

# A Fond Farewell to Kathy Werle

By Michelle Powers and John Brodman

On October 27, 2020, a small group of Kathy Werle's friends gathered outside town hall on the deck overlooking Bogue Sound to recognize Kathy's many contributions to the Pine Knoll Shores community over a span of 18 years. Kathy, who was born in Michigan and graduated from Michigan State, had careers both as an educator and as a director of corporate finance for a large mid-Western bank, all while raising her three sons. She moved to Bald Head Island in the 1990s and subsequently bought a lot in Pine Knoll Shores, built her home and moved here full time in 2003.

Kathy, always a sensitive steward of our environment, served on the Community Appearance Commission, the Pedestrian Planning (Sidewalk) Committee, the editorial staff of *The Shoreline*, and on the Planning Board. She was one of the founding members of the Aging-In-Place Advisory Committee or, as it was later called, the Age-Friendly Community Committee, writing many articles for our local paper about the forums they sponsored on aging issues. At one point, she was also on the Architectural Review Committee for Pine Knoll Association. Kathy always exhibited an ability to do the work necessary to turn ideas into reality and an unending drive to serve the people and environment of Pine Knoll Shores.

For over 12 years, Kathy shared her considerable knowledge of land use issues as a member of the Pine Knoll Shores Planning Board. Her careers in banking and later in real estate sales provided her with an understanding of market forces and the aspects of life in Pine Knoll Shores that were important to residents and prospective new homeowners. These insights provided an important perspective to Planning Board decision-making. She served on many hard-working Planning Board subcommittees, helping to draft revised town ordinances that reflected current community concerns and environmental conditions.

As a valued member of the town's History Committee, she researched and wrote numerous articles on Pine Knoll Shores history for *The Shoreline* and the committee's history blog ([pineknollhistory.blogspot.com](http://pineknollhistory.blogspot.com)). Kathy's sense of humor and appreciation for a bit of whimsy shone through when, with a bit of gentle arm-twisting from her fellow committee members, she agreed to portray Alice Hoffman, the eccentric socialite who owned all the acreage that eventually became the Pine Knoll Shores of today. Kathy donned jodhpurs, hiking boots, strapped on a pistol (unloaded, of course) and with a stuffed parrot on her shoulder greeted over 100 attendees at a History Committee-sponsored lecture by Rodney Kemp on the life and legacy of Alice Hoffman.

Kathy's love of Pine Knoll Shores and her exceptional and caring friends and neighbors were the motivation for all her many volunteer involvements. She was truly instrumental in contributing to all that has made Pine Knoll Shores an incredible place to call home. Kathy is moving to the western part of our state to be closer to her family. Things around town won't be quite the same without her, and her new community is lucky to welcome her.

## Home Security and Safety

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to live with the guilt if your firearm is stolen from your vehicle and is used in a crime or involved in an incident where someone was hurt. Do not put yourself in that position. Far too many firearms are stolen from unlocked vehicles—and this shouldn't happen.

- If you are going out of town or are a second-home owner, consider signing up for our residential security check list. You can sign up by emailing Shelia Bupp at [psbadmin@townofpks.com](mailto:psbadmin@townofpks.com) to get a copy of the form, or download it from [townofpks.com](http://townofpks.com) and clicking Resources/Document Library/Forms/House Check Form.
- If you are interested in a home alarm system, shop around. There are fantastic solutions available that do not require contracts and are inexpensive.
- Get to know your neighbors. Take the time to meet your neighbors and encourage each other to look out for suspicious activity, people or vehicles in your neighborhood all times of the day. Criminals often choose the homes they are going to break into by driving around during daylight hours. Last year we arrested several suspects for breaking into homes during the day. They told us they targeted homes that were owned by elderly residents, and they picked them out by scouting them during daylight hours.
- Do not put boxes for large televisions or expensive electronics at the street for recycle pickup. This is basically an advertisement for thieves and a roadmap to who has the nicest stuff in the neighborhood. They can be broken down and deposited in a cardboard bin behind town hall.
- Be aware that glass panels next to your entry doors provide an easier opportunity to break into your home. Someone can easily break the glass panel and reach inside and unlock your door from the inside.

You can report suspicious activity in your neighborhood by calling our non-emergency number at 252-726-1911. We solve and prevent more crime by having citizen involvement than on our own. If you see something that does not look right, it probably is not. Call and report it.

## Reflective Address Signs Available



Minutes matter in an emergency. To help medical, fire and police responders find your home as quickly as possible, the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Auxiliary is making reflective address signs available. For a donation of \$20, signs that meet the specifications set

out by town ordinance will be made up by a fireman on duty. A post is available for an additional \$10, and a fireman will install it in the proper location for an additional \$10. Visit the public safety building at 314 Salter Path Road to order your sign.