

Bogue Banks Library: A Prehistory

In a "Brief History of Earle Webb, Sr. and the Webb Memorial Library," a presentation to the Carteret County Historical Society in 2006, Nettie Murrill was recognized as "a wonderful friend of the library"—the same Nettie Murrill who hosted the bookmobile in Pine Knoll Shores.

Nettie was born on June 3, 1911, in the Promise Land, a neighborhood in Morehead City generally considered to extend from 12th Street to 15th Street and from Evans Street south to Bogue Sound. In the early 1960s, she and her husband were among the first full-time residents in the Roosevelt development on Bogue Banks, which eventually became Pine Knoll Shores. Nettie was a great supporter of libraries in all forms, a recognized local historian and a keeper of the Down East/banker linguistic traditions.

There is another curious link between Bogue Banks and the Webb Library. The land on the north shore of Bogue Sound that Alice Hoffman purchased starting in 1923 to establish her dairy farm operation adjoined property owned by Earle W. Webb. In 1929, Earle and Eva Webb started construction on a large vacation and retirement home on the parcel, with Alice Hoffman as a neighbor on both sides. Will and Fannie Louise Webb, one of Earle Webb's brothers, had a house on the sound at 20th Street in Morehead City.

Beaufort Library: precursor to Carteret-Craven-Pamlico Library District. The first library in Beaufort is thought to have started about 1910-1911 in the old courthouse building—which had been converted to be used as a school after the new and current courthouse was built in 1906—located at the corner of Turner and Broad streets. Mrs. C.L. Stevens, superintendent of Beaufort High School, organized the effort, and students refurbished two rooms with stove heat and no electric lights. By the mid-1920s, this building no longer existed. There is no information available about what happened to the library associated with the school.

The next mention of a library was in 1922, when the Beaufort Community Club (known today as the Beaufort Women's Club) began the effort to form a

library, which opened with a 120-volume collection in an office of a store on Front Street. This library moved many times, involving many dedicated members of the community who saw it through financial difficulties common among libraries, but over the years it managed to serve the growing population. By 1940, it was located in the Train Depot on Broad Street, and in 1943 the Beaufort Library was incorporated by the NC Secretary of State as the Carteret County Public Library.

In 1962, the Carteret County Board of Commissioners signed the contract merging the Carteret County Public Library with the Craven-Pamlico Library, forming the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library. Today, the Bogue Banks Public Library is operated as a branch of the Carteret County Library and is a member of the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library District. Other locations of the regional group can be found in Bayboro, Beaufort, Cove City, Cape Carteret, Havelock, New Bern, Newport, Otway and Vanceboro.

The next installment of this series will focus on the story of the Bogue Banks Public Library from its formation in 1981 to 2005. The article will cover organizational and location changes, discuss the critical importance of volunteers and The Friends of the Library, and detail the stormy weather that threatened the library's existence.—with Ilene Karlsson

Pine Knoll Shores

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our *vision* is to provide a quality environment in which all residents and visitors are safe and secure, where individual talents flourish and everyone enjoys the natural resources of our area.

It is the *mission* of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores to provide for the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors in an efficient and well-organized manner, and to develop and implement plans for the continuous improvement of the town, its services and its beach, and to encourage the participation of residents in service to the town and community.

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Ken Jones – 247-4353, ext. 17 – Two-year term – elected in 2015
mayorjones@townofpks.com

COMMISSIONERS

Four-year terms

John Brodman – 726-7643 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Larry Corsello – 247-0262 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Clark Edwards – 726-7429 – (Mayor pro tempore) elected in 2015 – admin@townofpks.com
Fred Fulcher – 808-2569 – elected in 2013 – admin@townofpks.com
Ted Goetzinger – 422-9879 – elected in 2015 – admin@townofpks.com

TOWN OFFICIALS

TOWN MANAGER: Brian Kramer – 247-4353, ext. 16 – manager@townofpks.com
TOWN CLERK: Scott Sherrill – 247-4353, ext. 11 – admin@townofpks.com
FIN & ADMIN: Julie Anderson – 247-4353, ext. 14 – janderson@townofpks.com
PLANNING & INSPECTIONS: Jim Taylor – 247-4353, ext. 18 – biceo@townofpks.com
PUBLIC SERVICES: Sonny Cunningham, Director
247-4353, ext. 27 – psd@townofpks.com

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – 314 Salter Path Road – 247-2268; Fax – 247-2897
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