

Mayor's Memo

By Ken Jones

Spring forward

As we move into the month of April, it seems this winter will not be one to remember (with my fingers crossed)—no extended windy, cold spells and none of that white stuff accumulating on the ground. Look out, spring; here we come.

We started this year off in high gear. February was a very busy month for our town. Aside from some of the hot issues of the day, we had some big events that have become annual and are part of our town's strategic plan.

During the first week of February, our commissioners and I had our annual offsite strategic planning session. These meetings have become so much more constructive with our town's strategic plan, a product that has been invaluable. I've mentioned this before, but we had a lot of input from you, and we are paying attention. When we start our annual offsite, we always review our vision and mission statements. Then we review the past calendar year and what we accomplished, and take a look ahead at what we expect our upcoming challenges to be. This is also the time we kick off our budget season.

We are very conscious of the fact that we are working with *your* money. We look for smarter ways of doing business and improvements in our processes. Actually, this is an ongoing effort.

This past fall, Town Manager Brian Kramer and I attended the annual conference of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Pine Knoll Shores is a member, and this organization is invaluable to our town. One of the themes this year centered on governments working together to cut operational investments and costs. As you may know, this is something I have been trying to do since I was first elected. At our annual offsite we made decisions that are a huge start in this direction. Our board voted to move forward on plans to provide fire marshal inspections and tax collection services for our westerly neighbor, Indian Beach. This is part of a services-sharing project we have discussed with Indian Beach for several years.

As you may remember, we did a study a few years ago of combining our firefighting and rescue operations. I didn't get the support I had hoped for, so we didn't proceed with this move. I envision a Bogue Banks Fire District and firefighters. We may get to this efficiency sometime in the future, but for now we are taking small steps to be more efficient and provide better service at a lower cost. For now, I'm very excited.

On February 27 Town Manager Kramer and I went to Cary to meet with as many of our second-home owners as we could get together. Our strategic plan calls for this, and it also supports my number one priority: communication. Most second-home owners will be full-time residents one day. We had 33 people in attendance at this second annual event. As we typically do, we went around the room for introductions, followed by a briefing and discussion of town issues. We also got a lot of great questions. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and had a good exchange of ideas. I want to thank everyone who attended, and I look forward to doing it again. This was one of my favorite events ever.

Our next Dinner with the Mayor event is scheduled for Friday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clam Digger restaurant in Pine Knoll Shores. Watch for further details in town-wide emails.

No one could do all the things we do and accomplish alone. This town, our town, is a great place to be because we communicate and work together—a simple formula that works. One team, one town, one Pine Knoll Shores.

Old PKS Pictures?

Consider donating them to the Pine Knoll Shores History Committee. Contact town hall at 252-247-4353.



What's Up With PARC?

By Jean McDanal

Plans are going full speed ahead for the Carteret County Senior Games. These games began in 1983 and have grown to over 60,000 participants in 53 local games programs that serve all 100 counties across the state.

Carteret County Parks and Recreation will be hosting the 30th annual Senior Games from April 11-May 5. The Senior Games offer a variety of sporting events, including kayaking and paddleboarding as well as Silverarts and performing arts programs. Pine Knoll Shores traditionally sponsors the cycling and kayak/paddleboard events. The cycling will be held on Tuesday, April 19, at 9 a.m., and the paddleboard/kayak races will be held on Wednesday, April 27, at 10 a.m. for kayaks and 11 a.m. for paddleboards. In addition, rumor has it that Pine Knoll Shores is fielding a pickleball team this year. Please contact Carteret County Parks and Recreation at 808-3301 or visit ccpr.recdesk.com for more information.

We are also gearing up for Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) activities in late May and June. The 5K Beach Run will be held on May 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. It begins on the beach and continues through Beacon's Reach. There will also be a 1K Fun Run/Walk that will remain on the beach. All proceeds will go to Hope For The Warriors. Online registration is available at k4tw.org or runtheeast.com.

Our usual activities will include the fun-filled auction at the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores on Thursday, June 2, and 5K and 10K bike rides and kayak/paddleboard races on Saturday, June 4. It is shaping up to be another great year.

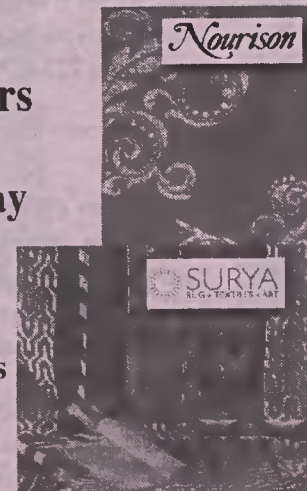
Pickleball is coming to Pine Knoll Shores. Watch for an announcement when details are complete.

Did you know that in addition to the town hall website, there is a Facebook page (PKSCCommunity) which you can join? Be sure you are on the town's email list as well by emailing Town Clerk Scott Sherrill at admin@townofpks.com.

If you have any suggestions for the Parks and Recreation Committee, please do not hesitate to email me at PARCPR@ec.rr.com or come to one of our meetings. PARC welcomes any suggestions for activities that will get people out, moving and involved. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 9 a.m. at town hall.

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