

# Real Estate News

By Amy Hahn, Pine Knoll Shores Realty



## It's not what's on the outside that counts—or is it?

We have all heard the phrase “It’s not what’s on the outside that counts.” But when it comes to selling your home, what is on the outside counts just as much as what is on the inside—if not more. Remember, you never get a second chance to make a first impression. While you do not need to spend a fortune, a little cash (and sometimes *no* cash) and a lot of elbow grease can go a long way toward improving your home’s curb appeal:

- A fresh coat of paint on the front door and some brightly colored flowers in pots can make a big difference.
- Replace the hardware on the front door to make it really shine.
- Fix the broken fence, and remove all debris and trash from the yard.
- Keep the yard mowed and the shrubs trimmed.
- A new door mat may be just the perfect touch.
- Make sure the mailbox is standing up straight, and paint it as well.
- Pressure wash. You can make the driveway and vinyl siding look brand new in a couple of hours. Use caution with wood or other painted surfaces and remember to use low pressure to clean those areas to reduce splintering and chipping. Most home improvement centers rent pressure washers if you do not own one.
- Keep the windows squeaky clean.

When placing your home on the market, keep an open mind. What are the first things you notice when you pull in the driveway? Are the troll collection and other lawn ornaments in the garden a distraction? Are the house numbers clearly visible? Are the gutters clean and properly installed? Can you see the roof through the pine straw? Are the weeds taking over? Are the shutters faded or, worse, falling off? Are the window boxes filled with dead flowers and stems? Are the outdoor lights working properly? Try to look at your home as a potential buyer would.

Once the outside looks fabulous, make sure the inside matches. And, yes, sweat the small stuff. It can make all the difference.

## For Our Longer Lives

By Joan Lamson

It has been just two years since the Town of Pine Knoll Shores established an informal advisory committee on Aging in Place. As you might remember, some research showed that things that are good for an aging population are also good for all ages. An example is that it takes as much space to turn a stroller as it does a wheel chair. Thus, the Advisory Committee changed its name to the Age-Friendly Community Advisory Committee, and the Commissioners subsequently passed a resolution to support an Age-Friendly town.

We formed two tracks—one on what the government of the town can do, and the other on what citizens can do. Track one has been discussing the eight elements as identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in its “Guide for Global Age-Friendly Cities.” The eight elements are: 1) Outdoor spaces and buildings, 2) Transportation, 3) Housing, 4) Social participation, 5) Respect and social inclusion, 6) Civic participation and employment, 7) Communication and information, and 8) Community support and health services. The elements where the advisory committee feels we have early opportunities are in housing, transportation, social inclusion and communication.

The town, through the Strategic Planning Committee’s work, is setting some goals and objectives toward these issues. For example, under the Strategic Planning Committee’s draft plan, Strategic Area—Residential/Commercial Development, Objective 4, is to “[p]rovide a supportive environment for developing an age-friendly community.” Further, in more detail, goals are stated as: “Consider aging-in-place options for future development, Advocate and support expansion of public transportation service in Pine Knoll Shores, and Review zoning policies that could inhibit age-friendly development.”

## What to Expect for the 2016 Primary Election

By Phyllis Makuck



### Voter Rights Coalition of Carteret County

A NonPartisan Organization

*The nonpartisan Voter Rights Coalition of Carteret County is continuing its series of educational talks, events and articles on new North Carolina voting laws. For more information, go to [voterrightscoalition.org](http://voterrightscoalition.org).*

The March 15, 2016, Primary in North Carolina will have Democratic, Republican, Libertarian and Nonpartisan ballots, with candidates for each office listed in random order. If you are registered for one of the parties, you will be given that party’s ballot.

If you are registered as unaffiliated, you will have your choice of ballots. You may select a Nonpartisan Ballot, but if you do, you will only be voting on the local school board and Connect NC, the Improvement Bond issue. Sample ballots are available at [carteretcountync.gov](http://carteretcountync.gov).

The main purpose of the primary is to select candidates who will represent the parties and run for office in the November 8 General Election. Since there are more Republican candidates running, that ballot is the longest. Depending on the party you select, there may or may not be multiple candidates for each of the following:

- U.S. President
- U.S. Senate
- N.C. Governor
- N.C. Lieutenant Governor
- N.C. Attorney General
- N.C. Treasurer
- N.C. Secretary of State
- N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction
- N.C. Commissioners of Agriculture, Labor and Insurance
- Carteret County Commissioners

Ballots will also have a nonpartisan section for electing a candidate to the Carteret County Board of Education and voting for or against the ballot measure, “Connect NC,” a two-billion-dollar Improvement Bond referendum. Seventeen-year-olds who will be 18 by the November 8 election will receive a special ballot since they may vote in the March Primary but may not cast votes for the Board of Education or on the bond issue.

#### General requirements (unless U.S. District Court rules otherwise)

- For the first time in North Carolina, a valid photo ID is required unless you are curbside voting, voting by absentee ballot, have requested an exemption due to religious objections or make a Declaration of Impediment.
- You should vote at the polling place for your precinct on Primary Election Day, but you may cast a provisional ballot in another precinct and have that ballot counted.

Note: U.S. District Court in Winston-Salem could overturn photo ID requirements and/or ratify the 2013 law discounting provisional ballots cast out of precinct.

The second track, “what citizens can do,” has focused on informing our citizens on issues of interest through the Third Thursday Forums at Four-(TTFF). We have presented speakers on various topics that might be of interest to our aging folks, but also to those who are just starting to age. A recent forum held at the Bogue Banks Public Library let us hear from the volunteers who read to children at the story-hour programs. We also learned more about the presentations, receptions and computer offerings from the library. Other partners in our quality of life here, such as the aquarium, will be future venues for our TTFF.

The TTFFs are held on the third Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. We finish the presentation and discussion by 5 p.m., and invite everyone to stay for a brief time of refreshment. We hope you can join us for the next one.