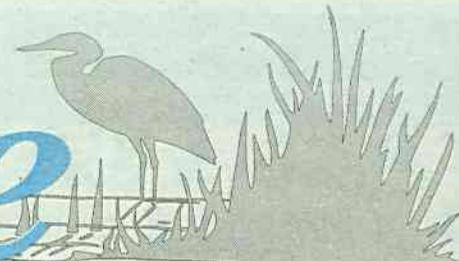


# The Shoreline



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

Town Hall 247-4353

## PKS Officials Share Knowledge With Military Officers Group

By Bill White

Town officials and staffers sat around a town hall conference table February 17 and for an hour and a half by speakerphone outlined for a group of military officers what it takes to make a community the size of Pine Knoll Shores function smoothly.

On the other end of the conference call were a score of field grade officers from most of the military services who anticipate that in the near future they will be called upon to help the units to which they are assigned cope with the job of promoting stability and workable self-government in small towns in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The officers, holding the rank of major or its equivalent in other services, were gathered around a speakerphone at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where they comprise a class attending the United States Army's Command and General Staff College. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for the challenges they will face during the next seven to 10 years of their careers.

One of those challenges for many in the military at this point in time is the necessity to be able to work with the leaders and the people of strife-torn small towns to

help promote stability that will lead to effectively functioning local government capable of developing and maintaining the public services so badly needed by the people of Iraq and elsewhere.

Many of the members of the Fort Leavenworth class have already been exposed to the problems of accomplishing what amounts to nation building at the grass roots, having served tours of duty in Iraq and other hot spots in the war on terror. One of them is Army Major Timothy Marzano, an artilleryman whose parents have a summer home on Oakleaf Drive in PKS. Marzano recently returned from a 15-month tour of duty in Iraq where he worked with local police and security forces. That experience left him with the thought that if he and his fellow officers knew more about how small town government worked in the United States they could be more effective in helping promote stability and good government in places like Iraq.

He contacted Town Manager Brian Kramer, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel who had also served in Iraq, and broached the idea of tapping into the experience of PKS officials as a learning tool. The result of that exchange was the cross-country telephone conference.

After an initial exchange of information, the participants on both ends of the phone call acknowledged that while their concerns and goals are similar – stable government providing good public services – the resources available to address the

(PKS Officials)

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This diverse group of career military officers gathered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to gain a greater insight into the workings of municipal government during a teleconference with Pine Knoll Shores officials. Major Timothy Marzano, who helped arrange the conference, is fifth from left. His parents have a home on Oakleaf Drive in PKS. Other photo on page 3.

## "McNeil" Park One "L" Short

By Phyllis Makuck

A sign at the park on Oakleaf Drive at the entrance to the canal and where Cedar Road ends identifies the area as "McNeil Park." The plaque on the bridge over the canal reads "McNeil Inlet Bridge." There are McNeils, McNiels, MacNiels, McNeals, and McNeills (and, of course, O'Neil/O'Neal variations) associated with Pine Knoll Shores, Morehead City, and Beaufort. Some are related, others not. But it's George McNeill whose name should be on the park and bridge signs.

George McNeill, a Morehead City resident, was Attorney-in-Fact for the Roosevelt family during early

development of Pine Knoll Shores. He was also town attorney in Morehead City from the early 50's to the late 70's and in Atlantic Beach for a shorter time. During some of those years he served as a municipal judge. If you received a speeding ticket back then in Morehead City you might have appeared before Judge George McNeill. A portrait of Judge McNeill (reproduced for this article) hangs in the Carteret County Courthouse.

Around town, some knew George McNeill as Judge McNeill and others

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Deadline for April issue is Monday, March 16 Deadline for May issue is Monday, April 20 Articles always welcome!