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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

October 26, 2007

## School bonds, new tax on Election Day ballot

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, voters at the Seven Lakes And West End precincts — like those in rural precincts across the county, will have the opportunity to vote in an unusual election — one with no candidates.

Nevertheless, that election promises to be critically important for the future of Moore County and, in particular, its schools and community college.

Voters throughout the county will be asked to register their

preference on three questions:

- Whether the county should borrow \$54 million to support the construction of new public schools and the upgrading of existing school facilities.
- Whether the county should borrow \$15.5 million to support various construction projects at Sandhills Community College.
- Whether the Moore County Board of Commissioners should be authorized to levy a new tax on the sale of real

estate.

Foxfire Village voters, and those in other county municipalities, will cast their votes for council members and mayors, as well as registering their preference on the school bonds and land transfer tax.

The pages that follow provide descriptions of each of the ballot questions, as well as interviews with the candidates for Foxfire Village Council.

One stop absentee voting is  
(See "Ballot," p. 11)

## Club, SLLA answer lawsuit

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] has no authority whatsoever over the golf course or driving range of the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC].

That's the position taken by both the Landowners Association and the Country Club in their response to a lawsuit filed by Developer Alan Shaw, SLLA Treasurer Steve Hudson, and five other SLLA members to derail a compromise reached over the possible residential development of the SLLA driving range.

In that compromise, signed by the Presidents of both organizations in July, the SLLA cedes to the Club the right to create its own covenants limiting the use of Club property to golf course

operations, and to sell the existing five acre driving range for the purposes of residential development, provided the lots created in that development come under South Side covenants.

The suit filed by Shaw and Hudson, along with Hudson's wife Mary, Tom and Roberta Robinson, and Chuck and Jane Leach, asks the court to prevent the Association and Club from implementing their agreement. Attorneys for the SLLA and SLCC filed motions to dismiss the suit on October 5; *The Times* reviewed the legal documents at the Moore County Courthouse.

While the driving range issue at one point threatened to drive a wedge between the Association and the Club, the lawsuit has,

at least temporarily, hitched the two organizations in the same yoke. Court documents indicate they are represented by the same legal team, M. Robin Davis  
(See "Lawsuit," p. 36)

## By-laws change would preempt Hudson candidacy

Treasurer Steve Hudson will be stripped of the chance to run for a second term on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors if a proposed change to Association by-laws is approved.

The change would make anyone who is suing the Association ineligible to serve as a Direc-

tor. The Board is expected to vote on the proposal in an open business meeting on November 7. [See Hudson's thoughts on the proposal on page 30.]

Hudson and his wife Mary Hudson are among the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the SLLA and Seven Lakes Country Club that aims to derail a com-

promise reached over the subdivision of the Club's driving range between Seven Lakes and Devonshire Drives. Since joining the suit, Hudson has been excluded from those executive sessions in which Board members conferred with legal counsel about the lawsuit; otherwise he has continued to func-

## Fond farewell



**Yuri and Roy Kita**, long-time Seven Lakers, are moving to a new home in South Carolina. See story on page 6..

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# Seats still available for SL Women Luncheon

The Women of Seven Lakes Annual Fall Luncheon, Fashion Show & Card Party will be held on Thursday, November 8 at the West Side Park Community Center. Proceeds will be used to support the many philanthropic pursuits of the Women of Seven Lakes. The theme this year is "It is only a Paper Moon" and festivities will begin at Noon. Co-chair JoAn Moses has arranged

to for Phoenix Fashions to present the fashion show.

Goldie's Gourmet will cater a delicious luncheon of Chinese chicken salad, lemon poppy seed muffins, and pecan tarts with whipped cream, coffee & tea. Seats are still available so hurry and make your reservations soon, the deadline is October 31. Tickets cost \$23 and are available by calling Ginger Finney

at 673-1330, or JoAn Moses 673-0368.

You may reserve a table for bridge, canasta, or other games of your choice.

In addition, a raffle will be held with prizes including many certificates donated by merchants throughout the area.

Raffle tickets will be available at the November Meeting and at the luncheon. Co-chair Tinkie

Petterson is in charge of the raffle and, as always, is doing a splendid job in obtaining items for it.

## Holiday appetizers with Carmela & Marjorie

As the entertaining season approaches Carmela Chase and Marjorie Nurnberg will present "Hors d'oeuvres and Appetizers for the Holidays" on Saturday, November 17 at 1:00 pm.

They will demonstrate the preparation of several easy to do, and make ahead hot and cold appetizers. Wow your guests and learn how to make a great "opener" for that special dinner party.

Registration will begin on Thursday, November 8. The program will be held at the West-

side Park Community Center in Seven Lakes West and is sponsored by the West Side Recreation Committee.

Participants get to sample all the dishes, and will receive copies of the recipes presented. Cost is \$10.00. For information and to register for the program please call 673-5314.

### 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
Nov 9	Nov 2
Nov 21*	Nov 15*
Dec 7	Nov 30
Dec 21	Dec 14

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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## Smoke and Mirrors

Come and experience the magic and wonder of "Smoke and Mirrors," a Moore OnStage/Taylor Dance production, as they present an exciting journey into the world of illusions on Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3 at 7:30 pm, and again on Sunday, November 4 at 2 pm in Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College.

Dazzling costumes, extraordinary dancers, and acrobatic feats of daring and wonder await you as you enter the world of "Smoke and Mirrors." This performance is a fun-filled and thrilling opportunity for adults and children of all ages. Gary and Rita Taylor have topped themselves in this production and it is a not-to-be-missed show. For more information and reservations, please call 692-7118.



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# CERT training offered to Seven Lakes West

Westiders may soon have an opportunity to receive training that could help the community respond in the case of an emergency like a tornado, hurricane, ice storm, or fire.

Moore County Public Safety Director Scott Brooks presented the basics of the Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] program to landowners during the Tuesday, October 23 General Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

The program, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Administration [FEMA] involves 21 hours of instruction provided by local emergency workers, firefighters, and members of the county public safety staff. Generally delivered as a series of seven three-hour classes, program topics include disaster preparedness, first aid, CPR, fire suppression, and light search and rescue.

Participants are also schooled in county emergency resources, so that they know what is available to help their area in case of emergency. The final session includes a staged disaster scenario where CERT Team members can test their knowledge and skills. Team members come away with a CERT backpack stocked with tools, equipment and supplies that would be useful in responding to an emergency, including hard hat, first aid kit, flashlights, radio, and so on.

Brooks said the goal was to develop citizen teams throughout the county who are qualified to respond to emergency conditions before professional emergency personnel arrive — and who can assist after professionals are on the scene. He said the county had provided CERT training to groups in had been conducted in Pinehurst, Southern Pines, and Aberdeen; had just recently been concluded in Foxfire; and was starting up in Woodlake. A program could be offered in Seven Lakes for as few as eight or as many as fifty or more participants. There is no charge to the community.

Brooks had made his presentation earlier for the SLWLA Area Representatives. Area Rep Patti Cleary told *The Times* after the meeting that nine residents had already expressed an inter-

est in participating. President Jim Haggard indicated that the Board would be discussing how the CERT training could fit into the community.

Brooks also demonstrated an automated defibrillator that the

Moore County Public Safety is offering in conjunction with the Moore County Chapter of the Red Cross. Brooks said an increasing number of golf courses, public meeting places, and schools are installing the units.

The defibrillators, which can be operated by someone with minimal training, cost \$1,500 each and are delivered with training provided by Moore County Public Safety.

## Lake Report

Lake Director Mary Ann Fewkes said the Lake Auman dam had recently been inspected by a group of eight North Carolina Department of Envi-

(See "West Side" p. 33)

## Featured Homes

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### BEAUTIFUL VIEW

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### WATERFRONT HOME

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# Lake Auman in a time of severe drought

by Gerhard Hergenbahn  
Seven Lakes West

In the record drought of 2002, Lake Auman was at its lowest on August 26. We measured 13.5 inches below the overflow riser. Now, five years later, we broke that record, but not until October 15.

The current drought has not yet ended, but the years preceding 2007 were wetter than for 2002, so that we have a higher groundwater level and therefore a higher inflow to partially compensate for the merciless summer evaporation. In August 2002, we had a net loss of 0.35 inches of lake level per day. This year we lost only 0.25 inches per day and now, in October, the rate is further diminishing.

With still no friendly hurricane in sight, some observations and considerations might be of interest for the lakefront dwellers and all boaters.

In 2002, the Southern Pines water plant, which is one of the sources of Moore County Public Utilities' water, triggered the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] office in Fayetteville, our dam authority, to remind us that we had to open a dam valve to release extra water, in addition to our normal dam seepage. We had to conform to the State's requirement of a continuous release of two

cubic feet per second (cf/s). This year we again had to open the valve. The cost: one extra foot of lake level loss every six months.

The idea behind the Southern Pines initiative: secure more water at their water plant intake on Drowning Creek near US Highway 1.

What they did not know: Our 2 cf/s of water will in times of severe drought hardly survive the 6 miles to Drowning Creek and certainly not the further 11 miles to the water intake. The cause: three miles downstream from our dam the water enters the flatlands and slowly meanders through extended pools of nearly stagnant water and swamps, where it simply evaporates.

In 2002, less than ten percent of our release made it to Drowning Creek. A few miles further, Drowning Creek was dead as a stream, but alive as a sequence of puddles, ponds and swamps, where aquatic life survived well. Even doubling our mandated release would have made no difference at the Southern Pines water intake.

I discovered in 2002 that the Southern Pines water intake got water all through the drought in spite of Drowning Creek being dead a few miles upstream of the intake. The water came from two tributaries just upstream from the intake: Naked Creek from Richmond County and

mainly Horse Creek from the Pinehurst area. Both creeks survived well through the drought. Their water had no chance to evaporate in the short run through the wilderness ponds of Drowning Creek.

There is no legal basis to request any water release from Lake Auman for the benefit of the Southern Pines water plant. The State's mandated 2 cf/s minimum release is to protect aquatic life downstream from our dam. I believe that our normal dam seepage and three creeks which enter in the first mile downstream from the dam would well maintain aquatic life even without us opening a valve of the dam to the detriment of the lake's water level in drought.

A Water Rights Easement of 1990 gives the County a right to Lake Auman water. But the right is limited to the first foot of water below the overflow weir. When a drought becomes serious, we have lost that first foot by evaporation before any emergency action would be considered (see the loss figures in the first paragraph above).

Furthermore, using Lake Auman water as a public water supply would face regulatory hurdles because of our septic

system fields and gasoline motor boats.

In 2002, some water tanker trucks were taking water from the lake to release it upstream of the Vass water plant. Some lakefront owners got nervous about that loss. But there is no reason for not being good citizen on that level. A fleet of water trucks could not measurably influence our 800 acre lake's water level.

This year, Seven Lakes North asked their lakefront owners to reduce lake water use for irrigation conform to the County's restrictions for the rest of the community. That makes sense for very small lakes, but not for Lake Sequoia and certainly not for Lake Auman, where even a total stop of irrigation would only save about 0.13 inches of lake level in each summer month.

During dry weather, when the Beacon Ridge golf course requires its most intense irrigation, it reduces the lake level about 0.20 inches per month.

Both figures are negligible compared to the 2 inch per month loss for the state-mandated release of 2 cf/s for the questionable need to save the aquatic life — stable in any case — between the dam and Drowning Creek.

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## Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>5</b> French Onion Soup  <b>Shepherd's Pie Dinner</b>	<b>6</b> Navy Bean Soup ♥  <b>Apricot Orange Chicken Dinner ♥</b>	<b>7</b> Beef Barley Soup ♥  <b>Two-Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥</b>	<b>8</b> Tomato & Rice Soup  <b>Basil Shrimp with Feta Dinner</b>	<b>9</b> New England Clam Chowder  <b>Beef Stroganoff Dinner</b>
<b>12</b> Curried Carrot Soup ♥  <b>Meatloaf Dinner</b>	<b>13</b> Minestrone Soup ♥  <b>Chicken Enchiladas Dinner</b>	<b>14</b> Goldie's Chili  <b>Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥</b>	<b>15</b> Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥  <b>Crab Cake Dinner ♥</b>	<b>16</b> Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥  <b>Peachy Pork Tenderloin Dinner ♥</b>
<b>19</b> Potato Leek Soup  <b>Baked Spaghetti Dinner</b>	<b>20</b> Spinach & Broccoli Soup ♥  <b>Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner ♥</b>	<b>21</b> Butternut Bisque  <b>Turkey Dinner</b>	<b><u>CLOSED!</u></b> <b><i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i></b>	
<b>26</b> Lentil Soup ♥  <b>Smothered Pork Chops Dinner</b>	<b>27</b> Vegetable Soup ♥  <b>Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥</b>	<b>28</b> Mushroom Bisque  <b>Pot Roast Dinner</b>		
			<b>29</b> Crab & Shrimp Bisque  <b>Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner</b>	<b>30</b> Chicken & Dumpling Soup  <b>Swiss Steak Dinner</b>

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# SLLA Board plows through packed agenda

Despite being two hands short, the Board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] plowed through a sixteen item agenda with considerable alacrity during their Wednesday, October 24 regular business meeting.

Directors Laura Douglass and Steve Hudson were out of town but still managed to participate in one vote via email.

## Lawsuit

President Don Truesdell reported that the Association's insurance company had selected the firm of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP to handle the suit filed by Alan Shaw, Steve Hudson, and others that aims to derail an agreement signed by the SLLA and Seven Lakes Country Club this past summer dealing with the

possible residential development of the Club's Driving range. The Association's answer to the suit has been filed, along with a motion to dismiss, and Truesdell said, "The Board, perhaps with the exception of Hudson, is confident our position will prevail in court." [See our front page story for more detail.]

## Rules and regulations

After the clarification of a couple of points and some minor tweaking on others, the Board unanimously approved the reformatting and amended SLLA Rules and Regulations that Director Ed Nuti, George Stahl, and Ray Pardue have labored on since April. The updated documents will be distributed to residents, along with the updated

bylaws, approved in February.

## Multi-Use Court

In a roll-call vote the board approved four-to-two [The President votes only to break or create a tie in roll call votes] to approve a new asphalt half-court to be constructed behind the Landowners Office at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. Directors Hudson (via email) and Stephan opposed the motion. Stephan reiterated concerns expressed during the October 10 work session that the court — which will be open to skateboarders and roller bladers — represents too great a liability for the Association. Hudson had expressed the same concerns during the work session.

Assistant Community Man-

ager Chad Beane stressed that the Association is not constructing a "skate park" of any kind, but only another asphalt playing surface, with a basketball goal, that, like the existing full court, may be used by skaters. Director Randy Zielsdorf recounted personal experience that suggested basketball can be as productive of injuries as skateboarding.

## Nominating Committee

The Board named Director Ed Nuti to serve as chairman of the nominating committee, which is charged with identifying candidates to run in the elections that are finalized at the annual meeting in March. Nuti will need to appoint two landowners to serve on the committee and present a slate of candidates at the Decem-

ber 12 SLLA meeting.

## School bus stops

The Board approved six possible stops for Moore County schools buses to pick up and discharge students on the North Side. Currently, the bus stops only at the Landowners Office and the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. Additional locations that are expected to be put into use in mid-November include the intersections of Pleasant View and Cottage Grove, Pineneedle and Edgewater, Sunset and Overlook, and Cardinal and Shadywood. Two other locations: Shenandoah and Cardinal and Edgewater and Shagbark, were approved by the Board but will not be put into use immedi-

(See "SLLA" p. 25)

## HEARTWARMING RECIPES from Project Linus & Lucy Ingram!

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at the Bookshop in Seven Lakes Village



Join Project Linus in celebrating the publication of their "Heartwarming Recipes," a hardback, tabbed collection of 250 tried and true recipes from the kitchens of Project Linus Seven Lakes Workshop Blanketeers and Featured Contributor Lucy Ingram.

Lucy will sign copies from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm — recipe tastings will continue throughout the day. Project Linus volunteers will also have handmade Christmas crafts, adult/child apron sets, wine bottle covers, appliquéd fleece huggie blankets, pillows, and kitchen items for sale.



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to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need through the gift of a new handmade blanket. Proceeds for the sale of all items will be used by the Sandhills/Moore County Chapter to supply blankets, afghans and quilts to the children of Moore County.

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# Roy & Yuri Kita say goodbye to Seven Lakes

by Mason Gould

Roy and Yuri Kita of Seven Lakes South will be leaving soon to live near one of their daughters in South Carolina, but as with others who have lived here, they have left an imprint that will not be forgotten.

Roy's 76 examples of his distinctive photographs exhibited at the Campbell House were a highlight of his career. Many of the shots were taken in places like Thailand, China, Ireland, Japan and England. Since retiring in 1989, he has won sever-

al awards for outstanding photography. He is a past president of the Sandhill's Photography Club, and was the club's photographer of the year in 2001 and 2003.

"Our life here in Seven Lakes has been one of the most mem-

orable parts of our lives, because the people here are so open-minded and gracious," said wife Yuri. "And compassionate."

When their grandson died in 1996, the congregation of West End Presbyterian Church planted a Japanese Maple tree in

his memory.

Yuri had volunteered at Habitat for Humanity and with the Christian Coalition Toymakers at FirstHealth of the Carolinas.

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**110 Rector Court**  
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Don't Miss this One!



**121 JAMES DRIVE  
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3BD/2.5BA New Construction in Beacon Ridge. Split Plan, 2 car garage, Huge master suite with tray ceilings, large walk in closet. Vaulted family room with fireplace, Spacious kitchen, breakfast nook. Priced @ \$279,500



**150 OTTER DRIVE  
7 LAKES WEST**  
New Construction on a Lakeview lot in Seven Lakes West. Three bedroom,  
2.5 bath split plan!  
**\$319,500**



**116 SHAW DRIVE  
7 LAKES WEST**  
New construction on a Lakeview Lot in Seven Lakes West. Three bedroom, 2.5 bath with stone fireplace in great room!!! This home is priced to sell !!!  
**\$330,000**



**120 JAMES DRIVE  
7 LAKES WEST**  
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### — FEATURED HOMES : LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT —



**179 Morris Drive**  
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**108 Barnes Point**  
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**107 WHITE DRIVE  
7 LAKES WEST**  
New Construction. 3BD, 3.5BA home. Lots of space. Each bdrm has bath & walk in closet. Bonus rm computer rm, breakfast nook, family rm, master suite w/ tray ceilings, and a huge walk in closet.  
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Lot 4152	.....	.....\$57,000
Lot 5445	.....	.....\$59,500
Lot 5132R	.....0.92 Acres!!	.....\$49,000
Lot 5442	.....	.....\$69,000
Lot 7017	.....Carriage Park	.....\$79,000
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	.....The Commons	.....\$79,900
Lot 6190	.....Banbridge Dr	.....\$69,000

#### SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

Lot 2005	.....	\$19,500
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# County delays decision on subdivision regs

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

The Moore County Board of Commissioners and Planning Board met in joint session on Monday, October 15, to continue discussion of the proposed new Land Ordinance Plan and the public hearing commenced on September 20.

Representing the county's planning office, Director Andrea Surratt said her department had reviewed comments and questions received from the both boards and the public since the previous meeting and had included several changes to the proposed ordinances.

Land Design, Inc. consultant Meg Nealon presented the revised proposal while emphasizing that the document was still a draft and that more changes could be made. Her presentation divided the report into the same three distinct sections identified in the original proposal; Conservation Design, Hamlet and Rural PUD's, and other recommendations.

[See *The Times'* October 12, 2007 issue for a complete description of the proposed Land Ordinance Plan]

Many of the revisions were minor and required little discussion, allowing the Planning Board to focus their attention on three major points of conflict between county planners and subdivision developers; the proposed ban on future gated communities, the ¼ mile minimum distance requirement between any subdivision home and the development's open space, and how much wetland or lake surface area could be included to satisfy the 30% requirement for open space.

The prohibition of gated communities is recommended to encourage pedestrian and vehicular connections between developments, thus creating secondary roadways that will reduce traffic volume on major arteries.

"An intricate road network," according to Nealon, "diminishes heavier traffic on the fewer major roads by providing more options for travel. It breaks up congestion and disperses traffic."

During the public hearing, a real estate developer spoke against this ordinance.

"We want to use the conservation design option on new developments but are concerned about the prohibition on gated communities." He continued, "Our world today is much different time with internet, safety concerns toward children, faster cars, and faster societies. You start connecting communities and it's difficult to look ahead to what a neighboring property will be. People are looking for safety and community, so we gate our communities – including more and more built with affordable houses because families are choosing them."

Addressing the ¼ mile minimum requirement ordinance and wetlands as open space, Planning Board Chair Nancy Roy Fiorillo expressed her concern. "If the only real open space is wetlands, this is unusable property for any type of active recreation." She continued, "We asked for 50% [open space requirement] at the start and in a perfect world, that's what we would like to have. I would like to maintain that quarter mile requirement at the very least. This could be negotiated away and I'm not in favor of that."

Fellow Planning Board member and real estate developer Ron Jackson responded, "We need to figure out ways to appeal to developers. If we say you have to have open space in the middle [of a development], they'll just go with conventional [subdivision design option]."

"Developers have to work with both county and state regula-

tions," said Jackson. "and some wetlands are so hard I couldn't

drive a nail in the ground and the (See "County," p. 35)



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**Fact #2:** The county will pay for these needs through the issuance of bonds. They would repay the bonds via increased property taxes and revenue received from a Land Transfer Fee.

**Fact #3:** The Land Transfer Fee could only be used to retire debt for capital needs. The priorities are public schools followed by the community college, followed by county buildings and finally water/sewer.

**Fact #4:** A Land Transfer Fee if adopted is estimated to raise about \$3.2 million in revenue for debt reduction.

**Fact #5:** The debt on property tax would cost approximately 5 cents for the schools. The Land Transfer Fee would raise a little more than 3 cents so that property taxes would have to be raised by about 1 cent to cover debt reduction for the school bonds.

**Fact #6:** Passage of the Land Transfer Fee would reduce the need for property tax increase for debt reduction by approximately 60%.

**SO:** For most property owners, the facts are: A vote against the Land Transfer Fee is a vote to increase your property taxes by 5 cents for the next several years.

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# In memory of . . .

**Samuel James Bogle Jr.**, 67, of West End, died Friday, October 12 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Born in Baltimore, MD, son of the late Samuel and Ester Keller Bogle Sr. Mr. Bogle worked for many years as a tool and die maker. He was a member of Elberta Masonic Lodge No. 654 AF&AM and the West End United Methodist Church.

Mr. Bogle is survived by his sons, Michael Richey of Camano Island, WA, Mark Richey of Pinebluff, and Kenneth Bogle of Baltimore, MD; daughters, Sandra Baker of West End, Catherine Foehr Kolb of Pinehurst, and Deborah Nagle of Severn, MD; his sister, Dorothy

Shea of South Lake Tahoe, CA; fourteen grandchildren, three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, October 15, at West End United Methodist Church. The Rev. Bruce Allen officiated. Burial with Masonic rites followed at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Elberta Masonic Lodge, No. 654 AF&AM, P.O. Box 414, West End, NC 27376.

**Lillian F. Pierce**, of Foxfire Village, died Saturday, October 13.

Mrs. Pierce was born in Asheville, daughter of the late James and Frances Ledford Britt. She graduated from Spartan-

burg General Hospital and was a registered nurse. She and her husband retired to Pinehurst in 1979, from Pittsburgh, PA.

She was a member of the Foxfire Golf Course Eighteen Holers, the Foxy Niners, the Foxfire Women's Association, the Red Hat Society, and served as a member of the board of the FPOA.

She was preceded in death by her husband of forty-seven years, Albert C. Pierce.

Survivors include two daughters, Jerri Patterson of Seven Lakes, and Terri Mastraieni of Los Angeles, CA; a son-in-law, Patrick Patterson of Pinehurst; five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to

FirstHealth Hospice, Caregivers Fund, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes served the family.

**Bobby Gene Stallings**, of Fayetteville, died Sunday, October 14. He is the father of Seven Lakes area dentist, Dr. Jennifer Massey.

Mr. Stallings was born in Sampson County and was a son of the late David Homer Stallings and Edna King Stallings. He served with the U.S. Army, and was employed with Sprint for forty years. He attended Temple Baptist Church, and was an active member of the Coed III Sunday

School class, as well as a leader in the mission friends class.

Survivors include his wife of forty-two years, Shirley Wilson Stallings; a daughter, Dr. Jennifer Stallings Massey of Seven Lakes; a brother, Sherwood Stallings; a sister, Becky Williams both of Ingold; a sister, Marilyn Kersey of Clinton; and a granddaughter.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 17 at Temple Baptist Church, in Fayetteville. Dr. Robert Lewis, the Rev. Lee Spearman, and the Rev. Michael Howard officiated.

Memorials may be made to Temple Baptist Church, 3159 Sanderosa Road, Fayetteville, NC 28312.

## Ballfield committee formed

A committee has formed to oversee the care and maintenance of the West End Elementary [WEE] Baseball Field. Sandi Burrell, who raised funds for and supervised field renovations over the last three years, will serve as president. Heidi Rabstajnek and Jeanette Chisholm are co-vice presidents with Wendy Bodsford as secretary. Buzz Burrell and Nancy Wienstroth will serve as co-treasurers.

On Friday, October 12 the committee held their first meeting, with WEE Principal Waller in attendance, and identified two projects to begin soon. First, additional concrete will be poured by Kevin Tanner around the concessions building. Second, all doors in the concession building will be replaced with new doors donated by Howard Hoke at Seven Lakes Contracting. The group is also checking on getting new picnic tables for seating around the concessions area.

Funding for the renovation and maintenance projects comes from advertising signs placed on the outfield fence by local businesses. Four new signs are almost ready to be installed and the committee reported that very few spaces remain for advertising.

There has been wonderful community support for the field. The committee welcomes any

ideas that would help make the ballfield more enjoyable for the school children and the com-

munity.

Sandi Burrell can be reached at 673-0901.

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## TOMMY THOMAS Benefit

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Yard Sale items include: furniture, photographs, clothing and much more!

**BBQ or Chicken Plates 11 am-6 pm**

Tickets for plates may be purchased in advance at any participating Fire and Rescue Departments

**Kids Events 11 am-3 pm**

**Gun Raffle - October 27**

Tickets for Gun Raffle may be purchased at Aberdeen Fire and Rescue

**Drawing for Baskets to be held November 5**

**Donations and yard sale items can be dropped off beginning October 1 at West End Fire and Rescue**

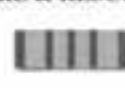
Donations for event can be made to  
**Middle Cross Baptist Church  
c/o Tommy Thomas**

**For More Information, please contact:**

**EDIE PUCKETT 910-639-0393**

**WEST END FIRE & RESCUE 910-673-0905**

This benefit is to assist the Thomas family with medical expenses occurring over the past year.





# Hunt briefs Kiwanis on proposed Village panel

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On October, Terry Hunt of Seven Lakes North presented to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis the outline of a project to establish an organization that would pro-

vide an interface between the Seven Lakes Community and the rest of Moore County, especially the Planning Board to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

At present, Seven Lakes is not incorporated, and has no

formal means of interfacing with the rest of the County or State. The "Community Services Committee" Hunt is proposing would bring together representatives of the Seven Lakes Business Guild with other groups active in

the Village, including the Kiwanis, Lions Club, Women of Seven Lakes, Civic Group, Village Beautification, and Garden Club.

The goal is to create a representative organization that can develop and implement plans

for improving the village while speaking with one voice when interfacing with Moore County officials and staff.

It is hoped that the "CSC" will be organized by the end of the year.

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**207 Longleaf Dr . . . \$48,000**  
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**120 Pittman Rd . . . . . \$285,000**  
*Waterfront, Lake Auman*

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# VOTE 2007

## Transfer tax would create new revenue stream

In North Carolina, counties are creatures of state government — they have only those powers given to them by the state legislature and are able to tap only those sources of revenue that the state allows.

Earlier this year, after an intensive lobbying effort by counties across the state, the General Assembly voted to give North Carolina counties access to two new revenue streams: an additional 0.25 percent sales tax or a 0.4 percent tax on the transfer of real property. In order to levy either tax, counties would have to first ask the permission of their citizens through a referendum. While the voters could be asked to approve either tax or both taxes, counties were only allowed to levy one or the other.

After investigating the revenue that would be produced by the

new sales and land transfer taxes, the Moore County Board of Commissioners discarded the former and placed only the Land Transfer Tax on the ballot.

Appearing under a heading that reads: "Levy of Land Transfer Tax," the text of the referendum reads "Real property transfer tax at the rate of up to four-tenths percent ( 0.4%) of value or consideration." Voters may mark their ballot "For" or "Against."

If voters approve, the Commissioners will have the right to levy a tax on transfers of real estate amounting to 0.4 percent of the sales price. That amounts to \$600 on the sale of a \$150,000 home; \$1,200 on the sale of a \$300,000 home.

The legislation enabling the tax specifies that the seller of the property will be liable for payment

of the tax. It exempts gifts and inherited property, transfers of government property, and legally-mandated transfers.

The legislation also specifies that the revenue collected by the county from any such tax will be deposited in the county's General Fund for use in any way that the county sees fit. However, the Moore County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution stating that any funds derived from a land transfer tax would be used first to fund the capital projects of Moore County Public Schools and Sandhills Community College — in other words, to help repay the debt the county will incur if voters approve the two school bonds that are also on the ballot this November.

Any transfer tax money left over after funding school and

college capital needs will be applied next to the county's other pressing capital needs — for a new jail, new courthouse facilities, and a new county administrative facility. Next in line would be the funding of expansion of the county water and sewer system — though the land transfer tax is not expected to generate sufficient revenues to get that far down on the priority list.

In short, the County Commissioners have pledged that revenues from the tax will be used to meet pressing capital needs rather than to fund day-to-day operations of the county.

The county estimates that the land transfer tax, if approved, would generate \$3.2 million annually — an amount that will vary depending on the value of real estate sold each year. By the

county's calculations, this \$3.2 million is roughly equivalent to a 4 cent increase in the regular ad valorem property tax rate.

According to county calculations, if the school bonds pass, the county will need to increase the property tax rate by five cents to pay for the debt service on those bonds. If the land transfer tax also passes and is implemented, the necessary increase in the property tax rate will amount to only one cent.

In either case, Moore County citizens are likely to be looking at a property tax increase next year; the land transfer tax is seen as a new source of revenue that can reduce the amount of increase but not eliminate it altogether.

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# \$69.5 million in education bonds on ballot

On Election Day, Moore County voters will vote on two schools bond referendums totaling \$69.5 million that, if approved, will fund construction of new schools and buildings, and capital improvements and renovations of Moore County Schools [MCS] and Sandhills Community College [SCC] facilities.

## School Bond Referendum

MCS Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser and the Board of Education propose a \$54 million bond referendum to fund school projects prioritized under Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan, to include construction of a new middle school in the Union Pines High attendance area [estimated cost \$17,750,045], and a new elementary school in the Pinecrest High attendance area, which will specifically target the population growth in the Pinehurst-West End part of the coun-

ty [estimated cost \$12,666,060].

According to the Phase I report, "The most rapid growth in the county in recent years has occurred in the Pinehurst area and the western portion of the county necessitating the installation of nine classroom mobiles and one bathroom mobile at Pinehurst Elementary and four classroom mobiles at West End Elementary. Both schools have far exceeded capacity with portions of the facilities dating back to the 1940's and 1950's. Strong growth is predicted to continue to impact these schools. A new elementary school will help relieve current overcrowding and provide space for future growth in this part of the Pinecrest High attendance area."

The remainder of funds included in the bond referendum support construction and renovation of existing schools across the county and will improve athletic facilities for all county middle and high schools.

Specifically:

- Highfalls Elementary School [\$4,261,289] to alleviate overcrowding and address water supply concerns. Currently the school is served by an inadequate well supply.
- Robbins Elementary School [\$2,492,942] to alleviate over-

crowding.

- Westmoore Elementary School [\$5,015,864] to alleviate overcrowding and address a proper water supply and sewage system. Currently the school is served by an inadequate well-based system.
- Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School [\$1,421,671] to address overcrowding.
- Cameron Elementary School [\$1,227,072] to address an inadequate, on-site sewer system.
- Union Pines High School [\$746,800] to alleviate overcrowding.
- North Moore High School [\$539,400] to alleviate overcrowding.
- Athletic Facilities Improvements [\$6,032,400] to provide improvements at all middle and high schools addressing such diverse needs as athletic facility seating, tennis court improvements, field house expansion, practice fields, public restroom facilities, fencing, storage, water resources, stadium fields, concession areas, gymnasium air-conditioning, and replacement of a gymnasium floor.
- Contingency/Other Fees [\$1,846,457].

Moore County residents will

have the choice of vote yes or no on the ballot regarding the \$54 million Schools Bond Referendum, which reads:

*Shall the order adopted on September 4, 2007, authorizing not exceeding \$54,000,000 SCHOOL BONDS of the County of Moore, North Carolina, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for acquiring, constructing, expanding, and renovating school buildings and other school facilities, including, but not limited to, the construction of a new elementary school and a new middle school, the renovation and expansion of Highfalls Elementary School, Robbins Elementary School,*

*Westmoore Elementary School, Cameron Elementary School, Sandhills Farm Life, Union Pines High School, and North Moore High School, and the acquisition of related land, rights of way and equipment, be approved?*

## Community College Bond Referendum

President John Dempsey and the Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees propose a \$15.5 million bond referendum to fund capital projects and improvements including construction of a new Emergency Services Training Facility [estimated to cost \$2.5 million]. This facility will be used for training area fire, police,

(See "College," p. 12)

## Ballot

(Continued from front page)

already underway for those who want to register their vote early. It extends through November 3. Those who want to take advantage of one-stop voting may do so at the Moore County Agricultural Building at 707 Pinehurst Avenue in Carthage. Hours are Monday - Thursday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm; Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, and Saturday, November 3, 2007 ~ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

For those who prefer to cast their ballot on Election day, the polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 6.

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# Foxfire Village Council Candidates 2007

Foxfire residents will vote during the upcoming elections for four seats on the Village Council. Six candidates have come forward to compete for four open seats; two four-year term seats, and two vacant, unexpired two-year term seats.

Two of the current members of the Foxfire Village Council, Mayor George Erickson and Councilman Ed Lauer, are running unopposed for the two, four-year positions. Gene Petrie, also a current councilman, is running along with Victor Koos, Page Coker, and Kristy Williams, for one of the two two-year spots.

The Times interviewed each of

the six candidates and asked four questions which were not provided prior to the interview.

**Why run?** Why are you running and what do you hope to accomplish as a Foxfire Village Council member?

**Growth.** Growth is accelerating in Foxfire, what challenges or opportunities does this present?

**Debt.** Taking into account the Woodland Circle Extension project, state-mandated well remediation, future water needs, and required pool maintenance repairs, how concerned are you about the level of debt the village

will have to take on?

**Taxes.** County taxes are probably going up. What impact will tax increases have on Foxfire as an attractive place to live in Moore County?

## George Erickson

**Why run?** "I'm running again because my feeling is we've done some positive things over the past four years I've served and there is more to do. I'd like to continue to build the kind of place that people enjoy living in here at Foxfire."

Erickson continued, "The expe-

rience I've gained in the past four years has given me the skills I need to meet the challenges of the next four years."

**Growth.** "As a village we need to carefully plan for our current and future needs in the areas of water, zoning, housing, commercial development, and meeting our infrastructure needs. Of those needs, I think, that currently water is our most pressing need

to keep ahead of the growth, we have had and plan for in future growth."

Erickson provided an example of how the council is working with water needs in the village. "Next Wednesday we'll be holding a special meeting to discuss the bids and contracts submitted to add additional well to our water service. We found a seventh well along Hoffman Road

(Continued on page 13)

## College bond

(Continued from page 11)

rescue, and emergency medical personnel.

Other projects that will be funded if the bond is approved include:

- Landscape Gardening Building [\$1.1 million] with bond funds matched with private donations.
- Classroom Building [\$6.5 million]
- Physical Plant Facility / Warehouse [\$1.5 million] to house maintenance operations, fleet vehicles, and warehouse space
- Renovation Needs [\$3.9 million]. The SCC campus is forty-five years old. Boilers, roadways, parking facilities, building roofs, and other infrastructure needs must be addressed.

Moore County residents will have the choice of vote yes or no on the ballot regarding the \$15.5 million Community College Bond Referendum, which reads:

*Shall the order adopted on September 4, 2007, authorizing not exceeding \$15,500,000 COMMUNITY COLLEGE BONDS of the County of Moore, North Carolina, for the purpose of providing funds, together with any other available funds, for acquiring, constructing, expanding and renovating buildings and facilities for Sandhills Community College, including, but not limited to, the acquisition, construction and equipping of a new general purpose classroom building, an emergency*

*services training facility, a maintenance and warehouse facility, a conservatory and an access road to Highway 22, the renovation of Sirotek Hall and various other repairs to sidewalks, parking lots, building envelopes,*

*boilers, chillers, out buildings and utilities, and the acquisition of related land, rights of way and equipment, be approved?*

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# Foxfire Village Council Candidates 2007

(Continued from page 12)

and have drilled some more test wells and hope to find additional wells as a result."

**Debt.** "I think in the short run, the council and myself are always concerned when we have to take on additional debt. The village did that in the 1990's when we added road infrastructure on the east side and because of that farsightedness, we had the roads in and the water in and accept the growth happening in the past three years."

"It's the same with Woodland Circle or any expansion, we have to accept indebtedness in the short run with understanding that those benefiting will be repaying in the next few years. Property owners along the road will pay the cost of building that road."

**Taxes.** "I think the attraction over the last, in particular three years – in that time we've added 100 new homes – is that we've become attractive for those looking for a nice place to live with low taxes. We're the second lowest [municipality] in taxes in the county. I think that will continue to make Foxfire attractive."

## Ed Lauer

**Why run?** "I'm running because Foxfire is a small community and it's imperative as a volunteer government that we have willing people to serve. This is difficult when a lot of residents are retired or they are working for a living."

When asked what he hopes to accomplish, Lauer replied, "I want to deal with our water needs and those issues and also the issues of growth. Growth is a prime concern and we need to provide the appropriate resources and infrastructure to support that growth." Lauer continued, "We need to have intelligent growth...that we do it wisely, because you can't stop it."

**Growth.** Growth provides a lot of opportunities. Our growth has been stagnant for so many years, if done right it will make us a more vital community than we are right now."

"Our challenges are meeting the resource requirement to

meet this growth."

"An example," said Lauer, "is this new western corridor out of Pinehurst is one of the few places left to grow in Moore County and we're going to be impacted by it."

**Debt.** "Obviously debt is a concern but we've been very fiscally conservative and those before us have done a good job of not squandering resources. They have not created debt for us going into this situation."

"Initially, we're going to incur debt but a vast majority will be recouped through assessments. All the major projects that we're doing are going to be assessed to the landowners because that's the way we've done business here and that's a very fiscally responsible way."

**Taxes.** "I've owned property here for twelve years. Taxes have been very low in the past and the increases we've seen are almost more catching up to undone assessments in the past."

"I still believe the tax rate, as

a whole, is very reasonable."

"In Foxfire, because of the tax increases by county the last time, we voted not to increase village taxes. We made no raise, but I'm not sure if we'll be able to do that again."

"The easy thing would have been to raise our tax rate as well. I think we could have justified in doing that, however, the council felt that the burden was already being placed by the county. We felt we could be fiscally responsible enough by maintaining our current rate."

## Page Coker

**Why run?** "As a resident for fifteen years, I have regularly attended council meetings. This past December, I retired and I now want to give back to my community by service on the council."

Coker continued, "I want to see that our zoning regulations are enforced and I'd like to be a part of the planning process for our infrastructure needs including water, roads, our park, and

the pool and tennis courts."

"I want to listen to our residents and be their voice on the council."

**Growth.** "I am committed to smart road planning," said Coker. "We have been growing at a phenomenal pace over the past two years and this has created unprecedented activity related to our infrastructure. I'm in favor of looking at the pros and cons of impact fees because I do not

feel that our residents should bear all the burden of the cost of this new growth."

**Debt.** "On Woodland Circle, we will recoup this expense with interest through assessments."

"The pool and tennis courts are a focal point of our community," said Coker, "that we need to address. Tax increases to me will be a last resort. I hope we do get our PARTF grant that we

(Continued on page 14)



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# Foxfire Village Council Candidates 2007

(Continued from page 13)

are trying for and that we'll meet the qualifications. If not, then I would like to look at alternative methods of financing to meet the needs for our pool and tennis complex."

**Taxes.** "With the present tax increase that we have experienced, this increase has helped us from having to raise our current tax rate."

"We have to continue to finance the needs of our citizens," said Coker, "and still be conscientious with our spending."

## Victor Koos

**Why run?** "The council has to be more open than they have in the past. In the past, they have passed certain things that the people were not aware of. The council needs to inform villagers what they're doing, what they're trying to pass and why they're doing it."

Koos continued, "To be more upfront, I would recommend we establish a system similar to Code Red, where say at a given time each week, we get a phone call saying what the council is doing that week and what's happening around the village."

"In the immediate term, we need to do something with the water. This is our number one goal."

"We also need to abide by our ordinances," said Koos, "in the past that has not always been

done. We have ordinances that say certain steps have to be followed by developers and I'd like to enforce these and others that we have."

Koos explained that he is happy with the work the current council has accomplished, "I'm just suggesting we need to be more consistent."

"If elected I would be interested in filling the public safety committee role," said Koos. "Carl Munro has done a commendable job and I'm not looking to change anything just improve on what we have and improve communications with the villagers."

**Growth.** "Our biggest challenge is having enough water. Other challenges are that we have to watch what type of houses we allow in. There is a question about double-wide housing — we need to be more consistent in enforcing the ordinances we have."

"On the other hand, we have our park and development complexes wanting to be built right on Foxfire and Hoffman roads. I'd like

to explore recycling water at these developments," said Koos. "There are some recycling systems in condo establishments in Virginia that I've been told about. I'd like to look into those as I understand it's not prohibitive in cost."

**Debt.** "I understand the Woodland Circle Extension will be reimbursed for what we build there, so I'm not concerned as long as that happens," said Koos.

"I'm on the Park Committee and I really support the PARTF grant. I think we're doing the right thing asking for it to be approved again. However," Koos continued, "if it is defeated and we decide not to go forward [with reapplying], I've talked to a number of residents that have expertise in repair work. This may be something we can do ourselves."

Koos also stated that he was in favor of repairing the pool where it is now rather than build a brand-new pool at the park. "I think that would be prohibitive regarding finance. We have an

amazing talent here and I would look to our residents to supervise needed pool repairs."

"We have to fix what's already started here before we go onto new projects," said Koos.

**Taxes.** "I think taxes right now in Foxfire are reasonable. That's the good part," said Koos. "The negative part is if taxes are going up and we decide we want to improve this and improve that, then our taxes will go up here too. Taxes will go up whether I'm concerned with them or not and we'll have to live with it. My concern is what impact tax increases will have on other things we do want in Foxfire."

Koos continued, "We might not be able to have some things, it depends what the people want."

I am here to represent the people."

## Gene Petrie

**Why run?** "Looking at what is coming down the pipeline for the Village, I would like to be involved in Council decision about the future of Foxfire," incumbent Councilman Gene Petrie told *The Times* when asked why he was standing for election.

"There are things that I think we need to do," he continued. We need a village manager and certainly need a town hall complex." Petrie said the current town offices are inadequate and provide no private work areas for staff.

He said he would like to see the Village build a recreation

(Continued on page 15)

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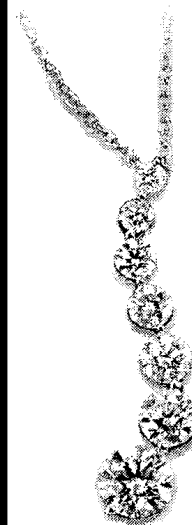
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# Foxfire Village Council Candidates 2007

(Continued from page 14)

building as part of the Village Green park complex, as well as an outdoor stage that could accommodate entertainment in the warmer months.

**Growth.** "The biggest advantage of growth is to increase our tax base," Petrie told *The Times*. "I hope we can eventually get large enough to have some commercial establishments . . . which will increase the tax base further." Petrie explained that increased tax revenues will be necessary to fund some of the capital projects he mentioned in answer to our first question.

The biggest challenge presented by growth, Petrie said, is to avoid imposing "restrictions that would limit the growth."

"You've got to have growth," he said. "You've got to have growth to pay for the things the Village needs." He pointed out that the Village staff is already being stretched to near the breaking point. "We don't have enough staff to do the work that we are doing. Our people are working overtime, working Saturdays and Sundays — it's crazy what these people are doing!"

**Debt.** Petrie said the Village has been careful about the amount of debt it takes on, and pointed out that Village expenditures for projects like the Woodland Circle Extension are ultimately recouped through assessments on the property owners who benefit. "We will have some debt upfront, but no real increase in funding will be necessary," Petrie said.

The Village plans to reapply for a North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant to help pay for the refurbishment of the swimming pool area, he noted, so the Village will not have to bear the full cost of that

project either.

**Taxes.** Petrie said he didn't like to talk about higher taxes, but admitted that growth in the Village's ad valorem tax rate is "probably inevitable."

"But I don't think it will make Foxfire less attractive," he added. "Where else are they going to go?" he asked, noting that all the nearby municipalities face the same need to expand service to deal with growth.

"I think Foxfire is the next place for people to go, in Moore County," Petrie told *The Times*. "That's why we've seen so much growth in the past couple of years. I think that will only increase."

## Kristy Williams

**Why Run?** Noting that she moved to Foxfire only about eighteen months ago, Kristy Williams told *The Times* that she "would like to be a part of the decision making as to what Foxfire Village is going to be in the future."

"What I would like to see is more of a multi-family-style approach" to residential development, she said. "What I envision is not just homes, but more condos and townhomes. I would like to see Village include homes with a range of prices, so that we can accommodate everyone from firefighters to millionaires."

"On the commercial development side, I envision non-franchise restaurants, small businesses — businesses that would provide convenience for Foxfire Village residents. But I never want to compromise the charm of the Village."

**Growth.** "The biggest challenge right now is our water supply issue," Williams said when asked about growth in the Village "We are trying desperate-

ly to deal with our water supply. I really commend the efforts that have been done already," she added.

"The Village needs to develop a long range plan that looks out 5, 10, 15 years to see what the residents of Foxfire want this Village to look like in the future," Williams told *The Times*. "I'm in favor of developing a master plan."

She said she envisioned Council members working closely with residents and working closely with the committees already in place to develop a long range vision for the community's future. The process could also learn from other communities of similar size, and by tapping to resources of the Institute of Government.

**Debt.** Williams said she was "very concerned" about the amount of debt the Village may need to take on to fund upcoming projects, but noted that the key issue is how the Village manages growth. "I think it is very important for the village to manage the growth, taking into account both the cost of growth and the increased tax

base."

"It goes back to the Village developing a long-range plan," she said. "The old mindset is that growth will bring in increased tax dollars, but growth also increases costs. You have to balance growth and taxes."

**Taxes.** "Before taxes are increased," Williams said, "it is important that the Council knows where the funds are going. The Council needs to be able to say to residents, 'Your taxes are going up because of this project or need' — and allow us as residents to be a part of that decision."

Williams said she wasn't overly concerned that a growing tax rate would make Foxfire less attractive as a place to live. "I think

right now Foxfire Village has one of the lowest tax rates in the area," she said "The charm of Foxfire, which is what drew us here, will be the reason for people to come here. Our tax rate now is very affordable"

"It is probably going to be time soon for a tax rate increase," she added. That's something that should be expected. It will likely be necessary to implement our long range plan."

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# Cub Scout hosts water conservation contest

Conner Paszko, a cub scout with the West End Den, Pack 98, has a good deed to do to flip his Bobcat patch. He needs community help to fulfill his obligation.

The state of the drought is the worst in recorded history for North Carolina. Conner has become very aware of how bad our conditions are because of living in Seven Lakes West and seeing the level of the lake slowly lowering.

Conner, along with family members, discussed ways of making folks more aware of the drought and the need to conserve water.

He came up with the idea of a competition, and, with the help of local merchants, organized a Water Conservation Contest.

Local customers of the Moore County water system can enter by submitting copies of two water bills from October, November, or December months of recent water bills by December 31st by mail or email.

The email address is: [Tpaszko@nc.rr.com](mailto:Tpaszko@nc.rr.com).

The mailing address is:

Attn: Conner Paszko

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The biggest difference in gallons used between the two bills submitted from one household will be our contest winner.

The Grand Prize package will include:

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- An American Flag courtesy of The Blue Monkey
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Connor Paszko

courtesy of Seven Lakes Eye Care

- A \$20 Gift Certificate from Food Lion
- A \$60 Gift Certificate from Optical Solutions
- A Large Pizza courtesy of Jack's Place
- A \$30 Gift Certificate from Master Kleen Drycleaners

Second Prize will be:

- A Gift Certificate from Seven Lakes Pizza Kitchen
- A \$10 Gift Certificate from Master Kleen Drycleaners
- A Gift Certificate from Quality Care Pharmacy

Conner and his family are extremely grateful to all the merchants that have contributed to his good deed. It is not only his good deed anymore. He is proud to live in a community so forthcoming to help without hesitation.

If Conner was not able to contact any local merchant interested in donating to the prize package, there is still time. The winner will not be announced until January 11, 2008. Con-

ner would also like people to know that water conservation is not just important when there is a drought — we should always conserve.

Here are some tips on how to conserve:

1. Place a brick in your toilet tank.
2. Check all faucets for leaks.
3. Check pipes under your home for leaks.
4. Replace shower heads with flow restriction heads.
5. Save laundry rinse water to water plants (they don't mind the soap).

6. Reconsider landscaping plans that require large amounts of water.

7. Shorten shower time.

8. Don't let water run unnecessarily (while brushing teeth or washing dishes).

9. Cook food in as little water as possible.

10. Make yourself aware of every time you turn on water that there is a drought.

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# Talk will explore chapter in Sandhills history

Join Moore County Historical Association Past President, Ray Owen, on Sunday, October 28 at 2:00 pm, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, to explore life in the Sandhills in the period of time the Library of American Landscape History refers to as the "American Country Place Era."

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a remarkable breed of developer/philanthropist were drawn to the Sandhills. The Tufts family of Pinehurst, the Boyd family of Southern Pines, and the Page family of Aberdeen used their fortunes and influence to transform the region, urging large numbers of educated and affluent northerners to move to the Sandhills. Inspired by an interest in nature and a belief in the civilizing influence of rural life, country estates designed by presti-

gious architects and landscapers proliferated in the area.

In March of 1913, representatives from sixteen towns in the Sandhills united to form regional cooperative called the Sand Hill Board of Trade. The area represented formed a circle thirty miles in diameter with the resort towns at the center, and embraced the entire Sandhills. The group sought to encourage farming in the rural areas surrounding the resort towns, and to promote country society in an effort to keep farmers on the farms.

President Theodore Roosevelt wrote extensively about the Sand Hill Board of Trade in 1917 in his book *The Foes of Our Own Household*. Roosevelt writes, "It is composed of farmers, merchants, doctors—all the lead-

ing citizens. By its activities it has shown that it represents the organized Sandhill community, covering an area as large as Rhode Island and having a population of some ten thousand souls."

Many of the individuals significant in this national movement had Moore County ties. Walter Hines Page, with his family firmly rooted in Southern Moore County, was a partner in the Doubleday, Page & Company, and publisher of the culturally persuasive magazines *Country Life in America*, and *The Worlds Work* that actively promoted the movement nationally. In addition, Walter Page served on President Roosevelt's seven-member Country Life Commission, and on the General Education Board of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.

Located in the southern half of the Sand Hill Board of Trade circle was Broadacre, the 22,000 acre estate of Frederick Gates, chief advisor to Rockefeller. Above the northeast rim of the orb was Overhills, the 30,000 acre estate of Percy Rockefeller, the nephew of John D. Rockefeller. The 125,000 acre Fort Bragg tract wrapped around much of the eastern arc of the Sand Hill Board of Trade circle. In an address given in 1923 at the Southern Pines City Park, forest engineer Thomas Ivey describes this land tract as the Sandhills very own national park. The western region of the circle was populated by more than fifty "county families," most of them educated at Ivy League schools, who had come to the section to farm.

Southern Pines writer/devel-

oper James Boyd worked for a time as an editor for *Country Life in America*. Boyd introduced architect Aymar Embury to Sandhills for his grand Weymouth estate, and for his Weymouth Heights development. Alfred B. Yeomans, a landscape architect from Chicago and a relative of the Boyds, moved to Southern Pines and began collaborating with Embury regionally.

Leonard Tufts enlisted the services of noted landscape designer Warren Manning for his expensive plans for regional development, envisioning a wide-reaching kingdom of semi-rural grace and opulence, surrounded by a beautiful agrarian landscape. Expressing his vision for the Sandhills in an interview in 1921, Leonard Tufts said, "In a very few years, the whole coun-

(See "Sandhills," p. 34)



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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**

- **Moore County Schools** – Teacher workday, no school for students.
- **Seven Lakes Massage and Body Therapies** – 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Celebrate Massage Therapy Week. Come by for a FREE chair massage and register to win a 60 minute massage, plus receive a coupon for 10% off for services. 673-2000. 980 Seven Lakes Drive.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**

- **WEFD Benefit Yard Sale, Bake Sale & BBQ** – 8:00 am, Old West End Elementary School. Proceeds to benefit longtime WEFD member Tommy Thomas. BBQ and chicken plates available 11am – 6 pm, \$7 per plate. Donations and information 673-0905.
- **American Red Cross: Babysitter Training** – 9 am - 3 pm, 244 SW Broad Street in Southern Pines. For boys and girls aged eleven to fifteen. Class will provide instruction in babysitter responsibilities,

- safety factors, and basic first aid. Program Fee \$25. Registration 692-8571.
- **Derry & Friends Art Show** – 10 am – 3 pm, Village Design Group on Hwy 15-501, Southern Pines. Presenting the works of artist Derry Booher



and her fellow-artists. Nearly fifty pieces of fine art and watch the artists at work during the exhibition. All art will be available for purchase. 692-1000.

- **Red Blends: Wine Tasting** – Kitchen Essence, 905 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Free event with delicious nibbles from the kitchen of Elliott's on Linden. Pouring classic blends and odd boutique bottle samples. Tad Braun 255-0665.
- **SLCC Halloween Dinner &**

**Dance** – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm dinner, 7 pm music. Entertainment by Glenn Davis, with buffet dinner. Costumes suggested but not required. Best Costume and Best Carved Pumpkin prizes.

Member's pricing \$21, non-members \$26. Reser-

vations 673-1100.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28**

- **Dust and Ashes at WEUM** – 8:30 am and 11 am, West End United Methodist Church. Dust and Ashes, the musical ministry of Mary Lou Troutman and Tom Page, will perform at both morning services.
- **Southern Pines Civic Club: Founding Farmers** – 2 pm, Southern Pines Civic Club. Join Moore County Historical Association Past President Ray Owen to explore life in the Sandhills

## What's When Calendar

in the period of time the Library of American Landscape History refers to as the "American Country Place Era."

- **6th Annual Fall BYOB Mixer** – 4:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center. A popular get together sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes, tickets \$5/ person include an array of sumptuous hors d'oeuvres. Ginny Long 673-3890, or Peggy McCallum 673-1506.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30**

- **Pusser's Carved Pumpkin Patch** – Dusk to 10 pm, 1100 Flowers Road in Eagle Springs. Artfully carved pumpkins displayed by Todd Pusser. No charge to attend but a donation of canned goods or money to benefit the Cameron Boys Home is appreciated. Display continues on October 31. No pets.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31**

- **Second Annual Trunk or Treat** – 6 pm – 8 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by SLWLA Recreation Commit-

tee, a safe community-friendly alternative for kids. Decorate the trunk of your vehicle & share treats. Ginger Finney 673-1330.

- **Children's Halloween Carnival** – 6 pm – 8 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Spooky and festive party with games & treats for all.
- **Pusser's Carved Pumpkin Patch** – Dusk to 10 pm, 1100 Flowers Road in Eagle Springs. No charge. Donation of canned goods or money to benefit the Cameron Boys Home is appreciated. No pets.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

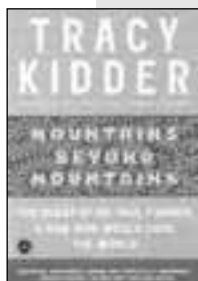
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 1 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Bill Kastern of Wild Birds Unlimited will be speaking on "Attracting Wild Birds." Bring a new ornament for the Christmas tree at the North Clubhouse. Bring any of the following items to support the men & women of Seven Lakes Assisted Living: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste,

# Who's Reading What?

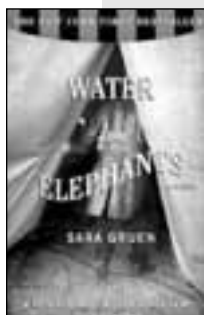
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of Local Book Groups.  
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Bookshop by  
the Lakes!



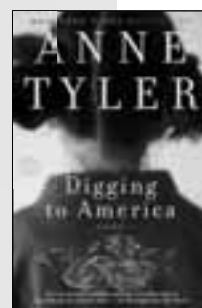
Bookies II  
**LEAP  
OF FAITH**  
by Queen Noor



7 Lakes Bookies  
**MOUNTAINS BEYOND  
MOUNTAINS**  
by Tracy Kidder



Books West  
**WATER FOR  
ELEPHANTS**  
by Sara Gruen



Happy Bookers  
**DIGGING TO  
AMERICA**  
by Anne Tyler



Turning Leaves  
**MEMORY KEEPERS  
DAUGHTER**  
by Kim Edwards



Sandhills Book Club  
**THE PAINTED  
VEIL**  
by Somerset Maugham

What  
Are  
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toothbrushes, after shave, body wash or powder.

- **Preview Party of Antiques Show and Sale** – 6:30 pm – 9 pm, Fair Barn, Pinehurst. Public invited to attend preview party of the 47th Annual Antiques Show and Sale. Ticket includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a private viewing and sale plus daily show admission. \$50/person. Advance ticket purchase 692-2051.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- **Project Linus "Heartwarming Recipes" cookbook tasting and signing** – at **Bookshop By The Lakes** – 11 AM – 5 PM. Seven Lakes/Moore County Project Linus cookbook! 250 favorite recipes provided by Seven Lakes Project Linus Workshop "blanketeers" & featured contributor, Lucy Ingram. Join in for a day of fun, discovery and delicious recipe tastings. Lucy will be available from 1 PM – 4 PM to sign and write a personal note to your cookbook. Cookbooks \$12, they make a wonderful Christmas gift.
- **47th Annual Antiques Show and Sale** – 10 am – 5 pm, Fair Barn, Pinehurst. Event continues Sunday, November 3, 12 pm – 4 pm. Admission \$6. 692-2051.
- **Smoke and Mirrors: a Moore OnStage/Taylor**

**Dance Production** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. An exciting journey into the world of illusions with dazzling costumes, extraordinary dancers, and acrobatic feats. Shows Saturday, November 3 at 7:30 pm, & Sunday, November 4 at 2 pm. 692-7118.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- **White Elephant Sale & Raffle** – 8 am – 1 pm, Founders Hall of Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Sale and Raffle; including furniture, sports equipment, jewelry, electronics, hardware, games. 295-0830.
- **Golf Capital Chorus: Back to Barbershop Concert** – 7 pm, Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School. Barbershop favorites 'My Melancholy Baby,' 'Lida Rose,' 'Alexander's Ragtime Band,' 'White Cliffs of Dover,' 'School Days.' Tickets, call 215-0247.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- **Weymouth Woods: Discovery Walk** – 3 pm, Sandhills Nature Preserve, Southern Pines. Walk along the trails to see plants and animals that can be discovered. Meet at Visitor Center.
- **Middle Cross Baptist Church** – Fall Revival 7:00pm thru Thursday,

November 8. Guest speaker Rev. Sherrell Dunn. Special singing each night. Nursery provided. Public invited. Come join in worship. Pastor David Reynolds at 947-2261.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- **Moore County Schools** – Teacher workday, no school for students.
- **Support the Arts Golf Tournament** – 12:00 Noon, National Golf Club. a scramble format tournament w/wonderful prizes to benefit Moore County students with developing a lifelong appreciation for art, especially dance & drama. 690-5874 or 695-7868.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- **Election Day**

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- **Project Linus Workshop** – Seven Lakes North Clubhouse 10AM to 3PM. Only

workshop in November. Come help make fleece blankets. Bring your scissors the rest will be provided! Drop in for a visit or bring your lunch and stay all day. Flannel and quilt kits available for check out. Call Pat Weber 673-1457.

- **Happy Hour Bible Study** – 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Chapel in the Pines. 4-week in-depth study of Paul's Letter to the Phillipians, Wednesday afternoons, continuing Nov 14, 28, Dec 5. Rev. Don Welch leading the study. No charge. Bring a NRSV or

Contemporary English Version of the Bible.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- **Women of Seven Lakes Luncheon, Fashion Show, & Card Party** – 11 am, West Side Park Community Center. Catering by Goldie's Gourmet. Fashions by Phoenix Fashions. Tables can be set for any cards or games. Ginger Finney 673-1330.

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130 Vanore Road	.....7 Lakes West	.....\$69,000
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	8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039	
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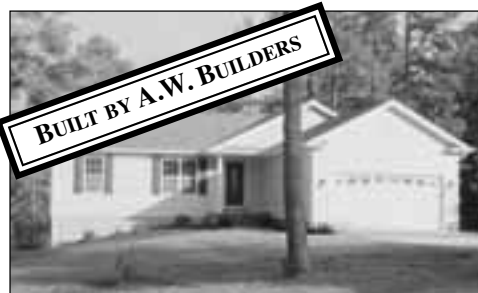
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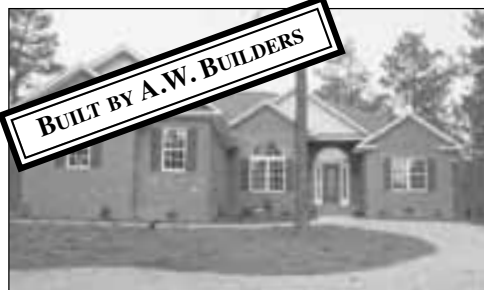
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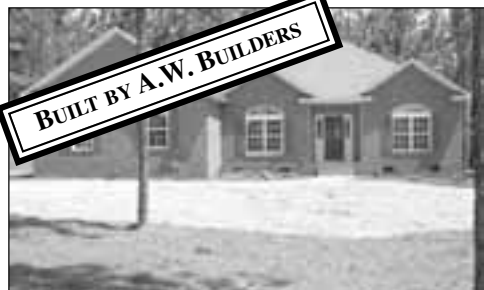
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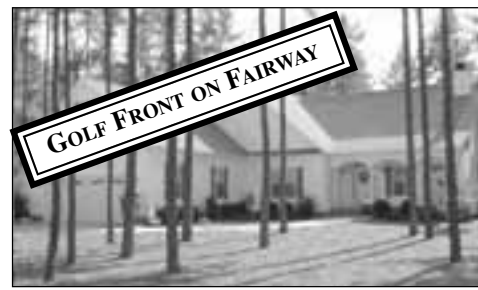
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# Wait for rain before planting trees, shrubs

Dry weather and water shortages not only have curtailed our landscape gardening activities but crop, food, livestock feed yields have also been greatly effected by the drought. Let's continue to do our part in conserving water until restrictions are alleviated.

Normally October is the time for Fall planting of trees, shrubs, and many flowering perennials, annuals, bulbs, and other plants but it is recommended that one should wait until rainfall and soil moisture are restored.

Every year many ask the same question, "When is the optimum time for Fall planting?" My suggestion is between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and also in January, and even through February.

Here are a few suggestions for gardening during October:

It's a good time to obtain free soil testing kits, information, and instructions from the County Extension Service in Carthage. Collect the samples, and return to the same office and they will

send them for analysis to the Soil Testing Laboratory in Raleigh. Later you will receive information on the soil fertility needs for the plantings you desire to make.

It's time to winterize your lawn.



## Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

Mow it to one inch in height in order to get rid of the undesirable broad-leaf weeds. Spray by using a herbicide that is recommended to control weeds and grasses on Bermuda, Centipede, and Zoysia lawns.

If you desire to over seed your Bermuda or Zoysia lawn with Rye grass for greenery during the winter, wait until sufficient moisture is received. When over seeding with Rye grass, use no more

than five pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn because seeding too heavily damages the existing stand of warm season grass and delays next season's growth. Do not over seed

Centipede as it thins out and often wipes out the stand.

Check your plants for insects. If present in heavy populations consider

using a recommended chemical control insecticide.

It might be too late, but when moisture occurs you might want to consider seeding vegetable cold crops such as radishes, lettuce, mustard, turnip seeds, or onion sets. Don't expect roots from your turnip seeding this late, but if weather permits proper grown you will have greens.

Asparagus beds may be established anytime until March 15.

I have asked my wife, Mary, to make a few comments regarding houseplants since now is the time of year when they should be moved indoors. She studied their culture some seventeen years while we were in the plant production and sales business.

Mary's suggestions:

Examine your houseplants that were taken outside during the

Summer. Repot if needed. Spray all plants before bringing them indoors. This should be done preferably two times with an insecticidal soap plus a few drops of horticultural oil mixed in the solution, or, malathion if needed. As an added precaution, use a systemic granular insecticide application in each pot to kill soil insects.

## Help out with Trunk or Treat!

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Recreation Committee will host its second annual Halloween Trunk or Treat event on Wednesday, October 31 for the children of the community and they need your help!

Volunteers will meet at the community center, decorate the trunks of their cars, and provide candy to the children. Since Westside roads are very dark at night, this event provides a safe central place for kids to go.

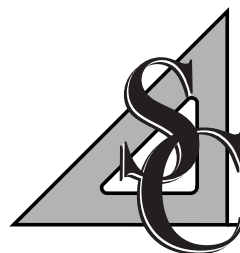
Let your creativity run wild – turn your trunk into a bat cave, a giant spider web, or goblin hideout. Come out and help make this year's event as successful as last year's.

Call Tracy Stromberg at 673-5839 to volunteer and get further details.

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# Barbara & Ed Nuti celebrate 50th Anniversary

Barbara & Ed Nuti will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on October 26, 2007. Edward and Barbara are both from Brooklyn, NY and they met in July of 1949. Barbara attended Catherine McCauley High School and Edward St. August-

tine High. After an eight year courtship they were married in October of 1957.

Their first son, Kenneth, was born in 1960, and after moving to Bloomfield, CT., their second son, Paul, was born in November, 1961. In April of 1965, their

third son, Gregg, was born in Hartford, CT.

The family moved to Detroit, MI in 1970 and returned east in October of 1973 to Mountain Lakes, NJ. Barbara volunteers regularly at Habitat for Humanity. Ed retired after a 52-year industrial career with several international corporations, includ-

ing Combustion Engineering, Union Bag-Camp Paper Corp. and BASF Corporation.

Kenneth is a property manager in Medford, MA, Paul is an AARP speech writer in Washington, DC, and Gregg is a logistics manager for ZEP Manufacturing Co. in Tracy, CA.

Barbara and Ed will begin

their weeklong celebration this Sunday taking in a concert at the Progress Energy Center in Raleigh and concluding with a three-day weekend in Myrtle Beach October 26-28. In November, they will vacation for a full week in Sedona, AZ with their sons and two grandsons.



Barbara & Ed Nuti in 1957.

## Massage Therapy: The healing touch

In a time where many people are concerned about the state of our health care system, it is comforting to know there is still a centuries old practice that meets many of our health care needs. Many Americans have yet to experience the health benefits of massage, which is why the American Massage Therapy Association has established October 21 to 27 as Massage Therapy Awareness week.

Healthy touch can have profound physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional effects on the body. Our skin, considered to be a superficial nervous system, is the main method of gaining information about ourselves and the world around us. Knowing this, it is easier to understand why touch is a powerful therapeutic tool.

Dr. Tiffany Field, professor of pediatrics, psychology and psychiatry and director of the Touch Research Institute at the University Of Miami School Of Medicine, has pioneered studies revealing information about the

need for touch. From their studies on how massage therapy affects premature infants to arthritis in our aging population, we have learned that massage has incredible outcomes that should not be ignored.

The benefits of massage therapy are numerous, they include but are not limited to reducing fatigue by improving sleep, reducing stress and anxiety, increasing joint range of motion while relieving muscular tension, and raising serotonin and dopamine levels to help decrease pain. With all this in mind, massage therapy holds no prejudice. It is beneficial for all ages, from infant to elderly, as well as for individual goals, from relaxation to therapeutic work.



To celebrate Massage Therapy Awareness Week, Seven Lakes Massage and Body Therapies is offering free chair massages on Friday, October 26, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.



For more information about massage, contact Seven Lakes Massage at 673-2000.

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SLLA

(Continued from page 5)  
ately.

Personnel Policy Manual

After the clarification of a few points, the Board approved a Personnel Policy Manual reformatted by Director Nuti. Director Michael Florence renewed his longstanding objection that Section 5 of the reformatted bylaws, which deal with the responsibilities of the Community Manager, belong instead with the job descriptions for other positions in the Personnel Policy Manual. The manual was approved in a four-to-one vote with Florence dissenting.

Long Range Planning

Responding to comments made by Charlei Oliver and Bud Shaver during the October 10 Work Session, Director Stephan said she felt the Association needed a long range planning process. "We don't seem to have any goals," Stephan said. "Everyone who is head of committee should have goals and a mission."

Perhaps because of the lack of a long range planning process, Stephan said, "For many many years the Board has ignored the community's infrastructure."

Her comments won broad agreement from her fellow Directors and from some of the landowners in attendance.

"We haven't done any planning over the past two years," Director Florence said. "Everything has been ad hoc and piece work."

"One of the reasons I ran for the Board is realizing that Seven Lakes is a mature 30-plus-year-old community and still operating like a youngster," Director Zielsdorf said. "We need a cultural change to think about how we operate as a mature community."

"We need to develop a long range plan and reduce it to writing," Director Nuti said. "Then every new board can look at that and it is everlasting. What chnages from year to year is the annual goals."

Committee reports

**Recreation.** Assistant Manager Chad Beane announced that the Halloween Carnival will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on October 31. New this year are a Flashlight Egg Hunt and Outdoor Slime Race, events that will begin at 7:00 pm. He asked that children bring their own

flashlights to participate.

**Finance.** Community Manager Fulcher reported that year-to-date SLLA revenues as of September 30 totaled \$1,161,000 and expenses were \$528,000. Both revenues and expenses are tracking with the budget.

**Maintenance.** Director Nuti said having a monitor at the yard debris site for the past few weeks has cut down on unauthorized use and resulted in a cleaner disposal area. The new disposal pit gives maintenance workers a vertical surface against which they can push the debris pile, which helps compact the material and is reducing the expense for debris removal, which is charged on a per-load basis.

**Community standards.** Director Zielsdorf said his committee took one case through the Judicial Committee last week, generating a result in favor of the Association, and persuading the landowner to correct the rules violation. The newly approve Rules and Regulations include a provision for further streamlining the process for dealing with violations.

**Lakes and Dams.** President Truesdell said the Association had received the long-awaited report on the condition of each of the community dams from engineer John Eddy. Truesdell said the report immediately suggested a number of steps the SLLA should undertake, including surveying all the dams, and locating their function components, conducting a thorough

investigation of spillways and downstream pipes to identify any leaks, establishing a plan to remove brush from the downstream perimeters of each dam, and install piezometers that will allow the measurement of seepage in each dam.

Overall, Truesdell said, the community needs to be more proactive in the maintenance of its dams, which will save the Association money in the long run by reducing the likelihood of state-mandated repairs.

**Architectural review.** Director Stephan Said her committee had denied permits to two homes at the beginning of the month, insisting that builders upgrade their appearance, because the homes are on the golf course. Later in the month the builder resubmitted acceptable revised plans. "The problem we are having is that tenor of neighborhood is being driven by spec homes," Stephan added.

Additional items

President Truesdell reported that research is underway on a new accounting software system system and a new employee health insurance plan. He expressed confidence that the Association could provide better benefits to employees while lowering the cost of the health benefits.

Vicki Strider

President Truedell announced that Vicki Strider would be leaving the Association to pursue a new opportunity in Robbins after 21 years of service.

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## Transfer tax is a good deal for taxpayers

A little over a year ago, a group of enlightened leaders sought to find alternative revenues for the county and the municipalities to pay for things such as roads, schools, public buildings, and water.

The committee that was formed became the Alternative Revenue Committee. After deliberations they decided "Sharing" and a "Land Transfer Fee" [LTF] were ideas that should be developed further. The committee then split into two subcommittees for further work on each idea.

The "Sharing" concept was eventually adopted. The Land Transfer Tax [LTF] received a legislative blessing subject to favorable local referendums.

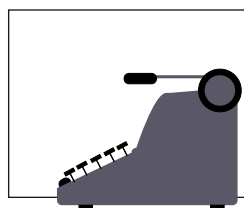
I worked on the Land Transfer Fee Subcommittee and would like to share why I believe almost every property owner should vote in favor of this proposition.

The county and municipalities have major needs involving schools, public buildings, water, and sewer. These problems are serious and solutions should not be delayed.

A decision has been made to pay for these needs through bonds which would be repaid by an increase in the Property Tax and the implementation of a Land Transfer Fee. The LTF can only be used for reduction of debt service for major capital projects. Of importance, the public schools and the community

college are the first and second priority on these funds.

If the voters reject the LTF, then the primary source of funds to pay for the above projects will be the Personal Property Tax: to cover the costs



### Your Turn

Carl Munro  
Foxfire Village

for the improvements will require an increase of five cents\* in the property tax.

If the LTF is passed, estimates indicate it will produce between \$3.0 and \$3.3 million of rev-

enue.\* These funds, if accurate would reduce the amount of property tax needed to repay the bonds by a little over three cents.

Conclusion: A vote in favor of the LTF relieves a major portion [a reduction of 60%] of the property tax increase that the property owner would have to pay for the next several years.

This revenue generated would be paid by the sellers of property. It does not affect 1) will related transfers, 2) gifts of property or inherited property, 3) legally mandated transfers, 4) term leases, 5) government property transfers, or 6) consolidation transfers.

The subcommittee believes this was justified in that part of our problem is coming from new families moving to the County and while growth is critical to our future health, those who cause the growth should have some financial obligation. While the Seller will pay the fee, we believe the Seller of the property will include this fee in the price

of the property and the buyer will actually be paying the bill.

I personally have paid this fee several times. In most states the fee is split between buyer and seller and the five states I lived in [Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey] have such fees. In fact, at last count thirty-seven states have the Land Transfer Fee as part of their revenue producing program. It was never a consideration in my purchase or sale of a home. In fact, if you didn't attend the closing, it probably was never mentioned.

If you are a property owner, I believe it is in your best interest to ensure the Land Transfer Fee is passed. It will save you money in property taxes for several years.

\* Moore County estimate as of 10/10/07

Carl Munro is a council member in Foxfire Village, a member of the Alternative Revenue Committee, the Land Transfer Fee Subcommittee, and is a member of the Moore County Public Schools Advisory Energy Study Committee.

## Transfer tax, school bonds deserve support of voters

Dear Editor:

I write this as a tax-paying private citizen who is very interested in a bright future for Moore County.

Our current Board of Commissioners wants to keep our property tax rate as low as possible consistent with providing the long-overdue needs of the County. This is in contrast to many past Boards of Commissioners who's mission seemed to been "keep the tax rate low at any cost."

And there has been a cost!

"At any cost" has had a cost to

our school children. In spite of successful school bond referenda in the past, our children continue to learn in increasingly over-crowded classrooms augmented by mobile classrooms. Their performance has improved due to better teaching, motivating teachers and excellent administration.

"At any cost" has cost our students preparing for careers in a new world with new courses and training, and new facilities.

The list of the costs of "a low tax rate at any cost" goes on to

include an inadequate public water supply; an over-crowded jail, leaving some deputies with less work space than jail inmates who are over-crowded; inadequate wastewater treatment capacity; and scattered government facilities that virtually guarantee inefficient operations.

The Board of Commissioners has endorsed the schools and community college bond issues and the land transfer tax. I certainly don't want to put words in their mouth but it appears they have adopted a mission of "maintain a tax rate as low as possible consistent with providing the long over-due infrastructure needs of the County."

Satisfying those needs is a major factor in realizing a bright future for Moore County.

On November 6, we voters have choices

- Vote "FOR" the land transfer tax — a one-time tax — which is a vote to keep our property tax rate as low as possible consistent with first funding the debt on the school bond issue, or

(See "Tax," p. 27)

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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## 'Home tax' is a bad idea

Dear Editor:

In November, county residents will have the opportunity to vote 'No' on a tax on homeowners.

County commissioners have decided to put the transfer tax, more accurately called "the home tax," on the ballot for consideration by local citizens. The facts are clear: this tax is a bad idea for individuals and communities.

It is an unreliable source of revenue for local governments and it unfairly singles out one group of people to pay for government programs and services that benefit everyone.

It strips homeowners of their hard-earned equity and robs them of their nest egg. Some people claim this is a tax on newcomers. Wrong! The seller would pay the transfer tax, not the new resident buying property. It would be paid by the people who have lived here for years and have paid property taxes all that time. Why should they be penalized for selling their own property?

Vote 'No' on the home tax on November 6. Visit our office for background information.

John A. Whelan  
Broker – Owner  
Whelan Realty, LLC

# The perils of getting away for a week

"Whoever said you can't take it with you has never packed their car for vacation!"

Isn't that a great quote? Certainly prophetic of my own impending woes as I, once again, get ready to load down the family jalo — this time around to see The Mouse.

While we aren't scheduled to leave until Saturday, I'll start packing suitcases on Tuesday: and that's just the clothes. I still have to stockpile the snack hoard and cooler cache, videos for the portable DVD player, extra film, batteries, and medicines. Oh,

and don't forget spare pillows and towels, first aid kit, each kid's favorite blanket and toy...the list nears endless.

Why is it that I go into survivalist mode whenever we have to leave the house for more than twelve hours?

It's not like we're fleeing a hurricane and have to pack up our most precious belongings for a trip of indeterminate length. I mean really, I'm leaving the comfort of home for the comfort of a Disney hotel room: not exactly roughing it!

Though I guess in everything,

one can always look back on this trip or that one when a little better planning could've saved the day.



## Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Darling hubby and I had our own Donner Party-vacation moment during our honeymoon. While planning this romantic odyssey, for some reason, the province of Nova Scotia looked deceptively compact, and populated, on the map.

Our arrival in Halifax, a wonderfully clean and modern city, was inauspicious enough but then we turned north. Once past the municipal limits, we crossed into no-man's land. I say 'no man's' because that's what we saw; no man, no woman, no child, no gas, no grocery store, no restaurant.

When you read in a cultural tour guide that an area's population was greatly reduced after

the fishing industry bust, trust me, take their word for it.

Our first night in the Great White North was spent in a race of time

between locating the quiet, little lakefront cabin we had booked and finding something to eat other

than leaves and twigs.

You see unlike our usual over-stuffed car excursions, this trip we flew. Rules on luggage size and weight seem to have a profound limiting effect on one's typical packing habits.

So on that October eve, we drove for hours ever nearing our cabin destination with a few darkened houses for company but no real sign of civilization, meaning no food! It didn't help that we missed the end of the traditional tourist season by a month or two.

Behold, a light beckoned to us from out in the gloom. We couldn't believe our good fortune: a restaurant! And even more unbelievably, within a mile

or — oops! kilometer or two of our nuptial bed.

Be thankful for small blessings. We surely were, as we had no choice but to become first name-friendly regulars at this establishment with the two or three other people touring Eastern Canada that week. The meals were delicious, but with no other dining option for a hundred kilometers in every direction, that hardly mattered.

The remainder of our honeymoon was fraught with other exciting adventures such as moose loitering in the road, desperately searching for Petrol and then trying to calculate liters versus gallon pricing, exploring the survival huts placed with alarming frequency along Nova Scotia's roads, and avoiding getting shot — who's bright idea was it to plan a hiking honeymoon during hunting season?

So this year as I set my sights on Florida, I hope those flying missiles sporting Canuck license plates charging down I-95 will forgive our sluggish, snack-laden, toy-burdened, jam-packed van as we too head south — this year in search of a mouse and not a moose!

## Tax

(Continued from page 26)

- Vote "AGAINST" the land transfer tax which really is a vote for a rather significant increase in the tax rate — an increase of between four and seven cents that we are willing to pay every year.
- Vote "FOR" the schools and community college bond issues, a vote for a brighter future for the County, or
- Vote "AGAINST" the bond issues, a vote for continuing to band-aid our over-crowded classrooms and inadequate

facilities.

I know that I will be voting for a bright future for the County, voting for the bond issues and the 0.4% land transfer tax.

Dave Kinney  
Seven Lakes

Dave Kinney is a member of the Moore County Summit's Alternative Revenues Committee and the Moore County Planning Board, Chairman of Area "A" Steering Committee and President of the Seven Lakes Civic Group.

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# Getting off the email merry-go-round

"Don't believe everything you read in the papers!"

As a newspaper guy, that statement always grates on my ears — even though it's a solid piece of advice. It grates because it usually comes out of the mouth of some politician who wants you to believe them instead of the press.

Anyway, it appears that hackneyed old slam on the press needs an update: "Don't believe everything you read in your email!"

On Sunday, I was copied, along with members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board on this email gem:

around it goes. I expect to get it from my Mom in Virginia before this issue of *The Times* hits the street.

All this would be a fantastic example of the ability of the internet to effectively and rapidly diffuse information across a wide swath of the population, by building on the informal networks that have been established by our individual collections of email addresses except for one problem.

The email is wrong.

Fortunately, it's not harmful or dangerous. It even contains a couple of grains of truth.

There is a Do-Not-Call list, established by the US Government, that lets consumers avoid telemarketing calls. The phone number to register on that list

is, in fact, 1-888-382-1222. You can call that number from your home phone or cell phone — any phone you want to register. [You can also register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov).]

It is also true that, at the moment, you have to redo this registration every five years, though there's a bill in Congress [HR 3541] that would make that unnecessary.

What's wrong about the forwarded email is the first part. There is no mass release of cell phone numbers to telemarketers planned for October 25 or any other time. It's not true that you are about to be bombarded by telemarketing calls on your cell phone. And it's not true that you will be paying for all those telemarketing calls.

According to the Federal Communications Commission [FCC], which has regulatory authority on these things, most telemarketing calls to cell phones are illegal.

Both the FCC and the Federal Trade Commission [FTC] have gotten enough email and phone calls about this cell phone telemarketing myth that they have put up web pages to try to get the straight scoop out to the public. The FCC page is at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/truthaboutcellphones.html>. The FTC page is at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/>

2005/04/dnc.shtm.

This erroneous email has been

circulating around the internet for at least a couple of years, mutat-

ing every now and again to fit the (See "Do-not-call," p. 29)

## Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



**REMINDER:** Phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies on October 25th, and you will start to receive these annoying sales calls again. And you will be charged for these calls! If you originally signed up for the Do-Not-Call (DNC) list, you probably didn't realize that you must act to stay on the list. A very simple process will get you re-instated. Call this number FROM YOUR CELL PHONE: 888-382-1222. It takes a minute of your time and will block your number for five years. If you have several different cell phones, you must call for each phone separately.

On Monday, I received the same email from the Landowners Association itself, as did everyone else on their mass email list. Then, on Tuesday morning, I got the same thing from a Westsider, who had sent it to me along with his whole list of email buddies.

On Tuesday afternoon, I got the same email from a Northsider who sent it to her list of 37 email buddies. I could tell from that email that she had gotten it just after lunch from another Northsider, who had sent it to seven other people. She got it from the SLLA email.

And around and around and



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# In Seven Lakes, we are all in the same boat

Dear Editor,

Our Seven Lakes are our greatest asset. They provide us a beautiful place in which to live. Picture in your mind what this area would look like without them. The magnificent Seven, I call them. They are in serious trouble because of the drought, extreme heat and unwise use of irrigation.

When I moved here four years

ago, the lakes were full. Little did I know that in 2002, a severe drought dropped the lakes a significant amount and the county was in a water restriction. I have never experienced one, and I am old. Now in 2007, the area is in the same situation.

The whole Southeast is in the same boat, and that boat is mighty close to being in dry dock. Every person must prac-

tice strict water conservation. Each Seven Lakes family needs to be aware of how much water they use and decide how to put a water budget in place and stick to it!

My husband and I went from using around 1,500 gallons a month to less than 1,000 gallons now. A neighbor family of four used 3,450 gallons last month. We are doing our best. I have

worked so hard to conserve by using rain barrells, saving air conditioning water and shower and dish water. I cannot understand why any family would need to use 20,000 gallons as an average per month! I was angry when I read in the last issue of *The Times* that some people here are using 100,000 gallons a month! This is such a waste of our precious water supply.

I live on Timber Lake, and I now have about 15 more feet added to my lot due to the lake going down. I definitely know this will not add to my property value. On the contrary, I understand that in 2002, the Board instilled a rule that stated that water would not be pumped from one lake to the other if Lake Longleaf was down 4 inches on the overflow and during times of drought. It seems obvious that pumping is the "only" way to ensure the existence of Little

Juniper, Dogwood, Timber, and Ramapo in times of drought. I don't expect these small lakes to be pumped full from the larger ones, but pumping would be used just enough so that these small lakes could survive. Every lake front owner should be caring enough to see the necessity of sharing the water. We must keep in mind these lakes are not ours, but belong to the association. The board representing the association should be willing to act in fairness so "all" Seven Lakes will have these beautiful, clear lakes tomorrow, and next year, and ten years from now for "all" to enjoy.

Please be good stewards with the natural resources, and remember, we are "all in the same boat."

Jean Alfona  
Seven Lakes North

## Do-not-call

(Continued from page 28)

season. You can see some examples at <http://www.snopes.com/politics/business/cell411.asp>.

That link leads to a website called Snopes.com. Snopes is one of the oldest and most comprehensive websites dedicated to debunking urban myths — many of which, in the internet age, seem to come to us through our email box.

There are others (you can Google "urban legends" to find them) but Snopes is pretty comprehensive and very reliable — they often point you to authoritative government, corporate, or university information to back up their conclusions.

When I get an email forward about anything from Iraq to immigration to Hillary Clinton to the

latest computer virus, my first move is to pick out some unusual phrase or proper name in the email, go to Snopes.com, and search for that phrase or name. If I get a hit, I use their write-up as a starting point and try to determine whether the emailed information is legitimate.

I do this no matter who sends me the email — my best buddy, my Mom, the White House, the Vatican — and no matter who they say they got it from — the Vatican, the White House, my Mom, or my best buddy.

I do this before I forward that email to anyone else.

And, most importantly, if I find out the email was a fraud, I let the person who sent me the email know, so they won't send it to anyone else — or maybe

even send all their email buddies a correction.

You might want to give this strategy a try yourself. Sometimes, while debunking erroneous information, you can learn more of the truth about a topic. And you're much less likely to look foolish to your email buddies for passing along something that turns out to be cybergarbage.

In any case, at the very least, remember this: "Don't believe everything you read in your email!"



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# Kudos, 7 Lakes West!

Dear Editor:

I have been meaning to write this thank you note for a couple of months, but life has a way of getting busy and cluttered, so I apologize for the delay in expressing my sentiments.

First of all, I would like to thank the people who have designed and installed the gorgeous new landscaping at the entrance to Seven Lakes West along Lake Way Drive just beyond the mailhouse. I think the design and plantings you chose are wonderful and add so much ambiance to the Main Entrance. It really does warmly say "Welcome Home." Thank You!

I also want to compliment whoever was in charge of the Fireworks display this past Fourth of July. The variety and intensity of the fireworks was just incredible and by my watch the show lasted almost 40 minutes! It was far superior than any fireworks

show I have ever witnessed anywhere in Moore County in the past 20 years! Wow, it was just fantastic and made me proud to be an American and a Westsider.

Thank you to the people who orchestrated the new paving along both sides of Lake Way Drive at the main entrance. This has greatly enhanced the beauty and safety of this heavily traveled road. The construction was completed in a timely manner when road traffic was least heavy.

Thank you to the people who take care of keeping the mailhouse very clean and safe. Thank you to whoever keeps the plant boxes full of colorful and cheerful flowers and shrubs around the mailhouse all year long.

A special Thank You to the guardians of the dam who have been monitoring its safety and structural soundness for years. I know it was unpopular and dif-

ficult to mandate closing of the dam on such short notice, but according to all the data collected it was the only viable option for now.

If we have to keep the dam closed indefinitely, I am sure an alternate roadway to exit through the back gate will be constructed in a timely fashion and that plans for this may already be underway so that we have an additional exit route.

In summary, I just wanted to express my sincere thank you to the humble and invisible throng who very selflessly have enhanced the enjoyment and safety of Seven Lakes West Residents.

Thank You!

LeAnne Purvis  
Seven Lakes West

## Sports Club says Thanks!

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank all of the following people for making the annual Lake Auman Sports Club picnic a huge success:

Lora & Gerry Buelow, Nelda & Ed Cockman, Lloyd Everett, Joan & Charlie Flinchum, Lee Foreman, Kay & Jim Haggard, Marilyn & Bud Holzerland, Penny & Emil Johnson, Dorothy & John Kelly, Joe Kristek, Johanna & Tom Moran, Sherry & Tim Niewald, Deanna & Dave Petrie, Alice & Chuck Ridenour, Ann & Joe Sciarrino, Ron Shepard, Diane & Ed Silberhorn, Ed Tuton, John Winton, Ron Workman, and a special thanks to Goldie's Gourmet!

Patti Cleary  
LASC Social Chair  
Seven Lakes West

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## Hudson objects to bylaws change

Dear Editor:

Lakers, there is a new development going on with Directors Don Truesdell and Ed Nuti.

They wish to have a bylaws change to say that if a person is a plaintiff in a law suit against the association then they can not run for the board of directors.

This is simply a juvenile attempt at vengeance, since I stood up with Alan Shaw and others to stop the country club from destroying the entrance on the South Side and not abiding by the restrictive covenants that you and I must adhere to.

I don't think these two understand about discrimination. This is a blatant attempt to keep me from running for the board again and letting you the landowner vote whether you want me or not.

Come to the next meeting and let them know you don't understand why they feel it necessary to change the bylaws again.

Steve Hudson  
Treasurer

Seven Lakes Landowners  
Association

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# West End paramedic needs your help

Dear Editor:

I am very active in the Fire and Rescue Service and have been for the past twenty years...It is a passion of mine and like many of us that volunteer; we do it because it is something that we

truly enjoy.

Periodically like any family there are situations that arise that are truly unfortunate. A member of West End Fire and Rescue Family and a Moore County EMS Paramedic has been

battling a long term illness and his medical bills are adding up.

The WEFD is trying to do many things for him and his family to include holding a benefit Yard Sale and Plate Sales [BBQ and Chicken] on Satur-

day October 27.

Ticket Sales for the BBQ and Chicken Plates are available in advance at West End Fire and Rescue Station located at 4203 NC Highway 73.

The Yard Sale & Bake Sale

will begin at 8:00 am at the Old West End Elementary School Gymnasium located at Highway 211 and Old West End School Lane -across from Von Cannon Drive.

(See "Benefit," p. 32)



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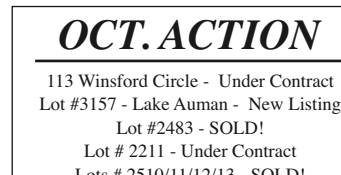
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Lot #2483 - SOLD!  
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Lots #2510/11/12/13 - SOLD!  
Lot #3388 - Auman Waterfront - New Listing  
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#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000  
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# Drought is a time for sharing resources

Dear Editor:

At the last meeting of our Lakes & Dams Committee we unanimously approved the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] negotiating with the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] for Lake Windermere's water in order to alleviate the current low water levels in Little Juniper. I now believe my vote was a mistake for reasons which follow.

At this same meeting, we also requested that the board rescind a previous board's decision which disallowed pumping water from one lake to another in a time of drought. It is precisely in such a time that we should be sharing our resources and pumping from one lake to another if only to prevent the smaller lakes from further degradation. We call our community Seven Lakes – not six or five – and all seven are important!

Shown below are our current capabilities in terms of pumping from one lake to another. Also illustrated is just what pumping from one of our larger lakes could do for the smaller ones and how effective it would be to do a little sharing.

- Windermere to Little Juniper: 1" would mean approximately 1.5" to Little Juniper.
- Longleaf to Little Juniper: 1" would mean approximate-

ly 3.5" to Little Juniper.

- Big Juniper to Little Juniper: 1" would mean approximately 4" to Little Juniper.
- Echo to Ramapo: ½" would mean approximately 4" to Ramapo.
- Echo to Timber: ½" would mean approximately 5" to Timber.
- Sequoia to Dogwood: ¼" would mean approximately 20" to Dogwood.

At least two of these options are not viable. First, Big Juniper has no water to spare.

Second, Windermere should be excluded for the following reasons:

Windermere, because of its golf course location is subject to a great deal more fertilizer or nutrient run-off than Longleaf. Excessive nitrates and phosphates tend to form a blue-green algae in the water, one which is actually a form of bacteria and which if present in large quantities can cause bodily distress. It is not a lake designed for swimming or fishing. It is useful as a source of irrigation only.

Canada Geese abound on golf courses and in their lakes and ponds. They are a large source of fecal coliform, yet another negative. Geese would certainly favor Windermere over Longleaf.

The Country Club would never vouch for the quality of Windermere's water as suitable for swimming and/or fishing — nor should it.

Longleaf on the other hand has always tested well and is used extensively for this purpose. It has a very popular beach on its shoreline.

The Country Club has no interest in the quality of Windermere's sources of water other than its suitability for irrigating. One of its members has said, "If the water is wet we can use it," but went on to state that he wouldn't swim in it or eat its fish.

Longleaf, is a rich lake, blessed with springs and a much larger drainage basin from which to draw water and recover. During

this drought, Longleaf has survived better than all and may only have lost about three or four percent of its total volume.

Given a choice, those residing on Little J as well as Big J would vote unanimously to exclude Windermere's water as a source of replenishment. Let's rule that option out, rescind the present

regulation, and commence pumping immediately to any lake in dire need of sustenance, and closely monitor the results.

As a community our motto should be "Ever Fair & Willing to Share."

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

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## Benefit

(Continued from page 31)

The BBQ or Chicken Plates, \$7.00 a plate, will be sold from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Old West End Elementary School Senior Building.

Anyone that may have any items that they would like to donate towards the Yard Sale may drop them off at West End Fire and Rescue up until 7:00 pm on Friday October 26. All items

in good condition would be appreciated!

Thanks in advance... any and all donations to this cause would be greatly appreciated and are needed to make this benefit a success. Please help us help our Brother!

Erik Stromberg  
Seven Lakes West  
Assistant Fire Chief, WEFD



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# West Side

(Continued from page 3)

ronment and Natural Resources staffers led by Regional Engineer in the Fayetteville office of the Division of Land Quality. While the results of the state inspection are not in, Fewkes said the group had been impressed that the community has a Lake Committee that includes people with relevant technical expertise — and that the community is being proactively in planning repairs to correct seepage in the dam's top layer.

Fewkes said landowners have asked whether the Board of Directors plans to seek a second opinion on the dam remediation plan being prepared by SLWLA's regular dam engineers, Dr. Dan Marks. Fewkes said the construction of large earthen embankment dams is a somewhat specialized field, and Marks the acknowledged expert on the subject and has a strong working relationship with the engineers within NCDENR.

Marks' plan for remediation of the Lake Auman Dam will be given a thorough review by NCDENR staff which "will result in a second opinion by qualified state engineers," Fewkes said. She added that Regional Engineer Cook had confirmed that it is appropriate to think of the state review as an independent second opinion.

Picking up on Fewkes' point, SLWLA President Jim Haggard said a resident had asked whether Marks had any practical experience building dams or was more of a theoretical expert. Haggard said he had asked Marks about his hands-on experience and learned that the engineer has "built or remedi-

ed over 250 dams."

Fewkes said she is continuing to explore options for extending the Johnson Point boat ramp to make it usable in times of low water. Noting the current low water conditions brought on by the drought, she suggested that residents be vigilant about their own boats. "If you look like you are going to be in the mud, move your boat," Fewkes said, noting that landowners planning to remove their boats from the lake for winter storage might want to consider doing that early, before the lake level drops further.

She encouraged residents to read Gerhard Hergenbahn's discussion of the impact of water releases on the lake level which appears in this issue of *The Times*. Noting that she has been told that the Association is required to release a minimum of two cubic feet per second from the dam valve, Fewkes said she would be checking into the legal basis for that requirement.

## Fire Hydrants

Pat Cavelius and Bob Johnson of Owens Circle asked the Association to pay for the installation of fire hydrants on Owens Circle — an expense usually born by the county. SLWLA budgets for the purchase of a limited number of hydrants each year, but it is the county's responsibility to install them, which it has failed to do for two years now.

Cavelius said the county has three staff members involved in the installation of fire hydrants, one of whom is currently serving in Iraq. She said there is no fire hydrant work in Seven Lakes West on the county's calendar.

Private contractors can do the installation for \$1300 - \$1500 per hydrant, assuming proper sized lines are in place.

Cavelius said much of Owens Circle is served by two-inch lines — two small for fire hydrants. But she and Johnson — along with Infrastructure Director Mackay — identified some options for placing two hydrants at existing six inch lines and still covering the entire street.

Johnson estimated the total cost of installing those two hydrants to be \$3800-\$4000.

President Haggard told Cavelius and Johnson that "that is really tough for me to swallow that we should take on the county's role," paying for something that is the county's responsibility.

Resident Allan Terrutty asked why the developer of Seven Lakes West had not installed the hydrants. Community Manager Robertson explained that the developer had sold the community water system to the county, which is why the ball is in the county's court. He said he was actively discussing the issue with the county's Public Works Director, Dennis Brobst, a West-side resident.

Resident Bill Parker, who works with the Moore County Home Builders Association, said that organization pressured the county to hire outside contractors to install water taps, when short staff and a backlog of work orders began to delay the construction of new homes.

## Barcodes

President Haggard began the meeting by noting that most residents have now obtained entrance gate barcodes for their

vehicles. The Board has determined, for the time being, to limit to three the number of barcodes for any one landowner. There may be some folks who have obtained more than three, he said, adding that staff would now begin to comb the database for such instances and ask

any landowners with more than three barcodes to provide written justification for the overage.

A possibly valid reason, he said, might be the presence of more than three adult, resident drivers in the household. The simple fact that a household

(See "West Side," p. 34)



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# Sandhills

(Continued from page 17)

try from Pinehurst eastward will be a big community of winter homes of well-to-do northerners who will establish in the county a concentration of small and comparatively large estates that will result in a settlement that will be unique."

Ray Owen is an avid student

of Moore County history, and has called Southern Pines home for more than thirty years. He is a published writer, and has served as a guest lecturer and curator for museums locally and statewide. His current work for MCHA involves planning for the restoration and interpretation of the Bryant House-

McLendon Cabin site, traditionally held to be the earliest farmstead in the Sandhills region. Recent projects include the four-part lecture series Sandhills at a Crossroads with the Classical Design Foundation in Southern Pines, and the contribution a chapter for the upcoming book *North Carolina Redware: Ori-*

*gin of a Ceramic Tradition* for the University of Georgia Press.

# West Side

(Continued from page 33)

owns more than three vehicles would not be considered a valid reason, Haggard added. The Board decided on the three barcode limit and "decided we were going to stick with that and see how things work out," Haggard said. "We'll start looking into that."

Haggard noted that a few residents have responded to the new system — and, in particular, the restriction of the right hand entrance lane to barcoded vehicles only — by abusing the gate guards. He said the Board will review incident reports filed by the guards at each of its monthly work sessions, in order to better track resident-guard interactions. "If guards aren't operating properly, we need to know that. If residents are abusing guards, we need to know that."

## Budget work session

Haggard said the November 13 work session of the Board would focus on next year's budget. The Board hopes to be able to present a rough draft of the budget to the community during the November 27 General Session, which will allow plenty of time for the public to learn about and have input into the final budget before it is approved in March. He said Treasurer Kathy Kirst had expressed willingness to meet with small groups of community members to discuss various aspects of the budget.

## Water Conservation

Community Manager Tony Robertson reminded residents of the critical need to conserve water. He suggested taking "ship showers" by wetting your body and then turning the water off while lathering up, turning it back on the rinse. The process

can use as little as one half-gallon of water, he said. He also suggested putting a brick in the back of toilet tanks to reduce the amount of water used with each flush.

## Lakeway Drive

Noting that the widening and repaving of the bottom portion of the entrance lane of Lakeway Drive had been completed, Robertson thanked Infrastructure Director Ray MacKay for his work overseeing the project. Later in the meeting, landowners also thanked MacKay, who garnered applause from the audience each time.

## Recreation

Recreation Director Jo Nicholas reported that the this years events have been very well attended and remind residents that Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 31 in the Community Center parking lot. Residents are encouraged to decorate their cars or trucks and bring treats for the kids.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 2 and a children's Christmas party for December 9, both in the Great Hall of the Community Center, Nicholas said.



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# Bylaws

(Continued from front page)  
tion as a member of the Board.  
The proposed change to the by-laws adds a third bullet point to Section 6.2.3 which current-

ly reads:  
6.2.3 Nominees for the Board of Directors are eligible to serve ONLY if they;  
• are voting members in good

standing;  
• hold fee simple title to property;  
The new bullet point will read:  
• are NOT a named plaintiff in litigation against the Association.

Unless Hudson withdraws as a plaintiff in the driving range suit, the change would appear to prevent him from running for a second term on the Board, though it is not clear that it would give Board members the ability to expel him prior to the election.

The SLLA by-laws do not provide the Board with a means of removing an elected Director, unlike the by-laws of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], which allow a simple majority vote of the Board to remove a director with or without cause. SLLA Directors can remove a Director that they have appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Board, but only a vote of the resident landowners can remove an elected Board member.

Director Ed Nuti, who chairs the SLLA Rule Committee, notified Board members of the proposed bylaws change by email on October 15. Nuti told *The Times* he had done so after conferring with President Don Truesdell.

That initial email indicated the matter would be voted on during the Wednesday, October 24 meeting. Board members learned at their October 10 Work Session that Hudson would not be in attendance at the October 24 Business Meeting.

Ten days notice is required for proposed changes to SLLA by-laws; Nuti said there were

objections that he had not provided the, so the vote was moved to November. Because the Thanksgiving holiday eliminates the second session in November, and because Nuti has asked the Board to move the first November meeting from November 14 to November 7, it appears the vote will be taken in that meeting on November 7.

The language of the proposed by-laws amendment has also

changed since Nuti's initial email. Originally, there was a second clause to be added that read: "and/or, if elected, DO NOT become a litigant against the Association." That appeared to be aimed at providing grounds for immediate removal of Hudson from the Board, but Nuti told *The Times* he had removed it from the language the Board will be asked to approve.

# County

(Continued from page 7)  
state calls it wetlands."

Jackson said that what the Army Corps of Engineers designates as wetlands would not look like wetlands to any average homeowner.

"We want to make it to where they [developers] won't pick the other route, to make conservation design desirable for developers," said Jackson.

Nealon said that all developments, whether conventional or conservation design options, will have a minimum open space requirement and that the proposed ordinance is attempting delineate open space by requiring that a maximum of eighty percent can be achieved with the primary open space description, which includes wetlands. The remaining twenty percent open space requirement must be on land described as secondary or tertiary land, which includes woodlands, farmlands, and space for active or passive recreation.

Fiorello said, "We want developers to embrace conservation [design] but they are going to look at profitability. The thirty percent [requirement] is very low, we wanted fifty and now it's down to thirty and almost all of that can be wetlands. Wetlands are not always what we think but we need to have some usable recreation land."

She suggested adding a minimum requirement for active recreational use.

During public comment, a resident spoke in favor of stringent open space requirements saying, "Moore County is behind the curve with water and schools, but we're not behind on open space and now is the time to make sure that we don't fall behind. Wake County officials years ago did not have the foresight and now they are using tax monies to buy open space."

He continued, "Thirty percent open space is not enough, it should be forty percent minimum with no more than a fifty

percent credit for wetlands."

"Once open space is covered with bricks and pavement, it's gone forever," he concluded. "Leave room for flexibility – don't cut our legs off now."

Fiorello closed the public hearing and asked the Board of Commissioners for additional time for the Planning Board to review the recent revisions proposed by Land Design, Inc.

"Having input from the board and public gives us [Planning Board] even more to discuss before we can come back with our recommendation," said Fiorello.

During the County Commissioner's regular meeting immediately following, the board approved one final period of review before voting on the proposed ordinances.

Board Chair Colin McKenzie praised the excellent work of the Planning Board and Planning Department.

"This process has been stretched not intentionally, and this last stretch was at the request of realtors and homebuilders for their review of the plan. We'd be remiss to not do it properly and will hold to November 19 for the final product before a vote by board."

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# Lawsuit

(Continued from front page)

and Katie Weaver Hartzog of the Raleigh office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP. And their responses to the suit are essentially identical.

SLLA Community Manager Dalton Fulcher told The Times that both the Association and the Club are insured by The Cincinnati Insurance Company, who made the choice of counsel.

The individual Directors who voted to approve the driving range agreement — Randy Zielsdorf, Don Truesdell, Ed Nuti, and Laura Douglass — were initially named as Defendants in the suit, but the Plaintiffs filed voluntarily on October 9 to remove them from the suit.

While the Club and Association responses include the expected standard requests for dismissal on technical grounds, the more interesting assertions are found in the point by point answers to the Plaintiff's claims.

The complaint filed by Shaw, Hudson, et. al. boils down to two key questions:

- Is SLCC's existing driving range subject to the South Side Covenants? If so, it likely cannot be subdivided and, at the least, cannot be developed residentially without the oversight of the SLLA Architectural Review Board.
- If the driving range was shown as a driving range or as undeveloped open space on the original plats of the community, and the plaintiffs bought their property relying on those plats, and on representations by the developer that the property would remain open and undeveloped, does that give the plaintiffs the right to insist that the property remain undeveloped?

Shaw, Hudson and their co-plaintiffs argue that the answer to both questions is "Yes." Club property was shown on the original plats as part of the covenanted residential subdivision called, at that time, "Seven Lakes Country Club," they contend. In addition, they argue, the driving range was shown on those plats as part of the recreational open space of the community — not as an area set aside for future development.

The answer from the Club and Association attorneys denies repeatedly that the covenants

apply to any of the Club's property. The argument on this point is sparse, as is customary with such documents. The lawyers rely on the amendment to the Southside covenants effected by bankruptcy court Judge Rufus W. Reynolds, who in 1988 resolved the bankruptcy of Seven Lakes development companies by reorganizing the residential development initially known as "Seven Lakes Country Club" into "Seven Lakes South."

Judge Reynolds' orders, according to Attorneys Davis and Hartzog, do not include the Country Club's golf course or driving range, in the new "Seven Lakes South." Consequently, South Side covenants do not apply, and the SLLA has no authority over property owned by

the Club. They "expressly deny" that "there are any restrictive covenants applicable to property" owned by the Club.

This claim is consistent with what the Country Club has maintained since negotiations over the sale and development of the driving range began many months ago. It is more surprising in a formal legal filing by the Association, which contended for many months the exact opposite — i.e., that the Club was subject to South Side Covenants.

When *The Times* interviewed SLLA President Don Truesdell and other Board members at the time the driving range agreement was signed, Truesdell said SLLA Attorney Hunter Stovall had advised the Board that they had a 50-50 chance of prevail-

ing in court on the issue of the applicability of South Side Covenants to Club property. Truesdell's concern at the time was that provisions of a portion of North Carolina law called "The Marketable Title Act" might have caused the South Side Covenants to expire on Club property. But the motion filed by attorneys Davis and Hartzog filing makes no mention of The Marketable Title Act, instead arguing that Club property, if it was ever subject to the South Side covenants, was freed from those restrictions by the bankruptcy court.

On the second point — whether the original plat and the original marketing of Seven Lakes give residents the right to expect that the driving range —

and the golf course itself, for that matter — will remain open space, the Club and Association attorneys are just as strong in their denials, but less forthcoming on the underlying facts:

- The Plaintiffs argue that sales literature used in marketing Seven Lakes lots and documents filed with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] show the driving range as undeveloped open space. The Respondents say they have no information about either and so deny the Plaintiffs claims.
- The Plaintiffs claims that the driving range is not subdivided or platted and "was never intended for residential use and development." The

(See "Lawsuit," p. 37)



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Lawsuit

(Continued from page 36)

Respondents deny that with-out explanation.

- The Plaintiffs claim that these foregoing representations give them an “easement appurtenant” which requires that the driving range remain open. The Respondents deny that any member of the Association or landowner has any rights to the property in question unless they are a dues-paying member of the Club in good standing.

There's an interesting twist that occurs twice in this area of the Defendant's response: “In the alternative, it is admitted that whatever rights/restrictions attach to the property impact and affect all lot owners within the subdivision . . . Plaintiffs have failed to join all the parties to this action.” This refers to a technical point in the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure that requires “those who are united in interest to be joined as plaintiffs or defendants.” Were this line of reasoning to prevail, it would seem to require that the entire community must be lined up on one side or the other of the suit. The Defendants asked the court to dismiss the suit on this basis.

A third argument by the Plaintiffs in support of the notion that the driving range was to remain undeveloped is that it serves as part of the undeveloped buffer strip that surrounds the community. The Defendants simply state that “the plats speak for themselves” on this matter.

The SLLA-SLCC attorneys label a variety of other ancillary points are “legal conclusions which require no response” and deny them.

In addition, a number of

requests for dismissal on technical grounds, the Association and Club ask that suit be dismissed because Shaw has no standing, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 55A-3-o4. That portion of the General Statutes deals with non-profit

corporations and limits the plaintiffs who may challenge corporate action on the basis that the corporation lacks power to act. Elsewhere the Defendants claim that Shaw is not a member of the SLLA.

In conclusion, the Club and

Association attorneys ask that the lawsuit be dismissed, that the requested injunction against the driving range agreement be denied, that the plaintiffs recover nothing, that the plaintiffs be required to pay the defendants' legal bills, and, finally, that any

trial resulting from the suit be a jury trial.

The Club and Association attorneys asked that their motions be placed on the Superior Court calendar for November 5. As of press time on Wednesday, they were not on the calendar.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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