



# TIMES

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Volume 24 Number 3

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

December 12, 2008

## Visions of sugar plums



*The Jolly Old Elf himself braved the cold — along with scores of young Lakers and their parents — to enjoy the Business Guild's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 2.*

## Five to run on Westside

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The names of five Westsiders — Adam Wimberly, Jim Johnson, John Goodman, John Hoffman, and Dave Carter — were placed in nomination for Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors elections that will be finalized at the Annual Meeting in March.

Board Secretary and Nominating Committee Chairman Ed Tuton presented the names to the current Board during a lengthy Tuesday, December 9 Work Session. Tuton said he and the other members of the Nominating Committee — Betty Milligan, Ed Cockman, Michael Shapiro, and Mary Price — were unanimous in recommending the five can-

didates. After interviewing a sixth candidate, whom Tuton did not name, the committee decided against placing that individual's name in nomination.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the five nominees.

According to information Wimberly submitted to the Committee, he is an 11-year resident

(See "West Side," p. 32)

## County opposes crossing project?

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

More than two hundred citizens turned out for a North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] informational workshop on a Seven Lakes-West End Railway Corridor Safety Project [TIP Y-4808C, in NCDOT parlance] that would upgrade crossings at Seven Lakes West and near West End Fire and Rescue, while closing crossings at Mode Road and Edgewood Terrace.

NCDOT staffers and consultants were on hand at four cafeteria tables with maps and illustrations showing which crossings

would be affected and what changes were planned.

One of the tables was staffed by NCDOT's lead Engineer on the project, Nancy Horne, who told *The Times* that the total cost of the crossing upgrades and closures is now estimated to be \$1.5 million, most of which will be covered by federal railway safety funds. She said she had learned from representatives of the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway that night that they had upped their estimate of the cost of upgrading just the Lake-way Drive crossing to a whopping \$500,000, based on the com-

(See "Workshop," p. 21)

## Welch withdraws from Board election

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Don Welch withdrew his candidacy for the 2009-2010 Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors in a surprise announcement during the Open Meeting held on Wednesday, December 10.

"This week I learned that I am facing a health issue that will take my energy for the next several months," said Welch.

The Board and President Randy Zielsdorf expressed concern and sadness that he would

not be able to continue serving the community as a Director. Welch also gave up his chairmanship of the Transition Committee, charged with overseeing the transition to a new Community Manager at the end of next year. However, Zielsdorf reported that Welch would continue to serve as a member of the Transition Committee in some form.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Director Bud Shaver presented the remaining seven

(See "SLLA Meeting," p. 24)

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# Board will urge member action on crossing

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Westsidiers can expect mail this week from The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors urging them to actively support an North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] project that would upgrade the railroad crossing at Seven Lakes West and near the West End Firehouse and close crossings at Edgewood Terrace and Mode

Road.

Long Range Planning Co-Chairman Bud Sales suggested the Board take the step of contacting every member after updating the Board on the crossing project, which was the subject of an NCDOT informational workshop at West End Elementary School on Tuesday, December 2. The Board adopted Sales' suggestion by consensus and asked him to draft the letter.

Sales also urged the Board to try to be placed on the agenda of a Moore County Board of Commissioners work session in February, in order to solicit Commissioner support for the project.

Earlier in the meeting, Blaine Rowland, who chairs a Board subcommittee working on the crossing project suggested gathering signatures at the Westside mailhouse on a petition in support of the project that could be submitted to the county and the state. The Board appeared ready to implement Rowland's idea as well.

Sales told the Board that turnout at the NCDOT meeting had included 125 to 150 Westsidiers — less than twenty percent of all landowners. "One hundred percent of the opposition was there," he said, including an attorney representing some opponents of the plan.

If the crossing project is not approved, Sales said, the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway is very likely to insist that the crossing — never designed to carry its current traffic load — be upgraded at the

expense of the Association and the businesses that depend on it. NCDOT estimates the cost of upgrading only the Lakeway Drive crossing to be \$500,000, he noted.

## West Side Landowners Meeting

12/9

"Once we pay for it, we own it," Sales said. "We are in the liability chain" should an accident at the crossing result in death or serious injury. Noting he had talked with members of the insurance committee about how to insure against such liability, Sales said, "The insurance committee has no

idea whether we could get insurance for such a thing."

A US Supreme Court ruling [Shanklin] that protects railroad companies and others from crossing-related liabilities comes into play only when federal dollars are expended in an upgrade, he added. The NCDOT project would utilize federal funds.

"If we have to rebuild the crossing, and bring up it up to standard, we will also have to maintain it," Sales said, noting that could cost \$50,000 per year.

"The Board should become extremely actively involved — and immediately," sales concluded.

Treasurer Kathy Kirst said she

had attended the NCDOT workshop and learned from Project Engineer Nancy Horne that the Department had done extensive research on the entire rail corridor in order to determine which crossings should be upgraded and which closed.

"They have gone through all the effort. They have determined that this is a viable way of doing this," Kirst said. "It's an improvement of the entire corridor that involves crossings, intersections, and traffic patterns."

"Unless our residents get up and make ourselves heard, then we are up for a \$500,000 expense, plus an annual insurance and maintenance fee," Director Karen Milligan said. "The membership need to understand that the bill stops at their

(See "Crossing," p. 3)

### 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
Dec 23*	Dec 18*
January 9	January 2
January 23	January 16
February 6	January 30
February 20	February 13
March 6	February 27
March 20	March 13
April 3	March 27
April 17	April 10
May 1	April 24
May 15	May 8
May 29	May 22
June 12	June 5
June 26	June 19
July 10	July 2*
July 24	July 17
August 7	July 31
August 21	August 14
Sept. 4	August 28
Sept. 18	Sept. 11
October 2	Sept. 25
October 16	October 9
October 30	October 23
Nov. 13	Nov. 6
Nov. 24*	Nov. 19*
Dec. 11	Dec. 4
Dec. 22*	Dec. 17*

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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# Westside Board approves 2009-2010 budget

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

After a six-hour budget work session, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors gave preliminary approval to a Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget, Treasurer Kathy Kirst told *The Times* Tuesday night.

The approval is "preliminary" only in the sense that the individual Directors wanted a chance to see Kirst's revised budget spreadsheet, reflecting the decision made during the work session, before releasing it for inclusion in the Annual Meeting packets that will be mailed in January to landowners for their approval.

Kirst told *The Times* that she asked the Board to vote separately on three items: the annual dues assessment, the rest of the fee schedule, and the expense budget. That strategy was an attempt to avoid any repeat of a problem encountered last year, when procedural issues prevented the Board

from including more than \$100,000 in expense cuts in an already-approved budget.

The budget the Board approved on Tuesday includes the twelve percent annual dues increases laid out for Beacon Ridge, the Pinnacles, and Carriage Park in the 2002 agreement that merged the Westside's landowners Associations into the SLWLA. Seven Lakes West and Morgan Wood landowners will see a six percent increase, if the budget is approved by the Association.

Those increases will this year equalize the dues paid by all Westsiders, achieving parity, Kirst explained. Once parity is achieved, dues increase or special assessments can be shared equally across the full membership. If the membership approves the budget, homeowners will pay \$705; owners of undeveloped lots will pay \$425.

With 1700 members and an assumed ninety-eight percent collection rate, dues will bring the

Association \$967,540 in revenue, with just under \$150,000 dedicated to retiring the mortgage on West Side Park.

Adding to that total the various fees collected by the Association for everything from boat permits to Great Room rentals brings total anticipated revenues to \$1,239,000 — roughly \$96,000 more than the FY 2008-2009 budget that the Board recently revised.

Anticipated expenses are just under \$1.2 million, approximately \$85,000 less than this year's revised budget. That will leave just over \$30,000 to add to Association reserves.

But the FY 2009-2010 budget includes many more projects than this year's budget, which

saw most of the allotment for capital projects devoted to the expected \$300,000 cost of repairing the Lake Auman Dam.

Among the capital projects envisioned for next year are perimeter fencing at the back of West Side park and in a section of the community near Cur-

rie Mill Road, additional work at the Johnson Point boat slips, installation of additional fire hydrants within the community, the re-striping Longleaf Drive and the addition of guard rails at the lower pond on Longleaf and Gateway Drive.

## Holiday Decoration Contest

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club will award a \$65 prize for the Best Lawn and/or Lakefront Decoration Display within the community.

Three prizes will be awarded: one each for North, South, and Westside homes.

Judges will be surveying properties Friday through Sunday, December 19-21 between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

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## Crossing

(Continued from page 2)

door unless they get up and do something."

"The key step is that the County Commissioners must approve the project," Sales said, noting that he had talked with Com-

missioners Tim Lea and Cindy Morgan, as well as newly-elected Board of Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno.

"Picerno promised a fair hearing," Sales said. "If they agree to it, I think it is a done deal."



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# Picerno elected Commissioners Chairman

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

McLendon Hills resident Nick Picerno was named Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners in a three-to-two vote during the Board's Monday, December 1 meeting.

Commissioners Jimmy Melton and Larry Caddell voted for Picerno, who was elected in November to the District II seat held for twelve years by former Chairman Colin McKenzie. Commissioners Cindy Morgan and Tim Lea voted against Picerno's elevation to Chairman.

When Clerk Megan Owrey opened nominations for the post, Morgan immediately nominated Lea, arguing that seniority and experience on the Board were critical qualifications for the post of Chairman. Lea, elected in November to his second term, is the Board's senior member.

Noting the financial difficulties facing the nation and the county, Morgan said Lea was best qualified to lead the county in troubled times, calling him a "watchdog for the taxpayers."

When it became clear that no one else would second Morgan's motion, Lea himself offered the second, so that the votes of each commissioner would be on the record. Caddell, Melton, and Picerno all voted against Lea.

Lea then nominated Morgan for the Chairmanship, a motion that Morgan herself ultimately seconded. Caddell, Melton, and Picerno opposed the motion. Then Melton put Picerno's name up for a vote, with a second from Caddell, and Picerno was elected with opposition from Morgan and Lea.

## Melton for Vice Chairman

Picerno, acting as Chairman, then opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Caddell nominated Melton, with a second from Picerno.

Lea offered a substitute amendment naming Morgan to the post, which Morgan seconded.

But that motion went down to a three-to-two defeat, allowing Melton, Picerno, and Caddell to return Melton to the Vice Chairman position.

## A three-two board?

At the close of the meeting, during Commissioners' Comments, Picerno attempted to smooth any feathers ruffled by the votes for Chairman and Vice Chairman, but Lea was having none of it.

After thanking the county staff for their service and saying it was "an honor for me to sit up here and work with you," Picerno added "all four commissioners will have my ear and a equal vote and we will move this Board forward."

Lea, who had initially passed up the opportunity to speak, said "One of the things this board has work hard on is to have five individual commissioners make decisions based on what's best

for the county." Noting that the Board has often split in a predictable three-to-two pattern, Lea said three commissioners have often planned their votes in advance of the meeting. "It's obvious that we are back in that same mode," he said.

"I hope and I pray," he said, "that at some time during this board's term we will be able to make decisions based on what happens in this meeting instead of based on what three commissioners discuss in advance."

This is not the first time Lea has lost the Chairmanship in a three-to-two vote. Last year, Morgan

nominated Lea to the post, saying she was honoring an agreement made before she, Caddell, and Melton all joined the Board in 2006. Morgan said the three, along with then Commissioners McKenzie and Lea, had agreed that McKenzie would serve one year as Chairman and Lea would succeed him.

But Caddell, McKenzie, and Melton often locked horns with Lea during McKenzie's first term as Chairman. When the December 2007 vote rolled around, those three Commissioners all voted against Morgan's nomination of Lea.

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# Picerno: County needs all five commissioners

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Nick Picerno says Moore County needs the talents and best thinking of all five of its Commissioners, and he plans to chair the Board of Commissioners in a way that will ensure all five are involved in decision making.

*The Times* spoke with Picerno on Saturday, December 5, a few days after the McLendon Hills resident was sworn in as a commissioner and elected Chairman of the Board in a three-to-two vote that raised the specter of divided boards that have been more the norm than the exception over the past several years.

But that sort of predictable three-two split is exactly what Picerno wants to avoid going forward, he told *The Times*.

"I'm not going to say we're

never going to disagree," Picerno said. "I believe what I believe and the other Commissioners each believe what they believe."

"But there will be no pre-arranged deals, no preconceived anything. We will work as a five member board and every voice will be heard."

## Bringing all the talents to the table

Making sure each Board member is heard is essential because each brings unique talents, knowledge, and experience to the Board, Picerno said.

Commission Tim Lea "is a tremendous negotiator," he noted, calling the senior member of the Board "very detailed, very fact oriented in his decision making." Cindy Morgan "knows health care inside and out" and brings a strong knowl-

edge of human resource issues to the table.

Larry Caddell is an outstanding consultant, someone who can "go out and talk with the people involved with a decision and shine a light on the key



Nick Picerno

issues." Jimmy Melton is "an analytical person — someone who does a lot of listening," Picerno said.

"My job as Chairman is to take all of those talents and bring them all to the table so we make the best possible decisions for the County."

If three commissioners are making all the decisions, Picerno told *The Times*, then the county is losing out on two-fifths of the energy, skills, and intelligence it has at its disposal in the Board of Commissioners.

"A good leader will bring everyone together," he said, "Chairman is a title. I don't care about titles. Someone has to be a force that brings the ideas together so something good can come out of it."

"That's why I ran for the Board in the first place — because I thought I could help do that."

So what about the three-to-split over who would chair the Board?

Noting that he had talked with each of the other Commissioners individually before the Monday, December 1 meeting, Picerno said he had a pretty good idea of their feelings on who should be chairman.

"If I had voted for Tim [Lea], it would have been three-two the other way," Picerno said. Lea's name was the first put into nomination for the Chairman's job. "No matter what I did was going to be perceived as creating a three-two split on the Board."

"I thought that maybe I could be the one who could bring

(See "Picerno," p. 33)

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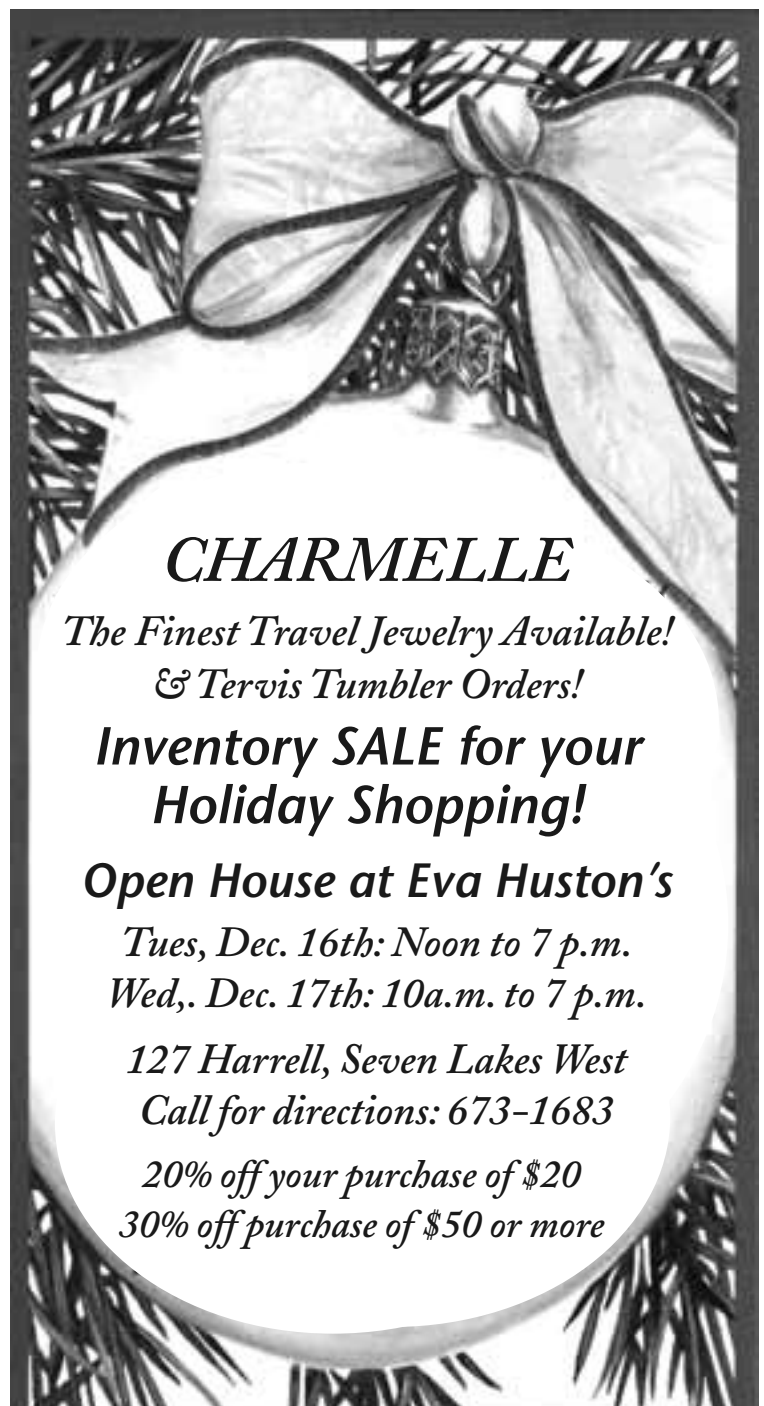
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# Coker opposes closure of Mode Road crossing

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Councilwoman Page Coker told Villagers Tuesday night that she opposed the closing of a railroad crossing at Mode Road in West End — part of a North Carolina Department of Transportation plan that would upgrade the NC Highway 73 crossing near the West End fire house and the Lakeway Drive crossing at Sevne Lakes West.

## Woodland Circle Extension

Those property owners directly affected by the proposed Woodland Circle Extension project received written notification of anticipated final costs and assessments. Property owners must respond by Sunday, December 21. To date, total expenses incurred by the village for the Woodland Circle Extension project is approximately \$245,000.

sistently gone down since the Village added the new well," said

Lauer.

Letters have been sent to res-

idents of Foxfire Condos A & C  
(See "Foxfire," p. 30)

## Foxfire Council Meeting

12/9

During the December 9 regular Council meeting, Coker said that closing the Mode Road crossing would hamper emergency response in the event of an accident at the intersection of NC Highway 73 West and NC Highway 211.

"I agree with the County because of safety concerns," said Coker. "If for some reason there was an accident at Route 73 and we needed fire and rescue [in Foxfire], they would have to go way out of the way to get to us."

She encouraged Foxfire residents to get involved and write NCDOT with their thoughts on the proposed railroad improvements and/or closings.

Coker also said she is looking for a few more volunteers to participate in the Foxfire Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] program. Recently, she and Coordinator Tommy McCaskill attended a Mass Casualty training class offered by Moore County.

The Village Fire House's four garage doors were serviced because they were not closing properly in cold weather.

## Finance

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco reported a total cash balance \$683,252; with \$221,975 in the general fund; and \$326,215 in the water fund. Annual bank loan payments of \$30,000 and \$41,000 are due in July.

Several budget amendments were unanimously approved including increased funding of mowing along State-owned roads with decreased mowing along Village-owned roads; increasing the drainage account by decreasing the streets crack pouring and filling budgets; and decreasing the contingency fund by \$10,000 to increase boring funds.

In January, the Council must decide whether property tax billing and collection services will continue to be performed in-house or by Moore County. Frusco distributed a proposed contract with the County detailing a set fee of 2.5 % of property valuations, or approximately \$10,000 for the service.

Frusco also requested a special Work Session, scheduled for Thursday, January 15, to review the budget in detail.

## Water

The Village has not received a response to offers made to purchase land for future wells, reported Councilman Ed Lauer.

"However, radium levels are going down — and have con-

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# Planning Board tightens up ordinances

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Swimming pool safety concerns surfaced at the Moore County Planning Board last Summer in response to the increased number of above ground pools in the area. Looking again towards warmer days, the Board approved a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance involving swimming pool safety precautions at its Thursday, December 4 meeting.

The simplified ordinance states that all pools over 24" in depth must adhere to the 48" barrier requirement. Above ground pools with a depth of 48" or greater may serve as their own barrier, provided the ladder or steps are capable of being secured, locked, removed, or surrounded by a barrier. A standard 48" barrier fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate is required of all in-ground pools.

## Accessory Buildings

Intrusive accessory buildings in residential districts led Moore County Planning Staff to propose a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance limiting the size and placement of such structures.

Members Ron Jackson and Les Murray, both building developers, expressed concern that the text amendment was unrealistic in limiting accessory buildings to the side and rear of the

principal structure. They also said that while historically houses were built along roads, modern property owners frequently request the home to be built at the rear of the tract, with any accessory buildings or barns located towards the front.

Chair Nancy Roy Fiorillo agreed that flexibility was needed especially for more rural applications.

After discussion, the Board tabled the vote while staff revise the proposed text amendment to reflect a 100' setback requirement for accessory buildings, rather than limited placement options.

Following Small Planning Area A recommendations, the Board unanimously approved allowing Libraries in zoning district RB and Bed & Breakfast operations in zoning districts B1, RA, and RA-USB.

## Bona Fide Farm

The Planning Board reviewed the definition of and process for exempting agriculture buildings under Bona Fide Farm designation.

Eligibility requires the land tract to be used for the production of and activities related to production of crops or livestock, and other forms of agricultural

products with a domestic or foreign market, as the primary income source of the farmer. As written, the ordinance does not exercise control over croplands, timber lands, pasture lands, orchards, or idle or other farmlands

Exempt buildings must be located on the same tract as where the principal use is conducted and does not apply if the building is used to store or for use by non-agricultural use [ex. storage of antique car].

## Planning Director's Report

Joey Raczkowski reported reorganization and restructuring of Planning Staff has divided the office into two main functions; current and long range planning, and code enforcement.

Working with the Fire Marshal, fire code enforcement has been moved to the Building Code office.

"It just made sense to have [Fire Code Enforcement] it within our department. Now we are a one stop service," said Raczkowski.

Dave Kinney questioned whether the proposed STIP plan for widening Rt. 211 still included constructing sidewalks.

"There are very few houses along there and this would be money ill spent," argued Kinney.

Raczkowski said the sidewalks were an element added to

the proposal by the Department of Transportation.

"There is still time to interject our opinions," said Raczkowski.

## Christmas at the Bryant House

Christmas at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 13 - 14, from 1 - 4 pm.

Step back in time with the Friends of the Bryant House and the Moore County Historical Association at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin at 3361 Mount Carmel Road, just west of Carthage.

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# Kathy Farren will chair Board of Education

One new School Board member and three re-elected members took the Oath of Office during ceremonies December 1. Also during the meeting, Kathy Farren was elected by her fellow Board members as Chair, and Dale Frye was elected Vice-Chair.

Re-elected Board members Dr. Lorna Clack, Bruce Cun-

ningham and Farren, and new Board member Laura Kite took the Oath of Office at the meeting. Approximately seventy-five people were in attendance, including family and friends of the four members taking the Oath.

The meeting was Kite's first since being elected in November. She fills the District IV seat vacated by former Board mem-

ber Joe Vaughn. Kite is a self-employed accountant who resides in Whispering Pines.

Clack is a retired administrator from the Moore County Schools and represents District I. Farren represents District II is the owner/operator of TCBY Yogurt in Aberdeen. Cunningham is a Southern Pines attorney and represents District V. Other Board members are Charles Lambert, representing District III, and at-large members Sue Black, Dale Frye, and Pam Thompson.

The Moore County Board of Education is composed of eight non-partisan members, five of whom are elected from the same electoral districts as the Moore County Board of Commissioners and three elected at-large. Board members serve four-year terms, terms being staggered with four members elected every two years.



**New School Board Chair Kathy Farren** with newly-elected Board members Lorna Clack, Laura Kite, and Bruce Cunningham

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## Whooping cough update

A total of four cases of pertussis at West End Elementary have been confirmed by Moore County Health Department, out of nine reported cases countywide.

More commonly known as whooping cough, pertussis is a required vaccine for school children and most are protected. However, according to the North Carolina Division of Public Health, the vaccine is not

100 percent effective and immunity often wanes five to ten years after the last childhood vaccination. In 2008 North Carolina became the first state in the nation to require a pertussis booster for all rising sixth graders.

For more information, please contact the Moore County Health Department at 974-3300 or visit [www.moore-countync.gov/health](http://www.moore-countync.gov/health)



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# Westside Judicial Panel rules on two cases

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Judicial Panel of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] convened on Monday night, December 8 and ruled in the Association's favor

on both cases that came before it.

## Boat Slip privileges suspended

The first case involved a landowner's appeal of an admin-

istrative ruling by the Lake Manager — SLWLA Director Mick Herdrich.

Herdrich had ruled in November that landowners Mr. & Mrs. Marty Oliver would forfeit their use of Johnson Point slip A13

because they had violated rules and regulations governing the use of Lake Auman. That ruling relied on a clause in the slip lease agreement that gives the Association the right to terminate the slip lease of the lessee vio-

lates the rules and regulations.

In late August, according to a report prepared by Community Advocate Bud Sales, the Olivers obtained a boat sticker for a 1999 Hurricane pontoon boat, but

(See "Judicial," p. 23)



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**RENOVATED GEM** - New listing in SL North, located near Sequoia Beach area. Super condition with master BR on the main level and 2 BR above. Fireplace in great rm, separate family rm, workshop, huge bonus rm . . . **\$218,000**



**COLONIAL in SL SOUTH** - Large home, 4BR, 2.5 BA, hardwood floors in DR & LR, New appliances, New carpet in bedrooms, lots of attic storage, located on 3 lots (1.79 acres) across from the golf course (8th hole)! . . . **\$225,000**



**NEAR THE BEACH** - A block from Sequoia Pt. 3 BR, 2BA, fantastic Carolina Rm, beautifully landscaped private lot, low maintenance exterior on Primrose Ct. New tile in baths, kitchen, utility room & Carolina Room . . . **\$197,000**



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# Joan Frost: Organization, continuity are key

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Organization and continuity: boil it down to a couple of key concepts and that's what a Community Manager provides for the board of Directors for a landowners association, new Westside Community Manager told *The Times* in an interview on Tuesday, December 9.

Frost, who has been working part time in the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] office for several weeks now, will become the community's full-time manager after January 1. She was welcomed to the community with a reception following the Tuesday, December 2, General Meeting of the Association.

Frost was raised in the mountains of Southwest Virginia — Tazewell County, to be specific

— but spent twenty-two years of her career in accounting and administration in the Washington, DC area. Her last post there before moving to Pinehurst was with Landau & Company — a major owner of residential and commercial properties in the DC area.

Frost told *The Times* that she hadn't originally planned to work outside the home when she and her husband moved to Pinehurst in 1996. But, once the boredom set in, she began to look for a part-time job. That was when she encountered Community Association Services, Inc. [CAS], taking on a special project for them to help whip into shape a community association in Fayetteville.

In her almost thirteen years with CAS, helping bring organization to communities has

become something of a specialty for Frost — and something that appeals to her about the job.

"I feel like I am doing a lot to help people," Frost told *The Times*. The accounts that were given to me all had problems that needed to be solved. I helped get them organized."

"One community, when we went there, we inspected one building and found they had not maintained an effective termite protection," Frost continued. "We had to have contractors come in and jack up and repair the base of the building."

The job of a Community Manager is always challenging, she told *The Times*, "because it changes every day."

"The most important thing is organization," Frost said. "The Board changes every year, so your management is your continuity. The management's job is being organized and keeping a history for you so you know what is going on."

"Because we [at CAS] are professionals and have a whole company working behind us, we have people to go to, to discuss things that come up." CAS managers share ideas and brainstorm approaches, Frost said, noting that the company also has legal and accounting resources that can be brought to bear on problem-solving.

Asked to discuss the roles of the Community Manager versus the Board of Directors, Frost

told *The Times* that "the Manager is the working part of equation and, also, because he or she is a professional, is able to offer advice as well."

The Board makes final decisions, "Frost said. "Those decision need to be well-informed decisions."

"We have an excellent board here," she continued. "They are educated, intelligent, and dedicated. They need not so much advice on what to do, as how to do it — and help with the organization of their administrative staff."

"One of the unique things about being an association manager is that you have to not only know your job and give out direc-

(See "Frost" p. 23)



Seven Lakes West Community Manager Joan Frost

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# 7 Lakes Dance Group trips the light fantastic



Lynn & Trevor Bourne

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Roaring to life with an eclectic mix of ages and music, couples and singles, the Seven Lakes Dance Group transforms the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse each Sunday afternoon into a lively scene of fun and fitness. Begun just a few short months ago by Northsiders Lynn and Trevor Bourne, the Seven Lakes Dance Group has drawn both local interest and hoofers from the towns of Sanford and Fayetteville.

Gathering with light refreshments and wine often served potluck style, the group meets from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm every Sunday at the North Clubhouse. Through the course of the evening, a variety of styles of dance are practiced and may even include a short class or line dance taught by the Bourne's or the group's principal instructor, John White of Sanford. Private lessons are also available.

"We wanted somewhere to practice," explained Bourne. "And

hosting the group here in Seven Lakes gave us the opportunity to meet neighbors, new people – and it's always a party."

And attendees don't even have to dance but are welcome to come to just watch and enjoy themselves.

The Bourne's are accomplished Silver Level ballroom dancers and also frequent area country clubs and other dance venues. They said they always wanted to learn to dance and began lessons just a few years ago.

Both agree that practice is

very important for all dancers – whether new or experienced.

"People will have a lesson and then go back a week later and don't remember," said Bourne. "If you don't practice – you can't learn."

The Seven Lakes Dance Group welcomes all to drop by and visit and perhaps even try a dance step or two. For more information, Trevor and Lynn Bourne can be reached at 639-0489, [www.7lakesdance.org](http://www.7lakesdance.org) or by email [trevor@7lakesdance.org](mailto:trevor@7lakesdance.org) or [lynn@7lakesdance.org](mailto:lynn@7lakesdance.org)

## Post Office Food Drive


The Post Offices in West End, Jackson Springs, and Eagle Springs are conducting a Food Drive through Saturday, December 13.


Collection boxes for donations of non-perishable food items have been placed in all three Seven Lakes mailhouses.


West End Postmaster Harold Jones told *The Times* he organized the effort after learning that the food bank at West End United Methodist Church was running out of food and had to turn some needy families away.





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# Craig James enjoys a 'crafty' retirement

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Inspired to bring back a bit of the true spirit of Christmas with some good, old-fashioned decorating panache, Craig James' turned his garage into an enterprising elf's workshop this holiday season. Using a pattern he found on the internet last year, he carefully created life-size wooden cutouts of Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus. Then four of his seven children each decided they wanted their own nativity set: and the real work began.

Residents of Seven Lakes North for two and half years, and Moore County residents since the early 1970's, Craig and Linda James are both happily engaged in creative pursuits in their retirement.

"I'm always fixing things up and trying to keep busy," said Craig. "You live long by keeping moving!"

Previously he has built a deck and worked on other practical projects around the house but the nativity was one of Craig's first artistic endeavors.

"I was so proud of him," laughed Linda. "He worked so hard copying that picture and carving and painting the faces and details."

Retired after twenty years with Carolina Eye Associates, Craig also tried his hand at quilting this year.

Linda is a skilled quilter and volunteers with Quilts of Valor, an organization that is attempting to provide every soldier from the War on Terror, especially those who were wounded, with a handmade quilt to honor their service.

She explained that Craig decided he wanted to create his own quilt to donate and asked her to teach him how to use her quilting machine.

In turn, his quilt was given to a Pinehurst-based Delta Force serviceman along with a letter

from Linda describing how Craig had "stepped out of his comfort zone but he wanted to do this so much to honor a soldier."

They later received word that her letter and Craig's quilt have provided that officer with great comfort and brought tears to his eyes.

And now that his creative juices

are stirred, Craig said he's already looking toward the future and is thinking of adding a donkey to his nativity next year.

With seven children and twelve grandchildren, the most recent being born on Linda's birthday in November, this elf's workshop will probably be home to an entire herd of donkeys next December.



Craig James shows off his handiwork.

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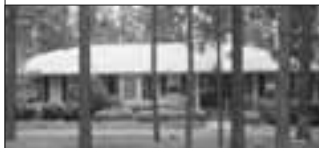


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## Presbyterian Christmas Services

West End Presbyterian Church's choir will offer its annual Christmas Cantata during the 11:00 am worship hour on Sunday, December 14. The cantata will offer a collection of Christmas carols and readings. Instrumentalists will accompany the choir as well.

West End Presbyterian's youth choir will offer its annual Christmas presentation at 5:00 pm on Sunday evening, December 21, in the Crawford Center on the WEPC campus.

The church's annual Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday night, December 24.

West End Presbyterian, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church [USA], welcomes visitors and those seeking a church home. The church is located on Knox Lane, one block off of Highway 211, in West End.

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# Nealey Diaz and Christopher Cagle are wed



*Nealey Wayne Diaz and Christopher Lee Cagle*

Nealey Wayne Diaz of Seven Lakes North and Christopher Lee Cagle, of Aberdeen, were married at Eagle Springs Baptist Church on Saturday, November 22. The Rev. Dr. Zeb Moss officiated at the double-ring ceremony. The Rev. Brent Bissette, vocalist, and Gloria Crane, pianist, presented the musical arrangements. A reception followed at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Cadieu of Seven Lakes North and Ricardo Diaz of Rockingham. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Betsy Cadieu of Pinehurst and Mr. and Mrs. Neal Cadieu of Rockingham, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Basilio Diaz, formerly of Miami, Fl. Nealey graduated from North Moore High School and is majoring in Digital Media at Sandhills Community College.

The groom is the son of Jean and Dewey Cagle of Candor. He is the grandson of Clarence and Nancy Jones of Ether, Linda and Donnie Lythacum of Troy,

and Jackie Johnson of Whiting, N.J. Chris also graduated from North Moore and is serving active duty in the Army National Guard, soon to be deployed to Iraq.

The bride was escorted by her father. Her dress was a white, floor-length, A-line satin ball gown with a chapel train. The fitted, beaded bodice featured a sweetheart neckline with silver and white embroidery topped by crystal and pearl beading. Her veil was also beaded. Fresh white roses and eucalyptus formed the bridal bouquet.

Josie Cadieu of Rockingham, cousin of the bride, was the maid of honor. Elyssa Vest of Robbins was the bridesmaid. They wore A-line, gold satin, floor-length dresses and carried white roses with snapdragons.

Andrew Needham of Star, cousin of the groom, was best man. Jared Garner of Robbins was groomsman.

Little Misses Graeson Diaz of Rockingham, sister of the bride, and Jacqueline Cagle of Candor,

sister of the groom, served as the flower girls.

The bride's aunt, Mrs. Bonnie Cadieu of Greenville, S.C., directed the ceremony.

Prior to the wedding, a bridal shower was hosted by Jean Cagle at her home in Candor, a lawn and garden party was hosted by Dewey Cagle at the Center Baptist Church, and a bridal shower was hosted by North Moore teachers at the school. The rehearsal dinner was held at the Brick Oven Bistro in Seven Lakes.

Following a honeymoon at the Anderson Resort in Myrtle Beach, the couple will live in Aberdeen.

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## Professional Pet and Family Photography



Maine lifestyle photographer, and Southern Pines native, Meredith Perdue, will be visiting the area for two weeks this Holiday season. Meredith has established a successful photography business in Maine, capturing people and animals in their natural environment.

While in the area, Meredith would love the opportunity to spend some time with you and your family or four-legged friend, documenting memories to last a lifetime.

For further details, please contact Meredith. Also, check out her website at [www.and-ltd.com](http://www.and-ltd.com) to view her portfolio and learn more about her business.



Meredith Perdue  
312 Ocean House Road Cape Elizabeth Maine 04107  
meredith@and-ltd.com 207.632.8994

# SLLA Community Plan Committee seeks input

by Ray Pardue

Seven Lakes South

The SLLA Board has formed a committee to produce a Community Plan in mid-2008. The plan will cover ten years, beginning in 2009, and will be reviewed and updated at least annually.

The community's original distinction as a relatively remote vacation and sports venue changed over time, somewhat randomly, as demographics shifted and Seven Lakes acquired features of a mature population and an evolving infrastructure.

There is a clear need for a realistic planning document to describe how our increasingly complex community should look

and function.

Areas of interest and concern were developed from a sampling of residents, and are intended to serve as prompts to invite residents' attention to issues pertinent to the future of our community.

Residents are asked to share their views in what is hoped will be a broad spectrum survey to help define a composite that will be the focus of continued community improvement.

#### Areas of interest & concern:

- Amenities and services
- Infrastructure
- Finance
- Security and safety
- Management and opera-

tions

- Energy conservation and ecology
- Public relations (a voice in Carthage and Raleigh), communications (flow of information), and liaison (relations with other entities and communities)
- Incorporation
- Any others the committee may have overlooked

Input may be provided until January 10 as follows:

Drop-off: 118 Dartmoor Lane  
E-mail: hoghedge@localnet.com  
Mail: SLLA Planning Committee,  
2119 Seven Lakes South,  
Seven Lakes, NC 27376  
Telephone: 910-673-6347.

## Looking for a good investment?

Would you invest \$175 to save \$10,000?

Have your septic tank inspected and pumped on a regular basis. The necessary frequency depends on two factors:

1. How many people live in your house;
2. The size of your septic tank.

The septic tanks in Seven Lakes have a 1,000 gallon capacity. Based on published information available at <http://www.inspectny.com/septic/tankpump.htm#bannertop>, two people with a 1,000 gallon tank should have their septic tank inspected and pumped every 5.9 years.

This inspection will help to identify any potential problems that can be easily and inexpensively corrected before they become a major disaster.

Please look for this column in future issues.

Seven Lakes Landowners Association  
Lakes and Dams Committee

## CERT gets County training

Seven Lakes West Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] continues to receive instruction from Moore County. Paramedic Cricket Gentry provided instruction related to a "mass casualty" situation and the logic of triage in such a situation. The instruction was provided at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center for CERT teams in Moore County.

The CERT team showed up in force, displaying continued unity and a willingness to work for this community. The CERT team currently consists of twenty-two members with a second group of twenty volunteers scheduled to begin CERT instruction on January 7.

The result will be a volunteer group of forty-two volunteers that have stepped forward to support the Seven Lakes West Community in a disaster and/or any community in Moore County as requested by Moore County Emergency Management.

Terry Riddle said he views CERT as a structured group of neighbors helping neighbors in an organized way until "first responders" arrive.

Just like a neighborhood watch program does not replace trained law enforcement, CERT does not replace locally trained rescue, fire, or medical personnel. CERT's objective is to fill the gap and provide the greatest good for the greatest number of victims after a disaster, while protecting themselves from

becoming a victim.

There is still opportunity to join SLW CERT and attend the

up and coming CERT instruction starting January 7 by calling Terry Riddle at 673-3776.



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### NOTICE OF A CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SR 1148 (CHAPPELL ROAD) AT-GRADE HIGHWAY / ABERDEEN CAROLINA AND WESTERN RAILROAD (ACWR) CROSSING IN EAGLE SPRINGS

**TIP Project No. Y-4808B  
Moore County**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Citizens Informational Workshop on Thursday, January 22, 2009, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Eagle Springs Fire Department, 1932 NC Highway 211, Eagle Springs, 27242.

NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal setting to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions also will be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours. No formal presentation will be made.

NCDOT proposes to close the existing ACWR at-grade highway / rail crossing; Crossing No. 466 255K, at SR 1148 (Chappell Road). This proposed closure is part of an effort to reduce the number of redundant and/or unsafe rail-highway at-grade crossings statewide.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ms. Nancy Horne, Rail Division, Engineering & Safety Branch, 1556 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1556, phone (919) 715-3686, or email [nhorne@ncdot.gov](mailto:nhorne@ncdot.gov).

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Horne as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

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# In memory of . . .

**Louretha "Lou-Lou" LeGrand Hazel**, 54, of Eagle Springs, died Monday, November 24 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Hazel is survived by sons, Fredrick Earl Cole and Leon Cole; daughter, Cheretha

LeGrand; brothers, William LeGrand and James Arthur LeGrand; sisters, Sallie Person, Hannah Penn, Shirley Cagle, Carrie Wallace, Martha Smith, and Brenda LeGrand; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral service was held

Saturday, November 29, at Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Eagle Springs.

Simon Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

**Johnnie C. "J.C." Ray**, 81, of Jackson Springs died Wednes-

day, November 26 at home.

A funeral service was held Sunday, November 30 at Providence Presbyterian Church in Jackson Springs.

Memorials may be made to Providence Presbyterian Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 295, Jackson Springs, NC 27281.

The family was assisted by Elite Funeral Services of Ellerbe.

Henry Cook Davis; daughter Pepi Brown of Seagrove; sons Victor, John, and Marcus, all of West End, and Christopher Davis of Carthage; sister Allie Lee Blue of Carthage; brother, Junnie Garrison of West End; and eight grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Sunday, November 30 at Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church.

## Don't forget Toys for Tots!



Al & Peg Anderson of Seven Lakes North

Al and Peg Anderson of Seven Lakes North recently donated a great new bicycle to the local Toys for Tots campaign, and you can donate too.

Last year, the Marine Corps sponsored toy drive distributed over 8,000 toys to almost 4,000 children in Moore County.

Collection boxes are located at Beacon Ridge Country Club, the West Side Park Community Center, Curves, and Dollar General.

Tax deductible donations may be made by writing a check to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and mailing it to Ron Base at 55 Oak Hills Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Financial donations are extremely helpful in giving the campaign the means to purchase educational or ethnic toys for children with special needs.

**Peggy Garrison Davis**, 74, died Friday, November 28.

A native of Moore County, she was a daughter of the late John Wesley and Monnie Bell Smith Garrison.

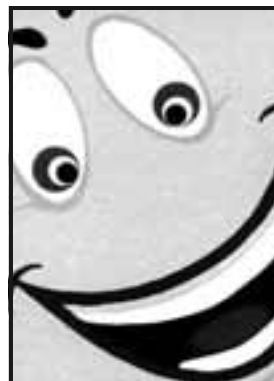
She was preceded in death by a son, Henry Tebe Davis, sister Marie Wicker; brothers Omar, Paul, Donald, Bobby, Nolan, and Olin Garrison.

Mrs. Davis is survived by her husband of fifty-seven years,

**Peter George Jackson**, 68, of the Eastwood Community, died Sunday, November 30, at Quail Haven Village. Mr. Jackson was a former chef at the Pine Crest Inn Restaurant.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Swinnie Jackson; a son, Peter Gregory Jackson of Apex; sisters, Lucille Jackson and Edna Goins, both of Eastwood; and four grandchildren.

(Continued on page 17)



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## Project Blue Light

Concerns of Police Survivors is encouraging law enforcement families, friends, and law enforcement agencies to decorate in blue lights for the coming holiday season. By placing one blue light in a window of your home, you'll be showing your support for officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to work America's streets. By placing strings of blue lights outside your home, at the department, and throughout the community, law enforcement officers will understand that they are appreciated!

The color blue is symbolic of **peace**. By displaying your blue lights, you will be sending a dual message—that you support America's peacekeepers and that you hope the coming year will be a year of peace.

Let your blue lights shine for law enforcement during the holidays!



# In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 16)

A funeral service was held Thursday, December 4 at St. Matthews Chapel FWB Church in Eastwood. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

**Robert H. Kennedy**, 77, of Eagle Springs, died Friday, November 28, at Manor Care Nursing Home in Pinehurst.

Mr. Kennedy was the son of the late Viola Kennedy and John Andrew Person, Sr. He was active in the ministries of Creek Grove Church.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Kennedy; three children, Theresa Brower, and Robert Kennedy Jr., both of Eagle Springs, and Rose Ann Kennedy of Pinehurst; three sisters, Catherine Spencer and Jessie May Person, both of Eagle Springs, and Lucille Person of Indiana; four brothers, Alton Person of Kentucky, Bobby Person of Norman, David Person of Carthage, and Adam Person of Eagle Springs; eleven grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Saturday, December 6 at Creek Grove C.P.H. Church in Eagle Springs. Burial followed at Zion Grove Church Cemetery.

**Agnes Constance "Connie" Zehnder**, 82, died Saturday, November 29.

Mrs. Zehnder was born in Pittsburgh, PA. She was a strong woman of faith. Her years of service included Girl Scout and 4-H leader; lector and Eucharistic minister; volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital for over twenty years, and Meals on Wheels of Moore County.

During time spent in Tokyo, she assisted Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity.

Mrs. Zehnder and her husband Frank retired to Seven Lakes twenty-two years ago.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward L. and Agnes M. Stewart; sisters, Mary Joan Dowds and Suzanne Lutz.

She is survived her husband Frank; daughters Cathy Perich of Windsor, Ontario; Nancy Fitzpatrick of Red Lion, PA; Joyce Hartmann, of Fayetteville; and son, Ken Zehnder, of West Dundee, Ill; her brother, Edward Stewart Crafton, PA, grandchil-

dren and great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, December 2, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial followed at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Missionaries of Charity, 335 E. 145th St., Bronx, NY 10451.

Arrangements were handled by Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

**Juanita "Nita" Jensen**, 82, of Seven Lakes South, died December 8, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Service arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven

Lakes is serving the family

**Arnold Calvin "Bus" Thomas**, 87, of West End, died Monday, December 8, at his home following a short illness.

Mr. Thomas was a retired farmer and retired from Stanley Furniture in West End.

Mr. Thomas was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-three years, Virginia Caddell Thomas, and a granddaughter, Julie Lisa Thomas, formerly of Charlotte.

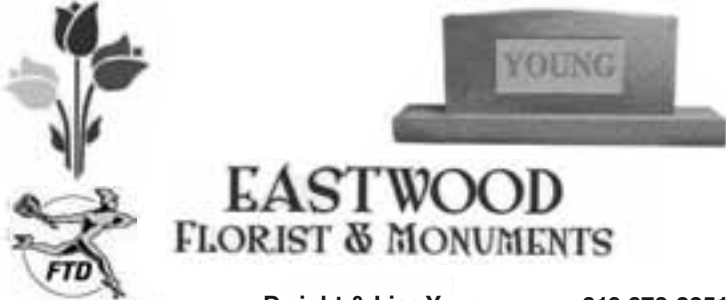
He is survived by one son, Ronald Gill Thomas, of Charlotte; daughters, Brenda Thomas Blakely, Debbie Thomas Coleman, of West End, and Anne Puckett, of Charlotte; six grandchildren and nine great-grand-

children; one sister, Lena Thomas McInnis of West End.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 10, at Doubs Chapel United Methodist Church, in West End. The Rev. Eric Joyce officiated. Burial followed at Doubs Chapel United

Methodist Church cemetery.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home of Carthage handled arrangements.




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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- **Moore Regional Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Ball** – 7 pm, Grand Ballroom, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Dinner and dancing to benefit FirstHealth Hospitality House. Raffle tickets and information, call 695-7502.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- **Sandhills Animal Rescue League (SARL)** – at PetSmart in Aberdeen. 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Photos with Santa Claws. Have your photo with your favorite canine or feline taken with Santa (\$9.95) and a \$5 donation will be given SARL for pet care and vet visits. Help your hometown rescue league help the cats and dogs in need.
- **Old-Timey Holiday Open House** – 1 pm – 4 pm, Bryant House & McLendon Cabin. 3361 Mount Carmel Road, Carthage. Guests may tour two historic houses decorated in the traditional manner of the 1700s and 1800s. Refreshments and music. Free. Event continues on Sunday, December 14. 692-2051.
- **Children's Holiday Craft Class: Embellished Star Ornament** – 3 pm – 4 pm, West Side Park Community Center, lower level craft room. All ages welcome, under four years w/adult. Choice of red, green, or gold star. Bring a craft smock. Cost \$10 includes

supplies. Class size limited. Register at SLWLA office.

- **Seven Lakes Country Club Christmas Party** – 5:30 pm cocktails, Seven Lakes Country Club. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Boston Marimba Duet providing music. Member price \$25; non-member \$30. 673-1100.
- **Pinecrest Choral Program** - The Heavens Sing for Joy, 7:00 pm. In the Robert E. Lee

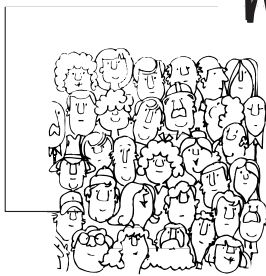
End. The cantata will offer a collection of Christmas carols and readings. Instrumentalists will accompany the choir. West End Methodist Church welcomes visitors and those seeking a church home.

- **The Love of God at Christmas** – 11:15 am, Marcus United Methodist Church, Jackson Springs. The Marcus Choir are directed and accompanied by Linda Thompson. Fruit bags will be distributed following service.

- **Seven Lakes West Children's Christmas Party** – 1 pm

– 3 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Santa will arrive by fire truck and visit with each

## What's When Calendar



Auditorium,

Pinecrest High School. Silent auction will be held to raise money for Spring Tour to New York. Auction opens at 6:00 pm. (Final bids during intermission on Sunday, December 14.) Admission: Adults, \$6; Senior/students \$4.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

- **WEMC Christmas Cantata** – 11 am, West End United Methodist Church. The church choir will present An Evening in December, a special Christmas cantata. All are welcome.
- **WEPC Christmas Cantata** – 11 am, West End Presbyterian Church, Knox Lane, West

## Childrens Christmas Party



**Date: December 14**

**Time: 1-3 pm**

**Where: West Side Park Community Center**

**\*\*Santa will arrive by Fire truck at 1 pm**

**Photos with Santa and receive a special gift.**

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Make a picture frame for your photo with Santa.  
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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**

- **Light Up the Lakes Boat Parade & Social** – 5 pm, Sequoia Point. Dress warmly and bring a dish to share. Coordinator is Deb Temple at 673-9299. Rain date is Saturday, Dec 20.
- **Beacon Ridge Country Club Christmas Party** – 6 pm, Beacon Ridge Country Club, Seven Lakes West. Cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner at 7 pm featuring salad, filet mignon and shrimp scampi, twice baked potato, asparagus, and cherry cheesecake. Entertainment by David Howard Vision Band. Cost \$49.95 per person.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20**

- **Beacon Ridge Country Club Christmas Party** – 6 pm, Bea-

con Ridge Country Club, Seven Lakes West. Cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner at 7 pm featuring salad, filet mignon and shrimp scampi, twice baked potato, asparagus, and cherry cheesecake. Entertainment by David Howard Vision Band. Cost \$49.95 per person.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- **A Christmas Story** – 11:15 am, Marcus United Methodist Church, Jackson Springs. Presented by the Sandhills Circuit Youth with coordinators Melissa Sherman and Deanna Bynum. At 5:30 pm, gather for a Christmas Covered Dish dinner in Fellowship Hall at Marcus. At 7:00 pm, Tom Page and Mary Lou Troutman, founders of Dust and Ashes, will lead a Christmas Candlelight Holy Communion Service. Everyone is invited to attend.
- **Christmas Concert: WEPC Youth Choir** – 5 pm, Crawford Center, West End Presbyterian Church. A special Christmas presentation, all are welcome to attend.
- **Back to Bethlehem** - 6 pm, Belford Baptist Church, Jackson Springs. A Christmas program and play for all. The community is welcome.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

- **Hanukkah Begins**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve**
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service with Reverend Don Welch and Reverend Fran Stark.
- **WEPC Christmas Eve Service** – 7 pm, West End Presbyterian Church. Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church [USA], West End Presbyterian Church welcomes visitors and those seeking a church home. The church is located on Knox Lane, one block off of Highway 211, in West End.
- **WEMC Christmas Eve Service** – 8 pm, West End United

Methodist Church. A Christmas Eve service with candle light, lessons, and carols. The community is invited to the special celebration service.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

- **Kwanzaa Begins**

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **New Year's Eve**

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

- **New Year's Day**

### MONDAY, JANUARY 14

- **Martin Luther King Day**

## Who's Reading What?

Here are the January Picks of Seven Lakes Book Groups.  
Get your copy today at Bookshop by the Lakes!



Books West

### SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN

by Lisa See

Happy Bookers  
**THE SECRET LIFE OF  
CEECEE WILKES**

by Diane Chamberlain

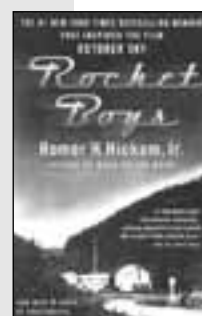


Sandhills Book Club

### LOVING FRANK

by Nancy Horan

Bookies II  
**ROCKET BOYS**  
by Homer Hickman



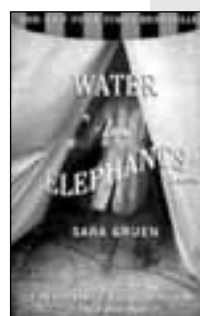
7 Lakes Bookies

### A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

by Truman Capote

McLendon Hills Book Group  
**THE DEVIL IN THE  
WHITE CITY**

by Erik Larson



Turning Leaves  
**WATER FOR  
ELEPHANTS**

by Sara Gruen

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## Birthday donation



**Michael T. McGuire**, a resident of Seven Lakes North and a third grader at West End Elementary School donated over 100 pounds of cat and dog food to Animal Advocates of Moore County.

Instead of asking for toys for his birthday he chose to purchase food for the dogs and cats Animal Advocates takes care of until they are adopted. Michael wanted to help Animal Advocates because they are always willing to help animals in need.

Above, Barb Shepherd, Director of Operations of Animal Advocates accepts the donation from McGuire.

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**Happy  
Holidays!**

## Time to Light up the Lakes!

by Frank Krohn  
Seven Lakes North

For all Lakeside dwellers it's time, if you haven't already done so, to dust off those lights for your lakeside displays.

If you don't have any from previous years, it's time to get some, and get them installed at the edge of the lake-whatever lake you live on!

Every year we do a little better than the year before, but there are still many empty spaces to be filled with the Joy of the Season.

The Kiwanis Club will be awarding prizes, as usual, for

the best decorated houses on each of the three sides in Seven Lakes, but they really aren't prepared to check the lights from lakeside.

That leaves the Lakeside residents on their own to decorate the lakes for which everyone will receive many "Atta Boys" and "Atta Girls!" That's the best we can do!

As in previous years, Lake Sequoia residents, and any others interested, will be having a boat parade to look at the lights which is followed by the now famous "social" at Sequoia Point. This year's event is scheduled for

Friday, December 19 at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Please arrive by 5:00 pm, be warmly dressed, and bring a dish to share.

If it's cold, it makes good sense to bring something hot!

If you plan to attend, please coordinate whether you need a ride on a boat and what you plan to bring with Deb Temple at 673-9299.

If the weather is really bad on the 19th, we'll try to have it on the 20th.

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Workshop

(Continued from front page)

plexity of integrating traffic and crossing signals.

Workshop participants were asked to sign in as they entered the West End Elementary [WEE] cafeteria, and NCDOT Public Participation Unit staffer Eileen Fuchs told The Times she had collected 214 names on the sign-in forms. The crowd included many residents of both Seven Lakes West and West End, as well as newly-elected County Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno and County Manager Cary McSwain.

**County Manager registers opposition to plan**

The latter was on hand to oppose the project on the County's behalf, submitting to NCDOT a copy of a September 16 letter from McSwain to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] in which he said "the County's position" is to oppose the closing of the West End crossings.

"The County Manager has been advised that the Board of Commissioners by consensus is not willing for the currently discussed railroad crossings to be closed," McSwain wrote, and, "the County will not endorse or support the currently proposed closings."

Interviewed by *The Times* after the Monday, December 1 Commissioners meeting, McSwain said the closing of the Mode Road Crossing would "severely impact economic development in West End."

Residents and businesses in West End "have been there a lot longer" than residents of Seven Lakes West, McSwain told *The Times*, and "feel very disadvantaged" by the NCDOT proposal.

**No vote by Commissioners**

McSwain's statement of "the County's position" apparently relies on "consensus" because the Board of Commissioners have, in fact, never voted in a public meeting whether to support or oppose the NCDOT plan. The only substantive public discussion of the matter took place late in a in a mid-July Board meeting in which Commissioners Larry Caddell and Jimmy Melton expressed concern about

the impact of crossing closings on West End and Chairman Colin McKenzie said Westsiders "knew they got on the wrong side of the racks when they built their houses over there."

During that discussion, McSwain said there appeared to be "splinter groups" developing within the community over the NCDOT plan and that he was trying to foster communication among the various groups. Commissioner Tim Lea noted that any decision about the crossings was a NCDOT decision, not a Board of Commissioners decision and suggested that the Commissioners had been brought into the loop out of courtesy. McSwain said the county's involvement was "an input process" rather than "an approval process." Melton suggested allowing the Manager to continue to work on the issue.

(See "Workshop,"p. 22)

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# Workshop

(Continued from page 21)

## Commissioner support critical

Unfortunately, the assumption by the Board of Commissioners that they had no critical role to play in approving the Seven Lakes-West End was erroneous. NCDOT Engineer Nancy Horne, who is the lead engineer on TIP Y-4808C, told The Times at the WEE workshop that the project will not move forward without the full support of the county.

She explained that NCDOT District 8, which includes Moore County, is unique among the state's fourteen transportation districts in the amount of deference it shows to the County Board of Commissioners.

Though the ultimate decision on whether to go forward with the project rests with the state Board of Transportation, Horne said, that Board won't approve it without the support of District 8 — and District 8 won't support it unless the Moore County Board of Com-

missioners supports it.

So, while the County Commissioners cannot move the project forward on their own, they do have de facto veto power over it, according to Horne. And, at the moment, through the agency of the County Manager, the Commissioners have told NCDOT they are opposed to the project, even though they have never had a formal presentation on it.

In fact, Horne offered to the county a "local officials presentation" on TIP Y-4808C early this year, but was told it would not be needed.

It seems clear that the Commissioners and County Manager did not fully understand the significance of their role in the process in July, when the project was briefly discussed, or earlier this Fall, when they turned down the opportunity to be briefed on it.

## Another look?

Newly-elected Board of Com-

missioners Chairman Nick Picerino told *The Times* in an interview on Saturday, December 6 that he was working to get up to speed on the crossing issue.

"I am trying to learn what I can about it. I don't know that we can help, but I believe that we can look at it — look at the facts. If we can help legally then we need to step up. If not, then we need to relay that."

Long Range Planning Co-Chairman Bud Sales told the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board that Picerino had promised a "fair hearing" on the crossing issue. [See story on page 2 and letter on page 28 for more from Sales and the SLWLA Board on the issue.]

## Citizen input wanted

The December 2 NCDOT workshop opened a public comment period on the project that runs through January 5. Input in favor or opposed to the project may be directed to NCDOT Project Engineer Nancy Horne via

email at [nhorne@ncdot.gov](mailto:nhorne@ncdot.gov), or via the USPS at the following address Nancy Horne, PE, NCDOT Rail Division, 1556 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1556.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the Board of Com-

missioners position on the issue, correspondents pro or con may want to copy County Manager Cary McSwain and individual Commissioners on any correspondence with NCDOT.



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## Acoustic Music Circle

McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church invites local musicians to participate in an Acoustic Music Circle on the third Sunday of each month from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the round in the Fellowship Hall. Leading the Circle are Jill McCloy, hammered dulcimer; David McCloy, fiddle; and David McDonald of the April Fools on fiddle and guitar.

Music of various genres will be played especially Old-Time and traditional music of Appalachian, Irish, and Celtic influence. The type of music played will vary depending on the interest and talents of the musicians who attend. Listeners are welcome too, and light refreshments will be served.

There is no admission charge. McDonalds Chapel is located at 1374 Foxfire Road, just two miles from Linden Road in Pinehurst and one mile from Foxfire Village. Contact Amy McDonald at 295-6608 for more information.



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# Judicial Panel

(Continued from page 9)

affixed the sticker to an Oasis ski boat that belonged to another landowner. The Johnson Point security guard pointed out the discrepancy — and the rules violation it represented — when the Olivers launched the boat. They removed the boat from the water and the sticker from the boat.

Mr. Oliver told the Judicial Panel that he had no quarrel with the facts as presented by Sales.

"It is black and white that we messed up," Oliver said. We acknowledge that." He said his family owns five properties within the community, maintains them well, and tries "to abide by every rule."

He explained that his intent was to try out the Oasis boat, which he was considering purchasing. He noted that he had

cooperated fully with the Johnson Point security officer and that the boat was in the water for less than a full hour.

"We apologize and hope that the Board will show some leniency," Oliver said. Noting that he was not sure that he would be leasing the slip next year, Oliver told the Panel, "We would like to be able to make the decision whether we could retain the slip next year. We are here more from an integrity standpoint. We want the option to turn that down rather than have it taken away."

Herdrich told the Panel, "I feel strongly that rules are rules — and we have a little bit of problem getting folks to follow rules."

"I'm not sure I would register one boat one day and put it on another boat the next day," he added.

After closing the session for deliberations, the Panel ruled

that the Olivers would forfeit the slip for the rest of this year and through the next boating season. If, at the beginning of the 2010-2011 boating season, they wanted to rent a slip at Johnson Point, their name would be placed at the top of the waiting list.

## Fine levied on builder

In a second case, Sales and Architectural Review Director Ron Shepard presented evidence that builder Joel Somero, doing business as Sunrise Carpentry, had built a home at 150 Otter Drive that is not in accordance with the plans submitted to and approved by the Architectural Review Committee.

They said Somero has not responded to communications from the Committee and the Association in nearly a year. Somero was not on hand at the

meeting and had refused the certified letter advising him that it was taking place.

After deliberation, the Panel ruled that Somero must bring the home into compliance with the original plans or with any

ARC-approved modifications of those plans by January 16. If he fails to do so, he will be fined \$100 per day, with that fine applied retroactively beginning on December 12 and continuing until he complies.

# Frost

(Continued from page 10)

tion, but you have to stop and think and take direction, too," Frost said. "That takes a little bit of a two-fold skill. You have to be a self-starter. You can't always work everything into a forty-hour week."

## First steps

One of the things I have already started is to consolidate everything [i.e., all SLWLA paperwork], so a copy of everything is in the office," Frost said, "so people can find it if they need."

She told *The Times* that she is also reviewing all of SLWLA's contracts "and seeing where they are going, whether they need to be renegotiated."

A key focus has been transferring the accounting functions to CAS computer systems "so we can keep track of who owes what." A challenge in that task has been the discovery that Westside landowners are able to combine lots and pay dues on only the one combined lot.

"This is the first one I have had that has ever done that," Frost said. "It causes some confusion, because then you are not collecting all the dues on all the [original] lots. It creates some challenge in figuring out who is paying what and what they owe."

## Full time at SL West

After Jan 1, Frost will be working exclusively with Seven Lakes West, she told *The Times*. "I will still remain a historian for the other accounts I have worked on. If those managers have questions, they can call and I will fill them in. But I will not be involved in the management of those communities."

Frost said the Westside office will have two employees in addition to the manager. Each of the other employees will spend some time working as the compliance officer, which previously was a half-time position. The roving security patrol which had been an in-house position, will be subcontracted out.

Frost told *The Times* that she is still "in a learning process right now. We always want to work in a fashion that we do what the Board wants. So we still have some learning to do."



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Sunday, December 21 – Youth Choir's Christmas Presentation,  
 5:00 p.m., Crawford Center

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, 7:00 p.m.

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 in West End, one block west of Highway 211



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# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

candidates for the four open seats on the 2009-2010 Board. The nominees represent a broad cross-section of the community and include both current and a former director, and several newcomers. Running for election next Spring are Randy Zielsdorf, Denny Galford, Steve Hudson, Mike Pennington, Don Fentzlauff, Kent Droppers, Bruce Keyser, Jr.

Shaver said the Nominating Committee will meet once more to discuss ways to improve the nomination process in the future. One recommendation already identified is to seek out younger residents for committee work to broaden the pool of potential board candidates.

## Common Areas Deed Restrictions

A Deed Restriction on the four main common recreation areas within Seven Lakes, including the stables, Northside Park, Sequoia Point, and the soccer field, was approved in a split vote of the Board. As written, this new document requires a vote of no less than seventy-five percent — or six of the seven Directors — to transfer ownership of these properties.

Looking down the road towards several looming big ticket items, including repaving roads and dam remediation, Director Gary Caulk had originally proposed placing Association common areas under a Conservation Easement to prevent future boards from selling off community assets. However, concerns over the cost to complete land surveys required for such easements redirected Caulk's efforts toward drafting a Deed Restriction.

"My objection is that, at some point, the stable property may be more useful as sold for something else," said Kindsvatter. "I hate to restrict future boards when we don't know their situation."

Director Denny Galford abstained from the vote and Director Sally Kindsvatter opposed the motion.

President Zielsdorf did not vote but went on record saying he was very much in favor of the restrictions.

## Gates & Cameras Contract

After twenty-seven months of

spotty service and excessive repair bills, a vote to approve a new \$20,000 contract to repair and modify the existing gates and camera system drew skepticism, and ultimately failed in four-to-three split vote.

Northsider Andy Lowe, an electrical engineer and, quite possibly, the only member of the Association who actually understands how the intricate system operates, said he was not in favor of the new contract.

"The existing equipment is still good," argued Lowe. "The downtime at the gates was due to broken wires. The system was not professionally installed, but the equipment you got is as good as you'll find anywhere."

Lowe also disputed the contractor's claim that replacing the existing wiring with fiber optic cables would better control the on-going lightning strike damage. He also said the fiber is more expensive to maintain.

The \$20,000 contract included new equipment, cabling, and software under a one-year parts

and labor warranty. In addition, no payment would be due until the system was operating satisfactorily.

Picking up on a suggestion made by Kindsvatter during the previous week's Work Session, Welch recommended the decision be tabled until after results of a community questionnaire — to be mailed in January — were tabulated.

Both residents and renters will be asked to rank, by usage and importance, various Association assets and amenities.

"Let's wait and get a sense of what the community wants. The survey will ask questions about cutting costs — and one of several ways to cut costs is at the gates," said Welch.

After a long discussion of the pros and cons of postponing repairs to the gate system, the motion was approved.

## Seven Lakes Blog

In response to a request by Ray Ulansey to create an online discussion forum for Associa-

tion activities, the Board approved a trial period to ascertain whether a blog, hosted on the *The Times* website, will improve communications. If successful and a useful tool for discussions, the blog may eventually be transferred to the SLLA website.

Zielsdorf will monitor the blog and good suggestions and/or

valid criticism will be brought up in a Work Session for further discussion.

Members with critical or timely issues of concern are encouraged to contact the office, or use the email addresses provided on the SLLA website.

(See "SLLA," p. 25)

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4010408

# SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 24)

## Finance

Director Denny Galford reported that the Finance Committee met December 10 to review monthly reports and finalize a listing of assets. The committee met with Director Caulk and Community Manager Dalton Fulcher to discuss the proposed security gate and camera repair/modification contract, and had reviewed and approved data included in the six-month summary report prepared by the Maintenance Committee.

The proposed capital budget will be reviewed in mid-January and, Galford stated, consideration of the current economy would be given before making a decision whether to recommend a dues increase.

Galford said he anticipated a new member of the community with an accounting background would be joining the committee.

## Maintenance

A six-month summary of the SLLA Maintenance Department demonstrates significant progress toward Director Bud Shaver's stated goal to concentrate on what is required both now and in the future to enhance and maintain the community's appearance and amenities in a cost-effective and timely fashion.

According to the report, the department's top priority is routine dam maintenance, including periodic inspections, twice annual mowing, and weeding. Other priorities in descending order are the gates; Sequoia Point and the beach area; Seven Lakes Drive; and Association-owned buildings and surrounding grounds, roads, and lakes.

In addition to normal operations, projects completed in the last six months include finish work and opening of the new maintenance building, renovation of other buildings and maintenance sheds, refurbishment of the North and South gatehouses, equipment inventories, a surplus equipment sale, and hiring of Maintenance Department Supervisor Bob Darr.

The report states the number of homes in Seven Lakes North and South has increased almost fifteen percent since 1999. During this same ten-year period, homeowner annual dues increased 17.3 percent, mostly

because of a single dues increase of \$50 in the last eight years.

The cost, per home, for maintenance service in the community was 29 cents a day in 1999, and is 26 cents per day in 2008.

"There have been a lot of complaints about maintenance, but, overall, we have had good management as far as finances go," said Shaver.

A complete copy of the Maintenance Committee's summary report is available for review at the SLLA offices.

## Security

Numerous calls for loose dogs, two incidents of vandalism, and a very busy Thanksgiving weekend have kept Roving Patrol and security busy in November, reported Caulk. In addition, a four-year old child left her residence and within moments two nearby residents, Roving Patrol, and the Sheriff's Department had responded and the girl was returned home safely.

## Recreation

Christmas reservations at the

Stables are still available, reported Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane. He also thanked the Women of Seven Lakes for decorating the gates, mail houses, and North Clubhouse, and for their donation towards the Children's Christmas Party. Beane said the event was extremely well-attended. In particular he thanked Tony Wilcox for making sure Santa was available to attend, and Stable workers Dana and Morgan for their help with refreshments.

## ARB

The Architectural Review Board approved one addition, one fence, one lot clearing, and one alteration to new construction, reported Kindsvatter.

## Beautification

Kindsvatter, along with several other directors, thanked the Maintenance Department for their landscaping efforts along Dogwood Lane. She reported that two willow oak trees will be planted near Sequoia Point Beach and plants will be added at the North Mail House. She

thanked Jeff McIntyre and friends for rebuilding the horseshoe court at Sequoia Point and said, come Spring, she hoped to add picnic tables and grills.

## Other Items

Staff will be pruning trees along Southside roads, and Shaver and Fulcher asked residents to be patient. To cut costs, debris will be collected road-

side before being chipped.

The Judicial Committee will meet Thursday, December 11 to hear three violations. Next week, an appeal will be heard by the Board in a closed hearing.

Unregistered trailers and boats stored at Sequoia Point will be removed and disposed of in the very near future.



*Wishing you a  
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and a  
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Happy Holidays  
& a Prosperous  
New Year



## Editorial

# Commissioners need re-do on crossing issue

The Moore County Board of Commissioners owe their constituents in Seven Lakes and West End a simple, straightforward, up-or-down vote on the proposed Seven Lakes-West End Railway Corridor Safety Project.

The NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] plan would upgrade the crossings at Seven Lakes West and near West End Fire and Rescue — and would close crossings at Edgewood Terrace and Mode Road.

At the moment, NCDOT believes Moore County is opposed to the project, even though the Commissioners have never been fully briefed on the proposal, have had minimal public discussion on the matter, and have never cast a public vote one way or the other. [See our Page 1 story for more information on the county's involvement.]

In short, the Commissioners find themselves on record opposing a project that they barely know anything about.

Forgive the pun, but that's no way to run a railroad — or a county. This situation needs to be corrected — and fast.

The clock is ticking at NCDOT.

The Commissioners were given a sketchy briefing on the project late in their July 17 meeting. Seeing it as a political hot potato over which they had no real authority, the Commissioners tossed it to County Manager Cary McSwain, undoubtedly hoping he would shuffle it off to the sidelines and make sure NCDOT didn't try to blame the County for whatever decision it made on the project.

Community leaders in Seven Lakes West, while upset by the comments made by some Commissioners during that July discussion, shared the County Board's judgement that NCDOT would make the final decision based on safety considerations and public input.

So they turned their attention away from the Commissioners and toward building public support for the project among Seven Lakes residents, businesses, and civic groups.

The assumption on both sides that the county had little real influence on the decision was reasonable, but wrong.

According to NCDOT Project Engineer Nancy Horne, the project will not move forward without support from the Commissioners.

The state Board of Transportation will make the final decision, but that board will not approve the project without the support of NCDOT District 8. And District 8 will not support the project without the support of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

So, the Moore County Board of Commis-

sioners cannot grant final approval, but their lack of support for the project will, without question, kill it. And they have — unintentionally — gone a long way toward killing it already. The County Manager has presented NCDOT with a copy of a letter he sent to Seven Lakes West in September, which states that "the County's position" is to oppose the project.

Unfortunately, there's not a lot of time to fix this mess. Here's what needs to be done:

- New Board Chairman Nick Picerno should write a letter to NCDOT Project Engineer Nancy Horne, copying District 8 officials, withdrawing the letter submitted by Mr. McSwain, explaining that the Moore County Board of Commissioners has not taken a position on the Railway Corridor Safety Project, and asking for a three-month delay in the decision making process to allow the County to develop a position.
- The Chairman should invite Engineer Horne to Moore County to make a local government presentation on the project to the Commissioners at her earliest convenience — preferably in December — and convene a special work session of the Board to hear that presentation. Alternatively, Horne's presentation could be added to the agenda for the two-day planning retreat the Commissioners have scheduled for early January.
- The Chairman should ask NCDOT's public participation unit to share with the County the input gathered at last Tuesday's workshop at West End Elementary.
- If the Board deems it necessary, they should, during their January 19 meeting, issue a call to public hearing on the project for their February 2 meeting.
- They should hear the public on February 2 and make an up or down decision on supporting the project before the end of February.

The Board of Commissioners initially believed the West End-Seven Lakes Railway Corridor Safety Project was not theirs to approve. So they, quite understandably, ducked the decision.

But it turns out the project is theirs to kill. And, unintentionally, they have very nearly killed it already.

Whether you support the crossing project or oppose it, you have to agree: this is no way for a county to make important decisions.

The voters in West End and Seven Lakes put the Commissioners in office to make the hard calls. The Commissioners owe those voters a simple, straightforward, up-or-down vote on this project.

# Candles or catapults?

Candles or catapults — that is the real difference between Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts if anyone should ever ask.

I discovered this deep philosophical divide of the sexes just last week during regular meetings of these mini-uniformed minions.

On Wednesday, my little princess reverently sat shoulder to shoulder with fifteen equally adorable Brownies, each carefully lighting a candle to represent their sisterly commitment: a peaceful and time-honored ritual representing their bonds of trust and friendship.



**Laura's Learning Curve**  
*Laura Douglass*

Twenty-four hours later — and on the very distant horizon of that perfect display of orderliness — I bore witness as my chromosomally-challenged child [read: son] and his fellow Cub Scouts launched softballs across a field with medieval glee.

Never was I so thankful for the simple passage of time, as visions of catapulted candles danced in my head.

You see here in the Douglass home, daily life often feels like a

grand experiment on the Mars versus Venus theory. Our girl-child spends hours and hours carefully drawing rainbows, castles, and playgrounds filled with happy smiling children wearing colorful shirts and giant shoelace bows. And the boy — well, let's just say his massive artistic renderings show phenomenal detail and creativity. Most feature starships and destroyers engaged in ferocious battles under skies darkened by raining shrapnel and volcanic ash.

In case you're wondering: yes, the therapy reserve fund is right there next to the orthodontist and college savings plans.

Put in another perspective, Lindsay wants to grow up and be a doctor

or paramedic so she can help people:

Jack wants to be a military vehicle and weapons engineer — and learn how to blow things up.

Indeed, at least they'll keep each other gainfully employed far into the future.

I would guess it is the very nature of their youth and closeness in age that magnifies the differences between his Y and her

(See "Laura," p. 27)

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# Truly, we have much to be thankful for

On October 3, 1789, George Washington issued a decree establishing the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Among other things in his proclamation, he said "...that we may all unite in rendering...our sincere and humble thanks...for the

great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have enjoyed."

Although our Thanksgiving festivities are over, Christmas and New Year's celebrations are still ahead, and it seems to me that our first President was speak-

ing directly to those of us in Seven Lakes. Certainly, 2008 has been a harmonious and productive year for the landowner's boards on both sides of our community.

Much progress is being accomplished day-to-day and overdue

long-term planning is being developed in a smooth and cogent manner. Truly, we have much to be thankful for at this holiday season.

In closing, I would like to share a Christmas story with you.

A couple of years ago, while serving as a Kiwanis bell

ringer for the Salvation Army out in front of the Food Lion, I observed an African-American father with his eight-year old son walking towards me. The boy had a plastic shopping bag hanging at his side.

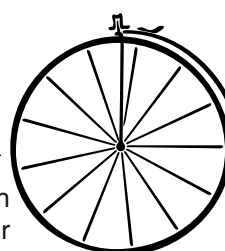
When they stopped by my kettle, the younger said, "Can you take the top off your bucket so

that I can pour my coins from my bag into it?"

"Of course," I said. And noting that there lots of silver coins nestled among the substantial collection of pennies, I asked him, "Where did you get all this money?"

## Rollin' Along

Rollin Tomberlin  
Seven Lakes South



His answer brought tears to my eyes. "Sir, this is my whole year's allowance, and I want to give it to help the poor."

The thoughtfulness and love of this child's gift is overwhelming. Is this a great country, or what?

## Passage of time

Have you ever had a sort of itchy, semi-intellectual restlessness? A yearning to learn more and more as the pendulum of life ticks away?

What is important at this stage? What really isn't?

Reflecting too much on times past – the good or perhaps the not so good – isn't too healthy a habit for the most part if overdone or it becomes an obsession.

It seems to me that a reasonable thing to do would be to simply try to extract the values and lessons learned over the

years and let them help carry you the rest of the way.

As times moves quickly ahead, the most compelling beacon that floats to the surface is the emotional potency of love and the commitment to it in all of its various forms.

Life should not be spent yearning for blessings we may never experience. Nurturing what blessings we do have is a path

to happiness and gratitude that can survive the passage of time.



## Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

## Laura

(Continued from page 26)

X. Both are still raw little human specimens, enslaved to their hormones and not yet dulled by societal compromise and higher education.

Never was this more apparent then when a not-yet-two year old Lindsay starting hoarding shoes.

"It begins this young?" lamented Darling Hubby.

No dear, even younger, I thought as I recalled Jack racing and crashing his toy blocks together, before he could even walk.

Next month, Lindsay and I

will embark on yet another wholesome and sweet adventure — selling Girl Scout cookies.

Isn't it ironic that Boy Scouts

sell popcorn: the ultimate fun food, just add heat and . . . it explodes!

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# Is the Seven Lakes West front gate at risk?

by Bud Sales  
Seven Lakes West  
Long Range Planning

In a word, yes.

First, thanks to all of the West Side members who took the time to attend the NCDOT workshop on Tuesday, December 2. I would guess somewhere between 125 and 150 community resident members were represented [out of a potential 925].

There are two major and fairly complex problems associated with TIP Project No. Y-4808C, Moore County: one is safety and the other is continuity of access.

If you fail to support this project, let me tell you what I believe the probable outcome may be. Our railroad crossing was leased to our original developer long before the full extent of its usage could be determined. Today we have over 4,000 vehicles using the crossing every day, far exceeding the railroad's expectations. This creates significant liability for them. Therefore, in the reasonably near future, if this project fails, we will be given the option of upgrading the crossing at our expense or losing our front gate.

That addresses the safety problem. However, if we [and the other users on our side of the tracks] put up the dollars, which is estimated at \$500,000 by the ACWR, for the upgrade, we will become part of the liability chain. That means we could be sued in the event of an accident. There would be no protection under "Shanklin" [see below] because no Federal funds are involved. In addition, we would have to contract to maintain the crossing at an unknown annual cost, because any failure to maintain it could make us subject to charges of negligence in the event of a lawsuit.

And, finally, I believe that the railroad will require a much higher annual lease payment than the current \$500 in order to cover their liability insurance costs. I have no idea whether we would even be able to get insurance for the crossing never mind the cost to the Association. Or, worst case, the railroad will want a "hold harmless" guarantee from us assuming all of their liability. If it comes to that, we should not and can not agree. This is the

continuity problem.

For those of you who couldn't attend the workshop— and we need a lot more input to the NCDOT if this project is to succeed — you have until January 5, 2009 to send your support to Nancy Horne at nhorne@ncdot.gov. It would also help if you copied Nick Picerno, Chair of

the Moore County Board of Commissioners at npicerno@embarqmail.com and our County Manager Cary McSwain at cmcswain@moorecountync.gov

The state representatives said that Moore County support is necessary to get this project passed. Mr. Picerno has promised to give us a fair hearing

[as opposed to the slap in the face we got from his predecessor]. It will take you maybe a minute or two to email your support which can read as follows: I support TIP Project No. Y-4808C, Moore County including both the upgrade of our railroad crossing and the closings of the two "redundant" cross-

ings selected by NCDOT as per Federal guidelines. It is important that Federal funds are used because of a US Supreme Court decision [Shanklin v. Norfolk Southern 2000] which relieves the railroad of liability when Federal dollars are involved.

No, I don't like the other railroad

(See "Crossing" p. 29)



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# Lakeway Drive mall deserves continued support

Dear Editor:

I have the greatest regard for all of our residents who devote their time, talents, and efforts to serve either on the Landowners Board or on committees supporting the Board. They have made our community a better place to live in and, as such, a significant effort is made to limit any criticism of their activities.

Unfortunately, every now and then, an issue arises where one needs to differ with one or more of these folks and this is one of

those times.

The November 26 issue of *The Times* contained several paragraphs that expressed Ray MacKay's concern that the Lakeway Drive Drainage Project was "straying away from the original intent, focusing more on beautifying the entrance drive than on simply improving drainage."

As I do not share this concern, some further comments are necessary.

For some period of time now, I have watched the implemen-

tation of drainage provisions on Lakeway Drive, from their inception to their current state of development. It has to be obvious to most people that the artificial creek bed and the strategic planting of water absorbing shrubs has resulted in a vast improvement in the drainage of the center mall of Lakeway Drive. However, what is also obvious is that a by-product of this well planned and executed project has been the amazing beautification of Lakeway Drive. In fact, we have

had guests come in that have seen the "before and after" of Lakeway Drive and have been extremely impressed. In this writer's opinion, the transformation of Lakeway Drive via this drainage project has enhanced this whole community.

Betty and Ronnie Milligan have devoted much thought and many hours of on-site activity regarding the day-to-day implementation of this project and they have done a superb job of it. And, contrary to what has been inferred, they have maintained a complete focus on the project objectives, as evidenced by the end result...that which we all view as we exit from and enter

into Seven Lakes West...which is resolution of the drainage issues and a greatly enhanced & beautiful appearance of Seven Lakes West.

In conclusion, it is this writer's opinion that what we do not need at this time is a presentation "aimed at refocusing" something that is already totally focused. What we need is the Board's commitment to move this project forward to conclusion in the same direction and with the same focus that has already yielded outstanding results.

Bill Lyons  
Seven Lakes West

## Lakeway Mall is an asset

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes West Beautification Committee deserves our gratitude and support for outstanding work on the Lakeway Mall project.

Even as the holidays approach, fresh pine straw has been laid and the planting areas groomed for winter. Visitors and residents alike get the impression that this is a cared-for community.

Betty Milligan, her committee, and numerous volunteers work diligently to make our neighborhood "front door" attractive and welcoming.


The Lakeway Mall project is designed to alleviate distinct

drainage problems in the area. That the plans include plantings which enhance the entrance to our neighborhood is a credit to the design team and worker

bees who are responsible.

Our sincere thanks to all involved.


Ed and Nelda Cockman  
Seven Lakes West



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## Crossing

(Continued from page 28)

crossing closings either but we didn't write the rules of the game.

So, there you have it friends and neighbors. You can take a minute or two to get involved or you, with the rest of us, can face the unintended consequences . . . your call.

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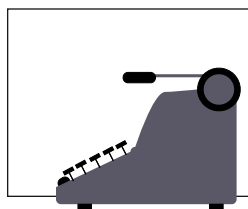
# Put house in order before seeking dues hike

*An Open Letter to the SLLA Board of Directors:*

We are in a recession. Times are bleak and it may be months before we recover. More than a few of your constituents have been adversely effected by salary cuts, shorter work weeks, lay-offs, or other cost-cutting measures and I'm equally sure that many retirees are concerned about the depletion of their retirement nest-eggs and the possibility of having to seek part-time work to make ends meet.

Is this the time to "prepare" your constituents for a dues increase as suggested in recent board meetings by Denny Galford, or by Don Truesdell in the "Your Turn" section of the November 26 issue of *The Times*? The latter seems to justify it by intimating that because "we have not had a dues increase since 2005," we are due one now. Or in further explanation, states that our

employees, "without exception are talented, hard-working, and dedicated" individuals who deserve bonuses and IRA contributions. Many of us need to be convinced that the two words "without exception" hold



## Your Turn

*Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North*

true, and further, that every effort to cut costs and eliminate waste has been made.

Truesdell credits the Board for disbanding the Company Police in 2005 when he knows full well that it was against the wishes of the Board that a vote of the residents took place and brought this to pass.

One of our original founders,

D. Alan Shaw, in a letter to the Editor in this same issue of *The Times* depicts a very different community. A community abounding with problems brought on by neglect and mismanagement extending

over many years.

These gentlemen are describing two different worlds, one well-managed,

deserving, and without problems and the other quite lacking.

Shaw's description of the community he loves and its problems are as many of us see them. He concludes his letter with the statement that "past mistakes cannot be changed, but they must be corrected." A perfect example of just one such correction is the magnificent

change Bob Darr has effected with maintenance and the area it encompasses after so many years of embarrassing neglect. He has both our gratitude and admiration.

Finally, Ray Pardue and Dick Kindsvatter listed a set of eight goals, citing objectives to be established for a five year community plan, details of which have yet to be disclosed. The last of these says it all and sums it up well: Management

A commitment to efficient, cost-effective, responsive, and transparent management of Association assets and activities

I took the liberty of adding the word "transparent." Until we are convinced that you are dedicated to every word in the above statement, requests for a dues increase will fall on many deaf ears. The West Side appears to have made such a commitment, but you as a Board, have some distance to go.

**Richard S. Pasko, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.**

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## Foxfire

*(Continued from page 6)*

outlining options and alternatives to the existing single meter water billing system. Lauer said the Water Department will wait for their response before making any decisions.

### Mayor's Report

Mayor George Erickson read from a letter written in honor and appreciation of the dedication and service of longtime Village Clerk Janice Thomas.

Thomas will retire effective December 31. A retirement party will be held on Sunday, December 14 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at Foxfire Golf & Country Club.

"On behalf of the Council, I want to thank you for twenty-two years of loyal and outstanding service to the community," said Erickson. "We wish you a long and happy retirement."

### Other items

Zoning Administrator Mimi Ainsworth reported thirty-four homes are for sale, with an average list price of \$359,459.

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# Truesdell's take on expenses is a fairy tale

In response to Don Truesdell's "Your Turn" article of November 26, I must say it's fun to reading a fairy tale.

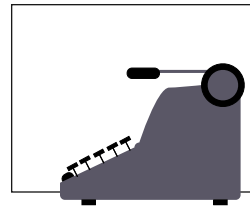
He starts out by not telling the truth [of course, here in North Carolina we call it by another name]. The Company Police was voted out by the landowners, not the Board.

Next, any saving by disbanding the police was eaten up by the cost of the bar code system, the add-ons, and the constant repair bills!

Yes, the health insurance costs went down to \$51,000, but only because some employees left and some of those employees were high risk which caused the group to have high rates. (One person was Dalton Fulcher's wife, where we paid her health insurance premium.)

Truesdell wishes to continue to

pay "merit" raises, bonuses, and IRA contributions. Why doesn't he write a check for \$1,100 and walk into Dalton Fulcher's office and hand it to him? That is about what Fulcher's bonus is that he builds into the budget for himself each year.



## Your Turn

Steve Hudson  
Seven Lakes North

Truesdell is correct in saying: "Hudson did not initiate any of these savings," but I never said I did! So, who cares?

Now we come to the 2005 operating expenses, which is true, at \$1,098,000. The 2009 budget is a guess at almost

\$973,000 yet, his friend and neighbor, Denny Galford, who was appointed to the Board, stated in the November Open Meeting that halfway through the year the expenditures were at sixty-two percent — or twelve percent over budget.

So that \$125,598 in savings just went down to \$9,000, and we still have six months left in the fiscal year. If this

Board keeps going the way it is now, we'll be \$100,000 in the hole at year end!

December 1 the United States Federal Government announced we are in a recession. In the 1970s and 1980s, those recessions took between eighteen and twenty-four months to come out of. Even the President-elect has stated we could be in it for two years. Shouldn't this Board take the hint that they need to do some cutting? Not ask for more money?

Truesdell goes on to say that

we haven't had a dues increase since 2005. That's true. But I haven't had hemorrhoids since then either — but that doesn't mean I should have them now!

I hope all the landowners will join me in telling the Board "No dues increase! No bonuses, no

raises! Cut the budget!"

Oh, one last thing. Why doesn't Dalton Fulcher give the community a real Christmas present and go ahead and resign at the end of this year? That would save us more \$80,000 a year immediately!

## Support the work on Lakeway mall

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes Times of November 26, included remarks referring to the Lakeway Mall project. Although the original problem with Lakeway Drive concerned drainage, what the Beautification Committee has done over the years has been to transform a very ordinary entranceway into a park that is competitive with any of the gated communities in the area.

As I understand it, the money has been allocated and a professional landscape architect has been paid for a completed project.

Let's not stand in their way.

The value of our homes is in part dependent upon the first impression our neighborhood makes on new visitors. In these difficult times it is important that this first impression be the best that it can be.

Lionel Kuhn, D.D.S.  
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## West Side

(Continued from front page)

of Seven Lakes and the owner of The Wimberly Group, LLC, an executive search firm specialized in the forest products industry and general manufacturing.

Johnson, who ran unsuccessfully for the Board last year, is a retired electrical and mechanical engineer who spent 34 years with General Electric. He moved to the community in 2006.

Goodman is a Vietnam vet who spent his thirty year career in commercial and military construction, primarily on the West Coast.

Hoffman is a seven-year resident of Seven Lakes West on the verge of retiring from a career in defense-related positions, which he began after retiring as an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.

Carter, who also has run for a Board seat in the past, is the Director of FirstHealth's regional EMS system.

These five candidates will compete for three open Board seats. Incumbents Mary Anne Fewkes, Ray MacKay, and Blaine Rowland will not stand for re-election. MacKay, having served two consecutive terms, would have to sit out a year before running again.

The SLWLA by-laws offer the opportunity for other would-be directors to enter the race by petition, if they can gather signatures from at least three percent of the members registered to vote. Those petitions must be delivered to the Secretary of the

Board at least sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting date — roughly mid-January.

The mailing containing the Annual Meeting ballot is expected to be mailed on January 22; a Candidates' Night conducted with the assistance of the League of Women Voters is scheduled for January 26. *The Times* will publish interviews with the candidates in late January or early February.

### Election Procedures

Newly-hired management company Community Association Services, Inc. [CAS] will be involved in processing the ballots as they begin to arrive in the mail, President Mary Anne Fewkes told the Board during Tuesday's Work Session. Director Ron Shepard argued that it was important to continue to allow landowners to deposit their ballots in a ballot box in person at the office and Fewkes said that option would be available. Landowners may also submit ballots in person at the annual meeting, scheduled for the third Sunday in March.

Treasurer Kathy Kirst said, because this will be the first election with involvement for CAS, the process used needs to be audited by the Board.

"Because it is a new process, we need to be far more involved in only this one," she said, "so we satisfy ourselves that the process is working the way it needs to work." She added that she had "no doubt about the integrity of CAS."

Tuton expressed skepticism that such oversight was necessary, but Legal Director Ed Silberhorn said the Board cannot delegate its fiduciary duty in conducting the election to CAS. The Board could, however, "delegate to it's Secretary the opportunity to supervise the process," Silberhorn said. Tuton said that either he or a member of his nominating committee would take on the task.

### Other business

In other business during its Tuesday, December 9 Work Session, the SLWLA Board:

- Gave preliminary approval to a 2009-2010 dues structure,

fee schedule, and budget. [See page 3 for more.]

- Heard a report from Long Range Planning Co-Chairman Bud Sales on the Seven Lakes-West End railroad crossing project and decided to send out a letter to all Westside landowners encouraging them to weigh-in with NCDOT and the Moore County Board of Commissioners in support of the project. [See page 2 for more.]
- Heard from President Fewkes that gate barcodes that have no landowner name or other data associated with them in the barcode database will be disabled. Landowners who suddenly find their barcode

not working can call or visit the Landowners Office to provide the missing data and have their barcode reactivated.

- Heard that the Association office would be getting a new photocopier and that Community Manager Frost would be recommending new fees for residents and organizations wishing to make copies. "We have been losing money on what we have been charging for copies," President Fewkes said. Large copy jobs will be handled using higher-volume equipment at CAS headquarters in Pinehurst.
- Heard from Lake and Dam Director Mick Herdrich that

(See "West Side," p. 33)



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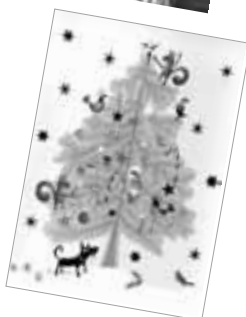
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Picerno

(Continued from page 5)

everybody to the table so that we are served by all five commissioners."

"When Tim said [at the end of the meeting] that he hoped that we were going to come to the meeting as five individual Commissioners and not as factions, that's what we are going to do," Picerno said.

County priorities

The Times asked Picerno what

West Side

(Continued from page 31)

there has been no word from state regulators on approval of the plans for remediation of the Lake Auman dam.

- Heard from Herdrich that a resident has reported unusual plant growth in a Lake Auman cove. Herdrich is investigating and Treasurer Kathy Kirst suggested calling on a UNC-Pembroke biologist who has helped previously in the area of Lake Auman flora and fauna.
- Heard from Security Director Blaine Rowland that he was giving Maximum Security one more chance to make the security cameras at the gates work as promised before calling in a performance bond the company was required to post before installing the surveillance system.
- Heard from Recreation Director Karen Milligan that there are two more Recreation events this year: an ornaments-making class on December 13 and the children's Christmas party on December 14.
- Heard the second reading of a proposed by-law amendment that would implement formal public hearings on "matters of material interest." The Board will take public comments on the proposed amendment during its January 6 Work Session.
- Heard from Frost that both sides of a system are in place that will allow financial reports from the CAS database to be pulled at the Seven Lakes West office, but the system still awaits an Embarq-supplied communications link to be up and running.

the County's "Quadrant One" priorities are — that is, those that are both important and urgent.

The impact of the global economic slowdown on Moore County was Picerno's top concern.

"The economy seems to be falling apart," he told *The Times*. "We have to understand how that will affect the state and Moore County. . . We have to look at our budget — they've already done this to some extent — and ask what ways can we make sure that the budget numbers we have laid out are going to be real numbers for this year — just like we would if we were in a business. If our revenues are down, what do we do to make sure that we stay in the black?"

Picerno said he has been concerned that the county budget — and county taxes — have been growing too fast. "It all seemed to be going up faster than the economy around us," he told *The Times*. "We're going to really look at every department,

every line item, and make sure the County Manager understands that we don't have one penny to waste."

Moving to his second priority, Picerno continued, "While we are doing that, we have got to figure out how to make the government work for us instead of feeling like we are working for them."

"We have really good employees in Moore County, who work hard. The problem is all the rules. I'm not sure we haven't over-regulated in Moore County government."

"We need to make government more user-friendly — and we need to take care of every dollar we extract from the taxpayer."

Last year, at the suggestion of Commissioner Cindy Morgan, the commissioners appointed a County Government Efficiency Advisory Board [CGEAB], and made Picerno one of its members.

"It's a great tool," Picerno said of CGEAB. "We appointed Mon-

day night someone that is really going to be good — David Funderburke.

"I'm going to go back and speak with Cindy about the way that Board is working. It was her idea originally, and I want to make sure she hears from the Board how we can make it more effective.

"Serving on the [CGEAB] Board, I felt like a lot of things that we got, was with a couple week deadline. We functioned more as a review Board. I want them to go a lot deeper. Within the statutes, we should let them take a subject and give them months to work on it. That's the thing that

would really enhance that Board."

**Final thoughts**

"We have got to get over it," Picerno said about the initial three-two split on the Board in electing a Chairman.

"I can go up to any of the other four commissioners and say, 'You're involved, you mean a lot.' But the only way I know for people to really understand that is the actions I will take."

"We need all four commissioners to be on top of their game. I need to be the kind of chairman who helps get that done."

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## **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

*Friday, December 19, 1:00pm to 5:00pm  
at Our Office – 1100 Seven Lakes Drive, Suite D  
(Directly across from Food Lion in The Peachtree Center)*

*We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our annual Christmas Open House. Come and enjoy holiday music, refreshments, and enter our drawing for a holiday gift basket giveaway!*

*Each of our Open House guests will receive a free gift as a token of our appreciation for your patronage over the past year and your continued support in the years to come.*

*Prudential Gouger O'Neal & Saunders Real Estate would like to wish you and yours a joyous Holiday Season and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.*

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