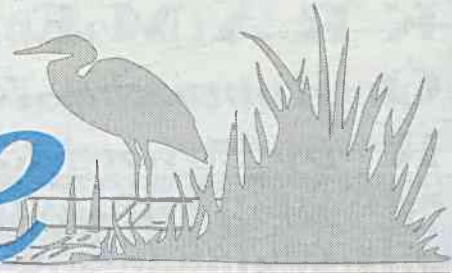


# The Shoreline



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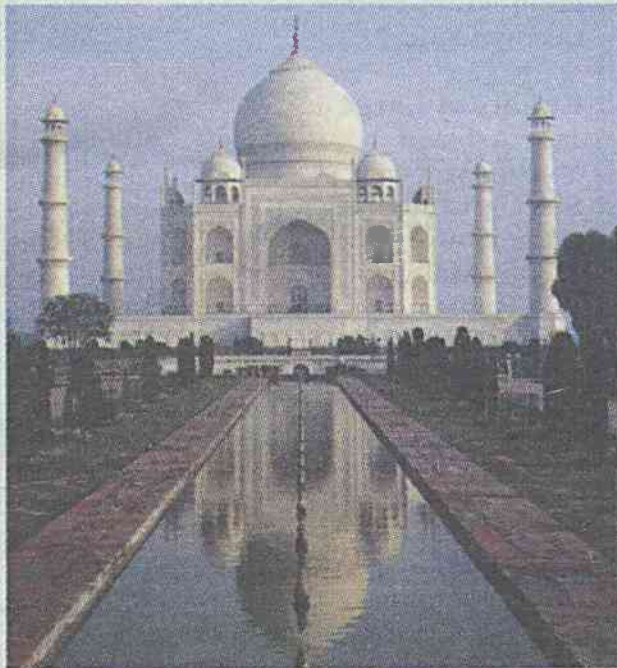
A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

Town Hall 247-4353

## Diverse and Spiritual India

By Sue Christman

The Christmans have just returned from a trip to India. Bill had lived in India for three months many years ago and wanted to see the changes that had occurred. It is a different experience; you need to be curious, adventurous and flexible. Traveling in India can be challenging. There is dust, pollution, large crowds, poverty and filth, but there is a great deal of beauty, color, spirituality and diversity.



Means of transportation were many: buses, trains, planes, boats, rickshaws, wild game-viewing vehicles and even camels. We experienced two home-hosted dinners, which are invariably interesting. Our first dinner was in the home of a widow in Delhi who taught cooking and was a gourmet dessert and pastry chef. The second was in the home of a retired Indian Army officer at his compound (extended family housing) in the city of Jaipur. The food consisted primarily of chicken dishes, goat and a lot of fresh vegetables, rice

*Continued on page 4*

"What do you want to be when you grow up, Johnny?"

"A fireman."

Building on such youthful interest, Pine Knoll Shores' Fire and EMS Department is sponsoring a new training program. The first participant is a 15-year old resident of Pine Knoll Shores who is freshman at West Carteret High School—Nick Berry.

Born in New Jersey, Nick moved to North Carolina when he was 2 ½ years old. "I've been interested in firefighting since I was a kid and want to be a firefighter when I grow up," says Nick. His favorite subject in school is history, and his other interest is marching band.

Nick started in the Junior Firefighter Program last November and is currently its only participant. "I'm the guinea pig," he says. But, the plan is to have two groups—one for 14-15 year olds and one for 16-17-year olds.

Chief Matthias recognized the need to generate interest in firefighting and volunteerism. Capt. Paul Shelley took on the task of investigating youth firefighting programs and designed one for Pine Knoll Shores, following guidelines provided by the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

The two-tiered program will "expose and educate its members on the varied procedures and skills required of emergency responders and present the fire/rescue field as a possible career path." The focus will be on "emergency operational methods and techniques as they pertain to firefighting and emergency medical services."

Activities are based on "ability and liability," says Capt. Shelley. Young

## Junior Firefighter Program

By Phyllis Makuck



volunteers will "participate in basic training classes, learn their way around the firehouse, and perform routine duties such as caring for departmental equipment. "They can help out without getting closer to the fire than the fire truck. They will never be put in harm's way," adds Deputy Chief Jason Baker.

Having an interest in firefighting and rescue as a career is not required; however, the teen, male or female, must be in good physical health; capable of strenuous activity; remain in

school, maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average; and have conduct that "reflects positively on family, community, and fire department." The participant must also commit to approximately 10 hours a month or 120 hours a year of fire and rescue training.

The hope is to attract more young people to the program and get local schools to accept some of the firefighting classes for high-school transfer credit. (EMS classes require participants to be 18.) Anyone interested should come by the fire station to investigate. The department always welcomes volunteers.

Ninety-nine percent of firefighters and EMS personnel begin as volunteers. Even if volunteering does not lead to a career job, communities always need adult volunteers. According to both Capt. Shelley and Deputy Chief Baker, working for a fire department and the spirit of volunteerism generates "it gets into a person's blood," making him or her want to remain active in the community in some way.

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Deadline for March issue is *Friday Feb. 15*. Deadline for April issue is *Friday March. 19*. Articles always welcome!