

A Celebration of Friendship and Service

By Janie Price

Friends gathered in October to celebrate and extend well wishes to friend and long-time Pine Knoll Shores resident Diane Donovan before she relocates to Raleigh to be near family.

Back in the '80s, Diane and husband, Jay, had built their retirement home in Florida, but plans changed when they decided to stop in Pine Knoll Shores to visit friends. During that and later visits, they found Pine Knoll Shores to be so appealing that they never moved to Florida. Diane arrived in July 1985, and Jay followed a few months later after finishing up things with his job. Diane and Jay took to life in Pine Knoll Shores. They had some established friends already living here and joined the country club, where they made even more connections.

About the time that Diane arrived in town, there was a growing interest in establishing a library on the island. The Marine Resources Center (predecessor to today's aquarium) had been hosting a small space for the library, but when it was decided that the space was needed to house a sea turtle exhibit, the search began for a permanent location.

Having been a library volunteer since 3rd grade, Diane agreed to chair the committee to relocate the library, and work began to find a suitable building. All towns along Bogue Banks were considered, but in the end, Pine Knoll Shores was chosen because of its central location.

The Friends of the Library was organized, with Diane serving as its first president, and donations were solicited for the new library. A space was donated in town; furnishings were provided at wholesale cost by a local furniture broker; funds came from towns, businesses and individuals; and the Bogue Banks Public Library in its own space became a reality.

Diane also volunteered to do office work with home hospice when that service was first established, with the Salvation Army Board of Directors and with volunteers who worked to dress teddy bears and dolls to be given to disadvantaged children, and she even served for a while on the *Shoreline* staff. She also found time to serve a couple of terms on the board of Pine Knoll Association.

After Jay passed away in 1991, Diane found she wanted more activities to help fill the void left by the loss of her dear husband. She volunteered at the library, at the aquarium and at the Beaufort Historical Association (BHA). With her degree in retailing, it wasn't long before she took over the gift shop for BHA, which turned into a "real" job.

Many in Pine Knoll Shores have been touched by Diane through the years, and this writer is no exception. A number of years ago, Diane assisted in teaching bridge to a group of town residents—and that has helped to create a circle of fast friends. Diane is a formidable opponent at the bridge table, yet is quick to offer encouragement and tips when needed.

As she heads to Raleigh, Diane plans to continue to knit lap robes, prayer shawls, and baby sweaters and blankets to benefit those in need. She will spend more time with family and continue to play bridge. She says she also plans to relax—but we'll see how that goes.

Thank you and best wishes, Diane. You have certainly left your mark on Pine Knoll Shores.

2019: YEAR OF THE TREE

Community Appearance Commission Update

By Amry Cox, CAC Member

Many folks naturally think about spring planting, but fall has distinct benefits and may be even better. Cooler temperatures are easier on both those doing the planting and the plants. The earth is still warm and allows for root growth up through a hard frost or winter freeze. Fall may even have a greater number of good planting days when temperatures, rain and sun nicely align.

Fall can also bring bargain buys at nurseries, as they are trying to limit inventory before winter sets in. According to the Better Homes and Gardens online site, less watering is needed in fall, with its milder temperatures, than in spring to counteract higher temperatures and dryer summer months.

Fall's mild temperatures and normal rainfall contribute to growing new root stock, and the plants are not also trying to produce new leaves. Adding leaf litter and mulch, which introduce vital nutrients for root growth, is a further aid. A stronger, more developed root system is better to support new growth in the spring. According to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, which has a program in tree research, it is best to refrain from fertilizing in the fall as that would unnecessarily promote new top growth.

Did you know that different species of trees might have their own time of year for optimum development? Trees to consider planting in the fall are hawthorn, maple, sycamore and pines (best to choose longleaf or slash, which are not as attractive to pine beetles). Conifers with needle leaves need a somewhat earlier start in the fall than hardwoods because they prefer the slightly warmer soil temperature of late summer.

Davey Tree Service's company blog has an easy to remember rule of thumb: plant at least six weeks prior to extreme conditions of winter or summer. This gives the newly planted tree time to start acclimating and sending out new roots before it goes into hibernation and freezing or experiences the heat and dryness of summer.

So, fall is fine for planting, and November is nice in our growing zone. An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 mature trees were lost due to Hurricane Florence. Another 750-800 trees have been lost due to wind and a surging infestation of pine bark beetles. The town and residents have their work cut out for them replacing that number of trees because it takes a decade or two to grow a mature tree. Replant now—and again in the spring.

Since we are talking about trees, a quick shout out to the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club for celebrating their 45th year and their own Year of the Tree. Our tree population and tree canopy need all the help they can get.

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