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Volume 21 Number 7

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 3, 2006

Lombard joins race for board

It's now five candidates for the three open seats on the board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], with the addition of Dee Lombard, who presented a petition supporting her candidacy during the Wednesday, January 25 meeting of the Association.

Lombard is a longtime resident of Seven Lakes North and the wife of Seven Lakes Company Police Chief Dennis Lombard. She is regularly in attendance at the SLLA's monthly general meetings.

Lombard joins incumbent director Jackie Scotti, Michael Florence, Steve Hudson, and Ed Nuti on the slate of candidates. Ballots will be mailed out near the end of February; the election will be finalized at the SLLA Annual Meeting on March 26. *The Times* will publish interviews with the SLLA candidates

in our February 17 edition.

Community Standards. Director Jeff Herman said that six months ago his committee put in a standardized procedure for receiving complaints about violations of the rules and regulations. That process was audited in January, Herman said. A total of 48 complaints had been received during the six month period; 14 were unresolved as of the January 25 meeting, and half of those were received during month of January.

The audit of the process had resulted in a recommendation that notifications to the landowners of a rules infraction be followed up within one week, in order to speed up the compliance process.

"We have a fully traceable system now," Herman said. "We will be beginning a monthly audit

(See "Draft," p. 7)

Take me out to the ball field



Maddie and Dustin Burrell take a break from helping their parents Sandi & Buzz clean up and fix up at the West End Elementary ball field. Read more about the efforts to get the field in shape for the spring season on page 4.

100 homes underway on West Side

There are now at least 100 homes under construction on the West Side, Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] President Jim Meikle announced during the association Tuesday, January 24 general meeting.

There are 800 occupied homes in Seven Lakes West, Meikle said, noting that in 1997 the total was 300 homes.

"As the community grows, so do the situations the board has to deal with," Meikle said. He encouraged residents to attend the Candidates Night on February 9 to get to know the candidates for the SLWLA board.

"The issues are getting far more complex," Meikle said,

noting that the character of board elections is also changing.

"It's really getting down to a political election. This is an opportunity to see what the candidates have to say."

Finance. SLWLA Treasurer Lois Rocco reported that the Board had approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 that includes no dues increase.

The proposed operating budget for 2006-2007 is \$908,692, a nearly 13 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

Rocco said 24 percent of the budgeted expenditures is allocated to building the community's three reserve accounts — for the Lake Auman dam, the

roads, and contingencies. The board's goal is to set aside \$300,000 for the dam and \$500,000 in each of the other reserve accounts.

By the end of the next fiscal year, the funds are expected to stand as follows: Roads, \$379,000; Dam, \$178,000; and Contingency, \$187,000.

Rocco listed a number of new programs that are included in the 2006-2007 operating budget, which will increase 28 percent over the current year. They include:

- Security system modification.
- Lake Auman fish stocking program.
- A part-time maintenance staffer.

- Yard waste transfer site.
- Boat trailer storage lot.
- Revegetation of road shoulders.
- Expanded recreation program.
- Phase II of Lakeway median drainage project.

- Six fire hydrants.
- Timber Court water and sedimentation control.
- Security fencing.

Copies of the budget are available for reviews at the SLWLA

(See "Westside," p. 6)

Candidate Interviews!

The Times interviews with the six candidates for the Westside board begin on page 9 and take up a good chunk of this issue's newsprint. We hope Westsiders will find them useful.

Candidates night on the Westside is February 9; ballots are already in the mail. The election will be finalized at the Annual Meeting on March 19.

We'll interview candidates for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board in our February 17 issue.

Time to plan for the St. Paddy's parade

The Seven Lakes Women's Auxiliary is already in the midst of planning the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Saturday, March 11.

The parade will form at the North Clubhouse and start at 11:00 am. If you and or your organization would like to be a part of this year's parade, please contact Connie and John Loy at 673-5571 or Patt and Jerry Lewin at 673-2280. Convertibles, antique cars, dressed up golf carts or decorated boats always add to the parade. Bands or musical groups would be a most welcome addition. Let the committee know you want to be a part of the action!

Look for announcements on how to vote for your favorite Little Miss so that she gets a chance to be, selected as Little Miss Seven Lakes. Ballot boxes will be placed at the Landowner's Offices on the North Side, the

West Side and at the Seven Lakes Health and Fitness Center.

Tickets for the popular corned beef sandwich luncheon following the parade will go on sale Friday, February 17 and February

24, and Saturday, February, 25 and February 29 at the mail houses.

It is never too early to get ready for the Wearin' of the Green!

Bonsai! in Foxfire

The speaker at the Foxfire Garden Club's February 13 meeting will be Mr. Skip Ragland, a well-known Bonsai gardener. Ragland became hooked on this fascinating facet of gardening when he saw a Bonsai tree in a shop window in Switzerland over twenty years ago.

He will debunk several of the myths surrounding this art, among which is that it can be taught only by a Japanese "Bonsai Master" and that maintaining their interesting shapes can

be achieved only through many hours of tedious labor.

Mr. Ragland will demonstrate the steps involved in Bonsai gardening, from selection of plant material through their cultivation, and will display some trees from his own collection, which now numbers well over sixty.

The Club meets at 2:30 pm on the second Monday of each month in the Town Hall on Hoffman Road.

Local GOP meets Feb. 9

On Thursday, February 9, at 2:00 pm the Republican Seven Lakes Precinct will hold its annual meeting at the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department's firehouse on Seven Lakes Drive. Registration will begin at 1:30 pm.

All registered Seven Lakes Republicans are invited to participate. Seven Lakes registered Unaffiliated Voters are also invited to attend as visitors.

The Seven Lakes Precinct is the third largest Republican precinct in Moore County with 1,719 registered voters and during the year 2004 general election had an 89.5% Republican voter turnout, the largest in the county. Although this is not a presidential election year there are a number extremely important elections involving judicial, state, and county elected officials and other issues to be discussed.

In addition the Moore County Board of Elections Director, Glenda Clendenin, will be in attendance to discuss the new voting procedures and equipment that are to be used in the forthcoming election. Come one, come all and find out what is going on.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 910-673-0210, or e-mailed to thetimes@ac.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Feb. 17	Feb. 13
Mar. 3	Feb. 27
Mar. 17	Mar. 13
Mar. 31	Mar. 27
April 14	April 10
April 28	April 24
May 12	May 8
May 26	May 22
June 9	June 5
June 23	June 19
July 7	June 30*
July 21	July 17
August 4	July 31
August 18	August 14

**Early publication or deadline due to holiday.*

Bloodmobile February 8

The Bloodmobile will be visiting on Wednesday, February 8, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

Please come and bring a buddy along to give "The Gift of Life" with "regulars" like Charles Beattie, Beth Blondin, Laura Britt and Lionel Bryson. If you are over 17, over 110 pounds and in good health, you are needed.

Need A Miracle? Saint Jude Novena

Pray the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude help of hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 8 days and then publish. Your prayers will be answered, It has not been known to fail.

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A singing valentine for your sweetie?

What is more romantic than intimate music and roses on St. Valentine's Day?

This years, as years in the past, the Sandhills will become alive with the sound of love songs sung to those special someones by quartets of the

Golf Capital Chorus.

Men and women in the area will be serenaded on behalf of loved ones who want to do something just a little different.

Barbershop singers will go to schools, places of business, churches, hospitals, retirement

communities or anywhere else to let your special person know just how much you care.

Managers of stores and offices have found that their employees also can be made to feel very special by songs from these romantic rovers. And restaurant managers can hire strolling quartets to provide an extra bit of romance for St. Valentine's Day diners at their establishments.

All of the money generated by the Singing Valentines program goes to several Sandhills children charities supported by the Chorus. For \$40, a quartet will perform two love songs present a rose, card, and a box of candy to the recipient.

Dick Curl, or the "Cupid Meister" as he is known by the Golf Capital Chorus, is proud of the Singing Valentines program. "Not only do we get to see the smiles and tears on the faces of those we sing to, we know that what we are doing will help some child in the Sandhills.

"It's not unusual for members of our quartets to shed a tear or two as well when he sees the reaction of a loved one to our music. Of all of our programs for the kids, I think that this is the most loved by our quartets," he said.

If anyone in the community would like a Singing Valentine this St. Valentine's Day delivered to a loved one this year, the Golf Capital Chorus quartets will be out and about on February 13 from noon until 9:00 pm and on

February 14 from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm.

To schedule a quartet simply contact Dick Curl at (910) 215-9796 or email him at dickcurl@earthlink.net.

Newcomers meet



by Tinkie Petterson, Chair

The annual Newcomers Open House, sponsored by the Seven Lakes Women's Auxiliary, was held at the North Club House on January 18. The Auxiliary had 26 volunteer organizations and small businesses in attendance. The groups shared their materials and talked about their organization to the crowd of newcomers and some long time residents. Over 85 visitors attended the program. Refreshments were served by Roberta Robinson and her wonderful committee. The evening was a huge success also due to the Landowner's staff for helping to set up and clean up the Clubhouse! Thanks to all who participated!

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Back up or else!

On Tuesday, February 14, Jim Davis will present "Back It Up or Else" at 3:00 pm in the North Clubhouse Gameroom.

Backup means making one or more copies of data files in case something bad happens to the original.

This program will cover types of files in your computer and what files you should backup. The most important files are the ones you create on your computer. This includes documents, spreadsheets, data, photos, music, recipes, newsletters, financial records, email, etc.

There are also other type files including some programs and device drivers that are critical to the operation of your computer.

If something happens to your computer, like a virus or a hard drive failure, all your original files may be lost.

The presentation will cover how to make backup copies to reduce the possibility of lost files.

Most of the steps will use software and hardware already installed on most computers, i.e. Windows XP and a CD Burner.

Ball field rehab nearing completion

by Sandi Burrell

Work is still underway at the at the West End Elementary School ball field and we hope to have the concession stand work completed by the end of February.

Signs are still available and we are actively seeking local businesses to advertise on the outfield fence. Please contact Sandi Burrell at 673-0901 if your business would be interested. It would be nice to have the new signs filled by the first game this year. It will also be great to have more games played at our home field. I would like to say

thanks again to everyone who has contributed labor, materials and time to this project.

Please remember this project is being done for the community and that everyone is welcome to use the field. Call Mr. Ransom at Moore County Parks and Recreation to schedule a time for your event.

Everyone's help is appreciated in keeping the surrounding area clean and all the trash picked up. Additional trash cans will be added soon.

If you are interested in helping with the landscaping, please let Sandi Burrell know.

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23 years of Birthday parties

by Nancy Blythe

In 1983, Norma Aaron, Pauline Christine (now deceased), and Fritzie Stevens, who recently moved from Seven Lakes to Virginia to be closer to her family, realized that they each had their birthday in January.

They wanted to celebrate together and they went for lunch to Dan's Restaurant which was located at that time in the Lee-Moore Insurance Agency building in Seven Lakes Plaza.

The following year they knew a few other ladies who also had a birthday in January and they were invited to join them.

This gathering has repeated itself each year, and this January, 23 years later, 28 ladies met to celebrate their birthdays with lunch (complete with birthday cake!) and friendship at Seven Lakes Country Club.

The club served the group in the Peter Tufts Room. After lunch, Jeannette Hoganson spoke about how many years she had been with the January Birthday

Girls, and around the room it went with each lady telling how many years she has enjoyed coming for the event.

This year's party was arranged by MaryAnn Faraci and Nancy Blythe. Each Birthday Lady received a gift of a free manicure donated by Nails By Linda. A drawing was held for a "birthday" bouquet that was donated by Southern Grace Flowers and won by Pat Blair.

Photo: Back Row. Helen Yedziniak, Dottie Boothe, Ellie Kilpatrick, Jo Gilbert, Ginnye Powers, Issy Dantzer.

Middle Row. Nancy Blythe, Regina Anderson, Dorothy Beemer, Jeanette Hoganson, Gloria Croteau, Vi Riddell, Dorothy McIntyre, Norma Aaron, Betty Buechel, BA Crichton, Margie Ruddle, Roxanna Davies, Donna McCormack.

Front Row. Mary Steinberger, Diana Faraci, MaryAnn Faraci, Mona Ablassmeir, Annette Daniels, Dodie Mulready and Pat Blair.



Civic Group meets Feb. 8

The Seven Lakes Civic Group's Annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 pm at the West Side Community Center.

Andrea Surratt, Director of Planning and Community Development for Moore County will bring the group up to date on Small Area Planning, the process for developing a plan, and what such a plan can accomplish.

Again, everyone is welcome – members and nonmembers alike.

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Westside chooses new security vendor

office, Rocco said. she invited landowners with questions about the budget to contact her or Community Manager Tony Robertson.

Infrastructure. Director Ray MacKay announced that the contract to smooth the boat and trailer storage lot and install crushed stone access drives was awarded to Don Thomas Trucking.

"They anticipate starting work in a week or two," MacKay said. "They will be installing a driveway around to the yard waste transfer site. We will have them do that first so that we can get the dumpsters and open that site."

MacKay said Moore County Public Utilities had recently installed fire hydrants that were scheduled for installation in 2004.

"We buy them, the county puts them in," MacKay said. "They've been very busy with new service connections."

MacKay said that six more hydrants are in the current year's budget and that he expects these will be installed more quickly than the last set.

Recreation. Director Betty Milligan presented Westsider Larry DiMeeko with a plaque that will be installed in the West Side Park playground recognizing the instrumental role he played in helping the playground committee obtain favorable pricing on the playground equipment.

DiMeeko also played a key role in the actual installation of the equipment, Milligan said. "We were able to obtain over \$90,000 worth of equipment for less than \$60,000," she explained.

Milligan also acknowledged the leadership of Jody Harvey and Pete Chase in planning and installing the playground equipment.

Security. Director Virgil Reid reported that the SLWLA voted this past Tuesday to change security companies, awarding the contract to SFI, Security Forces, Inc. from Charlotte.

In addition, Reid said, the front gate will now be manned around the clock instead off the current 18 hours per day.

"We expect significant improvement on what we get from the guards," Reid said. "Time will tell. We are hoping for the best."

The change is effective May 1.

It is important for residents to understand that "our first line of defense is the Sheriff's Department," Reid added. "Not the roving patrol, not the gatehouse."

Residents confronted with an emergency situation or criminal activity should dial 9-1-1, Reid said. "When you dial 911, they know exactly where you are calling from."

Noting a recent spate of items stolen from unlocked cars and unsecured construction sites, Reid encouraged residents who are affected by such activity to call the Sheriff's Department first, and then to report the incident to the SLWLA office or the gatehouse.

"Lock your house. Lock your car," Reid said. "We're secure here, but we're not that secure."

Public comment. Charlie

Flinchum encouraged boat owners using the slips at Johnson Point to learn to tie their boat up properly — and to replace old ropes. He noted that he has to retrieve boats after every significant wind storm — and that improperly secured boats are damaging the slips.

In response to a resident's question about the status of the inquiry into the authority of North Carolina Wildlife officers on Lake Auman, Meikle said the board is "in the process of orchestrating our next response. We will keep you updated when we get a response to that."

Former boat patrol captain Tony Rocco encouraged the board to consider the potential benefit of Wildlife enforcement on the lakes.

"My first reaction was very negative," Rocco said. "But I

think that we should look at that very carefully. They bring authority. They may be of assistance to the volunteers who have worked down on the lake. I hope we review it carefully. It may be more positive than we at first thought."

Meikle assured Rocco that the board is looking at both

sides of the issue.

Another resident asked whether the Board is planning to expand the number of boat slips?

"This year we established a Lakes Auman master committee," Meikle replied. "Thinking about adding boat slips is one of their tasks. They have yet to make a recommendation."

AARP Driving Class Offered

The Moore County Department of Aging is sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety Class on Tuesday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 29, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Agricultural Center, 706 Pinehurst Ave., Carthage.

This is a two day classroom refresher that covers age-related physical changes and compensating tips. \$10 fee.

Call 947-2881 to register.

Seven Lakes

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Drawing Winner!



To commemorate their first six months in business, Connie and Christina of Seven Lakes Body Image decided to thank their faithful patrons in a benevolent and very personal way ... by giving back to them in return!

While holiday shopping throughout the month of December, visitors to the cozy shop were offered the opportunity to enter to win a FREE one hour massage while continuing to receive the personalized attention that Seven Lakes Body Image has become known for.

The drawing, held on January 1, 2006, yielded Diane Burrow of Seven Lakes as the lucky winner! Diane, her husband Terry, and their two daughters have been residents in this area since 1999.

Their local, family-run business L.A. Cabinets Inc. has been established since 1993, and specializes in high-quality upgrades for kitchens, bathrooms and much more. Diane received her free massage on January 18th, and she couldn't have been more pleased. Seven Lakes Body Image strives to make hands-on professional customer service its top priority, and we are proud to be able to contribute to our community!

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Draft 2006-2007 SLLA budgets available

(Continued from front page)
of all complaints."

Company Police. Between December 18 and January 16, Herman reported, Seven Lakes Company Police had issued seventeen citations and three written warnings.

"We have had five fires set in public areas," Herman said, "and nine instances of damage to public property."

Noting a recent spate of unlocked cars being rummaged through and thefts from construction sites on the West Side, Herman said, "We need to be conscious of our surroundings, and alert to any suspicious activity."

Security. Directing landowners to the Security reports printing in each issue of *The Times*, Director Loren Swearingen said "The good news is that we have had fewer reports of dogs running loose. The bad news is that we didn't catch any of them."

Recreation. Director Jackie Scotti reported that the board in its January 19 work session had approved a new handicapped-accessible restroom at Sequoia Point. She said she is still working on a price for a new walking trail and parking designed to make the Sequoia Point area more accessible for those with disabilities.

Continuing the recreation report, Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane said a new recreation bulletin would

be published shortly. Beane said he is working on some new trips in cooperation with the Moore County Dept of Aging.

Beane thanked the Seven Lakes Women's Auxiliary for hosting a recent meeting for newcomers. "It was a great success," Beane noted. "A lot of newcomers weren't aware of all we provide."

The afterschool riding program at the stables is going well, Beane reported. T-shirts are on order for the participants. The dance classes are gearing up for a major competition in Lenoir next month.

Architectural review. Director Ron Richmond reported that only one new home had been approved in the past month, along with a couple of alterations and additions.

Lakes & Maintenance. Director Don Truesdell said the timetable for the completion of repairs to Echo Dam has been pushed back about a month.

Truesdell said he had obtained copies of the road conditions report prepared by B&F Consulting of Raleigh for Foxfire Village. Truesdell has been advocating having a similar study conducted for Seven Lakes North and South, but has thus far not convinced enough of his fellow board members to approve the expenditure.

"We need this type of a report in order to develop a long range plan concerning the maintenance and repaving of our roads,"

Truesdell said. Without this type of information we are flying blind."

The North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] recently conducted a traffic survey on November 29 at the North and South gates at the request of the Seven Lakes Civic Group. The goal was to determine whether a traffic signal was warranted at the intersection.

Though that question was answered in the negative, the 18-hour study recorded nearly 7,000 vehicles. It found that North Gate handles about three times as much traffic as the South Gate and, Truesdell said, "points out the need for an additional gate on the North Side." Truesdell said he had in mind an automatic, transponder-operated gate like that currently used at the Westside gates. He asked residents for suggestions about where such an additional gate should be located.

Finance. Community Manager Dalton Fulcher, reporting for Treasurer John Paulson, said both dues collections and revenues were running within one-third of one percent of budget. Expenditures are 6.2 percent under budget for the year.

"We expect about a \$113,000 surplus at the end of this year," Fulcher said.

Manager's report. Fulcher said that he had presented his preliminary Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget to the board. Though

it has not yet been approved by the board, a copy of that proposed budget is available at the Landowners Office. Fulcher said the board will solicit residents' comments on the budget in February, either at a special budget meeting or at the regular general meeting on February 22.

President's report. SLLA President Jack Fathauer announced that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association had cancelled its security contract with the SLLA, which had been providing gate guards and roving patrols on the West Side.

Public Comment. A resident

who said he lived on Scuppernong said that, in light of a recent burglary and armed robbery in Foxfire, "We should reconsider keeping our Police Chief."

Other residents questioned whether the Seven Lakes Company Police had been handing out an unusually high number of citations in recent weeks. Director Herman said he had taken a look at the last six months of traffic enforcement activity. At the beginning of that period, Company police were issuing 1.77 tickets per week, compared to 2.4 currently, taking into

(See "CCC," p. 8)

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CCC pays \$900 cost special election

(Continued from page 16)
account that there are two officers now on the street.
James Yow noted seeing the two officers riding together often and questioned whether time on the street had in fact been

doubled. Fulcher said that training of the new officer requires that he spend a certain amount of time riding with the Chief.
Jim Gunderson, President of the Concerned Citizens Council [CCC], after questioning a \$924 bill the CCC received to cover the cost of the special election on Company Police, presented the association with a check to cover those costs.
Noting that the SLLA apparently lacked the funds to pay for

mailing the special election ballots to the membership, Gunderson noted the board ad sent a separate mailing to all landowners the day after the ballots were mailed, as well as purchasing a full page ad in *The Seven Lakes Times*.
“That should come out of your pockets and not out of the pockets of the residents of Seven Lakes,” Gunderson said

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Six compete for Westside board seats

Six candidates are running for four open seats on the board of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA]. Ballots have been mailed to landowners; the votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 19.

The Times interviewed all six candidates, asking each the same set of questions — some of which were suggested by our readers. You'll find those questions, and the candidates answers, below.

Our questions.

1. We often hear about a problem with speeding in Seven Lakes West. The North and South Sides created a Company Police force years ago to deal with speeding. Pinewild has its security officers issue speeding tickets. Speed bumps and other physical speed control devices are often controversial. Is there a speeding problem? What should the SLWLA Board do about it?

2. Seven Lakes is home to a variety of organizations aimed at improving the community, from Landowners Association boards that govern the residential areas, to voluntary organizations like the Civic Group, Village Beautification Committee, and Business Guild that attempt to positively impact the broader community beyond the gates. Should Seven Lakes be looking for some more formal way of bringing those organizations together for planning and taking action? Should the SLWLA Board be involved in trying to make that happen?

3. Does Seven Lakes West receive adequate services from the county in light of the amount of taxes paid? What additional services are needed? How would you suggest the Board get those services?

4. The demographic profile of Seven Lakes West seems to be increasingly diverse — more working couples, more families with young children and teenagers, and still a large percentage of retirees. Are there implications in this diversity for the way the Board

conducts business? What should the Board be doing to ensure that all elements of the population are included in discussions and activities?

5. Several years ago, after a good bit of public debate, the SLWLA board held a referendum of sorts on the building of West Side Park and its Community Center. Last year, the board made a decision on the jet boat issue without holding a vote. Under what circumstances do you think the board should take a particular question to the voters? Is something like a public opinion poll, short of an actual binding referendum, a useful tool?

6. The SLWLA Board last year decided to ban the use of jet boats on Lake Auman, grandfathering in the existing jet

boats stickered for use on the lake. Was this debate handled in an appropriate manner? Do you agree with the decision the board ultimately reached? Do you think the board should ever revisit that decision in the future?

6. In North Carolina, all public bodies — school boards, town councils, county boards of commissioners and all the committees of those groups — are required to open their meetings to the public except under a small and tightly regulated set of circumstances involving personnel issues, legal action, and so on. The SLLA board, which is not a public body under state law, decided some years ago to open its work session to members, as well as the press. The SLWLA board, which is also not a public body under

state law, still does its work behind closed doors. Should this change?

7. Is there any specific issue that you would like to address as a board member — or that has prompted you to run for the board?

8. What haven't we asked you that we should have?

Dave Carter

Dave Carter, his wife, Nancy, and his two high-school-aged sons moved to Seven Lakes West in 2004. He is the director of FirstHealth EMS, overseeing

a staff of 300. He has served on the SLWLA Recreation Committee.

Speeding

"You have to ask, 'What is driving people to speed?'" Dave Carter answered when asked how to address speeding in Seven Lakes West.

Noting that it is about two miles from his home to either gate, Carter noted that "those are significant distances. Is 35 miles per hour a reasonable speed limit? I don't think it's excessively low or high."

In fact, Carter said, he observes most people going about 35

(See "Carter," p. 10)



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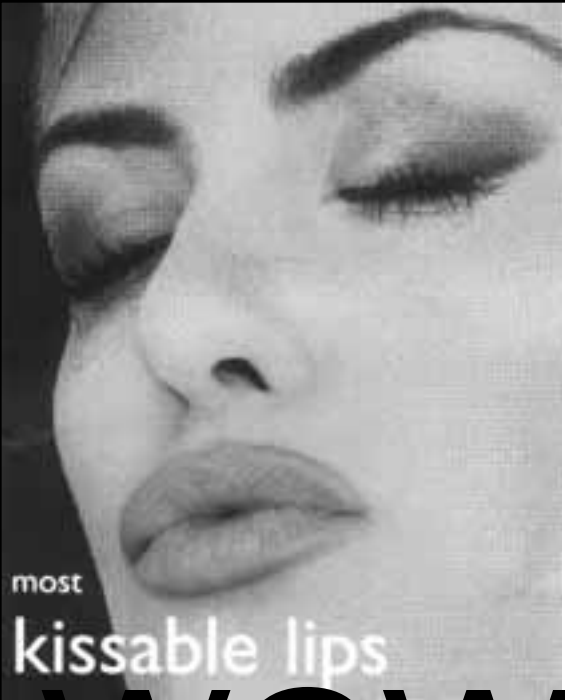
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Carter: Diversity is 'biggest challenge'

(Continued from page 9)

miles per hour on Longleaf. "It's mostly 35 or 40, which is not excessive. If we see a lot of 50 or 60 — which I have seen from time to time — then we may have to look at how to address that."

"I think we need to resist our tendency to over-regulate. Sometimes we create so many rules that it becomes constricting to live in a community. We don't want it to become constricting. We don't want to take away the utility to live here."

If a mechanism for implementing could be found, Carter said, "maybe we should have community service tickets. Tickets are easy to pay. There's no pain in tickets. I don't think tickets per se are of value. But maybe we could have speeders cleaning up around the boat ramp, or picking up trash around the lake. That would have a bigger impact. Plus it would benefit the community. What's a ticket going to get you?"

Seven Lakes Cooperation

Finding ways to bring more formal planning and decision making to greater Seven Lakes is something that "needs to be very carefully evaluated," Carter told *The Times*.

"We're not a city; we're not incorporated. But that needs to be studied and the information brought to the community about the advantages and disadvantages."

"I understand that we could get a share of tax dollars. But I also understand that there are risks. I think we owe it to the community to study it and present the results of that study." Once that is done, the job of the board would be to represent the wishes of the community, Carter said.

Carter said he had been given to understand that the isn't much desire in the community to explore the option of incorporating. "I have a real hard time with 'just don't want to do it,'" he said. "We could be leaving hundreds of thousand of dollars on the table, so we owe it to the community to understand our options."

County Services

In his professional life — Carter is responsible for FirstHealth's Emergency Services operations — Carter said, he has the oppor-

tunity to interact with members of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

"Those folks know that Seven Lakes is out here," he told *The Times*. "It's on their radar screen. If you look at the county density maps, it's pretty clear that there is a large and growing population here."

"I don't think the county is ignoring the Seven Lakes community," Carter continued. "I know that they want to control growth, and make sure that the resources are available."

"We have pretty decent resources for being what I would consider a rural area," Carter said. "We have fire support, EMS — the only thing we don't have is a municipal police force."

Responding to Diversity

Finding ways to accommodate the growing diversity of Seven Lakes is "one of the biggest challenges that the board has," Carter told *The Times*.



Dave Carter

doctors — after a 12 hour shift in the ER or working surgery all day — they have trouble getting involved."

"How do we represent those folks?"

"I do sense that there is a shift," Carter said. "The Christmas party had a large turnout, lots of children. Betty Milligan and the recreation committee are working hard to develop programs for

(See "Times," p. 11)



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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 10)

all age groups." He noted that the Sailing Club and Sport Club are both reaching out to children and teens with educational programs.

"We probably should investigate and then publish what the demographics of Seven Lakes West really are," Carter added. "What actually is the demographics of Seven Lakes West? Does anybody really know? Is the hypothesis true that the community is becoming more diverse? Is it now 50-50 or is it 80-20 in either direction?"

"It's the responsibility of the board to answer that question," Carter said. "It's our responsibility to know our constituency. I know there's a hundred homes being built — but who's moving into those homes?"

Putting it to a Vote

When the board should turn to a referendum in order to make a decision is something that needs to be defined, Carter told *The Times*.

Noting that he, in his job, has limits to his discretionary spending, Carter said, "The board should have limits."

Taking up our example of the debate about the community center, Carter said "It is a beautiful building, but I am really aware that building it ripped the community apart. It should have gone to a community vote. It was a multi-million dollar commitment. I don't think the board should have that latitude."

Carter said major investments of that magnitude should be developed in a long-range planning process and brought to the community complete with a plan for accumulating the funds to pay for the project. "When you're talking about a multi-million dollar project, folks need to see it coming," he added.

Looking at the community center "with 20-20 hindsight, it's certainly a wonderful building. And it certainly has some flaws." Noting that there's now discussion about how to incorporate some exercise and recreational areas into the facility, Carter said "Its only purpose now is to provide space for meetings. You have to ask, 'Is that what the community wanted?'"

"That's where you have to get

the community's input," Carter said. "You have to answer the question 'Will the community support an intended use?'"

Carter said the cost of a decision is probably the best guide of whether something needs to be decided by referendum.

"Some of the changes to rules and regulations should probably be board decisions," he said. "If you respond to every whim or topic of the day, you may offend some of the membership. Just like the speed limit. A move to reduce could it attract a very vocal group of supporters, but the rest might be appalled."

Carter said he was also in favor of taking "careful surveys

once a year when you pay your dues. And at the same time you say 'This is budget, and this what we are doing with the budget.'"

Jet Boats

"I think the board did the best job they could to represent the community," Carter said when asked about the board's decision to ban jet boats on Lake Auman. Carter made one of the presentations in favor of allowing jet boats on the lake.

He told *The Times* that he did not feel the board should revisit the issue. "I don't think so," he said when asked. "There was so much emotion over it that I

could not understand. I think the passion was about jet skis — not a boat with jet propulsion."

"My personal position is that jet boats are safe," Carter said.

Recalling that, during the debate, one area boat dealer had been quoted as saying they would never carry jet boats, Carter

(See "Childers," p. 12)



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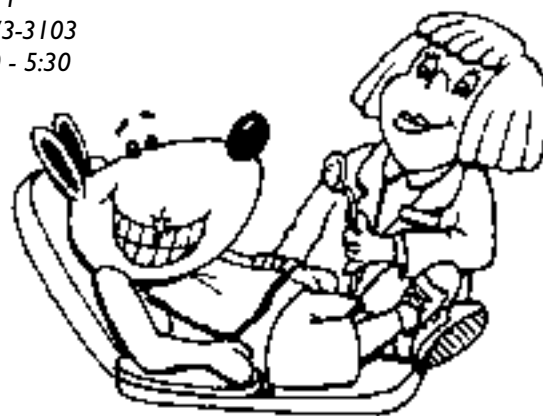
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Childers: Let the community vote

(Continued from page 11)

said, "I drove by the other day. They were advertising Yamaha jet boats on the marquee."

"I think we had a misunderstanding of what the debate was about. But I understand that people want there not to be jet boats on the lake, and I support that there should not be jet boats on the lake."

"The community had a concern and the board did they best they could."

Opening Work Sessions

Asked whether the board should open its work session to observation by the public, Carter said, "Having not been in one, it would be really hard for me to comment."

"Probably the reason they have them closed, is that they would not want spectators to be disruptive to the work."

If work sessions were open to the public, "there should be certain items that are excluded," Carter said, "like compensation for management, or sensitive contracts being bid out. Some of that should be confidential."

Specific Issue?

Asked whether any specific issue or concern prompted him to run for the board, Carter said,

"To better understand demographics of the community and to see that the voices of everyone are heard."

"Are the families . . . do they have a voice on the board?"

"I would want to be a voice for the families that are in my same category in life, but not at the same time to turn my back on the wonderful retirees that we have."

Anything else?

Asked whether he had anything else to say, Carter responded: "The thing I hear loud and clear is that as the community grows, people want to make sure that we appreciate the importance of the quality of the lake."

"We need to understand not just the clarity of the water, but also the health of the lake. Do we have the right kind of plants growing? Do we need to be concerned about the runoff from the homes and golf course?"

Noting that he had scuba-dived in Lake Auman, Carter said, "I believe the health of the lake could be improved. For example, the fish population. Instead of having to bring fish in, maybe could be doing more to encourage spawning."

Betty Childers

A native of Moore County, Betty Childers graduated from West End High School. Childers career included US government assignments in both Israel and Iran that required Top Secret



Betty Childers

security clearance. She moved through the ranks at Primerica Financial Services, ultimately becoming National Sales Manager. She moved to Seven Lakes in 2004, having owned rental property in the community for several years.

Speeding

Asked whether there is a speeding problem in Seven

Lakes West, Betty Childers said that she had "seen construction workers speeding. It's not just the residents."

Childers, who lives near the intersection of Longleaf Drive and Owens Circle, said she has a front row seat for observing speeders.

"Young people can also have a tendency to go too fast — not (See "Times," p. 13)

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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 12)

that I have anything against young people. It's just one of those things that we have an issue about."

"I honestly don't know what the answer is," Childers told *The Times*. "Not being on the board at present, I haven't seen anything that they might have considered to address the problem."

Seven Lakes Cooperation

"It would be a great idea," Childers said when asked whether an umbrella group should be developed to look out for the interests of Seven Lakes as a whole.

"It's something we should be involved in. Seven Lakes should be Seven Lakes, not divided. It would be great for us to work together."

County Services

"No sir," Childers responded when asked whether Seven Lakes is getting its fair share of services from the county.

"We're putting a lot of revenue in their pocket," Childers noted. "There are a lot of tax dollars being pulled out of this community. Seven Lakes is the fastest-growing area in the county."

Childers said the county should be investing in a wastewater treatment system for the Seven Lakes Area. "If we had that, our shopping would be better up here. We'd have more stores and we wouldn't have to drive all the way past the traffic circle."

The dependence on septic systems rather than a full-fledged sewer system in restricting growth in the business village and the ability of local merchants to expand, she said.

Apart from that item, Childers said she didn't know what the else the community might need from the county "until I get in there and see what our issues are."

She did note that she "would like to see more patrols from the Sheriff's department" in Seven Lakes West.

Responding to Diversity

Agreeing that the community is home to an increasing number of younger families, Childers said, "I think it would be good if

the board attempted to take more in to account."

"We should try to get them more involved, try to make a special effort to get them to come to the general meetings."

"Everyone is so busy that they don't take the time to get involved," Childers continued. "We need to kind of get out and have a drive to try to get them to come to meetings. It's their home too."

Putting it to a Vote

Childers expressed strong support for using a vote of the membership to make decisions on big-ticket items.

"Whenever the board is making any major changes, I think the community should be allowed to voice their opinion," she told *The Times*. "If they are going to spend money over a certain amount they should go and put it before the members."

Asked what amount should trigger the need for a vote, Childers replied, "Anything over over \$25,000 — and that might not be low enough. In fact, I think that's high. Failing to give them a chance to vote results in angry landowners."

"I don't see anything wrong with putting decision to a vote," Childers said. "Then again, people get stuff in the mail, and pay no attention to it."

"People need to be more aware of what's going on in their community and take part. That makes it a better community to live in."

Jet Boats

"I have no problem with revisiting the decision," Childers said when asked about the board's decision to keep jet boats off Lake Auman. "Decisions should be revisited from time to time."

"I believe you come up with a decision or solution for a prob-

lem, and the try it, and see how it works. But you almost always have to revisit decisions. Things change. You try some things and they don't work. So you need to go back and try something else."

"When you have this many people moving in, things are changing, and you have to be flexible," Childers concluded.

Opening Work Sessions

"That would be interesting, wouldn't it," Childers replied when asked whether the board should open its work sessions.

"I don't see anything wrong with having it open, where residents can come and observe. Let them sit and watch. They'll get a


(See "Fewkes," p. 14)



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Fewkes: Rapid growth demands planning

(Continued from page 13)

feel for what's going on and what the board is trying to do."

"The board members are trying their best to do a good job, and if people could sit in on the meetings they would have a better feel for the challenges the board faces and what they are trying to accomplish."

Specific issue?

Asked about specific issues she would like to address is elected, Childers said "A couple of things that need to be handled. The gate, for instance. We have some problems there with the functionality of the gate."

"The mailhouse traffic pattern is extremely dangerous. You have to be so careful. You can crawl around there with your car and still almost hit someone. It's dangerous and, as we grow, it is going to get worse."

"Personally, I would like to see home mail delivery," Childers said, "and I believe there is a way to make that happen. Let's not wait until someone gets hurt or killed at that mailhouse."

"Our pavement is something else that is a problem — and it's going to be as long as we have this level of construction going on."

Mary Anne Fewkes

Mary Anne Fewkes and her husband Bob moved to Seven Lakes more than six years ago. She serves as an Area Representative, as well as serving on other SLWLA committees. Fewkes' career as a psychologist included stints in private practice as well as in public health and institutional settings.

Speeding

"I think speeding is a problem. I think there are greater problems, Mary Anne Fewkes told *The Times* when asked about speeding in Seven Lakes West. A veteran Area Representative, Fewkes said concerns

about speeding are a perennial topic at Area Rep meetings.

Noting that the West Side has just hired a new Charlotte-based security firm to handle the gates and roving patrols, she said she hoped the patrols would help

the board better monitor speeding.

"It's not just subcontractors speeding, but residents as well," Fewkes said. "Occasionally people have a heavy foot on the

(See "Times," p. 15)



Mary Anne Fewkes

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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 14)
gas."

Exploring whether the association can give out tickets is also a good idea, Fewkes told *The Times*. "Having the Sheriff come in and patrol is excellent. We pay taxes, so I feel we need to ask more from the county."

Seven Lakes Cooperation

"I do think it is time" to create an umbrella organization that can bring together the various groups with in interest in the Seven Lakes Area, Fewkes said.

"My feeling is, no matter how much strategic planning you might do, if you don't build relationships, it won't happen. Since we are working and living in such close proximity, we do need to get together.

"I am concerned that we could have uncontrolled growth if we

don't join forces," she continued. "We can create a blueprint for development if we bring together all people in the community that have a stake."

"Things happening very quickly," Fewkes noted. "Growth is good, but our planning needs to have a target. If we're not working with these other groups, we will have many different targets."

County Services

"I've attended some county planning board meetings, and I've always been impressed with how they are handled," Fewkes noted when asked whether Seven Lakes West receives an adequate level of support from the county. "I have spoken on behalf of Seven Lakes concerns in some of those meetings."

"I feel we can get more from the county," Fewkes said. "We

really need a small group to study that."

"In Area Rep meetings we've talked about fire hydrants. We need more hydrants in the gates, and I feel like the county could help us more." Fewkes noted that, currently, Seven Lakes West buys hydrants, which the county installs as work schedules permit. "They could be more involved in that."

"It is tough because we want a gated community and we want to keep this a private lake. But, as we grow, we need to look at ways that the county government can fit into our community. That's an issue for the Long-Range Planning Committee."

Noting that the county appears poised to launch a new Small Area Planning process, Fewkes said "it's very important for Seven Lakes West to dovetail into that."

"The Long-Range Planning Committee should look for ways to ask for more from the county, Fewkes concluded. "We need more from the county, so we need to go to more county meetings; get more involved."

Responding to Diversity

"I think we are doing a lot now" to address the growing diversity in the population of Seven Lakes West, Fewkes, said.

"But I do feel that community

(See "Times," p. 18)

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- **North Carolina Clay: Past and Present** – on going exhibit. 10:00 to 4:00 pm daily. Seagrove, NC Pottery Center. 336-873-8430.
- **War on Terror** – through December 2005. Fayetteville. Airborne and Special Operations Museum. 866-547-0649.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Health Screenings** – sponsored by Moore County Dept. Aging. 8:00 am to noon. At West End Diners Club, Old West End School Road. FirstHealth Mobile

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- **Creating a Backyard Habitat From a Bird's Point of View** – 2:00 pm, sponsored



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Moore County Department of Aging. This free one hour workshop will be presented by Bill Kastern of Wild Birds Unlimited. At the Department of Aging offices, 302 Monroe Street, Carthage. Register at 947-2881.

- **Kiwanis Bingo** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, \$325 Jackpot. Bring a friend for the fun.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Health Screenings** – sponsored by Moore County Dept. Aging. 8:00 am to noon. At Carthage Diners Club, 302 Monroe St., Carthage. FirstHealth

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- **Bloodmobile Visits** – 1:00 to 6:00 pm at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

Please come and bring a buddy along to give "The gift of Life" for

those in need.

- **Seven Lakes Civic Group Meeting** – 7:30 pm, at West Side Park Community Center. Andrea Surratt, Director of Planning and Zoning of Moore County will be the guest speaker. All are welcome to attend.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, North Clubhouse. Guest speakers will be Steve Thornburg and Denise Maynor from the Horticulture Department of the NC Zoo. Topics will include working with our sandy soil and plants native to North Carolina. Door prizes will be awarded.

What's When Calendar

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- **"Sweetheart Swing" dance at SLCC** – Music supplied by the ever-popular Larry Carringer. A choice of three gourmet dinners. (Price includes tax and gratuity.) Non-club-members will pay a surcharge of \$5 per person. Reservations may be made by calling 673-1100 after 11:00 am. Non-members are cordially invited.
- **Seven Lakes Scrapbook Club** – 6:30 pm. In the North Clubhouse Game Room. Bring your albums, start a new project or just drop by for supplies and ideas. Creative Memories

consultant Tracy 673-5839, will be on hand.

- **Country Book Shop** – 7:00 pm, Tanya Biank, award-winning journalist and former reporter for the *Fayetteville Observer* will discuss her new book, *Under the Sabers*, a unique and provocative look at the complex and personal struggles faced by Amry wives.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **Contradance** – 7:00 pm lessons. 7:30 –10:30 pm dancing. The Band is Skylark. Caller Kathy McHugh. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Admission \$6 mem-

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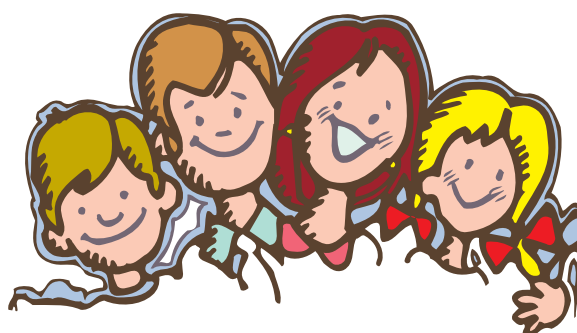
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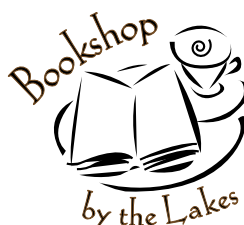


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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **Old Time Gospel Sing-a-long at Pinehurst Covenant Church** – 6:30 to 7:30 pm, followed by an Ice Cream Social and light refreshments. Free. Families welcome. Nursery provided. 180 West Gate Drive (before Premier Lighting) Hwy 211 - 7.5 miles from Seven Lakes. 295-2151 or 692-5090.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, at Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. Guest speaker Henry Suefert, Treasurer. Mr. Suefert is a

retired Fed IRS District Manager.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **St. Valentine’s Day**
- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – 3:00 pm, North Clubhouse Game Room. Jim Davis will present “Back It Up or Else.”

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- **Seven Lakes Women’s Auxiliary Luncheon** – noon, at Seven Lakes Country Club. Presidents Day Celebration – Lunch and Games. \$16 per person. Lunch, bridge, mahjong, canasta, whatever game you like. For reservations call Alice Ridenour at 673-3523.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- **President’s Day**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **League of Women Voters Luncheon** – 11:30 am, Open to the Public. Guest Speaker: Senator Harris Blake. The topic is “Update on Legislative Issues.” At Paddock Restaurant, Longleaf Country Club, Midland Road, Southern Pines. \$12 Checks only. To reserve, call: Norma Sullins 673-3980 . Mail checks to: LWVMC, 4026 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Wacky Wednesday with Home Choice Network** – 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Elm-croft of Southern Pines 101 Brucewood. Cost 3/person. Spring fashion featuring women’s and men’s clothing Contact 944-1116.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **Bookshop by the Lakes** – 7:00 pm, BookGroup. The group will discuss Haven Kimmel’s book “A Girl

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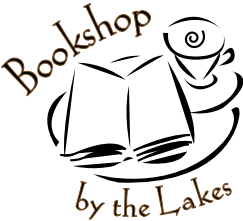
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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 15)

input is very very important. I think the general meetings are important."

"In my area, I have heard some families say they wish the meeting were at a different time or different day," she noted, "but you can never please everyone."

"It is very important to get as much input from the community as possible."

The board is charged with furthering the betterment of the entire community, Fewkes told *The Times*. "So the board always has to be evolving as the community evolves; it can never be static. Board members have to have a sense of how things are developing."

"The reason that I am running for the board now is that I feel I have been here long enough to have a feeling for the community," Fewkes added. "We love this place, and I feel it is important to give back to the community."

Fewkes said the use of Area Reps and other advisory groups is critical for the board if it is to keep its finger on the pulse of the community. "I don't think the board can do it all."

Putting it to a Vote

Fewkes said that she believes surveys and opinion polls can be useful to the board, though "I know from my background in statistics that you can frame a question to get the kind of answer you want."

Perhaps more important than surveys, in Fewkes view, is the network of Area Representatives. "I'm very, very strong on the area reps — at least in terms of getting input from homeowners [as opposed to non-resident property owners]."

Fewkes noted that the Area Reps have been a sort of early warning system, identifying a lot of issues that were in need of board attention. "A lot of information about what is going on and a lot of concerns come through the area reps."

Turning to the issue of referenda, Fewkes noted, "You can't vote on everything. You'd never have time to do that."

But issues that significantly impact property values or the quality of life are proper fodder

for a vote of the membership, as is any proposed change in the covenants, Fewkes said.

Changes in rules and regulations need input from both resident and non-resident landowners, she added. The process used to gather that input may vary from issue to issue. Some rules changes may demand a public meeting where issues can be hashed out, she said.

"The board needs to rely on advisory groups and community forums for input. I think they are trying hard to do their best. Getting input is so important — and it's important to build relationships to create channels for that input."

Jet Boats

Fewkes told *The Times* she felt the debate over jet boats on Lake Auman was ultimately han-

dled appropriately "because both sides of the debate were allowed to be heard. Fewkes was one of the landowners who participated in a presentation urging the board to ban jet boats from the lake."

She agrees with the decision ultimately reached by the board, and does not believe the board should revisit that decision, she said. "I don't because I feel our lake is small," Fewkes explained, "and I think it is going to get smaller with more people."

"We are going to have many more homes, many more people using the lake. I think the lake is fragile, and I think we need to continue to protect it."

Opening Work Sessions

Fewkes brought up the idea of opening board work sessions

before *The Times* asked our question on this point.

"I do feel that having the work session open is important," she said. "It can help build trust in the community."

"Having the community present does not have to take away from a work session," she continued. "It may make the work session a little more formal — which is helpful with timeliness."

Fewkes explained that she has facilitated a lot of meetings in a professional capacity. I have found that, when you have an audience, you get your work done quicker. I think it helps keep you focused. It helps give a little more weight."

She noted that some matters — personnel issues and others described in Robert's Rules

(See "MacKay," p. 19)



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MackKay: Speed humps not a simple fix

(Continued from page 18)

of Order — are appropriately handled in a closed executive session.

Specific issue?

Asked whether there is a specific issue that has led her to seek a seat on the board, Fewkes, said, "I think that the biggest thing, in my mind, is that we need a blueprint for where we are going. Long range planning is very important. We need to build relationships with developers so that they are very much involved in those long range plans, and so that there aren't going to be surprises."

"Both short and long-range planning is very important — as is involving everybody. If planning is good, we won't have uncontrolled growth. Otherwise, we could have a mess."

"Protecting the watershed is very, very important, Fewkes said. "Watershed II [the state watershed definition which applies to most of Seven Lakes West] has rules for drainage. It is very important that we follow that. If we don't, we will have problems with flooding and with the quality of the water in our lake."

Ray MacKay

Ray MacKay has served as Infrastructure Director for three years on the SLWLA Board and served on the Beacon Ridge Landowners Association Board for three years before that. He retired to Seven Lakes in 1998 after a career with the New York State Thruway Authority.

Speeding

"Speeding in Seven Lakes West is a problem," SLWLA Infrastructure Director Ray MacKay, who is seeking a second term on the board, told *The Times*. MacKay said a relatively small number of people are doing most of the speeding.

"The speed limit is 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. Longleaf is the only other posting. The dam is 25 miles per hour. There are a number of people who abide, and a bunch of others who don't."

MacKay, an engineer, noted that the use of speed bumps, speed humps, and other traffic control devices to address the

problem is complicated by the fact that Longleaf — where much of the speeding occurs, is a circumference road.

Noting that he has read sev-

eral recent articles in technical magazines on speed humps, MacKay said that using the humps may not be useful on Longleaf. "If there's a bypass, then communities have found using humps pushes the traffic to the route that offers the shortest travel time. There are a couple of places on the West Side where cutting through neigh-

borhoods would be shorter if we installed humps on Longleaf. So then you're looking at putting speed humps on the short cuts, as well.

MacKay said the board has looked "at subsidizing the Sheriff's patrol to control speeding, but

that has hefty price tag. And you still only get a small percentage of the hours that the public is awake and driving."

"It's something I am looking at," MacKay said. "But I'm only one-ninth of the board. I do have

(See "Times," p. 20)



Ray MacKay

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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 19)

the ability to pull the technology up and analyze it." He noted that both he and Security Director Virgil Reid have made some

speed control proposals, but, so far, the full board hasn't felt they offered sufficient bang for the buck.

MacKay noted that both speed

humps and handing out a lot of tickets could be less than universally popular with residents.

Seven Lakes Cooperation

Asked about the need for an umbrella organization to bring together the various groups working for the betterment of Seven Lakes, MacKay said he

had discussed the need for that with Seven Lakes Civic Group President Dave Kinney.

"I see the Civic Group as the

(See "Times," p. 21)



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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 20)

coordinator for all that," MacKay said. "We need to turn that into a group of all the Indian chiefs — representing the landowners associations, the business guild, and so on.

"It would be to our advantage to somehow make our political clout known better to the county," said MacKay, who served on the County's Surface Transportation Planning Committee. "We're almost the third largest 'metropolitan' area in the county."

"You lose a little bit of clout by not being incorporated," MacKay noted, "but I haven't seen any groundswell of interest since the last incorporation study."

"We don't want to give up the gates, so how do we, politically — both inside Seven Lakes and outside Seven Lakes — how do we get our message across?"

"On the issues that are common amongst the landowners associations, we tend to get together, and make our wishes known to the county manager. We did that a couple years ago when we got some changes made to the Gated Community zoning classification."

MacKay noted that any umbrella group formed to serve Seven

Lakes as a whole should not overlook McLendon Hills.

County Services

"In my personal opinion, we are getting adequate service from the county," MacKay told *The Times*. "A lot of folks came from metropolitan areas, and think we need this and that, but the county doesn't have responsibility for the roads, for example."

"If you look at what the county does, we get our share. The Sheriff's department been willing to give us services, and the planning people have been very cooperative in working with us on our concerns about the smaller subdivisions being proposed in Seven Lakes West."

"Like a lot of residents, I came from a structure where towns had responsibility for their own roads and so on. The situation is different here."

Responding to Diversity

Asked whether the board needs to take into account the growing diversity of the community, MacKay said, "Sitting on the board, I think we are."

"Certainly we are with the amenities at the community center — which is available to everybody — not like a country club. We put up a second playground.

Recreation committee has been working on something for all ages."

"The board has to be aware of the demographics and react to that," MacKay continued. "One drawback to the system is, since we are all volunteers, is to get people who are working for a living and raising kids to participate."

"The board is certainly aware of the changes in the community. We still have a large percentage of retired people — and it's amazing the number of retired people that have some part time jobs."

Putting it to a Vote

Asked when the board should

turn to a referendum to make decisions, MacKay noted that he, along with Jan Patton and Lois Rocco, was instrumental in implementing the system the board uses to gather public input on proposed changes to the rules and regulations.

"We opened all our proposed changes to a 30 day public comment period that actually lasts 60 days. We all three felt it was needed. It took place early in our term. And it has been an effective way to air what was going on." MacKay pointed to the board's decisions on jet boat and the fees for boat storage lot as examples of that process working as intended.

"The referendum system may have its place," MacKay said, but he expressed a concern that it is difficult to get non-resident property owners to participate in referendums.

As a non-resident, MacKay said, he was active in the affairs of the community. "I was a non-resident owner and participated in financing some road construction, participated in a court case against the developer, and participated in financing the dining room at the country club. I got all my information from *The Seven Lakes Times*. So I take an interest in the non-residents."

"There are still a tremendous

(See "Times," p. 24)

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OPINION

All Seven Lakers Needed!

It was very exciting in 2005 to see the formation of a group of residents who wanted to address issues within our community.

I was surprised that they were selective in their process to gain membership but this was still an exciting idea.

I was never asked to join and I know many others that were not as well. In fact, when I asked the leadership of this group to meet with me to discuss an issue all but one refused.

Since their formation they have definitely addressed issues, but they seem to have only one answer for the perceived problems that we face. That answer is to cut service.

Their first goal was to address security and the answer was to cut the police. This group now has representation running for the Board of Directors who have openly admitted that they would like to see the stables cut or sold to an outsider.

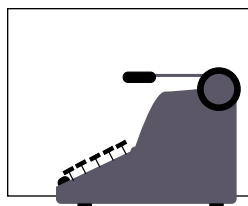
This is a trend that makes me very nervous. It will not take long

for us to find ourselves paying \$800 or more per year for gate security and area maintenance.

My family and I moved here because this was an affordable area with the best amenities — and we should work to protect that reputation. We are past due for a group that

Your Turn

Jeff Herman
Seven Lakes North



truly wants to discuss the pertinent issues that face our community.

I would like to ask all Seven Lakers to participate. Whether you belong to any other group or not, you are invited to participate. We need everyone — not just those who think as we do.

This community has representation from multiple generations with differing ideas of what our community should be and an effective community group should as well.

Please call 673-3872 or email (mgjh@earthlink.net) if you would like to participate.

Indiscreet license plate catches Ohio's fancy

I was getting ready to write my next column about vanity plates when I remembered a news story from mid-century Ohio. In those days, the State of Ohio sold two license plates for every motor vehicle every year. Those license plates were manufactured by the inmates of the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus.

One year, the cons who manufactured those plates got pretty well ticked off at the guy who was in charge of the line. They devised a plan to really upset him. When he wasn't paying attention they stamped out two bogus plates, had them painted, and wrapped and shipped off to a distribution point where license plates were to be purchased.

Several days later, a cab driver in Akron purchased the new plates for his taxi cab. The outside wrapping of the plates indicated that he was getting plates that read "4623 FY."

And so that evening he sat down in front of his cab with a screw driver to affix the new plates on his cab. He opened the package and yelled out something like "Holy Cow!"

It seemed that the two new plates with bright red letters painted on a stark white background read two words. The first word was a four letter word (I leave that to your imagination in

this family newspaper) and the second word was "YOU."

The next morning he was out on the streets with his new license plates on his cab.

His business was terrific. It seems

hurried back to the Bureau without the offending plates.

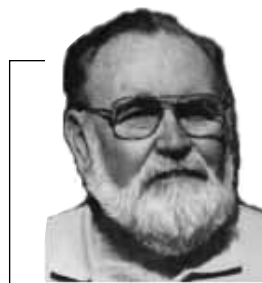
While the State of Ohio was consulting with the Attorney General and the Akron Police Chief, the taxi business for the cabbie with the offending plates

boomed. Residents of Cleveland and Youngstown began arriving to take taxi rides.

The State of Ohio

Ollie's Thoughts

Oliver Gossard



that most of the residents of Akron wanted to ride in his taxi cab. And some wanted to have a photo taken of them smiling from ear to ear standing in front of the car with the license plates.

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles soon heard of this and was not amused. They sent an agent off to find the taxi driver and give him two new plates and return with the offending license plates. The agent hurriedly found the taxi and with screw driver in hand insisted on substituting the new for the old.

"No new plates on my cab!" stated the cabbie. He claimed that he was a lawful citizen who obeyed the laws of Ohio and purchased two new license plates for his motor vehicle. The agent

struck back with a task force of lawyers and state troopers. The taxi driver had hired, however, a law firm to represent him and his cab. Soon the United States Constitution was being referred to by one side or the other.

The State of Ohio won of course. Could Martial Law have been mentioned? I don't know. But the cab driver had become a folk hero in Akron and the manner of producing vehicle license plates in the penitentiary had come under deep scrutiny.

That's the way I remember this episode of Ohio history. Now, don't call me and tell me where I was wrong in the telling of details. After all, it all happened a long time ago.

Has the League changed?

Dear Editor:

For many years the League of Women Voters [LWV] has been an active and useful organization and has provided voters with information about the issues or candidates so that they could be informed voters. They presented balanced views of the political subjects about which they wrote and when they had speakers there was usually a panel in which both sides of an issue were discussed.

Has there been a major shift

in the policies of that organization? It would seem so by the announcement in the January sixth issue of *The Times*.

In the spirit of the LWV I knew, an honest discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Patriot Act might have enabled attendees to better understand the relevance of the Patriot Act to the fight against Islamic terrorists.

However, the announcement regarding the speaker for the meeting on the seventeenth of

January made clear that this was not the plan. The writers of the announcement, Ann Stokes and Jo Nicholas made clear the one-sided nature of the talk to be given by Patricia Camp, listed as a "civil liberties expert."

Their article stated "Ms. Camp's topic will be 'The Patriot Act, how it is used, and ways in which its use may limit our civil liberties and promote racism and fear in the name of national security.'" The writers asked in their announcement "Does

(See "League," p. 22)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Luxury, too, is in eye of the beholder

Growing old ain't all bad. Tonight, while waiting for sleep to creep up on me, I started thinking about my current opinion of luxury. It's not what it used to be. For one thing, I can get out of bed and go to my computer because I have the luxury of not having to get up at 6:30 am and out of the house by 7:30 am. If I want to dally over my morn-

ing coffee that is okay (to me that is a real luxury). I have upon my bed a genuine sheepskin mattress pad. For arthritic bones, it beats anything else I've slept on. Sometimes, I get into my jammies early in the evening and then into my robe which is actually softer on the inside than the outside. Why does all the softness usually go

on the out side? My favorite designer fashion is a thirsty full length Pierre Cardin terry cloth robe ready and waiting for my after shower comfort. Although there are several cashmere sweaters in my drawers, I've learned that inexpensive acrylic ones are every bit as soft, plus they can be tossed in the washer and drier. If you don't believe me, try hanging one of each upon a clothes hanger and running your hand down a sleeve of each at the same time. I can't deny that I truly enjoy lobster, but when it comes to comfort there's nothing better than a bowl of homemade soup. Of course, if someone else made it and served it to me that would be even better. However, creating a really good dinner can be a joy if one has an appreciative consumer or two or three or

more. At one time, I owned a Lincoln Continental. It was a really nice

cian to the hotel on my last trip abroad, I've decided that there is even luxury involved in being where I have superior medical care administered by doctors who are highly trained and respected in their fields and who have come to



Nona's Notes
Nona Wiley

car, but I never did figure out all that computerized "stuff" on the dash, and I surely don't need that for my little trips into town. My car is a 2002 model and has only about 22,000 miles of use. It's easier and cheaper to fly when I need to get out of the area. I've seen a bit of the world and after having to call a physi-

know me as a person. Luxury is no longer the stuff that impresses others. It's what makes my life comfortable and convenient.

League

(Continued from page 23)
Homeland Security require that citizens willingly sacrifice a certain amount of liberty and allow the invasion of privacy?" Unless that announcement was very misleading, it would seem that the organization might have provided citizens with a useful and balanced presentation had there been another speaker whose views on the subject were opposite to Ms. Camp's. An open debate on the subject can provide each citizen with enough information to make his or her own decision on the subject. A single speaker with an obvious bias against this act,

as the announcement implies, does not provide that opportunity and appears to be an indication of a total change in policy of this organization from balanced and informative to biased and liberal. Can this be true?
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13 Tomato Florentine Soup Meatloaf Dinner	14 Cream of Broccoli Soup Chicken Paprikash Dinner	15 Chili Pork with Mustard Cream Sauce Dinner	16 Split Pea with Ham Soup Salmon with Ginger Vinaigrette Dinner	17 Shrimp & Corn Soup Baked Spaghetti Dinner
20 Curried Carrot Soup Shepherd's Pie Dinner	21 Cabbage, Sausage, & Bean Soup Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner	22 Chicken Dumpling Soup Beer Braised Brisket Dinner	23 American Meatball Soup Tilapia Florentine Dinner	24 Manhattan Clam Chowder Swiss Steak Dinner
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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 21)

amount of property owners that don't live here, MacKay noted. "Getting them to participate in referendums is hard. Even some of the people who here aren't interested in getting into the fray."

Referendums rarely attract participation from a majority of the property owners, MacKay said. "You have a referendum, and you have a plurality. It would have to be something very significant to put it out for a vote," he concluded.

MacKay said the board does make an annual effort to gather input from the community. "When we go out for dues annually, we have people's attention and we occasionally try to put in some questions. That's one way to gauge what people think."

Turning back to the board's practice of putting rules changes out for public comment before finalizing them, MacKay said, "within the comment period, we get a lot of good feedback. We generally get the gamut. You get a pretty good feel for the reasonableness of the decisions you have to make."

"You have nine people on that board," MacKay noted. "We come with diverse opinions and have a full airing. We gradually narrow it down to agreement. It's generally more than just a 5/4 vote. We generally get down to" 'this is the most practical thing we can do at this time for the membership."

Opening Work Sessions

Asked whether residents should be able to attend board work sessions, MacKay said the town councils, county commissions, and other public bodies that open all their meetings have a far larger support staff than the SLWLA.

"Those political structures that follow that, they have a staff, and everything is given to them. We don't have that, so that process all goes on in the workshop."

"I think opening the work sessions would be counter-productive," MacKay said. "We publish our minutes, so anyone who is interested has the opportunity to oversee what we are doing. You'll notice in the general meetings, people will raise questions based on what they have read

in the minutes."

"We could not operate that [with open work sessions] way without a full administrative staff," MacKay said. "We are doing both the legwork, and the legislative work."

"Our typical board meeting is 8:30 am to 2:30 or 3:00 pm. Until we get to have a full staff to do all the legwork, it's just not efficient. You'd drive away even more people wanting to run for the board."

MacKay noted that residents with a particular concerns can and do get on the work session agenda if they want to talk with the board.

"The bottom line is it wouldn't be efficient for our present governmental structure," MacKay concluded.

Jet Boats

Addressing the question of whether the board should ever revisit its decision to ban the use of jet boats on Lake Auman, MacKay said, "With the political

structure we have, we have only a one-year life in decision making. Next year there are three new people on the board. The board always has the opportunity to go back and undo whatever it has done."

"I thought our final decision on jet boats was a very good one," MacKay said. "We didn't try to hurt anybody, and we tried to help the community. Most of the board went for rides in a jet boat. The issue was volatile, and a lot of the people who had opinions didn't even know what we were talking about."

"I don't see going back and revisiting it," MacKay concluded. "but nothing prohibits the board from doing that. Every year a third of the board turns over."

Specific issue?

"I'm running for reelection because there's a bunch of engineering-related projects that are just getting started," MacKay said when asked if any specific issue motivated him to run for the

board. "I think I have something to offer to move those along. After the next three years, I can't run again anyway. I'm interested in the engineering aspects of what we are looking at."

"I think we need to revisit the security technology," MacKay said. It isn't doing what we anticipated that it would do."

"But the biggest thing we have to revisit is the assessment structure," he added. "We can't keep doing more and more and have any long range focus without having a financial refocusing. We're lucky the past few years that homebuilding has kept pace

with our costs."

"Prices have risen rapidly in the past six months or so," MacKay noted. "We may have moved up a notch in the cost of doing business. That requires a good financial review. What are our long range requirements? Our administrative needs are increasing. We have to make sure the dues structure makes sense. Ours is one of the lowest in the area for a gated community. That doesn't make it bad — but we do need to look at it."

"I'm proud of my track record on this board" MacKay said, (See "Nicholas," p. 25)

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Nicholas: 'Diversity makes it exciting'

(Continued from page 21)

noting that he previously served on the Beacon Ridge Landowners Association board. "They haven't worn me out. I'm coming back for more."

Jo Nicholas

Jo Nicholas retired to Seven Lakes two years ago after a career as an educator and school administrator in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Maryland.

Speeding

I think the board should continue what they are doing now in terms of being in touch with the county Sheriff's Department to get patrols.

Our own security guards, unless they can be trained by and operate under the supervision and authority of the county, shouldn't be doing it. We need to make sure whatever approach we take is legal. Nicholas suggested that the new company recently awarded the West Side security contract may be able to contribute to solving the problem based on their experience in other communities.

Gentle speed bumps are not bad to slow down traffic in particular spots.

Speeding does need to be addressed. We have golf carts on our roads; children that could run out in the road at any moment; and with the growing amount of construction, wildlife — deer on the roads.

Nicholas said speeding is a persistent problem, and that it is not just residents who are speeding.

"We do need to control it before we have something tragic happen," she added. "And we need penalties that will hit people in the pocketbook — not just warnings."

Seven Lakes Cooperation

"I'm a person that likes to be involved with bringing the whole community together," Nicholas said when asked about the need for intra- community cooperation in Seven Lakes.

"By working as a whole group together, you can get things done that you can't get done singly," she continued. "I would like to see representatives of all the various boards get together

to form some sort of umbrella organization."

"As a Seven Lakes West board member, you need to know what is going on outside the gates and those outside the gates need to know what's going on inside the gates," Nicholas added.

County

"We do pay a lot in taxes as a



Jo Nicholas

community," Nicholas said when asked whether the West Side is getting its fair share of county services.

"We have to ask the county to come into the community to help control speeding," Nicholas noted. "You would think it wouldn't be necessary to ask — that they would just do it on their own." On the other hand, she said, the county may be stretched thin given the resources available.

Nicholas said one of the significant infrastructure items missing from the community is a sewer system, noting that her planned community in Columbia, MD had sewers. Also missing is a storm sewer system that could help alleviate drainage problems in Seven Lakes West.

"As far as looking for services from the county, you always have the option to reach out to the county," Nicholas said. "At this point, I don't know how the board might have reached out to the county in the past."

Responding to Diversity

Noting that she had lived in the Seven Lakes West for two-and-one-half years, Nicholas said "I think the board this year has reached out more to the diverse population through the recreation committee." The development of the West Side Park amenities and the programming of events in the Community Cen-

ter and elsewhere has targeted the various ages groups and family types in the community, she said.

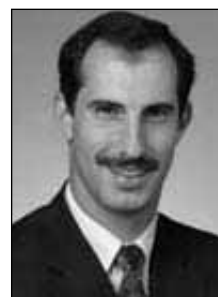
The growing demographic diversity of Seven Lakes West is a positive development, Nicholas believes.

"We need that change. Change is good. We don't need just all

(See "Times," p. 27)

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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 26)

retirees. Diversity makes it exciting."

It is valuable for the board to have representation from the various types of households that make up the community, Nicholas said, though she noted that "when you have young children, you may not have the time to devote to serving on a board." Consequently, it is important that the board stay in touch with the wants and needs of young families in the community.

Putting it to a Vote

The board should use referendums or polls to determine the public's will in on big issues, Nicholas said, like an increase in dues or a major infrastructure investment like the construction of West Side Park.

On the jet boat issue, she noted, the board asked for input and weighed the pros and cons based on the input they received. "Maybe they saw that a majority of residents were against jet boats and so there was no need for a poll."

"You have a board of directors that you have elected to make decisions," Nicholas continued. "On the other hand, when it pertains to money people want to have input into it. On big decisions, it makes sense to come to the people."

Nicholas told *The Times* that she is in favor of a periodic poll of the membership that can help

determine the direction and long-term goals of the community. "Every three years, you put some kind of survey out there to determine what the residents want for the community," Nicholas explained. "Then the board needs to look at how we are going to do this."

Jet Boats

Asked about the prospects of revisiting the jet boat decision, Nicholas said, "My idea of boats on Lake Auman is pontoons or smaller boats. Once you get into jet boats, you are inevitably moving toward jet skis. And I know they can present a safety issue."

Nicholas told *The Times* that she agrees with the board's decision to ban jet boats. "As far as it brings fair, I went to two meetings, one stacked for jet boats, and one stacked against. There was time and opportunity for the community to give input. I believe the majority was opposed."

Asked whether she would be in favor of revisiting the issue, Nicholas replied, "I'm sure it may come back again. We may have to put it out for a referendum."

Nicholas said she doesn't think Lake Auman is large enough for the use of jet boats. And, though she doesn't live on the lake, she said she can hear jet boats on the lake from her home, whereas she cannot hear pontoon boat and smaller craft.

"We don't want to destroy our beautiful lake and surroundings that we have," Nicholas said. "But I think the issue will come back before the board."

Opening Work Sessions

Nicholas saw no need to open SLWLA work sessions.

"When I was on my unions board of directors, work sessions were closed, she said, noting that closed sessions had been used in other professional contexts, in her experience.

"You need time to be able to discuss things openly within the board of directors without outside people there," Nicholas explained. "There are times when you may be talking about personal information."

"I think the work sessions should remain closed and that we should continue with the open general meetings with people being able to give input there."

Specific Issue?

"The thing that prompted me to run was to get involved with the community," Nicholas said

when asked if any specific issue prompted her to stand for election.

"I'm not the type that is going to sit at home and knit. I like to get active with the community and get active with people and see how I can help."

Pointing to her experience in school administration, Nicholas said "I have been involved in a lot of meetings. Don't mind meetings as long as you have a clear agenda and you stick to it."

"I'm the new kid on the block," she added. "I don't have a lot of historical background, though I am learning. I am willing to give my time and effort. And I have the

ability to look at the whole picture. I participated in a lot of shared decision making as an administrator."

Anything else?

"I want to stress that I am a person that likes to work as a team," Nicholas said when asked if she had anything to add. She said the board needs to work cohesively and to make sure that the public has input into decisionmaking.

On a given issue, "we need to ask 'Is this in the best interest of community? Can we try this and see if it's going to work?' And, if

(See "Rowland," p. 28)

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Rowland: Transparency is so important

(Continued from page 27)

it doesn't work, we need to go back to the drawing board."

Blaine Rowland

Blaine Rowland served as a councilman and as mayor in Morris County, New Jersey. He retired to Seven Lakes after a 42-year career with Foster Wheeler Corporation. He is active in the Sailing Club and the Moore County Kennel Club.

Speeding

"I think we have to look at the speeding on Longleaf," Blaine Rowland told *The Times* when asked whether Seven Lakes West has a speeding problem.

But the former New Jersey township mayor is not in favor of speed bumps. "You can end up with a lawsuit," Rowland explained. Noting that he had explored the issue while serving the township of Mt. Olive, NJ, Rowland said, "Our police was able to point to examples that showed the potential for lawsuits."

Rowland said the community should consult with the county or state about the formula they use for setting the speed limit on a give road and reevaluate the speed limit on Longleaf in light of that formula.

The speed limit on Longleaf is "probably too low, when you look at the road," Rowland told *The Times*, but he feels 25 miles per hour is right for the side streets — "and you have people speeding on those."

"It would help if we could get even more cooperation from the Sheriff's Department," Rowland

said. And, if there is any role for the SLWLA to play in the process, he added, "when they get a speeding ticket, we should execute that to the maximum. People won't pay too much attention until it starts hitting them in the pocketbooks."

Seven Lakes Cooperation

"Absolutely," Rowland answered when asked whether it was time to bring together local groups to cooperate in improving Seven Lakes as a whole. "The organ-

izations should get together. If the West Side board can be the impetus, fine. At the very least the West Side Board ought to participate."

Rowland said it was important to avoid "the 'we and they' mentality."

County Services

Asked whether the West Side should expect more from the county, Rowland answered, "If we're going to be in gated community, we can't expect the same services that those who live outside of a gated community can get."

"The Sheriff's Office patrols in the community. There's no charge for that. We have county water. We don't have a central sewage system, but it will be a long time before we ever see one," Rowland said.

"The only place that they might be able to give us more help than we are getting is on roads," Rowland said, though he noted that might be a state rather than county function.

"I don't think our roads were built to maintain their integrity

when you consider the trucks that are going over them now — large trucks with five or six axles. I can see down the road where we are going to have to do a major rebuilding job on the roads . . . we may need to find a way to restrict those really heavy loads coming in.

Responding to Diversity

"The board has to think about the younger folks," Rowland said when asked what implications increasing diversity on the West Side has for the SLWLA board. "We are getting more families with children of high school and grade school age."

The board must keep this trend in mind moving forward, Rowland said, though "to a degree, they have already addressed that." Rowland noted the inclusion of a diverse set of amenities in the West Side Park as well as at Johnson point,

including the new playground.

Putting it to a Vote

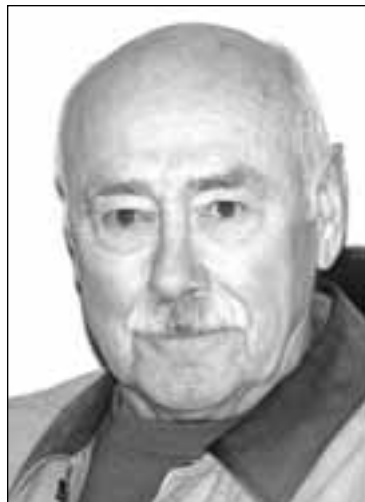
"Absolutely," Rowland said when asked whether there were some issues that should be decided by a vote of the landowners. "jet boats and jet skis — I wouldn't think so. Something like West Side Park, yes. Because it has a long term financial effect."

"Every question can't go to the general public," Rowland continued. "The Board has to address some of those themselves, but some should go to the landowners."

Dollar impact is not the sole criteria for determining what should be voted on, Rowland said. For example, "someone might come up with the idea that we ought to have our own police. That should go to the landowners."

The storage charges for boat trailers and recreational vehi-

(See "Times," p. 29)



Blaine Rowland

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Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 28)

cles is an example of a recent decision that the board was right to decide without a vote, Rowland told *The Times*. "I think there should be a charge, but I didn't agree with the board's first thinking on the amount. The price was too high. We're not out there to make money. But the amount the board settled on in the end was appropriate. It was fine for the board to make that decision themselves."

Rowland said he "didn't have any problem" with the use of polls or surveys to gather public input. "Every board member is going to have his or her opinion," he noted, "and the question is whether that opinion is in line with the thinking of the community. For example, I was not in favor of the West Side Park project. If it were up to me, it wouldn't have gone through. But the decision was made, the park was built, and that's okay with me."

Jet Boats

The jet boat issue "got itself sorted out," Rowland said. "The board heard the discussions, and they voted no."

"A lot of people are against jet skis, and I think a lot of people felt jet boats and jet skis were synonymous."

"I don't see any reason that the board should re-address that," Rowland continued. "The configuration of jet boat won't change, the sound won't change."

Opening Work Sessions

Asked whether board work session should be open, Rowland replied, "Yes. Transparency is absolutely required in all functions of a board. This board is responsible for and has effect on people's lives, people's pocket-books."

He noted that having an open work session doesn't mean that everyone has a right to speak during the meeting, or participate in the debate.

"Transparency is so impor-

tant," Rowland said. "If people know what you are doing, if they are welcome to come, they get that warm, fuzzy feeling a little better."

Specific issue?

"I'm not running with any agenda," Rowland said when asked whether any specific issue had prompted him to seek a seat on the board. "I'm not running because I was mad about something or happy about something or mad at anyone."

"I feel like sometime in your life you have to stand up and be counted. So I am standing up and being counted. I can promise that I will try to keep an open mind on any issue that comes before the board."

Rowland said he wasn't seeking any specific job on the board, though "don't put me on recreation — I don't have a lot of experience in that area."

He noted that both his professional career and his service as a council member and mayor

mean he has experience in managing substantial budgets.

"I hope board continues having the associate members of the board," Rowland added, mentioning Bud Sales, Betsy Mikula, Ron Dunning, and others. "It was an excellent move, I thought. I have seen in the past where

some boards didn't want to pass out responsibilities to anyone outside the board. That's a mistake. You have to pass out responsibility and let other folks do the work for you. You have to be able to delegate authority. You have to know the goals, then delegate."

Help EMS find loaner equipment

by T. Ray Jackson

For a number of years, Seven Lakes E.M.S. has provided a "lending service" for various kinds of basic patient care items.

The items include wheel chairs, walkers, commodes, and other things. From time to time, we need to remind people that when they are finished with the items they should return them to the station, so that others may use

them.

We try to keep a "check out system" but this breaks down from time to time. We have found that people tend to put the borrowed items in the garage when they no longer have need of them. If you have borrowed equipment from the EMS and no longer need it, please return it to the station.



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Seven Lakes WEST

Community Newsletter

"Keeping our residents informed"

Volume 5, Issue 2, February 2006

Candidates' Night Thursday, February 9 7:30 p.m. West Side Park Community Center

The Women's Auxiliary is sponsoring a West Side Board Candidates' Night. Association members will hear the six candidates for three open positions on the Board of Directors. The forum begins at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 9, 2006, in the Great Room of the Community Center.

Deanna Petrie, Auxiliary President, will host the evening, and Carolyn Mealing, of the League of Women Voters, will act as moderator. Candidates are David Carter, Betty Childers, Mary Anne Fewkes, Ray MacKay, Jo Nicholas, and Blaine Rowland.

Ballots to vote for candidates are included with the annual meeting information that will be mailed to each Association member in early February.

(If you missed the candidates' bios, you may read them on our website at: www.seven-lakeswest.org.)

Community Manager
Tony Robertson
673-5314
westsidetony@earthlink.net

Boats and Trailers

At the present time there is an abundance of boats, boat trailers, and utility trailers parked in the driveways of Seven Lakes West. As Community Manager, one of my duties is the enforcement of the rule that does not allow these items to be parked in individual driveways. Due to the fact that up until now we have had no additional space for you to store your trailers, we have been very lenient on the enforcement of this rule.

Very soon now, the new boat, trailer, and RV Storage

Yard will be complete and ready for use. Once it is ready the parking of boats, trailers, etc. in individual driveways will be strictly prohibited and the rule will be vigorously enforced.

If you have not called the Landowner's Office to reserve a space for your items, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. All spaces will be individually reserved and your items will be insured.

Please Lock Your Vehicle

As a resident of Seven Lakes West, I am sure that you are aware of the recent events that have taken place here regarding people having their vehicles gone through and, in some instances, having items stolen.

Currently we have had no report of any vehicle being broken into. All incidents have involved vehicles in which the owners have left their vehicles unlocked. If you do not lock, you are really asking for trouble and it is exactly what the thieves are looking for.

If you leave your vehicle out at night please be sure that it is locked and if you have an alarm system on your vehicle, be sure that it is activated!

Once again I would like to point out that if you have any theft or vandalism, please call the Sheriff's Dept. immediately and report the incident. Please do not call the gate as it slows down the process.

We are vigorously working to try to apprehend the culprits, and with your help, I feel as if we will soon be successful.

Recreation
Betty Milligan
673- 1462
ronbetmilligan@earthlink.net

Wine Tasting Event

Your Recreation Committee is looking for all wine lovers...

and those who would like to learn more about a variety of wines.

You are invited to attend a wine tasting event, Friday, February 10th, 7:00 pm at the West Side Community Center. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be sold at the West Side mail house and the West Side Park Community Center.

Seven different wines will be tasted. The knowledge of each wine, its pairings with foods, and other helpful information will be given. One of the wines to be tasted will be a perfect compliment to chocolate for a great Valentine's treat.

Wine enthusiast, Carol Pierce, who demonstrates weekly at The Fresh Market in Pinehurst, will be our presenter. A non-alcoholic wine will also be available for tasting.

This event is sponsored by the West Side Recreation Committee. For further information, please call Janet Baker, 673-1644.

Mark your calendar for the following Recreation Activities:

Shag Lessons on Mondays at WSPCC—

Costs: \$65.00 per couple
Contact Paul Sowell or Candy Alderman at 673-8180 for further information

Beginners--6:30-7:15 PM

Intermediates--7:15-8:00 PM

"FLING INTO SPRING"— DINNER AND DANCE

March 24, 6:00 PM, at the WSPCC...(BYOB)

The popular deejay Glen Davis will entertain us. Catered dinner will include salad, lasagna, garlic bread, and dessert. More information later about ticket price.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, at 3:00 PM. at WSPCC—

Ages 2-5 on playground with parental supervision;

Ages 6 and older on front lawn of Community Center
More information later...

Youth Tennis Lessons—

Four -1 hour lessons in April at \$40.00 per child. Lessons provided by Don Campbell from Lawn and Tennis. Ages 5-8 together, and ages 9-12 together.

Youth Sailing informational meeting with parents in late March or early April for ages 10-14. More information to come

Secretary
Jan Patton
673-3865
rpattton@nc.rr.com

Summary of Board Actions Taken at the January 10, 2006 Work Session

1. Approved the December 13, 2005 minutes and record of December 19, 2005 E-mail action
2. Approved November and December, 2005 Check Registers
3. Adopted a policy to ensure that proposed fee changes will be handled in a manner that allows public input and the final fee schedule will be published with each annual proposed budget
4. Adopted the proposed 2006-2007 Budget to be presented to the membership
5. Adopted the 2006-2007 fee schedule as amended
6. Authorized Ray MacKay to proceed with Lakeway Mall drainage with Horton's Landscaping
7. By general consent, directed Lois Rocco to investigate the possibility of refinancing or paying down the West Side Park mortgage
8. Named Joe Fellingham the first SLWLA member to be recognized on the Wall of Honor
9. Established that Wall of Honor nominations are active for a period of five years
10. Accepted the Option 2

proposal of Security Forces, Inc. for gate security in the amount of \$110,000, with the contract to be finalized by the Board's attorney

11. Decided that the compliance officer's role will be handled internally.

EMS Phone Book...Ready

The New EMS phone book, 2006, is now available to purchase at the West Side Community Center. The price remains at \$6.00.

Seven Lakes Forum

The next Forum is scheduled for Thursday February 16, 2006, on the upper level of the West Side Park Community Center. Refreshments will be available at 9AM, with the formal session beginning at 9:15. Participants should plan for about a two-hour session. All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend. Bill Mamel will present the topic entitled 'Human Behaviors Associated with the Evolution of the Brain'.

The 'format' for this Forum, and also for the on-going sessions to be conducted on a monthly basis follows:

9:00am Refreshments
9:15 Presentation of information
9:50 Break, refreshments
10:00 Roundtable discussions
10:30 Responses from the roundtables
10:50 Summary comments
For further information, please contact Don Welch (673-6701) or Bill Mamel (673-8970).

**Vice President &
Infrastructure Director**
February 24th
Ray MacKay
Contact Betsy Mikula
673-3629
rmackypc@earthlink.net

Seven Lakes Times
February 3, 2006

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RETAIL BUSINESS FOR SALE. Call today for information. (910) 673-0830 or (910) 315-1353.

ANTIQUES/PRIMITIVES BOUGHT/ SOLD

MEDLEYANNA'S – of West End. Will buy, sell or trade. Call 673-JUNK (5865) or 947-3759, ask for Harriet or Jerry.

MERCHANDISE WANTED

WOULD LIKE TO BUY A USED TREADMILL – call 673-0971 if you have one for sale.

FOR SALE MISCELLANEOUS

THOMASVILLE HUTCH – beautiful tall hutch. Must see to appreciate. \$350. Call 673-1221.

RAINBOW – REXAIR – water filtered vacuums. Sales, service, supplies. Shown by appointment in your home or our store. Cox Dist. 948-2926 or 246-2926.

NEW – STILL BOXED -FINCLIC LAMINATE FLOORING – Oak, 1300 sq. ft. will sacrifice for \$1.50/sq. ft. Call 673-5422 after 5:00 pm.

RED UTILITY TRAILER – (used once) heavy duty tow bar, floor bed has 2x8's, 5 ft.wide x 10 ft. long, unloading ramp 4 ft. Ideal for hauling golf cart or lawn service equip. Asking \$755 or OBO. Call 673-2880. *1tc 6/10*

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

ONE ROOM OFFICE – in Executive Center. Call Fred at 910-315-4135.

OFFICE SPACE – available in South Park Townhouse. Available now. Two large rooms w/bath-room and storage. Call Whelan Realty, LLC at 910-673-1818.

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

OFFICE SPACE – chose 120 sq. ft or 300 sq. ft. \$150 utilities included in rent. Located in Seven Lakes. 910-215-0688.

SHORT TERM RENTALS – fully furnished. Two lakefront on Sequoia and one brand new on the South Side near clubhouse. Call Whelan Realty, LLC at 910-673-1818.

SEVEN LAKES NORTH – for rent or sale. 4BR, 2700 sq. ft. 2 car garage, Boat slip included. \$1200/mo. Call 910-673-1902.

LAKEFRONT HOME ON LAKE AUMAN – furnished, well decorated. Beautiful view, watch sunrise and set. Long term or monthly lease. Deposit and references required. No pets/no smoking. Call 913-908-9892 for information. *tfn 11/22*

TWO ROOM OFFICE – conveniently located on Seven Lakes Drive. \$350/month. Call 910-949-2191.

NOW LEASING – Office and Retail space, 500 to 5000 sq. ft. Call Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center at 910-673-0830.

FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS

HILLCREST MINI WAREHOUSE, LLC – Affordable storage in Seven Lakes. Units are located at 20 Grant Street, across from K.R. Mace Electric. Unit sizes – 10x10, 10x20 and 20x20 available. Units have lighting for those who need to drop off or pick items after dark. Hillcrest is now offering outside storage space available for – boats, trailers, vehicles or campers. Pick-up and delivery to your unit can be arranged. Call 910-673-7320 for rental information. Urgent calls may be directed to 910-690-6491.

SEVEN LAKES WEST

Short Term rental - 3BR/2BA
Overlooking pond. Call Wayne 800-7FOX FIRE or 910-295-2288.

FOR SALE LOTS

COMMERCIAL LOTS – Expanding or starting? 19 lots in the commercial section of Seven Lakes. Call Tom McGinnis at The Property Center. Office 910-673-1724, Home 910-673-3676 or Cell 910-315-9127.

CHECK OUT MY LISTINGS – in Seven Lakes West Homes/Lots for Sale AND surrounding area properties www.jenniferdwiggins.com. Contact Jennifer Dwiggins, Broker at 910-992-6133.

SEVEN LAKES SOUTH – Lot #2032, 189 Devonshire. 120 x 190 x 120 x 190. Perc tested. If interested, please call 673-2372.

LAKE AUMAN – waterfront point lot on quiet cul-de-sac, w/180 ft. bulkhead, perc test and panoramic views. Call 910-695-1101.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

LAKE AUMAN – FSBO, 5 BR/3.5BA, gorgeous point view, dock and bulkhead, mature landscaping, Carolina Rm. Very large lot. Huge screened porch, wrap-around deck, wood-burning fpl, hdwd flrs, all brick. Yates Hussey Built Home. Multiple storage areas, huge downstairs video room. Too much to list. Call 910-603-4746.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE

SEVEN LAKES NORTH – 3 BD. 2 car Garage, FSBO price \$159,000 Brokers welcome. Call 246-8045. Will consider Lease option.

BOATS FOR SALE

1984 16FT GLASTRON – open bow, 100hp Johnson OB/w/pwr/trim/tilt, ski plyon, depth finder, bimini top, 4 speaker stereo, teak dive platform, cover, several ski items & Wesco trailer. Price neg. 673-2547

2tp 1/20

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PONTOON, BASS, SKI, DECK & SALTWATER BOATS – Over 250 boats in stock. 33 years in the Marine business. Only 25 minutes from Seven Lakes. Chatlee Boat & Marine, Sanford. Call 919-775-7259.

BOATS FOR SALE

BOATS FOR SALE – Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wake-board-Deck-Pontoon-Bass and Saltwater Boats. Full service to Seven Lakes area only a few minutes away. Choplin Marine in Sanford. Call 919-776-1004 or www.choplinboats.com

TURN YOUR USED BOAT INTO CASH – People are looking to purchase good condition used boats. Let us connect you to the prospective buyers. Call Jeff at 910-673-1440 or Lynn at 910-690-8695.

NEW & USED PONTOONS AND SKI BOATS – Call Seven Lakes Marine. 673-1440. *tfn*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

SIMPLY HOME PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZING – Specializing in residential organization - kitchens, closets, home office, paper mgt., garages, and more! Complimentary consultations. Ready to declutter & organize, simplify or downsize? Call Paige @ 528-4641 or visit www.simply-home.net. *4tp 2/3*

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CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times
February 3, 2006

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

— serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Tractor work including, light brush clearing, bush hogging, scraping, disk-ing, loading and hauling along with garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING — Experienced, professional. References available. Other services include: Laundry, ironing, sewing and housekeeping. Call Kathy at 428-2332.

HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER or companion. CNA-certified. References available. Personal care, house cleaning, errands, etc. Full or part time. Call 910-947-3835.

MIKE'S YARD MAINTENANCE — Specializing in total lawn care, mowing, trimming, edging, gutter and roof cleaning, pressure washing, tree trim and cut down, pine straw and bark delivery and spread, debris removal. Also Full Auto Detailing, Motorhome and Boat winterizing and repair. Call 910-638-1887 or 910-673-9163 leave message.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING — Experienced, free estimates, reasonable rates. Call Tina Boone at 910-464-5650. *tfn*

TREE SERVICE — Allen & Son Tree Service. Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). *tfn 12/7*

J&L HOME SERVICES — “A Handy Man and More.” Interior/Exterior Home Maintenance & Repairs. Call today for Free estimates. Your Seven Lakes Neighbor. Call 673-3927.

PETS FOR ADOPTION

SANDHILLS ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE — Cats and dogs available to adopt. If you are looking for a special dog or cat to add to your family, contact Lou Atkins at 974-4468.

Kittens and Cats will be available for adoption at PetsMart in Aberdeen for the month of February. Go by and see the kittens and cats, hold them and consider adopting them into your family. All are spayed or neutered with their vaccines up to date. Sandhills Animal Rescue League works hard to find “forever” homes for abandoned and homeless pets. Volunteers are always needed to help out with adopt-a-thons or caring for the animals. Donations of supplies accepted anytime. Monetary donations accepted and are tax deductible.



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SUPERCHARGED SIX CYLINDER, AUTOMATIC, ONE OWNER. LOCAL TRADE. HEATED FRONT SEATS. 12 DISC CD CHANGER. ULTRASONIC REAR PARKING ASSIST. ONSTAR EQUIPPED. #P406038A



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EXCELLENT CONDITION. POWERFUL, LUXURIOUS RIDE. DRIVER'S INFORMATION CENTER. STEERING WHEEL RADIO CONTROLS. REAR SEAT CLIMATE CONTROL. XM SATELLITE RADIO EQUIPPED. #P955A



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