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**Special People, Special Town**

About three years ago, Town Manager Brian Kramer and Ernie Rudolph came up with the idea of floating our outdoor town Christmas tree in the middle of the pond. Supplies were purchased and Ernie and crew made the float using plastic-covered styrofoam. Town worker Howard Henderson was and is instrumental in this endeavor. Pine Knoll Shores resident Marion Walker donated the Moravian star, which she assembled from a kit purchased from the Old Salem Moravian Book & Gift Shop a number of years ago.

The Moravian star is a German symbol of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It began as a geometry exercise in a Moravian Boys' School in Niesky, Germany, in 1830. Peter Verbeek, a former pupil, added the star and instructions to the items offered in the school's book store in 1880. His son Harry later offered them for sale in the Herrhut Star Factory he founded for this purpose. Their factory was taken over for a short period of time by the Communists in the 1950s and later returned to Moravian Church ownership. Eventually, other Moravian star-producing companies sprang up. In addition to these companies, Moravian Church congregations throughout the world made and sold Moravian stars. Here in North Carolina the Moravian Book & Gift Shop in Old Salem produces the kits to assemble the stars. There are many different kinds of Moravian stars, with the most common one being the star with twenty-six points.

Pine Knoll Shores is blessed with natural beauty as well as beautiful created objects to make our town special during the Christmas holiday season, but the service of its employees and generosity and service of its residents is the true beauty of the season!



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