

Caitlyn Edwards Granted P.E.O. Loan

By Jacquie Pipkin

Caitlyn Edwards, granddaughter of Pine Knoll Shores residents Tom and Arleen Graczewski, received the prestigious Educational Loan Fund (ELF) award for \$12,000 from the National Chapter of the P.E.O. sisterhood after being recommended as a worthy candidate by Pine Knoll Shores Chapter CY. This loan is granted to a woman who is within two years of graduating from an accredited college or university. The loan interest is 2%, and Caitlyn does not need to begin making payments until six months after she graduates. Mrs. Graczewski, who assisted Caitlyn in completing her application, calls the loan a godsend, and Caitlyn says that this award has lifted a great deal of stress off her mind and from her family.

Caitlyn lives in Pittsburgh with her family and is a rising junior at Campbell University, studying communications and public relations. She is on the swim team and is a member of the communications club. She is a member of Campbell's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), where she serves as a lead for social media, and has been nominated into Leadership Education/Action Development (LEAD), an organization for student leaders in athletics.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic educational organization that provides grants, loans and scholarships to deserving women to continue and complete their education. There are six projects that can provide awards for students at the high school, community college, college and doctoral program levels. For more information about P.E.O. and its philanthropies, go to peointernational.org. For information specific to North Carolina chapters, go to peonc.org.



From left: Arlene Graczewski; Caitlyn's mother, Laura Edwards; Caitlyn Edwards; and PEO representatives Jacquie Pipkin and Jean Turner.

—Photo by Kathy Tilyard



By Jean McDanal

Founded in 1974, the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club is celebrating its 45th year. As the town developed, the Garden Club took on various projects, including yearly plant sales, Christmas luminaria, and the replanting of 1,500 long-leaf pine saplings during a southern pine beetle infestation.

Our goal is to create and nurture beauty and function for the town through sustainability. We try to incorporate plants that are both salt and drought resistant due to the sometimes-fickle growing conditions at the beach.

One of our most recent projects is the Blue Star memorial on Highway 58. We have a total of 10 gardens, including the one at the Blue Star memorial, two on Pine Knoll Boulevard, the Hereth Garden in front of town hall, two on Roosevelt Boulevard, Mimosa Boulevard, Dogwood Circle East, Dogwood Circle West and Oakleaf Drive.

Our biggest fundraiser continues to be selling Christmas wreaths that we get from the mountains of North Carolina. We will begin selling them in October.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at town hall, beginning with a 9:30 a.m. social. Special speakers often give us informative presentations on all aspects of gardening and pollinators. We have also traveled to various gardens and events, such as the Art in Bloom event at the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh. Workdays are scheduled twice a year for heavy maintenance of our gardens—and our Christmas luncheon and end-of-year luncheon in May are outstanding events.

Please watch for more information in upcoming columns that will present our programs for the 2019-2020 club year. We love our guests and hope you will consider coming to our first meeting on September 11. Come grow with us.



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Reuse.
Recycle.