

# Meet Your Neighbors: The Tilyards

By Jacquie Pipkin

Kathy Falandys and John Tilyard were married on September 25, 2010, at the United Methodist Church in Morehead City. Thanks to the Internet, Kathy, a former corporate etiquette and personal image trainer, living at Lake Norman, North Carolina, and John, working for the Health Department in Guilford County and living in Greensboro, North Carolina, met, courted, moved to Pine Knoll Shores and married.

Their courtship began in the 1990s, when Kathy moved to Lake Norman after living in Michigan for two years caring for her blind mother. Kathy became active in her community and church and accepted a part-time position as the Developmental Director for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. She also held an administrative position with Habitat for Humanity International. With her children grown and on their own, Kathy was ready to be social again. Friends encouraged her to go on the Internet to meet gentlemen. At first Kathy was appalled at the idea, but with some encouragement and a lot of research, decided to give it a try. Kathy and John e-mailed each other for three months before their first meeting at Lake Norman. It was love at first sight. However, before deciding to spend their future together, they scheduled introductions with their respective children. Kathy's two children, Michelle, an attorney in McLean, Virginia, and Wells, a Circuit Court judge in Bend, Oregon, as well as John's two sons, Jay, a Chop Shop (music and entertainment venue) owner in Charlotte, and Jonathan, in Greensboro, were welcoming and happy that their parents had found each other.

The couple retired shortly after meeting. John had always wanted to retire to the coast, and some years earlier had purchased a lot on Holly Road in Pine Knoll Shores. The couple decided to build there until their builder found the house at 107 Walnut. They gutted the house on Walnut and renovated it with the idea of renting it. Kathy and John did most of the indoor and outdoor labor (except for the masonry work) and decorating themselves. As Kathy will tell you, "John is very talented." Indeed, and so obviously is Kathy. Once they completed the renovation, they were so enamored with what they had created that they made it their permanent residence. As the Tilyards explained, they are never truly finished with the renovation. In fact, the day I interviewed them, John was installing remote-control lighting for their gazebo on the back deck.

John is an avid tennis player and outgoing member of the Pine Knoll Association (PKA) Board. He also volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club in Morehead City. Kathy is active in the community and was a member of the committee for the World War II and Korean Veterans' memorial events. Kathy and John are also members of the Carteret Arts Forum. Kathy plays bridge and enjoys cooking and entertaining. The couple often get together with friends to share dining experiences. While the food preparation and creation are enjoyable, Kathy says, "It's not the food on your table, it's the friends in your chairs that make for a memorable evening." In fact, the Tilyards spoke affectionately of the many friends they've made here and the inviting, inclusive atmosphere this community shares.

The Tilyards are now ready to travel and also to spend more time with their six grandchildren—all under nine years of age. For starters, the couple is training for a bike tour called the Virginia Creeper. Next year, they plan to rent and live on a barge with PKA friends and tour the Loire Valley in France. Bon Voyage, mes amis!



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## July 2011 Sudoku Puzzle • Difficulty level: medium

					2		4	
	1	8					2	
		5		6	1			
	2		1					3
					7	8		
6			3			9		
	3			8				
	5						3	
9		4				1	8	6