

Ken Jones

By Jacquie Pipkin

When I entered the mayor's office on the morning of our interview, he sat at his computer looking serious, if not grave. It was the day we were expecting the arrival of Hurricane Matthew. He was checking the weather updates and voiced concern regarding the possibility of too much rain for our already-saturated ground to bear. We now know the outcome of that storm, and it is not an exaggeration to say that Pine Knoll Shores was blessed to escape Matthew's wrath.

@The Library

Happenings for December

Closing. Bogue Banks Public Library will be closed Friday, December 23, through Monday, December 26, for Christmas.

Book exchange and sale. Stop by the paperback Book Exchange and trade for a free paperback book.

Bogue Banks Book Nook. The Book Nook is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are over 3,000 books for sale. Be sure to check out the ongoing silent auction; new items are added frequently.

Activities for children. Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5 is held each Thursday at 10 a.m. with Ms. Brita.

- Thursday, December 1, will be "'Tis the Season."
- Thursday, December 8, will be "Sankta Lucia."
- Thursday, December 15, will be "All Wrapped Up."
- Thursday, December 22, will be "Happy Holidays!"
- Thursday, December 29, will be "Happy New Year!"

Featured artwork. Throughout the month of December, the art gallery at the Bogue Banks Library will feature the animal prints of Patricia Wilson.

Born in Connecticut, Ms. Wilson is an emerging artist bringing color and whimsy to the world by painting many things, including quirky farm animals and your beloved pet. She studied in Connecticut, and her collections have been available in both public and private collections. Ms. Wilson currently lives and works in Knightdale, and is a wife, mother and grandmother of four. She finds inspiration from the objects all around her, including her energetic and mischievous five-month-old puppy Sophie Lily and stoic, manly cat Bronson Matthew.

The showcase will feature the work of Mandy Copp Wilson, who will exhibit her whimsical wire creations and sea glass art pieces.

There is no reception planned for December.



Examples of Patricia Wilson's colorful artwork



Mayor Ken Jones at his Christmas tree farm in Michigan.

Mayor Jones is no stranger to the field of meteorology. In the '80s when the mayor served in the United States Air Force, the field of technology was expanding rapidly. The mayor terms that period "Star Wars in the '80s." During that time, he worked with weather satellites and nuclear missiles. His responsibilities required top level clearance, including a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. In addition, Mayor Jones served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also spent part of his Air Force career in Belgium, serving with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers—Europe (SHAPE), the military branch of NATO.

Mr. Jones was born and raised in Michigan, where he attended Western Michigan University and earned Bachelor of Science degrees in agribusiness and cartography. While on active duty, he also earned a master's degree in business.

When asked how this Midwesterner came to reside in Pine Knoll Shores, Mayor Jones explained that while stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, he often visited the beach for a little rest and relaxation. He became so enamored by the area that he bought and renovated a house in Atlantic Beach. He so enjoyed that experience that he bought another house, in Morehead City, gutted it and rebuilt it. In early 1990 on a bicycle ride through Pine Knoll Shores, he saw a house on Oakleaf Drive and decided he would have a house *just like that*. That very house did indeed come up for sale, and without hesitation he bought it and there he lived from 2003 until he moved to his present home.

While he enjoys swinging a hammer, the mayor is also a certified financial planner, licensed in eight states, and often travels to Havelock, Jacksonville and Raleigh to serve his clients. He also takes pride in being an entrepreneur and has invested in several apartment buildings in the state.

Considering his busy professional career, I asked the mayor what motivated him to run for office. He admitted that he finds public service invigorating and likes the challenge of being a leader. In fact, he explained that he has held an elected office of some sort every year of his life since sixth grade.

In 2005, Mayor Joan Lamson invited Mr. Jones to serve on the Pine Knoll Shores Planning Board, which provided an excellent opportunity to learn about the town and listen to its people. He finds talking to the people of the town one of the joys of being in office. His goal was and continues to be "to maintain the character of our beautiful, yet fragile, town and keep looking ahead to protect the future."

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