Just place a recycling bin beside a trash can at your outdoor event, making it easy for everyone to choose between trash and recyclables. Please keep in mind that plastic bags are not recyclable. Items should be dumped into a recycling container (located at Lot C and at town hall) and the plastic bag should be disposed of separately.

These portable containers are free to use, but there is a fee of \$50 if damaged or broken. Call town hall at 247-4353 to learn more.