

# Pine Knoll Shores Democratic Party Update

Submitted by John Clarke

A meeting was held on the evening of June 20 with 17 people in attendance from Atlantic Beach, PKS and Emerald Isle. We discussed the importance of attending a rally held on Saturday, June 25, at the County Courthouse in Beaufort. The Carteret County Coalition for Verified Voting will review and discuss the issues associated with lost votes in our county as 4,429 votes were lost during the 2004 election. Of the votes lost, 181 were from the registered voters of PKS: Republican (88), Democrat (63), and Unaffiliated (30). The press will attend this rally and all registered voters were invited to attend.

There are bills in the N.C. House and Senate that will require the state to pave the way for more accountability in our voting with a paper receipt to be given to each voter. However, the progress has been slowed by budget concerns. If you are one of these 181, you should be outraged and for the balance of our community, county, and elsewhere in the state where problems occurred, we should be demanding change. You can make a difference regardless of your political inclinations by contacting your state legislators and

demanding that your future votes count and by contacting <http://www.ncvoters.net>.

John Clarke, Chair of Ward IV announced the Ward IV Pig Pickin' would be held on Saturday, June 25, at Brock Basin Marina. Special thanks go out to all who helped with the organizing and communication for this event, including, Anne Clarke, Maureen Kilgallen, John Russell, and Dot Reist.

The group discussed the issues of schools, mental health, and land use. Our County Commissioners recently reviewed these issues. While we can agree to disagree on a number of issues, education and the decaying conditions of our schools is critical. Land use and the changes that were recently put into place by the commissioners to overrule the committee of outside experts the county hired should draw the ire of every voter to demand greater accountability out of our elected officials. Attend these meetings and demand that your voice to be heard. PKS has long valued our beautiful environment and we need to pay attention to changes which are being put into place elsewhere in the county or we all should be prepared to see the beauty

of Carteret County leveled and pristine environments destroyed. There was discussion that there is a lack of funding needed to adequately support Mental Health, an issue that has been debated for some time now.

The Young Democrats, led by James Lewis, will meet on July 12 at Taylor's Big Mug Coffee Café in Beaufort at 6 p.m. They are sponsoring a Beach Sweep Series to clean up several of our beaches and public areas including the following:

- Beaufort Water Front on July 23, 2 p.m.
- Meet at Outer Banks Ferry Service
- Greater than 30 people, then ferry takes folks to Carrot or Shackleford Islands
- Wear work clothes and trash removal tools
- Rain date—following day
- Morehead City in August
- Atlantic Beach in September

The audience expressed concern over the growing trash problem on PKS beaches and Clint Anderson agreed to take this issue up with our appearance committee. We encourage our residents to be responsible for our trash when on the beach and pickup what

you can when others do not.

Some important dates to mark on your calendar:

• Carteret County Democratic Party Meeting at County Courthouse on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. All Democrats and Unaffiliateds are welcome to attend the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. These meetings will continue over the summer months so please mark them on your calendars.

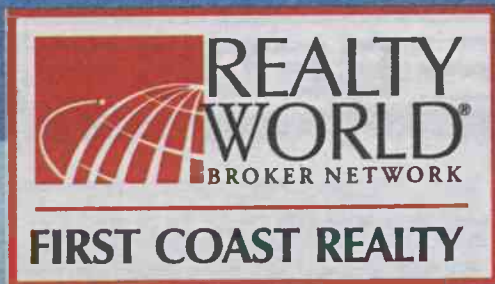
• Democratic Women meet 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at Golden Corral 5:30 p.m.

• AARP meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Ramada (call hotel for details)

• Senior Democrats – 11:30 a.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month Leon Mann Center in Morehead City for lunch 11:30 a.m.

The Pine Knoll Shores Democrat Party Precinct will next meet on Monday evening September 12, 2005, at PKS Town Hall to review the party's progress with organization. We have also invited the Atlantic Beach, Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, Salter Path, and Cedar Point Precinct officers to join us. Light refreshments will be served.

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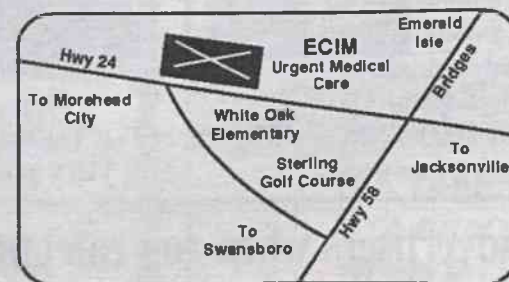
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