



Brandywine Spring Photo Album

By Mariana Goldstein and Monica Sellars

Here are some fun photos from the neighborhood! Please send any photos you would like to see in Sound Waves to editor.soundwaves@gmail.com.



Thank you, neighbor, for planting this sweet flower garden. You're growing joy and smiles.



Does anyone else have a bucket for golf balls that land in your yard?! Send a photo! Editor.Soundwaves@gmail.com.



A cute pair of skateboarders enjoying a sunny day in Brandywine.



We love to see orioles visit our yard in the spring!



An Eastern Cottontail, aka "Cute Little Rabbit," posed for Mariana to take its picture.



BOA Annual Community Meeting

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: 19th Hole, Brandywine Bay Golf Course

Minutes from BOA meetings are posted on the Brandywine Owners website.

<https://brandywineowners.org/homeowners/minutes-archive/>



Class of 2026:

Help us celebrate Brandywine graduates in the next Sound Waves! To participate, send the graduate's photo and bio to editor.soundwaves@gmail.com by July 17.

Physical Therapy Across the Lifespan

OLDER ADULTHOOD

As we age, new health challenges can arise and strength can decline. Physical therapy helps improve function, encourage activity, and prevent injuries – empowering older adults to maintain independence and a high quality of life.

“I want to keep up with my grandkids ...”

“I want to avoid falls ...”

“I want to manage my chronic pain without relying on opioids or prescription pain medication.”



Why Physical Therapy Matters for People in Older Adulthood

Living a full, independent life often means staying active and confident, but for many older adults, the fear of falling – or even a fall itself – can significantly diminish their quality of life, leading to injury or a loss of independence. Physical therapy can improve balance, muscle strength, and endurance can help to reduce the risk for falls.

Beyond falls, the challenges of frailty – which can leave muscles and energy low – and the impact of stroke or chronic disease, can severely limit movement and function, and threaten independence. Physical therapists and physical therapist assistants help improve strength, flexibility, balance, and aerobic capacity (ability of the heart and lungs to get oxygen to muscles).

How Physical Therapy Helps Older Adults Thrive

- ✓ Boost balance and prevent falls
- ✓ Maintain independence and mobility
- ✓ Stay active and engaged in the things they enjoy
- ✓ Manage chronic pain
- ✓ Improve strength and endurance for daily life



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ALL ABOARD!

By Lisa Pharo

As we welcome the beauty of spring, Brandywine is coming alive with vibrant blooms—from the pink and white azaleas and dogwoods to the cheerful bursts of tulips, daffodils and camellias. It's a wonderful reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a well-cared-for community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to keeping Brandywine looking its best this time of year.

We're also excited to share that we have a new Park and Playground Committee Chairperson, Regi Bohlen. Regi has already begun overseeing some much-needed upgrades, with an eye toward future improvements that will enhance these shared spaces for all residents. We appreciate her willingness to step into this role and look forward to the positive impact of her leadership.

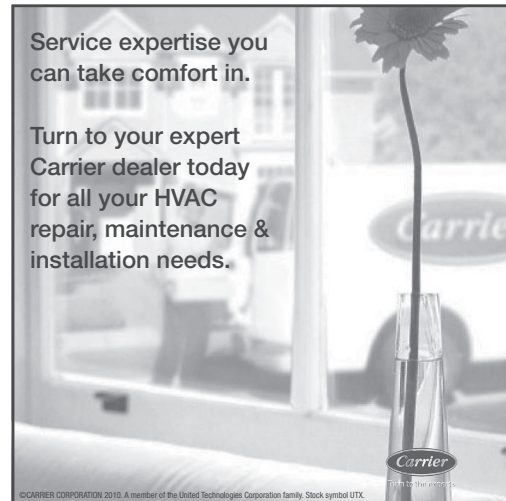
Please mark your calendars for our Annual Community Meeting on May 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM. This will be an important opportunity to hear updates regarding our community annexation survey, as well as recent communications with Morehead City leaders. We will also present the upcoming annual budget, introduce newly elected board members and

allow time for homeowner questions and comments. Your participation is valuable and we encourage everyone to attend and stay informed.

Additionally, invoices for annual dues were recently sent to all homeowners. The Board kindly asks that all dues be paid by May 1, 2026. Your timely payment helps ensure we can continue maintaining and improving our community for everyone to enjoy.

As always, we close with sincere gratitude for the many volunteers who give their time and energy to make Brandywine such a special place to live. Your dedication does not go unnoticed and we are truly thankful for all that you do.

Wishing everyone a beautiful and enjoyable spring season!



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What Every Homeowner Should Know

There are a few common questions and answers about dryer vent and air duct cleaning.

How do I know if my dryer vent needs to be cleaned?

A few signs can be checked:

- Clothing taking longer to dry than normal.
- The dryer feeling hot and still damp when it finishes (especially heavy items like towels).
- The dryer itself feels hot.
- There may be lint on the lint screen.
- Visible lint around the back of your dryer. Is there lint debris?

These are indicators that the vent might need cleaning.

Does cleaning my dryer vent lower my energy bill?

Yes, by having your dryer vent professionally cleaned, your clothes dryer will run more efficiently. A dryer going through a restricted vent is like you trying to breathe harder to get air. Your dryer will struggle to get air, and not only will your bills go up, but you will have to run loads for longer. The life of the dryer can be shortened, and repairs might be needed more frequently. There is also the risk of overheating, which can be dangerous. **Don't risk everything you have worked so hard for!**

Can I clean my dryer vent on my own?

The tricky parts of the vent system are the hidden spaces that cannot be cleaned when you are not a trained professional. It was noted that cleaning the front vent on the dryer was done well, but when a professional came, the amount of debris removed was surprising. There are areas of the dryer vent system that are difficult to reach without the right equipment. It was advised not to use the typical store-bought vent cleaning brushes, as they could push debris further into the vent or cause it to break apart, worsening the issue. It is recommended that dryer vents be cleaned once a year.

Will air duct cleaning help my allergies?

Yes, many people are allergic to animal dander, smoke, pollen, and dust mites. Particles and debris can harbor these allergens and aggravate respiratory issues. Removing dust from ducts can reduce these triggers. Cleaning your air ducts also reduces particulate debris in your ducts, meaning there are fewer particles and potential allergens in the air that can affect those with respiratory illnesses.

I live in a newly remodeled home. Do I still need service?

Yes! Air duct system cleaning is needed in homes that are newly built or remodeled. During this time, construction debris such as plaster dust, hardwood floor sanding dust, drywall dust, nails, ducts, and insulation end up in your ductwork. Many home buyers have ducts inspected and cleaned prior to closing on their home.

The dryer vent cleaning costs \$150, and there can be an additional charge if a new dryer vent box is needed, for example. An inspection of air ducts is provided at no charge using special camera equipment, and there is a free written estimate. All services are guaranteed.



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LGA Updates

By Lori Wilson

It seems like forever ago, but here's what's happened since our last Sound Waves article.

After a long, cold and snowy winter, the ladies were anxious to get together and greet our new LGA Board Members for 2026. Nelda Kessler made sure to welcome two of our newest members, Carla Swanson and Bebe Wall, with her own favorite magic elixir sure to cure what ever ails you....Castor Oil! Unfortunately, it has no effect whatsoever on one's golf performance!



Our first day of play was Ace of the Month on March 5th, won by the lovely Bernie Moreno with a net score of 71! Congratulations Bernie. Great start to the new season!

On March 15th, the Brandywine MGA and LGA partnered to hold our St. Patrick's Social Golf Tournament. The game was a four person scramble, followed by a lon blasta (Irish for tasty lunch)



prepared by Peyton Parker, and beverages expertly served by Hannah Ford, and some delicious desserts provided by Sue Pike, Christine Bryk, and Bernie Moreno. As an added bonus, our GM Jaime Eifert, supplied a few door prizes redeemable in the Pro Shop and 19th Hole.

The Lucky First Place Winners were the awesome team of Alisa and Jarrod Burr, and Alecia and Shane Benson with a score of 60! And, as it is customary to recognize the Last

Place team.....this year's honor (and potato sacks) went to the formidable team of Loretta Beaulieu, Mickey Friend, Bernie Moreno, and Lori Wilson, with a score of 75. (Personally, I think that's a pretty good number for the only all female foursome of the day!) Many thanks to Sue Pike, Ken Ghelli, Christine Bryk, Myra Roche, and to all who contributed to make it a great day!



On March 18th it was time to party again. Thirty-six friends and family gathered together at No Name Pizza to celebrate our LGA Sunshine Lady, Pat Barber's 90th Birthday! Although she doesn't look it, Pat is now the newest member of the 90 & Over Club!!



The first Home & Home Tournament of the year was held on March 30th, at the Beaufort Club. Nine ladies from Brandywine participated, and although we didn't win the coveted "Trophy" this time, it was a fun day! Congrats to the top players in our group: 1st Place - Mickey Friend, 2nd Place - Linda McIntyre, and 3rd Place - Carla Swanson. Well done ladies!!



April 2nd brought a beautiful spring day to play our Ace of the Month. Fourteen ladies competing for the honor of April Ace, but they couldn't beat the efforts of Nelda Kessler, who won with a net score of 69! Great game, Nelda!



MGA Happenings

By Mark Roche

The MGA held its monthly golf tournament on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The format was a scramble format. Eleven golfers participated.



First place prize went to Terry Alger, Chuck Muller, Barry Moore and Lyle Vogel.



Second place prize went to Scott MacIntyre, Ken Ghelli and Scott Mason.



Closest to the pin on hole 5 went to 1st place Tom Pike, 2nd place Nick Viganese.

MGA Happenings continued

The MGA held its monthly tournament on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. It was a scramble format with 14 members participating. It was composed of two flights. Flight 1 was two threesomes and flight 2 was two foursomes.



Flight 1 was won by Scott McIntyre, Ken Ghelli and Terry Alger.



Flight 2 was won by Doug Goines, Gordon Wall, Guy Rouse and Frank DeBernardo.



Closest to the pin - Nick Viglianese
1st place.



Closest to the pin - Mark Roche
2nd place.

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Business Spotlight

Clearwater Remodeling

By Monica Sellars

The Business Spotlight article highlights our Sound Waves advertisers. Please support these local businesses and let them know you saw their advertisement in Sound Waves.

The spotlight is on Clearwater Remodeling this time around. I spoke with the owner, Carlos Mengivan, to learn more about the services he offers. He answered right away and was very friendly and helpful.

First, Carlos shared that he offers free estimates and 100% satisfaction guarantee. His business is insured with liability and workers' compensation. He emphasized that no job is too small for him to help with!

Carlos' primary specialty is installing seamless gutters. He installs 5- or 6-inch gutters, downspouts, and wire mesh gutter guards. If you are thinking about gutters, he can recommend the best system for you.

He also offers a variety of residential remodeling and repair services. For example, if you need exterior improvements, he does exterior painting, deck and porch building, and fences.

For interior projects, Carlos handles painting, drywall, flooring, bathroom and kitchen updates, sinks, and countertops – to name a few. He can help with standard electrical and plumbing changes but will coordinate with electricians and plumbers for more complex jobs when necessary.

Please check out the Clearwater Remodeling advertisement and call Carlos for help with your next project!



Changes to the Brandywine Directory

New to the neighborhood? Contact brandywinewelcome@gmail.com to get your welcome packet and set up your gate access code with your phone number.

Need a new gate entry device?

Welcome and new gate devices committee – brandywinewelcome@gmail.com

Moving away? Please give your gate cards to the next owner.

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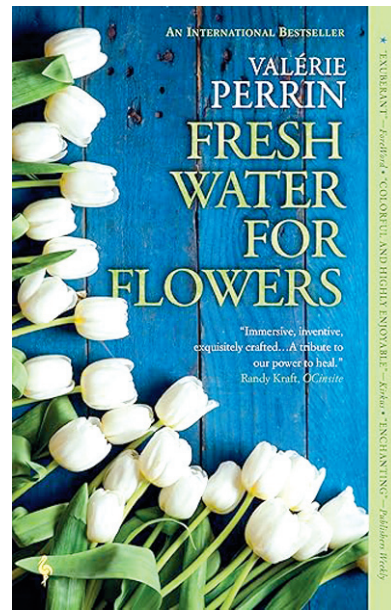
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Brandywine Book Club News

By Diana Viglianese

The Brandywine Book Club enjoyed a fun afternoon in April at Lynn Klein's home discussing the book "Fresh Water for Flowers" by Valerie Perrin. The novel touched on family secrets and how someone can find new beginnings through memories of the deceased.



There will be two get-togethers to discuss books, one in May and one in June. Thereafter, a break is taken in July for special time with family and friends.

The book for May is "When Ghosts Come Home" by Wiley Cash. The novel has themes of loss, grief and racism. The June book is "The Music of Bees" by Eileen Gavin. This uplifting novel is about strangers who are defending their honeybee farm from a pesticide threat.

The Book Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1 PM. The group welcomes guests! Please contact Diana Viglianese (252) 726-0676 if you would like more information.

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Main Page

<https://carteretcountync.libguides.com/mainpage/home>

Calendar of Events

<https://carteretcountync.libcal.com/>

Neighbors want deeper connections. What's holding them back?

By Rory Arnold

Source, printed with permission: <https://www.rocketmortgage.com/learn/neighbors-want-deeper-connections>

New surveys by Rocket Mortgage find that only 30% of Americans know their neighbors beyond a casual level. At the same time, a majority of people say they want their neighborhood to feel more connected.

So, what's the barrier? Why are people unable to connect with their neighbors the way they want to? And how can we foster stronger neighborhoods? We'll take a closer look at some of the more surprising results of these surveys – and offer some tips on how you can be more neighborly.

How do we connect?

Changes in society and the way we all connect have created some distance between us and the people who live close by.

While the internet connects us with people across the globe, it's less effective at helping us connect with people nearby. Only 25% say digital spaces like Facebook and Nextdoor facilitate interaction with their neighbors.

People also are protective of their time and privacy, which can make it more difficult to form connections.

The study shows people are open to connecting with their neighbors, but they don't prioritize initiating contact. Only 17% say they actively seek out neighborly interaction. In comparison, 54% say they interact with neighbors if it happens naturally, but they don't seek it out.

Other obstacles are emotional. Many people prefer to keep to themselves and don't want to bother or intrude on their neighbors' privacy. Forty-two percent of respondents say others tend to keep to themselves, making it difficult to connect. This also can make it challenging to make the first move, as 22% say they feel awkward reaching out to neighbors.

There are, of course, instances where it just might not be the right time to stop for a neighborly chat. Almost one-third (29%) of respondents say they sometimes avoid socializing with neighbors. It's not always personal – you just might be running late or having a bad day. Being a good neighbor involves staying considerate and not taking it too personally.

How to be a better neighbor

Despite these obstacles, nearly 80% of respondents say strong neighborhoods improve their quality of life. And people do want to connect, perhaps more than they have in a long time.

"After COVID, I had more clients citing the importance of a neighborhood feel than I ever remember before," says Jo Chavez, a Redfin Premier Agent in Kansas City, Missouri. "More people are making an effort to know their neighbors, or want

to know their neighbors, than 7-plus years ago."

It's never easy being the new kid – or family – on the block. It doesn't take a grand gesture to make a difference. Even just a friendly greeting or simple gift can help make your new neighbors feel welcomed.

"Whether you're new to the neighborhood or have lived there for years, kindness goes a long way," says Tamara Mattox-Kabat, a Redfin Premier Agent in Denver.

It's also the little moments that help build a stronger community. Over half (53%) say that repeated interactions every day create connection – more so than planned activities or events. So whether it's through simple greetings, quick chats, or returning a stray package, consistency is the key to meaningful relationships with your neighbors.

10 ways to be a good neighbor

It makes a real difference in the neighborhood when people look out for each other and are there if you need help. So how do you get started?

Of all the ways you can reach out to a neighbor, 37% say knocking on their door is the best way, followed by sending a text message (23%), or making a phone call (15%). Almost half (47%) of respondents don't think of knocking as a bold act, while 41% say they do.

Here are 10 ways you can be more neighborly:

1. Drop off a welcome note or gift if someone new joins the neighborhood.
2. Return misdelivered mail or packages.
3. Help your neighbor carry groceries.
4. Keep an eye on the neighborhood and let people know if anything seems amiss.
5. Invite a neighbor over for coffee or a meal.
6. Help each other with quick repairs.
7. Offer to share tools or equipment.
8. Help your neighbor prepare their home for bad weather or clean up after a storm.
9. Check on a neighbor who's going through an illness or difficult time.
10. Organize events or block parties.

"Make the first move," Chavez says. "Your neighbors are already curious about who is moving in, so stop by and introduce yourself. If that feels too intimidating, drop off a note at their door to introduce yourself and share something about yourself. It opens the door for a conversation when you see them in person."

Methodology

Rocket Mortgage conducted two online surveys in January 2026 among Americans ages 18–75 to better understand their perceptions and experiences of neighborhoods.

The first survey included 2,002 respondents and explored how Americans experience and behave with their neighbors today. The second survey included 3,000 respondents and examined how Americans think and feel about neighborhoods as sources of belonging, stability, and community.

Both studies balanced sample recruiting to fall within about 5% of census-representative demographics.

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The neighborhood paradox

We don't seek it out. We still show up.

68%

Received neighbor support
in the past year



Support happens,
even when we're
not seeking it

54%

interact with
neighbors
If it happens naturally

How neighbors showed up last year

45%

☎ Small favors

26%

♡ Emotional support

25%

✂ Practical help

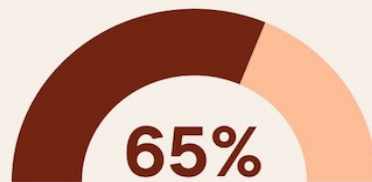
22%

♡ Emergency help

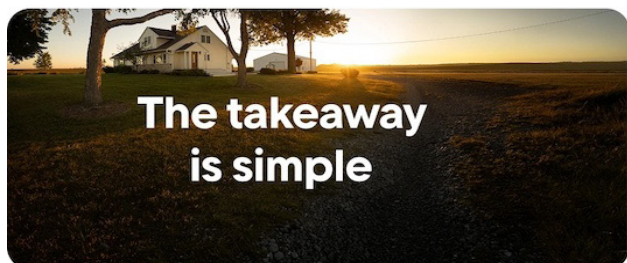
Neighbors are ready to show up



Would ask a neighbor
for help in an emergency



Feel comfortable
helping a neighbor



95%

Say neighborhoods
are important

Brandywine Bay Breeze Sangria

By Monica Sellars

I was involved in a “spirited” brainstorming session with friendly folks at The 19th Hole last winter, discussing the idea of a Brandywine-themed cocktail. We enjoyed tossing around several good ideas, but we left without a definite decision. I was still thinking about the conversation the next day when the idea for this drink came to me.

I love a play on words and I like sangria, so here’s how it came together. I was aware that sangria recipes sometimes use brandy as the liquor that is mixed with the wine, so this made sense for Brandywine. And one of our brainstorming ideas had been a riff on the Bay Breeze mixed drink, which includes cranberry juice and pineapple juice. I realized that was a way to get Bay into the name of the drink, and it would be a complementary flavor combination with the wine. Finally, I used orange slices as the fruit component to represent our coastal sunshine.

The result is this refreshing recipe! Maybe this will inspire you to make your own version of Brandywine Bay Breeze Sangria. You might use red wine, different measurements, or different fruit. Let me know what you concoct!

Ingredients

- 500 ml white wine
- 4 oz brandy
- 6 oz pineapple juice
- 10 oz cranberry juice
- 1 sliced orange

Directions

Mix everything in a pitcher. Refrigerate. Let the flavors blend for at least 8 hours.



Protecting Yourself from Financial Scams: Know the Warning Signs



Presented by Greg Patterson and James Allen Canady

Financial scams continue to rise, affecting individuals of all ages and income levels. As technology evolves, so do the tactics used by fraudsters. Today's scams are more sophisticated, more personal, and more difficult to detect, making awareness and vigilance more important than ever.

Scammers are increasingly leveraging new technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to make their schemes more convincing. AI can now be used to create highly realistic emails, cloned voices, and even video messages that appear to come from someone you know or trust. In some cases, individuals have received phone calls that sound like a family member in distress, requesting urgent financial help, or messages that appear to come from a bank or trusted professional. These tactics are designed to create urgency and lower your guard, making it critical to pause and verify before taking action.

In addition, many scams now originate through digital platforms such as text messaging, email, and messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Signal. Fraudsters may also reach out through social media platforms like Instagram or Facebook Messenger. These scams often begin with an unsolicited message and gradually build into what appears to be a legitimate relationship or investment opportunity, sometimes involving cryptocurrency or foreign exchange trading. Messages may look professional and convincing, and in some cases include fake account dashboards showing strong returns. In reality, these are carefully designed schemes intended to build trust before requesting larger deposits that are never recovered. Be cautious of unsolicited investment or job-related opportunities that promise consistent or unusually high returns, as these are often a sign of fraud.

While tactics may vary, many scams share common warning signs. Being aware of these red flags can help you avoid becoming a victim.

Are You Being Asked to Send Money Up Front?

One of the most common tactics is the advance-fee scam. In these situations, you may be told that you need to send money in order to receive a larger payment later. This could be framed as an investment opportunity, a prize, an inheritance, or even a financial emergency. In legitimate situations, you are not required to send money in advance to receive funds.

Is There Pressure to Act Quickly?

Scammers often create a sense of urgency to prevent you from taking time to think or verify the request. You may be told that an opportunity is limited, that immediate action is required, or that there will be consequences if you do not

respond quickly. A helpful rule of thumb is to pause before taking action and verify any unexpected request using a trusted contact method. Even a brief delay can make all the difference.

Are You Being Asked to Pay in an Unusual Way?

Another common red flag is the method of payment. Fraudsters often request payment through gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, prepaid debit cards, or even cash. Gift card scams, in particular, have become increasingly common, with individuals being instructed to purchase cards and share the codes under the guise of paying a bill, helping a friend, or resolving an urgent issue. Once these funds are sent, they are extremely difficult to recover. If someone insists on being paid in one of these ways, it is a strong indication of a scam.

Does the Situation Feel Unusual or Too Good to Be True?

Many scams rely on promises of high returns, exclusive opportunities, or urgent personal situations. Scammers may also impersonate financial advisors, custodians, banks, or even family members using familiar names, email addresses, or phone numbers to make requests appear legitimate. You may also receive messages claiming there is an issue with one of your accounts, prompting you to click a link or provide login information. If something feels unclear, overly complex, or simply too good to be true, it is worth taking a step back and seeking a second opinion before taking action.

What To Do If You Suspect a Scam

If you believe you may be dealing with a scam, it is important to act quickly. Stop communication with the individual, contact your financial institution if any funds have been sent, and change your passwords for important accounts. You may also consider placing a fraud alert or credit freeze with the major credit bureaus. Reporting the incident to appropriate authorities can also help prevent further harm.

Financial scams are increasingly common, but they are often preventable with awareness and caution. Taking a moment to pause, verify unexpected requests, and seek guidance from a trusted source can make a significant difference. If something feels off, trust your instincts and take the time to confirm before acting. A simple check can go a long way in protecting your finances and your peace of mind.

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Greg Patterson and James Allen Canady are financial advisors located at Atlantic Wealth Management, 712 Bridges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557. They offer securities and advisory services as Registered Representatives and Investment Adviser Representatives of Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. They can be reached at 252-515-7800 or at greg@myatlanticwealth.com.

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Boating Safety Course

By Sue LaPalme

Boating season is here. Get ready by taking a Boating Safety Course offered by America's Boating Club of the Crystal Coast. America's Boating Course meets all North Carolina requirements for those born on or after January 1, 1988 who operate a vessel propelled by a motor 10HP or greater. A wallet certificate will be awarded after the course completion exam. A class is being held on Saturday April 25 from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The class will be at Carteret Community College and the fee for non-members is \$25. Register at www.abc-cc.org under Boater Education.

A free seminar on boating in our local waters will take place at the Maritime Museum in Beaufort on June 11 from 2 to 4 PM. No registration is necessary.

Now is also the time to have your boat checked by a certified Vessel Safety Examiner. A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your boat (Vessel) to verify the presence and condition of certain Safety Equipment required by State and the Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the United States Power Squadrons or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. They will also make certain recommendations and discuss certain safety issues that will make you a safer boater.

This is not boarding or a law enforcement issue. No citations will be given as a result of this encounter. We will supply you with a copy of our evaluation so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display our distinctive VSC decal. This does

not exempt you from law enforcement boarding, but you can be prepared to make this a positive encounter.

A VSC (Vessel Safety Check) can be done wherever your boat, PWC, kayak, sailboat, canoe or paddleboard is docked or stored. Sign up at www.abc-cc.org under Vessel Safety Check Info.



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SAFE BOATING RESOURCES

BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Get Your Boater's Certificate!

**Saturday, April 25 from
8:30 AM to 5 PM at
Carteret Community
College.**



Register at www.abc-cc.org under Boater Education.

FREE LOCAL WATERS SEMINAR

Learn Local Waterways & Tips



**Thursday, June 11 from 2
to 4 PM at the Maritime
Museum in Beaufort.**

No registration is necessary.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

Is Your Boat Shipshape?

- Safety equipment check and recommendations
- Done wherever your boat, PWC, kayak, sailboat, canoe or paddleboard is docked



Register at www.abc-cc.org under Vessel Safety Check Info.





Summer Concerts in the Fort at Fort Macon State Park

Concerts are free; donations are welcomed and appreciated. Bring a folding chair, a snack, and a smile.

No pets or alcohol please.

6:30 – 8:00 pm

May 29 – The Carteret Community Sunshine Band

June 5 – Salty Bones

June 19 – Smokehouse

June 26 – Tidal Blues

<https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/fort-macon-state-park>



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Growing Things from Grocery Store Food

By Monica Sellars

We can't help it. When a food that we bought at the store has a seed, we want to try to plant it. Here are some examples and the outcomes.

- Avocados: We tried at least twice to grow an avocado tree from a seed. We had luck at first with the plants starting to grow, but they did not survive.
- Lemons: We have two lemon trees in pots that are quite tall and leafy. They also have very sharp spikes on them. We have had them for several years, but I think they have only made actual lemons once or twice. We have to bring them inside for the winter.
- Pineapples: You can put the top of a pineapple in a pot and it will grow a new pineapple plant. This takes several years, and the pineapples we produced were small but very tasty. These need to come inside for the winter as well.
- Medjool Dates: These were very successful! The pits from the dates have turned into thriving date palms that we have now planted in the backyard. They survived this past winter, so we figure they are pretty tough little trees. (We did help them out by keeping them warm and covered.) I hope they will produce dates someday! This is a picture of one of our date trees.



- Melons and squash: We have had melon and squash plants grow mostly by accident due to their seeds surviving in the compost bin and then being added to our vegetable garden in the spring. We usually let them grow and have had several of them produce; butternut squash has been the most successful.

I know we have lots of plant lovers in the neighborhood! Share your plant stories with Sound Waves readers by emailing editor. soundwaves@gmail.com.

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