

By Michelle Powers

Now that September is here, Pine Knoll Shores residents have lots to look forward to—less traffic, fewer beachgoers, cooler weather, and maybe a hurricane or two (but, let's hope *not* on that last one). Most importantly, we can look forward to the resumption of the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club monthly meetings. Women's Club President Betty Thomas and her leadership team of Vice President JoAnne Ferguson, Recording Secretary Maria DeCandia, Corresponding Secretary Ronnie Stanley and Treasurer Libby Gallagher were installed at the club's spring luncheon on June 1 at the Coral Bay Club. Since that time the club's officers have been planning for an exciting 2018-2019 club year.

Vice President Ferguson has lined up a series of speakers, focusing on promoting healthy lifestyles. At the season's kickoff meeting on Friday, September 28, the guest speaker will be Martha Masaad, speaking about the benefits of essential oils as they relate to our overall health. In October the speaker will be Kathryn Hudson, speaking about Reiki therapy. Other topics on healthy living will follow in the months to come and will be announced at the September meeting and in the local media.

President Betty Thomas notes that while 17 committees and special interest groups have chairs already in place to host meetings, special events, social activities and a variety of charitable causes, she seeks volunteers to assist on the Scholarship Committee and the Arts and Culture Committee. The Scholarship Committee serves as a liaison with the club's college scholarship recipient, usually a deserving female student attending Carteret Community College. The Scholarship Committee raises funds during the course of the year and stays in touch with the student to monitor her progress and to provide encouragement and mentorship. An additional volunteer to help with that committee would be appreciated.

A major goal of the Women's Club is to foster intellectual enhancement for its members. To that end, the Arts and Culture Committee chair provides information, at the club's monthly meetings, on local cultural offerings in Carteret County. Many residents relocated to our area from metropolitan regions where they had easy access to a variety of cultural activities—and often they are unaware of the wide range of cultural and educational resources that are available in Carteret County. These include programs offered through the Carteret Arts Forum, the American Music Festival, lectures by local authors hosted by The Country Club of the Crystal Coast, and a variety of offerings of the Carteret Community Theatre, the Carteret Arts Council and local libraries. Organizations such as the League of Women Voters, Duke Marine Lab, Cooperative Extension, and Carteret Community College offer periodic lectures on civic and environmental topics of interest. The History Museum of Carteret County, the Core Sound Museum, the Beaufort Historic Site, the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, and the NC Maritime Museum offer a wide variety of programs that delight young and adult audiences on a regular basis. The job of the Arts and Culture chair is to bring information to club members about these and other cultural opportunities. At monthly club meetings the Arts and Culture chair posts information on the club's bulletin board from publicity found in the local media and through the cultural organizations' direct publicity. Club members, please think about taking on this vital and interesting job for the betterment of the club members and to support the county's cultural and educational organizations.

Please mark your calendars for the September 28 meeting at the Pine Knoll Shores town hall, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guests are always welcome. Refreshments and an opportunity to mingle with friends and neighbors precede the start of the meeting. Please join us.

## Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

### How are we doing?

This year's saying could very well be "Off to the Races." It has been a good and busy year for Pine Knoll Shores. Many issues have come up, and people have asked me to write something on those that we've talked about. A big topic has been whether our storm water ordinance contributes to loss of trees. Two other issues have been the coyote problem and crosswalk safety. My objective is just to remind you of some of the ordinances and the extent to which they are effective and observed.

**Storm water ordinance and trees.** Pine Knoll Shores is a Tree City USA, and we want to keep it that way. Ordinances are in place for the common good of all citizens, not to harm the citizens or their wallets. Your commissioners and I have heard a number of complaints, and all of the town commissioners and I agree that there are far too many trees falling victim to our storm water ordinance. This was addressed at the August Board of Commissioners meeting and a fix has been put in to replace ordinances with good judgement and common sense. Because of the land value, people want to maximize the size and use of that land. The result has been that there is very little drainage, so engineered systems have been put in the ground and trees have been ripped out. Trees drink a tremendous amount of water. They also make oxygen that we humans need, provide shade and protection, and keep our property values up—all positive reasons to keep more trees.

**Coyote update.** We had a huge coyote problem that, at times, seemed to be getting worse exponentially. We had several meetings and the resounding opinions were to quit feeding them with trash and cat food, and to harass them so they will stay away. We also put out the word that trash in bags only was not fixing anything, and people have responded to reminders to put trash out in closed cans. I have not heard a lot about coyotes these days, and I don't hear them so much at night. I know of people who are still feeding their cats with food left out all the time—and I'm here to ask you to stop. We have made a lot of headway, and we need to keep heading in the right direction.

**Crosswalk safety.** Since they were installed, there has been a huge safety concern about our crosswalks. There is a feeling that people are complacent about the flashing lights currently installed at our crosswalks, and there is strong opinion that pedestrian-activated crosswalk signs like those in front of the Dollar General in Atlantic Beach will help to resolve some of that. This issue is going to get a whole lot more attention, and I'm hoping to get some state funds to help us pay for this upgrade. These lights are \$24,000 per crosswalk, with a sign facing each way. To install these lights at the crosswalks we currently have would require a total of \$72,000.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you who continue to volunteer to keep our town and our citizens safe, energized and beautiful. If you aren't currently volunteering, please come over to town hall and fill out the one-page application. If you love it here in Pine Knoll Shores, like most of us do, please volunteer and join our town team. Without your help, we are missing a key ingredient to our town's community—one team, one town, one Pine Knoll Shores.

### Scam of the Month

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Far too often I hear about contractors being paid half the money for a job up front and never returning to finish the work. Check with your friends for recommendations—and if that isn't an option, call several previous clients to see how their experience was with that contractor. A little leg work ahead of time has the potential to save you a lot of headache in the future.