

PIKSCO Happenings

By Buz Jenkins

The PIKSCO annual membership meeting was held July 15 at McNeill Park. Many homeowners attended the meeting, which included an update from Mayor Ken Jones. Buz Jenkins talked about the key accomplishments during this past year and then all enjoyed a hot dog cookout. Elections results for the two open positions were announced. Ric Cox and Gary Corsmeier were elected as new directors. Both have served on the PIKSCO board previously, and we welcome their expertise and willingness to continue to serve this great community.

The town's Fourth of July parade from Garner Park around our PIKSCO neighborhood and back to the park was a great success. The mayor kicked off the largest parade yet, which highlighted decorated bikes, wagons, golf carts and fire trucks. Thanks to our PIKSCO members for decorating their houses and cheering as the parade passed by.

Real Estate News

By Marian Goetzinger, Pine Knoll Shores Realty



Don't do these things

Real estate is local and fickle. The house that has been on the market for months may suddenly have three offers at once. Your relative in another part of the state tells you that houses sell the day they go on the market while a friend in another state can't seem to give her house away. Right here in Pine Knoll Shores all of those scenarios may happen in any given week. The market is unpredictable, so don't risk losing the one you really want.

Don't delay. Be prepared. If you are shopping for a home, go ahead and get ready. Reevaluate your budget to know how much house you can really afford. If you plan to pay cash, you might want to consult your financial planner to see if that is the best move for you. With interest rates so low, it may be smart to get a mortgage. If you still plan to pay cash, ask your bank to provide you with a document supporting proof of funds. If you will get a mortgage, ask your lender for a preapproval letter.

Don't make a lowball offer. If this is the home you really want and it is reasonably priced, don't risk offending the seller and losing your dream home to a buyer who brings in a full price offer. Forget trying to see how low they will go. A real estate transaction should be a win/win. If the seller holds out for more than you want to pay, remember: a property is worth whatever a buyer is willing and able to pay. And by all means, don't point out all the defects in the home or question the owners' taste to justify a low offer.

Don't skip inspections. A home is one of the largest financial expenditures most of us will ever make. Don't save a few hundred dollars now and risk a much bigger expenditure later. Sellers and realtors are required by law to disclose any material defects of which they are aware, but there could be thousands of dollars' worth of issues inside walls, under floors or in the attic that no one has even suspected. Get a professional home inspection.

Don't be too picky. When a seller has more than one potential buyer, he or she may choose the one who seems easiest to deal with. Make your offer as clean as possible, addressing only the main issues—purchase price, due diligence fees, earnest money and closing date. The more items you put in the offer, the more items must be negotiated. Also note that most lenders will not allow personal property to be part of the contract, so if you are getting a loan and you want the home to be left furnished or partially furnished, handle that outside of the purchase agreement.

Notifications have been sent out announcing the annual fees and the renewal of kayak and canoe rack fees. Homeowners are reminded that the kayak and canoe racks are for use by renters only.

Boaters are reminded the dock at McNeill Park is for loading and unloading only, and is not a day dock. Boaters should not tie up to this dock for extended periods of time.

We continue to improve our website and look for it to provide the timely information that homeowners need. Look for a new Hammer Park volunteer sign-up link on the website under Parks/Hammer.

We are always looking for residents who would like to serve and are willing to volunteer a few hours of their time and expertise. We need your help to keep PIKSCO parks looking good and to suggest changes that we can make to improve our life here in paradise.

PIKSCO contact. For questions, concerns, to express a willingness to volunteer or to provide feedback, contact Erica Reed at 247-4818, piksco@ec.rr.com, through the website at piksco.com or by mail at P.O. Box 366, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512. In addition, members may contact Buz Jenkins at 622-4554.

Book Talk

Moonglow by Michael Chabon
HarperCollins, 2016

Reviewed by Ken Wilkins

In his author's note, Michael Chabon explains his approach to *Moonglow* this way: "In preparing this memoir, I have stuck to facts except when facts refused to conform with . . . the truth. . . . Whenever liberties have been taken . . . the reader is assured that they have been taken with due abandon."

We are having a summer Sunday School series on books, and we had the opportunity recently to discuss why one reads fiction. Nadine Gordimer, my favorite writer, once said, "The facts are always less than what happened." She was undoubtedly one of the best at proving that "fiction" is, in fact, a misnomer: Much truth is found in truly good fiction.

Moonglow is no exception to this adage. Michael Chabon presents this book as a memoir, the memories of his grandfather on his deathbed. The reader will be forgiven for hoping that this is a true story, or at least that the narrator's grandfather really did the things he writes.

This book, though really a novel, eschews that form to avoid conventional restraints such as plot and linearity. The book moves from the end of grandfather's life to its beginning, with stops at various places along the way. Our hero, it turns out, was a kind of genius, with a fascination for rockets, outer space, and above all, colonizing the moon. He even built a scale model of such a colony.

Grandfather met his wife at an evening affair at his synagogue. Some women thought that his future wife would be a good match for the rabbi, who turns out to be grandfather's brother. Fate had other plans, and the two fell in love. Theirs was a love that would outlast madness, prison and various other trials and tribulations.

The grandmother came to this country after the war as a displaced person with a child. She was haunted by the ghosts of the war throughout her life, and this haunting contributed to her severe bouts of depression, characterized by the appearance in her mind of a "skinless horse." Our narrator's grandparents' love for each other is worth the price of admission here.

Moonglow tells a love story, but also much more. Chabon gives us a view of rocket science and trips to outer space and the moon. He creates his own scale model of life, all of which was premised on the events of the Second World War. This work is a crafty blend of truth and a pack of lies that tells more truth than a simple retelling of the facts of WWII, the quest to put humans in space, or the biography of the narrator's grandparents could give.