



Curtain Call



May 2018

We're Acting Up on the Crystal Coast

Vol 1, Issue 3

A Message from Carolyn Evans President of Carteret Community Theatre



Carolyn Evans

Greetings from the president...of the CCT. While these words may have a familiar ring to some, you are not being drafted into the Armed Services of our country. However, you are being encouraged to join our corps of volunteers.

At our last April membership meeting, our by-laws were changed from meeting monthly to meeting annually. For the last three years, the Theatre Board has endeavored to keep the members informed through published minutes of both Board and General meetings. With our over-committed and busy lives, another meeting seemed of little benefit. What might be more beneficial would be a commitment to volunteer for one of the many activities needed to promote the smooth operation of the theatre. With that in mind, we will be planning volunteer work days as well as volunteer play days. Workshops, such as lighting, are already underway and more can be developed to cover other areas of the theatre arts. The key to active membership is not attending meetings but attending to the needs of the organization—and we need you. Ask not what the theatre can do for you...Oh, well, you get the point! Let's have fun together in a more productive way. Look for ways that you can help because, "We are acting up on the Crystal Coast."

CCT'S Leadership Team 2017-2018

Carolyn Evans, President
Brian Burnham, Vice Pres.
Nancy Veitch, Secretary
Anne Lindsay, Treasurer

Board Members

Greta Boshamer
Michelle H. Johnson
Norma Wagaman
Ann Walker

Newsletter Staff

Bill Colbert, Editor
Dick Rogers, Layout Editor
IT Advisor, Alex Russell
Reporters, Staff Members

Mission Statement

The Carteret Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit organization all volunteer group committed to bringing opportunities for theatrical experiences to all the citizens of Carteret County.

Carteret Community Theatre Hires Devra Thomas As Business Manager

By Bill Colbert



Carteret Community Theatre is proud to announce that we have hired a business manager who is presently hard at work. She is Ms. Devra Thomas who describes herself as a North Carolinian through and through. Born in Durham and raised in Cary, Ms. Thomas' background in education and professional work experience is indeed impressive. Her education credits include a bachelor's degree from Guilford College in Greensboro, NC and a Master of Arts in

Devra Thomas Administration from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland.

Before moving to Morehead City with her husband, Clinton Wilkinson, General Manager at Dick's Sporting Goods, and daughter Sophia age 10, Ms. Thomas was Executive Director of Common Ground Theater in Durham, a small independent theatre that provided rehearsal and performance space for small independent theater groups during its twelve-year run. It also produced *A Trailer Park Christmas* on an annual basis.

Devra has a special love and passion for performing arts organizations in small communities. Not unlike John Villani, who in his 1998 book *The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America*, identified Carteret County as one of the best 100 small arts communities in America, Ms. Thomas believes there is room for the arts in communities large and small.

Many theatre members and patrons were especially impressed by her thoughts, ideas and feelings about theater. For example, in her Master of Arts thesis she speaks to the point that theatre is something people must do together. "Without an audience theatre does not truly achieve a lasting effect."

Thomas goes on to say, "The shared emotion that travels throughout an audience during and after a show is palpable." Finally, Devra says, "Theatre is not made for a single age group or any other single demographic. If we do our job correctly we welcome all with open arms, we build community through our art form."

Presently, Devra finds herself working with all things business and that is just about everything. Wherever help is needed she is there working with the treasurer, filing reports, helping with the management of tickets, working with Will Rogers our accountant, gathering data for the tax return etc. and (at the same time) keeping morale at the highest possible level. It is with great enthusiasm and pride that we welcome Ms. Devra Thomas to The Carteret Community Theatre organization.



Katie Dixon

Seasoned Actress Katie Dixon To Direct *Grease*

By Bill Colbert

One would travel many miles and certainly many a red sun would set before you would find a more suitable director for the hit musical *Grease* than Katie Dixon. She does indeed bring a background of experience and understanding of the musical that would be hard to match. It starts in 1989 when her brother Chris in his senior year of high school was cast as Danny. And we all know what it is like when one family member is cast in a show. Suddenly much of family life

revolves around the show. Many conversations, discussions, debates become centered in the shows action, its characters and, (of course) its cast. And as time rolls on there are many references relative to, “Remember when you were in that show.”

And time did roll by. In 1998, Katie, a student at Montgomery County High School in Pennsylvania, found herself cast as Rizzo in *Grease*. It was the part she wanted, the part she tried out for, nothing else would do. And you know that family attention intensified around *Grease*. Now in 2018 Katie Dixon is the director of the hit musical *Grease*. No doubt the biggest reason why *Grease* will be a hit in Carteret County is the fact that Katie loves the show.

It was about one year ago that Katie brought the idea of directing *Grease* to the attention of the artistic committee of The Carteret Community Theatre. The Committee immediately saw Katie’s enthusiasm and the appeal of the Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey musical and gave her a go ahead.

The show is set in 1959 at the fictional Rydell High School (patterned after the William Howard Taft High School in Chicago). The story follows ten working class teenagers as they navigate the complexities of peer pressure, politics, core values and love.

With Spartan-like zeal prior to tryouts, Katie contacted youth groups, churches, schools and support people with great expertise in an effort to recruit fresh talent and faces to be part of the production. From the looks of the roster of cast and crew it appears that Katie’s efforts were largely rewarded—fresh faces and new talent will abound in this new production. The benefits to the theatre and the new people are obvious.

At the time it closed on Broadway in 1980, *Grease* had run for some 3,388 performances and it was discussed many times in theatre circles here as a project we should undertake because of its popularity. Unfortunately, however, a worry (real or imagined) was that the cast calls for young men who dance and the feeling was that we didn’t have young male dancers. Katie has overcome this hurdle by her intensive cast recruitment campaign and the recruitment of Ariana Guzman (a recent graduate from UNC-G specializing in dance) as choreographer.

Surely Katie Dixon’s zeal and love of *Grease* will propel it into being one of the greatest events in Carteret Community Theatre history.

Rotary Club of Morehead City Thanks Carteret Community Theatre



Carolyn Evans, President
Carteret Community Theatre
Morehead City, NC 28557

Dear Mrs. Evans,

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Morehead City, I would like to thank you for supporting the Balsam Range concert "Saving a Lifetime of Memories" held on March 24th at the Carteret Community Theatre. The concert was a fund raising effort to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Thanks to the Community Theatre, the perfect venue for a bluegrass concert, you will be happy to know, that Rotary was able to present a check for \$12,000 to the local Alzheimer's Organization immediately after the concert.

The Rotary Club is looking forward to bringing Balsam Range and their unique southern bluegrass sound back to the Crystal Coast next year for a return engagement. In preparation for next year, the club has provided this year's sponsors with a questionnaire asking for suggestions to improve next year's event. Once the results of the questionnaires have been analyzed, we will share the data with your staff.

Again, I thank you for support in selling tickets and having volunteers available to work the concession stand. You are to be commended for having such public minded volunteers who devote their time to providing quality entertainment to the people of Carteret County.

Sincerely,
Rick Johnson, President
Morehead City Evening Rotary Club

Balsam Range Live on Stage

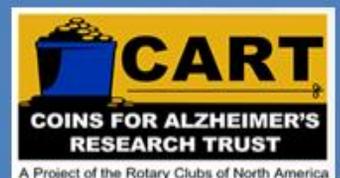
Presented by
Rotary Club of Morehead City



Thanks for your
support
\$12,000 has been
contributed for



Carteret Community Theatre
March 24, 2018



"SAVING A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES"

Alzheimer's Research



Meet Will Rogers, Carteret Community Theatre's Accountant

By Bill Colbert



Will Rogers, CPA

One is not long into a conversation with Will Rogers before becoming aware of his care and concern for his customers and his great understanding of his field of expertise. Many of the volunteers at the theatre have worked with other non-profit organizations and remember their organization's accountant as the person who helped fill out the tax forms when they were due.

Will Rogers and his firm go well beyond that meager standard. Will's care and concern for his clients--their goals and ambitions--is immediately evident in his conversation. And this is surely why the Rogers firm has gone from three CPAs in 2009 to eight today and Will is looking forward to hiring two more staff members.

After receiving his BA and a Master's Degree in accounting, from North Carolina State University, Will came to Morehead City to work with the late Leonard Jones, CPA. When Jones died suddenly, Will's dad, a friend of Leonard Jones, and an accountant in Jacksonville, NC, bought (what is now Rogers and Company) from the Jones estate.

Since July of 2017 Will has been an accountant for the Carteret Community Theatre and he is mostly impressed with the internal controls the theatre has in place to safeguard its funds. This, of course, is very pleasing news to theatre contributors and patrons who are happy to know that their dollars are being safeguarded for the benefit of the theatre. "Board members and volunteers do a great job in protecting the theatre's assets," says Will. And, however you feel about credit cards, Will suggests, "They are a great help in telling where money comes from and where it goes." (And they are, of course, not as vulnerable to loss as cash).

Will and his wife Christie live in an interesting Morehead City area on Bay Street where much redevelopment is going on. Christie is also a professional and after receiving her BA and MBA Degree in administration from NC State University, she worked for the State of North Carolina in human services and now works as head of the Small Business Administration at Carteret Community College. Will tells us she is looking forward to The Carteret Community Theatre's production of *Grease* (as we all are).



Volunteers Contribute to Theatre Profits: Part of Will Rogers' job is auditing ticket sales and income from the concession stand--two major revenue sources for the theatre.

Senior Life Expo Is Huge Success



Devra Thomas and Greta Boshamer Promote Carteret Community Theatre at the Senior Life Expo

By Carolyn Lyle Evens

The Carteret Community Theatre joined in the fun and excitement of the Senior Life Expo held at the Leon Mann, Jr. Enrichment Center in Morehead City. This is the sixth year that the Carteret County Aging Services has offered this program. The theatre was pleased to participate, recognizing that our senior citizens are the backbone of our support and not to be overlooked as a valuable asset.

Greta Boshamer created a display promoting the theatre and its activities and was joined by Carolyn Evens and Devra Thomas, the theatre's new Business Manager. Their goal was to stress the importance and need for volunteers. Volunteer forms were distributed as well as information pertaining to a volunteer seminar to be held in June at the theatre. The Senior Center is an incredible facility offering a wide variety of activities. It was a pleasure to be a part of this event.



From the Front Door

By Bill Colbert

If he were here, I'm sure Charlie Brown would say happiness is hearing from the patrons as they pass through the main entrance of the theatre before show time, because that's what it is. They do not pass in silence and they are mostly happy going to the theatre. When they speak, theatre patrons are, most often, full of good suggestions for the theatre. Lately one hears about an interesting need of patrons to know more about shows that are coming and (this is most interesting of all) the directors that guide the development of the theatre's productions. Who are they? Where did they come from? Are they new to directing theatre productions or are they people of long experience? Many were surprised to learn that Jean Haggar was new to directing because *On Golden Pond* was such an excellent production. Patrons respect and appreciate experienced and new directors and patrons generally hope both will find new success and continue to direct.

Because of this newly identified need of patrons The Curtain Call will focus on new plays



Bill Colbert and Brian Burnham, two staunch supports of the theatre, perform vital functions. Bill is the theatre's official greeter and Brian is the theatre's facilities manager.

and their directors. We will promote them both with gusto as you would want us to. One of the most often heard expression of patrons is: "We are so glad the theatre is here doing all the great things it is doing." Both outside shows and Carteret Community Theatre productions are greatly appreciated. As one theatre patron asked, "Aren't you ever going to have a flop." I immediately responded, I hope not.

Yes! Our patrons know their favorite genre when it comes to theatre. As you would guess musicals are tops (and our attendance figures bear this out). Then they mention not just comedy but romantic comedy like *Something's Gotta Give* and *Bringing Up Baby* (and this was interesting to us). And thirdly, drama such as *On Golden Pond* and even drama noir. Not too surprising was the fact that Shakespeare got a few mentions too.

We are happy to report that The Curtain Call receives a very favorable review from our patrons, however, some say we have too many pictures. Others say we have too much text and not enough pictures. You can't please everyone? We have heard that but we shall continue to strive to strike the right balance that pleases all and brings even more happiness to our patrons. A conclusion relative to the theatre that is easy to reach is that the Theatre is a happy place. Many thanks to all the workers, and patrons too, who make it what it is. Keep those good ideas coming patrons!

A BIG thanks to all theatre-goers for participating in the Name the Newsletter Contest. As you can see, the name most suggested was Curtain Call and was most appropriate and ideally suited the masthead.

Save the Date!

for

TAKE CENTER STAGE

Launching of the
Carteret Community Theatre
Capital Campaign

November 17, 2018

Coral Bay Club, Atlantic Beach

2018 Summer

Concerts



April 27

June 15



July 14

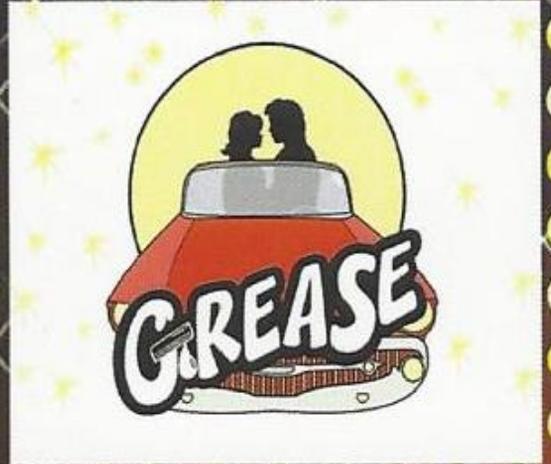
August 3

1311 Arendell St, Morehead City

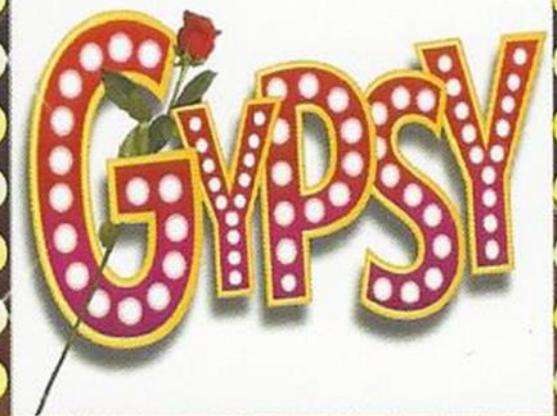
www.carteretcommunitytheatre.com

252-726-1501

Mark Your Calendar!
You Won't Want to
Miss these two Shows



June 29-July 8, 2018



September 14-23, 2018