

# Real Estate News

By Marian Goetzinger, Pine Knoll Shores Realty



## Where will the baby boomers retire?

What a surprise to find two North Carolina areas listed in the top seven fastest growing retirement areas in America. According to a recent issue of "RealtorMag Online," a surge in retirees is anticipated. If you were born between 1946 and 1964, you are a baby boomer, like me. If you have not already retired, you are probably thinking about it and making plans. If you are not already located on the Crystal Coast, you may be headed our way soon.

In 2018, a record number of age 55 or older people, nearly 1.2 million, relocated out-of-state, choosing a wider range of areas to live than previous retirees. They are looking for less metropolitan areas and warmer (but not too warm) weather. They crave the small town and the marine type of environment we love here. Researchers for realtor.com looked at the number of people age 55 and up who moved in recent years and where they relocated. Two of the seven areas identified were in North Carolina. Number 7 is the Asheville area and number 6 is the Morehead City area, the Crystal Coast.

What does that mean to those of us who are already here? These new residents will bring different cultures and new ideas of what kinds of entertainment and support they want and need. It will be an exciting time or a frustrating time, depending on your perspective. There will be new development and the infrastructure necessary to support the increased population. This will be a profitable time for builders and other local businesses. It will definitely be a challenging time for local governments as they struggle to support the new development and increased population while continuing to honor their commitment to protecting our maritime forests and the rest of our natural environment.

New age-friendly entertainment may crop up, along with more age-friendly shops and restaurants. Churches may need to add a few pews, and volunteer organizations can count on some new, enthusiastic workers. Medical practitioners may need to add more support staff, and they definitely need to begin to market to baby boomers a little more.

If you would like for our area to stay just like it is, or if you yearn for the way it was when you first discovered the Crystal Coast, you will need to adjust your attitude a bit. "They" already know we are here—and they are headed our way.

## This Month's Puzzle Solutions

8	5	3	4	1	7	9	2	6
2	1	7	3	6	9	4	8	5
4	9	6	8	2	5	7	3	1
6	4	2	9	7	3	5	1	8
9	7	5	2	8	1	6	4	3
1	3	8	5	4	6	2	9	7
3	2	9	7	5	8	1	6	4
5	8	1	6	9	4	3	7	2
7	6	4	1	3	2	8	5	9

B	O	R	E	S		X	X	V	I		C	U	B	E			
A	V	A	S	T		E	X	I	T		A	T	O	P			
B	E	I	S	A		R	I	S	E		L	I	N	E			
U	N	D	E	R		C	O	V	E	R		C	L	U	E		
						L	I	X			A	G	U	E	S		
C	O	R	N	E	A		F	A	T	A	L						
U	B	O	A	T		C	I	N	E	M	A	T	I	C			
R	O	O	T			A	U	N	T	S		T	I	D	Y		
B	E	F	U	D	D	L	E	S			D	O	M	E	S		
						R	I	O	T	S		A	R	R	E	S	T
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T	E	A	L			T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S	S		
S	A	R	I			I	O	N	S		N	O	V	A	E		
A	S	K	S			V	O	T	E		E	V	E	N	T		
R	E	S	T			E	M	I	T		T	E	N	D	S		

# PIKSCO Happenings

By Gary Corsmeier

We are happy to announce that Mark Bupp has joined the PIKSCO board. Mark replaces Buz Jenkins, who recently resigned to move back to Virginia.

Mark and his wife, Sheila, moved here in April 2018 from western Pennsylvania. He is a 1994 graduate of the University of Valley Forge and presently a manager with Rucker Johns in Emerald Isle.

An ordained minister with credentials from Clear River Network in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he has held various pastoral ministry positions over the past 25 years. Having lived in Myrtle Beach and Raleigh, it has been Mark and Sheila's dream to return to the coast. After vacationing along the Outer Banks for the past 17 years, they decided to make Pine Knoll Shores their home—and we are glad they did.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Florence also welcomed them with water damage to their home, making it uninhabitable, but even with rebuilding and working full time, Mark still expressed an interest in getting involved in the community. At his first board meeting, Mark volunteered to help lead one of our projects.

Plans for the repair work of the bulkhead and dock at McNeill Inlet have been finalized, and our vendor will start soon. Given the backlog of work our vendors have, it could be several weeks or more before they start, but it will be completed by spring.

The Garner Park tree work and clean-up is finally complete. One major remaining item is the installation of our new sprinkler system and re-landscaping. We are also in queue for that. Florence greatly impacted the trees at Garner Park, and our plans were to handle the higher priority items first and then work on the miscellaneous clean-up items in stages. Spring is right around the corner, and you can look forward to overall park beautification for all parks.

**PIKSCO contact.** For questions, concerns, to express a willingness to volunteer or to provide feedback, contact Erica Reed by call or text at 252-247-4818, email at piksco@gmail.com, through our website at piksco.com or by mail at P.O. Box 366, Atlantic Beach NC 28512.

## Ditch Dwellers

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are two species of siren in North Carolina, the greater siren (*Siren lacertian*), which can grow to lengths over 30 inches, and the eastern lesser siren (*Siren i. intermedia*), which rarely exceeds two feet. They are very difficult to distinguish from one another except by size, and the fact that lesser sirens seem to favor more acidic (low pH) habitats such as ponds, ditches and streams in pine forests.

Like amphiumas, sirens are found only in North America, but have a much larger range, extending up the Mississippi Valley as far north as Michigan and south into Mexico. Along the east coast, the greater siren ranges as far north as Washington, D.C., but the eastern lesser siren occurs no farther north than North Carolina. Sirens primarily eat small aquatic invertebrates but can also filter feed from bottom detritus.

Both of these large salamanders are important sources of food for snakes, herons and alligators. You may currently see a siren on display at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores in Roadside Wonders next to the alligators in the Coastal Plain gallery.

*Frederick Boyce is the staff herpetologist at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores.*



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