



# TIMES

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Volume 22 Number 9

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

March 2, 2007

## Board nixes salary freeze

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Community Manager Dalton Fulcher's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] has been approved without cuts to employee compensation proposed by President Don Truesdell and Treasurer Steve Hudson.

The board took the action in an executive session held immediately following the SLLA General Meeting on Wednesday, February 28.

Hudson told *The Times* on Friday that he felt the vote should have been delayed until a study of SLLA employee compensation was completed and landowners were allowed to provide additional input on the budget.

Fulcher told *The Times* that other Board members felt that the budget should be finalized so that copies could be included in annual meeting packets being

mailed out on March 2 and 5.

**Finance Report.** During the open portion of the meeting, Hudson presented the results of an appraisal of Seven Lakes' amenities, services, and staffing needs by Finance Committee members Charlie Oliver and Jack McCarthy. Hudson thanked them for their hard work and many hours of service.

The Finance Committee report suggested a line item review of the budget should be completed each year by the Board. Currently, Community Manager Dalton Fulcher prepares the budget and the Board approves it or makes changes.

Hudson and his committee expect record- and book-keeping to improve once the new software program is implemented. The program will allow more detail and a breakdown of each different account; postage, tele-

(See "SLLA," p. 36)

## Top Brass at Kiwanis



Retired Air Force General Robert Springer was a recent guest speaker for the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club. Above, Springer is flanked by Program Coordinator Chuck Kersey and Club President Gerry Buelow. [See story on page 2.]

## Cluster homes proposed for West Side

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

"I am a proud man and happy to be alive," stated Seven Lakes West Community Manager Tony Robertson during his opening comments at the February 27 General Session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

"Because of you – your prayers, your phone calls, your flowers, your visits – and my faith and the faith of my family, I am here."

On December 6, Robertson suffered a massive heart attack and congestive heart failure. At the same time, he suffered a paralyzing stroke and it was discovered he had severe diabetes.

Robertson has been working hard to rehabilitate and regain his strength, "You'll never know what you meant to me and my family. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Robertson also shared a letter he received from the Toys for Tots campaign, acknowledging Seven Lakes West efforts during their holiday campaign. The letter said because of the generosity of the community, over four thousand children received Christmas gifts.

### Gateway II

Legal Director Hugh Beckwith introduced Ron Myers, a principal in Village Properties and the owner of large section

of Westside acreage near the back gate, formerly known as the airport property. This property, now called Colton's Corner, is being developed by Myers and he was on-hand at the February 27 meeting to present his proposal for an adjacent area to be developed and called Gateway II.

"I am not your enemy," Myers said. "When I purchased Colton's Corner, the previous proposal suggested six cul-de-sacs with

clusters of homes. It is not in my nature to throw density into land. I first talk to the principals and the community to find out what is needed and desired as part of the early decision process."

(See "SLWLA," p. 33)

## Late publication; new website

This edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* went to press late, on Saturday, March 3.

As a result, it was mailed on Monday, March 5, and scheduled for delivery to most of our local customers on Tuesday, March 6.

Late publication is a rarity at *The Times*; we regret that this issue was delayed.

We invite you to visit [www.sevenlakestimes.net](http://www.sevenlakestimes.net) and peruse our updated website.

You'll find a new design that will allow us to publish breaking news and updates to stories between our printed editions.

You can now search our archived back issues and sign up for email alerts that will let you know when we have added news to the website.

Please give it a look-see and let us know what you think.

— Greg Hankins, Editor

# Kiwanis host Springer

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Retired Air Force General Robert Springer was the guest speaker at the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meeting on January 23.

In his forceful and forthright manner, General Springer had the rapt attention of the audience well past the normal time and it was difficult to cut off the questions from the large crowd.

Following the basic format of a press conference, Springer covered many aspects of his career, especially on his work in the Iraq war.

His comments on the Intelligence community before, during, and after the beginning of the war were especially interesting.

The General shared his opinion about the war being a cultural battle and the difficulties of winning that conflict with or without

military force.

With his commanding presence, it is easy to see why he has been sought out so often for television appearances to talk about our military and the conduct of the war in Iraq.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

## WEE gets new scoreboard

### Get your event in The Times!

Got a great get-together? Serving up some savory stew? Need a volunteer of two?

Put it in The Times' What's When Calendar.

We're always happy to help non-profits promote their events.

See the box on page 2 for contact info and deadlines.

On Saturday January 13, Johnny Chisholm of Chisholm Electric, Gene Boles, and Johnny's son Wyatt, a fifth grader at West End Elementary, spent the day putting up a new scoreboard at the West End Elementary Baseball Field.

The old scoreboard was taken down and the new LED lighted scoreboard with red West End Elementary graphics made its debut.

A hearty thank you is extended

to Johnny, Wyatt, and Gene from the whole West End Elementary community.

A large white area on the left side of the scoreboard is prime space still available for advertising.

There is also limited space for additional signs on the outfield fence. If you are interested in advertising on either space, please contact Sandi Burrell at 673-0901.



**WEE Ballfield** — Still a few spots left for sponsors.



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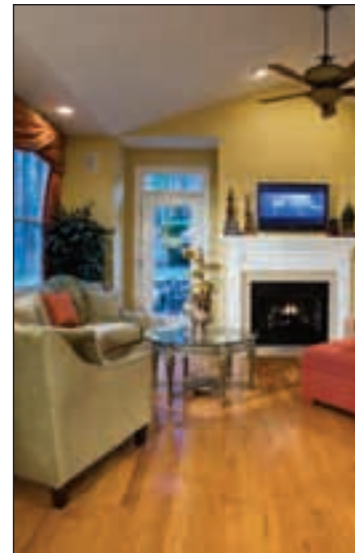


ASE Blue Seal Facility

Phil Cook: Recertified a Master Technician for 15 Years in a Row!

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## 2007 SPRING TOUR OF HOMES



March  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>

The  
Fair Barn,  
Pinehurst  
Harness  
Track

Tickets must be purchased  
at the Pinehurst Fair Barn



## 2007 SPRING HOME & GARDEN EXPO

March 2-4

The Fair Barn,  
Pinehurst  
Harness Track

Tickets must be purchased  
at the Pinehurst Fair Barn

### CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
March 16	March 9
March 30	March 23
April 13	April 6
April 27	April 20
May 11	May 4
May 25	May 18
June 8	June 1
June 22	June 15
July 6	June 29



# Club seeks permit for new driving range

County officials will get their first look at a new Seven Lakes Country Club driving range Thursday, March 8, when Moore County's Planning Board reviews a conditional use permit requested by the Club.

The 7.8 acres on which the Club plans to build the new driving range is nestled in the horseshoe bend that East Devonshire Avenue makes as it intersects with first Sandham Court and then Sherwood Road. To the south are five lots on the Lancashire Court cul-de-sac, as well as one lot that fronts on Devonshire.

The acreage is zoned "Gated Community - Seven Lakes [GC-SL]," like all the property inside the North-, South-, and West-side gates — including the golf course itself.

Golf course uses are allowed in the GC-SL district, but are "conditional" rather than "permitted" uses. Conditional uses requires special permitting and the approval of the Planning Board — hence the driving range's appearance on Thursday night's planning board agenda.

Public input is welcome at planning board meetings, but conditional use permits involve a more formal "quasi-judicial" hearing. Those who want to speak in favor of or in opposition to the Club's new range will be sworn in before testifying. Public comments are supposed to be more on the order of evidence than opinion.

The conditional use permit the club is seeking involves only the new driving range facility; it does not touch on the Club's plans to sell the existing range to a developer.

But even the plan to develop the new range is not without controversy. The Seven Lakes

Landowners Association [SLLA] contends that it has jurisdiction over development of the club's property and has asked that plans for the new range be submitted to the SLLA Architectural Review Board. The Club, relying on the advice of counsel, says the Association has no jurisdiction over the property.

Moore County Planner Kathy Liles told *The Times* that the conditional use process gives the planning board the opportunity to shape the way in which the property will be developed — by placing conditions on the use. For example, the Club's plans call for both netting and natural screening. The Planning Board could approve the range while placing conditions on the height of the net and the density of the natural screening.

Under the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Board has the authority to issue the conditional use permit; there is no requirement for the County Commissioners to approve the club's plans.

The Thursday Planning Board meeting — which boasts a very full agenda — is open to the public. The board meets at 6:00 pm in the historic courthouse in Carthage.

## Kiwanis Bingo

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March 6 • 7:30pm  
North Clubhouse

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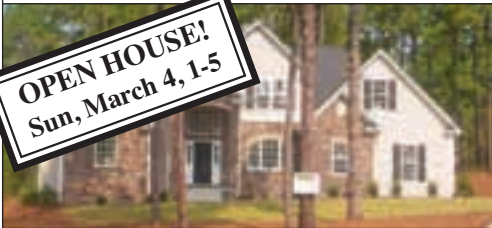
Sherri Ivey, Broker  
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sherriivey@earthlink.net  
Longtime Seven Lakes Resident  
Seven Lakes & Foxfire Specialist



## New Construction Homes

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108 Rembert Court



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Sun, March 4, 1-5

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Bonus Room, Stone Exterior  
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7 Lakes West  
116 Baker Circle



4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths,  
All Brick Home  
\$398,000

Seven Lakes West  
105 Teague Drive



4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths  
One Block to Lake and Marina!  
\$289,500

7 Lakes West  
106 Brown Court



3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, All Brick  
\$469,900

7 Lakes West  
437 Longleaf Drive



OPEN HOUSE!  
Sun, March 4, 1-5

4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths  
Price Reduced! — \$349,000

Foxfire  
4 Cummings Court



3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, All Brick  
\$299,000

Foxfire  
2 Sunset Lane



4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, All Brick  
Golf Front  
\$342,000

7 Lakes West  
112 McCracken Drive



5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths,  
Finished walk-out basement  
\$469,000

# Seven Lakes EMS notes increase in calls

by Bob Haan

Seven Lakes EMS

The growth of Seven Lakes in the past few years is especially evident to the volunteer members of Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

Each year there is an expected increase in the number of emergency calls. The types of calls vary greatly. The key is that someone needs assistance.

In 2006, the nineteen volunteers that are listed in the front of your Seven Lakes Telephone Directory responded to 529 calls for assistance. The busiest month in 2006 was September when fifty-five calls were logged. The quietest months were January and February which tied with thirty-three calls each. In contrast, this January, the volunteers were paged to fifty-nine calls.

Our volunteers respond when paged by the 9-1-1 Dispatch Center in Carthage. At the same time the county paramedics are also paged to the call.

The primary purpose is to get a "first responder" to the patient as quickly as possible. It is the duty of the first responder to evaluate the patient and to initiate any immediate care that is required depending upon the situation.

The level of patient care increases when the county ambulance and paramedics arrive on the scene. With the permission of the patient and/or the family, further treatment begins and preparation for transport to the hospital is initiated if warranted.

In many instances two ambulances may appear in your drive-

way. The reason for this is to provide the best care for the patient. In a number of instances the patient may require advanced care that must be administered by the paramedics. If the patient does not require advanced care the decision is made which ambulance will transport. Often the Seven Lakes Ambulance will transport. This makes it possible to leave the paramedics in the area so they can respond to another call which may require advanced care.

Frequently Seven Lakes E.M.S. personnel will accompany the paramedics to the hospital to assist in patient care enroute to the hospital or to drive their ambulance.

In 2006, the Seven Lakes Ambulance responded to 216 calls. Our volunteers were able

to transport forty-six patients that did not require advanced medical care.

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services is a volunteer organization which relies on community support through contributions, memorials, telephone directory sales, and our annual chicken dinner. Although Moore County does provide min-

imal funding, it is not enough to support our operation.

New volunteers are always welcome if they are EMT certified or are willing to attend a 120 hour certification course at Sandhills Community College. For further information, contact Captain T. Ray Jackson at 673-0101.

## SLLA Candidate's Night

The Women of Seven Lakes are sponsoring a Candidate's Night forum for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors on March 7, at 7:30 pm, at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

Jo Nicholas, Co-President of the Women of Seven Lakes, will host the evening and Linda Tableman of the League of Women Voters of Moore County will act as moderator.

The six candidates for the three open positions on the SLLA Board of Directors are: Laura Douglass, Frank McKenna, Donna Stephan, Loren Swearingen, Don Truesdell, and Randy Zielsdorf.

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

## Neely is St. Paddy's Queen

Eight-year old Allyson Neely, daughter of John and Michele Neely, has been chosen to be the Queen of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Joining Allyson, as the parade steps off from the North Clubhouse, will be eleven-year olds Charlotte Herbst, daughter of Tom and Diane Herbst, and Raley Carpenter, daughter of Tim and April Carpenter.

Make plans now to come out and give a cheer for these lovely young Seven Lakes ladies. The parade begins at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 17.

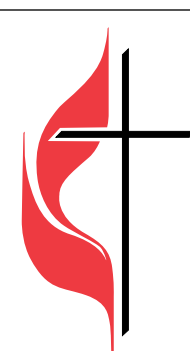
As part of the day's festivities, Project Linus will be sponsoring a bake sale in the North Clubhouse parking lot from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Corned Beef Sandwich Luncheon will begin immediately following the parade at 11:45 am. Traditional Irish music, provided by The American Heritage Band under Larry McCune, and a quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus will entertain diners.

Tickets for the luncheon will be

available for purchase at the North and South mail houses on March 2 - 3, and again on March 9 - 10, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and at the Westside mail house on those same days from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Tickets are also available by contacting Ginny Heerema at 673-5150, Maureen Malone at 673-2553, Judy Collins at 673-5505, or Peggy McCallum at 673-1506.

The parade route leaves the North Clubhouse parking lot, turns right onto Shenandoah Road, turns right onto Dogwood Lane, and turns right again onto Firetree Lane returning to the North Clubhouse.

Spectators are invited to line the parade route, wear Irish green, and join the fun.



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and get a 5'x8' rug  
FREE!**

**Advertise in  
The Times  
Call 673-0111**



# Third Annual 'Taste of Town' tickets on sale

The third annual Taste of the Town sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes will be held on Monday, April 16 at the West Side Park Community Center from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Why not skip dinner at home and enjoy the many different tastes of the town?

Proceeds from Taste of the Town will benefit Moore Regional Hospital Foundation's Child Care Fund.

Some of the restaurants participating this year include:

Moore Delights, Brats European Bistro, How You Doin Pizzeria, Elliott's, Bonefish Grill, Beacon Ridge Country Club, Table on the Green, Seven Lakes Country Club, Little River, Camellia's Coffee House, Smithfield's BBQ, and desserts from Panera Bread.

Additional restaurants and desserts are expected...so stay tuned. A complete list of the restaurants and dessert contributors will be available soon. Check the posters for information as well.

The ticket price is \$18.00 each and tickets go on sale at the March 1 meeting of The Women of Seven Lakes.

Tickets will also be sold at the St. Patrick's Day Parade at the North Clubhouse on March 17, and, if still available, at the April 5 meeting of the Women of Seven Lakes. Tickets sell quickly so get them early.

The location and time for ticket and raffle sales at the mail houses will be announced at a later date.

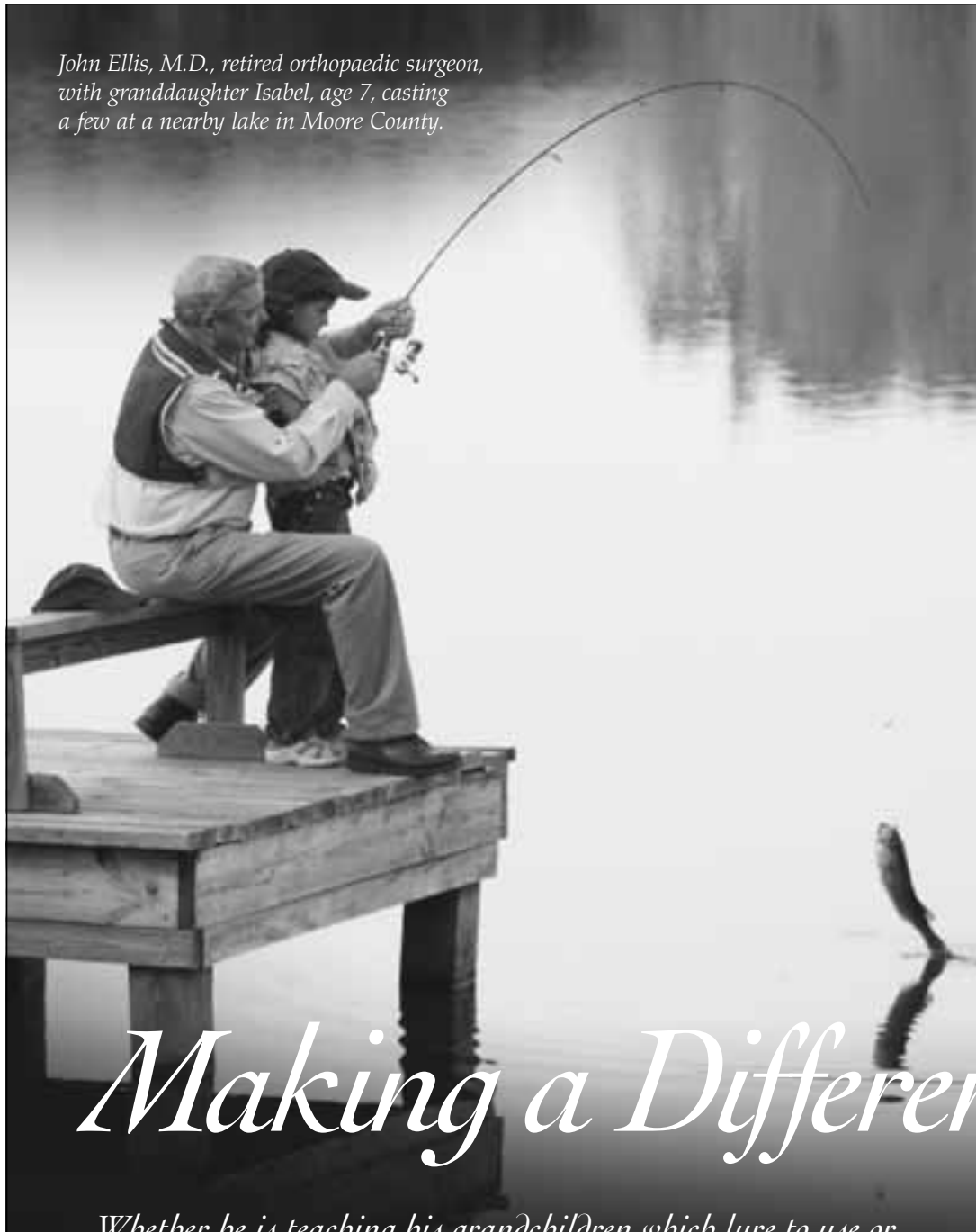
For further information, call Laurie Werner at 673-5892, Ginny Rowland at 673-7710, or Deanna Petrie at 673-4295.

Seamus  
Murphy sez:



Reduce  
Risk of  
Heart Attack!  
Pet a dog once  
every day!

*John Ellis, M.D., retired orthopaedic surgeon, with granddaughter Isabel, age 7, casting a few at a nearby lake in Moore County.*



## Making a Difference

*Whether he is teaching his grandchildren which lure to use or luring the brightest minds in the field of medicine to the mid-Carolinas, Dr. John Ellis measures success by the quality of the catch. As the founding father of the joint replacement program at Moore Regional Hospital, Dr. Ellis reeled in specialists from all around the nation and built the program into what it is today. Now retired, he continues his efforts to "Keep FirstHealth First" as an active member of the Foundation of FirstHealth Stepping Stones Campaign.*

**Give your granddaughter  
a fish and you  
feed her for a day.**

**Teach your granddaughter  
to fish and you  
feed her for a lifetime.**

*—Dr. Ellis' personal take on  
an old Chinese proverb*



You too can make a difference—today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

To learn more about the Stepping Stones Campaign call the Foundation of FirstHealth at 910-695-7500.



*Keeping FirstHealth First*

# Mission shows dreams really can come true

by Mary Price

West End

Presbyterian Church

In the year 2000, Adiel Espinosa Chi, pastor of the IXOYE Presbyterian Church in Chetumal, Mexico, had a dream. He wanted to build a church to house his growing congregation in one of the suburbs of Chetumal, a city of 140,000 people.

Meanwhile, in West End, North Carolina, the youth of the West End Presbyterian Church were dreaming of a mission project where they could be of real service to others.

Enter Jim and Judy Kullberg, who had moved to Seven Lakes from Corning, New York and had been involved with missions in

Mexico. Seven years later, Adiel's dream, and the dreams of some young people in West End have come true.

Six couples from West End Presbyterian Church, including the Kullbergs, returned recently from a week in Chetumal, where they helped put some of the finishing touches on the 6,600 square foot building that represents two dreams coming together.

These twelve people painted the sanctuary, built the risers for the pulpit and choir, scraped paint from windows the youth had installed previously, and delivered a gift from the West End church that would finish the sanctuary's tile floor.

On Sunday evening before

the group left to return to West End, the sanctuary in Chetumal was filled with one hundred fifty people who came to celebrate the women of the church, a special Sunday, in the IXOYE church.

IXOYE Presbyterian Church was formed in 1998. By 2000, the church was meeting in a building made of sticks with a thatched roof. Their sanctuary was beautiful in its own way, and the people of the church took great care of it.

In 2000, when the first group of youth and adults, lead by Norma Walter, arrived they found a field — maybe a field of dreams. Their job was to lay the foundation for a 6,000 square foot building using very rudimentary materials. The group had to mix

their own cement by hand and bend their own rods, but when they left, the church had a foundation.

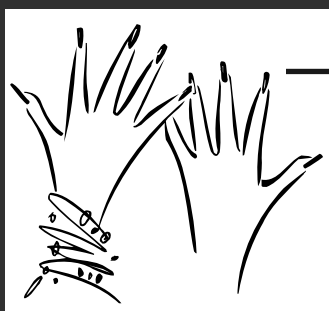
During the period between 2000 and 2007 there have been four youth trips and one other

adult trip. The congregation of West End Presbyterian has supported the project with contributions of over \$40,000, which comes out to about \$8.00 per square foot.

(See "Dreams" p. 31)



**Dream makers** — Members of the West End Presbyterian Church who helped bring to life the dreams of the IXOYE Presbyterian Church in Chetumal, Mexico.



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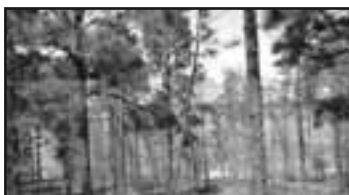
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~~-\$460,000~~ \$425,000

SEVEN LAKES WEST



Still "in diapers" 2005 BVH built home in walking neighborhood just up from Johnson Pt & Marina. 3BR, 3 1/2 BA open plan + bonus suite, full BA, XL closet. K features bow window, maple cabinets, island/brkfst bar, stainless appl. Super flat yard. **\$359,900**  
Call Ginny at 910-585-2580!

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4219 1/2-Acre wooded peek waterview . . **\$50,000**

4257 Half-Acre Water View . . . . . **\$55,000**

5510 Half-Acre Water View . . . . . **\$52,000**

5043 1-acre wooded on cul-de-sac . . . . . **\$60,000**

7006 3/4 Acre in Carriage Park . . **\$99,900**  
*One of a Kind! Water View of Fishing Pond Owner/Broker*

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*Was \$310,000*  
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LOT 3089 – SEVEN LAKES WEST



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**Offered at \$340,000**

PINEHURST



All brick ranch with nice split 3 bedroom, 3 bath floor plan. Super conv location. Private flat back yard w/gazebo. Needs cosmetic redecorating but will provide sophisticated end result for new owner. Great rental also. **\$200,000.**  
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# In memory of . . .

**Patricia Frances Anderson**, 77, died Monday, February 19 at her home in Seven Lakes.

Born in West Warwick, RI, to the late Francis and Patricia Maloney Ford, she worked for many years for the town of South Kingston, RI. Moving to Highland Beach, FL, she worked for Dr. Gregory Parsley. Mrs. Anderson enjoyed crocheting and making crafts for others. She was preceded in death by her son, Arthur Anderson.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur Edwin Anderson; her son, Paul Anderson of Seven Lakes, NC; her daughter, Patricia A. Thomas and her husband, Robert of Seven Lakes, NC; her brothers: Jerome Ford of Cranston, RI and Charles Ford of North Kingston, RI; her sisters: Barbara White of Cranston, RI, Beverly Rozzero of Cranston, RI, Leah Petteruti of North Kingston, RI, and Charlene Waddington of Coventry, RI; four grandchildren: Robbie, Heather, Blaise, and Arthur Eric, and five great-grandchildren: Jesse, Sara, Kateland, Emma, and Michael.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 8300 Health Park, Suite 10, Raleigh, NC 27615.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

**John J. McLoughlin**, 78, died Thursday, February 22 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

A Requiem Mass was held Saturday, Feb. 24, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst with the Rev. James M. Labosky officiating. A reception followed the services in the church Founders Hall.

Mr. McLoughlin was born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of the late Thomas and Margaret Kelly McLoughlin.

He enjoyed a long career as a district sales manager and personnel manager with the E. J. Brach Candy Company.

He was a fourth degree Knights of Columbus member and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pinehurst. Mr. McLoughlin served the Tri-

angle Council of Government program as an ombudsman.

Mr. McLoughlin was preceded in death by a daughter Jacqueline Ann.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ann, and one son, Kevin

Robert McLoughlin of Ellyn, Ill. Memorials may be made to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Building Fund, 175 East Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Powell Funeral Home and Cre-

matory of Southern Pines assisted the family.

**Warren L. Holzkamp** died at First Health Moore Regional Hospital on Friday, February 23. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr.

Holzkamp grew up in White Plains, NY. He served in the Army Air Force in WWII with the 8th Air Force and graduated from St. Lawrence University 1949 with a BA majoring in busi-

(Continued on page. 8)

## THROUGH JIM MEIKLE’S LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AND MANY HOURS OF THE ENTIRE SEVEN LAKES WEST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD’S LABOR AND EFFORTS, THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED!

- Frequently acknowledged the efforts of the many dedicated volunteers who support the numerous committees that work for the benefit of the entire community
- Established the “Wall of Honor” for members who have contributed exceptional service to our community
- Expanded communication to members by establishing a SLW Web site, with “Breaking News” on the homepage
- Established school bus pick up and drop off at our Community Center
- Established County Bookmobile service to our Community Center
- Continued to improvement the amenities at West Side Park
- Made acoustical improvements to the Community Center’s Great Room
- Established a book sharing library in the Community Center
- Planting privacy screening between the Swimming Pool area and the McDonald’s Truss Plant in West Side Park (contract in progress)
- Enhanced the Community Recreation programs for members of all ages
- Established a Community 4th of July Fireworks show
- Established the Lake Auman Master Plan Committee
- Established rules and regulations regarding the operation of jet boats and other types of water craft on Lake Auman
- Made improvements to Johnson Point’s swim raft, dock, picnic areas and restrooms
- Entered into an agreement with NCWRC which preserves our private lake status and our ability to self regulation the rules and regulations on Lake Auman
- Supported the programs and acknowledge the dedication and improvement for Lake Auman and Johnson Point brought about by the Lake Auman Sports Club efforts
- Expanded our Boat & Trailer storage area
- Continued on the multi year project to improve the drainage and landscaping in Lakeway mall
- Established “Adopt a road” programs to help enhance the appearance of are community
- Prepared and distributes up dated “Seven Lakes West Handbooks” to all homeowners
- Completed “Development Agreements” for Carriage Park III, Colton’s Corners and First Fairway subdivisions
- Acquired addition land at NC 73 gate area for future Association needs
- Up date of our “Architectural Standards”
- Established the position of “Compliance Officer” to assist with rule & regulations and architectural control standards
- Convinced the County and State that home on Lake Auman do not belong on the State’s Flood Plain maps
- Engaged the Insurance and Personnel committees to review our policies and practices
- Established a “Profit & Loss Budget Performance” and “Fund Status” reporting systems to more fully display accounts activities
- Established a Yard Waster Transfer Station site for SLW
- Convinced Ray MacKay to run for a second Board term and continue providing his engineering and maintenance expertise on the community’s infrastructure problems
- Hired Security Forces, Inc. to up graded and provide 24/7 gate security



**REELECT JIM MEIKLE TO THE SLWLA BOARD**  
**PAID FOR BY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF JIM MEIKLE**

*Submitted by Ray MacKay*



# In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 7)

ness administration. Mr. Holzkamp had a varied business career, including stints with Del Monte Corporation, Mead Johnson, and Morgan Stanley.

His outside activities included being a member of the Masonic Lodge, president of the Rotary Club, and member of North Presbyterian Church, where he served

as a Deacon and an Elder.

In 1988, he and his wife, Yvonne, retired to Seven Lakes. Mr. Holzkamp was active as a member of the Kiwanis Club and also bowled with a group of Kiwanians. He especially enjoyed being a member of the Moore County Band, as a clarinetist, as well as performing in the annual Showtime activity at Seven

Lakes. He belonged to Bethesda Presbyterian Church, where he sang in the choir. At Seven Lakes Country Club, he played tennis and golf.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Yvonne Holzkamp of Seven Lakes; one son, Bruce Holzkamp of Pinehurst; a daughter, Donna Lynn Burdick and her husband William T. of Ramsey, NJ; one

brother, Robert Holzkamp and his wife Jane of Lighthouse Point, Florida; one sister-in-law, Shirley Holzkamp of Walnut Creek, CA. He is preceded in death by his brother, Norman Holzkamp. Mr. Holzkamp is also survived by two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 8, 6-8 pm at

Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 9 at 11:00 am at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Bethesda Presbyterian church choir or the Moore County Band.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

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# Voles & moles? Here's how to get 'em!

The weather in February has been generally colder than normal, or somewhat below average. Some forecasters, as always, predict an early Spring, whereas others saw indications of a late or lingering Winter. We will endure it, as always.

Several complaints and questions continue to arise concerning moles and voles; two of our dreaded garden pests. Moles are underground rodents that dig endless tunnels through lawns, flower beds, and vegetable gardens in search of grubs and other underground plant-damaging insects.

Their digging often damages plant roots and can cause delicate feeder roots to dry out underground. Moles often feed on bulbs in a limited way although their diet is basically insects.

The Pine vole is a short-tailed, web-footed mouse or small rat. It may construct burrows and often travel in tunnels provided by moles or voles. Voles thrive, prefer, and eat most bulbs, and all plant roots. An exception is voles generally are not very fond of daffodils. Voles and other larger rats will often completely girdle and kill trees. Pine straw and deep applications of bark

mulch encourages their residence.

There are several suggested control measures that help deter these pests. I have found one of the best methods to clean-out moles and voles is to obtain an



## Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

aggressive, outdoor, mousing cat.

Another method for getting rid of moles is to apply Sevin according to recommendations to the lawn or other activity areas. This will control the insects which the mole eats and, consequently, it moves on in search of other food sources. This procedure works because sometime ago I observed two mole tunnels in my lawn and after treatment of Sevin, I noticed several dead grubs and the moles disappeared.

There are a few mole and vole repellents on the market and available at your local garden center. Some treatments have

disagreeable odors and may be applied or soaked on rags and placed in the rodent runs. Camphor and mothballs in and around tunnels have reportedly repelled moles and voles. I have in the past few years planted castor bean seed randomly throughout my vegetable garden. Tremendously large plants grew but no voles were observed in

the garden all season.

Some have experienced good protection from voles and moles by enclosing flower bulb and other beds inside a screen barrier. To briefly elaborate, dig a hole twelve inches deep, a trench around the bed. Line the trench with a fine mesh wire leaving twelve to twenty-four inches above the ground. Then plant the bed as usual. Others indicate they have essentially eliminated the vole problem by planting in pots and placing them in protected areas. Traps have been used in many instances to control these pests, but a permit is required from the NC Wildlife

Resources Commission for outside trapping. See your local representative for details.

### Suggested gardening reminders for early March:

Several people have indicated to me that they have noticed lady bugs around the house during these cold periods and want to know what to do about them. The answer is nothing, unless they are eating house plants. This species is in a semi-hibernation stage.

Lady bugs winter as adults, often assembling in large numbers before going into winter hibernation under pine straw, forest litter, and inside hollow trees. Our most common species of lady beetles are beneficial insects; voracious feeders of aphids (plant lice), mealy bugs, white flies, and scaled insects.

Now is the time to prune fruit trees, evergreen hollies, crape myrtles, cleyera, liqustrum, and other non-blooming evergreens before new growth begins.

Do not prune azaleas, camelias, rhododendrons, and other Spring blooming plants until after flowering is completed.

Go ahead and plant any leftover Spring flowering bulbs. Shallow planting two to three

inches deep in a protected barrier away from voles is advisable.

For those desiring to cut down unwanted trees, do it now before new growth begins.

To control those troublesome weeds such as wild onions, garlic, dandelion, chickweed, henbit, and oxalis dig them out or use a recommended herbicide.

Take your soil samples and  
(See "Garden," p. 10)

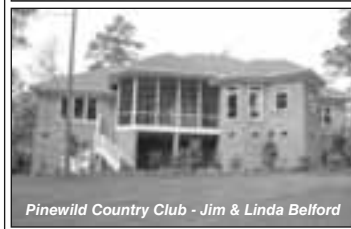


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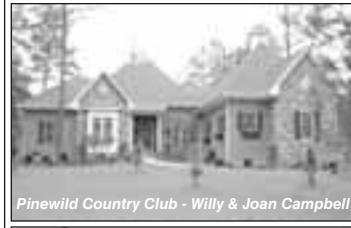
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# Hensley makes old patios, walks new again

A concrete driveway, sidewalk, or patio is a real asset for almost any home. But concrete often cracks over time or becomes discolored with use. For example, the oil stains from a leaky automobile can be nearly impossible to remove from a concrete driveway.

But concrete problems are no problem for Doug Hensley of

Douglas Restorations, LLC. Hensley is a new Seven Lakes resident with a new business that specializes in decorative epoxy overlays that can hide discolored or cracked concrete with a surface that is in many ways preferable to the original surface.

Douglas Restoration handles a number of products — one of the most exciting is a composite of small stones suspended in a two-part epoxy. The stone, which looks like multicolored aquarium gravel, comes in a variety of shades and sizes.

That composite is spread in a layer about one-half-inch thick over the existing concrete patio, pool deck, or driveway, and allowed to dry for about a day. Then the new surface is ready to use.

Hensley told *The Times* that this composite surface is porous and allows water to pass through

to the concrete underneath, thereby eliminating any puddling.

Because of the porous nature of the surface, it also dissipates heat. This is particularly useful in pool deck applications. Who hasn't at one time or another hopped out of the water onto a concrete

pool deck and then rapidly jumped back in the water to ease the burning of your feet.

The decorative stone surface

can be applied to any existing concrete: sidewalks, patio this, drive ways, front porches, and so

(See "Douglas," p. 31)

## Garden

(Continued from page 26)

send them in for analysis. Soil sample kits, information sheets, and information can be obtained from the county agricultural extension office in Carthage.

**Recommended vegetable plantings for early March are:** asparagus crowns, edible podded and garden peas, cabbage plants, carrot seed, lettuce seed and plants, onion seed sets or plants, Irish or white potato seed pieces, radishes, rutabaga, spinach, kale, mustard, and turnip seed.

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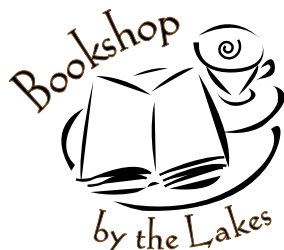





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# Cookoff spotlights chili innovators

The aroma of spicy chili wafted over a crowd of one hundred twenty attendees at the Seven Lakes West Community Center on Sunday, February 18, as Lake Auman Sport's Club cele-

brated their first Chili Cook-Off. Eighteen members entered a variety of chili's including venison chili, chili with shrimp, and even an entry titled Cincinnati Chili.

A crock pot, the Grand Prize,

was awarded to Deanna Petrie. Second place finish went to Christy Elliott and Sue Shepherd placed Third.

Each entrant had a special ingredient except Petrie, who stated, "I just kept letting my husband taste it until he thought it tasted okay."

Judging the event were Charlie Flinchum, a charter member and Sport's Club co-chair, Mary Anne Fewkes of the Seven Lakes West Board, and new member Jim Kozlowski. Patti Cleary served as Event Chair.

The next social outing for the Sport's Club will be held on May 3, when the group will travel by bus to Pembroke Performing Arts Center to attend the play "Urban Cowboy."

Co-chair Ron McGaughey encourages any resident of Seven Lakes West who would like to know more about the Sport's Club to contact him directly at 673-4716.



**Hot Stuff** — Lake Auman Sports Club Chili Cookoff winners Kristie Elliott (2nd place), Sue Shepard (3rd place), and Deanna Petrie (1st place), with judges Jim Kozlowski, Mary Anne Fewkes, and Charlie Flinchum in back.

## St. Pat's at Seven Lakes Country Club

Seven Lakes Country Club announces a very special St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance to be held on Saturday, March 17. Cocktails commence at 5:30 pm, with dinner following at 6:30 pm. The music entertainment will be supplied by Larry Carringer.

Two scrumptious dinner choices are available: Corned beef, colcannon, and buttered baby carrots; or Stuffed Flounder, oven roasted potatoes, and fried zucchini. The meal includes split pea soup or tossed salad, swirled rye bread, and will be topped off with apple pie a la mode with creme de menthe.

Hosts for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance are Lois and Tony Rocco, and Marge and Randy Randolph. Arrange a group of your friends and join us for an Irish toast and a fun-filled evening.

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# SLLA Candidates answer *Times'* questions

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes Times traditionally interviews candidates for the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] in advance of the March elections each year.

This year, some candidates asked to have our questions in advance and to submit their answers in writing. We agreed, and extended that option to all candidates.

Consequently, some of the responses you will find on the pages that follow were the result of interviews, others written answers.

Randy Zielsdorf sat with us for a traditional interview; Donna Stephan and Frank McKenna provided answers in writing and also met with *The Times'* editor; Don Truesdell, Loren Swearingen, and Laura Douglass emailed their answers.

We asked four questions of each candidate:

## Question 1. Goals.

What do you hope to accomplish if elected to the SLLA Board of Directors? What specific projects or action items would you ask your fellow board members to support?

## Question 2. Employee Pay.

The President and Treasurer of the SLLA have proposed a Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget that both freezes employee wages and ends the matching contribution the Association has been making to employee IRA plans.

The Association has no other retirement plan for its employees. Currently employees pay 20 percent of the cost of the premiums for the SLLA's employee group health insurance, a plan that has a \$5,000 deductible. Until a couple of years ago, the Association paid 100 percent of the health care premiums for employees and covered the cost of the deductible as well. Employees must now cover the deductible as well as paying their share of the premiums. The SLLA President has indicated the current board strategy is to increase employees' proportional contribution by five percent per year until it reaches fifty percent.

Do you agree with the proposed freeze on employee salaries and the proposed cuts in retirement and health benefits? Why or why not?

## Question 3. Dues increases.

It's reasonable to expect that SLLA Dues will creep upwards slightly over time with the rate of inflation. But let's leave those inflation-related increases out of the picture and talk about non-inflation-related increase in dues.

We're currently at \$800 for a homeowner. For a homeowner with a \$150,000 house, SLLA dues are now more than county property taxes.

How high can dues go? Are they too high already? In other words, what's the practical upward limit on SLLA dues, leav-

ing aside inflation-related increases?

## Question 4. Demographics.

The demographics of Seven Lakes are changing: there are more people who haven't yet retired, more young families, more children of all ages. What do you see as the impact of this change on Seven Lakes as a community? Are there things the Association and its board of directors need to do because of these changing demographics?

## Laura Douglass

### Question 1. Goals.

The Seven Lakes logo, a shield bearing four images which represent our amenities; golf, tennis, equestrian, and the lakes, is how I view our community. This

image is a reflection of our strengths: The reason people now and in the future choose to live here.

As a Board member I will work to protect, improve, and restore our amenities to their full potential. Seven Lakers have concerns, rightly so, of looming capital expenses including road resurfacing and dam maintenance. I, too, am concerned and will seek ways to enhance our community amenities without jeopardizing long-range financial goals or depleting reserve funds.

Additionally, I would ask our Board to prioritize resolving security issues, specifically the juvenile and petty crimes committed with alarming frequency over the past two years.

As our community is home to a large population of teenagers,

we need to have an open conduit of communication with them. Are these crimes a symptom of neglect of the needs and interests of our teen population? Or do we need to take a firmer stance, enforce curfews, and a Community Watch program?

My answer is yes to both. We have not effectively engaged our entire population and must find ways to reach out not only to the teenagers but their parents as well. I do not want to live in a gated community where the threat of crime from inside the perimeter is greater than that from outside.

### Question 2. Employee pay.

I absolutely agree with Director Hudson's assertion that we need to appoint a Personnel Committee to research human

(See "Douglass," p. 13)

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# Douglass: Protect & improve amenities

(Continued from page 12)

resources issues for the Board.

Have all twelve of our employees reached the maximum expected pay within their job descriptions? Perhaps, but how do we know? Is it fair to make that blanket assumption — freeze their pay, and still look to cut additional costs from their health and retirement benefits?

If employee wages, benefits, and taxes account for half of the community's budget, then we should have all the facts before making such broad decisions.

In addition to researching comparable benefit packages, I would recommend that the Personnel Committee create pay grade levels for each position and determine where individual employees fall. If an employee has indeed maxed out their position's compensation, I would suggest implementing a cash award system for meritorious service. This would keep a future budget cap on wages while encouraging motivated employees to perform at their best.

Regarding matching contributions to employee retirement accounts, under no circumstances would I support budget cuts that would reduce or eliminate this benefit. The matching compensation expense is the least of the cuts suggested but, I feel, very significant in the overall job satisfaction we would hope to provide quality employees.

Health care benefits are a difficult problem for most employers. My family has changed health care providers four times in the five years we have lived here as my husband's company has struggled with this same issue.

Again, a Personnel Committee should address comparable health benefits with similar employers in the area before the Board makes policy decisions.

Our staff has shown loyalty to their jobs and the residents of Seven Lakes. We owe them the time and effort required to fairly and thoughtfully address human resource concerns.

**Question 3. Dues increases.**

At the recent Seven Lakes Civic Group meeting, County Commissioner Tim Lea said that he and fellow commissioners had been successfully elected by promising to keep taxes low but now found the county has not kept pace with need. There are significant shortages in both space and facilities.

Here in Seven Lakes, dues at the present level are adequately addressing our needs, and there is no reason to raise them.

However, I am concerned that we must carefully monitor our long-range plans and capital reserve funds to make sure that we do not fall into same quagmire of deferred maintenance and underdeveloped resources.

Since the county can no longer ignore its deficits and now must fund them, property valuations are expected to increase by double-digit percentages and property taxes will also increase significantly.

At the risk of taking an unpopular stance with regard to dues, I would assert that we too will eventually be faced with unavoidable costs to maintain our facilities and services here in this community.

The current Board has done an excellent job of reviewing every

aspect of our budget and reducing expenses within reason. If these cuts are still inadequate to build up our reserve fund to a level that will allow us to maintain our roads and dams, I would support a small, incremental dues increase each year.

I would rather anticipate an expected five dollar adjustment to dues each year then wait until a major financial blow to the community forces a sudden, much larger leap in dues such as the forty dollar increase suggested not so long ago.

**Question 4. Demographics.**

There is a trend leaning towards a higher proportion of residents in the working adult and family categories; however, I think one of our strongest assets as a complete community is our wealth of citizens of all ages.

The Board should encourage this diversity by making decisions that will continue to make Seven Lakes attractive to a wide range of residents, especially as a huge shift may indeed be on the horizon.

Moore County is in the process of determining the location of a new high school. Expectations are that it will be built on land near Carthage, perhaps as close as Eastwood.

If the Seven Lakes region is selected as a feeder district into this sought after new facility, I believe there will be a quick and obvious increase in our family and teenage populations. Our Board must anticipate this type of change and ensure that funding is spent in proportion to who is using community services and how.

Seven Lakes has provided my family the opportunity to make friends outside of our expected peer group. My husband and I belong to card groups and recreation clubs that offer us the chance to interact with fellow parents as well as recent, and long-ago, retired residents.

I truly feel that we live amongst an extended family here. This is the diversity and vibrant quality of life that I have come to expect from Seven Lakes.

As a member of our Board of Directors, I will be vigilant, be

visionary, and be open-minded to evaluate what is necessary and desired to support and enhance this community.

## Frank McKenna

**Question 1. Goals.**

I want to work with fellow board members to enhance what we have already available to us, and to increase the development of the feeling of peace and security within the community.

We need to develop and maintain opportunities within the community while utilizing funds more proficiently. And I hope we can create even more community pride among our landowners.

- Key questions we need to be asking ourselves are:
- How do we maintain a policed community effectively, efficiently, and economically?
  - How do we perform maintenance and development of community opportunities within the budget?
- (See "McKenna," p. 15)

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# McKenna: Enhance peace and security

(Continued from page 13)

- How can we review the performance of the community personnel and make it more cost efficient?
- What can we eliminate and what must we purchase? Or are we perfectly fine being status quo?

Once I am on the Board, I am sure there will be areas of concern that will need immediate action and supersede all my previous ideas of projects and actions that I assumed were important. At that point, I will dedicate my time and talents to performing and completing that task to the best of my abilities.

## Question 2. Employee pay.

I agree with the proposed salary freeze and benefits cuts.

An employer can elect to provide health insurance for their employees in the state of North Carolina with the election of each employee paying 50 percent of the premiums. Although it is a burden, 25 percent is still less than 50 percent — and deductible on their taxes as an itemized deduction.

With the cost of health care rising, most employers in the state have placed the burden of health care premiums on the employees.

Back in the 1980s the economy was entirely different, and businesses were looking for ways to decrease their tax burden. They had pension plans, IRAs and health insurance provided to all their employees fully funded.

Due to the recession and economic ups and down, as we even see today in the stock market, businesses are not able to fund these programs fully or

marginally any longer.

Since Seven Lakes is not a "business" but a community organization of a limited yearly income, the community must reassess the funds allocated for perk enhancement with concentration on maintenance and development as inflation keeps rising.

The Moore County Tax Statement has denoted Seven Lakes a "retirement community," which means many people within the community are on a fixed income. Ultimately this means that economic increases impact our pocketbooks the hardest.

To maintain the value of the homes we purchased with our life savings and to preserve the community in a quality of life for us to enjoy our retirement and feel safe, we must concern ourselves with the funds being used and how to best utilize their expenditure.

Sometimes this means decreasing some benefits, but we still offer sizable benefits compared to what is generally received by the working class in North Carolina.

## Question 3. Dues increases.

The important item here is to set up a task force first to investigate cost efficiency.

If performed properly, it can be determined where waste has proliferated and deficiencies need to be rectified.

At that point rectification can be performed, and, if it is still necessary to increase dues, you would be able to advise the people of your findings and explain why a dues increase is necessary.

Generally people will accept and understand better if a full and

truthful explanation is given and the increase is reasonable and not overstated. Without facts and explanations people tend to misconstrue and worthwhile goals are never reached.

## Question 4. Demographics.

It is very important to realize that with the mixed demography of young, middle, and aged, new ideas are generated and stagnation decreases. But there are concerns as well.

One is that the classification of a retirement community will be lost and the impact, if any, on the tax assessment must be investigated.

If there are mostly younger families, the West End School will not be able to maintain the influx of children and will need to be enlarged or children in the community transported to other schools.

There will be more wear and tear on the roads as more school buses are required and parents pick-up their children from bus stops.

More children mean more requirements for security guards to watch the areas where buses drop off and after school to make sure children do not damage

the community while playing before going home to be with their parents at night.

More middle-aged families with teenaged children increases cars on the roads, sexual encounters, the possibility of drug problems and burglaries. Again, security would have to be enhanced.

Security would have to be increased to at least one person — maybe more — who would be able to give out warnings or be able to engage and restrain the perpetrator until a true sheriff or other officer was able to take the person into custody.

The security person must have authority and be backed by the community to perform just and rightful procedures to maintain the peace and well being of the

landowners.

The aged, whom the community was originally developed for, must not be constantly in fear. One reason they moved here was for the peace, security and well-being of a private community.

Yes, the demography changes, but there are ways to enhance and develop a community instead of degenerating it.

We should enhance the value of our homes, the community opportunities developed and maintained, and enforce tighter restrictions on community actions for safety, which should increase the quality of life for all.

(See "Stephan," p. 16)



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# Stephan: Protect SLLA property values

(Continued from page 15)

## Donna Stephan

### Question 1. Goals.

One of my objectives would be to create an "open dialogue" with the landowners to ascertain the wishes of the community. Members of the Board need to be sensitive to community needs, working with and for Seven Lakes residents. The Board must act fairly and impartially on all issues, forging a partnership with the landowners.

The Green Book, which includes the bylaws, rules and regulations, and covenants, should be in the possession of and read carefully by all residents to help the Board manage, control and establish policy.

I hope to work to protect property values in Seven Lakes.

As a member of the Architectural Review Committee I have a general concern and keen interest in all development in Seven Lakes, particularly any that would have a negative effect on the property values of one or all homeowners — especially high-density developments.

### Question 2. Employee pay.

Self-employed persons must rely on their own ingenuity to plan successfully for their retirement.

Our employees had been given the option of maintaining an IRA. The budget for 2007 and

2008 does not include a cost of living raise for employees nor does it continue IRA support.

I believe the the Board should continue their contributions to the employees' IRAs. The salary freeze is appropriate until such time as the association can afford salary increases.

The new Board should also seek alternative health insurance plans that would benefit the employee as well as the Association.

### Question 3. Dues increases.

I do not believe that inflation related increases of dues can be ignored. Our yearly expenditures are greatly affected by inflation. As expenditures increase, revenue must also. The hitch is how to do this without negatively affecting the homeowners. This is a job we must tackle.

However, we at Seven Lakes live in a largely undiscovered gem. When you think of dues, think of what you are receiving for these dues. Precious few other areas make available to their residents the amenities that we enjoy in Seven Lakes: a gated community, pools, parks, playgrounds, tennis courts, lakes (for boating, swimming, fishing), beaches, and horses.

Most communities reserve these amenities for Country Club members. We are the lucky ones. Seven Lakes Country Club memberships are available, adding a

great golf course and additional tennis courts to the list of amenities.

### Question 4. Demographics.

Changing demographics does not mean changing what we all agree on — the need to maintain our property values and the amenities we enjoy every day. If we agree on what we do not want to change, it is easier to work on what we want to change.

When asked the question about changing demographics I had to dig deep. And then I remembered the movie, *The Sound of Music*, and the moment when Maria and Captain Von Trapp decided to marry. The question was, "Who shall I ask for Maria's hand in marriage?" "The children, of course."

Well, here is where the open dialogue comes into play. I, with five children and eighteen "grands" have a large store of knowledge to draw from, but my

children and grandchildren live all over the country.

So, I put this to you readers involved in this change. The words "realistic" and "affordable" come to mind. What can we, the Board, and you, the residents, do to keep up with the changing times?

## Loren Swearingen

### Question 1. Goals

I began my volunteer activities in Seven Lakes back in 2003. I was fortunate to serve on the Community Standards committee under Chairperson Millie Stewart. I headed up a sub-committee that successfully cleaned up the Lake Sequoia boat and trailer storage area. At the same time we made certain that all boats and trailers were properly registered with the landowner's office.

In 2005, I successfully ran for

the SLLA Board of Directors. I chaired the Security-Company Police committee. During that period we added additional lighting to the Lake Sequoia parking lot and near the swimming pool. We implemented an 11:00 pm to 7:00 am curfew in all public areas of Seven Lakes North. Three speed bumps were installed on the Lake Sequoia dam.

All of these positive changes have made Seven Lakes a better and safer place in which to live.

Should the Seven Lakes voters return me to the Board of Directors this coming March I would like to Chair the Community Standards committee. My goal is to help increase property values in Seven Lakes.

This can be accomplished, to a large degree, by making certain our residents comply with our stated Rules and Regulations. I

(See "Swearingen," p. 17)



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# Swearingen: Strict standards enforcement

(Continued from page 16)

believe in strict enforcement and will select a committee of six residents that are of the same belief.

## Question 2. Employee pay.

The real world today demands that we keep labor costs in check. The rising cost of employee benefit programs makes this an extremely difficult task for managers.

I retired from a major corporation in 2001 after serving in the work force for 41 years. During that 41-year timeframe my salary was frozen for almost two years. Costs increased for my medical benefit package, and I was laid off.

I believe my retired friends in Seven Lakes can relate to all of these experiences. What did my family do to survive? After a little whining, we analyzed our situation, adjusted our spending habits and went on with life.

The problem of increased salary and benefits for our personnel will not automatically go away. This is the time for our current Board of Directors to step up to the plate and effectively address the situation. We must control employee costs, otherwise all future Boards will face the same problem year after year until the cows come home.

## Question 3. Dues increases.

Paying \$800 a year in annual dues is a healthy chunk of change for a lot of us retirees.

If elected, I will not vote for a dues increase until I am certain we have better control over our expenditures, reduce costs where possible and fully utilize all of our

present assets.

## Question 4. Demographics.

I believe it is time to survey all landowners to determine their interests which in turn will give the Board some direction in where future spending should be allocated.

We need landowner's participation to help us determine how we can do the best job of meeting the community's present and future needs and requirements.

## Don Truesdell

## Question 1. Goals.

We should revamp the Architectural Review Board [ARB] by appointing (if possible) retired residents with professional experience as either an architect or a builder, preferably both. If not, then I would recommend that we hire an architect to represent us at each ARB meeting.

In addition, all property owners within 100 feet of a proposed new construction or renovation requiring ARB approval should be given written notice at least two weeks prior to the ARB meeting. Also, as the bylaws are currently written, there is no appeals process to contest an ARB decision. This seems entirely arbitrary to me and should be changed.

We should establish pay scales and job descriptions for each of our job categories based on the North Carolina Employment Securities Commission and the pay scales that Moore County pays its employees.

I think we need more supervision of our maintenance

employees. Job standards should be established so that repetitive tasks such as mowing grass are defined with the employee(s) qualified for the task and the equipment required.

We may be able to get more productivity if we had a part time mechanic during the summer to maintain our grass mowing equipment. This idea should be investigated.

We need a simple work order system to establish jobs requested by landowners and extraordinary jobs required by the association.

All of our capital assets need to be tagged with an identifying mark so they can be identified for accounting purposes.

## Question 2. Employee pay.

Yes I agree, because I made the statement. What I said was that we should have a one year freeze on salaries and that next year we should increase the employee's share of his health care premium five percent per year until we reach a 50/50 split.

I agree that the \$5,000 deductible limit is high; unfortunately, we are a small group and it has been very difficult to get other insurance companies to quote our requirement. The

SLLA does have a matching plan of \$96.13 per month to help offset the \$5,000 deductible limit; however, as of today, no employee has elected this option.

The current budget proposed by the Community Manager shows the following increases:

Salary Increases:	\$13,950
IRA Contribution:	\$9,290
Health Insurance*:	\$12,998
Total:	\$36,238

\*The \$12,998 represents the SLLA share of the premium increase for our current health insurance benefit.

In March 2005 the landowners approved a dues increase of \$50, which generates approximately \$72,000, annually. As you can see, if the current budget is approved as written, then this year alone we will be spending one-half of your dues increase

on employee salaries and benefits.

Last year we had similar increases, with the one exception of the 20 percent co-pay for our health insurance — \$11,710 was paid by the employees. Our fixed costs increased by approximately \$25,000. Next year's budget, I am sure, will contain similar requests.

In three years we will have spent a total of approximately \$96,474, (\$25,000, FY07 ending April 30, 2007, plus \$36,237, FY08 ending April 30, 2008, and \$36,237, FY09 ending April 30, 2009. This total of \$96,474 represents 1.35 times our annual dues increase of \$72,000 — and then we will be forced to ask for another dues increase just to keep up with wage and salary

(See "Truesdell" p. 18)

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Tim Niewald, Owner

# Truesdell: SLLA must control expenses

(Continued from page 17)

benefits. How can this increase be justified to our residents?

The State of North Carolina has an Employment Securities Commission and their website is [www.ncesc.com](http://www.ncesc.com). I also obtained a copy of the current pay ranges for jobs offered by Moore County. Based on this data our employees are well paid — and deservedly so, because they do a good job. However most are paid from 15 percent to 45 percent more than the maximum pay scale for a similar job. This cannot go on forever.

My request for a wage freeze for the coming year is not the first request of this kind. In 2003 the Seven Lakes Landowners Association had a wage freeze. In 2002 Moore County had a wage freeze.

We have to take a hard line.

## Question 3: Dues increases.

The current Moore County property tax is \$0.455 per \$100 of assessed value. Our current dues are \$800.00, per year. Therefore the breakeven point is with a house assessed at \$175,824, and not with a house assessed at \$150,000 as stated in your question. If your house is assessed at \$150,000 then your Moore County property tax is \$682.50 (\$150,000 times \$0.455/\$100 of assessed value).

According to the Moore County tax assessor the homes in Seven Lakes North and South are assessed at \$200,000,000. We have 1,200 homes or the average assessed valuation is approximately \$167,000. We are very close to the break even point where the Moore County property tax and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association dues are the same. As stated above, the break even point is with a house assessed at \$175,824.

However, it is not possible to compare the Seven Lakes Landowners Association dues of \$800, per year versus the Moore County property tax rate. There are so many amenities that are provided as part of the \$800, dues that would require club membership if you did not live in a private gated community.

Before we can begin to think about a dues increase we must demonstrate our ability to con-

trol our expenses. As the President of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association I have made permanent reductions in our expenses as follows:

Disband  
Company Police\*:  
Outsource  
gate security:  
Health Insurance:

\$90,000  
\$25,000  
\$35,000

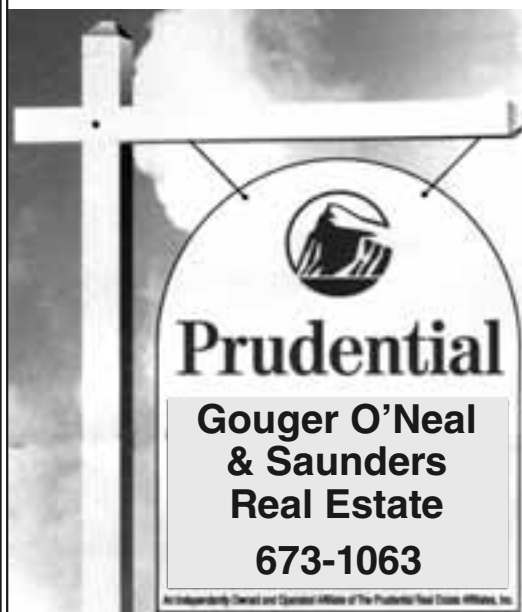
Total  
Annual Savings  
There has also been a one  
time savings in capital expenses of \$25,000 representing the

second company police car that would have been purchased had the company police department not been disbanded.

(See "SLLA," p. 19)

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# SLLA Candidates answer *Times'* questions

*\*In spite of the recent car break-ins the decision to disband the company police department is still the correct decision for the following three reasons: 1) Company employment logs will show that neither company police or roving patrol would have been on duty when the break-ins occurred at 3:00 am to 4:00 am in the morning; 2) The company police never had jurisdiction on private property where all of the break-ins occurred; 3) The decision to disband company police was decided in a binding referendum on Sunday, December 11, 2005. The vote in favor of disband was 461 to disband versus 259 to maintain or a total of 720 votes cast with 64% in favor of disbanding and 36% in favor of maintaining.*

In the meantime our variable costs continue to rise such as fuel, health insurance, supplies, etc. We need to find other ways to reduce our expenses, for example: 1) Can we utilize more part time employees and avoid the crushing burden of health insurance?; 2) Are there other items we can outsource (such as the gate guards) where we can save money?

I believe SLLA annual dues will have to be raised as inflation continues to increase our costs. It is very difficult to estimate the maximum level that can be tolerated by many of our residents.

For example, we have many retirees that are living on a fixed income and many young families with young children working hard to get ahead.

The dues for Seven Lakes West Landowners Association is \$685 per year. This fee includes their proposed dues increase of \$35. The dues for Pinewild are \$775. It is interesting to note that the Pinewild covenants allow for a built-in increase of their association dues as determined by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) and not to exceed five percent per year. I wonder how many of our residents would be willing to accept this Pinewild concept?

We are not like a municipality where inflation increases property tax revenues. Also, the additional income we will gain when we are fully built out is not significant for the simple reason that the lot owners are already paying \$597 per year in dues. The additional income we will earn from these properties is only \$203 per lot times approximately 200 lots or \$40,600. This amount of \$40,600 only represents 3.3% of our current budgeted income of \$1,227,750.

I think it will be difficult to justify a dues increase at this time; however, a dues increase will be necessary based on inflation and estimated capital requirements. If we are unable to hold

the line on salary and benefits then the request for a dues increase will come sooner rather than later.

## Question 4: Demographics.

The demographics of Seven Lakes is definitely changing.

At the end of FY1987 we had a total population of 1476 (1,287 adults and 189 children). At the end of FY2006 we had a total population of 2,783 (2,212 adults and 571 children). This represents an increase of 1,307 people or 88.5 percent. The increase in our adult population was 925 or 71.8 percent. The increase in our child population was 382 or 302 percent. Clearly the demographics of our community is changing dramatically. We expect this trend will continue.

The number of houses has experienced a corresponding increase. At the end of FY1987 we had a total of 774 houses. At the end of FY2006 we had a total of 1,166 houses. This represents an increase of 392 houses or 50.6 percent.

These numbers also confirm the changing demographics. The total population has increase by 88.5 percent, while the number of houses has only increased by 50.6 percent.

These changing demographics create opportunities and problems. We have working mothers with children left unattended. We have had reports of

underage drinking and drug use. The number of cars has increased dramatically because of the number of young drivers. We have experienced episodes of vandalism.

Our association has developed a close working relationship with Sheriff Lane Carter and his staff. We have almost completed the installation of infrared cameras at selected locations. We have requested a radar trap to cope with speeders.

The challenge for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association is to be more proactive in providing recreational activity for our young residents. We have an active program but it could be expanded. We need to get more young parents involved.

## Randy Zielsdorf

### Question 1. Goals.

Randy Zielsdorf told *The Times* that one of his objectives in serving on the board would be "to convince other board members to think differently about how we have been going about doing things."

Zielsdorf noted that there is a

good deal of development going on around Seven Lakes — development that will compete with Seven Lakes in the real estate market.

Noting that there are a lot of ten to twenty acre lots being sold on Holly Grove School Road, Zielsdorf said the board needs to ask, "What do we do to stay competitive — to make folks want to move to Seven Lakes?"

"If I'm a prospective new resident reading about all the controversy, maybe I am going to think twice about putting my money into Seven Lakes," Zielsdorf added.

"One of the things that I would challenge board members to do is to really think about big expenditure projects," he said. "I would like to see a way to prioritize so that you might do it from some objective point of view." Zielsdorf said that expenditures over a certain dollar amount — perhaps \$20,000 — should be submitted to membership for approval — or at least presented to the membership far enough in advance to allow for public input.

"We don't want to be presenting everything to the membership for a vote," Zielsdorf said.

(See "Zielsdorf," p. 22)

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**MONDAY, MARCH 5**

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 2:00 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7**

- **SLLA Board Candidate's Night** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Women of Seven Lakes Co-President Jo Nicholas will host and Linda Tableman of the League of Women Voters of Moore County will act as moderator. The six candidates for the three open positions of the SLLA Board of Directors are: Laura Douglass, Frank McKenna, Donna Stephan, Loren Swearingen, Don Truesdell, and Randy Zielsdorf. Ballots to vote are included with the annual meeting information that will be mailed in March.
- **Moore County Literacy Council Volunteer Orientation** – 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, 175 W. New Hampshire Ave, in Southern Pines. The Moore County Literacy Council needs you. Twenty-two percent of the citizens of Moore County read below a basic level. Could you share an hour of your time to help someone learn to read? Those that wish to continue will attend twelve hours of additional training on Saturdays, March 17 and 24, from 9:00 am - 4 pm. Please call Pam Giambelluca at 692-5954 to register and for more information.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8**

- **Moore County Planning Board** – 6:00 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 13**

- **Kelly Cup Championship** – 12:30 pm shotgun start, at Pinehurst No. 8 Course. Pinehurst Resort and Country Club and Outback Steakhouse invite you to participate in a golf tournament to benefit the Sandhills Children's Center. Entries are \$200.00 per player, or \$750.00 per team. Hole Sponsorship and a one player spot is \$500.00. For more information please call Teresa Copper or Kathy Desmond at 692-3323.
- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes** – 3:00 pm, Game Room. Jen Clausen, a representative of Sandhills Publishing, will introduce Smart Computing which provides software and hardware reviews, how-to's, tutorials, and easy-to-understand explanations of current technologies, with a strong emphasis on tech

support. Guests are welcome.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 15**

- **League of Women Voters Lecture** – 7:00 pm, Little Hall Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. Sponsored by the League and the American Association of University Women, Beth Kocher, retired VP of Pinehurst Resort, will speak on Success in the Global Arena in celebration of Women's History Month. Refreshments follow. Free and open to the public.

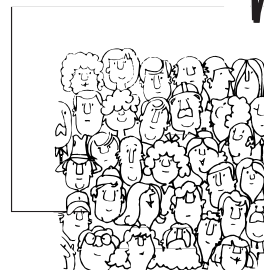
**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

- **St. Patrick's Day**
- **Weymouth Woods Bird Walk** – 8:30am, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Spring is nearly here and bird activity will be increasing. This is a two mile hike to look and listen for birds like fox sparrows, hermit

thrushes, kinglets, and more. Bring binoculars and field guides. Meet at Weymouth Woods parking lot.

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon** – 11:00 am, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Bands, clubs, organizations, businesses, and families with or without pets are welcome to participate. A corned beef sandwich luncheon will be served at 11:45 am, tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at

## What's When Calendar



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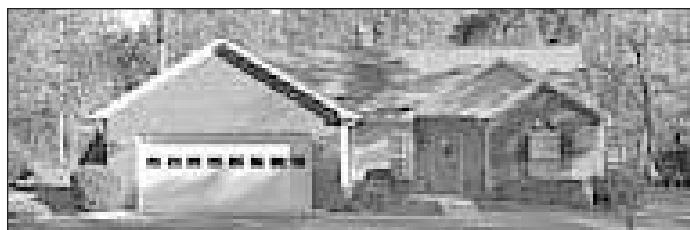
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the North and South mail houses on March 2-3, and 9-10 from 1:00 pm to 3:00pm, and Westside mail house on same days from 3:00 pm – 5:00pm. Tickets are also available by calling Ginny Heerema 673-5150, Maureen Malone 673-2553, Judy Collins 673-5055, or Peggy McCallum 673-1506. Parade entry forms are available from John and Connie Loy at 673-5571, or John and Dorothy Kelly at 673-1065.

- **Project Linus Bake Sale** – 11:00 am, North Clubhouse parking lot. Donated baked goods will be sold during the Women of Seven Lakes St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon. Cookies, cakes, cheesecake, pies, brownies, homemade rolls, and more. All monies raised will be used to buy fleece for the Seven Lakes Summer Camp Project Linus blanket-making activities. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457, to donate a special treat.
- **SLCC St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Dance** – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm dinner, Seven Lakes Country Club. Music will be supplied by Larry Carringer. Members price is \$17.95 all-inclusive, reservations taken in person on February 19, from 10:30 am – 11:30 am, call in reservations after. Non-members price is \$22.95, reservations taken starting February 26. Hosts are Lois and Tony Rocco, and Marge and Randy Randolph.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- **Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association.**

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- **Area 'A' Small Area Planning Steering Committee** – 6:00 pm, Old West End School Cafeteria, NC Highway 211, West End.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, North Clubhouse. We are busy making blankets for children in need in Moore County and would like for you to participate. There will be fleece to cut and tie, labels to sew, kits to check out, and special projects to work on. Drop by, check us out, and see if any of our activities interest you. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457, if you have questions or would like to donate supplies.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 24

- **Project Linus Junior Blanketeers** – 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, North Clubhouse. Project Linus works with several school children groups to make fleece blankets for children in need. Our chapter would like to offer the same opportunity to children in Seven Lakes. An introduction to the organization will be given, blanket samples will be shown, and blanket stories shared. Fleece will be provided and each child can participate in blanket-making. Activities will be based upon age and ability, parents are welcome. Call Pat Weber at 673-1457 with questions or to register.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 22

- **BookGroup by the Lakes** discusses *The Worst Hard*

*Time* by Timothy Egan, winner of the 2006 National Book Award for Non-Fiction. It's a history of the Okies who stayed behind and tried to scratch a living out of the Dust Bowl. 7:00 pm at the Coffee Scene in Seven Lakes Plaza.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 27

- **Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association.**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 27

- **AARP Driver Safety Program** – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, class continues on Wednesday, March 28, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. 8040 US 15/501 located two miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle. This two-day refresher course covers age related changes and tips for declining skills. Fee is \$10, and class size is limited. To register, call 947-2881.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 31

- **Safety Last – a silent movie at Sunrise Theater** – 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street in Southern Pines. Harold Lloyd's most famous comedy "Safety Last" with Chicago's Dave Drazin providing dazzling accompaniment for the film. Adult tickets for the afternoon performance are \$10, and \$15 for the evening performance. The evening performance includes a wine and cheese reception and an opportunity to meet and speak with Drazin. Admission is \$8 for children 12 and under for both

performances. Tickets are available at the Country Book Store, Givens Memorial Library in Pinehurst, and Nature's Own in Southern Pines or can be purchased at the Sunrise Theater Box office during operating hours. For more information call 692-3611.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 14

- **Foxfire Festival and Dedication Ceremony** – 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Foxfire Village Green Park. Dedication of the new fifty-acre park followed by festival featuring artisans from the area, a Car Expo of classic cars, live entertainment, Foxfire Garden Club Bake Sale, Talbert's Catering, and a Bluebird Run which will take participants on a one mile walk/run on the park walking trail and 5K runners through the west side of Foxfire Village. Admission is free. Information is available on [www.foxfirenc.com](http://www.foxfirenc.com).

## MONDAY, APRIL 16

- **Taste of the Town** – 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes the third

annual Taste of the Town will benefit Moore Regional Hospital Foundation's Child Care Fund. Tickets are \$18.00 each and will be available at the March 1 meeting and at the North Clubhouse during the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Luncheon. For more information call Laurie Werner at 673-5892, Ginny Rowland at 673-7710, or Deanna Petrie at 673-4295.

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# Zielsdorf: SLLA must remain competitive

"But we do need to provide sufficient time for input. You can't have a closed meeting, make a decision, and then send out a letter letting folks know what you have done."

"In Seven Lakes North and South, because the community has been around for 30 years now, the focus needs to be on keeping competitive and keeping it maintained so it looks as good ten years from now as it did ten years ago," Zielsdorf told *The Times*.

Zielsdorf said that maintenance expenses can be spaced out in order to reduce the impact in any one year.

## Question 2. Employee pay.

Asked about proposed cuts in SLLA employee benefits, Zielsdorf says he knows firsthand that health care insurance premiums have escalated rapidly.

"In 1995, my health insurance was cheaper than my car insurance," he said. "In Summer of 2004, it was \$350 per month and had the \$5,000 deductible" that SLLA employees have.

He noted that a high-dollar deductible can quickly result in many thousands of dollars in medical expenses for employees if they require surgery or extensive hospital stays.

Referring to information on the rapid rise of SLLA health insurance premiums reported in the February 16 edition of *The Times*, Zielsdorf said, "I was not surprised to see that they were paying \$383 and then went to \$491. What I learned when running my own company is that's the way the game is played. They will always give you a better rate to pull you in, and then the next year — boom! — you're worse off than when you started."

Zielsdorf said he that "for this part of North Carolina, Blue Cross Blue Shield is probably the

best bet," noting that the company offers good plans and a large network of physicians and hospitals.

Turning to the proposed \$9,290 that would be saved by eliminating SLLA matching contributions to employee retirement accounts, Zielsdorf again suggested looking at the issue in a different way.

"Let's take the barcode security gates at \$71,000," he said. "You could take that \$71,000, put it into local credit union paying 4.6% interest, and that \$71,000 would pay the \$9,290 for eight years, allowing for a 2% increase per year."

"We should consider taking money we contribute to employees and stick it into a separate account," Zielsdorf said, "so that it is enjoying some interest."

He suggested developing an internal fund or savings account that could help offset high deductibles on employee health policies.

"Why do I think that is important?" Zielsdorf asked. "I will argue that one of the reasons Seven Lakes has run so smoothly is that it has had the same peo-

ple working in the office for years. If you make the job unattractive, you will have trouble attracting people who are going to want to stick with that company any length of time."

On the other hand, Zielsdorf said, the board needs to be open-minded about utilizing part-timers where possible in order to hold the line on costs. "We should have an idea about who needs to be here full-time and who needs to be part-timed out. Perhaps we could get college kids to do some of the maintenance work — or some older residents. That's something that should be explored."

## Question 3. Dues increases.

Asked how high SLLA dues can realistically go, Zielsdorf told *The Times*, "That is the key question. It is time for someone to sit down and study it." He noted again that "we have to keep Seven Lakes competitive, and we are going to have houses on our perimeter that won't have dues."

"What kind of premium do you want to put on the amenities at Seven Lakes," Zielsdorf asked.

"It is true that folks that have a 1,500 or 1,600 square foot house are probably paying more in dues than in county property taxes. . . We need to be sitting down and thinking about just how high dues can go before we are not competitive with the surrounding market."

Noting that there has been a lot of discussion on raising fees, Zielsdorf said, "On fees that the vast majority of residents use — like the mailbox fee — if you increase it, you can't really say you have held the line on dues."

"If it's a service that most everyone is using in Seven Lakes, then there shouldn't be a fee for that," he added.

Zielsdorf said it may be useful in some cases to budget certain SLLA operations units as separate operating units. "I think it was in the long-range plan that they needed about \$5,000 for the stables. But the stables have been collecting fees on use of the horses. Rather than throw that money in the big pot, that money should be dedicated to a budget that would run the stables."

Zielsdorf said that idea points

to a concern he has about the way the finances are currently maintained. "Right now everything seems to flow into a big pot," he said, "and then they line item it out. Anything that's left over they just seem to be willing to spend."

Zielsdorf said he is also concerned about thinking projects completely through before money is spent on capital items.

For example, the newly-installed barcode gates and security cameras will have on-going operating expenses associated with them. "We are going to be paying Time Warner a fee every month to network all those systems . . . The lasers are on all the time. They are going to be burning out every so often. What's the replacement cost?"

## Question 4. Demographics.

Thinking about the changing demographics of Seven Lakes, Zielsdorf said that the key question is, again, "What do we do to remain competitive?" "We will be getting competition from other housing areas that we are going to see pop up in the next two years or so."

(See "Candidates," p. 23)



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# How about some comfort?

In the Winter we talk about “comfort food.” I believe meat loaf falls into that category. Some time ago, I found a “dressed up” meat loaf recipe. I served it, and my guests loved it.

### Stuffed Rolled Meat Loaf

**Ingredients:**

- 1 3/4pounds ground meat (I use very lean)
- 3/4 cup bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 envelope onion soup mix
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 slightly beaten egg
- 3 tablespoon+ 1/4 cup ketchup,divided
- 2 tablespoon + 1/4 cup parsley, divided
- 4 oz. thinly sliced Swiss Cheese

3 oz. thinly sliced prosciutto (or any ham)  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine beef, crumbs, soup mix, 3 tablespoon ketchup, 2 tablespoon Parsley, mustard, and pepper. Place mixture

between two large sheets of wax paper. Roll into 14” by 11” rectangle. Remove top sheet. Arrange cheese on top. Sprinkle with parsley. Top with prosciutto. Roll up, and press ends together. Seal. Place on jelly roll pan.

Bake, occasionally basting with ketchup, for 50 - 55 minutes. Everyone enjoy.



from Lucy's Kitchen

Lucy Ingram  
Seven Lakes South

## Candidates

(Continued from page 22)

“I definitely want to see a vibrant group of retirees here as well as younger families,” he said. “That’s is the best of both worlds. Retirees moving into Seven Lakes are investing in the community and that is good for the community. It’s excellent to have a nice spread of age groups.”

“The other unique thing about Seven Lakes,” Zielsdorf added, “is that — people can say what they want about Architectural Review — it has become a very attractive community that is affordable. If you put this community in one of the larger metropolitan areas, houses would cost be four to ten times what they are now.”

“The other thing about having retirees in the community,” he added, “is that they are around during the day. They’re paying attention to who doesn’t belong in the neighborhood, so that is good.”

“One of reasons Seven Lakes is so attractive to younger folks,” Zielsdorf said, “is that the schools are so great. I hear about West End Elementary and West Pine Middle School even over in Montgomery County, where I teach at the Community College. Folks are coming out here for the schools; they may or may not be willing to pay for amenities.”

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# Full plate . . .

Here are some more vanity plates gathered by my scout, Mitzi Hundley.

**KYGAL** - We all know the owner of this car. It is the delightful Nancy Welch. If you don't know her already, find her and make your acquaintance.

**KIDSRULE** - they must have a teenager in the house!

**EQNOX** - an astronomer or weather expert drives?

**NEEDLPT** - the driver loves making quilts?

**XJETJOCK** - a former quarterback or defensive end?

**4UMARYK** - Mary Kay is a lucky gal.

**MZ FIT** - Oh, we all are in one way or another.

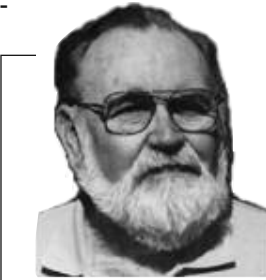
**SAV HGAL** - a Savannah

female?  
**RTRMTGFT** - Seen on a beautiful black sports car. Nice retirement gift.

**2XPENSIV** - Yeah, well they all are.

**HADTOHAV** - seen on a beautiful, fancy auto.

**ILUV 7LKS** - Me too.



Ollie's  
Thoughts  
Oliver Gossard

**LUVWIFEY** - A happy marriage no doubt.

**HUGSOMEI** - Good advice.

**PAPASKAB** - Seen on a truck.

**HORSYGRL** - Seen in Southern Pines. Where else?

**APHID** - Seen on a lime green VW. Wonderful.

I have more for another column. And keep looking, Mitzi.

# Board spent the surplus

I attended the last work session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board [SLLA] this past Thursday, February 22, and was very pleased to see that the North Clubhouse was almost packed with landowners. I would like to thank Ed Nuti for his leadership and persistence in making this change in how the Board of Directors conducts business.

During the meeting there were several incorrect statements made by members of the BOD and their committee members:

First, our Treasurer, Steve Hudson, quoted a statement attributed to me where I recommended that the Board freeze wages and shift insurance costs to the employees. That is correct, but the background information which he failed to provide was that the Seven Lakes Landowners did not approve a dues increase and the budget when presented to the Landowners in March 2004. The reserves had fallen to \$162,000, and the Board was required by the by-laws to work with the previous year's budget. In addition to the above

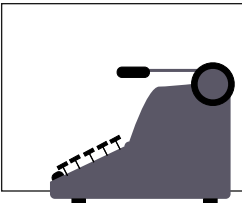
actions; the Board froze all capital expenditures to ensure that the Board did not reduce the Association's reserves (in fact we were able to increase them). That Board made the prudent choice under difficult circumstances for the benefit of all Seven Lakes stake-

of NC (repair to Echo dam at \$245,000), while others were questionable. The \$43,000 spent on the "Flex-Court" surface was pushed by Ron Erskine, Charlie Oliver, Jim Allen, and Don Truesdell (*Seven Lakes Times*, July 7, 2006). Another \$72,000 was

spent on cameras and automated gates to provide better security and reduce vandalism of association property.

## Your Turn

John Paulson  
Seven Lakes North



holders (Landowners and employee's).

Second, Charles Oliver (a member of Hudson's Finance Committee) indicated that, during the previous ten years, our reserves had not exceeded \$286,000. What he failed to note that the SLLA had reserves of \$414,000 on April 30. This board has spent over \$400,000 on capital projects during this past year. Some of those projects were mandated by the State

The prudent action for the Board would have been to delay expenditures until a strong financial position had been established by the Board for all Seven Lakes Landowners.

Mr. Truesdell has proposed that the SLLA borrow money to pave our roads (*Seven Lakes Times*, October 28, 2005). This is ludicrous. If the SLLA Board was prudent with our assets and had not spent our reserves — which had been built up since

(See "Surplus" p. 25)

# Choose wisely, for better government

Shortly North and Southside Lakers will be casting their ballots to seat four new members on the Board of Directors of our Landowners Association.

This annual ritual is an opportunity for all residents to either support incumbents or infuse the Board with new talented

individuals from the list of candidates.

It's not always easy to select and differentiate between candidates, but an opportunity to meet the newcomers will be on Candidates Night — set this year for March 7 at 7:30 pm in the North Clubhouse.

Come on out and listen carefully to what they say about important issues.

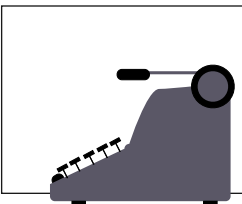
Ask them how they would support our Manager, how they really feel about the Bar Code entry system, how they feel about disbanding our Police Department last year, how they

like the idea of having open and transparent evening work session meetings, and how we can be more tolerant and accepting of our neighbors.

most importantly, we will likely spend more on non-essential "things" rather than address the real issues facing the community.

## Your Turn

Ed Nuti  
SLLA Director



So here is your chance to make a difference. Unless there is diversity on the Board membership, there is a tendency

Keep in mind that the Board exists as an extension of your conscience, not ours. We just facilitate the implementation of your wishes. Unless we know precisely what is important to you and to this community in general, we cannot manage its resources responsibly.

We will tend to implement our own preferences instead of yours, we will impose more regulations instead of less, and,

for too much cronyism to thwart real accomplishment in the decision-making process.

We cannot have clones on the Board who regularly act as a bloc and who impede clear and responsible independent thinking.

Remember, it's your Community! Vote wisely to protect your interest and investment. It's your money we're spending!

SEVEN  
LAKES TIMES

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# Look at it from employee's perspective

To Members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board:

In response to all the changes the Board is implementing, I feel it only fair to hear from the employees themselves about how the changes you are making effect these individual lives.

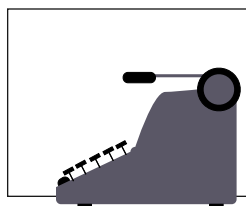
First of all my husband is the oldest employee you have on the maintenance staff. He has been at Seven Lakes since 1983. We were hopeful when he took the job of maintenance supervisor that we would be able to somewhat secure our future concerning his retirement. It didn't take too many years until we realized that this wasn't going to be easy.

At first the insurance was okay. The deductible was a little high but the company compensated by paying the deductible, which was a great help. As the years have gone by things have progressively worsened. The insurance got worse, the deductibles got higher.

The insurance you choose always seems to be "out of network" for most of the doctors in

this area. Since the insurance is for the benefit of the employees, I would think you would consider these issues when you decide on the company you deal with.

My husband and I are trying to pay off a \$10,000 dollar doctor bill right now that the insurance that you got your "cheap rates" on would not pay on.



## Your Turn

Ann Phillips  
SLLA Employee  
Spouse

(You really looked after us, huh?)

At this point in time, he needs more surgery for blocked arteries, that he can't get because we can't afford a \$5000 deductible, on top of all the other doctor bills we're currently paying, that the wonderful insurance of the past would not pay. Enough said about the insurance — I think you should have the picture by now.

Then in 2000 they finally decided to have a 401K program that

had been needed for years. It was a tremendous help. The board decided they would do what most well managed companies do and contribute (about what the average company does) to help their employees, to whom they owe a certain amount of loyalty, don't you think, if they expect loyalty in return.

Now in 2007, you are not only taking away a safety net that these employees have become accustomed to as well as

dependent on, but you are saying to them by your actions that you don't value them, nor do you care about them or their families' welfare.

In essence, you are telling them that you expect all the work you can get out of them for the meager salaries you pay them.

Yes, I said meager.

My husband is expected to be a plumber, an electrician, a drainage specialist, a tree surgeon, a dam consultant, a road specialist, a construction worker and God only knows what else, so you don't have to pay a "specialist" to do these jobs.

You have in this one employee someone who can do the jobs of many "specialists," for the salary of a common laborer. This was evident when you paid \$60,000 for gates that your maintenance staff had to install. Don't you think that, alone, sounds a little questionable?

Just because we are in the South and things don't cost quite as much as they do in the states

of our northern neighbors, doesn't mean that we don't need the money to take care of our needs, which includes being able to save a little.

At my house we can do little more than "get by" from payday to payday because after a house payment, light bill, phone bill, insurance for cars, self, and house, and medications there is little left. If you noticed I left out groceries — they come strictly on an as-needed basis.

And getting back to the insurance: You may as well drop all of it because nobody over there can afford a \$5000 deductible. If we could afford that we would be able to make ends meet a lot better. Therefore when the deductible is so out of reach that your employees can't afford to use it, it's no good to them.

Now let's address the issue of raises. I am a 57-year-old woman with only a high school education, but even I have got the good sense to see that your "raises" are nothing but a token — of what I don't know. My opinion would be of stupidity. It was an insult to say the least. Just enough to cost each employee more in the form of taxes paid out of their checks. Definitely not a help.

I realize that the company has bills to pay and upkeep on the grounds and buildings and such, but you are cutting off the arms of the very people you expect to do the work on these places.

I am sure you have all heard the old saying, "If you take care of your employees, your employees will take care of you." I have never found this to be untrue. You are, for all intents and purposes, shooting your own selves in the foot.

I am not asking by any means that you go head over heels to accomodate the needs of your employees, but I do think you need to re-assess some of your decisions.

You expect your maintenance crew to do anything and everything you chose to ask of them, and they almost always, (if not always) deliver, but then you treat them as if they have no value to you at all. I think you would have to search far and wide to find a crew of men who would give you the quality of work the maintenance staff gives you at twice the price you are currently paying.

You get what you pay for, in most cases, but that is not always true, as is evident here.

## Surplus

(Continued from page 24)

the low point in 2004 — there would be monies available in the future. Past Boards have followed the approach of "pay as you go" and, yes, it has taken additional time to achieve major tasks, but the SLLA did not take on debt to appease certain vocal landowners.

One of the greatest assets that SLLA has is our employees. Are they overpaid? I do not think so. Is the association not morally responsible to provide a workplace where people want to work, and allow the employee's to end their carriers with some sort of retirement? What if your

current or former employer eliminated their contribution to your retirement after informing you that there was no money for cost of living raises and required you to pay more of your health insurance because they had gone on a spending spree?

SLLA has a moral obligation to treat our employee's with dignity and respect. Yet three members of this current Board recommended that, because the Board has wasted a portion of our assets, they want to encourage our employees to seek other employment so that SLLA (Yes, you and I) are not responsible. That is *wrong*.

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# 'Scoop' says he can spare a dime or two

An editorial in the February 16 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* included a conversation on employee conversation between an imaginary *Times* employee — "Scoop" — and his boss. "Boss" did most of the talking in that piece.

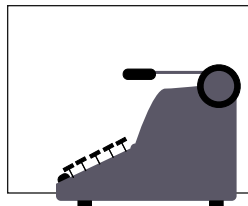
Here's an imagined reply from Scoop, courtesy of Ron Erskine.

"Boss, I hate to see a grown man cry. I know where you're coming from and so do my pals. You got increased costs of newsprint, inks and that new-fangled page layout system to worry about. And that coffee pot won't last much longer either.

"That stuff's gotta come first. You and your Board have done right by me and my buddies over the past ten or more years. We got no reason to bellyache and we sure as heck won't

"walkout" on yuh!

"Me and my pals couldn't match your wages or working conditions anywhere-else. Why else do you think we've



## Your Turn

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

stuck around? You know you pay us far better than most considerin the positions we hold.

"And, heaven knows your matching contributions to our IRAs have been awful hard to beat. Also, those darned health care costs have gone out of sight and your asking for a measly twenty percent share from us has been more than

fair — a real bargain — in fact a steal, I'd say.

"Your concerns 'bout your 1220 stockholders gotta come before us guys. Anyhow you've given us a heck of a lot of years of salary increases, bonuses and other benefits, and that ain't hay.

"So, please

Boss, wipe away your tears. They're unbecoming and don't be-fit yuh. You're not the Scrooge that some have called yuh and we know that you hate to 'nickel and dime' us. You're just trying to save a few bucks to build a reserve for printing press repairs, the leaking roof, and that parking lot which sure needs a little re-pavin.

"Perhaps, as you suggest, you might have an unnecessary reporter or an incompetent press-

man hangin 'round and not doin much. Why not look into that? You gotta explore every way to save dough, get the paper back in the black and the reserves built up.

"In the meantime Boss, please wipe away your tears and blow your nose. Cryin don't be-fit a man of your stature. Here's a clean hankie!"

Overheard by:  
Boss's Secretary

## Kudos to Milligan

We would like to thank Betty Milligan for her recent letter in the

*Times* explaining her position. We also wish to thank her for her hard work in landscaping and the many hours that she has been

actively involved in our community. She has been a wonderful asset to the board.

The behavior of some of our sitting present board members has created many disagreements and they do not benefit the board or the community at large.

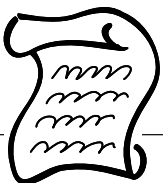
As election day approaches, we urge our Seven Lakes West

community to contemplate what is best for our future and vote for Kathy Kirst, Ed Tuton, and Jim Haggard.

These very knowledgeable individuals can make a difference in restoring confidence, pride and financial stability in the future plans for Seven Lakes.

Nancy and Ed Steelman  
Seven Lakes West

## Letters to the Editor



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# Westside group appeals to non-residents

Dear Editor:

The attached letter was sent to the non-resident land owners of Seven Lakes West. Because it was referred to in the February 16 issue of *The Times*, I felt that it was appropriate to make the letter public.

Although signed by six families, it should be noted that the letter was endorsed by numerous others in the community. Because of space and timing it was simply impossible to recognize everyone involved.

Ron Shepard  
Seven Lakes West

Dear Non-Resident Seven Lakes West Landowner:

The election of three new members to the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association is about to take place.

We are a group of Seven Lakes West residents concerned with the manner in which the present Board functions. In our

considered judgment:

- An authoritarian clique now dominates the Board. Board meetings are not open and "executive session" is routinely used to deny accountability.
- There has not been an audit in several years and financial and administrative controls are in urgent need of upgrade.
- Long range planning has suffered and area representatives are under utilized.
- Qualified Board members and committee members have resigned because of the animosity and lack of professionalism practiced by certain Board members.

The results of their governance can be debated and we don't doubt that they want what is best for Seven Lakes West. However, it is their style of leadership that is debilitating to our residential community. This hurts the morale of those who live here and could adversely affect

everyone's property values should we acquire a reputation for divisiveness and discord.

For full information please read the Seven Lakes Times at [www.sevenlaketimes.net](http://www.sevenlaketimes.net)

Our wonderful community is blessed with multi-talented residents with a wide variety of experiences. The participation of all residents should be wholeheartedly encouraged, not just the participation of a select few.

Three extremely well qualified candidates are running for our Board of Directors - Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton. They will bring professional management and financial leadership talent to the Board and restore openness, respect, and civility. All pledge to make the published Seven Lakes West vision statement come to life.

They will not necessarily be part of a new majority or vote the same way but they will certainly infuse the Board with a collegial approach, conduct government in the sunshine, and provide a style of leadership we can all be proud of. We urge you to vote for Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton.

*Residents for Positive Change at Seven Lakes West*  
Larry and Kristie Elliott  
Gus and Jan Gustafson  
Bob and Shari Kiepling  
Bill and Ellie Lyons  
Ron and Sue Shepard  
Ed and Diane Silberhorn

This letter was written on behalf of many in the community that believe it is time for pro-active change. The resounding applause for the above candi-

dates from over two hundred attendees during Candidates' Night last week inspired us to write this letter. Jim, Kathy, and Ed endorse this letter.

According to the by-laws of the SLWLA, each lot is entitled to one vote. If you do not receive a ballot in the next few days please inform one of the people listed above.

You do not need to appoint a proxy to vote — just mark your ballot and return it

## Vote for change

Dear Seven Lakes West Resident & Non-resident Members,  
Please be sure to vote in the election of 2007.

It is our opportunity to grow our community in a positive way. We have the need to change the direction, leadership, and civility of our Board.

Your votes for Jim Haggard, Kathy Kirst, and Ed Tuton will help this change happen.

Should you plan to vote by proxy please use Betty Milligan as your write-in proxy. This will

help ensure a positive vote for the necessary changes.

Along with the many articles in *The Seven Lakes Times*, Betty's was especially outstanding. Hope you have or will read all the articles.

Again, please vote by yourself or by proxy for these change candidates.

Please call me at 901/673-2527 with any questions.

Thank you in advance.

Jim Barrett  
Seven Lakes West

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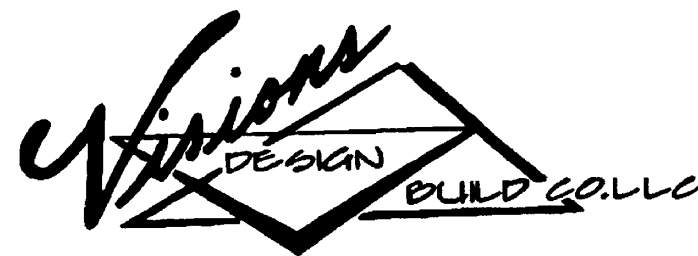
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# Card's criticisms of MacKay were off-base

Dear Editor:

The letter from Terry Card in *The Times* of February 16 contains inaccuracies that require correction.

I was a member of the Board of the Beacon Ridge Landowners Association for 4 years, 3 of which were as president including the period when BRLOA merged with the WSLOA.

As such, I am very familiar with the long term road problems on Banbridge Road (referred to by Terry).

There were and are severe deficiencies on this road and it's foundation that required sus-

tantial expense by BRLOA prior to the merger and for which a major part of the BRLOA treasury assigned to WSLOA at the time of the merger was committed for further repairs to this road.

In discussions on the merger, it was implied that future maintenance requirements for this road would be handled expeditiously by the WSLOA as BRLOA joined with WSLOA. The statement that Mackay used "his own priorities that may not fully express the interests of the landowners" is not true and is out of order.

I assume that what Card called "Mackay's Folly" is the stretch on Lakeway between Longleaf and the Post Office boxes.

A tremendous amount of work was done in the planning for improvement of entrance and exit roads in this area. Exhibits were prepared and posted in West Park. These included costs and alternatives. Explanation or "work" sessions were made

available to the membership who were invited to attend. A presentation was made to the regular meeting of the Area Representatives which I attended.

Comments, alternatives, and criticisms were solicited from members with very little reaction or input.

Following this, Board approval was given (unanimously, I believe) for the project and it's

expenditures. It seems to me that all reasonable efforts were made for this project with a very useful and attractive result.

Ray should be complimented for his efforts here. Few individuals have contributed more to our community than Ray.

George Mercer  
Seven Lakes West

## Thank you to firefighters

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to the firefighters who worked diligently to extinguish the fire in Morganwood on February 22.

Also, a thank you to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Asso-

ciation for calling twice to notify us that our horses were at risk because of the fire.

Kris Bebout  
Seven Lakes West

Dear Editor:

My first letter to the editor, and I feel compelled to submit it!

The barrage of bitter messages delivered in the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association meetings and in *The Seven Lakes Times* is beyond belief.

Emotions have been allowed to overpower rationality and civility as an approach to handling neighborhood issues.

Like a lot of others, I have

trouble with the way some problems have been (mis)handled by the board. But personal attacks are not productive and seldom serve a purpose.

I am all for free speech, but can't we be more constructive and approach the issues without airing our feelings with uninformed neighboring areas?

Do they accomplish anything other than to blight the reputation of Seven Lakes West that countless people have worked

hard to develop? Think about it!

Kudos goes to Mary Price and Greg Hankins for trying to restore dignity, order and tranquility to this blessed place we are privileged to call home.

Let's review their messages as they appeared on pages 28 and 29 of the February 16 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* — and heed their wise counsel.

Gus Danielson  
Seven ILkes West

## FairTax Forum

"Americans For a Fair Tax" is the topic of the Seven Lakes Forum on Thursday, March 15. Neal Boortz writes in *The Fair Tax Book* by Neal Boortz, "...tens of thousands of Americans — individuals and business owners alike — who have found their dreams of a better life crushed under the weight of an oppressive tax system that stifles initiative and punishes achievement."

The format for the session follows:

9:00 am Refreshments

9:15 am Presentation

10:00 am Dialogue

The Forum will be held on the upper level of the West Side Park Community Center. Participants should plan for about a two-hour session.

All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Don Welch at 673-6701, or Bill Mamel at 673-8970.



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# What makes Real Friends – Real Friends?

The tried and true friend displays lots of these attributes: Kindness, Respect, Compassion, Acceptance and Appreciation, Spiritual Depth, Enthusiasm, Generosity, and Humor. Some of these traits are always in full view.

Others linger just below the surface, ready to be called into action should the situation warrant.

This type of friendship involves a level of commitment beyond the "just friends" category.

The impact of true friends on each other is permeating. Whatever actions are taken toward each other are etched forever in the recesses of their minds, never to be taken for granted.

A deep friendship requires steadfast cultivation. The dividends are among the most grat-

ifying of all of life's experiences. Any friendship is a blessing, but the deepest of all our friendships has a uniqueness of its own. We've all heard someone say, "She's my best friend." There is something that gets sets such



## Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

a relationship apart. Difficult to adequately describe, but definitely there.

Could it be a deep commitment

– a willingness to bend with the wind and return with an equal, or even stronger, bond? There's as much room for creativity in this type of relationship as there is in any other aspect of living.

Instinctive traits, supplemented by the beneficial effects of a value-oriented upbringing, well-as simulated schooling, and a multiplicity of experience (including both interpersonal and privately spiritual), would seem to constitute a sound base from which to fashion a

strong fabric of close friendship, though it's certainly true that some strong friendships have also been spawned in the

absence of one or more of the aforementioned factors.

Then there are those infrequent friendships that trace their origin to something akin to being struck by lightning; they simply happened – and grew – without the parties having much in common.

When the relaxed rapport of a strong friendship becomes an innate part of the relationship, it's often the result of instinctive out-

reaching initiatives, propelled by both the practical and spiritual foundations of our lives.

When that optimum level is reached, it's a signal that vigilance must remain a prominent word in each party's day-to-day relationships.

A true friend is like a jewel perched on the kitchen counter among the pots and pans. Its sparkle lifts the soul, no matter where it may be found.

## Free tax help available

The Local AARP Tax-Aide Program is again providing free tax counseling and preparation of 2006 Federal and NC Tax Returns for residents of Moore County from February 1 thru April 14. You do not need to be an AARP Member to use this support.

The Seven Lakes service site is at First Bank and is open Fridays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For appointments call 673-9211, during business hours and ask for CSR. Call 673-8578 after business hours.

Register for an appointment with the Tax-Aide Coordinator at the above times. No prior appointments by phone. Walk-in Service is also available on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Please bring the following with you: Social Security Cards for all taxpayers and dependents; All copies of Income Tax Forms for 2006, such as W-2 and W-2G; SSA 1099; RRB-1099 or RRB-1099-R; and 1099-(INT, DIV, MISC, B, R, or G); and your copy of your 2005 Tax Returns; and your records of all 2006 charitable donations.

If you wish your Tax-Aide Counselor to file your returns electronically and you expect a refund; please bring a cancelled check from your checking account to verify your account

numbers for refund deposits directly into your bank account for faster service.

Your AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers are looking forward to helping you with your 2006 taxes!



## Real Estate

By SANDY STEWART

REALTOR

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If you know how much the bank will lend you PRIOR to your house hunting, you won't waste time looking for a house you may not be able to afford.

At our office, we are familiar with most of the banks in our area and can recommend a loan officer to visit with.

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**Seven Lakes North – \$425,000**  
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**LAKE AUMAN VIEW!**
**Seven Lakes West – \$349,000**  
4 bedrooms/3.5 baths • Enter Code 8514

**REMARKABLE NEW HOME!**
**Seven Lakes West – \$365,000**  
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**LAKE SEQUOIA!**
**Seven Lakes North – \$289,000**  
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**Lot 34 Finch Gate Dr. ....\$55,000**  
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Dreams

(Continued from page 6)

During the trips to Mexico, the youth groups put up the walls, poured a second floor, and installed windows. Two other churches from Michigan have also helped and installed the roof, but the building was essentially built by West Enders.

The first adult group in 2005 built twenty-six pews. These were built from “the best lumber available,” and Archie Stevens and Dudley Crawford hand picked the lumber. They took some flack from their co-workers who spent hours sanding and straightening the boards. The pews included a shelf for hymnals and Bibles, and after they were stained, they looked truly professional.

The last adult group, which included Ann and Pete Chase, Sandy and Holton Easter, Bar- bara and Don Gerhardt, Judy and Jim Kullberg, Mary and Bill Price, and Anna and Archie Stevens had the fun of putting the ribbon on the package and seeing a church service in the sanctuary. When the team arrived, members who had not been there before were amazed at the sight of a large two-story church standing in what had

(See “Dreams,” p. 32)

Douglas Restoration

(Continued from page 10)

on.

Hensley told *The Times* that the surface is warranted for ten years. It has to be recoated about every three years because the ultraviolet rays in sunlight deteriorate the epoxy. The re-coating process is simple Hensley said: “we simply go in and power wash it, and then just paint on the new surface epoxy.”

Hensley told *The Times* that his crews can complete a driveway in a day or a day and half — they can handle about 1000 square feet per day. The surface is hand troweled down, in order to make sure that it is smooth. It can be applied over cracked concrete; Hensley said he has methods available that can stabilize the cracking.

This particular surface is not useful for coating over asphalt driveways, because the oil in the asphalt comes to the surface in the summer, making it impossible for the epoxy to adhere.

The use of the decorative surface is not limited to existing concrete, Hensley told *The Times*. “We can build up a patio from scratch, using a special vortex mat,” he said. “We pull up the sod, put down a little gravel, put the mat on top of that, and then put the epoxy surface down.”

The small colorful stones that make up the bulk of the surface are mined from various locations all over the United States, including sites in Texas, California, and Arkansas.

In addition to the epoxy and

stone surface that Hensley offers for coating over concrete, he has a number of other products suitable for different applications. One product, called “Sun-flex” is a waterproofing agent for flat surfaces. It incorporates a sandy surface which prevents slipping, and is suitable for existing decks and porches.

Another product creates a non-slip sandy surface and has been FDA-approved for restaurant floors. It’s also useful for veterinary hospitals.

The third product imbeds colored chips in an attractive stain resistant epoxy surface suitable for use on garage floors.

Hensley said that coating a

garage floor surface with his epoxy coating costs approximately for \$4.50 per square foot; the stone coating for driveways costs approximately \$8.00 per square foot. The price varies with color and the condition of the existing surface.

Hensley moved to Seven Lakes in April, moving here from Orange County, California, where he ran a manufacturing plant. He told *The Times* he was trained in the application of his epoxy products while still in California.

Hensley is available at 910-783-8831. His company’s Web site can be found at [www.douglasrestoration.com](http://www.douglasrestoration.com).



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# Security requires a community effort

Over the past few months I have received numerous questions and comments about the new Gate system and how it operates. I thought I would take a moment and give my thoughts about the matter.

Before I ran for the Board I can remember attending the open meetings, and hearing people always talking about controlling the access into our Community better specifically about the outside lanes for both the North and South sides.

Comments like "the guard does not watch the outside lane," and "the guard does not close the outside lane soon enough at night," or "I saw people with no Seven Lakes passes using the outside lane."

One of the first things that I voted on was for the installation of the new gate system. Now, even though the system is not perfect and we are still working the bugs out, most of these

problems have been solved. Almost two thirds of the residents have purchased the bar codes needed for the system to operate. For those who have not already purchased the stickers that is your choice — I for one like the easier access especially when the left lane backs

up due to visitors being checked in.

Now, a question: What has eight sides, is painted bright red, mounted on a pole usually standing about five to six feet out of the ground, and has a four letter word ["STOP"] printed on it?

Correct — a Stop sign. We have them all over the community. We also have them at the front gates on both sides. These stop signs are not optional: Stop

means Stop.

Allow me to share a joke with you: A man is driving down a country road when he comes to an intersection with a Stop sign. He proceeds to do what

## Board Notes

Michael Florence  
Seven Lakes  
Landowners Board

some people call a rolling stop. He then continues on his way until he notices a police car behind him with all its sirens and lights flashing.

Being a good citizen he pulls over and waits for the officer. The officer gets out of his vehicle and asks the driver to get out of his car. The driver gets out and asks "What did I do wrong?" The officer replies, "You ran that Stop sign back there." The driv-

er says, "Officer, I slowed down, looked both ways and proceeded on. Isn't that OK?"

The officer then takes out his nightstick and proceeds to hit the driver and says, "Do you want me to slow down, or Stop?"

Speeding continues to be problem in Seven Lakes. The speed limit is twenty-five miles per hour. Eventually someone is going to be hurt, or killed by a speeder in Seven Lakes.

With that in mind I need your help. My email address is mdf3906@yahoo.com. I want to add some additional Stop

signs throughout the Community in an effort to help control speeding.

Give me your thoughts on if and where they are needed. I have some ideas already, let me know yours.

Also, since I work full time I have not had the time to organize a Neighborhood Watch program.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping to organize and run this group. I, and the Board, will support you in whatever way we can.

## Dreams

(Continued from page 31)

once been a field, adjacent to a small building of sticks with a thatched roof.

Anna Stevens, who is head of the English as a Second Language Program for the Moore County Schools was the secret weapon for the group. Anna

speaks fluent Spanish and she provided special programs for the children who were always around, since their schools have morning and afternoon sessions starting at 7:30 in the morning and running until late afternoon.

The men of the IXOYE church helped with painting when they were not working at their day jobs, and all the members have

dedicated themselves to building their church. The women of the church provided special lunches for the workers, prepared in the stick and thatch dinning area next to the church.

Dreams do come true, and West End Presbyterian Church and their sister church in Chetumal are partners in one of those dreams.

## Foxfire Festival and Dedication

The second Foxfire Festival will be held on Saturday April 14, in conjunction with the dedication of the new fifty acre Foxfire Village Green Park. The dedication ceremony will begin at 8:30 am, with the festival from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm featuring artisans from the area, a Car Expo of classic cars, live entertainment, a Foxfire Garden Club Bake Sale, Talbert's Catering, and a Bluebird Run which will take participants on a one mile walk/run on the park walking trail and 5K runners through the west side of Foxfire Village. Admission is free. Information is available on [www.foxfirenc.com](http://www.foxfirenc.com).

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# SLWLA

(Continued from front page)

Myers suggested that his proactive approach of listening first and working with a community is why Colton's Corner will be built as a subdivision of single family homes on large lots.

Myers has purchased a thir-

teen-acre parcel across the street from Colton's Corner. The Seven Lakes West Board encouraged Myers to present his vision of Gateway II to the February General Session assembly.

As developer of Lighthouse

Trace in Aberdeen, Myers noticed that a high proportion of interested parties to this property were Seven Lakes residents.

Lighthouse Trace is a community of high-quality, maintenance free homes. Of the 550 visitors recorded in the last few

months, ten percent were Seven Lakers. Myers said that many of their comments reflected a desire to see similar construction in the Seven Lakes area. Lighthouse Trace homes are connected units, each approximately 2000 square feet with two or three

bedrooms with two baths. The homes are very upscale, with open floor plans, and run in the \$260 to \$330K range.

Myers said that adding thirteen new single-family homes at the Gateway II property to the current (See "SLWLA," p. 34)

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**SPACIOUS TWO-STORY ON LARGE CORNER LOT!** Well-maintained and neat as a pin, this northside home has room galore to include 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, formal living & dining room, family room plus a bonus room over the garage. Impeccably landscaped, screen porch & private backyard. . . . . **A super home for \$279,000!**



**THOROUGHLY UPDATED & MAINTAINED!** Nice location with some acreage yet convenient to town. Over 2000 sq ft in main house, new kitchen & windows, hardwood floors, plus in-ground pool w/pool house, detached garage, storage. This property has much to offer for . . . . . **\$195,000!**



**HILLTOP ESTATE!** Dream home on 3.5 acres w/20 x 40 pool w/waterfall, pool house w/bath & storage rm; 34 x 36 Barn-Workshop. 4000+ sf, 4BR/3.5BA, 18' clgs. in Fam. Rm & Foyer, 2 story stone fplc, hdw floors w/granite inlays and lots of 7' arched windows on back overlooking covered porch & pool. Owner/Broker **\$575,000**



**LOVELY, LIKE-NEW 2 STORY ON CORNER LOT!** With 5 BR's and 3.5 baths, this west-side home offers quality throughout. Oversized rooms to incl.: large eat-in kitchen, LR, DR, Master suite on main level. Relax outside on the front porch or the rear deck that overlooks the swimming pool. Beautifully landscaped, great location & price!

. . . . . **Offered at \$369,000**



**FABULOUS VIEWS OF 4TH GREEN, POND & FAIRWAY FROM THIS GOLF FRONT ON SLCC!** Over 2,400 sq. ft., open floor plan, 3 BR, 3 BA, living rm, dining rm, Sun Rm plus walkout basement with room for entertaining. 2 fpl, basement workshop, new appliances, lots of storage, deck & patio . . . . **REDUCED! \$225,000**



**SUPER SEVEN LAKES RANCH!** Lovely home on large lot with golf views. Spacious rooms to include three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room, dining room, family room, large Master suite. Beautiful wide-planked hardwood, new roof, new tile backsplash & more.

. . . . . **Listed at \$195,000**



**GOLF FRONT BEAUTY ON 4TH HOLE OF SLCC!** — Situated on a double lot and barely lived in. A functional split-BR plan with no wasted space and many fine features, large family rm. with French doors leading to light & airy kitchen with solid surf. tops, hardwood in main areas, ceramic tile, 9 ft ceilings, screen porch & more. **A super home listed at \$225,000**



**UPDATED COTTAGE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION NEAR SCHOOLS & 7 LAKES!** A great home, affordably priced with lots of updates to include a completely remodeled kitchen, new laminate flooring, roof 2 years old. Other extras include pine walls & flooring in LR, fenced backyard, detached 16x20 workshop.

. . . . . **A great deal for \$99,000!**



**A DELIGHTFUL SEVEN LAKES DEAL!** — This lovely North Side home has all the necessities and more. The sunny entry opens to a living/kitchen great room complete with breakfast bar & dining space. The Carolina room is just off the living room providing additional space. Other extras include: rear deck, fenced back yard, roomy master suite, lots of closets, two-car garage w/ built in shelving.

. . . . . **Priced right at \$175,000!**



**LIGHT & BRIGHT WITH LOTS OF CURB APPEAL!** Don't miss this super Seven Lakes home. Split bedroom plan with Carolina Room and large rear deck. Well-maintained and roomy, on a level lot with private backyard and pretty landscaping.

. . . . . **Offered at \$175,000**



**PINWILD NEW CONSTRUCTION-GOLFRONT ON 1.5 ACRES!** — On Hobkirk cul-de-sac, new home offers quality in construction & design. Spacious floor plan features: 3 BR, 3BA (all suites), upstairs bonus rm & 1/2 bath, 3 fpl, scrn porch, 2 car garage, golf cart storage. Call for plans & spec. Ready Spring '07. **\$570,000**



**NORTHSIDE NEW CONSTRUCTION!** Quality new construction in great location, won't last long. Maintenance free exterior, split-bedroom plan with all the necessities plus a "Medley Room" that is multi-functional, hardwood floors, rear deck. Estimated completion April 2007.

. . . . . **Priced to sell at \$182,500**

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# SLWLA

(Continued from page 33)

rent twenty-seven proposed homes in Colton's Corner could saturate the Seven Lakes West real estate market. Instead, Myers suggested a development of maintenance-free townhouse style residences similar to Lighthorse Trace that would not compete with other homes on the market.

Myers contends that he is controlling an oversupply of homes in the development of Colton's Corner by allowing each of the three designated builders involved in the project the opportunity to build only one home at a time. New construction is delayed until their previously-built home is sold.

A Westside resident said, "Your dumping more houses on the market is going to hurt all of us. The market is not moving right now."

Myers agreed, "As of this morning, February 27, there were seventy-one houses on the market in Seven Lakes West. The market is slow because buyers can not sell their homes elsewhere." He continued, "I don't want to compete, I want to put something different in."

Recalling comments made at Lighthorse Trace, Myers said that this style of development allows community members to "maintain your residence and your friends." You would have the option to grow out of a single-family home and transition into a maintenance-free home, and still stay right here in your community.

"It does not devalue property," Myers continued, "My architectural standards are higher than Seven Lakes West policy. It is not worth it to me to build something inferior."

The Gateway II property, if developed into this type of residences, would support approximately twenty homes. Myers reminded attendees that this is an estimate and the completed proposal would require many more conversations with the Seven Lakes West community. "This is a long process."

Myers provided brochures illustrating the Lighthorse Trace community and model floor plans and he invited all Westsiders to come see this project and decide for themselves if this type of development would be benefi-

cial and suitable for the Gateway II property. Brochures are also available from Community Manager Tony Robertson at his office in the Community Center.

In addition to his Westside holdings, Ron Myers is the owner of the old Stanly Furniture plant on Rt. 211. During his presentation, he announced plans to tear down the "ugliest" portion of the plant, the large kiln and silo facing the West End Fire Department. Myers expects this work to be completed in the next sixty days. The remaining structure is of good quality with a clean interior.

Myers said, "There are lots of potential uses. I am talking to people about putting in community support services and offices." However, he notes that it is too early in discussions to be more specific.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Virgil Reid reviewed several financial documents made available at the beginning of the meeting. Referring to a sheet comparing revenue to expense each year from 2002 to 2006, Reid noted that while paving reserve and unrestricted reserve funds were increasing, the total association reserve level remained relatively flat. A close inspection of the 2003 dam reserve fund shows an unexpectedly high number. Former Treasurer Lois Rocco suggested this amount reflects an accumulation of funding set

aside to construct the West Side Park Community Center facility.

Reid said that last year, Seven Lakes West had more revenue than expense but that trend will probably not continue this year. "We will have the same amount of cash at the end of the year, a break-even situation. Revenue over expense this year will be zero."

In February, continued Reid, the Board expects to spend \$74,000 more than we will take in. March revenue is projected at \$50,000 with expenses totaling \$130,000. "This means we will dip again into reserves," said Reid.

Concluding the Treasurer's Report, Reid said he hoped everyone had taken time to review the budget and reminded the audience, "I'm just the messenger. I didn't create this budget all by myself."

## Lakes

Lake and Environmental Director Mary Anne Fewkes addressed proposed boat length limitation and related concerns, saying the lake management team had a vision for the community that would ensure enjoyment and limit crowding.

"I am a sailor and don't know much about power boats," said Fewkes. In recent meetings with Sports Club members and others who have knowledge of boat power, she said she now had a better understanding of the issues and the original proposed

limitations had changed.

"There were 1,000 registered boats last year and we need to place limits on boat size and boat power. My committee proposes a 22'6" limit on all boats, regardless of type." Boat power will be limited to the maximum manufacturer's regulations, which are posted on all boats.

Any registered boat over the newly-proposed maximum length will be "grandfathered" in as long as it is registered in May or June of this year. Grandfathered exceptions will be extended for sales of those boats if the new owner also registers the boat in the community.

Currently, there are sixty-two registered boats over the proposed length limit. Fourteen of those boats are newer models. The committee feels this statistic reflects a preference trend toward smaller boats. The new

length limit decision was based on what is popular right now, what's for sale on the market, and what is currently registered.

Fewkes said, "There is only so much room on the lake, there has to be size limitations. Only five or six water skiing boats can operate at a time on Lake Auman." Larger boats take up more room, "This is not a power issue as smaller boats can go much faster," she continued.

A resident said, "The issue is not the size of boats as on many days there are no boats even on the lake." He contended the real issue is the lack of available dock space at the marina and that the waiting list for a slip is now two years.

Another resident suggested the proposed limit was in response to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

(See "SLWLA," p. 35)

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# SLWLA

(Continued from page 34)

agreement. Fewkes responded, "This decision came from the lake management team, not from the wildlife agreement. That has nothing to do with it."

## Architectural Review

Newly appointed Architectural Review [ARC] Director Bill Mamel said, "The ARC is healthy and operating on your behalf and service."

Quoting Thomas More, an advisor to King Henry VIII, Mamel said "The law is weak, the strong shall rise above it." He suggested that Westsiders consider this and rise above and beyond the legal documents of the association when building and landscaping their property.

Mamel thanked members of his committee for their hard work: site inspectors Ed Shempp and Gene Lentz; surveyor Jim Ballew; trainer and site inspector coach Ray Sibiga; coordinator of assignments Paul Nicholas; administrative assistant Denise Duncan; Jerry Lewin, who is helping to differentiate responsibility between community standards issues and ARC concerns; legal advisor Bud Sales; and Bob Williams and Keith Stites, who are the final word in the ARC approval process.

The ARC is currently updating forms, including the submittal form, to include topography information. Erosion and drainage are an on-going concern and Ray MacKay is frequently brought into ARC discussions to address these needs. Mamel reported he is trying to get approval for a policy that SLWLA issue a separate and distinct Certificate of Occupancy prior to new resident occupancy.

Mamel also said the ARC is addressing antennas on homes in the community. "We can't correct all the ills from years of non-compliance but we will be working to get rid of those antennas." He stated that the ARC will not turn into a "witch hunt." They will first try to negotiate with the homeowners, then a formal letter of deficiency will be sent stating the exact problem, corrective action which should be taken, and consequences of failure to comply. "We don't want to turn neighbors on neighbors," said Mamel. A

judicial committee will be the final step and will issue fines or property liens against unresolved complaints.

## Recreation

Recreation Committee Director Betty Milligan set a lighter tone with the announcement of the second annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on the grounds of the West Side Park Community Center on Sunday, April 1, at 3:00 pm.

"Last year we had a tremendous number of children. We were shocked and pleased. This year we are better prepared and will be hiding many, many more eggs in addition to lots of other fun activities," said Milligan.

Milligan said construction taking place below the mail house is part of the landscaping Master Plan and is an arched bridge, which spans over the dry creek bed. The function of the bridge is two-fold; to allow maintenance and lawn machinery to cross from one side of dry bed to the other, and to allow pedestrians to cross the creek, as part of the new walking trail.

## Public Comment

Resident Ray Taylor asked if the community was looking to construct a fence around the

perimeter. President Meikle responded, "We don't have the money to construct such a fence, it would be very expensive, but the Board is laying groundwork for certain sections and having developers of perimeter properties add fences to those residences. A complete fence would be nice but for now it is piecemeal."

Resident Max Foley asked if the new cameras on the East gate were able to read license plates, as the previous camera could not. Blaine Rowland responded, "Yes, they can."

Rowland also confirmed that several residents have been unable to get the back gate to respond to their vehicle and must back up and go forward several times. Residents having this problem should contact Rowland or the Community Manager; they will work to solve the problem.

Legal Director Beckwith responded to a resident's question regarding the Beacon Ridge Villas development and rumor of another access gate at that location. Beckwith said the land in question was "messy and a dumping ground for industrial waste," in the past. The proposed villas would be larger than the existing five and would

sit closer to the road with less setback. He said this seventeen-acre development was in negotiations and the only gate that would be placed in this location would be for construction access from Lucas Road.

Resident Joel Martin presented several questions to the Board, including concerns about the proposed budget. After several attempts to reach an understanding of Martin's concerns, Finance Director Reid suggested they should meet and discuss the budget in more detail.

Martin also expressed concerns about the new fee schedule for the pavilions at Johnson Point. Recreation Director Milligan explained that there is a refundable \$50 deposit. The pavilion fee is no charge for a member to rent a shelter for use in a neighborhood function

or internal affair. However, members must pay a \$50 fee to reserve for a private party.

Resident Joe Gavala asked the Board to clarify the proxy voting process. Legal Director Beckwith explained that when a proxy is sent, that is a clear indication that the home or lot owner wishes to vote in the election. Thus, the Board is responsible to see that the vote is counted.

The Board as a whole will be meeting prior to the election to decide how the proxy votes will be handled. Beckwith took offense at the suggestion that the proxy votes would be "rigged" during this process. Last year the Board took secret ballots and used a percentage allocation to assign the proxy votes. "The Board has not decided how to do it this year," stated Beckwith.

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# SLLA

(Continued from front page)

phone, water, electricity, etc.

The committee also recommended that all major office equipment be identified and tagged for inventory purposes. Additionally, the Finance Committee suggested maintenance equipment, from large machinery such as lawnmowers to small hand tools be identified and tagged for inventory purposes.

A travel allowance is provided to Community Manager Fulcher and Chad Beane, Assistant Community Manager, at a rate of \$150 per month, or \$3,600 per year. Full reports should be employed detailing date, time, mileage, and purpose for Internal Revenue Service purposes, the committee recommended.

They suggested that another option to control travel expenses would be to lease a vehicle or to use the spare sedan housed in the maintenance yard. Last year, the Association spent \$1,600 in repairing the sedan.

The committee also recommended daily records should be kept regarding use of maintenance vehicles, including mileage, purpose, and preventive maintenance scheduling. Hudson's report indicated the need for a use policy governing when and how maintenance vehicles could be used during employee lunch or break hours.

Turning to personnel concerns, the committee found that in 1988 the Board approved adding an employee's family member to the health plan in lieu of a wage increase. At the time it seemed like a good idea, but considering today's higher premiums, this arrangement may need reconsideration.

Hudson and the committee also recommend a review of how many managers are necessary for the community. Due to the reduction in total employees stemming from decisions to disband the police department and employ SFI Security, the committee suggests that having both a Community Manager and an Assistant Community Manager may be unwarranted.

Personnel and maintenance staff should be addressed, according to the Finance Committee report. They advised that the Clubhouse and grounds

department be combined with the streets and grounds department. This restructuring, originally submitted by former Treasurer John Paulson and his committee in June 2004, would reduce the number of supervisors from three to one. Currently, within the maintenance department of six, two or three are supervisors.

Work orders for the maintenance department originate in the office and are filled out by any of four employees. The Finance Committee report suggests that all work orders be submitted to the Community Manager for prioritization before work begins. The work orders should be in a computerized format allowing for easy follow-up, updates, and notification of completion.

The committee found deficiencies regarding stable usage and trail ride accounting. They recommend implementing a better reporting form or policy to clarify who is riding — landowner or guest? Are guest passes being used? Are riders paying out-of-pocket? Hudson stated we "simply need more control on usage," to ensure this amenity is being used and funded properly.

Hudson read from the January 6, 2005 work session minutes, "John Paulson made a motion to

give Community Manager Fulcher the approval to purchase a dump truck for no more than \$10,000 at his discretion. Motion was seconded by Scotti and vote was unanimous."

A few days later, Hudson said, a second dump truck was purchased for \$10,000. The 1988 Model Ford vehicle was purchased from James McIntosh's wife, a former employee who was paid over \$80,000 for debris removal over a two-year period.

In May of 2005 and August of 2005, repair work was completed on the dump truck totaling \$3,158.

Board President Don Truesdell spoke with representatives at Phillips Ford who estimate the value of a vehicle of this type and model year to be \$3,000.

Since the purchase of this second dump truck, the Board has put better financial controls in place, including the current policy that all Association purchases over \$5,000 must be sent out for three competing bids whenever possible.

Hudson's financial audit concluded with reading of minutes taken during the February 16, 2006 Board meeting: "Jeff Herman made a motion we place \$175,000 in a restricted reserve

paving account and we continue to add \$50,000 per year to this account. Don Truesdell seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved."

Reviewing Association accounts, Hudson could find no record of the \$175,000 fund.

Director Jeff Herman contacted *The Times* on Friday and took exception to this portion of the Finance Committee's report.

"The \$175,000 is and always has been reflected in the Association's accounts," Herman said.

Herman asserted that the report that Hudson presented contained a number of other inaccuracies.

Director Ed Nuti also contacted *The Times* on Friday with similar concerns about the accuracy of some portions of the report.

## Recreation

Saturday, April 7 at 11:00 am, the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Northside Park, Recreation Director Jack Fathauer reported. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance and there will be lots of fun and activities for children of all ages.

Easter reservations for the

stables begins March 6 at 9:00 am. "Trail rides are very popular at this time of year and slots fill quickly so plan to make a reservation early," suggested Fathauer.

Acknowledging the Seven Lakes Dance program, which has sixty-eight participants, Fathauer said three competition teams totaling twenty-four girls recently entered a local tournament, bringing home two awards.

Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane continued the recreational programming report. A bus trip to the Southern Ideal Home Show on Friday, April 13, has been scheduled. Reservations are a must, as there is limited seating.

The new fitness trail exercise equipment is being delivered this week and will be installed in time for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 17. The Playground Advisory Committee is working to raise more funds for additional equipment and updates to Northside Park. Their next project is the Seven Lakes 7K and May Follies to be held on Sunday, May 6. This community festival featuring a 7K race, a one-mile fun run, games for children, vendor merchandise

(See "SLLA," p. 37)

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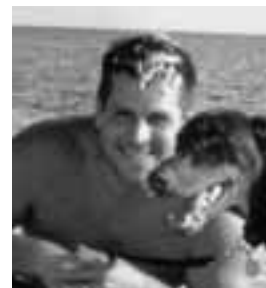
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SLLA

(Continued from page 36)

dise booths, and a three-on-three basketball tournament will benefit park improvements. For additional information or to volunteer, call Laura Douglass at 673-1817 or Amanda Keller at 673-3892.

Seven Lakes is a coordinating agency for the Senior Games in the Pines, a Moore County program said Beane. "There are lots of categories for competitors, including tennis, bowling, billiards, golf — even photography." Applications are being accepted now — registrants prior to March 23 pay lower entrance fee and the final deadline to apply is April 12.

Quilters are invited to join the Seven Lakes Quilting Club. Workshop meetings are held in the Community Activity Center [CAC] the last Friday of the month.

**Security**

Adding new Stop signs to the community is an option Security Director Michael Florence would like to explore as a tool to manage speeding. "This is a low cost method and I welcome your suggestions and comments," he continued. Florence contributed an article to this edition of the Times with further discussion of this approach. [See page 32.] "Speed humps are another possibility," said Florence.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Devonshire resident Frank Hayes requested that some form of signage be added to his street that would slow down traffic. "As vehicles head towards the gate they come very fast in the mornings and again in the opposite direction in the evenings," said Hayes. He suggested a warning sign would be in order.

Florence said that a Neighborhood Watch committee is being formed and signage will go up around the community in the next month. If you would like to participate or volunteer, please contact Security Director Florence by email or telephone at 673-2808.

**SLCC driving range**

Southsider John Freese, a resident since 1984, addressed the Board during the public comment segment of the meeting. "I am here to talk about Seven

Lakes — where we ought to go and what we need to do to get there."

Freese provided details on his involvement in the purchase of the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] after it fell into bankruptcy in 1986. As chair of the group formed to purchase the Seven Lakes Country Club, Freese asserted that the Club is an integral part of the community's amenities.

The current conflict between the Club and the Association over SLCC's proposed new driving range and sale of the existing range to a developer is tremendously important, he said.

Freese pled with the Board to "Please come back, sit down, and let's discuss this without lawyers."

Reminding the Board that his group spent over a half million dollars in legal fees when purchasing the Club, Freese asked President Truesdell and the Board to join them and take steps to work together to the advantage of both.

"Let's handle this in-house. Let's work together in good spirits, please."

Northsider Bud Shaver also expressed disappointment in the Board's handling of the practice range issue. "The presence of the Country Club adds value to this community," stated Shaver. "We can not let the situation continue in the present manner."

Questioning the Board's decision to purchase security cameras that do not work at night, Shaver reminded them that "security personnel did!"

**Community Standards**

Thirty-seven complaints were received last month regarding Community Standards, reported Director Jeff Herman. Of those, nineteen have been resolved and fifteen are still in process. Three complaints are being sent to the Judicial Committee for further action.

**Architectural Review**

Architectural Review Board Director Ron Richmond reported a quiet month with only one new house application and four additions or remodels.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Steve Hudson's January report detailed \$1,243,000 in income, \$711,000 in expenses, and \$403,000 in capital

expenses, for a total of \$1,140,000. The Association has collected \$4,000 in delinquent dues this month, for a new account total of \$58,829.

Noting the difficulty in securing Health Plan estimates for such a small staff size, President Truesdell said the Board is exploring an option called "employee leasing." This could enable the Association to reduce employee-related operating cost. For a fee, leasing firms assume the responsibility of payroll meeting federal, state and local tax requirements, worker's compensation, and health benefits. The cost of using a leased employee program would be offset by reduced healthcare and administrative costs.

Truesdell introduced a sign-up form listing various Board-sponsored committees and opportunities that Association members have to contribute to the community. "The Board welcomes your assistance. We could use your help," said Truesdell. The form will be made available at all Board meetings.

Board President Truesdell called for a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held on January 25, January 31, and February 8. He reminds members that all meeting minutes are posted to the Association web site after the Board reviews and approves them.

Confirming that the Board would meet in Executive Session later in the evening to discuss several issues, Truesdell adjourned the meeting.

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**7 LAKES SOUTH**-Lot 2072. \$31,000. Great Building Lot. Call Ed Gosselin at Weichert, REALTORS, Larose & Company, 910-850-7780 or 910-693-3300.

**13+ ACRES MORGANWOOD** at Seven Lakes West, horses permitted, cleared, established pastures & nice pond! \$24,900 per acre; **GOLF FRONT - FOXFIRE**, level, cleared building lot, spectacular views, \$38,500 OBO. **40 ACRES** bordering **Pinewild CC**, rolling Bermuda fields, large pond, owner/broker \$11,900 per acre. **TAMMY LYNE, BROKER** 910-235-0208. [www.Tammy-Lyne.com](http://www.Tammy-Lyne.com) or email: [MarketValue@Pinehurst.net](mailto:MarketValue@Pinehurst.net)

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**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.

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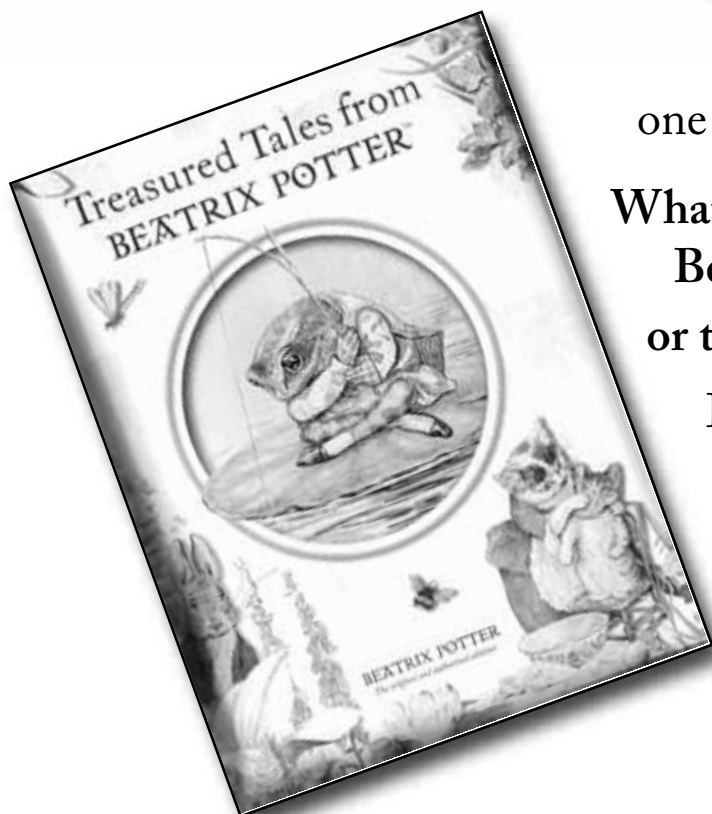


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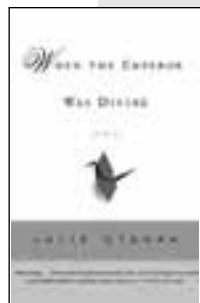
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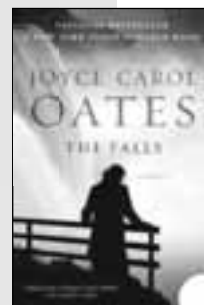
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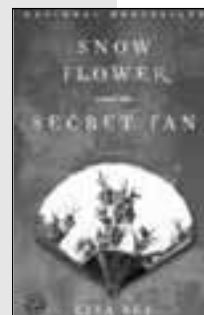


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