

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

Welcome to the summer of 2017. This is going to be the best.

Before I get too deep into things, I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Kayak for the Warriors events. Held on May 27, June 1 and June 3, all events were very successful and may well have set some new records. One of the most common comments from the kayak and paddleboard race was about all the supporters along the canal cheering the participants on. Again, thank you. I am very proud to live here, and even prouder to be your mayor. Volunteers, staff, and some outside help make our teams unbeatable.

On May 24, Town Manager Brian Kramer and I went to Raleigh with a few other folks from Carteret County and some of the other coastal towns and counties to fight against the NC Senate bill that was going to redistribute the sales and use tax in North Carolina. This bill was nothing more than wealth redistribution, and it had already been approved by the NC Senate, with our senator voting in favor. The bill had made the cross into the NC House and we were running out of time. As you may recall, the purpose of this bill was to take about \$45K out of our town budget, and in the end was to take out over \$70K. This would have impacted our law enforcement and fire and emergency management capabilities. This bill was *not* in the Senate budget bill, making it a "stand alone" bill, which makes it easier to pinpoint and stop.

That day I met with about 10 House members, including Representative Jason Saine from Lincoln County. He has been very helpful in the past with this same issue, and believes in local government. Along with Representative Saine, Representative Bill Brawley of Mecklenberg County was extremely helpful in getting the House version of the budget to pass and not letting our tax dollars go elsewhere. Thank you, gentlemen.

Like you, I read about the coyote problem in our county, our state, and all across the country. In other words, if you are concerned about this, you are not alone. The best way to get rid of any animal is to take away its food source. Please *do not* feed the coyotes. If you are concerned with the mosquito problem every summer, take away their breeding areas as well, which is standing water. It only takes about two days for a mosquito to lay eggs and hatch, resulting in the mosquito population multiplying. Again, please *do not* help them multiply.

There is winter, spring, summer, fall, and hurricane season. Hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30, with the peak being around the middle of September. Take all weather watches and warnings seriously, and be prepared. If you do not have a re-entry pass, one can be obtained at the Pine Knoll Shores public safety building located on Salter Path Road. This pass is for property owners and residents of our town. We do use them, and we do turn people away if they don't have one. Make this your first step in your storm preparedness plan.

Pine Knoll Shores is *always* a great place to be, and the warmth and sunshine of summer make life even better. I wish you a fun and safe summer. One team, one town, one Pine Knoll Shores.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Filan
Lois Heffelfinger
Robert Vayda
Ellen VonThaden

Free Piano Concert at St. Francis

At 7 p.m. on Friday, July 14, pianist Brenda Bruce will perform a concert of "Familiar Favorites . . . Music of Schumann, Liszt and Gershwin" at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Salter Path. The program also includes "The Blue Danube" by Johann Strauss. Concert seating begins at 6:45.

Ms. Bruce, a well-known North Carolina pianist, invites people of all ages to be deeply engaged as well as entertained. Her performances have taken her throughout the Southeast, New England and Europe. She has performed with the North Carolina Symphony, given numerous recitals at the North Carolina Museum of Art (1991, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2002), and other prestigious venues throughout the state.

Ms. Bruce holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Methodist College in her home state of Missouri, and a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston. After graduating from the conservatory, she lived in the Boston area for some 12 years before moving to Raleigh.

Ms. Bruce has been honored as the recipient of a Raleigh Emerging Artists Grant, an individual artist grant, and the Independent Music Teachers Grant from the Music Teachers National Association, the most important national association for music teachers in all areas. She is listed in North Carolina Touring Artist Who's Who of American Women and Outstanding Musicians of the 20th and 21st Centuries.

One of her most unusual jobs as a pianist was her 12-year engagement as pianist for two hours daily in the dining room of SAS Institute, a multinational developer of analytics software in Cary. Here she performed classics, show tunes, nursery rhymes and popular standards for the clientele. For her program at St. Francis, she presents favorite songs arranged for solo piano.

A dedicated teacher, Ms. Bruce maintains a private studio in Cary. In March 2013, she was invited to be an adjudicator in the Music Festival for the Schools of Music and Speech in Hong Kong. Most recently, in March 2017, her former student, now at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, won first place in the National Competition for the Music Teachers National Association.

Concert admission is free and a reception follows. All are welcome and donations are accepted to sustain the series.

St. Francis by the Sea is located at 920 Salter Path Road in Salter Path. The church website is stfrancisbythesea.org and the phone number is 240-2388.

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