



At The Aquarium

The NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores offers a variety of programs to entertain and inform visitors. In addition to the regular programs listed here, there are ongoing and one-time events.

Tuesdays and Fridays

Behind the Scenes: Shark Snack—2:30-3:30 p.m. Visit food preparation areas, animal holding areas and labs, and get an overhead view of the Living Shipwreck and watch the aquarist feed the sharks. Ages 5 and up, \$20 (\$18 for aquarium members).

Wednesdays

Toddler Time—9:30-10:15 a.m. Toddlers ages 18 months to 3 years, at no extra cost, can get to know aquatic animals through age-appropriate lessons, stories, crafts and up-close encounters.

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

Behind the Scenes: Feeding Frenzy—2:30-3:30 p.m. Visit food preparation areas, animal holding areas and labs, and help feed the fish in the Living Shipwreck. Ages 5 and up; \$20 (\$18 for aquarium members). Children 5-12 must be accompanied by a paying adult.

#HydrateLike an aquarist and an aviculturist. An estimated eight million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year. To address this, the North Carolina aquariums partnered with the Lonely Whale Foundation to advocate the end of single-use plastic water bottles. Join the aquarium and question how you hydrate—and flex your super social powers and challenge others to #HydrateLike as well.

Next time you reach for a single-use plastic water bottle or aim to toss an empty plastic bottle in the recycling bin, consider the following: 91 percent of plastic is never recycled, and 500 billion bottles are used around the globe annually. That is a lot of trash. #HydrateLikeABoss with a glass of water or a reusable bottle, an aluminum can, or other filtered filling options. Join the aquarium team who #HydrateLike an aquarist and #HydrateLike an aviculturist.

One-Time Events

Sensory Friendly Coastal Play Day—February 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This will be a day of discovery designed for children and adults living with autism and their families. Explore the aquarium using your senses. Activities will include nature walks (weather permitting), live animal programs, a sensory exploration room, “quiet” dive program, calm space for families, guest guide passports, and local autism support organizations. Space is limited for our nature walk and live animal programs. Families will be able to register for the nature walks and live animal programs on the day of this event, which is free with aquarium admission. Fun fact: The 36-foot smoky mountain waterfall will be turned off during this special day.

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PKA News

By John Clarke

The Pine Knoll Association (PKA) monthly meeting was held on January 13. Our board discussed a number of items that are planned or already underway.

Each Tuesday, volunteers are needed to help remove and replace the wooden boards on the finger piers at Hall Haven. Work will start around 9 a.m., and if you have a crowbar, breaker bar, cordless drill or hammers, please bring them. We will have a person doing most of the sawing.

State planning is well underway for the beach renourishment that will be forthcoming in early March here at our beach. The alignment of the sand will be more or less on the same plane as the current vegetative line at the end of the walkway. There will be all sorts of equipment on the beach, so please note it may be a good idea to observe from the sittum or walk on a different part of the beach.

We have started collecting bids to repair, seal and repaint the parking lot spaces at Ocean Park. We will start as soon as we select a contractor, and parking will be unavailable until the sealer has dried properly. It may be that you should not walk on the lot either, so perhaps using Memorial Park or other lots would be your best bet.

Be on the lookout for sign-ups to be the weekly park captain at Ocean Park. We will most likely begin in April and continue through Thanksgiving.

The PKA annual meeting will be held in late June, and we are presently soliciting nominations for those who wish to serve on our board. We currently have three openings with the term beginning in July and running for three years. Responsibilities vary, and your input at monthly meetings helps all of your neighbors here. If you are interested, please send contact information to Dennise Wolfe at pkabox905@gmail.com. It is a great group, and you will enjoy your time on the board. Amry Cox is chair of the Nominating Committee and is joined by Susan Phillips. Reach out to them for more information.

We remind all boaters that the Pine Knoll Shores canal is a *No Wake* zone, and your attention to maintain a slow speed is appreciated. The wake will cause wash-outs of retaining walls and disturb boats that are in the water. The definition of “no wake” is simply using the slowest speed possible to maintain adequate navigational control of your vessel. Also, when you are out in your boat, if you see debris in the canal, please remove it or contact the office to notify our Waterway Committee.

It is the responsibility of all canal fronted lots to maintain their bulkheads. PKA and town staff will be touring the canal to make note of any that are in need of repair and notifying homeowners to take action. You will need a permit to do this work. Further, please do not blow debris from your yard into the canal. This debris collects in various places and often settles around one of your neighbor’s docks. Please advise your yard maintenance personnel as well. Thank you for monitoring this.

Each month there is a sittum get-together on the first Sunday at 5 p.m. There is no rain date. BYOB and a side item to share.

PKA contact. Contact PKA by phone at 252-240-1717, by email at PKAbox905@gmail.com, via the website at pineknollassociation.com, by mail at PO Box 905, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512, or by the drop box located at the corner of Sycamore Drive and West Olive Court. Like us on Facebook at Pine Knoll Association, Inc.