



TIMES

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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 17, 2006

Civic group hosts Surratt

President Dave Kinney reviewed the year's work and Moore County Planning Director Andrea Surratt introduced the Small Area Planning concept during the Wednesday, February 8 annual meeting of the Seven Lakes Civic Group, held in the Great Room of the Community Center at West Side Park in Seven Lakes West.

Kinney began with an introduction of Civic Group board members, noting that Fred Renner, Ally Vogel, and Kay Hodge are leaving the board, to be replaced by Linda Tableman, Dennis Roberts, and Dale Erickson. Continuing members of the board include Pud Kent, JoAn Moses, Don Truesdell, Walter Eckroth, Carolyn Mealing, and Mr. Kinney.

Among the issues that have occupied the Civic Group over the past twelve months, Kinney listed the following:

School Traffic Signal. Kin-

ney reported that the new traffic signal and turn lane configuration at the intersection of NC Highway 211 and Love Grove Church Road was fully operational and had improved safety in the area, particularly during the morning and evening drop-off periods at West End Elementary School [WEES]. He expressed a hope that the WEES administration would reinforce with parents the importance of using the back entrance rather than the front of the school. Kinney said he believed the cost of the new signal and lane modifications had exceeded \$80,000.

Village Roads. Kinney said that the Civic group and Seven Lakes West End Area Business Guild have been working for two years on finding a way to have the North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] take over maintenance of the

(See "Civic," p. 30)



Go David! Loren and Judy Swearingen enjoy their soon-to-be "Idolized" grandson David Radford, who was named one of American Idol's twenty-four finalists Wednesday night.

Swearingens' grandson makes Am. Idol's final 24

"I told him, 'Be yourself, and have fun.'"

And it appears that Loren Swearingen's advice to his talented grandson is paying off in a big way. Of course, grandson David Radford's good looks, easy smile, and Rat-Pack-quality crooning may have a little to do with the success he's having as a contestant on the wildly popular American Idol television show.

If you haven't been living under a rock for the past few years, you probably know that *American Idol* is the hottest show on American television — and, going by a dozen other names — is the hottest show in scores of countries around the world, each of which has its own version of the show.

The premise is simple: start with literally tens of thousands of young people who think they can sing, and then, through a series of auditions, winnow them

down to the top two dozen — who really can sing. Then put them through the audition wringer on live TV while letting viewers

(See "Grandson," p. 2)

Election coverage

This issue of *The Times* includes extensive interviews with candidates for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

Westiders were treated to an exceptionally well attended Candidates Night hosted by the Women's Auxiliary on February 9. While *The Times* was on hand to cover the event, space limitations prevent us from printing that report in this edition; we plan to carry that report in our March 3 issue.

A SLLA Candidates Night is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1.

The vote in both elections will be tallied at their annual meetings, the West Side on Sunday March 19; the SLLA on Sunday, March 26.



Moore County Planning Director Andrea Surratt with Seven Lakes Civic Group President Dave Kinney.

Grandson makes American Idol's final 24

(Continued from page 1)
vote on their favorites. The low vote-getters go home; high scorers go on to the next round.
David Radford, the grandson of Northsiders Loren and Judy Swearingen, is a 17-year-old preacher's kid from Crystal Lake, Illinois, with a background in community musical theatre.

He got the good news tht he made the finals from the show's three judges on Wednesday night's episode, and now, as his Granddad says, it's up to all of America to decide whether he's the cream of the crop.

David is the son of Bill and Tracy Radford and a senior at Crystal Lake Senior High. He's the next to the oldest of six kids, ages 5 to 20.

His dad pastors Crystal Lake's Clinton Presbyterian Church. Music is an important part of the worship service and David is a regular participant, Swearingen told *The Times*.

David's musical interest took a turn toward showbiz when he was asked to participate in a community theatre production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* a couple of years ago. Last year he played Skye Masterson — the Marlon Brando part — in a production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Last September, David called up his grandparents and let them know that he and his Mom would be driving down to Chicago's Soldier Field stadium to join 7,999 other hopefuls in the

initial cattle call — an event repeated in cities all across America.

David didn't even get to audition the first day, but the wait was worth it. When all was said and done, he came away with an invitation to Hollywood and another round of auditions.

Crossing that hurdle led to another trip to sunny California, his Mom along again to chaperone and cheerlead.

And now he's in the finals, and he and Tracy are in Hollywood for the duration.

"We're happy. And we're very, very proud," Loren Swearingen told *The Times*.


The next American Idol round is Tuesday and Wednesday night, February 21 and 22. The girls sing on Tuesday; the guys on Wednesday. The show runs on the Fox television network.

Viewers dial a toll free number to vote for their favorite on the

show.
You can find out all the details on the Web; try www.americanidol.com to start.
Fans often set up sites for their favorites. Try typing "David Radford idol" in Google or another search engine.
An official David Radford site is in the works, Swearingen told *The Times*.

Correction: only 3 seats

In the February 3 issue of *The Times*, we incorrectly reported that there are six candidates for four open board seats. In fact, there are only three open seats, those of Jan Patton, Lois Rocco, and Ray MacKay, who is running for re-election. We regret for the error, and any speculation it may have generated.



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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
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.

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St. Patrick's Day Dance at SLCC

Seven Lakes Country Club announces their St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance will be held on Friday, March 17. Cocktails at 5:30 pm. with dinner following at 6:30 pm. The Bob Murphy Trio will entertain with Irish music and a sing-a-long.

Two scrumptious dinner choices are available: a traditional brisket of corned beef or an 8 oz. Salmon filet ala Jack Daniels.

Pricing for the meal and entertainment is \$16.95, all-inclusive. Nonmembers \$21.95. Reservations may be made by calling 673-1100 after 11 am. Nonmembers may call starting February 20.


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— LISA STEWART, ABR
Broker Associate

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Tableman sees real progress in Afghanistan

The paragraphs that follow are a letter home from Westsider — and Army Reserve Officer — Steve Tableman, currently stationed in Afghanistan. Steve's wife Linda graciously allowed us to share his letter with our readers.

— GH

18 Jan 06

Dear All,

Greetings! I hope the holidays were good to everyone. With all the support from home we had as good a Christmas as one could ever hope to have in a snow covered mud fort out in the desert.

A great meal, caroling around a bonfire and minimum duties tried to make up for being away from home. The Army Santa brought me a new pair of Oakley sunglasses and an advanced helmet — as the young guys say, *sweet*.

Obviously, I miss Linda and Doug and family and friends, and think of you often. From what I can tell 2005 was good for most. Linda got us moved into a super house with the best lake and sunset views, and now we can sail from the house; Doug continued to do great at school, grow taller and make us proud. 2006 is the year of the sailboat.

Life here has been pretty much white and cold since the end of December. The good news is this brings much needed moisture, and all our preparations are paying off so we are warm and mission ready. Friendly snowball fights have brought some fun while everyone learns how to slip and slide safely.

Building from the great YMCA winter camps Doug and I have enjoyed, we are looking into building an ice court for some ice hockey on boots (and maybe a curling competition using a big rock — lots of those around here).

We (Coalition Forces/USA) are keeping the roads clear for the Afghans by hiring contractors and mentoring our Afghan counterparts to manage the operation; last year the road through the pass was closed for two weeks due to an avalanche.

I've never been a fan of tire chains but here they keep us moving since there is no salt or sand (would you believe that in the desert?) — here it is just dirt dust we call "moon dust."

Living in mud huts brings a new winter necessity — roof cleaners, who must clear the snow after each storm so we avoid raindrops in our rooms.

If you haven't seen it, the good news from Afghanistan does continue. I'll try to make some time comparisons this time so you

(See "Tableman," p. 29)



Steve Tableman in Gardez, Afghanistan

The Chapel in the Pines is growing!

The Chapel in the Pines hosted a Coffee Hour in the North Clubhouse on Sunday, January 15, to welcome new members to the Chapel Family. New members include Terry and Eleanor Carraher, Anita DePasquale, Libby Kuhn, Harold and Marilyn Hudson, Clint and Lucy Ingram, Marilyn Neschke, George and Cathy Norman, Robert and Francis Stark, Ray and Audrey Tourt, Dick and Pat Weber, along with Bob and Jan Patton.

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Time to get tickets for St. Pat's sandwich

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

Tickets for the popular corned beef sandwich luncheon following the parade will be for sale Friday and Saturday, February 17 and February 18, and also Friday and Saturday, February 24 and February 25 in the mail houses. Tickets will be on sale at the North and South mail houses between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm, and in the West mail house between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. If you have any questions regarding the sale or purchase of luncheon tickets, please contact Maureen Malone at 673-2553 or Carolyn Follansbee at 673-5913.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION MODEL NEAR LAKE AUMAN MARINA. Spacious 2500 htd sf home with unfinished walk-out basement. Quality built with lots of upgrades to incl: custom cabinets, granite tops, hardwood, ceramic tile, and more. Construction is complete.
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A great house for\$136,000



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New learning center takes classical tack

"We're an educational support services company for parents interested in being active in their children's education," Leigh Bortins answers without a second's hesitation, when asked to about her company, Classical Conversations.

It's an answer delivered rapid-fire, but you don't get the feeling Bortins is shooting from the hip. It's an answer she knows by heart, because she's put a lot of thought into it.

Just like she's put a lot of thought into how kids learn, how you equip kids to be better learners, and how you equip parents to help their children become better learners.

Bortins is new resident of Seven Lakes North, and a member of the Seven Lakes business community. Her Classical Conversations Bookstore in the Central Park Building on Seven Lakes Drive holds its Grand Opening on Monday, February 20.

But Bortins has been thinking about how children learn and how to help children learn for more than a decade. It started when she realized that public schools weren't quite meeting the needs of her eldest son. "He was highly academic, and he just wasn't challenged by his classes," she told *The Times*. So she decided to try home-

schooling.

"So I started reading up on education and on the history of schools — and I discovered that there is a whole world educational thought that we have simply forgotten."

She read *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, by Doug Wilson. "It was life-changing." She read media and educational theorist Neil Postman and came to understand the way in which

technology — particularly video — can actually hinder learning.

Bortins came to believe that the classical model of education — a model that everyone used in the 1700s — is a better way to teach — because it corresponds to the way children learn.

The classical approach to education starts by teaching children the grammar of a subject. In Science, that might be the names

of body parts, or the different types of plants, or the elements in the periodic table. The grammar of History is what happened to who when, The grammar of English is, well, grammar.

Younger elementary school age children are great at learning and remembering all those facts and figures. In the classical model, once they have all that down, and their minds begin to

(See "New," p. 27)



Leigh Bortins of Classical Conversations puts some students through the paces of the classical approach to learning.

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SL0217

Gallery to feature Roy Kita's photos

"Glimpses of the World," an exhibit of award-winning photographer Roy Kita's work, will be featured at Olde Towne Gallery in Fayetteville from Febraury 24 through March 18. The exhibit opens during Fayetteville's 4th Friday Art Celebration, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, on Friday, February 24.

Kita, who lives with his wife Yuri in Seven Lakes South, worked for RCA as an engineer and in management for thirty-four years. Prior to his retirement in 1989,

he was Spacecraft Project Engineer at the RCA Space Center in Princeton, New Jersey. He built and tested satellites for NASA and the Defense Department.

Upon retirement he reentered school and in 1993 earned an AA Degree in Electronic Imaging, Animation from the Bucks County Community College in Newtown, PA. He exhibited at the Hicks Art Center (Newton, PA) and Squib Gallery (Lawrenceville, NJ).

He has traveled in Europe, Southeast Asia, China and extensively in Japan to shoot landscapes, countries' traditions and glimpses of day-to-day life that is different from ours.

His most notable work was the computer-generated design of the eight-foot diameter stained glass rose window, now gracing the front of the Woodside Presbyterian Church in Yardley PA. The window, "I am the Vine . . ." – John 15:5, was dedicated in 1993.

Since retiring to North Carolina in 1994, Kita won first place in digital arts and awards at the Moore County Fine Arts Festivals. He was awarded First place at the Southern Exposure Art Competition, Fayetteville Arts Festi-

val and for his lighted sculpture in the Recycled Art Celebration for creative use of recycled material. His photographs have been shown at juried shows at the North Carolina Museum of Art, 2002 and North Carolina Fine Arts Exhibition, 2004

Watercolorist Barbara Eckroth and Roy Kita co-exhibited in the Campbell House Galleries in April 2004.

Kita is past President of Sandhillis Photography Club. He was

the Club's Photographer of Year in 2001 and 2003.

The "Glimpses of the World" exhibit will run from February 24 through March 18. Hours for the exhibit are Wednesday – Friday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm and Saturday (winter hours) 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The Gallery is located at 124 Maxwell St., Fayetteville. For more information call 910-485-4378 or 910-476-1976.



Roy Kita



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Voga organizes Valentine's treat for teens

Valentine's Day is all about love . . . and this year a very special group of local teens received an extra-heartfelt gift. They were honored with a Valentine's Charity Banquet. Seven Lakes resident, Connie Voga was emotionally stirred when she met with residents of a near-by group home.

Many of the young people came from homes of physical abuse or had family members with drug problems and some

had been neglected.

Voga felt that God wanted her to do something special for the kids – to show them that someone cared. Taking immediate action, she prepared a letter explaining the situation and circulated it to several residents and local business in the area.

On Friday, February 10, forty youths (ages 13 to 18) from several group homes gathered at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. Voga, her husband Dick, and a

number of great volunteers hosted the Valentine's Banquet. In addition to providing a catered dinner, the generous donations Voga received from the community allowed her to present each attendee with his or her own individual Valentine's Day gift. There were organized activities and games available for the youth.

The evening was tremendously touching, as some of the youth shared their personal testimonies

with the group.

Voga, as well as the residents of The Esther Fowler Group Home would like to thank the following people and local businesses for their generous con-

tributions:

Seven Lakes Baptist Church
Seven Lakes Hardware
Steve and Ginny Harris,
Harris Construction

(See "Treat," p. 28)

Sickenberger at Art League

Seven Laker, artist Barbara Sickenberger (right) and Artists

of the Sandhills President, Courtney Herndon show off just a

few of the 36 creations by Sickenberger being exhibited through February 26 at the League headquarters in Aberdeen.

The versatility of Sickenberger's talents can be seen in a variety of subject matter as well as the media used.

Included in the show are landscapes, florals, semiabstract drawings of birds, fish and insects, as well as abstract watercolors and portraits in colored pencils and graphite.

Sickenberger holds a bachelor's degree in advertising art and an MFA in studio art.



Courtney Herndon and Barbara Sickenberger



Kids from the Esther Fowler Group Home



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Florence: SLLA needs long range plan

Five candidates are running for three open seats on the board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA]. Ballots will be mailed to landowners at the end of this month; the votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 26.

The Times interviewed all five candidates, asking each the same set of questions. You'll find those questions, and the candidates' answers, below.

Our questions.

1. Seven Lakes West is looking at a 28% increase in their operating budget this year — without raising dues, while socking away another \$170,000 in reserve accounts for the dam, roads, and other contingencies. Should the SLLA be putting money aside in reserve accounts for dams, roads, and other items? How much? Is it possible to do this without a dues increase?
2. The average county tax bill for North and South side res-

idents is between \$900 and \$1,000. Dues are \$800 per year. The average westside home sold for \$340,000, yielding a tax bill of \$1,700; dues are \$630. Are SLLA dues too high, too low, or about right? Why?

3. Last year there was a lot of vandalism, loitering, partying, speeding, and underage drinking disturbing the community — particularly at Sequoia Point. Various measures eventually got it under control. If this summer is like last summer, in the absence of a company police department, what involvement should the SLLA have in addressing these problems? Should we leave it up to landowners to call 9-1-1 when they see a problem, or should the association be involved in maintaining order? How?
4. As the SLLA board found itself split over the Company Police issue, a variety of opinions

were expressed about the proper duty of a board member who finds him or herself in the minority — but believes firmly that their position is right and/or supported by a majority of landowners. What do you think is the appropriate course of action for a board member in that position?

5. During the recent debate, some said that confidential information had been improperly provided to the press and the public. Do you think that there should be limits placed on board members regarding the type and content of information provided to the general public? Why or why not?
6. Why are you running for the board? Is there any specific issue that you want to address or that has led you to seek to serve on the board?
7. If elected, what particular

things would you try to do to improve the quality of life in Seven Lakes?

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

Michael Florence

Michael Florence and his family moved to Seven Lakes in 2002. Florence, a native Georgian, is a graduate of the University of Georgia and is the Sales Manager of WEEB Talk Radio 990AM in Southern Pines.

Reserves. "Yes," Florence told *The Times* when asked whether the SLLA should be building reserves to pay for future big-ticket expenses.

"Should they have been doing it for years? Yes. Have they been doing it? No."

"We need a million dollars right now," Florence told *The Times*. "But it's not there. It's a million just to pave the roads."

"I believe it is possible to do

what we need to do without a dues increase, but we're going to need some luck. We'll need some breaks with the weather"

Florence said he understands that the board has already found some cost savings, and the elimination of company police will result in additional savings. On top of that "without cutting any major services, there is still money that could be found."

Florence said the board needs to develop a long-range plan that looks out 5, 10, and 30 years. "Everything in Seven

(See "Florence," p. 9)

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Florence: Vandalism? Send bill to parents

(Continued from page 8)

Lakes is going to have to be replaced: roofs, windows, doors, railings, heating systems, everything. There has to be plan for that."

"Without a plan, there are only two alternatives, he concluded. "Raise dues substantially, which no one wants to see any higher. Or you borrow, and then you have to pay it back."

Dues. Responding to *The Times'* suggestion that SLLOA dues are about the same level as county property taxes for the average home on the North and South Sides, Florence said, "My dues are higher than my property taxes."

"For what we have, the dues are about right and should stay at this level. If we can take an item by item, department by department look at everything we do, there are savings that could be had."



Michael Florence

"I would like to keep dues at the \$800 level," Florence said, "and take whatever savings we can find in the coming year and start building the reserves."

"I'd like to have a \$2 million plus in reserve. That would generate interest, and we could plow that money back into operations. So, when we do have to repair a spillway, or repave a section of road, we just write a check for it and we're done without having to worry about it."

Security. "It took public outrage to get something done at Sequoia Point," Florence said when asked what responsibility the SLLA bears for maintaining order.

"Like it was said at several meetings, if you make it a pain for the people who were throwing the bottles, loitering, drinking,

partying, they will go away. They will move outside the community to some other spot."

"With company police gone, security will have to be more proactive in calling in the police or ABC officers, writing down tag numbers, and so on, if they see this kind of activity going on."

"We need to work with the Sheriff's department to establish neighborhood watches in Seven Lakes. We need to involve the assets we have in Moore County and say 'we don't want that kind

of activity in our community.'"

Turning to the recent spate of vandalism in the community, and the on-going problem with skateboarding in prohibited areas, Florence said. "Security knows who these kids are. You find out who they are, and you send the bill for the damage they do to the parents. 'Pay up or we are going to prosecute.' If security doesn't know who the kids are, they can wait. The kids have to go home sometime."

Director responsibility. "Everybody is not going to get

along," Florence said when asked if directors should handle a division of opinion on the board. "There are going to be differences of opinion. You take any elected body, there's going to be

a difference of opinion."

"People shouldn't have to resign because they don't like the way a board is leaning," Florence continued. "That's not the

(See "Hudson," p. 10)

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Hudson: Look hard at health insurance

(Continued from page 9)

way it is done at the county level, the state house, the state senate. It would be chaos."

"With what went on last year, it was an appropriate course of action for a board member to take it to the people. They were elected to represent the people and they took the question to the people. The community responded. I hope it's not the last time."

Handling information. Asked whether the ability of board members to release information to the public should be restricted, Florence said, as he understood it, there are state laws that prohibit the disclosure of certain types of employee information: social security numbers, marital status, health information, and so on.

Similarly, he said, civil suits sometimes result in settlements that are sealed by the court. These must remain sealed.

However, "There should be no secrets in Seven Lakes," Florence continued. The board is elected by the association — by the residents of Seven Lakes. and, if the board gets sued, it's the residents that will pay, whether directly or through higher insurance rates."

"Budget matters, what the board is thinking about, should all be public. The board should be acting in such a way that there is no problem for such matters to be publicly known and discussed."

"Sunshine laws are a wonderful," Florence concluded.

Why run? Asked why he is running for the board, Florence replied, "As I have mentioned in the past, being elected to the

board is not my lifelong dream or cause. My wife and I moved here, I started attending the general meetings, and I became concerned about how things were going, about how money was being spent. My objective is to run, serve, get off the board, and move on."

"My biggest issue is make sure we keep costs in check. We need to make sure, with everything that we are currently paying for, that we are getting the biggest bang for our buck and that the money landowners are spending on the dues is money well spent."

"Every decision I make regarding your money will be a decision regarding my money because I am a dues-paying member of the association."

What improvements? "We have a great quality of life here in Seven Lakes," Florence told *The Times*. "One thing I would like to impart is that any decision made has to be made for the people."

"With every decision, we have to ask, 'How is this going to impact us down the road — next

week, next year, next decade. Long-range planning is the key. The association now is thirty or thirty-five years old. We're approaching middle age; we have to look to the future."

Anything else? Asked if there was anything else we should have asked, Florence said, "What is the future of the larger Seven Lakes/West End area?"

"According to the county, this area is fastest-growing part of Moore County. We're larger than Cameron, Vass, Carthage."

"Eventually, there may be a need to possibly look at incorporation. 'We'll have to ask, when incorporating, how do we maintain our status as a gated community and maintain the ambience within Seven Lakes.'"

Steve Hudson

Steve Hudson and wife Mary moved to Seven Lakes from Greensboro in 1987. Hudson describes himself as "semi-retired" — he does high speed data and other installations for Carolina Cable. A native of Greensboro

and a graduate of Guilford College, Hudson has owned and operated a number of small businesses, including an English tack shop and two seafood restaurants.

Reserves. "We definitely need reserve accounts," Hudson told *The Times*. And we need to look further than just a year of five years down the road when we are determining how much money to put in those accounts."

"How much we need in reserves would be determined by what infrastructure needs need to be addressed first — our

(See "Hudson," p. 11)



Steve Hudson



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Hudson: Everything should be open

(Continued from page 10)

buildings, our roads or whatever," he added. "But we should set a target, whether it is half a million, a million, or more."

"Where would the money come from?" Hudson asked. "Back in April during the open meeting I brought up the point that the association's health insurance cost is over \$120,000. That's ten percent of the budget."

"If you follow the news, you know that Ford Motor Company is closing five plants," he said. "One reason was health insurance costs. We need to take a look at health insurance. That could be one area in which we could find some savings."

Hudson noted that the board has changed its policy on paying for employee health insurance, voting last year to have any new hires pay one-third of the cost of their insurance. "But they grandfathered everyone else," Hudson adds.

He cites a CNN report that found 87 percent of companies who offer health insurance as an employee benefit require employees to pay all or part of the cost of that insurance. "That means in only 13 percent of companies does the employee get it all paid for."

A more recent CBS story reported that 60 percent of companies offer health insurance benefits," Hudson told *The Times*. "That means 40 percent don't even offer health insurance."

Hudson said that since he is

not currently on the board, he can't yet point to other areas where money could be saved. "All I have is a lot of questions about it."

Dues. "I feel like they are about right — and that we do not need any type of increase," Hudson said when asked about the level of landowner's dues in the SLLA.

"We need to look at our expenditures."

But Hudson told *The Times* he does not see a decrease in dues in the cards, either. "We are looking at substantial expenses down the road, so you don't want to put in a decrease, but you can save money by looking at expenses."

Hudson said the association needs to hold on to the savings generated by budget cuts in order to begin to build reserves that can help pay for big ticket items in the future.

Security. When asked what responsibility the association bears for taking charge of security problems like those at Sequoia Point last summer, Hud-

son said, "I don't think a company police force is really a viable way of dealing with that, because, in fact, they didn't do anything down there before. The Sheriff and ABC law enforcement were called in to handle that."

"A lot of communities have a Community Watch. If it's a minor thing, they can call the roving patrol, and, if that doesn't work, have the roving patrol call in the sheriff. That, in fact, seems to be what went on most of the time last year."

Hudson said, if elected, he would bring up the idea of forming a Community Watch program. "It's something to really take a look at."

Director responsibility. "Anytime you have two or more people together, you are going to have a disagreement eventually," Hudson said, when asked about the responsibility of directors who find themselves in a minority on the board.

In the case of two directors in the past several months who kept pressing the company police

issue in the face of board votes that went against them, Hudson said, "I think their course of action reflected what the community wanted, not what the individual board members wanted. I think they took the only course of action that they could."

"The ability to call a special meeting and election is in our by-laws. It's allowable. It has to be in there for a reason."

Noting that a new state law requires that homeowner's board use Robert's Rules of Order in conducting their meetings, Hudson said, "One thing that is unique about Robert's Rules of Orders — you are governed by the majority, but also the minor-

ity has rights."

Handling information. Asked whether he felt the release of information by board members should be restricted, Hudson answered, "No. Everything should be open, above board, and out on the table."

"Part of the new law 1541 [recently approved by the NC General Assembly] says that any landowner can go in and look at expenses, including salaries," Hudson added.

"I think everything should be open, period. This isn't a matter of national security. This is a matter of a landowners association. Everybody should know whatever

(See "Lombard," p. 12)

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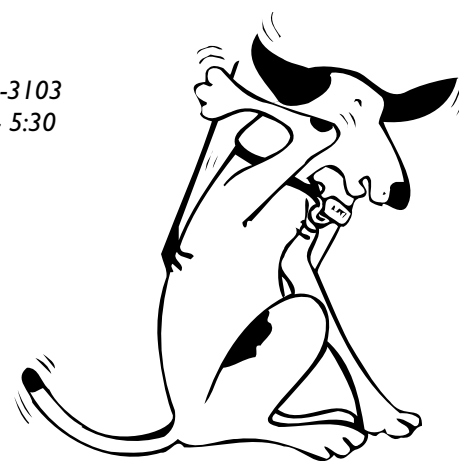
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Lombard: People must police their own

(Continued from page 11)

er they want to know. Nothing should be closed.”

Why run? Asked if anything in particular had led him to run for the board, Hudson replied, “After living in the community for 19 years and given my experience in small business, I have a lot to bring to the board that they can use.”

“We need to really delve into the the question of reserves. We need to build up our reserves and plan for the future.”

What improvements? Asked what he would do to improve the quality of life in Seven Lakes, Hudson said, “Simply to keep everything open, above board, and to represent the landowners.”

Hudson said he had recently attended a training session on how to be a better board member — whether of a landowners association or any sort of non-

profit organization. “One thing that stuck with me was the three duties of a board member: the duty of care, of loyalty, and of obedience. Care — that means using common sense and care for the association. Loyalty — you have to be loyal to the organization you serve as a director. That means you are not putting buddies and friends ahead of it. Obedience — that means board members need to make it such that the organization is run according to the by-laws.”

Anything else? Asked what we hadn’t asked that we should have, Hudson said “I feel like we need to run the association a little more as a business. We need to be getting away from the country club model. We need more business insight on the board.”

Dee Lombard

Dee Lombard and her family moved from Connecticut to Seven Lakes in 1997. A native of New Canaan, CT, she has had family in Seven lakes for more than 20 years. She holds both Bachelors and Masters degrees in physical therapy and is currently employed with Southern Pines Physical Therapy.

Reserves. “You can’t really compare the West Side to the North and South Side,” Lombard told *The Times* when asked whether the SLLA should be developing reserve funds like the SLWLA. “It’s comparing apples and oranges. The North and South Side is a more established, older community.”

“But moneys do need to be put in reserve,” Lombard said, “as we plan for the community’s long-range needs. We need to start acting on our plans immediate-

ly, to strive to have a percentage of the budget put into reserves automatically.

Lombard noted that last year’s dues increase was justified in part to pay for a second company police officer and a new patrol car, the first of which was only added

recently and the latter of which was never purchased. “There should be a surplus this year and that should go into a fund for the future,” she said. The recent decision to disband the company police should mean the association will save the equivalent of two officers’ salaries, “And that should be earmarked for a reserve fund,” Lomabard said.

“What we need to do is work together as a board to figure out how much of a reserve fund we need,” Lombard said. She suggested the equivalent of one years operating expense might be a good place to start.

“We have the dams. We have the roads. We really need to get accurate information on the costs associated with those so that we can plan and budget long term.”



Dee Lombard

(See “Lombard,” p. 13)

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Lombard: Board needs code of ethics

(Continued from page 12)

The association may want to consider having separate reserve funds for the dams, for the roads, and for other infrastructure, Lombard told *The Times*.

Dues. When asked about the appropriateness of SLLA dues, Lombard reiterated that "you can't compare the North and South Side to the West Side of Seven Lakes."

"We're 25 or 30 years old, and we began as a community with amenities. The North Side went through a lot of trial and tribulations with developers and a lot of folks lost money on investments in the community. But we began with a community with amenities, in order to attract residents."

Noting that the West Side only acquired its West Side Park complex in the past couple of years, Lombard pointed out that, as a result, the SLWLA has not had the kind of maintenance costs that the SLLA has. Nor have they had administrative and recreation staff.

"So, with all those things taken into account, their operating budget has probably been less than ours. So they have been able to keep their dues lower."

"I think our dues are reasonable," Lombard told *The Times*. "We should be able to manage our budget, manage our human resources, maintain our infrastructure, and keep our dues level close to where it is."

Security. "I think we need to reiterate that the community voted to do away with Company Police and decrease the roving patrol to eighty hours," Lombard replied when asked what responsibility the association has to maintain order in the community.

"The sheriff and the highway patrol will not enforce our rules and regulations," she noted. "As a board, we can make rules and regulations and decrees until they come out our ears, but how are we going to get them enforced?"

"It is going to be the responsibility of residents to call 9-1-1 if they see something that involves breaking the law," Lombard said, "and the roving patrol will do the same when they are on

duty."

"The question is what we do with a nuisance-type situation. We will have to call on the community to police these situations. I hope that they will be able to control themselves and their own family members."

"I hate to see us developing all these rules and regulations, and I don't agree with the process of fining people," Lombard told *The Times*. "People should take responsibility and be able to police their own, including their children."

"Children should have respect for the community. But respect is a two-way street. You have to give it to get it."

Director responsibility. Asked about the responsibilities of board members who find them-

selves in the minority, Lombard said, "One thing that I feel is very important is that the board needs to develop a code of ethics to govern their actions."

It's something that needs to be developed by the whole board," she added, "so that there is a consensus of how they will govern themselves."

Lombard said there are examples that can be found to guide the board's development of a code.

Once a code of ethics is developed, she continued, "each member should be asked to sign it." The code should deal with conflicts of interest, as well as how the board functions, she said. The code should be developed by the board, to help directors govern themselves, and act

in a professional manner.

Handling information. "I think the board is privy to more detailed information than comes out in the general meetings," Lombard said when asked whether restrictions should be placed on release of information by directors.

She said that the board has the responsibility to protect information about individuals, whether landowners or employees. "The board has a responsibility to keep that confidential."

Lombard also said the board has a responsibility make sure

that information released to the public is accurate. "There is a moral and ethical obligation there for the board members both on confidentiality and on the accurate release of information."

Why run? Noting her nine years residence in Seven Lakes and her 22 year history having family in the community, Lombard said she has seen Seven Lakes grow and change.

"In some ways I have seen some negative changes taking place," she continued. "I see a lack

(See "Nuti," p. 14)



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Nuti: Vandals? Give 'juvenile court' a try

(Continued from page 13)

of involvement in the monthly meetings. I see the lack of enough interest even to vote — whether at annual meetings or even special referendums.”

“That lack of involvement is disappointing,” Lombard said. “That’s one of the reasons I would like to see the board step up to a higher level of professionalism with a code of ethics.”

“I would like to see the community moving forward to continue to be the positive oasis it has been for my family for the last 22 years.”

What improvements? Asked what she would do to improve the quality of life in Seven lakes if elected, Lombard told *The Times*, “I would like to see activities for the young people increase. What I would like to see is the involvement of the parents to help support some youth programs.”

“I would like to improve the sense of community — of people working together to benefit their own community — includ-

ing all generations. I think sometimes people tend to stand back and say ‘I want this I want that.’ I would like to see people who have ideas participating to help facilitate their requests.”

“We need more people who are willing to step up to the plate — more community involvement. We need to be developing ideas among the parents as a group. We need more of the feel of an old potluck dinner: the community gets together and support itself and each other.”

Another thing she would like to work on to improve the quality of life in Seven Lakes is to improve the board’s communications to the community, Lombard told *The Times*.

“It comes back to the dissemination of inaccurate information,” she said. The board has a responsibility to communicate accurate information about issues in the community. She suggested that The Interlake might need to be expanded to carry more

information from the board.

The monthly meetings could also be improved in regard to accuracy, Lombard said. “It might be beneficial at those meetings if there were some more dialog. There is at times misinformation going to the board in the meetings and the board sits and just listens. At times I know that the board members know that there are untruths being spoken, but I have yet to hear them make many corrections to mis-statements.”

Anything else? “One of the questions that could have been asked is where would you like to see Seven Lakes in seven to ten years,” Lombard said when

asked if we hadn’t asked something that we should have.

“I certainly would like to see Seven Lakes move forward in a very positive, community-oriented way, where we are working together as a community to better itself,” she continued. “I would not like to see services that are currently being offered decreased. If anything, we need to possibly increase facilities in areas where there are needs — something for the kids, perhaps. Let’s channel their energies constructively as a community.”

Ed Nuti

Ed Nuti moved to Seven Lakes

in 1993, when he signed on as Manager of Regulatory Compliance with Syngenta Crop Protection in Greensboro.

He commuted from Seven Lakes to Greensboro for ten years, retiring in 2003.

He continues to do compliance training and consulting in the hazardous material management field.

Reserves. “Of course we have to put aside money for reserves,” Ed Nuti told *The Times* when asked whether the SLLA should be saving for a rainy day.

“Our infrastructure will always need repairs and updating in the future.”

Nuti said the SLLA can’t count (See “Nuti,” p. 15)

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Nuti: Board should represent majority

(Continued from page 14)

on the dramatic revenue increases resulting from new construction that is currently helping the West Side build its reserves.

"But we can intelligently allocate current revenues, budget for short-term needs and set aside funds for our long-term needs."

"If we are fiscally responsible and watch our spending carefully, I believe we can build some reserves with only modest dues



Ed Nuti

increase going forward. We can save money in the existing budget and adopt some modest dues increases when needed."

Dues. SLLA dues levels are "just about right," Nuti told *The Times*. "If you do the math, the differences in the SLLA and SLWLA dues reflect the younger age of the westside infrastructure. The dues burden for the West Side represents about two percent of market values, while for us it's about four percent. In the future, the difference will probably disappear as the SLWLA ages."

"They are smart to do their long-range planning while they are still in their growth stage. The challenge for us is to get the job done even though we are a more mature community. They're smart in putting aside money now."

Security. Responding to a question about the SLLA's responsibility to try to control vandalism, loitering, underage drinking, and other problems that came to a head last summer, Nuti said, "We have to address these problems head on to continue to enjoy the quality of life we enjoy in this community. If we leave it up to a 9-1-1 call to control the situation, we will soon be

disappointed in the response, because many of the offenses are more the nuisance type that the criminal type offense."

"The community has to get involved. It starts in the home, with the parents. But the community can reinforce parental instruction by being willing to act when things get out of hand."

Nuti said he would be interested in exploring the creation of a "community juvenile court" where offenders would have to appear for "sentencing," something he had experience with in another community.

The "court" would be made up of a small group of select citizens, Nuti said, and would be an alternative, for nuisance-type offenses, to getting law enforcement involved. "Sentences" could include community service hours or some other suitable punishment, Nuti said.

Director responsibility. "Members can agree and disagree on issues," Nuti said, when asked about the proper course for

board members who find themselves in the minority on an important issue. "That's the essence of the deliberative process."

"But I would hope board members" vote with the majority of residents. After all, they were elected to represent what the landowners want. But it's hard to know sometimes what the public wants."

"If majority of board votes contrary to public's wishes," Nuti continued, "then there has to be a mechanism for the public to make its desires known. There has to be some way to bring it to a vote."

"A director should first try to persuade the rest of the board members," Nuti said. Provisions in the by-laws that provide for bringing issues to a vote of the landowners "are there as a last resort."

Handling information. Asked whether there should be limits on the type of information board members should be able to

release, Nuti said, "Yes, I do." He explained that specifics about employee compensation might be an example of information that should be kept within the board.

A former school board member, Nuti said that public bodies often have an attorney present at meetings to pull board members back within appropriate bounds when the conversation turns to confidential matters. "Issues about tenure, compensation, have no place in the

public arena," Nuti told *The Times*.

"I agree with the concept of having open meetings, but there have to be limits. Maybe we can spell those limits out."

Why run? "I'm not running to pursue any specific issue," Nuti said, "Though I expect that will change once I am on the board."

"I would like to apply what I have learned from my previous experience on Mountain Lakes School board. I like working with different people with different

(See "Scotti," p. 19)

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- **Barbara Sickenberger Art Exhibit** – through February 26 at Artists League in Aberdeen.
- **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.

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 Named Zippy." The Coffee Scene will be open late. Come for a lively discussion and great coffee. Call 673-5900 for more information.
- **Country Book Shop** – 7:00 pm, Local author Major Michael Farmer presents *War Dogs*, the latest novel in his best-selling series, including *Tin Soldiers* and *Iron Tigers*. For information or autographed copies, call The Country Bookshop at 910 692 3211.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – Coach Charles Lefty Driesell will speak on "Managing to Win" 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus in Pinehurst. Free to the public and no tickets are required.

What's When Calendar

For additional information call 910-245-3132.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Roy Kita Art Exhibit** – Olde Town Gallery, thru March 18. 124 Maxwell St., Fayetteville. 910-485-4378, 910-476-1976.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **Paper Recycling** – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, at the BP Station in the Fresh Market Shopping Center, Southern Pines. Acceptable items include anything that is paper: Paper grocery bags, flattened boxes, telephone books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, flattened corrugated cardboard, office paper, and newspapers.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Sandhills Natural History Society meeting** – 7:00 pm. Learn about winter-breeding Amphibian of the Sandhills. Jeff Beane of the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences will present an overview of these interesting creatures that inhabit our area ponds and streams. Call 910-692-2167 for meeting location.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association**

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting, at the North Clubhouse.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- **Ash Wednesday**

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

- **Seven Lakes Women's Auxiliary** – 2:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center, Scott Hartley, Weymouth Woods, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Hartly's program is a Blue Bird presentation. Please remember to bring a personal item such as toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant or socks for Coalition for Human Care.
- **Sandhills Lion's Club of Seven Lakes** – 6:00 pm, Judy Estridge, VP for First Bank, is the guest speaker, in the North Clubhouse. Her topic will be "How to recognize and Avoid Scams." Buffet dinner served at 6:30 pm before the speaker's presentation.

Cost is \$8.00 per person. Call Ray Lambert (673-3006) or Howie Pierce (673-2087) for reservations. All Seven Lakers are welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

- **Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast** – 7:00 am – 11:00 am at West End Elementary School Cafeteria. See any Kiwanian for tickets. Great food for a great cause.
- **Bookshop By The Lakes** – 2:00 pm. Local Author Jonathan Scott will present a slideshow and presentation of his book, *The Mystery of America's First Mystics*. Scott will sign books after the program. Call 673-5900 for more information about the program.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- **Moore County Band Concert Mozart, Monuments & Miscellaneous** – 2:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Carolina Hotel, Southern Pines. The Band will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth. Free. Come enjoy wonderful music.


TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- **Sandhills Children's Center** – 2006 Kelly Cup Championship at Pinehurst No. 8. Sponsored by the Children's Center, Outback Steakhouse and Pinehurst Resort & Country Club. \$150/player or \$750/team. Call Lisa Massei Kathy Desmond at 692-3323.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

- **Wings** – at the Sunrise Theater, 7:30 pm. Silent film starring Clara Bow. The wonderful silent film pianist David Drazin captures the excitement of *Wings*. Meet Mr. Drazin at the wine and cheese reception. Silent film star Diana Cary will have

photographs and copies of her books on early Hollywood for sale. \$15 includes wine and cheese. \$8 for children 12 and under. Tickets available at Country Bookshop, Natures Own, Given Memorial Library and at the door. 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines. 693-3611.



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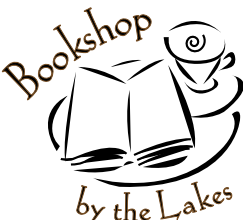


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Scotti: Don't cut services to build reserves

(Continued from page 15)

points of view in an open a frank manner. I have found that very few issues are right or wrong — most fall in between."

Nuti said he had found that "Consensus happens only when all issues are discussed in transparent environment."

What improvements? Asked what he would do to improve the quality of life in Seven lakes if elected, Nuti said he had "always liked the idea of a community having a quiet, serene, park-like area — a place for people to assemble, jog, enjoy good company."

"I also like the idea of bringing all the groups in Seven Lakes together for the purpose of planning for the future of the greater Seven Lakes area. We have to realize that the demographics are shifting in the community and plan for the needs that those shift create."

"Maybe we could even find a way to create my community dream park."

other future projects. It's kind of like building your retirement account."

Scotti said Maintenance Director Don Truesdell, "has done a great job analyzing our needs on dams and roads." The board "has supported what Don has asked for in those areas," she added.

Dues. The current level of SLLA dues is "reasonable for our size," Scotti said. Noting that Seven Lakes as a whole is begin-

ning to approach the size of Aberdeen.

"The more our population grows, the more Seven Lakes begins to look like a city," Scotti said. "And the community is definitely growing. I can see where, somewhere down the road, we will wind up being our own municipality. I'd like to say that I'd like that rapid growth to stop, but that's just not realistic."

The association's budget is affected by a variety of factors beyond the control of the board or the membership, Scotti said. "You have inflation, have gas prices, various economic trends — even storms — that impact our budget. So, there probably will be a dues increase at some point in the future."

Security. Scotti said the passage of a bill that allows sheriff's deputies and state highway patrol to enforce traffic laws on Seven Lakes streets has changed the security situation drastically. "But I think, with losing our Company Police, that we will experience quite a few problems this summer. And we

may need some more speed bumps after we lose our officers in April."

"Outside of whenever the Sheriff decides to grace us with his presence, we won't have anyone to protect us as far as traffic laws are concerned," Scotti continued. "It is going to be a concern for the board. I hope that the safety of residents won't be put into jeopardy because of the decision that was made to disband Company Police."

"It has been portrayed that all

of the sudden the Sheriff is going to show up," Scotti said. But those involved in a recent accident at the South Gate had to wait a long time for the Highway patrol to show up. Response time "could pose a problem," she said.

"We've had too many folks thinking that just because we dial 9-1-1 that we will be immediately taken care of," Scotti continued. "I don't think that we have anything in place that is going to take the place of our two

(See "Scotti," p. 21)



Jackie Scotti

Jackie Scotti

Jackie Scotti moved to Seven Lakes in 1997; she and her daughter live on the South Side. Elected to the board in 2003, she has had responsibility for recreation, including chairing the joint recreation committee with the SLWLA. She has her own catering business and works at Whispering Country Club.

Reserves. Asked whether the SLLA should be accumulating reserves, Scotti agreed that it was important to "have a certain amount of money set aside for dams and roads." She noted that the association in fact has several investment accounts, including a general reserve fund and a contingency fund. Careful spending over the past couple of years has in fact increased the amount the association has in reserve, Scotti said.

Scotti said she does not support the idea of "cutting services in Seven Lakes in order to make those funds available."

"With the dues structure we have right now," she told *The Times*, "we can every year take a little from here and a little from here. You can earmark those savings for roads, the dams, or

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Scotti: Keep disagreements in boardroom

(Continued from page 19)
officers."

"Having another set of eyes has increased citations," Scotti noted, referring to the addition of a second officer to the Company Police force. "That indicates that we have a problem."

Director responsibility. "In the presidential election, there's a vote. And it goes the way that the people vote. The majority rules," Scotti said, when asked what course directors who find themselves in the minority should take.

"People elected us to a job for them," Scotti continued, "to protect their property values."

"What goes on in that boardroom should stay in that boardroom. We agreed to do something in that boardroom and two directors felt they needed to take it out of there, embarrass the board, and not handle it in a professional way, which is to agree to disagree."

Handling information. "Absolutely," Scotti said, when asked whether the type of information board members release should be restricted.

"There is confidential information that comes to the board that the board needs to know to do its job but that should not be made public. Some things need to be handled in a closed session among board members."

Why run? Asked whether and specific issues motivated her to run for a second term on the board, Scotti, told *The Times*, "What I have done in my first term is to accomplished getting some of our infrastructure fixed up: the backside of the pool, getting the board to allocate funds to beef up the equipment in the Community Activity Center."

"I've worked on improving handicapped accessibility down at Sequoia Point. The board has approved redoing the restroom, and we're working on handicapped parking and putting bars leading into the lake for use by people on walkers — so they can access the lake."

What improvements? "There's more to be done in recreation, Scotti said. "We need repairs to the stable roofs. And there are some programs that we are working on — new things, like the stamping group."

"We're trying to plan recreation in cooperation with the West Side, keeping communications up and planning together as a whole community."

Apart from her efforts on the recreation front Scotti said, "I try to make good educated votes about issues that come up in

other areas."

Anything else? "I spent my first year on the board looking at what needed to be done in recreation — where the monies needed to be spent," Scotti told *The Times* when asked what we should have asked that we hadn't.

Then she started working with other board members to fund those projects, she continued. "I think I have worked really great with [Assistant Community Manager] Chad [Beane]. Our rec programs are getting bigger. We have more people coming to the adult and children's Hal-

loween party and other holiday events."

"I hope that residents will base their decision whether to vote for me on my track record as a board member — not hearsay."



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OPINION

More puzzles from the road

My scout, Mitzi Hundley, has been busy collecting more vanity plates that she sees. Several of them are difficult to understand.

Read them and pause before you see how Mitzi and I translate them.

BLUE NC - UNC or Duke?
FUELMATE - On a big SUV.
HOPTOIT
SPANITE
BUXNDUXS - a hunter?
CRUZEN - on a sports car.
UNLOCKIT - probably a lock service.
SOLM8S

SMYTURN - on a Mercedes convertible
ALLSPS-BL - sure. A good hope.

Ollie's Thoughts

Oliver Gossard



MERCY DD - on a Mercedes, of course.
FRMASPN - the driver must have ski poles in his car.
LISNPL8
GOLFLUVR
KAMPALOT - announcing what they do on weekends?
PLSPAY - hoping for honesty in the store?
PUTTRGAL - ?
TAXI4MOM - on a van.
PUTT4PAR - a golfer's hope.

Mitzi also collects messages that are written on throw pillows for sale in department stores. She found three clever ones.

"Forbidden fruit creates many jams!"

"Chocolate shrinks my clothes"

and "I smile because you are my brother. I laugh because you can't do anything about it."

Thanks Mitzi. Keep scanning on the highway.

And now it's 'Our Turn'

Jeff Herman in the last issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* wrote, "it was very exciting in 2005 to see the formation of a group of residents who wanted to address issues within our community." He added that he "was surprised that they were selective in their process to gain membership" and seemed equally surprised that he "was never asked to join."

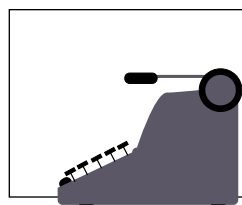
We assume that he was referring to the Concerned Citizens Council (CCC). It didn't occur to us that he might have wished to join a group, comprised in part of those whom he himself had described as the "Faithful Few who love to stand in front of their own and regurgitate the same stories month after month."

He was accurate when he stated that "since their formation they have definitely addressed issues," and inaccurate when he said that they have but "one answer to the perceived problems that we face," stating that "that answer is to cut service."

Note that he used the words "perceived problems." There is nothing perceived about mandated dam repairs, tar patched roads, cracked tennis court surfaces, a new handicap bathhouse at Sequoia Point, swim-

ming pool repairs, maintenance area renovation, etc. These needs are quite real!

Mr. Herman's refusal to accept problems as real was showcased in the debate over the Company



Your Turn

Ron Erskine for
The Concerned
Citizen's Council

have openly admitted that they would like to see the stables cut or sold to an outsider". The CCC however has taken no position on the stables. Surely the future of any such amenity will

only be decided after "give and take" sessions in open meetings of the landowners and their board of directors. His statement is simply a non-issue.

The CCC has several objectives. Among them is the election of Direc-

tors who will:

- Sensibly allocate our resources and develop a fiscally responsible long-range plan.
- Adhere to Roberts Rules of Order in all meetings as mandated by the NC legislature.
- Listen attentively and respond accurately to their constituents in a timely manner.
- Study, review and amend where necessary our by-laws, rules & regulations.
- Protect our status as a gated community and maintain our infrastructure.

Mr. Herman has had "His Turn." The above is our response.

The Concerned
Citizens Council (CCC)
PO Box 1145,
West End, NC 27376

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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and Thomas J. Tucker

League works for people

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter of February 3, "Has the League Changed?" I would like to share the news that *no*, the League has not changed; it continues to *work* diligently for all Americans.

The League continues to work hard to provide all voters with information on issues, such as the Patriot Act as well as sharing news of candidates for voters' knowledge. We continue to share *balanced* views on political issues and we provide speakers to further the knowledge of the entire community on a wide variety of issues.

At our January luncheon meeting, we had a knowledgeable speaker, Dr. Patricia Camp, a



university professor. Dr. Camp lectured on the USA Patriot Act, discussing the critical intelligence gathered under the terms of the Act, as well as parts of the

Act which are being discussed throughout the media as potential encroachments on civil liberties. She was a non-partisan speaker who provided great insight on the issues surrounding the USA Patriot Act.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has been conducting a year-long study of civil liberties issues under the USA Patriot Act. We have been studying a project that was developed by the National League, Local Voices: Citizen Conversations on Civil Liberties and Secured Communities,

(See "League," p. 24)

Bobby socks, saddle shoes, and V-mail

I have to take my hat off to Dot Nathan for being an excellent red hatter and planning one of the pleasantest afternoons that I have enjoyed in some time. Our group went first to the Corfu Greek restaurant for lunch and then crossed over to the Sunrise Theatre for a delightful presentation of "Swing." I won't try to extol the virtues of this show because it has been ably reviewed elsewhere. Suffice it to say that it was a wonder of talented musicians and dancers.

I sat next to Nell Judge and before the performance started, she spoke about this column. She asked me how I manage to continue coming up with subjects. I told her I was at a loss for the next one. About a half hour into the show, I turned to Nell and said "I now have my topic for the next column."

The show is set in the 40's. The time when I was in high school. It brought back many memories. I was delighted by the young people who danced the jitterbug sequences and couldn't help but wonder if this type of dancing brought to them a whole new world of experience. They surely appeared to be enjoying themselves. After the show, I spoke to a couple of young cast members and they did express positive feelings about their new activity.

It was a joy to hear songs long gone but not forgotten. One of their first, "Skylark," I hadn't heard in years. I have been cursed by the ability to remem-

ber the words to almost every song I ever enjoyed, and to possess an almost perfect sense of rhythm; but I cannot carry a tune. Consequently, I do a lot of lip-synching. I'd love to be able to sing and could do so with passion, but no one would care to hear my efforts. My children



Nona's Notes

Nona Wiley

used to say "Mother please don't sing."

At one point I turned to Nell and asked her if she too used to twirl around in her skirts to see how far out they would flare. She replied "yes," and spoke of the saddle shoes and bobby socks that were the fashion in our day. I also remember moccasins and broomstick skirts. Lucky girls, who had older brothers gone to war, wore men's longjack-

ets and sweaters with pleated skirts showing below.

I remember my first prom dress — light blue pique with a sweetheart neckline and puffed sleeves. By senior year my friend, Kay, had grown up to a strapless black gown — far more sophisticated than the rest of us. By then

I had progressed to a drop sleeve sheer pink, still far below the standard of gown worn by "with it" gals of today.

Because I graduated in

1947, just after the war, our senior class was enlarged by former service men who came back to school to earn their high school diplomas. I enjoyed dancing with these fellows at our record hops but was a little bit suspect of those gals who fancied themselves sophisticated enough to date these older men. At seventeen, I was not very mature. Being the youngest in the class wasn't all bad.

In those days e-mail was very much a thing of the future, but I clearly remember V-mail from my brothers both of whom served in the Pacific. These letters often had sections blacked out by the censors. Movies of the day made all "Japs" out to be grinning learning unholy creatures and Germans were all tow-headed of giants of unspeakable cruelty. Thank God we outgrew those perceptions. Concern for my brothers was intensified by every

war film I viewed. It was surely a rare family who did not suffer in some way the results of that war. It was the last time that we could feel assured that we were, indeed, doing a good thing and fighting to ensure peace for all mankind.

Things change; we grow old; we see things more clearly. Thank God we all have memories of days of innocence. I wish that today's youth could live in the world of my younger days.



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The Games that unite us

Every time there's a World Olympics, I can see the tiny potential for a peaceful universe emerge. Does that sound silly? Just seeing those competitors from so many corners of the world marching in the opening ceremonies in Torino, Italy, with sheer happiness caressing their faces, you could sense their feeling of togetherness, of sharing a common and exhilarating slice of their lives with their counterparts, all with beating hearts that you have to believe were spurring each and every athlete to look across the way and feel a commonality of uplifting spirit.

In my own heart, this event always brings a yearning to

magnify such a heartwarming communion many fold and in many other ways throughout the world.



Mason's Musings
Mason Gould

Yes, you could fee that there was more than just the quest for medals. More than showcasing your nationality.

It was the brief sowing of seeds of friendship. A spark that millions of people worldwide witnessed, seemingly transforming us into a partnership with that opening flame that bespoke a hope for closer understanding between governments as well as individual citizens of this vast world of ours.

We surely need much more of this kind of international brotherhood. No matter where human hearts are located, they all have the potential for mutual understanding.

League

(Continued from page 22)

which was presented to Congress and shared with other organizations. This project was the outcome of several discussion groups made up of citizens, politicians, business leaders and others from around the nation, who discussed in detail their feelings regarding civil rights being violated and other issues. The League of Women Voters of Moore County continues to discuss and enlighten their members and guests with the findings of this meaningful project.

The news articles to which the writer referred were specifically designed to entice individuals to attend our luncheon

meeting. That way, all citizens can become more informed on current issues, and use the information presented to make up their mind about these issues. The League is still a balanced and nonpartisan organization providing information and discussion of relevant topics, but always allowing each person to decide their on stand on these topics.

Our February 21 meeting will feature Senator Harris Blake. We cordially invite the writer to attend whenever he/she can and become involved in this wonderful organization.

*Ann Torok, President
Jo Nicholas,
Issues Chairperson*

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Seven Lakes West End Area Business Guild President Phil Cook welcomed Moore County Sheriff Lane Carter as the guest speaker for the Guild's Wednesday, February 15 meeting. Carter offered advice on preventing crime and answered questions about his department's law enforcement efforts in the local business area.

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*Johnny Little
Mt. Gilead, NC*

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Times missed story on security contract

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed in your recent coverage concerning the termination of the contract for Security between the Seven Lakes Landowners Association and the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association. The issue was discussed in each of the articles in which you reported the monthly public meetings of the respective Associations.

Absent from your articles was the fact that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association was in violation of N.C.G.S. 74C. The SLLA is not now nor has it ever been properly licensed to provide contract security to another entity.

Seven Lakes Community Manager Dalton Fulcher has been previously quoted in your paper, September 2, 2005 page 33, discussing licensing require-

ments. He stated the need for a license to continue the West Side Security contract. This



was said in support of the continuation of Company Police.

The facts are simple. By statute, a commissioned police officer *can not* be the license holder to provide contract security. Seven Lakes Landowners Association *never* had the license that is mandated by North Carolina to be eligible to provide the security contract for Seven

Lakes West. Contrary to Fulcher's claim Company Police did not provide the required license and it is doubtful that SLLA could qualify for the license with present staff. Once again, Fulcher had it wrong.

Mr. Fathauer, the SLLA President, neglected to tell the citizens of our community that the operation of our Association was once again in conflict with North Carolina General Statutes. Do we need to remind Mr. Fathauer this is the third known occasion that the operation of our association has conflicted with North Carolina General Statutes? Incidentally a statute is defined in Webster's dictionary as a law passed by a legislative body of a government.

When Mr. Fathauer edits the circumstances in his report and just announces the end results,

The Seven Lakes Times still has a responsibility to the community to report all of the known facts. I think *The Seven Lakes Times* does an outstanding job of being accurate and objective but made a rare mistake when

not fully reporting all the facts surrounding the termination of the security agreement.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

Judicial candidate info available online

Dear Editor:

At a recent Seven Lakes political precinct meeting a question was asked regarding how to obtain information on the incumbents and candidates in the state's forthcoming judicial elections.

Whereas the following will not answer all one's questions information on how to obtain biogra-

phies of the state's current judges was published in Friday's, 10 February, issue of the *Fayetteville News Observer*.

Go to www.nccourts.org and click on "supreme court" or "court of appeals" then on "justice biographies."

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Nicholas good choice for board

Dear Editor:

Today I received my ballot to vote for the three vacancies on the SLWLA Board. First of all, I personally appreciate the candidates "stepping up to the plate" to volunteer for these positions. I know how much time and effort goes into serving. My husband and I plan to attend the Candidates Night to further familiarize ourselves with the individuals running. It's difficult to get a clear picture of these people without knowing them personally.

Since I know one of the candidates who has already given much to our community, I would like to express my support for this individual. Jo Nicholas moved in approximately six months after we did. We see her and her husband "Nick" helping out with different projects within the community...putting up decorations for the holiday season, installing the beautiful split-rail fencing at the rear gate, planting seasonal flowers, organizing dinners

for neighborhood families at difficult times. They are always ready to help out whenever needed.

Jo is a local that has returned home. She grew up in Raeford and is still well known there by the locals. Jo Nicholas is very family oriented. Jo's close family includes two daughters and two grandsons.

Jo Nicholas' bio includes many "facts" concerning her qualifications that will definitely be an asset to her position. But it did not give a clear picture of this energetic woman who will provide our board with some great new ideas.

For those of you who won't have the opportunity to attend the Candidates Night on the 9th or are part-time residents, I urge you to support Jo Nicholas. She will work hard and smart for us and keep the community's best interests foremost.

Sandra Carl
Seven Lakes West

MackKay: experience, dedication, hard work

Dear Editor:

This is a letter to the West Side Community: It has been my pleasure to have worked with Ray MacKay over the past six years while we were both involved in the governance of our community.

We first worked together when Ray was the secretary for the Master Association representing the Beacon Ridge association and I was a representative for then WSLA. Later, during the successful effort to merge our community, Ray again represented Beacon Ridge while I was negotiating on behalf of WSLA. With the merger complete, Ray and I then worked together upon the SLWLA Board where Ray now serves as Vice President.

I have been impressed with both Ray's work ethic and his integrity and, while he and I didn't always agree on every issue, Ray arguments were always founded on what he felt was in the best interests of the community.

His dedication to the community, his experience in infrastructure and his hard work over the past three years have been a very real asset to the Board and to the SLWLA community. While there are a number of good, qualified candidates for our upcoming election, I urge you to join with me in returning Ray to the Board for another three years.

Bud Sales
Former Legal Chair and
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Fewkes understands history, goals of SLWLA

To The Editor:

As a new member of Seven Lakes West, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of residents who exhibited their interest in the community by attending the February glh Candidates Night. I congratulate the League of Women Voters and Carol Mealing for organizing such an

impressive and positive gathering.

It is a good feeling to live in an area where so many volunteers are willing to give of their time and energies to such an important cause as running for the governing body of our community.

One candidate — Mary Anne Fewkes — in particular, impressed

me with her knowledge, dedication and thorough understanding of where this community has been and where this community should go. Her short and long-range vision for the future appeared to be based upon her appreciation of the facts and history of where we live.

After consideration of each

candidate's statements, it was obvious to me that Mary Anne has lived in this community for a long time and has constantly focused her attention and work ethics on improving the quality of life in Seven Lakes West. I appreciate her strong awareness of the covenants and rules and regulations, which suggests

to me a strong candidate, who will be an asset to the Board of Directors and a benefit to the individual members of Seven Lakes West.

It will be my pleasure to cast one of my votes for Mary Anne Fewkes.

Janet C. Baker
Seven Lakes West

New learning center takes classical tack

(Continued from page 5)

become capable of doing more, they start learning about the whys of Science, or History, or English.

And once they've learned how to acquire the grammar of a subject and then use that grammar to understand the subject, kids are equipped to learn anything and everything, Bortins told *The Times*.

"It removes the fear of learning anything," Bortins said. "The child says, 'I can do anything now because know I know what to do first.' You get the grammar down, practice a few times, and you can handle anything."

So Bortins began using the classical approach in schooling her own son. And then she began putting together curricula for a variety of subjects and selling to homeschoolers. Nine years later, Classical Conversations continues to assemble and author curricula and is shipping it all over the United States and beyond.

And it's not just for homeschoolers anymore. "We have teachers, parents, and headmasters from classical schools who use our materials and take

part in our programs," Bortins told *The Times*. "We have a lot of parents who come to us who don't want to homeschool, but who want to know what they can do to make a difference in their child's education."

The internet has played an important role in helping parents find Classical Conversations and helping the company build its customer base. And now Classical Conversations has opened its first storefront, the Classical Conversations Bookstore in Seven Lakes.

The store offers all the Classical Conversations curricula,

as well as a selection of books — including many, many literary classics — for use by parents, students, and educators.

It also offers Bortins and her staff a facility in which they can offer classes for both students and teachers. "Through our store, we want to be a resource for Seven Lakes and the broader Sandhills community," Bortins told *The Times*.

The first Parent Practicum will be held at the store on Monday, February 20. The morning will be dedicated to examining "What is a good vision for education?" while the afternoon will

include a workshop on how to teach writing.

Bortins plans to hold on-going classes at the store, developing a schedule based on input from the community.

For information on Classical Conversations curriculum or the classes offered at the store and

elsewhere across the country, call 687-0288, or drop by 1030-B Seven Lakes Drive and visit with manager Cyndi Widman.

Information is also available on the web at www.classicalconversations.com.



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Prune those shrubs; spade that garden

The weather in February thus far has reverted back to normal colder as expected, unlike January which was significantly warmer throughout the month.

Rainfall amounts have averaged normal. The weather for gardening basically has been favorable but outdoor activities and work seem somewhat limited, although landscapes in Seven Lakes and the Sandhills are beautiful this year. Cleanup seems to be the primary chore, which everyone is interested in and I have personally neglected some of my usual after Christmas work.

Here are a few timely suggestions and tips for February, based on questions that have been asked.

February is a good time for pruning deciduous shrubs such

as arate the plantings in your flower, perennial bed, other areas, and clean your pots getting them ready for plantings later in the next few months.

Go ahead and re-seed and renovate your fescue lawn. It is time to apply the second application of fertilizer for any established lawn.

It's still an ideal time to planting or transplanting shrubs and trees, since most are dormant at this time of the year. Remember to keep them well watered weekly.

Plow, spade or dig your vegetable garden and get it ready for planting.

Don't forget to fertilize your pansies. They likely need an extra boost to keep them blooming beautifully.

If you have neglected to plant your Spring flowering bulbs, it isn't too late. Daffodils planted now may bloom a little later this year, depending on their variety, but these flowers will add beauty to your landscape.

Recommended plantings for February include: asparagus crowns, garden peas, rutabagas, spinach and turnip seeds, cabbage, and onion sets and plants, and Irish potato seed cutting pieces.

Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill



as butterfly bushes, crape myrtle's, and other other Spring non-blooming plants. Do not prune early Spring flowering plants such as Azaleas, Camellias, Forsythia, Flowering Quince, Weigela, Spirea, etc. Wait until after flowering is over to prune these plants. It's the recommended, correct, and ideal time for pruning fruit trees. Don't forget to cut back pampas and other ornamental grasses. Also remember to prune back you Chrysanthemums to the ground. For those desiring to cut down unwanted trees, now is a good time to do it, before new growth appears.

Clean up, rearrange and sep-

Treat

(Continued from page 7)

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Tableman sees real progress in Afghanistan

(Continued from page 3)

can better sense the difference.

In the past couple of years, this troubled South East area has gone from commonplace Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) attacks and ambushes to what the locals describe as "safer than a New York City."

Driving to the capital Kabul was an arduous jaunt of eight to ten hours or more while one now averages two hours — unless you stop along the way to shop at one of the many new businesses springing up.

Around here, donkey carts and camels were the transport of choice; now it is cars, SUVs and jingle trucks (a truck with jingling chains hanging down on both ends, apparently for good luck). With such roads and means, comes access to medical clinics, services, schools, the government and security forces, most also created over the past three years.

More boy and girl students attend school than anytime in the past 20 years. More clinics operate with medicine and modern skills than ever before.

Food production steadily increases (and yes, along with narcotics). Afghan Army and Police are more skilled and equipped, and active in the countryside, often for the first time in years. An elected parliament has been seated.

And yes, there are many problems to still overcome. Corruption, a terrible maternal and infant mortality rate, IEDs, foreign fighters, a hard bias against women, a lack of power, etc. still exists and must be overcome. The world and the Afghans have a lot more to do! But, wow, look at what we have accomplished in such a short period.

Recently we traveled way up into the mountains with our provincial Governor. We drove into a small valley at about 10,000 feet surrounded by mountaintops of over 13,000 feet with snow sprinkled around. The road was just wide enough for our vehicles and was often the riverbed which is now impassible due to freezing and snow. We found a self motivated and caring tribal village where the citizens are taking charge and leading themselves out of poverty. It

was the first time, according to an 80-year-old gentleman, that they could remember a provincial governor visiting them.

They were celebrating the completion of a micro-hydro-electric system that they built with outside support to electrify their homes with 12 volts of power for light, refrigeration, etc. They have built their own two-room school, arranged for their own teachers, etc. to take care of their folks, just like our ancestors.

We had a great time talking with them about their progress and the differences and similarities in their lives and ours. Every one of us was energized by these hardworking people. Just as I have found around the world, they want the same things; security and welfare for their families and a future of improvement rather than corruption and war. They could not imagine how we could be away from our families or how one of our officers could have missed the birth of his daughter last month.

I wonder if our forefathers found it as daunting to create a stable, representative government after a lengthy, painful war, and to then find the means to develop an economy beneficial to all. Without today's inking of fingers to vote, having separate

male/female voting centers, foreigners/UN regulating every vestige of the process and a news media too often focused on bad news and defeat, somehow our ancestors overcame all and achieved the greatness we enjoy and strive to continue for our children.

The Afghan path continues to be messy, as I have written before, yet we steadily move forward, as a winning element of what is being called GWOT (Global War On Terrorism).

As we build more infrastructure to enable government, hospitals, schools, services and welfare to function, we find it is truly the need for human skills, the capacity to manage, lead, supervise and improve that are what is needed and are the engines for overcoming Afghanistans' problems. I have found that in relative terms it is much easier to construct a building than it is to show an often illiterate, unknowing person with no prior example, how to build development and democracy one day at a time.

But, setting the example, talking with the populace and their leaders, being professional, seems to be working as we work together for a new Afghan future. There are lots of failures and near misses as we do this but the successes mount and one can

see opportunity and the promise of democracy taking shape.

The new elected parliament, with just a little of its own leadership focused on the welfare of the Afghan people rather than themselves, will set a new Afghan direction as along as the world provides the 'training wheels' and an assist like it has to Bosnia and Kosovo. Over the next year, NATO will take over more of the Afghan security and development role as America is able to reduce its presence. We have plenty of our own needs to answer at home and abroad.

In the meantime, the UN will reframe its Afghan Charter when the London Conference concludes at the end of January, rewriting how the world intends to help Afghanistan.

With my tenure here nearing one-and-a-half years, my appreciation and faith in our system and our paratroopers and soldiers, finds new meaning and value. How many other groups of people are willing to make the personal sacrifices and take the

multiple risks to help the down-trodden and often leaderless masses of the world's problem areas?

We have a lot to learn and to improve in how we fight and win the GWOT but just as I experienced in business, the human spirit for improvement and success prevail, and find new ways to win — as long as we keep the values and faith and strength of our rich heritage. Honest pride and determination cannot be beat!

As winter keeps bringing more snow, our daily patrols are made more interesting. The scenery is awesome. We have been passed by donkeys as we drive over 10,000 foot passes on narrow roads. We see kids having snowball fights just like back home, something frowned upon just a little while ago.

We thank you all for your support. Let us all make 2006 a year of success and peace! As we say around here — *all the way!*

LTC Stephen D. Tableman

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Civic Group reviews year, looks ahead

(Continued from page 1)

roads in the business village. NCDOT had two questions, Kinney said: "Who owns the roads?" and "What will it take to bring them up to DOT standards." Kinney said the ownership issue appears to be within weeks of being resolved, which will put the groups in the position of answering the second question.

Water. Kinney noted that the bulk of Seven Lakes local water production has been taken off line because of the discovery of unacceptable levels of radium in Seven Lakes wells. As a result, 90 percent of the community's needs are being met with water from the Pinehurst system — which, like the Seven Lakes system, is owned by Moore County.

That water travels through Pinewild and up highway 211 to a pumping station near West Pine Middle school. The county has approved and funded the construction of a new line — "the Pinewild bypass" — between the Pinehurst and Seven Lakes systems, Kinney said, but it is not expected to be in place before this summer's dry months. If the coming summer is dry, some conservation measures may be necessary in Seven Lakes.

Kinney noted that the county has also provided an interconnection of the two Seven Lakes water tanks in order to better equalize pressure in the system. He noted that Civic Group board member Walter Eckroth has been the point man on interfacing with the county on water issues.

Highway 211. Kinney reported that NCDOT has pushed off the planned four-laning of NC 211 from West End to Pinehurst until 2009. The agency is expected to hold public meetings this spring on the planned routing for the expansion of the roadway. Kinney said he and Civic Group members and Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] board member Ray MacKay have prepared detailed comments to present to NCDOT at that time. Kinney said it is important that the route chosen not destroy all of the pine trees that currently line the road in many areas and add to its charm.

Seven Lakes Traffic Signal. Kinney said that NCDOT, at the

request of the Civic group, had recently conducted a one-day traffic count on Seven Lakes Drive at the North and South Gates. The objective was to determine whether a traffic signal was warranted at that intersection. The survey found 6,900 traffic "events" during a 16-hour measurement period. Only 20 Percent of those were traffic passing through the intersection without entering or exiting one of the gates. The data collected did not establish the need for a signal at the intersection under NCDOT standards.

Growth. "Seven Lakes continues to grow" Kinney said, presenting data collected about six months ago by both landowners associations. Those data show 1623 residents on the West Side, 1927 on the North Side, and 590 on the South Side, Kinney said, for a total of 4,140. "That's a firm figure."

Considering that there are 100 homes under construction in Seven Lakes West, plus several more on the other side of town, "the population today is likely 4,400 or 4,500, Kinney said.

That amounts to a seven percent annual population growth since 1994, Kinney said, a doubling of the population in eleven or twelve years. The population of Seven Lakes is close to

exceeding the population of Aberdeen, Moore County's third largest municipality, Kinney said.

He noted that McLendon Hills has 33 homes built and 8 under construction, home to a population of perhaps 100-150.

Small Area Planning. Kinney then introduced Planning Director Surratt, a native of Union County with degrees from Guilford, Clemson, and UNC-Chapel Hill and extensive experience in municipal planning and management. Surratt's family is building a home in McLendon Hills; her children attend West End Elementary School.

Surratt explained that Small Area Planning is a process that applies land-use planning to an area smaller than the entire county. In Moore County, the proposal is to begin with an area centered on Seven Lakes and West End that conforms to the boundaries of the West End School district and includes the communities of Jackson Springs and Eagle Springs.

A steering committee will be formed to guide the process and will host a series of public meetings, providing members of the community with data about the area and its projected growth and collecting the public's input on the sort of growth it would like to see over the next 20 to 25

years.

Over a period of months and more meetings, the steering committee would hammer out a set of principles to guide development in the small area. These would ultimately be taken back to the community through more public meetings, then evaluated and approved by the planning board and then the board of commissioners. They then would become a policy document, brought into play in decisions about revisions of the zoning ordinance, requests for rezonings and conditional use permits, and the review of proposed subdivisions.

Currently, the planning board is developing a roadmap for the process for approval by the commissioners. If the process moves forward, it will begin with the West End-Seven Lakes Small Area but ultimately be rolled out in other small areas across the county.

After a lively discussion of how the process would work, Business Guild President Phil

Cook summed up the Small Area Planning process in a couple of sentences that Surratt seemed to find particularly apt: "We all like the quality of life here," Cook said. "The county is now giving us the opportunity to give us a voice to say what we want to do to ensure that the the quality of life remains what we want it to be."

Questions. One audience member asked Surratt how local residents and business owners can influence the design of buildings being built in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

Surratt said there currently are not architectural standards for that area. They could be developed, with the cooperation of residents and business owners, through a public process that amends the zoning ordinance.

"It's would be a multi-step process, but it is not out of reach," Surratt said. She noted that such standards "would not immediately grow out of a small area plan. That's a further step."



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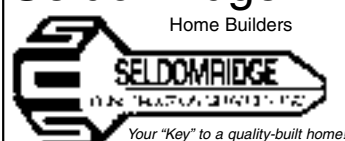
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Seven Lakes Times

February 17, 2006

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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.

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

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

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

SEVEN LAKES WEST

Short Term rental - 3BR/2BA
Overlooking pond. Call
Wayne 910-295-2288 or Pat
910-673-5183.

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

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.

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

INTERNET ACCESS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT — when it comes to selling your home. List with us today! Call Ed at LANDMARK REALTY 673-4663. Your neighborhood REALTOR.®

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.

INTERNET ACCESS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT — when it comes to selling your home. List with us today! Call Ed at LANDMARK REALTY 673-4663. Your neighborhood REALTOR.®

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

BOATS FOR SALE

KAYAKS — Looking to purchase two. 910-673-2728.

Fertilization • Weed Control • Insect Control

All Services
Guaranteed



Free Lawn
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CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times
February 17, 2006

BOATS FOR SALE

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

2tp 1/20

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.

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.

BOATS FOR SALE

BOATS FOR SALE – Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wakeboard-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

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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*

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

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*

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.

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

C&A SCREEN SERVICE – Spruce up your rusty or torn porch screens. We refit your porch with an easy care vinyl & fiberglass screen system. Call Chip at 910-783-6387 for a free estimate. *1tp 2/17*

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.



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4.8-LITER V8, AUTOMATIC, WORK TRUCK. ONE OWNER. LOCAL TRADE. WELL MAINTAINED. BEDLINER. BEDRAIL PROTECTORS. WINDOW VENT VISORS, A/C, CRUISE CONTROL. 26650



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\$23,995

TRACTION CONTROL. SHAKER 6-DISC CD CHANGER, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, LEATHER SEATS. P106



'04 GMC YUKON XL 4X4
\$27,995

8 CYLINDER AUTOMATIC, BOSE SOUND SYSTEM, MEMORY DRIVER'S SEAT. HEATED FRONT SEATS. POWER ADJUST PEDALS. DRIVER'S INFO CENTER, IN DASH 6-DISC CD CHANGER. 105083A



'05 CHEVY SILVERADO
\$16,500

DRIVER AIR BAG, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIRCONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER BAG, POWER DOOR LOCKS, POWER MIRRORS, POWER WINDOWS. 206030A



'05 MAZDA 6i SEDAN
\$15,995

FOUR-CYLINDER AUTOMATIC, DRIVER AIR BAG, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, POWER STEERING, TILT WHEEL. 24071



'01 HONDA ACCORD EX
\$13,995

SIX CYLINDER AUTOMATIC. ONE OWNER. LOCAL TRADE. WELL MAINTAINED. EXCELLENT CONDITION. IN DASH 6-CD CHANGER. ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS #P945A



'03 FORD F150 SUPERCAB
\$15,995

EIGHT CYLINDER AUTOMATIC. ONE OWNER. LOCAL TRADE. WELL MAINTAINED. XLT TRIM. BEDLINER. ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL. #206023A



'03 MONTE CARLO SS
\$14,995

SIX CYLINDER, AUTOMATIC, TWO-DOOR, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, REAR WINDOW DEFROSTER, TILT WHEEL #206030A1



'04 MITSUBISHI LANCER
\$14,995

FOUR-CYLINDER, 5-SPEED, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, REAR WINDOW DEFROSTER, TINTED GLASS, TILT WHEEL 106055B



'02 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER
\$13,995

6 CYLINDER AUTO, PREMIUM SOUND SYSTEM, ANTI-LOCK BRAKES, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, SIDE AIR BAG, SUNROOF/MOONROOF 106019B



'06 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER
\$14,995

FOUR CYLINDER, AUTOMATIC, DRIVER AIR BAG, AIR CONDITIONING, PASSENGER AIR BAG, REAR DEFROSTER, POWER LOCKS, POWER WINDOWS, POWER STEERING, TILT WHEEL US124A



'02 TOYOTA TACOMA
\$15,995

SR5. ONE OWNER. LOCAL TRADE. SLIDING REAR WINDOW. HARD TONNEAU COVER. DRIVER AIR BAG, ALLOY WHEELS, CRUISE CONTROL, PASSENGER AIR BAG, TILT WHEEL #106022A



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