## **Real Estate News**

By Marian Goetzinger, Pine Knoll Shores Realty

## Real estate changes

One of the best parts of working in real estate is watching the changes. I started in the business in South Carolina in 1995. Comparing those days to today is like comparing my sweet little Jack Russell terrier to a Tyrannosaurus rex. There are constant changes. One of the most noticeable changes is the movement from brick-and-mortar office spaces to brokers working mostly remotely from their homes and cars.

This past weekend, I experienced a moment that reminded me what a wonderful change I have been a part of in our very local real estate world. My husband Ted and I were the first family to move into Maritime Woods, the newest subdivision in Pine Knoll Shores. Saturday night, we hosted the first block party for our new neighborhood. If you haven't had such an event, I highly recommend it. We decorated our deck and backyard with party lights and colorful cushions from my favorite thrift store, cooked burgers and hotdogs on the grill, and almost all the new neighbors came. Some of us met for the first time. The guests brought their own beverages and side dishes. There was much laughter, conversations and too much food. Kids ran and played, and one got a bee sting. It was truly a family affair.

I had one of those out-of-body moments where I sat back away from the group and savored the moment. I remembered a moment years before when my real estate team and I each painted a one-word prayer on a rock and brought it to the woods. We had just been hired by the developer to market the new development that would be carved out of the woods.

The community had no name, no permits, no zoning and no real plan, but the developer had a dream, and the real estate team had the excitement and energy to make it happen. They all dreamed of a neighborhood here in the woods and what it would be. The words on the rocks were hope, peace, tranquility and love. The brokers found a clearing in the woods, said a prayer, buried the rocks and quietly left.

It had not been an easy journey. Sometimes hope, peace, tranquility and love were elusive. The path to where we wanted to go had not been a straight line, but here we were, right in the middle of the woods, in a neighborhood filled with hope, peace, tranquility and love.

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