

APRIL 2023 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCEAN DUNES

homeowners association

IN SEASON HOURS April 1st - October 31st

Rec Center:
(indoor pool, hot tub,
saunas & fitness center)
7 days a week
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Outdoor Pools:
NOW OPEN
7 days a week
9 a.m.- Dusk



BOARD ELECTION

Begins: 4/10

Ends: 5/4





Meet Our Neighbor

Lawrence Braxton & Beth Starling

Having grown up on Florida's Gulf coast, Beth Starling has always been a beach girl at heart, though she was living about as "inland" as one can in Asheville, North Carolina, when she brought up to partner Lawrence Braxton her desire to return to her roots in the form of a beach place. Lawrence, who grew up "all over the place" as a preacher's son, was for it IF their investment could "pay for itself." The two started their search in South Carolina because Beth loved the area around Edisto Island, but soon discovered that no place in South Carolina could fit Lawrence's criteria. Moving on up to North Carolina they checked out several areas including Topsail, as they have relatives there. Lawrence was adamantly against a condo and the two just could not find a "fit."

They did find an excellent real estate agent on Pleasure Island who showed them around; again, just not coming up with what they envisioned. They were packed up, ready to head back to the hills, when the agent persuaded them to take a look at (yes) a condo that was listed that day, cajoling Lawrence to "just LOOK." The place did not impress either one. Before leaving, Beth went down to the carport just to check out the age and condition of the HVAC unit. While figuring out whose carport was whose, a building occupant came down to ask, "Can I help you?" After a brief introduction, the two got to talking. Elsie, the Ocean Duner, opened up about life at OD and all the good things it entailed. Turned out, she and her mate were in 1305, just below 1306, with the exact same floor plan. Would Beth and Lawrence want to come look at their unit and see what could be accomplished? Sure enough, the unit was a stunner, completely redone to a marvelous condition, "just gorgeous." Beth and Lawrence were inspired. They put a bid on the place, but to their dismay, another party had beaten them to the punch. Fortunately for them, the deal fell through and Starling and Braxton became the proud owners in December of 2012. The unit needed a facelift, and renovation was in order immediately. With a lot of work, their place is now everything they'd envisioned, with the added bonus, for years, of having fine neighbors who evolved into fine friends.

Lawrence speaks of how on their first true day as owners there was a whale cavorting in the ocean, dolphins surrounding it, who stayed all day. Talk about an omen!



This delightful, upbeat twosome spend time at their place as much as possible, going back and forth from their homes in Asheville and Waynesville. For many years, Beth was a marriage and family therapist, receiving degrees from Auburn and Kentucky. She now is a supervisor for folks looking to become therapists, advising and instructing them in best practices leading to licensing. She volunteers at various organizations in the Asheville area and still finds time for fun with her three grown children and two amazing (of course!) grandchildren.

Lawrence, who swears Beth is the more "interesting" of the two, has a quite interesting history of his own. He grew up a Methodist minister's son, his dad and "everyone else except me" attending Duke University, then moving every few years as Methodist ministers did, especially at that time. He attended North Carolina State and graduated in Business from UNC-CH. He was in Vietnam in the Air Force, acting as an instructor and interpreter, then came home to various stints until settling on a long career in real estate and insurance in and around Waynesville. Because of his work reputation, he was chosen to be the insurance provider overseer for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for 25 years. His expertise in insurance has made him a welcomed advisor for our insurance questions and issues here at Ocean Dunes. The two love the pool and hot tub, spending many evenings there when they're here. They delight in the playground for the grandkids--and so do the parents, thankful for an onsite place to play without having to drive anywhere. They enjoy walking the grounds and taking extended walks up and down our beautiful shoreline. The Fort Fisher grounds hold a special place for them, including Lawrence's cousin having built the encasements for the outdoor armory on the battleground itself. The two find much joy in showing friends and family around our amazing neighborhood.

Lawrence has two grown children, two children-in-law and four grandchildren. He is a past HOA board member and current member of several committees, who in his sincerest voice, says of Ocean Dunes: It's the best place ever. I'm thrilled.



Beth concurs!

HAPPY EASTER
to *Every Bunny*

May this joyful
season of Easter
fill your heart
with renewed hope,
love, and peace.



Kure Beach Pier

The good fortune we at Ocean Dunes includes our close proximity to the Kure Beach pier. Just up the beach "a piece," our pier offers free admission to strollers.

The pier was constructed after Hurricane Hazel in 1954 with major repairs needed after Hazel's evil sisters, Diane (1984) and Bertha (1996) blew through.



Bertha caused so much damage the pier had to be reconstructed, the new owner returning to the original design including an impressive 26-foot elevation. The added height seems to have helped in later storms with little damage since.

The most popular draw is the fishing with, depending on the time of year, flounder, blues, pompano, drum, spots, sharks, and even king mackerel on the menu.



Claiming to be the oldest fishing pier on the Atlantic coastline, the original pier was built in 1923 by L. C. Kure.



The pier hosts many tournaments for various groups including women and young anglers. The most popular is the annual Cape Fear Disabled Sportsman's Fishing Tournament which attracts nearly 300 entries every year. Stay tuned for more on this tourney in the May newsletter!

