

What's Up With PARC?

By Jean McDanal

The next Parks and Recreation Committee event will be the Fourth of July parade on Tuesday, July 4. Thanks to Martha Edwards for heading this up again. We are sure she will pick out the juiciest watermelons she can find. The parade will kick off at Garner Park at 10 a.m. Please decorate anything that moves with the old red, white and blue and come out to join the fun.

The Town of Pine Knoll Shores once again will be partnering with the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores to clean up the beach, and we encourage residents and visitors alike to participate. In 2016 we had 53 participants and we are hoping to top that number for this year's event, which is our 9th annual post-Fourth of July beach cleanup. Here are the particulars:

- **Where and When:** Meet at the Iron Steamer beach access parking lot at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 10, for sign in and a group photo.
- **What to bring:** work gloves, comfortable shoes, sunscreen and appropriate protective clothing. Plastic garbage bags and ice water will be provided.
- **Who should come:** Residents and visitors, young and old, are invited to participate and do what you can without overdoing.
- **Program:** Participants will work at their own pace, picking a section of beach (for example a half-mile segment between public accesses). They will pick up any trash they find, and when the trash bag is full or too heavy to comfortably carry, place the bag on the dry sand beach close to the sand fence/vegetation line. Large items (lawn chairs, umbrellas, awning frames, coolers, lumber, etc.) should also be placed near the fence line in plain sight. Town staff will cruise the beach in an ATV later in the morning and pick up the trash collected by participants. Special mention will be awarded to those who find the strangest items—and strange items there are in abundance.

Update on neighborhood parks. Leann Sanders reported that the second playground equipment has been ordered for McNeill Park and will be installed shortly. Thanks to the generosity of residents who purchased the memorial benches, we were able to secure a really fun piece of equipment.

We say goodbye to Leann and her family as they leave us for new adventures in South Carolina. Her Marine husband has been transferred to Shaw Air Force base to serve as the USMC Exchange Pilot for the 20th fighter wing. The Parks and Recreation Committee and the entire town will miss Leann's enthusiasm, fortitude and determination to work to better our Pine Knoll Shores community. Thank you and best wishes, Leann.

The Parks and Recreation Committee welcomes suggestions for activities that will get people out, moving and involved. We are soliciting fresh ideas for events that will interest our residents. Let your imagination fly and contact us with your suggestions. Please email PARCPR@ec.rr.com or come to one of our meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 13, at 9 a.m. at town hall.

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Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

June-to-go!

The first part of June is always an exciting time in Pine Knoll Shores. The Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) events are held at this time, and this year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary of this all-volunteer town effort. Once again, from the beach run (which was held on May 27), to the reception and silent and live auctions at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores on June 1, to the signature kayak and paddleboard event on June 3, the town will go all out to support this very worthwhile effort to show support for our wounded warriors. One of my favorite parts of K4TW is folks waving and cheering along the canal.

During last year's event the town raised over \$80,000, and I thank you for your support. In addition, I extend a huge thank you to the PIKSCO Homeowners Association and Beacon's Reach Master Association for the use of their facilities.

Budget update. We are heading into the final stretch of the 2017-2018 town budget process. Again, your Board of Commissioners and your town staff have done a yeoman's task of putting together a balanced budget and keeping the tax rate steady. That said, with inflation and the ever-changing economic and political climate, we may have some tough decisions to make in the future. As I write this, the NC Senate has passed a bill that will be a huge impact on our budget in 2018-2019. In previous years we have fought hard and won against such bills sponsored by Senator Harry Brown of Onslow and Jones counties. This bill, SB 660, has passed the Senate and has to go to the House and then the governor before it can become law. This is the usual game of "wealth redistribution" where sales and use tax from the county that generates the tax goes to a different county under the justification of economic development. The budget year starts on July 1.

A couple of years ago we implemented our Monday recycling program. Don't forget that you can get a coupon at town hall that gives you a break on the cost of a recycle cart at ACE Hardware in Atlantic Beach. When we recycle, rather than putting recyclables in the trash, the town trash expenses are spared some of the tipping (disposal) fees associated with household garbage. This is good for our environment and good for our town.

The month of June is when recreational activities increase in the waters around Pine Knoll Shores. A proclamation that I signed in May designated May 20-26 as National Safe Boating Week. In the continuing effort to promote boating safety, I encourage you to have your boat or vessel safety checked by the Fort Macon Sail and Power Squadron any time of the year.

Seasonal change to speed limit. We have made some changes to our traffic pattern on Highway 58. Because we have had too many close calls for pedestrians and too many car crashes, a seasonal change has been made, reducing the speed limit to 35 mph for a short distance from the eastern town line to just past the Hampton Inn. One problem on this road is that mornings and evenings the sun could be right in your line of vision, requiring that drivers pay close attention. In addition, there are other distractions. Car accidents in North Carolina have gone up dramatically over the past year. The reason: cell phones. As our population spikes during the summer, please give undivided attention to your driving.

Enjoy our summer season. This is the time we were all looking forward to in February. To our many volunteers, thank you for everything you consistently do for our town. One team, one town, one Pine Knoll Shores.