

## CRYSTAL COAST EVENTS CALENDAR

For a complete list of upcoming events, go to <http://www.crystalcoastnc.org/upcoming-events>.

### Morehead City Easter Egg Hunt

Apr. 07. Rotary Park on Mayberry Loop Rd. at 10 a.m. Designed for children 12 and under, the hunt will consist of over 10,000 eggs, as well as three grand prizes. For more info, call 726-5083.

### BHA Easter Egg Hunt

Apr. 7. The Beaufort Historic Site at 11 a.m. Children ages 7 and younger are welcome to join the fun! Prizes, refreshments and lots and lots of eggs - it's all FREE - just bring a basket!

### Brunch with the Dolphins Cruise

Apr. 8. Beaufort, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Step aboard the Crystal Coast Lady to relax and let your cares fall away as you watch for dolphins, which are a common sight on this cruise. Buffet. Price is \$34 for adults, \$20 for children 11 and under, and \$6 for children 4 and under. Call for info or reservations, 728-8687 or 728-7827.

### Crystal Coast Earth Day Celebration

Apr. 12. Fort Macon State Park, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call the park for more info, 726-3775, or e-mail Randy Newman, [randy.newman@ncdenr.gov](mailto:randy.newman@ncdenr.gov).

### Civil War Lecture

Apr. 14; May 12. North Carolina Maritime Museum, 315 Front Street, Beaufort, second Saturday of each month at 3 p.m. Free to the public. Call 728-7317, or visit [www.ncmaritimemuseums.com](http://www.ncmaritimemuseums.com) for more info.

### 13th Annual Fun Fest

Apr. 14. Crystal Coast Civic Center, 7 p.m. until midnight. Presented by the North Carolina Seafood Festival. \$45 person. For ticket info, call 726 6273, or visit N.C. Seafood Festival website.

### The Beauty of Pollination Program

Apr. 19. Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center (CSWM & HC), Harkers Island, 1-4 p.m. Sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners, Crystal Coast Beekeepers Association (CCBA) and North Carolina Science

Festival, the program features presentations on the role of bees, birds and other insects in the process of pollination as well as the plants that attract pollinators. There will also be an exhibit by CCBA; a guided walk through the Butterfly Pathway; and after-school activities for children including pollination games, a flower dissection and take-home crafts. Registration is required. Contact CSWM&HC 728-1500, ext. 24.

### 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Reenactment of the Battle of Fort Macon

Apr. 21. Fort Macon State Park in Atlantic Beach. The bombardment and surrender of Fort Macon will be reenacted at 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. Call Fort Macon State Park for more info, 726-3775.

### Publick Day

April 21. The Beaufort Historic Site, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. An old-fashioned flea market on the Beaufort Historic Site with vendors selling antiques and collectables, art, crafts, handmade jewelry, books, food and much more! No admission charge.

### Carteret General Hospital (CGH) Cancer Center Benefit Talent Show

Apr. 21. The Morehead Center, 1311 Arendell Street, Morehead City, 7 p.m. Local talent perform a fun-filled show in support of the new CGH Cancer Center. All tickets \$15. For more info, e-mail [themoreheadcenter@live.com](mailto:themoreheadcenter@live.com).

### Friends of the Western Carteret Library Homes Tour & Art Show

Apr. 21. Emerald Isle, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Seven homes and two gardens on the tour as well as the popular art show at the Land's End Clubhouse. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 the day of the tour. For more info about the tour or tickets, call the library at 393-6500 or Diane at 354-2916.

### Night Cannonade at Fort Macon

Apr. 21. Fort Macon State Park will reenact the continuous artillery fire that dispersed the Union troops and drove them away. Call 726-3775 for more info.

### Scrapbooking Workshop

Apr. 21. Emerald Isle Community Center, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. With Linda

Phelps for ages 12 and up. Pre-registration is required. Fee is \$5 with additional packages available. Use of tools and snack included. Fees are payable at the workshop. For more info, call Linda Phelps at 910-326-6164, or e-mail [rphelps@ec.rr.com](mailto:rphelps@ec.rr.com).

### 1-Mile Fun Run at Racing Kids' Esteem

Apr. 21. Emerald Isle, 10:15 a.m. Sponsored by the Emerald Isle Parks & Recreation, the run is for ages 7-18. Registration fee is \$15 per participant. No registrations will be accepted after April 19. Contact E-mail: [asanderson@emeraldisle-nc.org](mailto:asanderson@emeraldisle-nc.org).

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Beaufort Wine and Food Weekend

April 25 - 29. This is a not-to-be-missed culinary experience. Visit the Beaufort Wine and Food website for more info on tickets, event details, personalities and more: [www.BeaufortWineandFood.com](http://www.BeaufortWineandFood.com).

### White Oak Shores Bluegrass Festival

Apr. 27 - Apr. 28. White Oak Shores Campground. Noon - 10 p.m. The Annual White Oak Shores Bluegrass Festival is two days and 20 shows! \$30 per person/day or \$50 per person /2 days. Visit [www.whiteoakshores.com](http://www.whiteoakshores.com). E-mail contact: [robincomer10@yahoo.com](mailto:robincomer10@yahoo.com).

### Kindly Used Book Sale

Apr. 27 - 28. Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m. on Friday for Friends of the Library members and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday for the general public. This is a semi-annual event sponsored by the Friends of Bogue Banks Library.

### NC Motorsports Festival

Apr. 28. Carteret County Speedway, 501 Whitehouse Forks Rd. (three miles from Emerald Isle Bridge), gates open at 8:00 a.m. Admission is \$5 per person. The festival features a car show and a special appearance by Junior Johnson, Bobby Allison, Hoss Ellington and other favorites, as well as Hall of Fame cards and NASCAR memorabilia. No pets, coolers or bicycles allowed. Call 241-1015, 393-1245 or send e-mail to [info@carteretcountyspedway.com](mailto:info@carteretcountyspedway.com).

## A New Business in Town

By Billy Bogus

The Venetian Entertainment Co., LTD has recently applied to the town for a permit to operate a new and unique business that should help bring the tourism dollars to Pine Knoll Shores - gondola rides through the canals! Rezoning applications have been filed to use Garner Park as the headquarters. "We will only need to erect a small building for ticket sales, bathrooms and a storage facility and install a parking lot," said their company president, Antonio Giordana, adding that, "the impact of construction to the neighborhood will be minimal as the buildings will be prefab Venetian structures brought in from Italy."

Although the business has a small footprint, owners are expecting to draw large crowds. Besides an aggressive statewide media advertising campaign, their plans include placing billboards by the entrances to both the Country Club and the aquarium as well as having posters on telephone poles at popular intersections throughout the county.

The gondola ride would leave Garner Park and loop around the canals, returning to the park. Venetian Entertainment is planning on hiring and training locals as gondoliers, so there will be some employment opportunities for Pine Knoll Shores' residents. "If you have a deep baritone voice and can sing in Italian, you will certainly find a home with us," said Mr. Giordana. And mandolin players may be needed as well since he is considering this as an option to the basic ride. Current plans call for launching a gondola a minute, but this could vary depending on how far the gondolier's voice carries.

Additionally, Venetian Entertainment is asking the Town for some help in making minor changes in the canals themselves. The company would like the owners of boat lifts along the route to paint them white and replace the wooden pilings that support the lifts with fluted columns and would also like for future building permits to allow buildings to be placed at the edge of the canal without a setback. If things go as well as Mr. Giordana hopes, Pine Knoll Shores may soon be known as "Little Venice of the Crystal Coast!" (*April Fools*)