

PKA News

By Amry Cox

The Pine Knoll Association extends a huge thank you and very special recognition to Richard Belanger and his lovely wife, Donna, who have dedicated years and thousands of hours to the betterment of the association. Dick and Donna are a great team and under his steady leadership as president, so much was accomplished for the Pine Knoll Association and its members. Also, PKA extends a big thank you for the service of directors Gail Halada and Scott McMillan. I can't say enough that it is the volunteers who do so much and make PKA the wonderful neighborhood that it is.

Late in June, PKA held its annual meeting and elected new directors to fill outgoing director vacancies. Welcome to John Clarke, Craig Letchner, David Parham and Bryan Smith. After deadline, new officers were elected for the 2014-2015 year. Please go to our official PKA website, www.pineknollassociation.com, for the new faces and officers.

Volunteerism is what makes PKA and the town of Pine Knoll Shores so special. Many people came out for two different PKA volunteer workdays, gave generously of their time and donated sweat equity in sprucing up two of our main parks for the summer season. A thank you to all: Dick and Donna Belanger, Richard Donaghue, Ed Powers, Robert Cox, Craig and Carol Letchner, Jim Yankauskas, John Clarke, Mary Nichols, Susan Phillips, Don Hathaway, Shannon Smylie, Tom Atz, Paul Pytko, Bill Foy and Alan Hinnant. Next time you are at the marinas or on the beach, look around and enjoy the great job everybody did.

This summer season, try out one of the five new golf cart parking spots at Ocean Park. Since the town of Pine Knoll Shores already has 20 registered golf carts, it will be an alternative and possibly environmentally friendly way to wheel around the neighborhood and take your stuff up to the beach.

(Continued on page 26)

Changes to In-Town Refuse Drop-Off

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) has voted to improve the refuse drop-off site at Lot C, adjacent to the Public Safety Building. This facility has been available to residents for disposing of yard waste, household kitchen garbage and recyclables for some time, a great convenience to second-home owners as well as full-time residents. However, there have been increasing problems with televisions, sofas and other large, bulky items taking up dumpster space intended for the items mentioned above.

After much discussion, the BOC voted in June to add a roll-out, open-top debris dumpster which should be used for large items. To keep up with the increased volume, items will be picked up three times a week at Lot C during the summer season. Our traditional curbside garbage/recycling/yard debris schedule will remain the same.

Pine Knoll Shores is the only municipality in Carteret County with such a town-operated facility. We'll try the additional dumpster and more-frequent pickup for the 2014 season. If this doesn't alleviate the problem, it will be revisited during next year's budget discussions.

Book Talk

TransAtlantic by Colum McCann

Random House, 2013, 304 pages

Reviewed by Ken Wilkins

A lesson in communication

TransAtlantic makes for compelling reading, taking the reader on a tour from the middle of the 19th century to the present day. Colum McCann tells a good story, but, more important, he has something to say.

As in McCann's earlier novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, this book centers on a real-life event that might seem unlikely to link all the characters. It is 1919, just after the First World War, and there is a competition to become the first to cross the Atlantic in an airplane. The winners turn out to be ordinary Brits: John Alcock and Arthur Brown, a bomber pilot and a navigator. Each felt more alive when aloft, and the idea of crossing the ocean seemed to each a new start.

They flew a biplane, a modified Vickers Vimy bomber. Today, we can travel halfway around the world on a single flight in more than reasonable comfort. Early in the 20th century, however, such an idea would have been deemed impossible. Alcock and Brown made it to Ireland, crash-landing in a peat bog, but still opening our eyes to new possibilities.

McCann begins early on to draw the links in a chain that will run through his entire work. Watching preparations for the flight were a woman journalist and her daughter, a photographer. Emily Ehrlich, the reporter, is the daughter of Lily, who came from Ireland to America in 1846. She had been a maid in a house where Frederick Douglass stayed on a visit to publicize his book and his anti-slavery cause.

Emily's daughter, Lottie, gave Brown a letter from her mother to the family that helped Lily when she left Ireland. Eventually, Lottie marries an Irishman and makes her home there. She meets Senator George Mitchell when he is in Ireland in 1998 to broker an agreement to end the Troubles there.

Fast-forward, now to the present day, and all these links lead to Hannah, the last of a series of daughters—Lily, Emily and Lottie. She has in her possession the letter carried by Brown across the Atlantic, and never delivered. Hannah is at the point of losing the family home because of financial straits, and hopes the letter might be of enough value to some collector to prevent that.

In *TransAtlantic*, then, we've moved from a time before the Civil War, with slavery still practiced in America and famine rampant in Ireland. We get information about ice harvesting (a job that no longer exists, but also a bit part in the recent Disney animated film, *Frozen*), something of aviation history, a snapshot of Frederick Douglass and just a sideswipe against the Irish Troubles.

McCann ties all these disparate happenings together in a way that manages not to be episodic. He melds his three-dimensional fictional characters with historical figures in seamless fashion, never missing a beat. Folks struggle, make sacrifices and compromises, and in the end "[w]e have to admire the world for not ending on us."



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