



With more than 14 miles of shoreline and access to the Intracoastal Waterway, River Dunes offers a variety of boating opportunities.

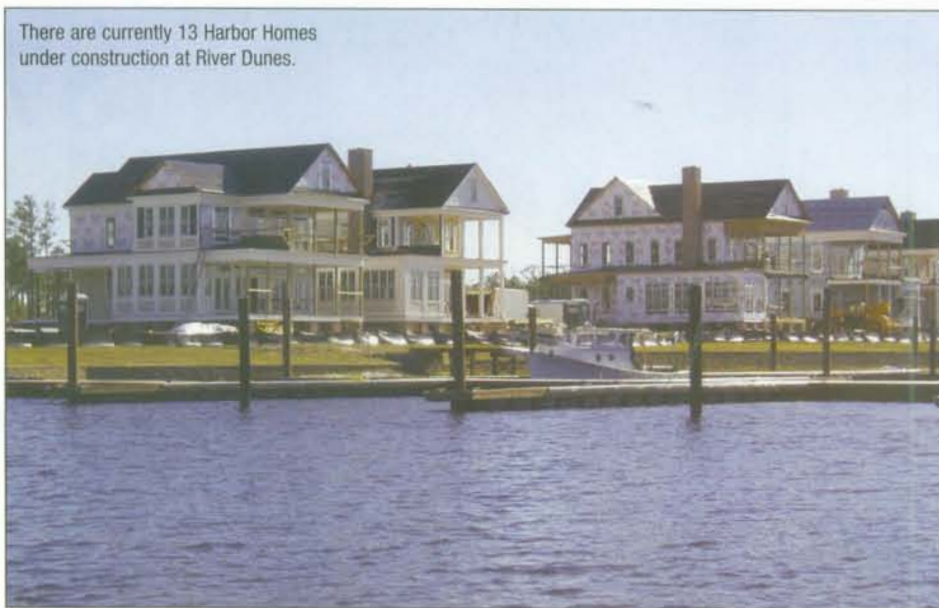
# Building Traditions at

BY KAREN M. ALLEY

New Year's Eve is a time for celebration. It's a time to look forward to a future full of excitement and the promise of great things to come. In Oriental, NC, the entire town turns out to pay tribute to the New Year with a full-fledged parade, highlighted by a giant Chinese dragon, celebrating the town's name with a Far East connection. This friendly dragon runs throughout the town, drawing out revelers who join in the fun banging pots and pans in celebration of the New Year.

Traditions like the Oriental dragon are a big part of coastal life, and North Carolina's newest Far East community, River Dunes, draws on its rich heritage of life on the big water to honor old traditions and establish a place to create new ones with family and friends.

Boating is a way of life in eastern North Carolina, and many of the local traditions center around all types of watercraft. Every December, the holidays are launched with a Spirit of Christmas flotilla featuring elaborately decorated boats. This year, River Dunes' own *Miss Grace*, a carefully restored 1948 32-foot Core Sounder, built by Harkers Island boatbuilder Brady Lewis and used by several generations of fishermen in the local



There are currently 13 Harbor Homes under construction at River Dunes.

waters, received top honors for her festive decorations.

Creating memories with family around the water is another great area tradition. Steve and Heidi Benjamin, River Dunes property owners, are looking forward to the opportunity to bring family and friends to their new home in the marina community. "We came to visit River Dunes last February and fell in love with it from the first view," says Steve Benjamin. A lifelong sailor and Olympic medalist, he and his brothers are anticipating the experiences

they will have boating the waters of the Pamlico Sound and Neuse River out of River Dunes' protected inland basin harbor.

River Dunes Harbor Club, located on the 400-slip resort marina, will be the centerpiece of an entire Harbor Village that includes a mineral pool with poolside cabanas, spas and fireplaces overlooking the gas-lit harbor. The Harbor Village will also include the Harbor Station and Quarters, Ships' Store and Chandlery, post office, coffee shop, specialty shops, a performing-arts cen-



# RIVER DUNES

*Miss Grace won the best decorated boat award in the 2006 Oriental Spirit of Christmas Flotilla.*



ter, Mariners' Chapel, state-of-the-art fitness center, spa and wellness facility, and an open-air marketplace, all designed in River Dunes distinctive maritime village architectural style. New homes are now under construction in the Harbor Village. Every home is designed to maximize the wraparound water views offered on the marina and to provide opportunities for the ease and comfort of outdoor living and boating.

Situated at the mouth of the Neuse River, with big water views extending across to

Pamlico Sound and the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), River Dunes guests and residents will gather to enjoy fine dining and wine selections, swimming in an infinity pool with unlimited water views, playing a round of tennis, watching movies in a private screening room or rocking on the front porch of the River Club. The beautiful chapel will sit just adjacent to the River Club, making it a perfect location for special occasions.

Residents of River Dunes will also be able to create wonderful outdoor memories. A per-

manent conservation area and an outdoor adventure center and canoe club will offer activities that take advantage of the natural environment of the community. Miles of hiking trails, bird-watching, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and camping are but a few of the outdoor activities that will be available.

While preserving the rich heritage of life on the water, River Dunes will provide a place to shape new memories. Unique in its location with 14 miles of shoreline along the ICW, River Dunes is a true boater's paradise. As a place for families and friends to gather and celebrate the good times to be had around the water, River Dunes has all the resources in place to create tomorrow's traditions. 🚤

To find out more about what is offered in the community, call 800.975.9565 or visit [www.riverdunes.com](http://www.riverdunes.com).



*Naturally, oyster roasts are one of the many traditions that are already taking hold at River Dunes.*