

# The Shoreline

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A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Town Hall 247-4353

## Viewing Windows Installed On Aquarium Exhibit Tanks

Dramatic progress has been made at the new Aquarium over the last few months. Many complex construction tasks have been completed and the project has moved on to more familiar work – erecting walls, installing pre-fabricated equipment, and connecting the labyrinth of pipes, ducts, and conduits to make it all work.

March saw a major milestone in construction, when more than two-dozen large acrylic windows arrived on a flatbed truck from Colorado. The windows, made of the clear plastic we often call Plexiglas, are all shapes and sizes. Some are curved, others are flat, and a few are very, very large.

The largest is the main viewing window for the *Living Shipwreck* ocean exhibit. This massive slab measures 65 feet in length, 10 feet tall and 8 1/2 inches thick, and was lifted into place by a 300-ton crane. The window fit perfectly in the 306,000-gallon exhibit. To ensure waterproofing, a team from Reynolds Polymers applied silicone sealant. Other large windows were then set on the other sides of the *Shipwreck* display and in the *Queen Anne's Revenge* exhibit.

The crane also lowered the 70-foot-

long replica of the U-352 sub wreck into the *Shipwreck* exhibit, carefully placing the twelve, bolt-together sub sections on the *Shipwreck* tank floor, where it was then assembled into one unit.

Other ongoing work includes installing various mechanical, electrical and life-support components, diesel boilers, HVAC chillers, air-handling units, emergency electrical generators and dozens of electrical panels. Plumbing apparatus for the new restrooms are in, and large filters, treatment tanks, and protein skimmers are on site for aquarium life-support areas. Over the next few weeks work will continue on the *River Otter* exhibit and *Smoky Mountain Waterfall*.

The good news is the project is on schedule and on budget, and reopening is expected in May 2006. The Aquarium will begin hiring new staff later this summer. For hiring updates, monitor our employment web link.

Programs and field trips for spring at our off-site location in Atlantic Station Shopping Center are now on the Aquarium calendar. These include visitor favorites such as guided trips to Cape Lookout, canoe outings, onboard collecting cruises, Newport River trips and other activities. To find out what's going on, check the Aquarium website or call 247-4003.



SUB WRECK CENTERPIECE

This 70-foot-long replica of the U-352 sub wreck was recently installed in the new Aquarium's 306,000-gallon "Living shipwreck" exhibit.



**2006 PRELUDE** – America's "Tall Ship", the U.S. Coast Guard's Eagle, provided a taste of things to come when she sailed into Beaufort Inlet for a brief visit over Easter weekend. The Eagle will be back in Beaufort with a flotilla of "tall ships" from around the world from June 30 through July 5 next year. The visit, part of Pepsi Americas' Sail 2006, is expected to lure thousands to the Crystal Coast.

## Potholes Were the Least Of George Smith's Hurdles

By Ken Benson

George W. Smith was instrumental in getting the first road constructed between Atlantic Beach and Salter Path.

The first Atlantic Beach bridge was constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$110,000, but there was no road to Salter Path. Ten years later, Salter Path was still roadless. One could either get on a small boat with an inboard motor and use Bogue Sound as the highway or, if one had a car, wait until low tide and drive along the hard-packed beach to the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

George Smith did just that. He drove his old yellow school bus along the beach to the bridge and on to Morehead City. He had eight or ten school children aboard, four or five women who worked at Mr. & Mrs. Jackson's shirt factory on Bridges Street, and he also carried the U.S. mail.

In 1938 the citizens of Salter Path presented a petition to the Carteret County Commissioners requesting that a road be constructed connecting the nine miles between Salter Path and Atlantic

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Deadline for June issue is Monday, May 16. Deadline for July issue is Monday, June 20. Articles always welcome!