

New Friends

principal and Debra as a school secretary. Steve is an enthusiastic fisherman, golfer, tennis player and, of course, a library Friend. Steve proved his mettle and his strength when he transported what seemed liked tons of books for the April book sale.

Three Bogue Banks residents are nominated to the Friends Board of Directors each October for three-year terms and are introduced at the January meeting of Friends. Vacancies on the board are filled with appointments by the executive board. Present members of the Friends Board welcomed Steve at their annual luncheon honoring our librarians, Brita Flynn, Donna Freeman, and Andrew Porter, on April 14, during National Library Week.

Assistance to Seniors Still Available

By Jillian Hardin

Delegates of the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) have good news to report to the senior community. During the first meeting of 2011, the group discussed Medicare changes and financial assistance for low-income beneficiaries. The new Director of the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Kevin Robertson, offered some encouraging information for older adults with Medicare. The North Carolina Department of Insurance has approximately 800 SHIPP volunteers who answer questions and counsel Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers, Medicare prescription drug plans and other health insurance concerns. Robertson said that this year, "Baby Boomers are beginning to enroll in Medicare in North Carolina, and during the next five years, we expect to offer assistance to more than 700,000 older adults." He went on to say that through the Relay for Extra Help project, "low-income beneficiaries can apply for NCRX, a state financial assistance program that helps low income beneficiaries pay for prescription medications." Regional Area Agencies on Aging have partnered with Wal-Mart and local pharmacies to assist older adults with applications. Other Medicare changes include new Medicare Part D open enrollment dates. Beginning this year, older adults can enroll in new prescription drug plans between October 15 and December 7.

STHL members heard from Angie Dorsey, with Legal Aid of North Carolina. Dorsey reported that "during this difficult economic time, older adults have a way of obtaining legal advice free of charge. They can call the North Carolina Senior Legal Helpline" for legal advice from attorneys, including "clarification of legal issues and review of legal documents. Lawyers also write letters and place telephone calls on seniors' behalf and if they require extensive services, refer them to a local legal aid provider." The North Carolina Senior Legal Helpline is available for adults aged 60 and older by calling the toll free number 877-579-7562 for more information.

During the two-day meeting, STHL members heard from various state leaders including a panel of advocates for the aging, who encouraged each STHL member to talk to the older adults within their communities to find out what's important to them. The panel sounded a singular message: these are tough financial times for all and the need for advocacy for seniors is more important than ever.

Dennis Streets, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, provided budget updates for three of the STHL's top legislative priorities. First, he reported Governor Perdue has recommended that Project C.A.R.E (Caregiver Alternatives to

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from 1)



MANAGING EDITORS:
Charlie McBriarty 726-0602
Bill White (Emeritus)

ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR:
Dennis Tomaso 222-0378

PRODUCTION EDITOR:
Carolyn Rife 622-9486

EDITORS AT LARGE:
Yvette Bannon 240-1528
Marilyn Brandt 919-828-4231
Carla Dowler 808-3945
Betty Johnson 247-7389
Phyllis Makuck 726-8776
Jacquie Pipkin 622-0340

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS:
John Brodman 726-7643
Jill Cross 631-905-6788
Marian Goetzinger 726-9879
Dan Law 222-4356
Barbara Milhaven 240-0678
Tom Powers 240-3164
Jim Scanlon 726-4174
Richard Seale 726-0478
Cierra Tomaso

CIRCULATION MANAGER:
Dennis Tomaso 222-0378

PHOTOGRAPHER:
Tom Powers 240-3164

ADVERTISING:
Marie Lawrence 726-7081
ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

1610 AM
The Pine Knoll Shores Radio Station broadcasts 24 hours a day with weather and emergency info.

1610 AM
DEADLINE
for June issue is
Tuesday, May 10.
Articles always welcome!

