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Volume 25 Number 8

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 19, 2010

## Speed tables on Longleaf?

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Hiring off-duty sheriff's officers occasionally to nab Westside speeders is not working, Longleaf Drive resident Wendy Fisher told the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors during the public comment portion of the Tuesday, February 9 Board Meeting.

"Our speeding problem is beyond the pale," Fisher said, noting that some folks won't walk or let their kids ride bikes on Longleaf Drive. "If I wanted to live on [NC Highway] 211, I would have moved there," Fisher added, noting that speeders whiz by

her house "every day, all day long."

Fisher encouraged the Board to install speed tables in the roadway. Unlike narrow speed bumps or speed humps, speed tables are long, raised sections of asphalt -- as long as the wheelbase of most cars. They are engineered to prevent speeding while allowing vehicles to maintain normal residential speeds, rather than forcing cars to come to a near stop before crossing over them.

"It's a permanent solution," Fisher said. "You don't have to pay anyone to enforce it. Part-time enforcement is not working. It hasn't worked."

Security Director John Hoffmann was sympathetic to Fisher's complaint, but wary of her solution.

"We have an equally passionate view in the community," Hoffmann said, "that speed tables are the worst possible solution. Nothing could be worse." Hoffmann said one Corvette driver had threatened to sue the Association if speed calming devices were installed.

Instead, Hoffmann advocated asking the Sheriff's Office to provide traffic enforcement — at no cost to the Association — in the vicinity of Fisher's home during the morning and evening

(See "Westside," p. 31)

## SLLA Board gets budget

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Treasurer Denny Galford presented a \$1.373 million Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors during their Monday, February 15 Work Session.

The anticipated \$1.373 million in revenues includes \$124,000 that will be set aside for road repaving and state-mandated repairs to the community's dams, leaving \$1.249 million in unrestricted income, Galford told the Board.

After \$1.1 million in operating expenses, \$149,000 will be left over for capital expenditures. The Treasurer recom-

mended that the Board approve the operating budget at the February 24 Open Meeting, along with capital expenditures of up to \$50,000 for road repaving and \$60,000 for dams.

Galford presented the Board with a six-page budget packet, explaining that former Community Manager Dalton Fulcher had presented both an operating budget and recommended five-year capital budget to the Finance Committee. The Committee developed its proposed budget from that starting point and Galford then adjusted the budget to reflect the contract with Talis Management Group.

[The Times asked for a copy of the budget packet, but Galford

declined to provide one. Some budget detail will be attached to the agenda for Wednesday's Open Meeting, which had not been published at press time.]

The proposed revenue budget exceeds the FY2009-2010 revenue budget by approximately \$147,000, which likely reflects a \$50 dues increase for FY2010-2011 approved by landowners at last year's annual meeting.

Galford told the Board that he did not plan to hold a drop-in meeting during which landowners could ask questions about the proposed budget, a practice the Association has followed for the past several years. After the

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

## Happy Valentine's Day!



Lucy Ingram serves up some goodies at the annual Valentine Outreach Party sponsored by Seven Lakes Chapel in The Pines.

## Elections

It's election time in Seven Lakes, with open seats on the Boards of both Landowners Associations. Beginning on Page 11 of this edition of *The Times*, you'll find interviews with the six individual running for seats on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors. Those same candidates will be available to meet voters at a Candidate's Night on Wednesday, February 24, at 6:30 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

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## In this issue

Commissioners. . . . .	3	SLLA Candidate Interviews. . .	11	Laura's Learning Curve . . . . .	24
Foxfire Council . . . . .	4	Planning Board. . . . .	16	Letters to the Editor . . . . .	24
Moore County Schools. . . . .	6, 7	What's When. . . . .	18	Mason's Musings . . . . .	25
Obituaries. . . . .	8	Gardening in the Sandhills . . .	21	Classifieds . . . . .	34, 35

# County removes dogs from Lucas Road property

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Residents of a one-acre property on Lucas Road near Seven Lakes surrendered at least eighteen dogs to Moore County Animal Control staffers on Tuesday, February 16, according to an information released by the county's Public Information Office late Tuesday afternoon. Another ten dogs still on the property may be surrendered at a later date, the county reports.

Though it lies outside the gates of Seven Lakes West, the Lucas Road property is located less than 200 feet from Grace Court

on Beacon Ridge Country Club. Aerial photography of the lot shows it littered with junk cars; driving by, a motorist sees animals on chains mixed in among the rusting vehicles.

Raleigh television station, WRAL-TV, alerted to the situation by Seven Lakes residents, was on the scene Tuesday when the animals were surrendered.

You can see a video report on the WRAL website at [www.wral.com/news/local/story/7057901/](http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/7057901/).

Conditions on the property, as well as the persistent barking of the dogs, have prompted perennial complaints from Westsiders and others concerned about the welfare of both the human and animal residents of the property. County staffers

from a variety of departments have been attempting to address those problems since early 2008.

According to the County's press release, the house on the property is in such poor condition that it could not be rehabilitated using Community Development Block Grant funds available for that purpose. Housing assistance and enforcement efforts has been further complicated by the fact that the property is owned by several heirs, not all of whom live there.

The three elderly current residents have been allowed to live in a dilapidated recreational vehicle to avoid becoming homeless. The Planning Staff is continuing to work with the residents to apply for financial assistance to address their housing needs.

County Animal Control has visited the property dozens of times, the county reports, and found the dogs, which numbered from fifteen to thirty at any given time, were adequately fed and watered. The Lucas Road residents were attempting to upgrade the shelter provided, according to the County's press release.

Westside residents who were attempting to help the animals and residents spoke with *The Times* on Monday and disputed that assessment, saying the dogs were undernourished and often without water. They also noted the family had neither electricity nor running water on the property, a condition not

addressed in the county's news release.

Moore Humane Society [MHS] President Gary Kunce told *The Times* that, based on what he had seen of the property, the conditions in which the animals were being kept were a clear violation of the county's Animal Control Ordinance, which lays out standards for feeding, watering, and sheltering of animals. Kunce said MHS members removed four animals from the property, with the owner's permission, on Friday.

Matters at the Lucas Road property came to a head this month, when the family was

(See "Lucas Road," 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 888-806-2572, or e-mailed to [mail@seven-lakestimes.net](mailto:mail@seven-lakestimes.net).

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Mar. 5	Feb. 26
Mar. 19	Mar. 12
Apr. 2	Mar. 26
Apr. 16	Apr. 9
Apr. 30	Apr. 23
May 14	May 7
May 28	May 21
June 11	June 4
June 25	June 18
July 9*	July 1*
July 23	July 16
Aug. 6	July 30
Aug. 20	Aug. 13
Sept. 3	Aug. 27
Sept. 17	Sept. 10
Oct. 1	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 8
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3
Dec. 22*	Dec. 16*

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.



Three adults are reportedly living in the tarp-covered trailer shown in this photo — without water or electricity.

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# County ramps up communication with towns

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Moore County's Board of Commissioners seem determined to lay to rest charges that the county doesn't communicate well with the leaders of its towns and villages. At the end of their Monday, February 15 regular meeting, members of the Board took the unusual step of provided brief reports on meetings held with other local officials during the past two weeks.

Commissioner Cindy Morgan said she, Chairman Tim Lea, and County Manager Cary McSwain met with Robbins council members and staff in a February 2 session that focused largely on Robbins' desire to bring its unused water plant online and sell water to the county. Robbins officials asked for a joint meeting between the full town council and Board of Commissioners to discuss the matter, Morgan said, adding that she and Lea had encouraged the

council to reach its own consensus about what Robbins wants before any joint meeting takes place.

Pinehurst was next on Morgan's list. She and Commissioner Larry Caddell met with Pinehurst Council Member Joan Thurmond on February 3 to bring her up to date on a variety of on-going issues between the County and the Village.

Picking up the story, Commissioner Nick Picerno said he and Commissioner Jimmy Melton met with the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council on February 11, bringing the council up-to-date on the county's various water initiatives. "We did emphasize . . . that the Commissioners are in discussion with numerous entities for future needs, for not only the area in Seven Lakes but the area that our entire Public Utilities serves," Picerno said.

On February 12, Lea and Picerno met with representa-

tives of Sandhills Community College to dig into budget issues. Picerno said the "very informative" session was "the kind of exchange or ideas we need to have, if they are to understand . . . what we are trying to accomplish here in our task of trying to hold down our taxes and provide for good education." Picerno said the exchange of in-depth information would prove useful to the Commissioners as they prepare the county's Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget.

On the agenda going forward, Picerno said, is a February 23 meeting with the NC Rural Economic Development Center, the US Department of Agriculture, and Vass municipal officials to continue the process of seeking funding for the Little River Lift Station project, which will carry wastewater from Vass to the county's wastewater treatment plant in Addor.

Commissioner Caddell then reported that he and Picerno had met independently on February 2 with two Robbins Council Members, Terry Holt and Clara Matthews, again focusing on water issues and concluding with the suggestion for a joint meeting of the two boards.

## No to Summit

One meeting the Commissioners will not be attending, however, is the regular session that brings local officials and other community leaders together under the rubric of the "Moore County Summit." The group was put together several years ago as a joint initiative of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Pines Pilot newspaper in order to foster intergovernmental communication and cooperation. The county has come under criticism for not participating in the process.

The Commissioners' response has been to create their own regular meeting of local officials, but one that involves only elected officials as active participants. And the Board clearly plans to rely, at least for now, on that

vehicle rather than participate in the summit.

Commissioner Cindy Morgan reported that she and Chairman Lea met on February 4 with Chamber of Commerce President Patrick Coughlin and Moore County Summit Chairman Frank Zamaroni, who asked that the county begin to participate in the Summit.

"We hopefully helped them understand that we were in agreement with what Commissioner Picerno had said at the municipality meeting," Morgan reported, "when he said 'We believe the elected officials are the ones in charge of making these decisions.' The long and short of our answer was, 'No, we won't be back to the [Summit] meeting . . . at this time. However,

(See "Commissioners," p. 29)

## Lucas Road

(Continued from page 2)

cited for a nuisance because of barking dogs. On February 12, Animal Control officers asked that the dogs be surrendered. The transfer was to have taken place on Monday, February 15, but was delayed until Tuesday due to illness. Of the eighteen dogs surrendered, the county reports, two were placed with Animal Advocates, one with Moore Humane, and the other fifteen are currently housed at the

Moore County Animal Shelter.

The county's news release indicates research undertaken by the County Attorney's office has found the process of declaring a residential property a public nuisance to be difficult. But both the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney have visited the property in order to assess potential violations of the zoning or animal control ordinance — or other factors that could result in a nuisance designation.

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# Foxfire public safety personnel staying busy

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

The Foxfire Fire Department, an auxiliary station initially opened in 2002 with assistance from West End Fire Rescue, is now regularly manned during business hours with a first responder who is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

"Being so close they will be able to respond quickly – this is a real benefit to Foxfire Village," Councilwoman Page Coker reported to the Village Council on Tuesday, February 9.

The brief business meeting was presided over by Finance Director Leslie Frusco in the absence of Mayor George Erickson and Mayor Pro Tem Ed Lauer.

Coker also reported the Foxfire Police Department responded to 126 events in January, and that there were four vehicular accidents related to the inclement weather including two traffic deaths.

## Finance

2009 Delinquent property taxes total \$62,178 plus the Village is due an additional \$11,000 in delinquent accounts dating to 2008, reported Frusco.

Reminder notices of delinquent accounts will be mailed in March and tax liens will be advertised in April.

Frusco reported the General Fund at \$711,597 including \$45,000 in Powell Bill funds and \$20,000 restricted to Stonehill Pines. The Water Fund stands at \$276,269 including \$33,312 for completion of the water line along the Woodland Circle Extension project, and \$135,000 in restricted funds for new wells.

An annual bank loan payment of \$103,000 for the Woodland Circle Extension project is due in April 2010.

## Streets

Faded street signs in the Village have been replaced, reported Councilman Vic Koos, along with burned out street lights.

"Lights right against the roads on big silver poles are state-controlled," Koos explained. "If you see any light burned out anywhere feel free to call me and we'll contact Progress Energy or any lights along Village roads we'll take care of."

## Public comment

"The Council is committed to allowing the public a chance to offer comments and suggestions," Frusco said in presenting a motion to adopt the Board of County Commissioners standard public comment policy for Foxfire Village Council meetings.

Unanimously approved, the public comment period will be held at the beginning of each meeting for a maximum period of thirty minutes.

Each person wishing to address the Council must sign in, indicating contact and topic information. Each speaker will be allotted one three minute period and one additional three minute period, if yielded by another per-

son who has signed up to speak..

## Other business

In other business on Tuesday, February 9, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Reappointed Rhea Boelter, Dan Boelter, and Karl Bernet to three-year terms on the Board of Adjustment.

- Approved a signed letter of support for a Broadband wireless network proposal that would connect all Moore County buildings and municipalities, and fire and rescue squads.

- Heard from Frusco that Zoning had approved one set of plans and two requests to combine residential lots.

- Heard from Mick McCue that the Long Range Planning

Committee have submitted a process overview beginning with interviews of council members, staff and fellow boards, to be followed by a public survey and focus groups.

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# New school district lines draw comments

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Several hundred children will be headed to West Pine Elementary this Fall, one of two new Moore County school facilities slated to open to alleviate overcrowding at existing facilities.

On Thursday, February 11 the Board of Education held a public hearing to review the proposed redistricting attendance lines and though well-attended, only a few spoke citing traffic and travel distance concerns.

As presented, the redistricting plan for West Pine Elementary will pull approximately 115 students from West End Elementary and over 300 students from Pinehurst Elementary. The new school is situated approximately mid-distance between the two other elementary schools and is located adjacent to and behind West Pine Middle School.

Foxfire resident Tamara Mackey expressed concern about the congested stretch of NC Hwy 211 at Archie Road where the two

schools are accessed.

"It's already an issue and it's going to be twice as much traffic — twice as many buses and students. I think this will be a hardship moving them, but the traffic will be hard for everyone," she said.

Several residents of the Village Acres subdivision also took issue with the proposed attendance lines, arguing that they will have to drive past Pinehurst Elementary to reach West Pine Elementary.

"We are the closest neighborhood to Pinehurst Elementary. There are walking paths and sidewalks between them," said

resident Catherine Keller.

Another resident, Tim Murphy, said before purchasing a home he had carefully researched the community and selected Village Acres based on the existing school district.

"Sometimes there is a suspension of logic when it comes to gerrymandering districts," said Murphy, recommending that allowances should be made for certain areas in close physical proximity, such as Village Acres.

Southern Pines Council member Chris Smithson also addressed the Board, chiding them over past decisions that created academic disparity between

schools.

"By choosing locations wisely, districts could go far in reversing mistakes made during the last construction phase. Very soon you will be choosing a location for a new high school and that choice should not be made on something as simplistic as the cheapest piece of land," said Smithson. "The consequences could be huge."

The School Board's final decision on redistricting lines is anticipated for March. As proposed, the boundaries for West Pine Elementary are Hwy 15-501 north at Doubs Chapel Road, extending south to the Pinehurst

Traffic Circle, west on Hwy 211 to Beulah Hill Road, north on Hwy 5 to Lake Hills Road, then right to Hoffman Road, with Richmond County serving as the western boundary. From Hoffman Road, the line angles northwest to Eagle Branch Road, east to Flowers Road, south to Currie Mill Road, southeast to NC 73 crossing Hwy 211, and northeast to Carthage Road and east to Doubs Chapel.

All students living in Seven Lakes West, and Seven Lakes North & South, and McLendon Hills communities will continue enrollment at West End Elementary.

## McClendon named new principal at WEE

In March, Leigh Ann McClendon will assume Principal duties at West End Elementary replacing Johnnye Waller who has accepted an administrative position with Lee County Schools.

McClendon has served as the Assistant Principal for both

Aberdeen Primary and Aberdeen Elementary Schools since 2007.

She has also served as an Assistant Principal in Scotland County, after beginning her career as a classroom teacher in Richmond County.

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# Plan would put laptops in hands of students

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

A forward-thinking technology initiative that would place a laptop computer into the hands of every Moore County student in grades 8-12 over the next four years was presented to the Board of Education during its Monday, February 8 meeting.

However, the bold plan comes with a lofty \$3.8 million price tag.

If approved the initiative would commence this Fall with intensive professional teacher development and an initial purchase of one laptop cart with thirty computers on-board for each Seventh grade team, one laptop cart for each elementary school, replacement of teacher's classroom desktop computers with laptops, hiring of an instructional technology specialist, and wireless networking throughout all schools.

The second, third, and fourth years of the initiative would provide additional laptop carts at elementary schools, additional technology staff and training, and a one-to-one laptop distribution to Eighth grade students beginning in 2011.

Once fully phased-in, the program would utilize 5,000 laptops with parents defraying a portion of student expenses through a \$25 technology fee for Eighth grade, and \$50 fee each year of high school.

Laptops used in the elementary and middle schools would remain on campus; however, 9-12 grade students would be assigned a laptop of their own responsibility to use throughout high school that could be taken home during the academic year.

"Obviously, this is a considerable amount of money," said Dr. Larry Upchurch, noting that with-

out proper training for teachers, technology is useless in the classroom. "We must first take the time and effort to reeducate teachers how technology can help them with learners of the 21st century. This is a collaborative effort for all involved in the process and it could potentially revolutionize what we are all about."

Dr. Purser echoed his comments stating that undertaking such a bold technology program for county students was "not a matter of if but when."

## Arts Education

Arts education curriculum in Moore County Schools features four subject areas; dance, theatre, visual arts, and music.

Visual arts includes basic studies in color, shape, and line for elementary children through challenging work with graphic imaging and digital photography at the high school level.

Music, dance, and theatre follow a similar model with basic movement and creativity at the lower grades and rigorous coursework and performance opportunities in the upper grades.

"I believe arts education is a most significant portion of our curriculum," said Dr. Susan Purser,

Schools Superintendent. "It's interesting to see how different students are turned on by different parts of the curriculum. We need to find ways to reach each student."

## Capital projects moving forward

In addition to two new school facilities — West Pine Elementary and Crain's Creek Middle —

other school bond-funded projects are also moving forward including classroom additions and renovations at Highfalls, Robbins, Sandhills Farm Life, and Westmoore Elementary Schools.

Upchurch reported that athletic improvements are also underway at North Moore and Pinecrest High Schools, Elise Middle, and Southern Middle School.

## EMS Phone Books are here!

The 2010 Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Directory is now available.

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Moore County troops are sponsoring Cookie Booths throughout the area through mid-March.

Seven Lakes Brownie Troop 1301 will be selling cookies on Saturday, February 20 and 27 at Mac's Breakfast Restaurant, and again on March 6 at Food Lion, all from 11 am to 2 pm.

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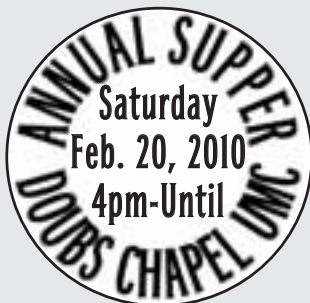
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# In memory of . . .

**Kathryn Erickson**, 68, of Foxfire Village died Tuesday, February 16, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. She was the wife of Foxfire Mayor George Erickson.

A service is planned for Sunday, February 28, at 2:00 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines. The family will receive friends after the service in the Parish Hall.

**Robert (Bob) Herge**, 71, of Seven Lakes died at home on February 15, as a result of cancer.

Mr. Herge was born in Malinta, Ohio, the son of the late Robert and Norma Herge.

He attended Bowling Green University and graduated from Indiana Tech. He worked in engineering at IBM for 38 years.

A memorial service will be held at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes on Saturday, February 27, at 2 pm with a reception to follow. A gathering to celebrate his life will be held in Ohio at a later date.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Norma Herge, his brother Richard Herge and twin grandchildren, Nico and Val Sebastiano.

Survivors include in wife of nearly 30 years, Lorraine; daughter Lori Coseo; daughter Lisa Sebastiano; stepsons Jeffrey Link, James Link and a stepdaughter Linda Leskovic.

Memorial donations may be made to The American Cancer Society, 8300 Health Park Ste. 10, Raleigh, NC 27615 or the Parkinson's Disease Foundation 1359 Broadway Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

**Winifred N. (Billie) Kaufman**, died at her home Friday, February 12, at age 92, as a result of a

stroke nine years ago, aortic stenosis and Alzheimer's.

She was the first in her family to be born in a hospital and that was in Johns Hopkins Baltimore, MD. She attended the Pratt Institute and left to dance with the Roxyettes in New York and Washington, DC. Later, she worked on Seventh Avenue as a model and head of the showroom; moonlighting at night as a dance instructor with Arthur Murray Studios. She then moved on to the retail world as buyer of Bridals, then Suits and Coats at Hahne and Company in Newark, NJ. She and Jim were married in 1951 and she did a stellar job of raising three children. She taught furniture reupholstering classes for adult education for 20 years in Montgomery County Maryland.

The family moved to Seven Lakes in 1986, and Mrs. Kaufman was semi-active at the Seven Lakes Country Club, Tennis Club, Meals on Wheels, and FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, February 16 at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

She is survived by her husband Jim of 58 years; daughters Annette Wirdzek and Beth Kaufman, son James, and three granddaughters. The family donates their bodies to the Medical School at UNC Chapel Hill. Memorial contributions may be made to the EMS of Seven Lakes, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376 or FirstHealth Hospice of Pinehurst, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

**Kathleen Ada Miller**, 89, died Friday, February 12, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Ms. Miller was the Mother of Mrs. Richard Weber (Pat) Seven Lakes South. The funeral and entombment were held in

Knoxville, Tennessee on Thursday, February 18, and Friday February 19. Knoxville was where she raised her family, worked, attended church, volunteered and made special memories for her eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

After several visits, North Carolina became home to Ms. Miller. She lived in Seven Lakes for two years and then resided in Autumn Care of Biscoe for two years. Always an advocate for children, she quickly became a part of the Project Linus Sandhills/Moore County, NC Chapter. She enjoyed sewing labels on inspected blankets, folding blankets and preparing blankets for delivery to children in need.

She is survived by three other daughters: Mrs. Dwayne Gross (Charlene) of Maryville, TN; Mrs. Jim Dawson (Kay) and Mrs. Don LeCoultre (Susan) both of

Knoxville, TN; and a sister, Viola Bount of Johnson City, TN.

**Heidi Patterson Chase**, died on February 10, after a courageous battle with cancer.

A funeral mass was held Saturday, February 13, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pinehurst. The Rev. James M. Labosky officiated. Rite of committal followed in Seven Lakes Cemetery.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the daughter of Patrick and Jerri Patterson. She relocated with her parents to Seven Lakes and attended West End Elementary, Union Pines High School and Sandhills Community College and received a degree in early childhood development.

She operated a successful after-school program in West End. She was active in the Foster Care Program in Cumber-

land County. As a result of the program she adopted two children, Mary and Faith Chase.

She was preceded in death by her husband Anthony Chase and her father Patrick Patterson.

She is survived by her daughters Mary and Faith Chase; her mother, Jerri Patterson; a sister and Colleen of San Diego, CA. She is also survived by many special friends that she met along the way.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Attn: Donor Services, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309 or 1-877-GO-KOMEN or [donorinquiry@komen.org](mailto:donorinquiry@komen.org) or to the American Cancer Society, 8300 Health Park Suite. 10, Raleigh, NC 27615 or FirstHealth Cancer Care Network, 150 Applecross Rd. Pinehurst, NC 28374.



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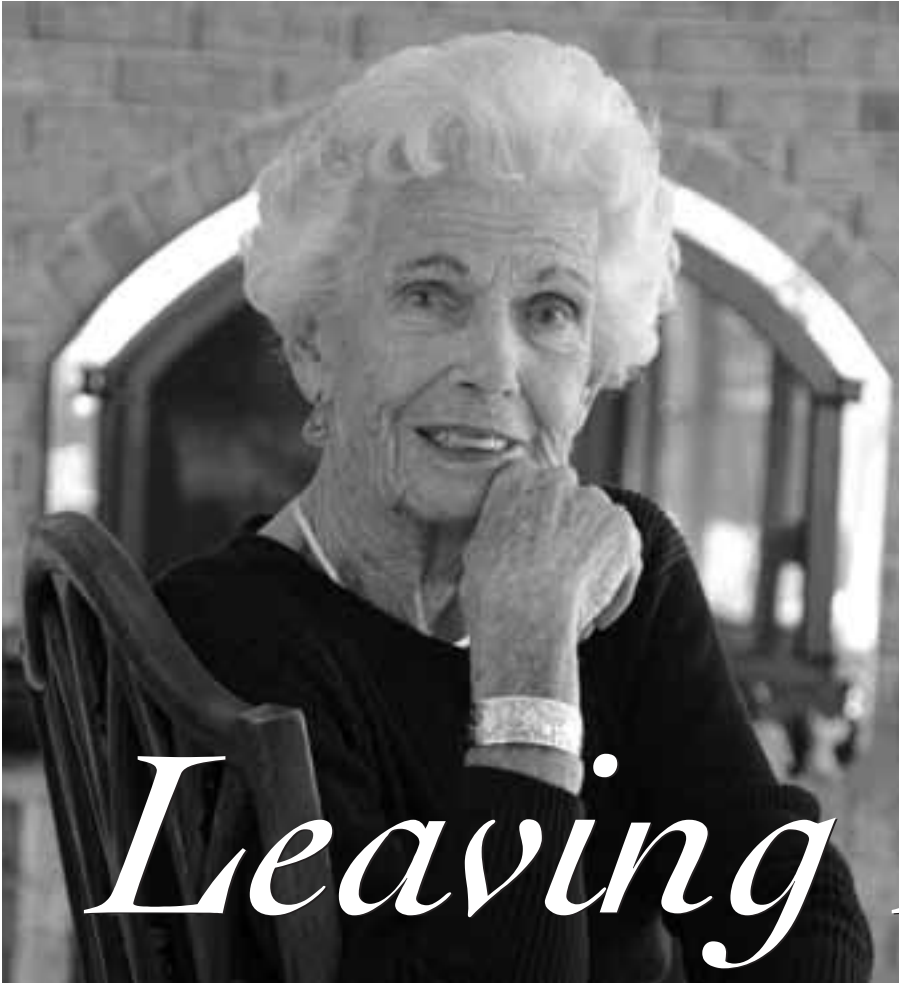
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*Those who bless and serve life find a place of belonging and strength,  
A refuge from living in ways that are meaningless and empty and lonely.*

At the end of a day filled with meetings at the Foundation of FirstHealth or visits with her CARE-Net patients, Helen Simpson retreats to her bedroom in the Seven Lakes home she and her late husband built 25 years ago. Here she finds solace in the poems and words of inspiration she has in frames around the room, and in the photos of her children and grandchildren, and of George, the love of her life.

In the corner stands the slant-top desk Helen's mother used long ago when she wrote notes of encouragement to those in need. No bills fill its cubby holes; no computer silently waits. Helen attends to the business of life elsewhere in the house. Here, in her sanctuary, she sits with pen in hand, like her mother before her, sharing the blessings of love.

"Years ago, I heard Rachel Remen speak at a Promise of Hope lecture sponsored by the Foundation of FirstHealth," Helen says. "Dr. Remen's grandfather taught her that we are all born with the power to be a blessing. People strengthen the lives of one another with their attention, concern, listening and love, sometimes with just a word or a smile or the time to listen. She reminded me of what my father taught me. 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'"

# Leaving A Legacy

*Helen Simpson's father taught her to 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.' She lives by this motto through her work with and dedication to the Foundation of FirstHealth.*

**When we know ourselves to be connected to all others,  
acting compassionately is simply the natural thing to do**

Few people have done so much good, in so many ways, for so many people in this community as Helen Simpson. She has devoted herself to reaching out to others through her faith and through the Foundation of FirstHealth. From the moment she joined the Moore Regional Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees 15 years ago, she has worked tirelessly to bring quality health care to those in need.

"Once you become involved, you become educated and understand all that's happening here at FirstHealth," she says, "and you turn around and become more involved. For that, you are richer for the experience."

More than a decade ago, as one of the leaders of the "In Love and Service" Capital Campaign and later as co-chair of *The Hospice Challenge*, Helen encouraged her neighbors in Seven Lakes to open their homes and host receptions where residents could learn directly from physicians, staff and community leaders about Moore Regional Hospital, Hospice and the Foundation of FirstHealth.

"I think one of the core reasons for the Foundation's success is that they educate people," Helen says. "People here now have the information they will need when considering giving to the hospital or Hospice as they create or revise their estate plan or will."

During her long tenure with the Foundation, Helen has been a member of the Board of Trustees and past chair of the MRH Foundation and a member of the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation. She has also chaired the Stewardship Committee (now called FirstAvenues of Service), is a volunteer for the Hospice Foundation's annual Pottery Plus Auction, and serves on MRH's Grant Review, Infection Control and Patient Care committees.

In 2001, she became one of the first CARE-Net volunteers,

offering one-on-one support to almost two dozen cancer patients and their families. As a member of the Foundation's Scroll Society, Circle of Friends and Legacy Circle, she is as generous with her philanthropy as she is with her time.

If asked, she will deny she is helping anyone. "As Dr. Remen says, 'When you help, you see life as weak. When you fix, you see life as broken. When you serve, you see life as whole,'" she says. "I am happy to be of service. It gives purpose to my life."

**Every great loss demands that we choose life again.**

After Helen's husband passed away in 1993, she filled her time working at home doing the programming for the chapel at Seven Lakes. After a few years, however, she realized she needed to get out of the house and be with people.

In the late 1990s, she was asked to join the MRH Foundation Board and help open up Seven Lakes to the "In Love and Service" campaign that funded the largest expansion project in the history of Moore Regional Hospital.

Once the campaign was over, Helen wanted to do more than go to quarterly board meetings, so she volunteered with the hospital and with Hospice, a concept she believes in deeply. In 2000, she co-chaired *The Hospice Challenge* to raise the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation's endowment from \$2.5 million to \$10 million.

"This was the first time money was raised for a service and not a building," she says.

Again, the Foundation's community networks held educational receptions in private homes. "Asking people to support a charitable organization that they knew little or nothing about wasn't always easy," says Jean Souweine, Helen's co-chair. "The real value of those receptions was providing people with in-depth information about the

organization that may one day help their families or someone they know."

**A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words.**

In April 2001, Helen began one of her most rewarding experiences with FirstHealth—that of a CARE-Net volunteer. At the Stewardship Committee meeting the previous fall, Helen had introduced Jean Luppens to the Foundation. Six months later, Jean developed the CARE-Net program, and trained the first corps of volunteers—including Helen—how to understand and respond to basic emotional and practical needs experienced by cancer patients outside of the hospital setting. Most of the volunteers were cancer survivors themselves.

"Sometimes I feel inadequate, because I haven't had cancer," Helen admits.

Initially, Jean was concerned, too, but she learned it didn't matter.

"The volunteer's first responsibility is to listen," Jean says. "Helen does an excellent job. She is very giving in her relationships, so thoughtful in so many ways."

Helen became close to all her patients, staying in touch with them for years as they went in and out of treatment, and with surviving spouses and families after some had passed away.

**Our power to become a blessing to others is the key that creates a good life, not just for ourselves, but for us all.**

"It has been fascinating for me to learn so many aspects of the hospital operations," Helen says of her association with FirstHealth. "It's such an exciting time, because there are so many new developments on the horizon—the new Reid Heart Center, the Hospitality House, the Hospice House. Being involved has been a wonderful long-term experience, one I hope to continue for many years to come."

# Honor Roll

Pincipal Johnnye Waller and the faculty of West End Elementary School announce the distinguished list and honor roll for the second nine weeks grading period.

## Distinguished List

**Fourth Grade:** Caroline Anderson, Nicole Barnes, Jake Benoit, Sophia Casey, Kelly Clark, Garrett Cross, Andrew Grgurevic, Brennan Hamilton, Jada Harper, Courtney Jingle, Jayson Jones, Macie Kavanaugh, Greg Lyne, Matthew Mabe, Alex Miller, Patrick Nieves, Charlize Quindara, Hailey Scott, Joseph "Lawson" Skipper, Haden Smith, Jenna Stockwell.

**Fifth Grade:** Jordan Blake, Lauryn Blakely, Erin Bridgeman, Christina Cobos, Chris Cox, Elizabeth Cox, Alyssa Drake, Ramsey Goodwin, Dominique LeGrande, Abigail Martin, Nick Mabe, Tristan Price, Sam Shutt, Cassidy Siebenhar.

## B Honor Roll

**Fourth Grade:** Claire Allen, Armani Baldwin, Tanner Benton, Chris Byrd, Darryl Byrd, Caleb Cain, Tykiaya Carter, Kiana Cirillo, Tynasha Collins, Daniel Coman, Beronica Jaimes-Cruz, Brianna Edwards, Anire Egbe, Christopher Ehnes, Elizabeth Evans, Jacob Freeman, Hayden Gentry, Alana Harned, Kacie Horne, Justin Joyce, Victoria Massey, Maggie McNair, Dorien Morales, Jordan Moss, Molly Niewald, Jon Osteen, Allyson Patti, David Ramchand, Haley Ratcliff, Teasia Robinson, Justin Ryder, Bridillia Spencer, Carson Thurow, Kaleigh Wachter, Nolan Walling.

**Fifth Grade:** Alan Alvarez, Kaycie Atherton, Pa Bounthanom, TraVon Brown, Seth Campbell, Alicia Cox, Johnathan Garner, Layla Hash, Hans Johnson, Gabrielle Kinney, Tristan Mabe, Kylie McLaughlin, Ashleigh Mills, Michael Morgolis, Liam Nowicki, Connor Paszko, Meagan Pigg, Ashley Reiter, Jaxon Richardson, Jafet Rios, Caleb Robinson, Jordan Schrodtt, Sydney Shepherd, Hydya Smith, J.T. Smith, Mackenzie Smith, TreQuan Smith, Chris Stancil, Regan Styers, Adrianna Taylor, Allandra Wall, Abby Wallace, Caleb Watson, Josh Woodcock.



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# Six in the running for seats on SLLA Board

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Six candidates — including an incumbent director and a former president of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association — are vying for one of three open seats on the 2010-2012 Board of Directors.

*The Times* sat down with each candidate for an informal interview — a conversation, really — that afforded each an opportunity to reflect on their individual experiences and what they feel they could bring to the table if elected.

Residents will have the chance to meet the entire slate of candidates on Wednesday, February 24, at 6:30 pm at the North Clubhouse. The forum will include a question and answer period and will be moderated by Greg Hankins, publisher of *The Seven Lakes Times*. The event will be followed by the SLLA Open Meeting.

## Charles Hannel

Charlie Hannel retired to Seven Lakes after thirty-one years as a maintenance supervisor — twenty-seven of those years with International Harvester.

"I maintained buildings and properties and worked with budgets and people. I can bring a background of maintenance knowledge and infrastructure to the Board," said Hannel.

He said he agrees with Board oversight and that they should



Charles Hannel

inject into the management company what they hear from people in the community.

"Needs should go through the management company for what they think is best — that's what we're hiring them for," he said.

However, Hannel said a director should be willing to give up as much time as needed for anything that comes up.

"I'm willing to do that: you always have to give 125 percent."

On communication, Hannel said he keeps current reading the *Interlake* and *The Times* and recommended a more explicit approach is needed to communicate what is going on.

"If something comes up like paving or closing of a road, it should be told to people at least a week or two before it occurs. That to me is prior planning — it shouldn't be just spur of the moment decisions," said Hannel.

Looking ahead beyond expected road and dam maintenance, Hannel said he is pleased with the recent curbing work, and how the gate entrance and playground needs have been addressed.

"They've pretty well taken care of the smaller things. The maintenance department does one heck of a job."

## Charles Mims

"For thirty-two years, I was a police officer for the State of North Carolina and retired as a chief of police — a job where I was integrally woven into the government budget process, bureaucracy, and infrastructure. I bring that knowledge base," said Chuck Mims. "I also believe I have a fresh perspective by only living here [Seven Lakes] for one year. I'm not entrenched with any one group of people and have good friends on all three sides of the community."

He continued, "I feel I can look at things openly and base deci-

sions on the needs and what we can best do for the community."

On working with Talis Management Group, Mims said that bringing in a professional com-

pany that knows how to manage was a move in the right direction.

"If we have a progressive company that knows how to manage and is looking out for our best interests, that is a good move that will take us forward."

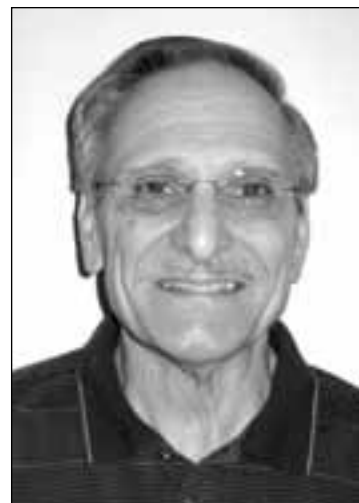
Mims said he agreed with the current Board's push towards oversight of management allowing staff to handle day-to-day functions of the community.

"Unless you have the skill set, it is very difficult to manage and I'm not sure I ever agree that management is the Board's job," said Mims.

However, he said that a director must be willing to give of themselves.

"The number of hours necessary will be dictated by what needs to be done," said Mims. "A

(Continued on page 12)



Charles Mims

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# SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 11)

good director has to know what is going on and how best to get those needs met, and how to work with the rest of the Board to get things done."

On communication with members, Mims said the Board is a form of government which means 'for the people, by the people.'

"To close the door and not have an open policy is not the best solution, but on other hand if we allow people to go around the management company direct-

out here rather than septic? I don't know, but we should be working with the county to see if it's feasible or perhaps not," said Mims.

He also recommended a total internal infrastructure review.

"We can't work from this year to next year. We have to see what is out there five years now. What is going to cost us five to ten years from now?" asked Mims. "If you're working in an emergency mode then costs rise dramatically. Good long range planning has the ability to prevent a lot of that."

## Robert Racine

Retired from practicing law in a small town, Racine said his job was primarily about bringing people together.

"The best thing I bring to the Board is ten years experience as a town moderator," said Bob

Racine. "A moderator brings people together with different opinions to form a uniform, cohesive plan of action."

"You accomplish more through negotiation," he said, reflecting on his disappointment upon moving to Seven Lakes to read about people suing each other.

"You go to a meeting and discuss and examine facts and alternatives then come to a decision. If the majority agree, then you go with it. You don't threaten to sue the other board members."

"When I came here, I saw tall pines, beautiful lakes and beaches, tennis courts and a playground. I saw the way the roads were laid out and houses of different styles – this is an attractive community," said Racine, noting that a favorite pastime is a daily long walk around Lake Sequoia.

Racine said he supports the current Board's move toward oversight.

"The Board sets goals and may have certain ideas but the day to day routine is handled by management," said Racine. "But that does not mean we abdicate our responsibilities; however, management has the responsibility to withstand private interests."

Responding to a question of how many hours does he feel are required to effectively serve as a director, Racine said that it's not the amount of time but how it is used that is important.

"I'm not going to sit and watch over the manager's shoulder, but if something came up, I am available — whatever the job requires."

On communication with members, Racine said there is room for improvement.

"They [SLLA Board] can set up all the procedures they want, but in many instances people bring a matter to the attention of a board and they farm it out to a committee or individual and then you never hear about it again: it gets lost," said Racine. "We must respond and be sensitive to concerns."

He recommended a set thirty-day response system with an update each month until the issue is resolved.

When asked about long range concerns, Racine said he wasn't sure the roads needed to be fixed as much as maintained.

"The roads are structurally sound and only being paved for basically beautification – do you need two inches of asphalt for beautification?"

"We need to get away from cosmetic improvements like put-

(Continued on page 14)



Robert Racine

ly to the Board that can be counter-productive," said Mims. "If members have a need they should take it to the management company: that's what we employ them for - not a buffer but a resource. We have to keep the management company involved to the point of what we are employing them for."

Looking at long-term planning beyond the necessary maintenance of roads and dams, Mims said that Seven Lakes should not neglect major infrastructure such as utilities, water and sewer.

"Will we ever have sewer lines

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# SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 12)

ting in shrubs and get to the more important issues – like kids sitting and playing in geese droppings at the beach is more important than adding a few shade trees,” he said.

Looking forward, Racine said Seven Lakes can remain very competitive with new developments.

“If we can’t afford it, we postpone it, but I don’t believe we can compete one-on-one in every aspect with every development that comes along. If people want new homes we can’t compete with that but what about all those families with kids — this is a beautiful place where they can go to beach, where they can go play basketball and tennis.”

“We are in a unique position. No one else has seven lakes and they are beautiful!”

However, Racine said his biggest concerns looking forward are the limited afternoon and evening hours of Roving Security and what he sees as too much spending by the Board.

“I don’t have an agenda other than to reduce unnecessary spending.”

## Melinda Scott

“Most of my adult life has been spent in the field of special education. First as a teacher, then I worked my way up the ranks and every promotion afforded me the opportunity to work with different people on variety of issues,” Melinda Scott said. “It was



Melinda Scott

a difficult learning process but worthwhile.”

She said the main thing she has learned and what she can bring to the Board is the concept of a team approach.

“I am a team builder and bring a fresh look. I’ve only been here three and a half years. I see so many things going on in the community — for good and not so good, so I decided to get more involved,” Scott explained.

On communication, Scott recommended forming a focus group to update the comprehensive survey.

“We need to get feedback on what they see as the major issues. We all share a general consensus on problems, safety issues, and lakes and dams, but those are not the only issues,” said Scott. “Our community is becoming more diverse and we are not focusing on that diversity

to get a broader view.”

However, she said the priority right now is for the Board to focus on accountability from the management company.

“If they don’t do what is needed, then we have spent a lot of money, time, and effort for nothing. We need to make sure we get our monies worth and what they are doing isn’t just cookie cutter: it should be tailor-made for Seven Lakes.”

Scott said her experience working with the Department of Education taught her that the key is not to micromanage but to be very clear on expectations and, once established, the Board must come up with a measurable evaluative tool to determine whether goals and objectives are being met and an ability to get them back on course.

She also is looking for strong communication between man-

agement, the Board, and among the committees.

“I’m not going to put my signature on something I’m not aware of – I want to know what I’m approving or denying and I would like to see more communication between the committees, because ultimately what goes on in committee meetings will come before the Board.”

Scott applauded the work of the Beautification Committee and the clean-up projects at Sequoia Point and the playground at Northside Park.

“When looking at the various amenities, some things have been done to make them look more attractive, but I think we need to go a little further,” said Scott. “My impression coming in the gates is blah, it is not prestigious. We need to make more of an impression with

(Continued on page 15)

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SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 14)

prospective homeowners.”

“Sometimes, I see little things not being attended to as quickly as they should be, but the maintenance crew does a wonderful job. I think the community just needs to take more responsibility especially for litter,” said Scott. “It’s a dual responsibility and we all have to have pride in the community.”

She said she anticipated the hours required to effectively serve would be variable but said once she made the decision to run, that was her commitment.

“I’m committing my time and there is nothing pressing that would take me away from meeting my responsibilities,” said Scott.

**Bud Shaver**

The only incumbent director looking to return to the Board,



Bud Shaver

Bud Shaver said he decided to run for his first term because he was tired of the public fighting by the Board at meetings and in the press, and that he wanted to work with maintenance issues and facilitate Dalton Fulcher’s departure.

“The current Board took on the task of recognizing that we needed to change how things were going along. We spent a great deal of time deciding what and how we wanted to do it and there was a lot of discussion and not always agreement,” said Shaver.

Looking now for a second term in office, Shaver said he is particularly interested in long range maintenance planning.

“I want to make sure what is done with maintenance is proper, because I feel have more knowledge and experience as to needs and capabilities that can assist new management. Also, I want to make sure that what we, as a Board, have put in place goes the way we think it should go.”

On communication with members, he explained that the current Board agreed very early on that the person who should respond to public questions is the president. He said while some have complained about the slow process to receive financial information, that he supported the decision to withhold financial information until the Board had reviewed it.

Shaver said he feels strongly

that Board responsibility should be restricted to establishing policy, leaving the day-to-day activities of the Association as the job of the Community Manager and staff.

Looking to the future on areas of concern, Shaver said the road dip going into Echo Dam was a problem that would not be addressed simply with repaving.

“We need to find a solution. Also in long range planning we’re looking at increasing the number of docks and looking at the Association’s buildings. The North Clubhouse is not large enough to meet the requirements of a community of this size.”

Shaver said he favors in-house maintenance, citing recent examples of a septic failure at the

stables and a partial road collapse near the 7th green.

“By having sufficient people on-hand, we were able to correct those problems. If we had gone



Don Truesdell

to an outside source who knows how long it would have taken and how much it would have cost,” said Shaver.

On competing with other developments, Shaver said Seven Lakes has an attractive base between the country club, lakes, and other amenities that attract families, along with one of the strongest schools in Moore County right outside the gates.

Shaver thanked his committee members for their service and said he was very glad his good health would allow him to run for another term.

**Don Truesdell**

With four years experience on the SLLA Board, including two as president, Don Truesdell said

(See “Truesdell,” p. 16)

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# Planning Board sets public input rules

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Public comment — how long and how flexible should it be — again dominated discussion of the Moore County Planning Board during its Thursday, February 4 meeting.

Following a contentious public hearing of the proposed Pine Forest Planned Unit Development [PUD] in December, the Board has been steadily reexamining and working to adopt consistent comment procedures. Last month, the Board unanimously approved moving the public comment period on the monthly agenda from the end to

,the beginning of each meeting. Discussion continued in February to determine appropriate limits and protocol for public speaking periods for both public hearings and general meetings.

Seizing the opportunity to address the Board early in the meeting, former chair and member Harry Huberth recommended flexibility.

"Regarding a policy of speaking during public hearings, we are chasing a problem that does not exist. We do not limit the proponents time — that's where we get a great deal of information before a decision," said

Huberth. "This Board always had a reputation that win or lose, people felt like they had a fair hearing because they were allowed to vent frustrations."

He asked the Board to give public comment careful consideration and warned against setting ironclad time limits.

Planning Director Joey Raczkowski then presented the Board with two public comment options; one modeled on the well-established Board of County Commissioners [BOC] policy, and a second simplified and more flexible model.

He recommended adopting the BOC protocol to eliminate

confusion and maintain consistency between the two boards and, after discussion, the Board agreed on a split vote. Public comment will be limited to three minutes for each speaker and one additional three minute period, if yielded by another signed speaker. The maximum public comment period is thirty minutes.

However, when the Planning Board moved on to setting policy and time limits at public hearings, all agreed that a longer period per speaker was preferable.

"I got flooded with calls when we said we should limit the time — both positive and negative comments," said member Ricky Lea. "We do not need to model on the Board of Commissioner's, our Board is a little more informal. If people come here, we

can afford to give them a little more time."

Planning Chair Martha Blake argued in favor of limiting time at the podium, but accepted Lea's suggestion that five minutes with one additional five minute period yielded was appropriate.

"A person should be able to say everything they want to say in ten minutes," Blake said. "I believe in listening to everybody. Everyone has a right to speak their opinion, but we also need to have a little bit of order."

## Other Business

In other business on Thursday, February 4, the Moore County Planning Board:

Introduced new member Robert Hayter, a registered landscape architect from Southern Pines.

(See "Planning Board", p. 30)

## Truesdell

(Continued from page 15)

he has the experience and time to effectively contribute to his community.

"I feel strongly that we should have a standing Lakes and Dams Committee — after all we are seven lakes," he said. "Bud [Shaver] has done a great job with maintenance, but to have Lakes and Dams as a subset is not sufficient. It does not give enough attention to our most valuable resource — our lakes."

Truesdell also said he is firmly convinced that maintenance can be performed in-house far cheaper than through outsourcing.

"Even taking into account depreciation and ongoing supplies, it is still much cheaper and we already have the capital investment of the maintenance equipment," said Truesdell. "If we did outsource, the amount of money we'd recoup on the sale of our assets — we'd be lucky to get fifteen to twenty cents on the dollar."

On oversight, he said that a director must be intimate with the details... "The nuts and bolts of the operation. How can you be effective if you just sit there and are not familiar with ongoing day to day operations?"

He said he was willing to devote whatever time would be necessary — a fact he said made obvious by the volumes of information and research on the lakes and dams he accumulated while serving as a director and

on the committee.

On communication with members, Truesdell said it is impossible to please all the people all the time, but that communication was an important issue that should be addressed on an ongoing basis.

"The more informed the members are the better dialogue that can exist between members and directors," said Truesdell.

Looking forward with infrastructure needs other than dams and roads, he recommended drafting a replacement schedule for capital assets used by maintenance.

"Up until now, we've replaced

on an as-needed basis and a lot of our equipment is getting up there in years. We need to be more proactive," said Truesdell, citing a \$48,000 backhoe purchase ten years ago. "We had a major repair for \$12,000 but to replace the backhoe would have cost \$72,000."

"We need to identify what needs to be replaced and get that in the budget. We have a lot of buildings in good shape and don't necessarily need replacement but we do need to set money aside for unexpected building needs."

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

- **Pinecrest Third Annual Golf Tournament** – Fundraiser. At Whispering Pines Country Club. Registration 7:30-8:30 am. Game to follow. Hosted by: Pinecrest Choral Boosters
- **CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider** – 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification Fee \$60. American Red Cross Moore County, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 910-692-8571
- **Sandhills Winery** – Help Celebrate the First Anniversary of the Winery! 10 am to 7 pm. Special pricing on select wines during celebration. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza, next to Peking Wok.
- **SLCC Mardi Gras Party** – Everyone's invited. You do not have to be a member to attend. Cocktail hour at 5:30 pm., Dinner at 6:30 pm. Enjoy a delicious New Orleans buffet. Music begins 7 pm. Call 673-1100. The all-inclusive price for members is \$28 & \$33 for nonmembers.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Alaska: shorebirds and more! Wildlife Biologist Terry Sharpe will give a presentation on his trip to Alaska and the field work he did with shorebirds. Visitors are always welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org).
- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 (Exxon Station), just east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open 6:30 pm. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome. Call 910 974-3051.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

- **American Red Cross Blood Donation** – 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Sponsored by Pinehurst Rotary. Appt. call 692-8571.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:00 pm, West Side Park Community Center.
- **"An Evening with Abraham Lincoln"** – 7:30 pm, presented

by historical re-enactor Jim Getty as part of the Ruth Pauley Lecture Series. The first person presentation will be held in Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College campus, Pinehurst. Admission is free.

**Association Candidates Night and Open Meeting** – 6:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

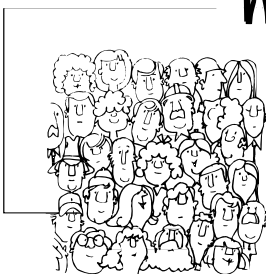
- **What Do Episcopalians Believe?** – Join the

Lenten Series of Lectures and Discussions on the fundamentals of Christian beliefs as understood and practiced by the Episcopal Church.

Light Lenten supper at 6 pm, followed by the lecture, discussion, ending about 8 pm. Reservations not required. There will be plenty for everyone. Held Thursdays in Lent: March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25. Everyone is Welcome! Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **See the Documentary – "Not Evil, Just Wrong"** If you were cold recently, you might wonder about Global Warming. This documentary will present facts about Mother Nature that Al Gore hasn't told you. Held at the West Side Com-

## What's When Calendar



For additional information, 910-245-3132.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- **American Red Cross Blood Donation** – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Conference Center, Corner of 211 and Page Rd., Pinehurst. Call 715-1478.
- **Standard First Aid** – 6:00 - 9:00 pm. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification Fee \$35. American Red Cross Moore County, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 910-692-8571
- **Seven Lakes Landowners**



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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **American Red Cross Blood Donation** – 7 am to 11:30 am, Village of Pinehurst, 395 Magnolia Rd., Pinehurst. Appt. call 255-3806 ext. 234.
- **American Red Cross Blood Donation** – 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. The O'Neal School Upper School, 3300 Airport Rd. Appt. call 692-6920 ext. 100.
- **Temple Theatre 2010 Winter Youth Conservatory Production of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet** – The show, features 26 upper-middle and high school age students, and will run February 26-28 and March 5-7. Friday and Saturday evening shows 7 pm and the Sunday matinees 2 pm. Tickets \$10/adults and \$5/children 12

years and younger. This youth production is sponsored by Pentair, Water, Pool and Spa. Tickets [www.templeshows.com](http://www.templeshows.com) or call Box Office at 919-774-4155.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED** – 8:00 am - 1:30 pm. American Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$55. American Red Cross Moore County, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. 910-692-8571
- **Admissions Testing** – 9:00am, Admissions testing for new students (excluding Pre-K for three year olds) considering enrollment to *The O'Neal School*. Contact Admissions Director, Alice Droppers for more information at (910) 692-6920 ext. 103.

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## WEST END FIRE DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

THE WEST END FIRE DISTRICT WILL HOLD THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST END FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON  
**MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2009 AT 5:00 P.M.**  
AT THE WEST END FIRE STATION  
4203 NC HWY 73

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO NOMINATE AND ELECT TWO (2) DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO THREE YEAR TERMS AND ONE (1) DISTRICT RESIDENT TO A VACANT UNEXPIRED ONE YEAR TERM TO THE WEST END FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

**ALL FIRE DISTRICT RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING.**

**MONDAY, MARCH 1**

- **Moore Republican Women's Luncheon** – 11:30 am, lunch served at 12 noon, at the Pinehurst Members Club. Cost is \$15 payable by cash, or check to PCC, LLC. Call Pauli Curl at 215-9796 to make your reservations by Thursday, February 25. The guest speaker will be: Leighton W. Smith, Jr. Admiral, United States Navy (Retired).
- **NAMI-MC "Managing the Stress that Drains and Binds You"** – 7 pm, Kelly Frye, with FirstHealth Outpatient Behavioral Services, will be the guest speaker. Frye will give her presentation on "Managing the Stress that Drains and Binds You." If you are tired mentally and physically even though you are not working, this session will give you the opportunity to interactively explore your stress responses and sources. Create your own "toolbox" of skills for handling stress and learn to feel better. Held at FirstHealth Conference Center, Room B, located at the corner of HWY 211 and Page Street, Pinehurst. All meetings are Free and open to the public. (910) 295-1053 or go to [www.nami-moorecounty.org](http://www.nami-moorecounty.org)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

- **NAMI-MC 11-Week "Family to**

**Family" Course** – Tuesday(s) through May 11, 7 - 9:30 pm. This National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Moore County event is free to family members of close relatives with mental illness. Attendees will learn of all current information about the severe and persistent mental illnesses, up-to-date information about medications, and current research. Educational course held at FirstHealth Moore Regional Specialty Clinic (formerly Pinehurst Surgical Clinic building) with limited seating. Call 910-692-7399 to register. For details, check out NAMI-Moore County at [nami-moorecounty.org](http://nami-moorecounty.org)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4**

- **Amos Speaks, Then And Now: An Adult Academy Lenten Study** – 10 am, Don Welch, pastor of the Chapel in the Pines and McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will offer a course on the Book of Amos from the Hebrew Scriptures on Thursdays (March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25). The sessions will last one hour and will be held in the sanctuary of The Chapel in the Pines. Participants will study the meaning of Amos. The course is presented by the Adult Academy for Religious Studies of

West End Presbyterian Church and the Chapel in the Pines and is open to interested persons from all faith traditions. No prior registration is required. Participants should bring a modern translation of the Bible and read the first three chapters of Amos before the first session.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5 to 8 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza next to Peking Wok.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

- **Christian Author Julie Barnhill Seminar** – 7 – 8:30 pm. Barnhill, popular speaker, author, brings her razor-sharp insight into the woman's psyche to Southern Pines with two seminars (today and Saturday). Today's seminar is titled, "You Go, Girlfriend." Held at Grace Church, Southern Pines. The fee for Friday's session is \$15. Saturday's session is \$25 and includes free entry to the Friday session. Advance tickets available online at [www.sandhillsmops.com](http://www.sandhillsmops.com) or at Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Seminars are presented by Sandhills MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), a chapter of MOPS International.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

- **Christian Author Julie Barnhill Seminar** – 9 am to noon. "One Tough Mother." Strategies for the modern mother – assaulted by television shows, magazines, well-meaning friends, and their own mothers – can use to sift through the volume of unsolicited parenting advice. At Grace Church, Southern Pines. Fee for Friday's session is \$15. Saturday's session is \$25, includes free entry to the Friday session. Advance tickets available at [www.sandhillsmops.com](http://www.sandhillsmops.com) or at Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 9**

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 11**

- **League of Women Voters "Lunch With Legends"** – Doors open 11:30 am, lunch served at noon, Whispering Pines Country Club. "Special guests" at this year's luncheon will be Harriet Tubman, Alice Paul; and Margaret Chase Smith. Tickets \$30/person. Call Ginger Finney at 673-1330.

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# SLCC announces 'Zero Percent Financing'

Seven Lakes Country Club announces the terms for their popular "Preview Membership"

opportunity for 2010. The Preview Membership allows new members to come into the Club

without paying an Initiation Fee for the first twelve months. The program allows the new members ample time to determine that the Club is indeed the right fit for their family.

In addition to the twelve month time period, the Club has built in incentives for those who do not need the full term to make their decision to become equity members. If the Preview Member decides to become an Equity Member within the first six month of the program, they will pay the \$500 Equity Contribution and have eighteen months to pay the Membership Fee portion of the Initiation Fee for their selected category.

If the Preview Member decides to wait until the twelve months is up and then decides to become an Equity Member, they will pay the \$500 Equity Contribution and have another twelve months to pay the Membership Fee portion of the Initiation Fee for their selected category.

In addition to the new terms of the Preview Membership, the

Club has also introduced a new Social Membership. The Social Membership will provide full access for all family members to the Club for dining, social activities as well as tennis. The monthly dues for this membership are

established at \$35.00 along with a monthly food minimum. For more information and complete details about these and all the membership opportunities the Club has to offer, contact the Club Office at 673-1088.

## Amanda Covington joins Murray & Co.

Amanda Covington, a native of Star and graduate of Sand-

hills Community College's cosmetology program has joined the Murray & Co. Salon in Seven Lakes Professional Park.

Covington told *The Times* that she really enjoys helping her clients find the style that is best for them — to help bring out their inner beauty.

She's also big on keeping up with the latest trends and techniques.

Murray & Co. is open Tuesday – Friday 10 – 6 and Saturday 9 – Noon.

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Amanda Covington

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# Plenty of soil moisture a boon to gardeners

The weather has been much colder than normal thus far this year. Also, the earlier snow ice sheet and freezing rain produced a covering that completely soaked into the soil. The hard rains from the two days of storms that followed a few days later added additional water to bring our rainfall level measurements back to above normal. This means that our soil gardening moisture situation is perhaps the best in years.

However, the gusty winds that came with the ensuing storms last week presented some cleanup problems.

February is a good time for planting almost everything including evergreen shrubs, pecan trees, fruit trees, berries, grapes, bulbs, and other dormant nursery plants. Remember to add soil amendments such as weed-free decomposed or super phosphate to the planting. Water well during the planting operation and weekly thereafter.

More plants die from deep planting than any other reason. Always remember to plant at the same soil level as the plant was grown in the nursery or in the nursery container.

Be on the lookout for mole

and vole tunnels in your lawn. If present, ask your garden center to sell you a product recommended for their control.



## Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

### Suggested gardening tips for February:

Continue to cleanup storm damage around shrubs, trees, and other areas around the premises.

Grind, chop up, shred, vacuum, or rake leaves off the lawn.

Kill emerging lawn and flower bed weeds by pulling them out or with a recommended approved chemical herbicide. It will help get ahead of some troublesome species later on in the season.

Inspect your shrubs for insects and treat if necessary with a dormant oil and combination mixture of insecticidal soap. If needed, add an approved chemical insecticide control to the mentioned combination spray mixture. The treatments should be applied on a clear day when the temperature is above fifty degrees.

February is the month for Spring seeding or reseeding fescue lawns. It is also the time to fertilize your established fescue lawn.

It's time to prune your grape vines: both muscadine and bunch types.

This month is time to prune fruit, nut, and shade trees.

It's an ideal time for planting, transplanting, and moving dormant trees and shrubs. It's also a good time to plant ground covers and perennials.

Check your garden tools: clean, sharpen, and get them ready for use. Service your lawn mower and make any necessary repairs.

Cut back pampas grass and other ornamental grasses if they look weather beaten.

Check your perennial beds to see if any plants are dislodged or heaved from the soil as a result of the Winter weather. If damage is apparent, dig up the roots and reset the plant and divide if necessary.

Prepare your vegetable garden by tilling, plowing, and mixing in the soil compost, well-decomposed organic matter and well-rotted commercial cow manure.

In the absence of a soil test analysis, you might consider this mixture for your vegetable garden and flower beds. If it hasn't been limed for the past two years, apply ten pounds of dolomitic limestone and ten to fifteen pounds of well-decomposed cow manure per 1,000 square feet. Broad cast and incorporate well into the soil prior to planting.

**February vegetable planting:** asparagus crowns, edible pod and garden peas, turnip seed, mustard seed, onion plants, sets or seed, also cabbage plants, carrot seed, lettuce seed and plants, Irish potato seed cuttings, rutabaga, spinach, Swiss chard, and cress seeds.

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## The absolutely, positively, weirdest sport of all

It must be time for me to seriously reexamine my life's priorities because the Olympics are on and I've been too busy to sit down and watch my favorite Winter event — curling.

Undignified, but strangely entrancing, surely there is no other sport that shares such an odd-coupling as the graceful glide of the stone followed by the frenzied sweep of the broom.

I remember the first time I saw such a spectacle.

It wasn't long after my family arrived from the high desert of the Middle East to the frozen tundra of The Great White North that we discovered curling. Casually

heading into a sports arena, probably in search of hot chocolate, we thought the league play going on must be some sort of a joke.

After all, this was the same country where Summer festivals frequently included a bed race. Yes, I said bed. As in, teams of four pushing a bed on wheels — fast. I'm not sure what you had to do wrong to be selected as the rider on these contraptions: luckily, I never found out.

But on that evening we stood in wonder, a family of slack-jawed Americans trying to figure out what exactly these crazy Canucks were up to.

Now, just in case you've missed this icy phenomenon, picture bowling with boulders or perhaps shuffleboard with a shiver. And the

broom? It's short and moved with a l a r m i n g speed back and forth in front of said boulders. I think it has something to do with melting the ice but it looks more like a dog scratching behind its ear: frantic and awkward.

Without googling the history of

curling, I'm going to hedge a guess that folks up there eventually got sick of wearing ice skates — they're born with them



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

on, you know — and decided it was time to invent another way to enjoy the great outdoors and still drink beer. You can only ice fish for so long.

That first curling match must have looked as strange as the day Naismith nailed a peach basket to the YMCA gym wall. [Hmm, is it just a strange coincidence that basketball was also invented by a Canadian? Maybe it's the water or more probably, something in the ice.] But, for some reason, I just can't help imagining a Bob and Doug McKenzie-type exchange.

Bob: Oh, look at the slide of my rock, right into the house. A beauty shot, eh?

Doug: Take off, you hoser! You spilled my beer.

## Bob Darr explains resignation, withdrawal

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the community of Seven Lakes for the support given to me as Supervisor of Maintenance for the past 15 months.

As a result of that support, along with the outstanding service of the employees of the department, I am proud of the accomplishments. While many of them were large and very noticeable, the majority of the day to day requirements were fulfilled in a timely and efficient manner and served the community economically.

I have resigned this position and removed my name from consideration for election to the board. I have serious disagreements with the present Board and feel that my presence on the next Board could throw it back

into the contentious and cantankerous system we have seen in the recent past.

The Board decision to hire a Management Company is not the issue.

I believe this coming year will

be a very difficult year for the Board and this community. The transition will be unsettling.

The Board that made the decision, based upon their analysis of what is best for this community, needs to work through the

issues and I want to support their efforts. I do not wish to get in their way.

Bob Darr  
Seven Lakes North

## Kudos for Bob Darr

Dear Editor:

A Well-Deserved

Letter Of Recognition,

"The undersigned residents of Seven Lakes North & South

would like to recognize Bob Darr's contribution to the community and thank him for the outstanding job that he has done as the working supervisor of

our maintenance crew during the few short months of his employment. Never in our time, has the maintenance area appeared so well kept or the crew so industriously employed.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our regret at his decision to withdraw his candidacy for a seat on the board in this current year's election."

Jim Allen, Al & Peg Anderson, Sally Bagdan, Jim Ball, Ron Erskine, Dan Flint, Michael Florence, Linda & Al Geiger, Ralph & Irene Grossheim, Bill Gross, Jim & Carol Gunderson, Bob & Angie Haan, Paul & Nancy Hartung, Frank & Barb Horan, Steve & Mary Hudson, Norm Ihrig, Jerry Johnson, Chuck & Betty July, Jay Kenzel, Bill & June Kirkland, Chuck & Jane Leach, Skip Leath, John & Nancee Letter,

Chuck Levinger, Andy Lowe, Ernie & Lucy Dunn Martin, Jack McCarthy, Conrad Meyer, Marx Nathan, Charlie Oliver, Bill Pomplun, Pete & Magda Sonderfan, George & Ruth Stahl, Bob & Donna Stephan, Chuck Stephenson, Angela Terry, Angie & Phil Thingstad, Mark Widman, Bill Yarish

Finally, if you are a resident of Seven Lakes North or South and one who would have endorsed this letter if it had been brought to your attention, it's not too late. Simply e-mail me to this effect and another list of appreciative residents will be assembled and forwarded directly to Bob. He deserves the community's recognition and thanks for a job well done.

Ron Erskine  
Seven Lakes North

SEVEN  
LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners  
of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC  
by Seven Lakes Times, LLC, P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376  
910-673-0111 • 888-806-2572 (fax) • mail@sevenlaketimes.net

Publishers — Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins  
Editor — Greg Hankins • Layout & Design — Marcy Hankins  
Reporter — Laura Douglass

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.  
J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,  
William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

# Speed bumps on Longleaf? Get real!

Dear Editor:

I would remind the board that speeding or any other motor vehicle problem associated with driving belongs to the police or sheriff's department. We are

not and should not be law enforcement. We are a community governed by mostly sensible regulations backed up by City, County and State government.

Having been and currently associated with the automobile business for 40 years, I can assure the board that speed bumps on a major road used by the entire community would cause nothing but aggravation to the driver, front end damage to the automobile and very possibly cause accidents when some drivers come to a stop before going over a speed bump on a 35 MPH road.

For those who chose to live on a major access road with vehicles going by constantly, instead of a cul-de-sac, side road or dead end, wake up – that was your choice, not mine. I don't

have a problem with speeders, careless drivers, slow drivers, and no – speed bumps would not serve any purpose in front of my house. Yes, you have guessed it, I don't live on Longleaf or Hwy. 211.

There are no real facts to substantiate running out and installing speed bumps everywhere in the

community as Mick Herdrich suggests.

Let's not spend thousands of dollars without the justifications and facts, so we can again increase the dues another 36% next year.

Ron Weber  
Seven Lakes West

## Praise for Mrs. Waller

A Letter of Thanks:

I wish to personally say "Thank You" to Mrs. Waller the Principal of West End Elementary.

I first met Mrs. Waller over two years ago, and I have always found her to be very personable, and easy to work with.

In the mornings, when I would drop my daughter off at school she was usually overseeing the car line and always had a smile on her face. The times I would

have to go into school I always found her door open and ready to solve any problem.

I was very sad to find out that Mrs. Waller is leaving the Moore County School system and moving on to the Lee County system.

Our loss will be their very big gain.

We wish her all happiness in her new endeavor.

The Florence Family –  
Michael, Deirdre & Hannah

## Support for dues increase

Dear Editor,

Opinions about the dues increase in the proposed budget of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association seem to fall in three categories: those disapproving of any increase at all, those unhappy about the large percentage of this new number, and those who, not particularly happy about it, understand the necessity of the proposal. We find ourselves in the latter group.

While not enthusiastic about the effect on our personal budget, we laud the SLWLA Board of Directors for taking the strong and less-than-popular position that the integrity of our community infrastructure requires tough decisions. We understand that the size of the increase is the result of such action being delayed for various reasons over recent years. The time has come.

Ed and Nelda Cockman  
Seven Lakes West

## Abraham Lincoln at SCC

"An Evening with Abraham Lincoln" will be presented by historical re-enactor Jim Getty as part of the Ruth Pauley Lecture Series at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, February 23, in Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Admission is free to the public with no tickets required. Information, call 910-245-3132.

Join us for a free, interactive seminar:

## UNDERSTANDING BACK PAIN: ADVANCED TREATMENT OPTIONS INCLUDING SPINAL CORD STIMULATION

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Tuesday, March 2

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# Smaller dues increase could meet needs

*An Open Letter to Members of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association:*

Please vote "No" on the proposed FY2010-2011 budget.

Why? Because of the excessive up-front dues increase, which is not necessary.

A Budget Revision Package was prepared and the results were reviewed in detail with the Association's Treasurer. The Board reviewed the package in executive session on February 9 and decided to make no changes to the proposed budget. Since the presentation with the Treasurer, the original budget revision package was modified to include the information in the following paragraphs.

This modified Budget Revision Package demonstrates that a twenty-five percent dues increase in FY 2010-2011 and a four percent increase in FY 2011-2012 will satisfy the present and future needs of the Association. This reduces and eases the impact of a dues increase by approximately seven percent over a two year period.

## Basic elements of the Budget Revision

- A modest dues increase in the next two years for both improved and unimproved lots.
- Rapid payout of the mortgage on West Side Park.
- Paving needs are covered, as well as culvert remediation.
- Reserves are rebuilt.

## Advantages of the Budget Revision

- Solves reaction to excessive dues increase in FY 2010-2011.
- Maintains current dues ratio between improved and unimproved lots.
- Insures funds are available for present/future projected needs.
- Pays out West Side Park mortgage in six years.
- Frees up funds for future needs.
- Keeps members' faith that the Board listens.

**Mortgage:** A major budget concern for Seven Lakes West is the \$910,000 principle on the present West Side Park mortgage. In organizations such as ours, mortgages are usually based on a 20-year term with a 5-year balloon, with a need for

refinancing. The mortgage rate is based on the Prime Rate, presently three percent plus one-half percent (3.5%). Often this rate is negotiated even better to the benefit of the borrower.

The Budget Revision Package included information on a mortgage at three percent with a principal paydown, which would totally eliminate the mortgage in approximately 70 months. A mortgage at four percent would result in a payout of approximately 72 months.

**Roads:** Analysis of budget information supplied by the Board indicates there are sufficient funds in the reserves to cover paving needs through at least 2014. In the Budget Revision Package, paving reserves can be accumulated on an annual basis to satisfy the needs of the thirty-year paving program.

**Culverts:** The Budget Revision Package includes funds to insure the culvert crisis (discussed at the February 2 General Meeting, but not included in the budget packet given to members) will be corrected. This activity is necessary prior to any specific road paving projects on roads needing culvert repair.

While there are other value considerations in the Budget Revision Package, the previous paragraphs discuss some of the most significant.

Please do the following:

- If you have not voted on the budget, please vote "No."
- If you have sent in a proxy, please send a letter to Ed Tuton, Secretary, indicating that he is to vote "No" on the proxy.
- If you have voted "yes," please request a new ballot to vote no.

A non-vote is actually a "yes" vote for the budget. According to the NC Planned Communities Act (which applies to Seven Lakes West), the budget can be rejected only by a "no" vote by more than fifty percent of the membership.

If you have not voted in the past, it is imperative that you vote this time. Also, please contact at least twelve other members to vote "No." Please ask them to contact twelve or more and "pass it on."

The Budget Revision Package and its values seem to be falling on deaf ears. Many of us

have served on volunteer Boards. It can be a difficult job. This and previous Boards have done many good things. However, the Budget Revision Package is an attempt to get the present Board to rethink

and change their position on this excessive dues increase. This is particularly important in today's economic climate.

Thanks in advance for your time and efforts in helping this

process. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

*Jim Barrett*

*Seven Lakes West*

*910-673-2527*

*jbarrett3@nc.rr.com*



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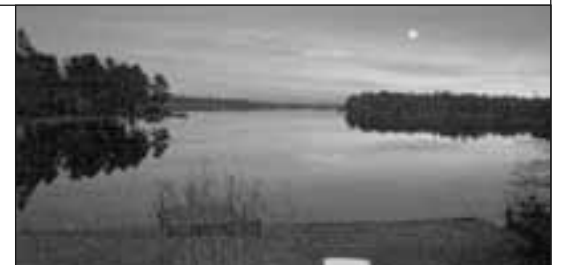
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Lot 4161 .....Corner with Lakeview.....\$68,500  
Lot 6003 .....On Golf Course.....\$68,500

*The above are choice lots and approved for septic.*

# Dues increase: Good intentions, bad policy

Dear Editor:

*Proposed SLWA Dues Increase; Good Intentions-Bad Policy*

The SLWLA Board has approved a number of changes to our administrative procedures many of which feel "landowner unfriendly." Surely, we don't need a landowner unfriendly approach to the proposed budget.

Please don't misunderstand what I'm about to say. Our SLWLA Board's dedication to keeping our landowner invest-

ment "first rate" is acknowledged. Their willingness to unselfishly volunteer time in support of our community is much appreciated.

Having said that, the recent budget proposal with Board recommended dues increase, in my opinion, is not wise at this time and should be rejected by the landowners.

Here's why:

To levy an increase of 36% for developed lots and 69% for undeveloped lots feels like another property tax hike rather than

landowner's association dues increase. The Board recommended increase comes at a time when our state and national economy is in the tank and at a time of high unemployment and low prospects for financial recovery.

In addition, we have all recently experienced increased property valuation/taxes in Moore County while real property values and family wealth declines.

So, should we be substantially increasing taxes in a recession-plagued environment?

Will increasing landowner dues by 36% and 69% help or hurt property values in a depressed real estate market?

Does this budget show empathy or consideration for those struggling with stressed and stretched household budgets?

Is the 69% increase proposed for unimproved lots fair?

I'd ask that you vote "NO" on the proposed budget and by doing so, ask the Board to go

back and creatively craft a budget that both protects our SLW investment and respects landowner financial circumstances at a very difficult time. Front end loading the dues increase is good intentions, bad policy. Perhaps a multi year approach to the budget with

tough decisions about project expenditures/timing and reserve allocations would work. In any event, a fresh, creative look at the budget and anticipated income streams is in order.

*Bruce Bedder  
Seven Lakes West*

## Say a prayer . . .

Say a prayer today for:

Your neighbor down the street with a long-enduring malady;  
For the parents of that child beset with a life-threatening disease;

Or for those whose stamina is severely tested by other unavoidable circumstances.

Yes, our religion, in whatever category it may be, can challenge us to do, in however small ways, what we can do to help someone's spirit to survive. After all, we're all in the same family – that consisting of all of the people of our world.

So say a prayer, however simple it may emerge. In our lives here at home, even a clasp of the hand, accompanied by a gentle squeeze, can convey a message of hope.



**Mason's  
Musings**

*Mason Gould*

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**Joshua 24:15**

## SLLA work session

(Continued from front page)

meeting, Galford told *The Times* that last year's meeting attracted few residents and those who did attend were more interested in revisiting old controversies than asking specific questions about the proposed budget.

### Delaying decisions on capital items

Galford suggested the Board wait until July before approving any capital items other than \$110,000 for roads and dams, in order to give newly-installed Community Manager Alina Cochran an opportunity to develop recommendations.

"We need to give Talis time to get their feet on ground and review the proposed capital projects," he said.

Galford told The Board that Cochran has suggested bringing in an outside firm to study the likely life of the Association's major assets — like the North Club House, pool, and mail-houses — in order to help the Board develop a strategy of building reserves for the repair or replacement of those assets.

"I think we need something like that," he said. "We don't have the five-year/ten-year continuity that we should have."

Maintenance Director Bud Shaver told Galford he has two committees that could provide valuable input in that area: one studying the expected life and replacement cost of SLLA equipment and another focused on evaluating the major assets.

"I encourage that the maintenance committee be kept informed," Shaver said, "so we work together."

### Road repaving

The Board is also awaiting a road repaving plan that is being prepared by Fulcher, Galford noted. The initial presentation of that work to the finance and maintenance committees is slated for February 23.

Although the Board voted earlier in the year to begin repaving in August or September, Fulcher's five-year capital plan delayed road repaving until 2013, estimating an \$800,000 expenditure that year.

The idea of delaying repaving clearly did not sit well with Board members, a number of whom noted their earlier vote to move

forward this year.

"The Board has said we are going to go ahead and do it," Galford said. "Dalton has been saying the chuck holes aren't that bad. In the back of my mind and the committee's mind, when we get his initial report, we may go out and have [Community Manager] Alina [Cochran] get an engineer's study of the roads."

Director Bruce Keyser suggested that, when it is time to obtain bids for the needed repaving, the Association ask contractors to provide a quote on paving the first eight feet or so of residents' driveways. The winning contractor could then offer that service to residents as their paving crews pass by.

The Board expressed support for the idea — as long as the relationship between the paving contractor and residents was

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

## More transparency needed

*Dear Seven Lakes Landowners Association Directors:*

The deductions of salaries and benefits from the monthly payroll of the Community Manager, Assistant Community Manager, and Maintenance Supervisor Bob Darr, who recently resigned, plus the added \$75,000 consulting fee and the Talis Management Company fee should have resulted in a net reduction in Association overhead, unless the Board has made other changes not yet disclosed. The Board needs to reveal to the members what this net reduction is, plus any pertinent details.

After the double \$50 dues increase (\$50 for FY 2009-2010 and \$50 for FY 2010-2011) was proposed a year ago and approved in March 2009, the legality of the second \$50

increase was questioned, since it was one year in advance. The Board's attorney may have ruled that our Bylaws did not disallow such a vote. In all honesty, however, our Bylaws do not specifically permit such a vote. Such a vote disenfranchised those property owners who moved here since and were denied the right to vote (Equal Protection under the law - Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution).

Therefore, to preserve the integrity of its operation, the

Board should conduct a new vote to confirm the second increase.

Is the membership not entitled to transparency in the Board's conduct of Association activities?

Hal Blake  
Seven Lake South

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# Pinecrest Players win big with 'Missoula'

The Pinecrest Players Theatre Ensemble will soon be touring with their award winning production of 'At the Bottom of Lake Missoula' throughout the county, before packing their gear and traveling to Lexington, Kentucky in March as one of only two high schools selected to represent North Carolina at the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

The Players will present this production Friday, February 26 at Union Pines High School, Saturday, February 27 at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, and their farewell performance on Monday, March 1 on their home turf at the R.E Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School. All performances are at 7:00 pm, and admission is \$5. This group of 30 talented performers and technicians

began working on this production back in August.

Every Fall, the Pinecrest Players take part in a ritual that multiple other high school theatre departments share in. The North Carolina Theatre Conference sponsors the annual High School Play Festival, an opportunity for schools to put together their best work and perform for adjudicators.

Last Fall was no different, at least to start the school year. An ensemble of thirty Pinecrest students, led by director Adam W. Faw of Seven Lakes North, began working on their production of 'At the Bottom of Lake Missoula' by Ed Monk as soon as the school year began, and by festival time was ready.

The Pinecrest Players began at a regional play festival site

in late October as one of 116 overall productions. From this large field, the local troupe was thrilled to learn that they had been selected as one of the top two from their regional site, and joined the top 16 plays from across North Carolina at the NCTC state play festival in Greensboro.

After two full days of play competition, in which sixteen amazing schools performed, the auditorium at Greensboro College was filled with tension as hundreds of high school theatre students sat in anticipation at the awards ceremony.

Pinecrest High School received multiple awards at the festival, including Outstanding Achievement in Ensemble Acting, Excellence in Directing, and Excellence in Sound Design. The moment of truth came when NCTC Executive Director Angie Hays stepped forward to announce the names that everyone had been waiting for, the 'Distinguished Plays.' These two

productions would go on to represent North Carolina in competition against players from nine other states later in the year. The first selected was Shelby High School, with their production of 'Lone Star.' The entire auditorium sat in anticipation as Hays began to call the second. Audience members were only able to hear 'At the Bot...' before her voice was drowned out by the screams of the Pinecrest Players as they rushed the stage to get their award.

'At the Bottom of Lake Missoula' written by Ed Monk, is a one act production that follows

college sophomore Pam (Theya Havranek) through a terrible tragedy, as she loses her entire family to a tornado. Live music, provided by a drumming ensemble and guitar, underscore her journey through her grief as she strives to find reason in the chaos. The ensemble acts as a sort of Greek Chorus as they accompany Pam, as visions of her family haunt her waking and flashbacks of the tragedy inhabit her dreams. Through the journey, a fellow student (Nic Smith) reaches out to her, and finally helps her reconnect to the world around her.



The Pinecrest Players



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# SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 7)

completely independent of the Association.

## Additional reporting requested

Noting the recent discussion about rebuilding reserve and contingency funds in Seven Lakes West, Director Sally Kindsvatter asked whether the SLLA has a contingency fund.

Galford pointed to a sheet in the budget packet that showed the Association began the year with a \$375,000 fund balance left over from the prior year. "That's how much cash we have in the bank at the beginning of this year," he said. Noting that the FY 2009-2010 dues increase added another \$62,000 to that balance, which he said included approximately \$188,000 set aside exclusively for road and dam repairs.

"We expect to have \$444,000 in cash at the end of the year," Galford said, "which can be used in future years."

"We should designate the left-over cash to go into a reserve account," Community Manager Cochran suggested.

"When we flip over to the Talis accounting system, I would love to see both an income statement and a balance sheet," Director Kent Droppers said. He asked that Cochran bring samples of Talis reports to the next work session.

"I agree totally with what Kent is saying," Galford said. "What the Finance Committee looks at is both income statement and a balance sheet."

## Talis transition underway

Community Manager Cochran reported that the transition to the Talis accounting software is well underway, with training of the local staff planned for later in the week. Data on all property owners has now been entered into the system, Cochran explained.

Cochran said that Community Standards compliance issues will be able to be tracked in the new system.

"At the next work session could you make a presentation to us, so I have a better understanding of the nits and grits of it?" Droppers asked. "We might have some insights how we can

best tweak it for Seven Lakes."

Also nearly implemented is the SLLA section of the Talis website, which will allow members to log in and view their account information online. Cochran noted that the Talis website does not offer publicly accessible information and suggested it may be desirable to retain the existing SLLA website to provide general information about the community.

Cochran told the Board she had been getting to know the community and found it easy to quickly learn about the problems — particularly with drainage problems exacerbated by plentiful rain and snowfall.

## Other Business

In other business during the February 15 work session, the SLLA Board:

- Reviewed a draft document laying out the respective tasks of management and directors, and asked for input from Cochran before it is finalized.

- Discussed an amendment to the Bylaws, developed by Galford, that describes the Association's System of Governance. Kindsvatter forcefully made the case for adding a simpler summary paragraph to the bylaws, but the Board appeared ready to approve Galford's draft. Director Gary Caulk asked that it be put on the agenda of a future Open Session for a vote.

- Agreed to host the Open Water Swim competition on Lake Echo on June 4 and 5, which will require that Echo Dam be closed off for a period time on each of those days. Last year's com-

petition attracted 600 swimmers plus coaches and spectators.

- Agreed that the Sailing Club can temporarily mark the new white buoys to be installed on Lake Sequoia to make the their race course more visible on race day.

- Heard from President Randy Zielsdorf that the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council met with Commissioners Nick Picerno and Jimmy Melton for a briefing on water issues. Zielsdorf said the Council plans to ask to have a seat at the table in the regular meetings between county and municipal elected officials.

## Taste of the Town

The Women of Seven Lakes will be holding its 6th Annual "Taste of the Town" on Monday, March 22, at the West Side Park Community Center from 5 - 7 pm.

Several restaurants, including some of the community favorites, and some new restaurants, will feature their culinary specialties this year. Wine, beer, and coffee are included. A special Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting is also available.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)  
in the future it may be that we will bring it back to the table and discuss it again."

Fluid Flow of Information

"When I count these up," Commissioner Lea said, after the meeting reports, "we've had some seven meetings, with all Commissioners and also staff involved at some level."  
"Having these one-on-one meetings — at least, every one I was involved in — and from what I have heard here tonight is that they have been very positive meetings, it's been great interaction from a communicative standpoint, and, the good news is, it has been a fluid flow of information."  
"We can only hope that good will come out of this as we move this process forward on a month-by-month basis," the Chairman concluded.  
The Commissioners' next group meeting with municipal officials is scheduled for March 4, with the towns and villages encouraged to present their top three goals. An April 15 meeting of the group will focus on fire departments and emergency medical services.

Landfill Methane May Be Tapped

If all goes according to plan, the

county will soon be in the business of generating electricity. The Commissioners voted Monday night to sign a letter of intent with Green Energy Partners, a South Carolina-based firm, to explore tapping the county's landfill, closed in 1993, for methane gas.  
County Engineer Lex Kelly told the Board three proposals for tapping the gas were reviewed by both staff and experts at Appalachian State University, with the unanimous recommendation that the Green Energy partners proposal be selected.  
The letter of intent will allow the firm to drill test wells into the landfill, in order to determine whether it is generating a viable amount of gas. Preliminary estimates based on the size and depth of the landfill suggest it could generate as much as \$90,000 per year in revenue for the county, Kelly said. The entire cost of installation and operation of the methane collection system would be borne by Green Energy Partners.  
He noted that the testing can be completed in approximately three weeks and will provide the data necessary for Green Energy partners to negotiate a contract to sell energy generated to Progress Energy. A final contract could be ready for Board

approval within four weeks, Kelly added.  
**Pet Responsibility Committee receives grant**  
The Commissioners Monday night voted to accept a \$7,500 grant from Banfeld Charitable Trust that will support the educational efforts of the Citizens' Pet Responsibility Committee in county schools. Committee Chairwoman Angela Zumwalt explained that the Trust is affiliated with Banfield Pet Hospitals, a chain of veterinary clinics located in PetSmart stores.  
Zumwalt explained that the grant will be used to help defray the cost of presenting a Pet Responsibility curriculum to area fourth-graders, including covering the cost of copying materials for teachers and students, printing bookmarks, and purchasing pet responsibility books for the school libraries.  
Commissioner Melton, who serves as the Board's liaison on pet responsibility issues, said the grant will save taxpayer dollars while benefitting the county's animals. "What you all do is

a great service to the county," he told Zumwalt.  
**Sewer Extension Benefits Manufacturer**  
The Board authorized county staff to negotiate an engineering contract with Hobbs-Upchurch for an extension of the county sewer system to serve Atex Technologies, a Pinebluff firm that manufactures implantable medical fabrics.  
The \$900,000 project will be paid for with a \$585,000 Community Development Block Grant, \$300,000 in funds from the NC Rural Economic Development Center, and \$15,000 provided by ATEX. Brobst said that

\$15,000 could be rebated to the firm if other customers along the sewer line decide to hook up.  
**East Moore Water Hookup Assistance Closed Out**  
The Commissioners on Monday night approved the closeout of a 2007 Community Development Block Grant aimed at helping low-income homeowners hook up to Phase 2 of the East Moore Water District.  
Public Works Director Dennis Brobst explained that the program was "very limited" in terms of both income standards and the requirement that funds be used only to help resident homeowners.  
(See "Commissioners," p. 30)

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8 Lentil Soup ♥ Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	9 Vegetable Soup ♥ Chicken Parmesan Dinner	10 Chicken Florentine Soup Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	11 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Herb-Crusted Salmon Dinner ♥	12 Corn Chowder Beef Stroganoff Dinner
15 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Italian Meatloaf Dinner	16 Goldie's Chili Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	17 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥ Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	18 Chicken Dumpling Soup Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	19 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Vegetable Manicotti Dinner ♥
22 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Salisbury Steak Dinner	23 Italian Meatball Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	24 Mushroom with Wild Rice Soup ♥ Pot Roast Dinner	25 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Bombay Shrimp Curry Dinner ♥	26 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner
29 Potato Bacon Soup Baked Spaghetti Dinner	30 Black Bean Soup Chicken Tetrzzini Dinner	31 French Onion Soup Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	April 1 Cream of Broccoli Soup Tilapia Scampi-Style Dinner ♥	April 2 - Good Friday <div>CLOSED</div>

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 29)

ers. Renters were excluded.

As a result, though the county had hoped the grant would provide assistance to twenty-five families, they were able to find only eight who qualified. Closing out the 2007 program, Brobst explained, will allow the county to reapply for a new grant with less stringent requirements that could help more families.

## Drug Free Moore County

The Commissioners heard from Drug Free More County Director Darlind Davis during Monday's meeting that the group is planning a town hall meeting on underage drinking, which will be held Monday, March 29 at an auditorium in the FirstHealth Conference Center. The meeting

is funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Davis said the goal of the meeting is to "unearth the opinions of the community" about the extent and severity of the underage drinking problem in the county.

## Other Business

In other business during their Monday, February 15 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Were formally introduced to new Assistant County Manager Ken Larking, a graduate of Appalachian State University's program in Public Administration, who comes to the county with ten years experience serving various local governments in the state.
- Learned from County man-

ager Cary McSwain that Bryan Phillips has been named Public Safety Director and Caroline Xiong has been named Interim Finance Director, replacing Finance Director Lisa Hughes, who recently resigned her post. The County is advertising for a replacement for Hughes, seeking an experienced Finance Officer who is also a Certified Public Accountant.

- Approved a rezoning request for a half-acre parcel just off US 1 near Vass, changing the property from RE-Rural Equestrian to B-2 Highway Commercial.

• Approved the renewal of a lease with State Employees Credit Union for an Automated Teller Machine on county property at the former Carriage Oaks Shopping Center at a rate of \$200 per month.

- Approved a \$42,000 contract with Hobbs-Upchurch & Associates for administration of

the county's 2009 Scattered Site Housing Grant, which applies state funds to the rehabilitation of sub-standard housing in the county. Planning Director Joey Raczkowski noted that the contract provides for Hobb-Upchurch to train county staff so that, in the future, the county can manage the program internally.

- Asked the Planning Director to explore citizen concerns about a private shooting range located on property that is in the Town of Carthage's Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction. It was unclear whether the county had juris-

diction in the matter.

- Appointed retired Southern Pines Police Chief Gerald Galoway to the ABC Board to serve out the unexpired term of the late James Wise, former Sheriff of Moore County.

- Heard from County Manager McSwain that the Moore County Airport Authority had asked to meet with the Commissioners to discuss grant opportunities for the airport. That meeting was tentatively scheduled for the Board of Commissioners work session on March 18.

# Planning

(Continued from page 16)

Heard from Raczkowski that staff are working with local outreach groups to promote the 2010 Census. Forms will be mailed in March.

"We're trying to get the word out that it is critical for the citizens of Moore County to fill out the surveys. A lot of federal funding is tied to the population we serve especially the social and health services we receive," said Raczkowski.

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# Westside Board meeting

(Continued from front page)

"rush hours."

"It doesn't cost anything to have them in there while they are on duty," Hoffmann said. "Before I go to speed tables, I want to try enforcement . . . We're going to do something about it and we're going to do something about it in your neighborhood."

Director Mick Herdrich was more receptive to Fisher's "permanent" solution.

"If there's a problem, let's fix the problem," Herdrich said. "Having the police come in apparently doesn't fix the problem. We need to publicize that, if this doesn't work, then we are going to go with speed tables."

The Board also discussed trying to publicize the names of residents given tickets.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn noted that the SLWLA Rules and Regulations include the mechanism necessary for the Association to set up speed enforcement and issue tickets. He said former Security Director Blaine Rowland had found it more cost effective to use off-duty sheriff's deputies than to train and equip association guards for the task.

## Snow Removal

Hoffmann presented the Board with a draft Snow and Ice Response Plan. While a process is already in place for dealing with snow and ice on the West Side, recent weather prompted Hoffmann to formalize those proce-

dures.

Hoffmann said the Association currently contracts with Thomas Construction for snow removal. The firm has an end-loader rather than a snow plow to use for the purpose, and thus must be careful when removing snow not to damage the surface of the roadway. Thomas tends to respond to a snow or ice incident mid-morning, which is of little use to those attempting to leave earlier for work. He said the Association can also use Cedar Pines Landscaping to sand or salt icy patches in the mornings.

Hoffmann's draft plan included the idea of pretreating areas that tend to become ice covered with salt or urea when an ice or snow event is forecast. That aspect of the plan met with skepticism from several directors, concerned about the possible impact of runoff on Lake Auman water quality. Taking note of that sentiment, Hoffmann said he, Infrastructure Director John Goodman, and Community Manager Joan Frost would modify the plan accordingly and bring it back to the Board for approval.

## Other Security Items

Noting that there has been some public discussion about a \$20,000 allocation for security equipment in the proposed Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget, Hoffmann said that total was not exclusively for security cameras. But having cameras that can reliably capture license plates

at the back gate is essential, he said. "It's important for the Sheriff to be able to use it in a court of law," he noted.

Hoffmann said a contract had been signed with ECS — a company that will install lightening protection for equipment at the back gate — noting that the Association has spent more than \$15,000 in the past two-to-three years repairing equipment damaged by nearby lightning strikes. Community Manager Frost said the contractor expects to complete the job during the first week in March.

Twenty-four volunteers are currently serving on Neighborhood Watch roving patrols, Hoffmann reported. During February, those volunteers will run a total of 24-30 three-to-four-hour patrols. "The program is up and running," Hoffmann said. "I think it is serving its purpose."

## Community Activities

Community Activities Director Karen Milligan said she is looking for volunteers to join her committee; she lost four members at the end of the year, likely because of the substantial amount of work committee members put in.

This year's activities schedule includes:

- An Easter Egg Hunt and a visit with the Easter Bunny on March 28.
- Support Our Troops Day in May — an event that allows residents young and old to drop by the Community Center and prepare a handmade card to be delivered to wounded service personnel or resident veterans at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville.
- The First Friday Summer Concert Series in June, July, August, and possibly September.
- A Wine Tasting in September, if the committee can attract enough new members to manage it.
- Trunk or Treat on Halloween, which has been placed back on the schedule after a year's

hiatus, based on feedback from residents. Milligan said those willing to decorate their vehicles and hand out treats will be asked to sign up in advance; at least twenty will be needed if the event is to be held.

- A Holiday Social on December 3 and the kids' Christmas party with Santa on December 5.

Director Hoffmann suggested the Board consider establishing the position of "volunteer coordinator" — which might be a volunteer — to help with recruitment, as well as monitor the need for volunteers and the need to replenish their numbers.

He suggested that Board members ponder the idea and share

(See "Westside," p. 32)

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# Westside Board meeting

(Continued from page 31)

their thoughts via email, so that it could be placed on the agenda for a future Board Meeting. Director Silberhorn said recognizing and rewarding volunteers is important, noting that he has five separate committees in the legal area.

## Architectural Review

Architectural Review [ARC] Director Adam Wimberly presented the first reading of a proposed amendment to the SLWLA Rules and Regulations that will make clear that manufactured or modular homes are not permitted in the community. Legal Director Silberhorn noted that the second reading and public hearing on the change could be handled during the February 23 Board Meeting.

Wimberly said the ARC Committee is attempting to work on language to present to the Board that would govern the use of hydroseeding rather than sodding to establish lawns. Infrastructure Director John Goodman said it is important to specify the fertilizers and other amendments that are included in an hydroseeding operation as well as what constitutes "establishment" of a lawn.

Both Director Hoffmann and President Ron Shepard said they were skeptical of allowing hydroseeding, since policing conformance to the specifications could be difficult. Shepard noted that sod is relatively inexpensive in Moore County.

Wimberly reported that two ARC and one Community standards issue will be coming before the Judicial Panel in hearings to be held on February 22 at 7:00 pm. Meetings of the panel are open to the public.

## Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, February 9 Board meeting:

- Resident Jim Barrett said

during public comment that he and Bill Gorman, an accountant, had developed an alternative to the Board's proposed FY 2010-2011 budget that would meet the community's needs for cash, but involves only a fifteen percent increase in FY 2010-2011 and a ten percent increase the following year — compared to the much larger increase the Board has proposed. Barrett asked the Board to adopt the alternative budget and inform Association members of that decision in a letter prior to the Annual Meeting. *[Since that meeting, Barrett has revised his proposal to include a twenty-five percent increase in FY2010-2011 and a four percent increase in FY 2011-2012. See his letter on page 14.]*

- Infrastructure Director Goodman reported that he has filled his Landscaping Committee, which will be doing an analysis of landscaping at West Side Park and elsewhere in the community, and still needs volunteers for his Roads and Storm Drainage Committee, which will be building on previous Director Ray MacKay's work, adding drainage to the existing road

paving plan.

- Lake & Dam Director Herdrich reported that work has begun clearing trees and shrubs from the dams that impound the community's ponds. Herdrich said state engineers have inspected the remediation work done on Lake Auman dam; however, the Association is still waiting for the state to issue final approval of the work.

- The Board settled on May 1 for the mailing of a ballot and supporting information on a covenant change needed in connection with the purchase and repurposing of two lots in the Colton's Corner development near the back gate. The Board has voted to acquire the lots at a cost of \$45,000, anticipating that they could be used for a bus shelter, mailhouse, commuter parking lot or other uses. But community approval is needed to move the properties from residential to other uses. Goodman said he would draft a document explaining the benefits of the covenant change while asking Ray MacKay to draft a document arguing the cons.

- Director Silberhorn reported

that the developer Lakeside Properties has offered to transfer ownership of James Drive to the Association. He said the Infrastructure committee is examining the proposal.

- Nominating Committee Chair Karen Milligan is seeking four or five landowners to fill her committee. Secretary and 2009-2010 Nominating Committee Chairman Ed Tuton volunteered to serve.

- Community Manager Frost reported that the total amount owed by delinquent accounts is down to \$15,900, compared to more than \$69,000 when Community Association Services, Inc. [CAS] took over management of the community. Frost said Wingfield properties — owner of Beacon Ridge Country Club, has begun to bring its

account up to date.

- Frost said copies of the newly-revised rule book are available for new members. Existing members may drop off their binders at the office to have them updated.

- Frost reported that she will be rescheduling previously cancelled courses in the operation of the Association's recently purchased Automated External Defibrillator.

- At the request of President Shepard, the Board approved action by the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council to send a letter to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, asking that Seven Lakes have a seat at the table in regular meetings the Commissioners have begun with the county's municipalities.



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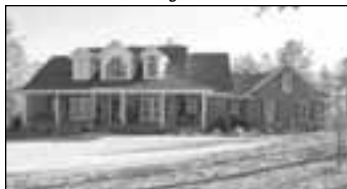
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## 5 Cummings Court - Foxfire Village East



*February's Featured Home*  
**\$239,000 3 Bd/2 Ba**

Just under 1900 sq ft, this well-maintained home was built in 2005 and boasts curb appeal, functionality and charm. With so many upgrades, there's not much left to be desired that can't be found here. Offers large master suite and split bedroom plan. Complete with bonus room over garage, this home will not disappoint even the most discriminate buyer!



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## 148 Morris Drive - Seven Lakes West



*February's Featured Home*  
**\$364,000 4 Bd/2.5Ba**

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