

The Village of Pinehurst today takes its first serious look at the feasibility of underwriting a performing arts center, using an empty firehouse on Community Road as a starting point. The Village Council scheduled a meeting this morning to discuss with the advisory board of The Pinehurst Performing Arts Center possible funding for a feasibility study. David Michael Wolff is the pianist, Conductor and Founder of The Pinehurst-based Carolina Philharmonic. Wolff has asked the village to donate the firehouse to his non-profit organization. After that, Wolff says he plans to renovate the building and conduct a multi-million dollar fund-raising effort. Wolff says he plans to spend between fifty-thousand and one-hundred-thousand on renovations in order to raise the much larger sum, using the refurbished firehouse for office space and a staging area for solicitations. His aim is to transform Pinehurst from a resort destination into an arts and cultural hub. Wolff envisions that three entities, the philharmonic, a 22-hundred seat performing arts center to be built off The Arboretum in the village's core area, and Conservancy International, The music school he founded after moving to Pinehurst from New York City. Former Mayor Virginia Fallon said Wolff's ambitious plans for the core area 'would be the equivalent of "transforming a sow's ear into a silk purse." One of Wolff's early supporters, Landscape Architect Robert Hayter, has already told the council that, in his view, Wolff's vision of the future is quoting him "Completely realistic."