

TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW NEWSLETTER

FOURTH OF JULY EDITION 2017

SCROLL OF HONOR

Lt. Frank A. Gault

United States Navy
1942-1965

**PFC George O'Brien
Inman**

United States Army
1954-1956

**SMSgt Michael W.
Hollingsworth**

US Army-US Air Force
1961-2004

**Lt. Commander
John A. McNeill**

U.S. Naval Reserve
1943-1945

SCROLL OF HONOR

Continued

What better way to celebrate our nation's birthday than to honor Lake Waccamaw's own Mr. Fourth of July, Lieutenant Commander John A. McNeill in this special Fourth of July edition of the Town of Lake Waccamaw Newsletter.



PROFILE

Lieutenant Commander John A. McNeill , Sr.

Lt. Commander McNeill served his country in WW II as a member of the United States Naval Reserve. He was in command of Flotilla Five, a group of tank landing craft from June 1943 until May 1945. His main theater of war was in the Solomon Islands. He wrote of his experiences during World War II in his book entitled The Voyage of the 159. He stated in the book that, aside from his family, the Voyage of the 159 was the proudest event of his life. Commander McNeill remained in the Naval Reserves until 1978. Ever the modest man, we honor the family's request to dwell on his life after the War and not mention the numerous commendations he earned while serving his Country.

According to his son George, John McNeill was a man who realized that this world was great but very fragile as mankind continues to make its footprint on this earth. To him, Lake Waccamaw was a sacred space and something that was alive. It was not just a body of water, but a living, breathing environment of life. He marveled at the clear night sky filled with that "Old North Star" and the luster of the "Milky Way" as he taught all his children how to live as one with our universe.

John McNeill loved everything about the precious Lake and truly understood that he was only a custodian of it. He hosted many scientists from around the United States who came to study the fragile ecosystem of our lake. Scientists were not the only ones who enjoyed the McNeill family's hospitality. Many international executives brokered significant economic development deals at the McNeill's Cottage on Canal Cove Road.

The Friday Night Fish Fry!

After retiring from his pharmacy, John and his dear friend Frank Gault started a host of new projects benefitting the Lake. Alligators in Christmas attire appeared in the canal during the holidays and Christopher Columbus' 3-ship armada visited the Lake for our nation's 200th birthday. The most successful and sustainable project to benefit the Depot Museum and the Library was the Friday night fish fry where one brought a covered dish and ate some delicious fried fish, masterfully prepared by Mr. Gault until his passing. This tradition continues today. These two gentlemen, until their demise, raised over \$50,000 for the Depot Museum and Library.



Town Board

Daniel Hilburn, Mayor

Jimmy Stanley, Mayor ProTem

Martha Lowe, Commissioner

Matt Wilson, Commissioner

Kevin Butler, Commissioner

Office Staff

Harry Foley, Town Manager

Valerie Register, Town Clerk

Sarah Coffman, Customer Service Representative



CURBSIDE RECYCLING WILL BEGIN WEDNESDAY JULY 5, AND EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY THEREAFTER!

HONORS

1940 Graduate UNC School of Pharmacy
1958 NC Academy of Pharmacy
1957-1983 Columbus County Board of Health
1961 Honorary Admiral, NC Navy
1981 Order of the Long Leaf Pine
1985 Veterans of Foreign Wars Services Award
1987 Chairman, Columbus County's Bicentennial
2000 Clan McNeill Order of Merit
2014 Whiteville Optimist Club Friend of Youth Award
NC Wildlife Federation Award
Whiteville Jaycees Senior Citizen Award
Civitan Citizen of the Year Member
Saint Andrews Society of NC
Quarto Mondo Society
Take The Lake Steering Committee

BSA
1991 Class of Eagles Award
1993 Silver Beaver Award
Troop 513 Leader
50+ Scouts attained rank of Eagle Scout

**McNeill's Pier
A July 4th Tradition!
Hundreds of
friends and family gather on the flowerful pier and by boat in the Lake to observe the "unofficial" Columbus County 4th of July celebration.**



That's what friends are for!

The picture below shows the McNeill pier, shaped in the form of a boat, in its full splendor. Fortunately, John's friends are keeping his living legacy in beautiful condition.



Harrys Helpful Hints!

Repeated !

Recycling begins July 5, For more information go to our website at

www.lakewaccamaw.com

To ensure Wednesday trash pick up, place your containers curbside on Tuesday evening.

Leaf and limb pick up is the first and third weekend of the month. Pick up normally starts on Thursday, and depending on volume, may run into Saturday.

The Town will resume pier inspections. Owners of defective structures will be notified by registered mail. If you have any questions about your pier situation, call Town Hall at 646-3700. The Pier Ordinance can be accessed on our website at www.lakewaccamaw.com

Tired of writing checks or going to Town Hall to pay your water bill every month? We can set you up on bank draft. Stop by Town Hall and see Sarah or Valerie.

Injector Tank Inspections are still in progress!

ORDINANCE OF THE MONTH

(For the ordinance in its entirety, visit www.lakewaccamaw.com)

ARTICLE III. - PIERS AND DOCKS

Sec. 6-187. - Structural specifications.

All structures shall conform to the following requirements:

- (1) Every *pier* or dock shall be designed to withstand a live load consistent with the state building code, chapter 36, section 3603.
- (2) The structural requirements of the state building code shall govern the general design and strength requirements of all piers and docks; provided, that additional requirements as set out herein shall take precedence.

Sec. 6-188. - Safety features.

- (d) Any electrical service to a *pier*, dock or any structure located within the city will be in accordance with the state electrical code, article 682.

Sec. 6-190. - Town authorized to remove hazardous structures.

- (a) In the event that an improperly maintained *pier*, dock or other structure now exists or will exist in the future, after the owner of such *pier*, dock or other structure has been notified by the building inspector and has failed to repair and bring the structure into a safe condition, the town or a contractor employed by the town may remove entirely this structure and its appurtenances and dispose of all materials, refuse and wreckage there from under the authority of G.S. 160A-426 and 160A-428.
- (b) The town may assess against the property owner the cost of such removal, which shall become a lien upon his property payable immediately. After a period of 60 days, there shall be assessed an additional interest rate of six percent until the cost is paid.

Sec. 6-193. - Enforcement.

- (e) Existing piers not meeting the current state building code must be brought up to current code requirements unless adequate proof that the *pier* was inspected at the time of construction by a certified building inspector employed by the town or contracted by the town to perform building and/or electrical inspections within the state.

A big "Thank You" to John McNeill's family and friends for providing the information for this newsletter and a "Special Thanks" to Amber Bivens for the McNeill Pier picture taken on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

