

## From the Internet

Emails make the rounds with all sorts of strange, interesting and sometimes useless information. This thought-provoking list recently landed in the email box of one of our editors. It is presented here for entertainment only.

- Kindness is in our power even when fondness is not.—Henry James
- Compassion is language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.—Mark Twain
- Carry a heart that never hates, a smile that never fades, and a touch that never hurts.
- Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true.—Robert Brault
- Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you, not because they are nice but because you are.
- Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.
- A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you will remember. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.
- It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.
- Today, give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he or she sees all day.
- If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
- I always prefer to believe the best of everybody. It saves so much trouble.—Rudyard Kipling
- Don't be yourself . . . be someone nicer.
- Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.
- Love your enemies. It will confuse them greatly.
- There is one word that may serve as a rule for all one's life: reciprocity.—Confucius
- Grownups know that little things matter and that relationships are based on respect.
- Don't wait for people to be friendly. Show them how.—Henry James
- The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway.—Henry Boyle
- When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.—Abraham Heschel
- If we should deal out justice only in this world, who would escape? No, it is better to be generous for it gains us gratitude.—Mark Twain
- Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, and tolerant of the weak . . . because someday in your life you will be all of these.—George Washington Carver
- You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.—John Wooden
- If those who owe us nothing gave us nothing, how poor would we be?—Antonio Porchia
- You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late.—Ralph Waldo Emerson
- By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach.—Winston Churchill
- Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.—Frank A. Clark
- We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.—Epictetus
- Don't let those who take advantage of your generosity stop you from being generous.
- Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.—Maya Angelou
- In a world full of people who couldn't care less, be someone who cares more.
- Love thy neighbor, and if it requires you to bend the truth, the truth will understand.

## Meet Your Town Staff

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Officer Reed is the town's newest police officer, sworn into office on April 24, shortly after passing the State of North Carolina test for law enforcement certification. Admittedly, coming from industry to law enforcement has been a steep learning curve for Officer Reed, but he has no regrets. He is where he wants to be. He credits his mentor, Chief Ryan Thompson, as well as the entire Pine Knoll Shores Police Department staff (he calls them "great people") for their support and assistance as he continues to grow in his understanding of community policing and adapt to his new position. While Officer Reed is the newest town police officer, he is not the youngest. His route to law enforcement has had some interesting stops along the way.



Pine Knoll Shores Police Officer Blair Reed

Officer Reed grew up in Apex, graduated from Apex High School and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from NC State University in 1991. While at NC State, his goal was to have a career in the criminal justice system, but circumstance provided a different path.

For several years, Reed worked in a management position for Buffalo Tire Company in Jacksonville. While in Jacksonville, he met his wife, Erica. When Erica moved to Chicago in 2005 to be closer to her family, Reed pulled up his NC roots and joined her. The couple married in 2006 in the Little White Chapel in Las Vegas (I love that part). While in Chicago, the couple first worked for NRC Realty, a company that specialized in the buying and selling of gas stations, where Reed was vice president of administration. In 2010, the British Petroleum oil rig explosion and subsequent oil spill forced NRC Realty to significantly downsize. The Reeds then worked for Automatic Data Processing (ADP), a human capital management solutions company, which allowed them to work from home.

In 2013, the house in Pine Knoll Shores once owned by Officer Reed's grandfather, George "Buck" Sloan, and where Officer Reed had spent his summers, came up for sale. The couple bought the house and moved to Pine Knoll Shores with their young son.

Initially, they continued working for ADP from their home, but ultimately turned down an invitation from ADP to relocate to Norfolk, preferring to raise their son in Pine Knoll Shores. Their focus had changed from their careers in industry to becoming active citizens and contributors to their community—and to a simpler life. Officer Reed enrolled in Basic Law Enforcement Training at Carteret Community College and Erica became the secretary and treasurer for PIKSCO. Since their relocation, they have been renovating their home and have added a water-loving golden retriever to their family.

The Reed family attends Glad Tidings Church and also volunteers for a local youth hunting and fishing club called Cross Trail Outfitters: Crystal Coast, which is for students ages 7 to 20. They also volunteer for the Carolina Elite Red Fish Tournament at the Big Rock Landing in Morehead City.

The Reed family enjoys boating, kayaking, fishing, shrimping and gigging for flounder. A favorite spot to spend some time is Cape Lookout where Hunter, the water-loving golden, refuses to get out of the water and into the boat to go home. It's not easy getting a stubborn, wet, 80-pound dog into a boat when he has different plans. Officer Reed explains that figuring out creative ways to persuade Hunter to come aboard is all part of the fun.