

# The Shoreline



What is  
Groundhog  
Day

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

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## A Supportive Community

By Phyllis Makuck

Most of us moved to Pine Knoll Shores to be near the ocean and to enjoy the thick canopy of a healthy maritime forest. In many cases, we left communities where we had lived and worked for many years; where we raised children; and where we had a large network of acquaintances, friends and, maybe even, extended family. We left all of that to move to an island, where we were anonymous—where our past was history. But, we found here much more than we expected.

In my case, my husband, Peter, and I moved here from rather close by—from Greenville, North Carolina. We left a university town where we were university people. We had lived in Greenville for 20 years. It's where we raised our son, and we seldom left the house without seeing someone who knew us and whom we knew. We had no such acquaintances in Pine Knoll Shores except for a good friend from Greenville with a second home here.

When we moved to Beacon's Reach in 1996, we were both still working. Peter was in the English Department at East Carolina University. I had recently left the university and had taken a job in Raleigh. We went from living within easy walking distance to our jobs to commuting long distances.

Leaving Pine Knoll Shores on Tuesdays and returning on Thursdays, we made no effort to make new friends here. When we had time off, friends and family from elsewhere would often visit us. Beyond our next-door neighbors, who were full-time residents, we met a few people who, like us, had a boat at the marina; otherwise, we smiled and waved, but did not take the time to connect with anyone living here. Amazingly, this went on for 10 years, and we were happy just being surrounded by water—boating, fishing, crabbing, clamming and swimming.

It was not until 2006, when we both retired, that we found there was much more to Pine Knoll Shores than we had realized. Gradually, Peter and I began to connect with many other full-time residents.

We began attending church at St. Francis by the Sea, and faces we had seen around Beacon's Reach gradually became more than vaguely familiar faces. We started to participate in church activities and make new friends. Peter began spending more

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## More Than One Day

Charlie McBriarty

Mardi Gras is a legal holiday throughout the state of Louisiana. On Tuesday, February 12 the streets of New Orleans will fill with thousands and thousands of party-goers, many of them in a variety of elaborate costumes of purple, green and gold - the official colors of Mardi Gras. Beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until well after noon, eight separate parades are scheduled to be held that day throughout the city. There will be hundreds of elaborately decorated floats, marching bands and thousands of participants in extreme costumes and wild make-up. Beginning at dawn the parade routes will begin to be lined with people to see the floats, enjoy the music and catch the beaded necklaces, "doubloon" - cups and toy coins - and decorated coconuts thrown from the floats. The celebrations will continue throughout the afternoon and evening, but at midnight the party will end and Mardi Gras will be over until next year.

New Orleans is not the only city celebrating on this day. Hundreds of other cities and towns across the country and throughout the world recognize this day with similar events, but New Orleans is the site of this nation's most famous celebration, attracting millions each year.

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