

Four Decades and Still Ready to Roll

By Charlie McBriarty

The Pine Knoll Shores Ancient Mariners Bowling League was one of the first organizations formed shortly after the town itself was incorporated. The origin of this group has been attributed to a number of newly transplanted residents who had enjoyed each other's company on the beach during those early summer months. Summer's-end discussion focused on how the congeniality could be continued during the coming winter months. The desirability of an indoor venue eventually led to discussions of forming a bowling league. It did not take long before a name for the league emerged and the 1974-75 season of the Ancient Mariners Bowling League was born.

At the age of 60, Vivian Macdonald was one of the charter members who founded this organization and she was an active bowler for a record 36 consecutive years. Since Vivian's March birth date often occurred at or near the conclusion of the bowling season, her birthday was typically acknowledged at the league's season-ending banquet. Even after she relocated to be closer to her family just prior to the start of the 2011-12 season, a birthday cake was shared in her honor at the annual banquet.

This year the league will not be able to celebrate her birthday. On May 14, Vivian, mother of three, grandmother of seven and great grandmother of 17, died at the age of 99 years and 49 days. However, this year at the 2014-15 banquet we will join in a toast to commemorate the 100th birthday of the league's longest standing member and remember Vivian's participation and competitive spirit. All of us who had the opportunity to know her miss her presence and, as a former teammate, I will never forget her.

During the past 40 years the league has offered a wintertime entertainment that has provided a good time for all with friendly conversation, a lot of humor and just a touch of competition to make it interesting. From the beginning, the league has included both women and men, the focus has been on fun and the atmosphere has been welcoming. If this sounds interesting to you, the Ancient Mariners Bowling League is always looking for new people to become involved.

The 2014-15 season begins just after noon on Monday, September 22, at Mac Daddy's in Cape Carteret. As usual, the season will consist of two 12-week bowling sessions. The first session will include three holiday breaks as noted below. The second session will resume on Monday, January 5, and continue through Monday, March 22. If a roll-off is necessary, it will be held on Tuesday, March 23, and the banquet is expected to be held on Wednesday or Thursday of the same week.

If you have not been involved in any fall and winter fun or an exciting organization, you should consider some of the following benefits of membership:

- Nobody is a stranger at the bowling alley.
- Through the years the league has consisted of a group of people who enjoy getting together with friends and neighbors for their weekly outing.
- Being a member legitimizes the time spent relaxing and enjoying a couple of hours each week to socialize.
- Members need not be eligible for AARP membership, nor is there any age-based requirement. Through the years, the age of members has been in the "nobody-is-telling" to the "proud-to-be-90" range.
- If you have a non-Pine Knoll Shores friend who would like to join you for Monday afternoons at the alley, he/she is welcome to become a part of the league.
- The range of bowling skills (or lack thereof) is broad. There are first-time bowlers just trying to keep the ball out of the gutter, while at the other end of the spectrum, there are a few proficient bowlers, most of whom reached their scoring peak a number of years ago.
- It is a coed, handicap league—which means that there are men and women on each team and the teams are equalized by the use of individual bowler handicap.
- Different teams are identified by the opening of the season by the league officers' utilizing established rules that are designed to rotate team members from year to year and balance the ability levels of team members

- Weekly, two teams bowl three games of 10 frames and vie for a total of four points. Each game is worth a point for the team that wins and the team knocking down the most pins during the course of the three games is awarded the remaining point.
- There is no bowling on the Mondays preceding the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.
- The annual banquet officially ends the season on March 25 or 26.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of this year's league officers: Edna Tart, President; Buddy Thomas, Vice President; Bill Knecht, Treasurer; and Sue Meyers, Secretary.

Land Use Plan Update

By Scott Sherrill

The Land Use Plan Committee is continuing its work to update the town's CAMA Core Land Use Plan. At this point, the committee, consisting of Dominic Baccollo, Michelle Powers, John Brodman, Bob Danehy, Bob Warren, Doug Browne, George Greene and Teresa Stanton-Law, working with staff members Scott Sherrill, Sarah Williams and Chris Jones, met on March 24, April 29, May 19, June 30 and July 29. Over the course of the first four meetings, the group worked through the demographics of the town, the natural features and the interaction between development and the environment. The meetings have largely focused on the content of the plan and the types of information included. On July 29, the Land Use Plan Committee invited the Board of Commissioners to attend their meeting to hear progress to date.

After the July 29 meeting, there are four major pieces left: current plans, policies and regulations; an update on what has or has not been accomplished since the 2008 update; policies and implementation steps for the planning period; and future land use.

Residents are encouraged to attend Land Use Plan Committee meetings over the next couple of months as they are the most likely to impact the substance of the plan. Attending the meetings is a good way to understand the discussion behind what winds up going into the plan and recommendations for policies and implementation steps in particular.

Once the Land Use Plan Committee is satisfied with the document, it will be circulated to the NC Division of Coastal Management and other volunteer boards (Planning Board, Community Appearance Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Strategic Planning Committee), and re-reviewed prior to being submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

If the completed draft that goes to the Board of Commissioners is satisfactory, the board will call for a public hearing, hold the public hearing and then, hopefully, adopt the plan. This should all be playing out between now and early 2015. Stay tuned, and follow the website's calendar for meeting dates.

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