

are gone. Who killed him? Why? And who has the gem? This is the puzzle facing diners and the cast at Athens of the South's next murder mystery dinner play *Miss Murple's Last Case*. The show runs two weekends at the Bridge Pointe Hotel and Marina, New Bern, on Friday May 6 and Saturday May 7 and on Friday June 10 and Sunday June 12. Friday and Saturday performances are 7 p.m. and on Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 regular admission and \$30 for active military, students and groups of ten or more. The show is catered by Strange and Sons—owners of Annabelle's Restaurant in New Bern. Tickets are available online at <http://athensmysterydinner.yolasite.com/> or by calling 229-4977. Tickets are also available through the Bank of the Arts, 317 Middle Street, phone 638-2577.

**WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING.** Carteret Community College has been selected as one of the training locations for a workshop for small businesses owned by women as part of a series of seminars being held statewide. This workshop will be held Tuesday May 24, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in Joslyn Hall. The session is one of 14 free workshops for woman owned small businesses (WOSB) being held around the state by the Small Business Administration (SBA), North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) and Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). According to Lynn Douthett, SBA District Director, "The WOSB program is an important tool to help women obtain greater access to federal contracts." This training will help businesses that meet the designated criteria to understand policy changes and how new rules could benefit their companies. The SBA, NCMBC and PTAC team will conduct this initial WOSB training. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register, visit <http://ncmbc.us/AdvancedWOSBTraining.php>. Women business owners with questions may contact the NCMBC at (910) 678-0193 or e-mail [smedickc@ncmbc.us](mailto:smedickc@ncmbc.us).

## Beach News Notes

By Phyllis Makuck

**Update on Sea-Level Rise Policy Statement.** As reported last month, there were negative reactions when the Coastal Resource Commission (CRC) proposed a policy statement based on estimates that by the beginning of the next century sea level will have risen by one meter. The Commission has recently softened that statement somewhat, but it's the tone that has changed, not the numbers. As reported by Amy Hotz of *Star News*, CRC Chair Bob Emory, at a February 24 meeting in Beaufort, said: "I think some of the language in our policy created some urgency that's not there." Hotz went on to say that "In addition to making language in the draft policies less alarming to residents and governments," the CRC's emphasis will be "more on public education, outreach and listening instead of policy making, when it comes to sea-level rise." According to a March 6 editorial in the *Raleigh News & Observer*, the draft CRC statement still "calls for private and public development to be designed to accommodate sea-level rise expected within the structures' intended lifetimes."

**Update on Proposed Property Insurance Rates.** According to Jacksonville *Daily News* reporter Jannette Pippin, the North Carolina Department of Insurance is questioning the validity of the recently proposed hike in property insurance rates and has scheduled a public hearing on the issue for June 21. The proposed rate increase, which could be as much as "a 25% increase" in coastal counties, would affect "non-owner occupied dwellings such as rentals, investment properties and second homes" consisting of one to four units. But a Department of Insurance press release stated, "After initial review of the filing, Department experts believe the requested rate increase is not justified based on the data submitted." According to the *Daily News* article, "Among the concerns raised is the use of old data...." The proposed rate hike was "based on 2007 data when data from 2008 and 2009 was available...." The proposal also used a "profit methodology not allowed in North Carolina...." And concerns were raised about "the hurricane model used for deriving losses for extended coverage." The public hearing will allow differing sides to be heard before a final decision is made.

**Update on Dredging and Beach Nourishment.** According to Greg "Rudi" Rudolph of the Carteret County Shore Protection Office, the dredging and nourishment project that involved "dredging maintenance of the Morehead City Harbor ocean bar with concurrent placement of the dredge spoil along the beaches of Ft. Macon and Atlantic Beach" has accomplished its mission. This year's project was "the first time the Outer Harbor has been used for nourishment along Ft. Macon and AB." The goal was to reach the Circle and provide good quality sand. Rudolph says, "...sand quality for 99% of the time has been superb and the dredging contractor was able to reach the Circle with no problems." By the end of March, the Tom Doe Regional Access in Atlantic Beach and Fort Macon should have additional sand as well.



By Yvette Bannen

there were two guests. The program featured a demonstration by member Jan Corsello, who spoke about composting for successful gardening. She had a bin set up to show that composting is not a complicated procedure and provided examples of suitable material to be used. If it is done correctly, the bin should not smell. Purchasing red worms is not necessary because "worms are worms" and the type found in your yard will work just fine.

First Vice-President Karen Zaenker gave details on the bus trip to Wilmington for the April meeting. The bus that holds 47 people costs around \$1,000, and the Garden Club Board voted to take \$200 from the treasury to put toward the cost. On the way to Wilmington, a stop will be made at Poplar Grove Plantation in Hampstead to visit the farmers market. The next stop will be the Arboretum to view the gardens that demonstrate the best plant species for the southeastern part of the state. On the return trip, a stop will be made at Pender Pines Nursery and Garden Center.

Second Vice-President Helvi Larson reminded members of Arbor Day on March 18, when a tree will be planted at town hall in memory of former member Jane Ashland. JoAnn Shallcross reminded the members that the birdhouse competition will take place on April 8 and 9.

The slate of officers for the 2011-2012 year was presented and accepted by acclamation. The officers are: President Karen Zaenker; First Vice-Presidents Sheryl Woodbury and Jan Corsello; Second Vice-President Linda Langheld; Recording Secretary Barbara Williams; Treasurer Helvi Larson and Corresponding Secretary Donna Belanger.

President Martha Edwards encouraged the members to e-mail the town manager in support of the town recycling contract that is currently being negotiated.