

# Beach Cleanup Day

By Maureen Kilgallen

In celebration of Clean Beaches Week, citizens of the area, visitors from Newport and Fayetteville, members of the Pine Knoll Shores Recreation Advisory Committee and volunteers from the North Carolina Aquarium met at the Iron Steamer Public Beach Access site on July 6 to take part in the third annual beach cleanup day. Volunteers spread out along the beach and bagged a substantial amount of debris, including cigarette butts, plastic items, and balloons left behind from the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Clean Beaches Week is the Earth Day for beaches. Held each year during the first week of July, it is a celebration of a healthy beach lifestyle. Clean Beaches Council is the lead organization for this national public awareness campaign designed to encourage Americans to eat healthy foods, become active and clean-up litter and trash from our beaches, while safely enjoying recreational activities.

Citizens are starting to recognize how hazardous litter can be for children, birds, fish and other wildlife. Plastic items pose a particular problem because they are lightweight, solid and durable, allowing them to endure in the environment for a lengthy period of time. Many smokers are under the impression that cigarette butts are not harmful to the environment. People seem to think they are biodegradable, however, they are not. They are 97% plastic and wind up floating in the water where fish, turtles and seabirds have been known to confuse them with food and ingest them. Balloons pose a similar problem. Pet owners also need to be vigilant about dog waste pickup. Indeed, in Pine Knoll Shores, individuals can be fined up to \$100 for neglecting to pick up after their pet!

It's all about everyone preserving the beauty of our beaches to Keep America Beautiful!

## HELP!!! CAN YOUR GROUP HELP??

The Customer Awareness sheet example is shown below. For more details of how you can help please see the editor's article on page 14 titled "New Program". We need the help of all groups and organizations who have an interest in the Pine Knoll Shores Community Paper. To receive copies of the Customer Awareness sheets for your group to issue to any businesses of their choice please call 252-639-2660

Thank you!



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Deadline for May issue is Monday, April 20 Deadline for June issue is Monday, May 18 Articles always welcome!

