

# Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

## K4TW 2014 Comin' Atcha

One of the key ingredients to the character of our town is how we rally around a common cause and make a difference in that cause. For six years we have done just that with our annual Kayak for the Warriors events. We will mark our 7th year when we celebrate Warrior Weekend from June 5-7. All events are fundraisers for Hope for the Warriors®.

Hope for the Warriors® is a United States nonprofit organization that provides assistance to combat-wounded service members, their families and families of those killed in action. The organization focuses on those involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and their families. Hope for the Warriors® recently received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and was highlighted by President George W. Bush in the Warrior Open.

Kayak for the Warriors, a Pine Knoll Shores event, is locally managed to raise funds, put on entirely by volunteers and attended by people from across the country.

The schedule of events is as follows:

On June 5, from 3-7 p.m., there is a tour of 13 beautiful homes on the ocean, sound and canals in Pine Knoll Shores. Your \$30 ticket includes the tour and the Aquarium for the Warriors reception immediately following the homes tour.

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores will be a new venue for the warrior reception and silent and live auctions, which include works by local artists and goods and services from local businesses. Stroll through the aquarium in climate-controlled comfort to view the exhibits and bid on silent auction items

while sampling a variety of wines, beer and heavy hors d'oeuvres. The reception begins immediately following the home tour at 7 p.m., and the live auction will begin at 7:30.

The main event is Saturday, June 7. The 3.2-mile kayak and paddleboard race through Pine Knoll Shores canals begins at 10 a.m. A \$45 registration fee includes a Warrior t-shirt and lunch. We are encouraging participants to create their own team of sponsors. Please see the Kayak for the Warriors website ([www.kayakforthewarriors.org](http://www.kayakforthewarriors.org)) for all the race specifics and sponsor information.

The actual race through the canal is very exciting with all the flags, music and cheering. There is no way to describe it other than inspiring fun. You don't have to be a racer to enter and paddle the route—the more the merrier!

A Family Fun Race starts at 10:30 a.m. A \$15 registration fee also includes lunch. Participants can use *any* paddle-worthy vessel in order to compete in the race.

Both the Fun 5K and 10K bike rides through Pine Knoll Shores start and end at McNeill Park and begin at 8:30 a.m. Please arrive by 8 a.m. in order to register. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch. Participants are encouraged to decorate their bikes in support of the warriors.

After all bikers and kayak racers finish, an awards ceremony and hot dog feast will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. at Garner Park. For those not racing in any other events, the cost to participate in the lunch is \$5 per person and *does* include Linda Cumberland's special Coney sauce.

This is it: *the* event in Carteret County, and it's for a great cause. Plan early and visit our website (shown above). All volunteers, all fundraisers, all supporters . . . it's fun for your whole family. Join us and make it a weekend to remember!

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