

Publick Day

On Saturday April 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the grounds of the Beaufort Historic Site will become an old-fashioned marketplace. It's Publick Day in Beaufort, which kicks off the summer season for the Beaufort Historical Association.

As in years past, the grounds of the historic site, 100 Block Turner Street, will recreate "Publick Times," when colonial merchants set up shop outside during court sessions. Vendors will be selling antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts, wood crafts, furniture, hand-made jewelry, baskets, pottery and much more.

Be sure to go in the Mattie King Davis Art Gallery, Carteret County's oldest art gallery, to see the beautiful artwork by Beaufort Wine & Food's featured artist Trisha Adams. Her contemporary impressionist work will be in the Gallery through April and May. The exhibit includes her painting, "Waterfront Wine," which will be the 7th Annual Beaufort Wine & Food Weekend limited edition poster. This original painting will be available as an auction item at the Beaufort Wine and Food Celebrity Gala on April 30. Images from this painting will be used for all the advertising and brochures for the weekend. The Mattie King Davis Art Gallery will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fashioned after Williamsburg of the 1700's when the General Court was in session, Publick Day then gave visitors from far and wide an opportunity to come to town to see and be seen, conduct court business, shop, gossip, dine and dance. Just as it was years ago, today's visitors will also be treated to shopping and food.

Vendor space is still available for Publick Day. Applications are being accepted to rent a 10'x10' space for \$25 for BHA members and \$40 for non-members. Space allotted is first-come, first serve, rain or shine and non-refundable. Vendors must supply their own tables and tent if needed.

All proceeds from Publick Day go towards the ongoing restoration efforts and educational programs of the Beaufort Historical Association. For more information on Publick Day, please call 728-5225 or (800) 575-7483 or visit www.beauforthistoric.org.

To Pay or Not to Pay

By Yvette Bannen

Paid parking at the public beach accesses has been a hot topic. Emerald Isle and Atlantic Beach have elected to go that route. Pine Knoll Shores decided not to join in at this time but reserves the right to implement a paid parking plan if it becomes necessary.

The commissioners tasked the town manager to come up with two options for paid parking that could be implemented quickly if Pine Knoll Shores' public beach accesses become overwhelmed with "day trippers." The purpose of paid parking at Pine Knoll Shores' public beach accesses is not to make money but for crowd control.

The first option would be a remote pay system that could be paid by phone. All 180 parking spaces in eleven parking areas would be covered. Enforcement would be by Lanier Parking Solutions. There would be no required capital costs and no need for additional town employees. This would be enforced only April through September, but the cost would be for the full year. This option would result in an approximately \$7,400 annual loss based on a \$1.50 per hour fee and conservative occupancy assumptions.

The second option would be town managed and require paid attendants at Memorial Park and the Iron Steamer lot for a total of 80 spaces from April through September. Enforcement would be by town staff. Upfront costs would be approximately \$3,000 and require additional town staff. The second option would generate approximately \$5,100 revenue from nine weekends only, but would require constant attention by town staff. Problems associated with hiring additional town staff would be finding personnel to work the hours, securing the handling of cash and requiring more police presence, which would drive up the public safety budget.

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