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April 16, 2010

Westside revises budget, cuts dues

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board will cut its Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget by approximately \$100,000, in response to a rejection of its Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget by a large majority of those voting in the Association's Annual Meeting balloting.

The Board considered Sikes' review of the proposed budget and heard from landowners during a special Budget Review meeting held in the Westside Park Community Center on Tuesday, April 6.

The Board's original FY2010-2011 budget increased expenditures and transfers to reserves by \$495,000 over the FY2009-2010 budget. The action taken on Tuesday, in effect, rolls back roughly twenty percent of that increase.

Dues for both improved and unimproved lots will be decreased proportionately, newly-elected Treasurer Joe Sikes told *The Times* after the meeting. During their Tuesday, April 13 Work Session, the Board approved dropping FY2010-2011 dues for improved lots from \$960 to \$895 and reducing dues on unim-

(See "Westside," p. 35)

Zielsdorf re-elected SLLA President

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Randy Zielsdorf will lead the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors again this year, his third term as President. He was re-elected by acclamation on Thursday, April 1, during a brief organizational meeting of the SLLA Board.

In quick succession, votes of acclamation filled the remaining officer slots, with Kent Dropers called on to serve as Vice President, Denny Galford as

Treasurer, and Bruce Keyser, Jr. as Secretary.

In nominating Droppers, Zielsdorf said he had done a marvelous job in leading the Board through the management search over the past year and that he felt his knowledge of Talis Management Group systems would be of great value moving forward.

Likewise, in nominating Galford, Zielsdorf thanked him for his previous service and said that during the transition process to

(See "Zielsdorf," p. 37)

Taste of Town helps Pantry



Taste of the Town chair Pat Weber presents a \$5,000 donation from the Women of Seven Lakes to Dr. Won Namkoong, Frank Feggeler, and Larry McCune of the West End United Methodist Church Food Pantry. [See story on page 3.]

Candidates' forum April 22

The League of Women Voters of Moore County will sponsor a Candidates Forum for the May primaries for NC Senate, County Commissioners, District III, and the Board of Education. The Forum will take place on Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 pm, at the Westside Park Community Center.

The public is welcome.

Candidates for State Senate,

Board of Commissioners, and Board of Education are expected to attend, including NC Senate District 22 candidates Harris D. Blake and Richard Morgan; Commissioners District III candidates Craig Kennedy and Cindy Morgan; School Board District III candidates Charles R. Lambert and Johnnie J. McNeill, and At-Large School Board candidates Susan McKen-

zie Black, Ed Dennison, J. Dale Frye, Enola G. Lineberger, Thomas D. Jones, Pam Thompson, and Karen M. Wicker.

Candidates will be asked questions provided to them, and questions from the audience.

Questions or comments about the forum may be directed to the League Voter Services Chairman Mary Lou Bernett at 910-692-8839.

The Times, PO Box 468, West End, NC 27376

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In this issue

Incorporation	2, 3	Moore County Schools	7	What's When	20
SLWLA Work Session	4	Commissioners	9	Laura's Learning Curve	32
SLLA Work Session	5	Planning Board	9	Mason's Musings	34
Foxfire Council	6	Obituaries	12	Classifieds	38

Incorporation effort attracts support

The committee that heads up IncorporateSevenLakes.Com reports that the number of petition signatures is approaching 300, the half way point of their drive to satisfy the state requirement of having their plan endorsed by at least fifteen percent of the registered voters living inside the proposed borders of the Town of Seven Lakes. It is hoped that this milestone will be surpassed during the groups' participation in the Saturday, April 17 Chili Cook-off to be held at the corner of Trade and Grant streets.

To say that the committee is pleased with the outpouring of public support for the campaign would be an understatement. They have also been pleasantly surprised by the number of people who have studied their website, talked with their friends

and neighbors, and have come ready to sign, no further comment being necessary. The average signer is a long-time

resident born in the 1930's and the most frequent comment is that "it's about time."



IncorporateSevenLakes.Com

by Darrell Marks

One area of misinformation or confusion among those not yet in support of incorporation needs further clarification. It concerns Powell Bill funds, which will be used to refurbish all public (non-gated) roads in the town. Page 27 of the state-sponsored book "Incorporation of a North Carolina Town" includes the following paragraph:

"To receive the Powell Bill

mileage does not have to be open to the public."

Powell Bill funds are derived from the state gasoline taxes that we all pay, but they are only paid out for public road maintenance to legally chartered municipalities. Once we are incorporated, we will receive our fair share of these monies each year, conservatively estimated (by comparison with existing municipalities of comparable size and public road mileage) at \$100,000 per year. It is our intention to use

one half of this money each year to create a viable and attractive business district and save the other half so that the town will have a reserve set aside for

roads in case any of the gated communities ever voted from within to make their roads public.

For this to occur, someone has to be willing to accept responsibility for future maintenance of those roads, and it is our belief that the only viable, willing partner available to one of our gated communities will be the town, not the state.

The original committee of Randy Merritt, Vann Joyce, and

Darrell Marks are pleased to announce that Bob Racine and Ron Erskine have joined them in their quest to incorporate Seven Lakes and are presently helping solicit signatures from their friends and neighbors.

Ten other local residents have volunteered to serve on steering committees that will begin evaluating the need for services and how those needs will be met once the movement reaches the level where a vote is assured.

The most critical need for support at this time is desired from people who are willing to canvas their neighborhood in search of signatures and other volunteers to help make this effort a success.

If you still have questions or doubts, please visit the IncorporateSevenLakes.Com booth at the Chili Cook-off.

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.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Lakeshore Residents Association (LRA)

Directors urge caution on incorporation

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Several Westside Board members are urging caution when it comes to supporting the proposal for incorporating Seven Lakes put forward by IncorporateSevenLakes.Com.

Speaking at the conclusion of a special Budget Review Meeting on Tuesday, April, 6, Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Legal Director Ed Silberhorn said, "I would suggest that, as a com-

munity, we look before we leap headlong into incorporation, before we add another layer of government, before we add another layer of bureaucracy, and before we add another layer of taxes."

"There is a lot to be said for incorporation," Silberhorn continued. "But all of the facts haven't been laid out yet."

"While it is true that you can have incorporation and still keep your gates, it is not true that you can get money from Raleigh

and keep your gates," he added, suggesting that the Westside Board take the lead in "getting the facts out to the people."

Treasurer Joe Sikes, while acknowledging that IncorporateSevenLakes.Com has done a lot of research, said he felt the response from the community had been largely "emotional," looking inaccurately at incorporation as a way to solve many of the financial strains on the gated communities.

"If you want to keep the gates, incorporation isn't going to give you very much," Sikes said.

"The fear of annexation by Foxfire or Pinehurst is a little premature," he added. "We need to consider this much more carefully than seems to be being done now."

"I would agree that a lot more information needs to go out," President Ron Shepard said, "a

lot more research and a lot better budgeting than has been done. I don't think we need to rush into incorporation out of fear." Shepard said there is another group in the community doing research on incorporation that is expected to unveil several alternatives for moving forward in the coming weeks.

John Hoffman expressed skepticism that the town budget proposed by IncorporateSevenLakes.Com was substantial enough to provide adequate police protection for the community. Providing 24/7 coverage would require at least four officers, he said, and require five times the budget proposed by the incorporation group. Silberhorn noted that county Sheriff's officers would be reluctant to provide police protection within an incorporated town.

Mick Herdrich suggested the

Board sponsor some meetings on the topic, and Secretary Karen Milligan said it was on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of her communications committee. "The Board should be the facilitator of this information," Shepard said, striving to "give everyone a total honest look of what the options are."

Silberhorn suggested that Westsiders "hold your fire and keep your powder dry, because if it were to get over fifty percent, we wouldn't even have a vote. If we're doing it on fear, that's not a good way to do it."

WSL supports WEUMC Food Bank

Savory and delicious samples from many of the area's most popular restaurants impressed the crowd at the Women of Seven Lakes 'Taste of the Town' held on Monday, March 22.

Participating restaurants and specialty shops included Corfu Taverna, Cold Stone Creamery, Nina's, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, Little River Golf & Resort, Thai Basil, Rhett's Personal Chef, Seven Lakes Country Club, Magnolia's, Table on the Green, Seven Lakes Snack Shack, Dog Nation Grill, and many others.

The sold-out ticketed event raised \$5,000 for the West End UMC Food Pantry and the TOT

Wine Tasting, featuring Sandhills Winery, raised an additional \$600 that will be used to assist other local charities.

The Women of Seven Lakes are a civic organization dedicated to philanthropy and fun through monthly meetings, special events, and various clubs including Social Crafters and a very active Bridge group. This year marks the organization's thirtieth year of service to the community.

On Thursday, May 7, at 2:00 pm, everyone is invited to join the Women in a special Anniversary Celebration at Westside Park Community Center.

[See photo on front page.]

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673-6789

Simple speeding solution? Stop signs.

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westsider Erik Stromberg has a simple solution to speeding on Longleaf Drive: stop signs.

Stromberg, Assistant Fire Chief for West End Fire & Rescue, asked the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board during its Tuesday, April 13 Work Session to consider installing stop signs at select intersections along the perimeter roadway in order to slow traffic.

Stromberg said he had read in *The Times* about Board discussions of various traffic calming methods, including the use of both on-duty and off-duty Sheriff's officers for radar patrol; the potential for instead using security guards or even resident volunteers for those patrols; and the suggestion that speed tables be installed on Longleaf Drive.

Each of those options presents its own problem, Stromberg said. The Sheriff's office has relatively few officers that are radar-certified, because traffic enforcement is not a primary priority for the department. Security guards lack the authority of sworn officers, and using volunteers can pit neighbor against neighbor. Speed bumps, humps, and tables all present problems for emergency workers -- particularly for EMS crews trans-

porting sick or injured patients in an ambulance.

"If you want to slow folks down, you have to put some deterrent in place," Stromberg said. "Even if you don't stop completely at a stop sign, you are not going to run through it at 45 miles per hour." He noted that the Mid-South subdivision uses stop signs on main arteries in order to control speed.

A second advantage of using stop signs for the purpose, he added, is that any sheriff's deputy -- with or without radar certification -- can issue a ticket to a motorist who runs a stop sign. Similarly, a security patrol could issue community citations for the same offense with no special training or certification.

Stromberg estimated the cost of putting signage at a typical three-way intersection on Longleaf Drive at \$375, significantly less than the cost of a speed table. Speed bumps, humps, and tables seem to deteriorate the adjacent roadway over time, he noted.

Both President Ron Shepard and Director Mick Herdrich spoke in favor of Stromberg's recommendation. Noting the 25 mile per hour speed limit throughout Seven Lakes North and South, Treasurer Joe Sikes asked whether the Board should consider dropping the speed limit on

Longleaf to 30 miles per hour.

Safety & Security Director John Hoffmann reminded Board members of the results of a speed survey he completed recently using the Association's radar gun, which found the forty percent of the vehicles on Longleaf Drive were traveling at six-to-nine miles over the speed limit, with another fourteen percent traveling at more than ten miles over the limit.

He said he would study Stromberg's suggestion and how it might be implemented, bringing recommendations back to the Board. Noting that the Board's interest in the idea would likely be reported in *The Seven Lakes Times*, Hoffmann said he expected to receive some feedback on the subject from residents.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, both Roger Brooke and Gerhard Hergenbahn noted that the number of often unsightly signs in the community continues to increase. They asked the Board to be sensitive to aesthetics when contemplating additional signage.

Barcodes required May 1

Director Hoffmann noted that, effective May 1, all Westside landowners should have a barcode affixed to their vehicle in

order to gain access to the community. The goal is to move all landowners and resident traffic into the right hand, barcode lane at the front gate, freeing up the left lane to allow gate guards to collect more information on visitors and vendors entering the community.

Since all landowners will be required to have barcodes, the Association will no longer issue stickers for vehicles. How this will impact the ability of West-

siders to enter Seven Lakes North and South is still being worked out. The West Side plans to continue to honor the windshield stickers of SLWA members, who will enter the community through the left lane, as they do now.

Joan Frost explained to *The Times* after Tuesday's meeting that the computerized barcodes utilized at the gates of both communities run on the same com-

(See "SLWLA," p. 29)

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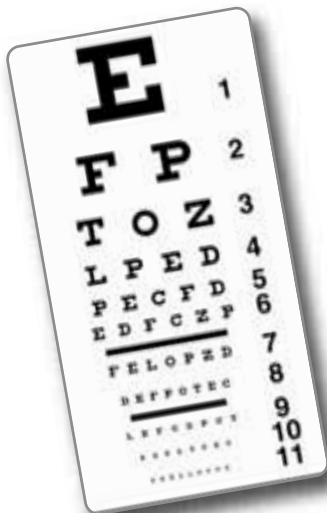
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Cochran: SLLA computers are antiques

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Up-to-date software programs for accounting and database functions are part and parcel of the deal with Talis Management Group; however, it seems the current Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] computers lack the capability to operate these systems effectively.

Sitting down for their first work session in the new term, the SLLA Board of Directors heard from Community Manager Alina Cochran on Monday, April 12, that both computers and printers in use at the office are outdated. They are so old, in fact, that staff are frequently knocked off the systems, requiring them to log on again and again throughout the day.

"The manager's computer is the newest, but the rest are antiques," Cochran said. "The printers at each terminal you can watch print word-by-word. The office systems are basically set-up like a home office."

Cochran said an information

technology evaluation was conducted in January and presented the Board with two proposals from Work Smart including purchase of new desktop computers, updated software, and service call plans.

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting 4/12

However, Director Kent Dropers was skeptical, particularly of the need for desktop computers rather than 'dumb terminals' — basically, a single-purpose computer that would communicate with the Talsi central computer over a high-speed connection.

Cochran responded that desktop computers could offer more speed; but, after discussion went around the table again, the Board agreed that more information was required before any decisions could be made on the

Work Smart proposal.

Barcodes and stickers

In a bid to improve access control, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board will eliminate windshield stickers this fiscal year in favor of issuing barcodes-only to all residents.

Cochran reported that North- and

South-side residents may have the option to purchase SLWLA barcodes to speed access to that community; or continue to use SLLA window stickers for Westside access.

The stumbling block falls back to North and South gates and how to grant access once vehicles from Seven Lakes West no longer display a windshield sticker.

Several solutions were tossed around, including offering a special SLW sticker, issuing a second barcode, or simply using

the same barcode — which would then be programmed into each community's own database.

Director Bud Shaver argued that the use of stickers rather than a barcode increases congestion at the Northside gate — an ongoing problem he said must be addressed. Currently, barcodes are an option rather than a requirement for SLLA residents.

Zielsdorf responded that issuing stickers for Westside residents would not increase congestion but rather just be a continuation of the current condition.

"The problem I have is if we program in the [barcode] systems and then a year later someone decides to change the system: we're back to square one," Zielsdorf said.

After going around the table, the Board asked Cochran to prepare a recommendation based on which system — barcode versus sticker — would be most efficient administratively.

Committee assignments

Zielsdorf distributed a preliminary organizational chart detailing Board assignments for the coming year. His recommendations included mostly minor shifts of responsibility within committees including Finance, ARB, Capital Infrastructure, Community Standards and Grounds, Recreation, and Security and Safety.

Responsibilities are limited to an oversight role only and directors may opt to form a committee or act alone in their advisory capacity to management, and also may appoint a committee member to chair a committee or subcommittee.

The most obvious departure from previous years is the elimination of the Maintenance Committee in favor of the Capital Infrastructure Committee, which will be headed up by Bud Shaver. Zielsdorf tasked him with compiling a five to ten year plan for replacement/renovation of build-

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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Villager asks for more police protection

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Foxfire Village needs more police protection to combat ongoing speeding problems and as a deterrent to vandalism and illegal substances, resident Pete Thingstad recommended.

Addressing the Foxfire Village Council on Tuesday, April 13, his comments were in response to a report last month by Councilwoman Page Coker that a third officer would be hired for the coming months — albeit in a part-time capacity due to budget limitations.

"I tend to be a very fiscally conservative person but, in this case, I believe that money doesn't necessarily come secondary but that our protection comes first," said Thingstad.

"Speeding, especially on Richmond and Hoffman, is terrible. People tear by with no regard to the law whatsoever," he argued. "If people in the interior [roads] witnessed what went on the main drags . . . We don't have enough people [police] to cover

the problem."

Thingstad also expressed concern about vandalism and drugs, particularly with Summer approaching.

"We have kids going to the pool and from all over the county, coming in and paying a nominal fee," he said. "Do we have enough protection to cover us?"

Foxfire Council Meeting

4/13

"We have two great officers but they must have some time off - we owe it to them," Thingstad concluded.

Mayor George Erickson said the Council would discuss his concerns during a Special Work Session scheduled for Thursday, April 22 at 2:00 pm.

Other agenda items will include budget planning and the fee schedule. The meeting is open to the public.

A Public Hearing on the Foxfire Village FY 2010-2011 Budget will be held Tuesday, June 8. The hearing will begin at 7:00 pm, immediately prior to the regular monthly meeting.

Finance

\$48,000 in outstanding property taxes from the current fiscal year were advertised last week, reported Councilwoman Leslie Frusco. Delinquent notices will be sent again and any accounts still delinquent will be turned over to the Village Attorney for collection.

The General Fund stands at \$675,644, including \$45,000 in Powell Bill funds, and \$20,000 in the Stonehill Pines consulting fund. The Water Fund stands at \$257,690, in addition \$135,306 is held in restricted reserve for a new well, and the Woodland Circle Extension fund stands at \$1.35 million.

The Council approved a \$103,220 budget amendment to satisfy the first loan payment, an interest-only payment, on

Woodland Circle.

Other bank loan payments due include \$28,514 in July for the Village Green Park; \$41,000 in July for water; and \$289,000 due in April 2011 for Woodland Circle.

Woodland Circle Extension

Sub-grade compaction and prep work along the Woodland Circle Extension roadway are underway, reported Tom Collins.

He estimated that three-quarters of the project are covered with stone, of which half has been graded, and that poured concrete aprons were installed

at thirty-seven catch basins along the road length. Paving is anticipated to begin at the end of next week.

While contractor trucks have been primarily using a construction entrance to access the project, a 55,000 square foot section of existing road at Woodland Circle is deteriorating rapidly, Collins said. A simple overlay to repair potholes and add 1.5 inches of asphalt would cost approximately .65 cents per square foot but would not be guaranteed. Alternately, the existing asphalt could be removed

(See "Foxfire," p. 27)



Dan Kidd
Sales Consultant

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Work continues on West Pine Elementary

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Interior finishing work continues at West Pine Elementary School and the first phase of road improvements between the new facility and the adjacent West Pine Middle campus is complete, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Larry Upchurch reported to the Moore County Schools [MCS] Board of Education on Monday, April 12.

West Pine Elementary is one of two new county schools scheduled to open next Fall. A modified redistricting line for the school was approved in March and will pull approximately 300 students from Pinehurst and 115 from West End Elementary. Anticipated Fall 2010 enrollment is projected at 394, with 385 students remaining at West End Elementary, and 336 at Pinehurst Elementary.

Children residing in the three communities of Seven Lakes, McLendon Hills, and points north-east and west, will continue to feed into West End Elementary.

Students residing in Foxfire, Taylortown, and Jackson Springs - basically all areas east of the NC Hwy 73 - NC Hwy 211 intersection - were redistricted into West Pine Elementary.

MCS Budget

The Board of County Commissioners will hear the school's local budget request on Monday, April 19 at 6:00 pm, reported Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser.

Waiting in what could be called 'budget-limbo,' the school board is bracing for \$1.1 million in anticipated state cuts with the potential of an additional three percent required reduction.

The proposed \$105 million FY 2010-2011 Budget includes a \$1.3 million increase in the local funding request to off-set new expenses incurred by opening new schools and additions, and state-mandated increases to the retirement and health insurance rates.

As proposed, the budget includes \$57,938,131 in State

funding, \$10,866,071 in Federal funding, \$4,834,000 in Child Nutrition, and a Local Funding request of \$30,842,000 with county appropriation set at \$27,422,145.

Last year, North Carolina cut \$6.9 million from the Moore County Schools budget, a financial burden off-set by \$5.2 million in Federal stimulus funding resulting in a net reduction of \$1.7 million. Soaring fuel and utility costs along with increased retirement and health insurance rates forced the Moore schools budget to absorb an additional \$773,000 into operating expenditures.

This year those same cuts and increased costs remain, plus the schools must accept \$1.1 million in approved additional state reductions with the possibility of more to come.

Gorenflo recognized

Westsider Lisa Gorenflo was one of fifteen teachers recognized by the Board of Education on Monday, April 12, for receiving a Master's degree this year.

Gorenflo is a fourth grade teacher at West End Elementary.

Robbins Elementary principal Heather Seawell was also recognized for obtaining an advanced degree this year.

Pinecrest JROTC Program

Developing leadership goals is one of the primary goals of the Pinecrest High School Air Force-JROTC Program. On Monday, April 12, the Board of Education heard an inspiring presentation from Company Colonel Meagan Griffin, a Pinecrest senior who has been enrolled in the program for four years.

Griffin explained that the JROTC program offers numerous opportunities for student leadership and participation including the Kitty Hawk Air Society, Drill Team, Raider Team, Team Rocket, and through community service projects.

In addition, cadets are instructed in aerospace science, the history of aerospace, and physical conditioning.

Other business

In other business on Monday, April 12, the MCS Board of Education:

Recognized Board member Sue Black for achieving the 'Scholar's Circle' designation, the highest honor awarded by the NCSBA Academy of School Boardmanship.

Received from Ed Dennison, an updated edition of the Moore County Poverty Study, a major undertaking by the group last year.

WEE PTA Yard Sale

West End Elementary PTA will be hosting a Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17, starting at 7:00 am.

Over 20 families have signed up to sell their treasures. Items available include furniture, children and adult clothes, toys, games and much more. There will also be hot-dogs, chips, snacks and drinks available for purchase.

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 <p>Seven Lakes North \$184,900 BRICK RANCH STYLE HOME 3 BR / 2 BA Code 547 www.103ChestnutCourt.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes West \$237,200 OPEN & SPACIOUS FLOOR PLAN 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 556 www.247LongleafDrive.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes North \$214,900 SPLIT PLAN - LARGE CORNER LOT 3 BR / 2 BA Code 593 www.101PineconeCourt.com</p>	 <p>Beacon Ridge \$255,000 BEAUTIFUL GOLF FRONT 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 996 www.202BanbridgeDrive.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes West \$627,000 FABULOUS WATER FRONT 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 518 www.133HarrellRoad.com</p>
 <p>Seven Lakes West \$285,000 QUIET CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION 4 BR / 3 BA Code 530 www.106WinstonDr.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes West \$549,000 STUNNING HOME ON 5+ ACRES 3 BR / 3.5 BA Code 316 www.364LongleafDrive.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes North \$249,000 BEAUTIFUL WATER FRONT 3 BR / 2 BA CODE 538 www.110BarberryCourt.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes West \$299,900 INVITING GOLF FRONT 3 BR / 2.5 BA Code 313 www.112ForestSquareCircle.com</p>	 <p>Seven Lakes South \$254,500 RELAXING GOLF VIEWS 3 BR / 2 BA Code 369 www.135DevonshireAve.com</p>
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Board reviews Pinehurst utilities projects

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The relationship between Moore County and the Village of Pinehurst has been notoriously rocky, since the County long ago acquired the water and sewer systems in the Village. Since then, the drumbeat of criticism of the county for underinvesting in Pinehurst infrastructure has been as predictable as the late summer drought in the Sandhills.

But the current members of the Village Council and County Board of Commissioners have been working to patch things in a vari-

ety of ways, including regular public reports by the County on its investment in the Pinehurst water and sewer system.

Public Utilities Director Dennis Brobst provided another of those updates on Tuesday night, April 6, during the Commissioners meeting, reporting that three of five major outstanding projects are moving along smartly, while two await the resolution of disagreements between the Village and County.

The projects underway include: **Water Tank.** A new \$1.2 million, 500,000 gallon water tank for which the foundation is being

readied. The contracted completion date for that project is January 2011. In addition to building the tank, the county has also drilled a test well-- 3A -- on the same site, located adjacent to the Pinehurst Harness Track. That well won't be completed and brought on line until work on the tank is finished, Brobst said, but preliminary tests indicate it could ultimately produce up to 130,000 gallons of water per day. (As a point of comparison, Seven Lakes uses an average of 450,000 gallons of water per day.)

New Wells. The County sev-

eral years ago drilled Wells 5A & 9 on the famed Number 2 golf course of Pinehurst Country Club in order to overcome problems with radium concentrations in an existing well. But the wells have yet to be brought online, at least in part because of a dispute between the County and Village over the design of a well house. That dispute has evidently been resolved, because Brobst later in Tuesday's meeting sought and received Commissioner approval of a \$52,000 contract with Bill Reaves Construction to build the well house, or water treatment facility. Once

the work is complete, the two wells will add another 500,000 gallons per day to the county's water supply.

Lake Pinehurst Lift Stations. Construction is also underway on
(See "Commissioners," p. 25)

Dave Kinney named Planning Board Vice Chair

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Former Seven Lakes resident and Civic Group President Dave Kinney was named Vice Chairman of the Moore County Planning Board during that panel's April 8 meeting.

He replaces Kim Voncannon in the post; the Board of Commissioners appointed Jerry Wilson to fill Voncannon's seat when her term expired earlier this month. The Board recognized Voncannon for her service to the county, though she was unable to attend the meeting.

Rust joins planning staff

Planning Director Joey Raczkowski introduced Seven Lakes West resident Jeremy Rust to the Board; Rust, formerly with the land planning firm, LandDesign, has joined the county as Long Range Planner.

Raczowski said Rust is pursuing a sustainability grant from

the Department of Housing and Urban Development that could help fund collective planning that involved both the county and its municipalities.

Accessory dwelling unit approved

Over the objections of neighbors, the Planning Board voted to approve a request by Efrain Cardozo to place a second, "accessory" dwelling unit on a 2 acre lot on Mount Carmel Road, near Carthage.

The property is already the site of a double-wide manufac-

tured home that is apparently used as a rental unit. Though it is currently vacant, Cardozo said family members would soon be

(See "Planning," p. 23)

one at a time to

to be taken

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Beane briefs Kiwanis on solid waste program

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis meeting on Tuesday, February 2, hosted Chad Beane, the new Solid Waste Division Manager for Moore County.

Beane was the former Assis-

tant Manager of Seven Lakes North & South, and a member of Kiwanis. His current job is new to him since the first of the year, but it was good to hear from him on the important subject of solid waste disposal.

He oversees the seven col-

lection centers in Moore County and also the landfills that fall within the confines of the County. Interestingly, all household waste is shipped out of the County, leaving only the landfill for Construction and Demolition under the supervision of Beane.

"Keep Moore County Beautiful" also falls under the auspices of Beane's new job.

He brought with him Lex Kelly, the county expert on Methane gas. Methane gas is generated in all landfills and is an atmospheric pollutant. It is also a useful energy source if harvested and properly utilized.

The County is currently harvesting the gas at the rate of 246 cubic feet per minute, and is burning the gas to obtain "carbon credits."

Talks are in progress with Progress Energy to harvest and transport the gas to them for the generation of electricity.

All plastic recyclables are sent to a facility in Wagram, for processing into reusable products.

Another important part of this

meeting was the presentation of a \$500 check to Reverend Won Namkoong, the minister at the West End Methodist Church. Pastor Won's church sponsors the Boy Scout Troop in West End and they were building a brand new Scout Lodge in West End until it was destroyed by arson last

year.

The Lodge is in the finishing stages of being rebuilt, and this donation was made to help in the cost of finishing the job.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes County Club, and guests are always welcome.



Moore County Engineer Lex Kelly and Solid Waste Manager Chad Beane visit Seven Lakes Kiwanis.



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In memory of . . .

Ron Beasley, 56, of Jackson Springs died Saturday, April 10 at his residence.

A gathering of friends and family will be held 2 pm on Saturday, April 17 at the family's home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, to Memorial and Honor Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

David Alexander "Alex" Sherrill Jr., 21, of Ellerbe, died Friday, April 9, at FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital, Rockingham as the result of an automobile accident.

Alex was born in Moore County, the son of David Alexander and Jacqueline "Jackie" Pierce Sherrill. He was a graduate of Richmond Senior High School, Class of 2007, and was attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Alex was a member of First United Methodist Church, Rockingham.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 12 at First United

Methodist Church in Rockingham. The Rev. Allison Coltrane Farrah officiated. Interment followed in Ellerbe Cemetery.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Luther Pierce.

Surviving are his parents, David and Jackie Sherrill of the home; sister, Ashley Sherrill of Raleigh; grandparents, Woodford and Lillian Sherrill of Ellerbe and Sally Pierce of Rockingham.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 410 Washington St., Rockingham, NC 28379 or to Ellerbe Rescue Squad, PO Box 148, Ellerbe, NC 28338.

Carter Funeral Home of Ellerbe assisted the family.

Betty H. Picerno, 75, of Carthage, died Wednesday, April 7, at her residence.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 9 at Trinity Bible Church. Services were conducted by Dr. William J. Maness and the Rev. Max Williams. Burial was held at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, Spring Lake.

A native of Moore County, she had worked as a sales associ-

ate in women's clothing at various stores including D.A. Kelly's, Fashion Square and Helen's Dress Shop.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Picerno, and a brother, N.A. McLeod.

She is survived by her sons Nick Picerno and wife, Jan of Seven Lakes; Tony Picerno of Seven Lakes; sisters, Ruth McIntosh of Troy, and Linda Phillips of Carthage; six grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) PO Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718, or the American Heart Associ-

ation, (www.americanheart.org), 3131 RDU Center Drive, Morrisville, NC 27560.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home assisted the family.

Christopher Fry, 20, of Seven Lakes West, died Friday, April 2. A memorial service and reception were held Tuesday, April 5 at West End Presbyterian Church. Burial followed in West End Cemetery.

Christopher was born in Moore County the son of Buck and Rita Fry. He was a graduate of Pinecrest High School and had attended Sandhills Community College. He was finishing his

last semester at Caldwell Community College before transferring to Appalachian State University.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Everette and Priscilla Cole of West End, and R.G. and Rose Fry of Carthage.

He is survived by his mother and father, Buck and Rita Cole Fry of Seven Lakes West; his brother, Thomas A. Fry of Los Angeles, CA.

Memorials may be made to West End Presbyterian Church, PO Box 13, West End, NC 27376.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home assisted the family.

NOTICE OF A CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF TWO RAILROAD CROSSINGS (EDGEWOOD TERRACE DRIVE AND MODE ROAD) AND INSTALLATION OF CROSSING GATES AND SIGNALS AT THE LAKEWAY LANE RAILROAD CROSSING IN SEVEN LAKES

TIP Project No. Y-4808C

Moore County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the above Citizens Informational Workshop (CIW) on Monday, April 19, 2010, beginning at 5 p.m. and ending at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of West End Elementary School, 4483 NC Highway 211, West End, 27376.

This CIW will be held to gather public input in preparation of a federally-funded project study, called a Categorical Exclusion (CE) that will document the impacts and benefits of closing several at-grade rail crossings along the NC 211 corridor. The public involvement and the CE are required under the National Environmental Policy Act, of NEPA. NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal setting to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions also will be provided. Interested citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours. No formal presentation will be made.

NCDOT proposes to close two existing Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad crossings along the NC 211 corridor: Crossing No. 465 763W at State Road 1180 (Edgewood Terrace Drive), and Crossing No. 465 761H at State Road 1133 (Mode Road). The proposed closures are part of an effort to reduce the number of repetitious and/or unsafe highway-rail at-grade crossings statewide. Improvements include installing crossing gates and signals at Crossing No. 465 751C at Lakeway Lane.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Marc Hamel, NCDOT Rail Division, Environmental and Planning Branch, at (919) 733-7245 x 270, or via email at mhamel@ncdot.gov or NCDOT Consultant Julie Timm of Moffatt & Nichol at (919) 781-4626, or via email at JTimmm@moffattnichol.com.

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

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Plenty of coming events for gardeners

by Brenda Yarish
Seven Lakes Garden Club
Seven Lakes Garden Club held its last formal meeting for the season on Thursday April 8 at the North Club House. Vickie Bedder, President was the facilitator. She requested members par-

ticipate in the planting at the three gates on Thursday, April 22. It is anticipated that with all the volunteers it will take less than one hour to complete the planting.
Laurie Odiorne, Nancy Shereda and the others who had planted lilies at the gates were thanked for their hard work.
Members were advised of the "Green Summit" to be held on Wednesday, April 21, at the Ball Visitors Center at Sandhills Community College at 9:30 am. Roger Mercer of the Fayetteville Observer will be the featured speaker and his subject, "Deep in the Garden." There will be garden exhibits by the horticulture department, and the on campus Farmers Market will also be open.
Plans for the Seven Lakes Garden tour are going well.
Baskets with themes of Wine, Golf, Gardening, Bridge, and Coffee & Tea will be raffled off. The baskets will be filled on Monday May 1. Anyone interested in helping and or donating gifts to go in the baskets should call Laurie Odiorne.
The garden tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 5.
The last meeting of the season will be a Social at Sequoia Point on Thursday, May 13 at 5:30 pm. Board members will provide Hot Dogs & Hamburgers. Other members are asked to bring Salad, Desserts & Chips.

Bring Your Own Beverage. The new year will begin with a meeting at the North Club House on Thursday, September 9 at 7:30 pm. All are Welcome.
The plant exchange concluded the meeting after members gave descriptions of the plants they had brought. Many happy gardeners left the meeting with new plants to enjoy.

Derby Winner



First grader Gabe Wachter shares a winning smile after placing first in the 2010 Pinewood Derby. A Tiger Scout in West End Cub Scout Pack #98, he is the son of Joe and Lori Wachter of Seven Lakes North.

EMS Chicken Dinner

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. will hold their annual chicken dinner fundraiser on Friday, April 23. Lunch will be served from 11:30 am through 2:00 pm and dinner between 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm. The meal will consist of a choice of chicken breast or drumstick & thigh plus coleslaw, baked beans, roll, desert, and beverage.
You can dine at the EMS building while visiting with your friends and neighbors or purchase take-out dinners.
The price is \$7 per dinner. Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. is a volunteer organization of emergency medical technicians that serves Seven Lakes and the surrounding area twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

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Time to register your kindergartener

Kindergarten registration for Moore County Schools will take place April 26-29. Parents are encouraged to contact the school their child will attend prior to the registration dates so initial paperwork can be obtained and completed before coming to the school.

Also, when parents call, an appointment can be made for each individual child during the dates listed below.

"We want to make the process as easy and convenient for parents as possible," said Director for Elementary Curriculum Becky Cameron. "Calling for an appointment and picking up the application packet prior to the registration date will greatly reduce the time needed to complete the final registration process during the scheduled appointment."

To enter kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year, a child must be five (5) years of age

on or before August 31, 2010. Public law requires all children entering school for the first time to have a physical examination by their doctor or health provider and the following immunizations:

- 5 DTP/DT Shots (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- 4 POLIO VACCINE doses
- 1 Hib (if child is not 5 years of age)
- 3 Hep B doses
- 2 MMR doses (measles, mumps and rubella)
- 1 Varicella (chickenpox)

The following items must be presented at the time of registration:

- Birth certificate
- Immunization record
- Proof of residence (such as, but not limited to, a Moore County property tax statement, or a current lease/rental agreement,

current closing statement for property purchase)

- Proof of legal custody or guardianship

For more information about kindergarten registration, contact the appropriate school principal listed below.

Dates for kindergarten registration in Moore County Schools are as follows:

Carthage Elementary
947-2781 April 26
Southern Pines Primary
692-8659 April 26
Westmoore Elementary
464-3401 April 26
Academy Heights Elementary
295-5610 April 27
Pinehurst Elementary
295-6969 April 27
Sandhills Farm Life Elementary
949-2501 April 27
Vass-Lakeview Elementary
245-3444 April 28
West End Elementary
673-6691 April 28

Aberdeen Primary
944-1523 April 28
Cameron Elementary
245-7814 April 29
Highfalls Elementary
464-3600 April 29
Robbins Elementary
948-2411 April 29

Because the new West Pine Elementary facility will not be complete at the time of registration, anyone who is currently in the Pinehurst Elementary or West End Elementary attendance areas should register their kindergarten student at those schools.

Golf to help Keep Moore County Beautiful

The 10th Annual Keep Moore County Beautiful Marge Owings Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Mid Pines Golf Club, Southern Pines on Saturday, May 8.

An Entry Fee of \$125 includes lunch, a gift bag, snacks on course, and the Owings Memorial Gift Packet to every golfer which contains

four green fees for future play at Mid Pines, a premier Donald Ross designed golf course.

The entry deadline is April 23. If interested in entering in this tournament and supporting this fund-raising event for Keep Moore County Beautiful, contact Joan Neal, Executive Director, at jneal@moore-countync.gov or call 947-3478.



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Expecting? Don't miss the Pregnancy Fair

There is nothing more important for an expectant mom than preparation, according to Christine Siska, R.N.-C, clinical direc-

tor for 2A, Labor and Delivery/Newborn Nursery at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

"Being prepared for pregnancy and childbirth is important to your health, and the health of your baby," she says.

Moore Regional Hospital's Pregnancy Fair is designed to help moms-to-be prepare by providing information about pregnancy, childbirth, baby care and related community services in a fun, informal and relaxed atmosphere.

The upcoming program on Thursday, April 22, will be held from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Fair Barn at the Harness Track off Highway 5, Pinehurst. Experts on prenatal care, pediatrics, childbirth, mother-baby care, neonatal services, breast-feeding and other topics will be available to answer questions.

More than 30 vendors will also be on hand with a variety of giveaways to share.

"We feel it's important for mothers and the entire family to get a good head start," says Siska. "The Pregnancy Fair is an excellent way for people to learn the basics about childbirth and parenting. They also get the opportunity to ask experts about more detailed questions or concerns they may have."

There is no cost to attend and registration is not necessary. For more information or directions, call (910) 715-2275 or (800) 213-3284 toll-free.

Lions host Comfort Keepers



At the Thursday, March 18, Seven Lakes Lions President Howie Pierce presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chad W. McGlothlin, Owner of Comfort Keepers. McGlothlin presented a very informative program on services available enabling older adults to stay in the comfort of their homes as they need assistance.

Chad McGlothlin & Lions President Howie Pierce

ATTENTION NEIGHBORS AND KINFOLK!

If God's willin' and the creek don't rise we are invitin' y'all to meet the Quality Care Pharmacy Family at this year's Seven Lakes Business Guild Chili Cook Off on Saturday, April 17.



You'ins are in for a treat when you wrap yer mouth around our special Hillbilly Chili.

Michelle has brought this special recipe from Boone and Quality Care Pharmacy is prepared to show you what true hillbilly hospitality is all about.



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Visit the FirstHealth
Moore Regional Hospital
Pregnancy Fair.

Thursday, April 22
6-7:30 p.m.

The Fair Barn at the Harness Track
on Highway 5 in Pinehurst

More than 30 vendors from across the Sandhills will be present with a variety of giveaways to share! Experts on prenatal care, pediatrics, childbirth, mother-baby care, neonatal services, breastfeeding and more will be available to answer questions. This event is **FREE**. New and expectant parents and their families are welcome to attend.

For information on attending
or exhibiting, or for directions,
call toll free (800) 213-3284.

FirstHealth
MOORE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

www.firsthealth.org
Working Together,
First in Quality, First in Health

'PAPA' screening features Northsiders

The Arts Council of Moore County and Sandhills Community College proudly present the world premiere of the filmed version of a live performance of the critically acclaimed play, *PAPA "the man, the myth, the legend"* — *A Tribute to Ernest Hemingway* on Tuesday, April 20 at 7 pm, at Owens Auditorium on the campus of Sandhills Community College.

Filmed in high definition, the play stars Seven Lakes North residents Jordan Rhodes as Ernest "Papa" Hemingway and Lynn Moore as five of the most important women in his life.

Rhodes & Moore, successful actors in film and television have over 200 credits to their names, including numerous stage plays across the country. Some film and television credits include, the remake of *All The Kings Men*, *The Indian Runner*, *Matlock*, *Dawson's Creek*, *Law & Order*, *Loose Cannons*, *Streets of San Francisco* and *Marooned*, to name a few.

PAPA was conceived and written by playwright Ken Vose and Jordan Rhodes. Together, they have created an interesting, compelling and entertaining evening of theatre, that has now been filmed during a live performance, about the life and loves of Ernest Hemingway, one of our greatest literary artists.

This tribute to "Papa" Hemingway reveals a vulnerable, deeply troubled man, whose fight with his own inner demons produced some of the greatest fiction of the 20th Century. Told in "flashback," *PAPA* presents the triumphs and tragedies of Hemingway's fascinating life, including the battlefields of WW I, Paris cafes of the roaring twenties, his time during World War II and searching for U-boats off Cuba.

Papa talks about his novels and the terrible treatment they received from Hollywood, many being made into films, including *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Sun Also Rises*, *To Have and to Have Not*, and *The Old Man and The Sea* for which Hemingway was awarded both the Pulitzer Prize & the Noble Prize.

Tickets are \$8 in advance at Campbell House (482 E. Connecticut Ave. Southern Pines)

or by calling 910-692-2787. Tickets at the door are \$10 and SCC students (with ID) get in free. Call 910-692-2787 for tickets and

additional information, or visit www.mooreart.org. Proceeds benefit The Arts Council of Moore County. Don't miss what critics

have called, "the most exciting literary event in stage history," now on film. The live stage play was performed at the Sunrise Theatre

in 2006 to rave reviews. If you missed it then - Don't miss it now! If you saw it then - see it now on film!

3rd Annual Seven Lakes Business Guild CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, April 17, 2010 11am- 2pm

Rain Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010 1-4pm

**Located at the corner of Grant Street
and Trade Street next to Master Kleen**

**Enter your chili, judge your favorite,
Sponsor your neighbors, exhibit your
business, organization or club, Contribute
to the fun and the cause!**

**Come early and stay for the day! There will be food and fun for everyone.
Visit the Business Guild website for the most up-to-date event information:
www.7lakesbusinessguild.org**

**Cash Prizes will be awarded for: Best Decorated Booth
Judges Choices (1st, 2nd and 3rd places)
Peoples Choice**

 **FREE ADMISSION** 
Mugs \$7 Tickets \$.50

**For More Information,
Contact Judy or Kim
910-673-4240**

Get your dose of local history this Saturday

Clenny Creek Day begins at 11 am to 4 pm on the site of the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin in upper Moore County at Harris Crossroads, about a 30-minute drive from the Southern Pines area. Admission is free.

The cabin was built in 1760 by one of Moore County's earliest settlers, Joel McLendon, across the road from McLendon Creek, for which "Clenny Creek" day is named. The cabin is the oldest house in Moore County on its original site. Sponsored by Moore County Historical Association (MCHA).

Southern country-style food such as pinto beans and corn muffins accompanied by hot dogs, barbecue sandwiches, with all the trimmings will be on hand from vendors.

Visitors will enjoy authentic Bluegrass music from 11 am to 1:30 pm by Clyde Maness and Friends, followed by Joe and Abby McDonald in the afternoon.

Other fun events, include antique restored tractors and vintage cars from the 1930s to the 1950s, plus historic interpretations by George Talley dressed as a character from the Revolutionary War era, and a group led by Marshall Caddell, depicting Civil War soldiers.

Vendors will also offer items for sale, often made by themselves and appropriate to the rural and historic ambiance.

A display of jewelry typical of the colonial period, into the early 1800s, also corn husk and fabric dolls, American Indian jewelry and beads, and decorated straw hats. Haversacks (a man's travel bag used in the 1700s) will be displayed and handmade 18th century style clay pipes.

Vendors will also offer heirloom flower seedlings, perennials, herbs, "worm tea" (a fertilizer in water solution), heirloom tomato, pepper, cucumber, eggplant seedlings, Jerusalem artichoke starts. A White Elephant table will have knickknacks, hand painted gourds will be for sale. You can also buy alpaca goods, flowering plants, vegetable plants, and herbs.

Cast iron crafts or similarly appealing items, and Clenny Creek T-shirts will also be available to purchase.

MCHA will have a table with

books about local history, stationary, post cards, soaps and other souvenirs recalling the domestic history and lore of

Moore County reaching back into the 18th and 19th century, also a table offering pamphlets and literature dealing with cul-

turally and environmentally friendly groups and facts is planned.

Clenny Creek Day will be held at 3361 Beaulah Hill Church

Road, visit www.moorehistory.com, or call (910) 692-2051. No pets please.



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SHANNON STITES, Broker, SFR



119 HARWICH SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

3 BR, 2 BA golf front with great pond view! Fenced yard, large great room, eat-in kitchen, split bedrooms, screened porch, freshly painted. Priced to sell! **\$199,900!**



NEW LISTING!

126 SMATHERS DRIVE SEVEN LAKES WEST

3 BR plus office AND bonus room! Vaulted ceilings, fenced yard, close to Marina, MANY upgrades! Priced to sell at **\$325,000!**



SOLD!

114 WINSFORD CIRCLE SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

\$218,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

111 SEMINOLE COURT SEVEN LAKES NORTH

3 bedroom plus bonus, granite, hardwoods, private lot! **\$229,900**



103 ESSEX CT SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

4 Br, 2.5 Ba, golf front, all brick, custom home with many upgrades! Lots of storage, beautiful view, workshop, greenhouse, Carolina room, and more! **\$250,000**



WATERFRONT ON LAKE AUMAN SEVEN LAKES WEST

Character & Charm abound in this custom Bolton Builders home! 3 BR plus Bonus, open floor plan, boat lift, dock, many wonderful features! **\$765,000**



235 LONGLEAF DRIVE SEVEN LAKES WEST

3 BR + Den/Study, single level, many upgrades! 10 ft ceilings, granite, crown moulding, hrdwds, private yard, screened porch, close to golf course! **\$315,000**



117 VANORE RD., SL WEST

Waterfront beauty on Lake Auman! Magnificent views from this 3 BR home with office, formal dining, bulkhead, timber-tech dock, many fine details! Heated & cooled oversized garage with bonus rm above. **\$899,000**



137 OWENS CIRCLE SEVEN LAKES WEST

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119 LONGLEAF DR., SL WEST

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122 SMATHERS, SL WEST

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The changing face of media at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Carl Ramey, a former attorney in Washington, DC for almost 40 years, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Tuesday, March 23. He has worked with "The Media" during those 40 years and spoke on the subject of "The State of the Mass Media in 2010."

He explained how the media has changed, and is continuing to change, from what we have historically recognized as the mass media from which we have kept abreast of what's happening in the world around us.

Newspapers are failing, and Mr.

Ramey expects that within the next ten years there will be very few major ones still in existence. The worldwide Web, and, in particular, the personal and portable devices so popular with especially the younger people, will probably dominate the scene of professional journalism.

This will change the sources of information to the public, and even affect the business world. Information will come in abbreviated form (Twitter & texting, etc.) without the extensive research into the information being disseminated that used to characterize good journalism. Quoting David Brooks, Ramey said "people are living in cocoons where they hear only information with which they agree."

We cannot completely blame

the media for creating and perpetuating the partisanship that the public blames on Washington and the media. When we can isolate the sources of information to only that with which we agree, we carry much of the blame.

If the American Public is to expect to get factual and unbiased reporting in the future, we must be willing to pay for it instead of getting it "free" over the Web and the various other sources that bring information to us today. We also must alter today's mantra of "just get it done" and the philosophy of production quantity instead of researched and factual quality.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors are welcome.



Marty Matula, Program Coordinator and Carl Ramey

Pinehurst Garden Club Plant Sale

Join the Pinehurst Garden Club on Saturday, April 24 for their Annual Plant Sale, 10 am to 3 pm, in the Pinehurst Village Sand Parking Lot.

Beautiful geraniums, impatiens, vinca, and begonias will be available for pre-order.

A variety of other plants will be available the day of the sale. All proceeds will benefit scholarship and local beautification.

For more information, please call 255-0720 or 215-8719.



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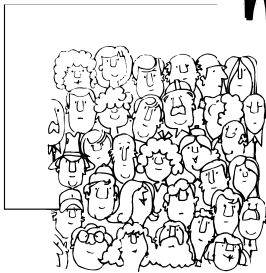
FRIDAY, APRIL 16

- **Pinehurst United Methodist Church Projects BBQ Fundraiser** – Lunch 11 am to 2 pm; Dinner 4:30 pm to 7 pm. BBQ pork or fried chicken plate with two sides, roll, drink and dessert. Eat in, take out or deliver (10 or more plates). For delivery 215-4559. Cost: \$7.00/plate, including dessert. Extra homemade cakes, pies and other desserts for sale. 1 lb containers of BBQ pork for sale for \$7.00 or 1 pre-purchased ticket. Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Road (approx. 1 mile from the traffic circle on Airport Rd).

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

- **Seven Lakes 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off** – 11 am to 2 pm, Check out the many different varieties and style of Chili served up by members of the Seven Lakes Business Guild. Exhibits, clubs, vendors on site, Jump Castle for the kids, face painting and more. Free admission. Purchase your mug for \$7 and sample from all the vendors chili or purchase tickets for .50 each and sample a few of the choices. Prizes awarded. Corner of Grant and Trade Street next to Master Kleen. Come out and enjoy the day and support your local businesses for the day!
- **WEE PTA Yard Sale** – 7:00 am on the school grounds. Hosting a fundraising yard sale. All proceeds will benefit WEE playground.
- **Tag Sale to Benefit Moore Humane Society** – 8 am - 12 pm noon, at First Casual

ty Insurance Group office parking lot, located 190-A Turner Street, Southern Pines. 692-3463 for more information or for directions. A little bit of everything for sale - furniture, clothes, pet supplies and more! Register to win a \$50 gift certificate to PetSmart. All proceeds ben-



What's When Calendar

efit Moore Humane Society in "Saving Moore Animals!"

- **Weymouth Woods Bird Walk** – 8 am, Meet at Visitor Center parking area for a 2 mile hike. Have you ever seen a yellow-throated warbler, blue-gray gnatcatcher, northern parula or summer tanager? Bring binoculars and bug spray. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, Southern Pines, 910-692-2167
- **McLendon Hills Annual Yard Sale** – 8:00 am to 12:00 (noon). Numerous items offered by several residents, Lemonade and cookie sale. Car wash available 10:00-12:00. Located 1 mile west of Seven Lakes on Highway 211.
- **Celebration of Spring in Seagrove** – Over 50 clay artists will be offering special events and kiln openings throughout Seagrove. Celebration continues through Sunday, April 16. New pots fresh from the kilns, door prizes, refreshments, turning demonstrations and raku firing.

Descriptions of events and more details www.Discover-Seagrove.com

- **First Annual Sandhills Family And Summer Fun Expo** - 10 am to 5 pm, Communities In Schools (CIS) hosting area's Family and Summer Fun Expo.

At Southern Pines Elks Lodge.

One-day event features all family activities, camps, community services and organiza-

tions. Vendors on hand to discuss summer camps, sports camps, arts and crafts programs, equestrian camps, scouting programs, birthday party services, and childcare services. Yvonne Petersen CIS (910) 295-1072 or www.SandhillsFamily.com.

- **Clenny Creek Day** – 11 am to 4 pm, music, food, prizes, history, and fun at historic Bryant House and McLendon Cabin near Carthage at 3361 Mt. Carmel Road. Free. Enjoy the spring weather, Bluegrass music, enjoy Southern country-style food. Vendors will be on hand. US 15-501 north of the Traffic Circle at Pinehurst, turn west on NC 73, go to the intersection of Beaulah Hill Church Road, take right, go

straight through two crossroads. Located down a hill on the right at a State highway marker. (910) 692-2051 or www.moorehistory.com.

- **International Cooking Demonstration** – 1 pm, with Carmela Chase, Sandi Carl, Marjorie Nuremburg, and Nadene Peterson. Each will present a demonstration of International dish at West Side Park Community Center. Dishes from South Korea, India, and Thailand. Recipe packets available and a sampling will follow. Cost: \$12.50/person. Call West Side Park Community Center 673-5314.

- **Hawaiian Luau at SLCC** – cocktails 5:30 pm, Hawaiian buffet 6:30 pm. Music provided by Glen Davis at 7:00 pm. All-inclusive price for members \$28 & nonmembers \$33. Reservations 673-1100. You do not have to be a member to attend.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

- **History Of N.C. Furniture Industry Lecture** – 2 pm, "Sitting Pretty: A History of the Furniture Industry in North Carolina, 1700 to the Present," is the title of an illustrated presentation by Dr. Kenneth Zogry. Held at First Baptist Church, 200 E. New York Ave., Southern Pines. Free. (910) 692-2051 or www.moorehistory.com

- **Weymouth Woods Old Growth Hike** – 3 pm, See the oldest known longleaf pine in the world! See this 462 year old tree and one of the largest longleaf pines in North Carolina. Bring water, sunscreen and bug spray. Meet at the park visitor center. Car pool from visitor center 4 miles to the Boyd Tract. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, Southern Pines, 910.692.2167

MONDAY, APRIL 19

- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 10 am to 12 pm, Social Crafters: Decorate clothes w/Appiqués & Painting and other crafts. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game room.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

- **Healing Service** – (every Tuesday) 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory Prayers for sick or troubled, in harms way, traveling, or deceased. Rev. Carol Burgess, Deacon. Program Leader: Jan Standing. All are Welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – Check-in 11:30 am, the meeting 11:45 am. David Woronoff, 'Pilot' Publisher will be the featured speaker. At Table on the Green Restaurant, in Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Drive

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(off of Route 2) between Pinehurst & Southern Pines. Charlotte Gallagher, at 910-244-9611. \$12. Public welcome.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5 to 8 pm. Sample Six wines (Oregon State Wines) and food for \$10. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza next to Peking Wok.
- **Moore Regional Pregnancy Fair** – 6 to 7:30 pm, Moore Regional Hospital's Pregnancy Fair designed to help moms-to-be prepare by providing information about pregnancy, childbirth, baby care and related community services. At the Fair Barn at the Harness Track off Hwy 5, Pinehurst. Experts on prenatal care, pediatrics, childbirth, mother-baby care, neonatal services, breast-feeding and other topics available. 30 vendors will also be on hand. Free. Information or directions, call (910) 715-2275 or (800) 213-3284.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – at 7:00 pm, will sponsor a Candidates Forum for the May primaries for NC Senate, County Commissioners, District III, and the Board of Education. The Forum will take place at the

Seven Lakes West Community Center. The public is invited.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

- **Seven Lakes E.M.S. Chicken Dinner** – at the EMS Building, 714 Seven Lakes Drive. Lunch served 11:30 am to 2:00 pm, Dinner served 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. \$7 per plate payable at the door. Take-outs plates available.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- **"Festival of Celebration"** – 8 am, Fantastic Yard Sale, Face Painting & Balloons for the Kids! \$1 Raffles, Great Prizes! Fresh Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Beverages and more! At St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Join the Church in Celebrating 30 Years in the Sandhills. All Are Welcome! 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Pinehurst Garden Club Plant Sale** – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Pinehurst Village Sand Parking Lot. Geraniums, impatiens, vinca, and begonias will be available for pre-order. A variety of other plants will be available the day of the sale. Proceeds benefit scholarship and local beautification. Call: 255-0720 or 215-8719.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Sunday Eucharist 9:30 am, Rev. Fred Thompson, Priest Associate, 4th Sunday of Easter. Gospel John 10: 22-30. All are Welcome.
- **Weymouth Woods Fire In The Pines** – 3 pm, Learn about important ecological process of fire in the pines through a short slide show. In the auditorium. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 10 am to 12 pm, Social Crafters: Decorate clothes w/Appliques & Painting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game room.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – at 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Bill Newton is the guest speaker. His subject will be Sandhill Cranes and other wildlife. Visitors Welcome. Call 910-692-2167 www.sandhillnature.org.
- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Reg-

ular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 (Exxon Station), just east of Hwy 220 Candor. Min. purchase \$15. 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

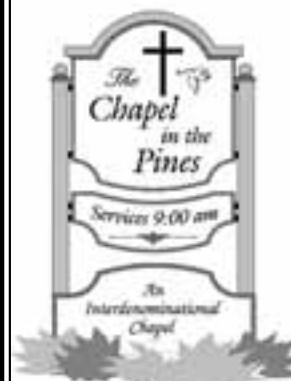
- **Healing Service** – (every Tuesday) 11:30 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Intercessory Prayers for sick or troubled, in harms way, traveling, or deceased. Rev. Carol Burgess, Deacon. Program Leader: Paula Hill. All are Welcome.
- **Weymouth Center Dirt Gar-**

deners – 9 am – noon, Annual Plant Sale, rain or shine. Perennials, shrubs, and herbs propagated by the Dirt Gardeners will be for sale at bargain prices, cash only. Assistance in carrying plants available.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

- **Save Our Sandhills** – 7 pm, hosting guest speaker Vann Stancil to talk about the newly created Wildlife Friendly Development Certification program. At the Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe St. & Penn. Ave.

Come & Worship with Us!



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Reverend Fran Stark
Minister of Visitation & Outreach

April 18th –
Chapel Choir

Reverend Don Welch
Minister

April 25th –
Glenda Clendenin, Soloist

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines was founded in 1976
to serve the Seven Lakes Community and beyond.

www.sevenlakeschapelinthepines.com

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Making developments wildlife-friendly

On April 29, Save Our Sandhills will host guest speaker Vann Stancil to talk about the newly created Wildlife Friendly Development Certification program.

This program has been developed through a partnership with – the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF), the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (NC-ASLA). The program offers certification for developments that go above and beyond requirements to ensure that wildlife habitat is protected and impacts on the environment are minimized.

Why this concerted effort of wildlife biologists, conservationists, landscape design professionals, and developers? Over the past twenty years, North Carolina has lost 2.4 million acres of forests and agricultural lands. Realizing that the state's precious open space has been dwindling for years, North Carolina set out on a bold mission on January 1, 1999, to save a million acres from development. Called the Million Acre Initiative, it was unable to achieve its ten-year goal. It came up 350,000 acres short.

In the same ten years, North Carolina lost more acres to development than any other state. And if the projected population increase of 50% by 2030 is accurate, North Carolina is expected to lose another 2 million acres in the next 30 years.

With these sobering statistics, Wildlife Friendly Development Certification was created. It complements the green building standards that are becoming a more normal component of building practices in North Carolina. Sustainable practices are critical to our environment. This voluntary program, a smart growth habitat initiative, works with a developer to identify important natural resources on the development site that need protection, and it awards points for using techniques that minimize environmental impacts.

Bog turtles, hooded warblers, bobwhite quail, and American shad are as carefully considered as architectural styles and street grids. Prior to construction, developers complete an inven-

tory of conditions on site, including types of wildlife habitat, wetland and stream delineation's, and any existing manmade barriers to wildlife movement. These questions get asked:

- Where are possible wildlife corridors?
- How can wildlife passages be provided so that animals can safely navigate roads?
- Where are opportunities to remove invasive vegetation?

- How can wildlife habitat be maximized, and impact on species be minimized?

Throughout the stages of construction, developments are evaluated using a suite of criteria that offer points for the developer. The developer must earn a sufficient number of points to be certified. Even after construction, the homeowners' maintenance can affect the status of the certified Wildlife Friendly Development.

oment.

Vann Stancil is qualified to explain this new program – from its origins, to its purpose and need, to an overview of the certification processes, and to its challenges. For the past four years, he has been a Special Project Coordinator with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries.

Prior to this, Stancil worked for Progress Energy doing aquatic monitoring work on lakes and

rivers associated with its power plants in the Carolinas. He has a B.S. from North Carolina State University in Fisheries and Wildlife Science and an M.S. from Virginia Tech in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening; refreshments served. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29, 7 pm at the Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Wine tasting benefits Children's Center

The Sandhills Children's Center and Classic Wines will host the 11th Annual Run for the Roses Wine Tasting Friday, April 30, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm, at the Fair Barn in The Village of Pinehurst.

This Wine Tasting event raises money for developmentally disabled children.

The Kentucky Derby themed evening to benefit Sandhills Children's Center will include amazing wines, delicious food, and unbeatable company.

Tickets are \$50 per guest. For tickets, call 910-692-3323 or visit www.SandhillsChildrensCenter.org

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Planning

(Continued from page 9)

moving in. Cardozo lives in a home on an adjacent lot.

Michael Shearer, who owns a large acreage that surrounds both Cardozo properties objected to the request, arguing that the lot lacked sufficient room for a septic system and well to serve the proposed second dwelling unit.

Planning Director Raczkowski explained that any approval of the second unit would be conditional upon certification of a septic system by the county's environmental health department.

Another neighbor, Lester Smith asked whether the placement of two homes on the property, and the fact that they were rental manufactured housing, didn't constitute the creation of a mobile home park. Smith also objected to "loud music" emanating from the Cardozo property.

While ceding the relevance of Smith's question about whether Cardozo was creating a de facto mobile home park, Raczkowski said the extra dwelling unit was allowable under the county's zoning ordinance.

When that ordinance was initially written, such secondary units could only be placed on a lot if the lot owner resided in one of the dwellings. That condition has been invalidated by recent court cases.

Planing Board members engaged in a lengthy dialogue with Shearer when he appeared to question the accuracy of a sealed survey of the Cardozo property, and at one point nearly tabled the matter until Shearer could produce an independent survey.

In the end, however, the Board accepted the staff's recommendation that the requested use met all the criteria stipulated by the ordinance, and approved the request.

Rezoning on Murdocksville Road

The Board also approved without debate a request from Herman Aldene Mabe to rezone a 0.39 acre tract on Murdocksville Road from Highway Commercial (B-2) to Residential and Agricultural (RA-20).

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Adams earns certification

Susan Adams of Seven Lakes West and real estate broker with Re/Max Prime Properties, has successfully earned the nationally recognized Short Sales and Foreclosures (SFR) Certification by the National Association of Realtors.

According to a recent NAR survey, nearly one-third of all existing homes sold recently were either short sale or foreclosures. For many real estate professionals, short sales and foreclosures are the new "traditional" transaction.

It is critical for the agent to



Susan Adams

know how to help both the buyer and the seller maneuver the complexities of these transactions.

Having the SFR designation gives the real estate professional the framework for understanding how to qualify sellers for short sales, negotiate with lenders, direct distressed sellers to finance, tax and legal professionals and tap into buyer demand.

Adams has been in real estate in the Seven Lakes area for over ten years and is a native of Moore County.

Moore Humane Tag Sale

Join Moore Humane Society on Saturday, April 17, 8 am - 12 pm noon, at First Casualty Insurance Group office parking lot, located 190-A Turner Street in Southern Pines. Please call 692-3463 for more information or for directions.

This is the third year that First Casualty Insurance Group (FCIG) has graciously hosted this event and they are hoping this will be the biggest and most successful one yet!

They will have a little bit of everything for sale — furni-

ture, clothes, pet supplies and more!

Plus, everyone can register to win a \$50 gift certificate to PetSmart, courtesy of First Casualty Insurance Group.

All proceeds will benefit Moore Humane Society in "Saving Moore Animals!"

For more information, please call 692-3463 or savingmooreanimals@embarqmail.

And be sure to spread the word to family and friends of about the Tag Sale!

Woodmen help local family

A Modern Woodmen fundraiser for the LaFave Family was a success. Members of the Pinehurst Modern Woodmen America camp recently helped raise money for the LaFave Family by an event at the Fair Barn with chicken and BBQ Plate dinners.

The event held on March 11, raised \$13,000. This included a \$1500 donation matched by Modern Woodmen's home office through the organization's Matching Fund Program. The money will be used for medical expenses for their twin boys.

The Matching Fund program offers Modern Woodmen camp members nationwide the chance to show their support for a community cause, organization or

individual in need by holding fundraisers.

Modern Woodmen matches money raised up to \$2500. These



Mike Bernard

fundraising projects contribute more than \$6.5 million to community needs nationwide each year.

Coordinated by local Modern Woodmen members, camps provide opportunities to take part in social activities and community projects in their communities. For more information about the local camp and how you can get involved, contact Mike Bernard at 910-315-2370.

Founded in 1883 as fraternal benefit society, Modern Woodmen of America offers financial services and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 9)

a set of five sewer lift stations around Lake Pinehurst, a \$3.2 million project funded in part with federal economic stimulus dollars. Brobst said the final completion date for this project is expected to be October 8. He shared with the Commissioners some photographs illustrating both groundwater problems the contractor is experiencing and “extraordinary measures” being taken to protect the lakes from sediment runoff.

Old Town Sewer Upgrade. Among the projects still pending resolution of difference between the Village and County is a \$5.5 million upgrade of the sewer system in Old Town Pinehurst. Though a county consultant made a presentation on the project to the Village Council and presented engineering drawings to the Village engineer in August of 2008, Brobst said, the county has received no comment on the project directly from the Village in the intervening months. The Village engineer told the county’s consultant that the Village would like to see the Old Town water system replaced at the same time as the sewer upgrade. Brobst said the county has installed thirty-five new hydrants in Old Town and is modeling the Old Town water system using the county’s GIS system, “to see exactly what improvements would get the best bang for the buck.” “When we have that, we’ll come back to you for guidance,” Brobst said.

Lake Pinehurst Sewer Sliplining. Brobst said the County wants to bid this \$1.1 million project, which will line aging sewer pipes with new fiberglass, at the same time as the Old Town Sewer upgrade in order to realize some economies of scale by using the same contractor for both projects. In addition, Brobst said, it makes sense to do this project after completing the Lake Pinehurst Sewer lift station project.

Once Brobst’s presentation was complete, Commissioners Chairman Tim Lea invited Pinehurst Councilman Doug Lapins and Village Manager Andy Wilkison to comment.

“Thank you for the opportunity to express appreciation that these projects are moving forward. They are important to our

citizens, your citizens. We are moving forward. We will be happy to work toward getting resolved the Old Town sewer issues as soon as possible.”

Chairman Lea thanked the Village for its help in moving the projects forward.

Longevity Pay

Returning to an issue that surfaced last year during their fine tuning of the FY 2009-2010 budget, the Commissioners heard a presentation from Human Resource Director Denise Brook on several options for altering the

county’s current Longevity Pay policy.

Longevity Pay, as it currently stands, is a bonus added to the salaries of employees who have worked for the county for three years or longer. The bonus is calculated as a percentage of salary, rising from one percent for those with three to five years of service to a maximum of five percent for those with twenty-one or more years of service. The extra pay is based solely on the number of years of service and is not tied in anyway to performance. It costs the county

more than \$440,00 per year.

Looking to control costs given the economic downturn, the Commissioners cut longevity bonuses by twenty-five percent in the current budget year, and asked the county staff to develop an alternative that would link the bonus to employee performance.

Brooks presented a number of alternatives, including delaying the commencement of the bonus, lengthening the number of years between percentage increases in the bonus, making it a flat bonus rather than a percentage

of salary, and scrapping the system altogether in favor of a performance bonus or an increased contribution to the employee 401K savings plan.

The county’s recently implemented performance evaluation system grades employee performance into one of four categories: Proficient, Commendable, Highly Commendable, and Exceptional. Brooks suggested offering a bonus of one percent of salary for those in the commendable category, two-and-one-half percent for highly com-

(See “Commissioners,”p. 26)



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 26)

mendable, and four percent for Exceptional.

Commissioner Nick Picerno picked up on Brooks' performance bonus plan and suggested adding an additional wrinkle, offering employees more money if they were high achievers and also had a number of years of service with the county. The additional longevity bonus would be paid to high achievers beginning in the eleventh year of service under Picerno's plan, with increased bonuses after 18 and 25 years.

The Board deferred any decision until the possible budgetary impact of Picerno's proposal could be estimated; reconsideration is on the Board's agenda for Monday, April 19.

One possible sticking point is the fact that, of the employees evaluated since July 2009, only fifteen percent have achieved a rating above Proficient, suggesting that a performance-based longevity bonus would apply to only a small sliver of the county's employee base.

During the public comment period that began the meeting, 19-year county employee Sherry Westbrook said the county had already lost many qualified employees because of wage cuts, including a freeze on cost-of-living and merit increases.

Employee Nancy Rogers said any cut to the longevity bonus would threaten the most educated and experienced county employees. She noted that cost cutting has already resulted in the county losing employees to Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst, and Lee County.

Meeting with Robbins cancelled

The Board of Commissioners had been scheduled to meet on Wednesday, April 6 with the Robbins Town Council in a closed joint session to discuss cooperation in using the town's water and wastewater treatment plants to provide service to Southern Moore County.

But County Attorney Misty Leland said that a conversation with Robbins Mayor Theron Bell indicated the town council had hoped to discuss a number of issues — not just the specific proposal for which a closed meeting would be permissible.

Concerned about violating state Open Meetings laws, Robbins cancelled the meeting.

Pinehurst resident Doug Midgough had objected to the closed meeting in comments during the public comment period.

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, April 6 meeting, the Board of Commissioners:

- Called a public hearing for May 17 on the proposed merger of the Circle V and Cameron fire departments, and the Vass

Rescue Squad.

- Called a public hearing for April 19 on the rezoning of two lots in the Parkwood subdivision of Seven Lakes West that were mistakenly zoned Village Business instead of Gated Community - Seven Lakes.
- Held a public hearing on and then voted to approve a \$37,000 economic incentive to support a 30,000 square foot expansion of the Ingersoll Rand facility on US 1 in Southern Pines.
- Approved \$10,000 in local matching funds to help pay for a housing program administered by the North Moore Family Resource Center.
- Accepted a \$100,000 Health

and Human Services grant that will allow all Sheriff's vehicles to be equipped with Automated External Defibrillators.

- Declared a long list of older weapons surplus so that the Sheriff's Department can use them as trade-ins when purchasing newer guns.
- Made several appointments including:
 - Marcy Crusis, Beth Takahashi, and Shirley Hooker to the Aging Advisory Council.
 - Dr. Robin Cummings to the Board of Adjustment.
 - Sharon Harrell and Rose Young to the Board of Health,
 - Leah Brennan and Mary Meindl to the Nursing and Adult Care Community Advisory Committee.

NC Furniture History

"Sitting Pretty: A History of the Furniture Industry in North Carolina, 1700 to the Present," is the title of an illustrated presentation by Dr. Kenneth Zogry on April 18, 2 pm, at First Baptist Church, 200 E. New York Ave., Southern Pines.

The dominant North Carolina companies in the mid-to-late 20th century furniture industry are legion: Broyhill, Drexel, Henredon, and Thayer-Coggin, representing the best in American furniture manufacturing. High Point earned the title among the market as furniture capital of the world, and Thomasville and Hickory were close behind.

But the lesser-known roots of this industry began in the 1700s, with an array of diverse styles and traditions, from early handmade pieces by English and Scots-Irish cabinetmakers to the Germanic influences found in various parts of the state. There were rural folk traditions of the mountains and foothills, vying with that of the coastal plains and eastern Piedmont.

The lecture is free and sponsored by the Moore County Historical Association.

For more information, call (910) 692-2051 or visit www.moorehistory.com.



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 6)
with new sub-grade and paving installed would cost approximately \$1.65 per square foot plus engineering fees, but would come with a guarantee similar to the new work completed at Woodland Circle Extension.

Kate Erickson Memorial Fund

Gifts in honor of Kate Erickson now total over \$1,500, reported Mayor George Erickson. A memorial bench to be installed at the Village Green Park playground has been ordered.

Remaining funds will be used for other park projects.

Last month, the Council heard a proposal by Ed Spaulding to improve electrical outlets and lighting at the shelter pavilion. The project was originally estimated at \$500; however, a recommendation by the Park Committee to upgrade the fixtures to a more decorative finish increased the estimate to \$912, which still includes a significant reduction on labor and materials because the work will be completed by resident Wayne Chalker, a licensed electrician.

Erickson approved a \$500 contribution from the memorial fund. A request to cover the remainder of the expenses will be submitted to the Foxfire Property Owners [FPO] Association.

Streets

Councilman Vic Koos reported he inspected the eighty or so problem areas along Foxfire Village roads identified in The Institute for Transportation &

Research [ITRE] study completed by NC State in 2005, and formulated a priority schedule for paving projects.

“I visited each location and determined whether conditions had changed since the study was completed and found there were a few changes,” Koos said, explaining his next step will be working with the Woodland Circle paving contractor to provide cost estimates for repairs.

Hoffman and Richmond Roads are state-maintained roadways; however, all interior streets in Foxfire must be maintained by the Village. Currently, Foxfire has \$45,000 available in Powell Bill funds to repair and maintain roads. Erickson reported the most recent major road improvements were completed in 2003 at a cost of \$60,000 to \$65,000.

Koos also reported a dump truck had illegally dropped three large, loads of debris at the Yard Waste Site. Currently the Village contracts with Gilbert Brown to remove debris at a cost of \$100 per load. How the offending dump truck operator gained access was unknown, but Erickson recommended the lock should be changed to help prevent a future use violation.

Long Range Planning

LRP Chair Mick McCue reported the committee has met with Village staff including the Water Department and Village Police, and have also worked with professional planners employed by Moore County.

“We have identified a lot of issues and will be meeting again

with more specific questions to get more information,” McCue said.

He said using county planning methodology will assist the committee in developing a plan and framing the issues that will be presented in upcoming public surveys and focus groups.

Planning & Zoning

A rezoning request to expand the Foxfire Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] around the Wilson property will be heard by the Moore County Board of Commissioners on April 19, reported Erickson. If approved, a Public Hearing on the request will be scheduled in Foxfire.

Located at the corner of Hoffman Road and Hwy 211, the nearly 750-acre property is a rural farm tract owned by the Wilson family. Following the voluntary annexation of the Stonehill Pines Planned Unit Development [PUD], and the involuntary annexation of Pinewild by the Village of Pinehurst - both large developments that abut the property – the Wilson family submitted a request to be annexed into the Foxfire ETJ.

Erickson said the Planning &

Zoning Committee will also meet on April 19; and one accessory building permit was approved in March.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, April 13, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Heard that Councilmen

Koos, Coker, and Erickson will attend an upcoming ethics training class and legislative updates meeting offered by the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

- Heard that Erickson will attend an all-day workshop sponsored by the Triange J Council of Government.

Festival of Celebration

Join St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church of Seven Lakes for their “Festival of Celebration” on Saturday, April 24, at 8 am.

They’re having a Fantastic Yard Sale, Face Painting & Balloons for the Kids! \$1 Raffles with Great Prizes! Fresh

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 5)

ings, roads, pool, dams, parking lots, and tennis courts.

Newly seated director Melinda Scott will continue to serve as temporary chair of the Architectural Review Board [ARB] until a formal appointment can be held by vote; however, a discussion on the other four members of the ARB Committee was postponed until Closed Session due to a legal concern. Cochran reported that new ARB application forms are now in place and will be used for all future requests.

Director Chuck Mims, a retired police chief, will oversee Security and Safety needs. Treasurer Denny Galford will continue to chair the Finance Committee, and Bruce Keyser, Jr. and Kent Droppers will continue to coordinate Recreation and Community Standards respectively. In addition, Droppers will oversee the Grounds Committee, which will prepare a long range plan for maintenance.

"We need a long range plan on how we will keep all our common areas looking good. This will include the use of volunteers but we need to ensure a seamless flow," said Zielsdorf.

Recreation

SLLA Summer Camp is a go,

but specific dates and times were not announced.

"This is why young people come here, Shaver said. "We have gates, pools, a good school. I think Summer Camp should continue as long as it is profitable or a break-even."

Galford agreed, calling it a "revenue neutral program."

However, the question of whether the camp will include full-day or resume as a half-day program remained unanswered. Keyser said he had received multiple emails requesting the full-day option.

Zielsdorf suggested upping the camp fees to cover the costs of the full-day program if it was necessary.

In other discussion on recreation, Cochran reported that the two drains in Northside Pool are not in compliance with new North Carolina laws. Last year the baby pool drain was improved. Cochran said she is awaiting clarification from the Moore County Health Department on whether the main pool drain must have sump pumps or if grates can be used. The cost to install grates would be lower, with an estimate at \$3,500 for two grates plus \$1,200 additional for an engineering certification.

During a recent inspection of

the three playgrounds in Seven Lakes North, Cochran said, several items were found to not be in compliance. She said work orders would be submitted to correct the problem areas.

Cochran thanked Keyser for ensuring the Easter Bunny was available to attend the community Egg Hunt and also thanked the many volunteers who stuffed candy eggs and assisted with the party.

Buoy placement on Lake Sequoia

Last June two 'no wake' buoys were moved closer to the island

on Lake Sequoia — a decision that created both controversy and property damage. The buoys were then moved back — too far back it seems. Finally, in September the buoys were returned to their original locations.

With a new warm season fast-approaching, the Board reviewed maps outlining both the original and the modified buoy placement options. After discussion, they approved the original placement pattern.

In addition, Northsider Ron Erskine recommended that two buoys opposite the dam rather than three were needed; and

Scott recommended moving the Sequoia Beach swimming area buoy further into the lake.

Other Business

Immediately following the Work Session, the Board went into Closed Session to participate in an orientation presentation by Talis Management Group. Cochran described the presentation as a standard orientation that outlined responsibilities as a Board member and also an opportunity to discuss committee needs.

Seagrove Celebration

Working together for the good of the community — Seagrove potters are coming together to create an eventful week-end with something for everyone. Over 50 clay artists will be offering special events and kiln openings throughout Seagrove the weekend of April 17-18.

Spring has always been a time for renewal and awakening in Seagrove and this year an unprecedented number of shops are opening their doors together to Celebrate Spring with special events.

It's a great weekend to come out and leisurely browse, shop and experience a 200-year-old tradition, see the process, develop and renew relationships with the potters of Seagrove.

A large variety of events are

scheduled throughout the week-end including but not limited to loads of beautiful new pots fresh from the kilns, door prizes, refreshments, turning demonstrations and raku firing.

Descriptions of events and more details can be found at www.DiscoverSeagrove.com. Stop at any participating shop as you come into Seagrove to pick up a map of the area and listing of events.

The Celebration of Seagrove Potters is a gathering of diverse clay artists joining forces to showcase the traditional and contemporary pottery of the historic Seagrove community. The goal is to maintain the authenticity of Seagrove pottery by promoting the historical, educational and artistic aspects that can be experienced when visiting Seagrove.

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SLWLA Work Session

(Continued from page 4)

puter software. So, technically, it should be possible for the Associations to trade lists of currently valid barcodes, allowing the members of each Association to enter the other community through the barcode lane.

However, the computerized version of the SLLA barcode list contains only the barcode number -- not the link between that number and the landowner to whom it belongs, a record currently maintained in paper form. The Westside gate security protocol requires that the name and number be linked in the computer database, so, until the SLLA database can be computerized, mutual recognition of valid barcodes is on hold.

Hoffmann said he and Frost would continue to work with SLLA management on a procedure to allow reciprocal gate access and report back to the Board in thirty days.

Barcodes revoked

The Association has revoked the barcode privileges of two residents as a result of traffic violations.

Director Hoffmann explained that one of the offenders had wrecked his vehicle inside the gates and was cited for driving under the influence. The other offender had passed a resident on Lakeway Drive just below

the mail house, pulling over into the grass to do so.

"These actions are well, well, short of what we could have done under our rules and regulations," Director Hoffmann noted. Community Manager Frost said the revocations could be appealed to the Judicial Panel.

Developer suit settlement approved

After meeting in Executive Session to discuss the matter, the Board voted unanimously to approve a settlement of the lawsuit it filed against developer Lakeside Development over non-payment of its share of the cost of gate security and other issues.

The Board has been negotiating those issues with Lakeside and proposed new developer Black Point Development. Tuesday's affirmative vote puts the SLWLA in a position to settle the suit, should Lakeside agree to the terms.

Swimming Pool Access

Frost reported that she will soon be ordering ID Cards for use at the Westside pool during the upcoming summer season, but exactly how those ID cards will be used to manage access is still being fine tuned.

Frost said landowners would be issued two primary ID cards that allow them access and permit them to be accompanied by

up to four guests. Children fourteen and older in those households will be issued their own cards that permit entry to the pool but do not allow for guests.

Hearing that description, Treasurer Sikes asked if that meant an 18-year-old resident child of a landowner would not be able to bring his or her 7 year-old brother or sister to the pool. The question generated a good deal of discussion and a decision that Frost and Herdrich would take another look at the procedure in order to solve that particular problem.

Reward offered for conviction of vandals

After hearing from Community Manager Frost about an incident of vandalism at the Westside pool restroom, Director Adam Wimberly moved, and the Board approved, offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators.

Speaking with *The Times* after the meeting Frost explained the community had experienced five similar cases of restroom vandalism during her tenure as Community Manager, including two at the pool, two at Johnson Point, and one in the Community Center. In each case the offender stuffed the restroom toilet with paper towels until clogged and then defecated in the unit, leaving the commode

unflushable and a mess for someone to clean up. In some cases, including the most recent incident at the pool, the perpetrator actually broke into the restroom in order to carry out the misdeed.

Frost said she has heard from current and past Board members that similar incidents occurred in prior years as well.

Boat Registration May 1

Herdrich said this year's boat registration will begin May 1, but will be handled either by mail or by dropping off forms and documentation at the SLWLA Office -- not through on-site registration sessions manned by volunteers. Noting that most landowners used mail-in registration last year, Herdrich said the on-site registration process was not a good use of volunteer time.

Boat owners will need to have


their sticker affixed to their boat by June 1 in order to use Lake Auman. After that date, owners of unstickered boats will be subject to fines and penalties. Landowners must be current in their dues payments in order to obtain a sticker.

School bus stops

Frost told the Board that she had a meeting scheduled with Moore County Schools officials to explore the possibility of having school buses pickup and drop off students at locations other than the Community Center and back gate, in order to make the service more convenient for students and parents.

After discussion, Legal Director Silberhorn offered a carefully worded motion, which was approved by the Board, indicat-

(See "SLWLA,"p. 30)

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SLWLA Work Session

(Continued from page 29)

ing that "the Association does not object to the county using its discretion to determine where to pick up and drop off the children."

Architectural Review

ARC Director Adam Wimberly asked for and received Board approval for the addition of Dick Williams and Sam Narayan to the Architectural Review Committee.

Wimberly reported that there are currently eleven homes under construction on the West Side, with one more pending ARC approval. Twenty-three other projects are underway, the committee has already approved four more, and has six pending. Two ARC issues are headed to the Judicial Panel for resolution.

He noted that decorative walls and other features that need, but have not received, prior approval of ARC have begun to pop up on several properties. Homeowners need to be particularly careful not to place any permanent landscape structures within sixteen feet of the street, an area that is technically part of the Association's right-of-way.

Responding to a request from

landowners, Wimberly polled the Board on its willingness to fund shrubs to screen a section of perimeter fence along Lucas Road. Because the FY2010-2011 budget is now set, funds would not be available for the task until the following year. Landowners in the neighborhood have volunteered to purchase screening shrubs themselves, so the Board asked Wimberly and the ARC to work with the residents to develop standards for the plantings.

Communications

Secretary Karen Milligan said she had met both with the Communications Committee and with the co-chairs of the Area Representatives, Patti Cleary and Nelda Cockman, and will be working to clarify the respective roles of those groups.

The Communications Committee is particularly interested in becoming more proactive about getting information into the hands of members before it becomes fodder for the rumor mill, she added. "We're trying to clarify the difference between the Communications Committee and the Area Reps . . . to make sure that what the community is receiving . . . via email,

especially . . . that, if they are receiving it from Board, that they know with certainty that they are receiving it from this Board."

Milligan said she, Community Manager Frost, and Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Betsy Mikula had met with *Times* Editor Greg Hankins for a demonstration of the Constant Contact service, which *The Times* uses for its emailed news updates. She said the service has a number of features that could be particularly useful to the Association as it attempts to move its newsletter to delivery primarily via email.

Another project the group is beginning to work on is a forum on the incorporation issue. A presentation by the Long Range Planning Committee is another potential topic for a community forum.

"The Communication Committee is on the right track," Director Mick Herdrich said. "It was very disheartening in the last couple of meetings to hear several people get up and say they didn't know about about this and they didn't know about, and that there are a lot of rumors going around about what the Board is doing. There's a lot of information that goes out around here . . . they can make an effort

to find out what is going on. Communications is a two-way street. It's not us talking to someone and them not paying any attention. They have to take enough interest in this community to figure out what is going on, what are the facts and what aren't the facts, and to ask questions."

Community Activities

Community Activities Jane Sessler asked and received Board approval of eleven new members for her committee, who join five existing members. The reorganized committee will include: Linda Rosskamp, Patti Patullo, Theresa Clark, Sandra Adinolfi, Vallarie Murphy, Patsy Thomas, Cindy Stites, Elizabeth Batchelor, Cathy Baldwin, Wendy Benjamin, Cassidy Benjamin, Jennifer Forsman, Mandy Good

man, Amy Sawyer, Diane Silberhorn, and Joyce Friert.

"I went out into the community and found a pretty good cross-section of the community," Sessler said.

The committee will be continuing with events already in the planning stages, including an expanded version of the Support Our Troops Day and Friday evening concerts at Johnson Point. In addition, Sessler, said, they will be organizing some new events specifically targeting kids in the middle and high school years, including a sailing and fishing clinics. More details on those events will be forthcoming.

Canada Goose control

Director Herdrich received Board approval to continue a
(See "SLWLA," p. 31)



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SLWLA Work Session

(Continued from page 30)

program of controlling the native Canada Goose population by adding eggs -- removing them from the nest and shaking or coating them with oil so that they do not develop into chicks. He noted that resident -- as opposed to migratory -- Canada Geese have become such a nuisance in the state that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has introduced an month-long season on hunting the big birds that allows a hunter to take up to fifteen per day. Neither hunting nor the discharge of firearms is allowed inside Seven Lakes West.

Herdrich said he has found that geese, whose preferred food is lakefront grass, do not like the centipede or zoysia varieties.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, April 13 work session:

- Directors approved a revision to the fee schedule that reduces next year's homeowner dues from the previously-approved \$960 to \$895 and reduces dues on unimproved lots from \$720 to \$672, based on cuts in the expense budget approved at an April 6 special budget review meeting. Frost told the board the drop back in dues levels is approximately 20% on each case and cuts anticipated revenues by just slightly less than \$100,000.

- The Board heard from Frost that the Association has proposed a payment plan that will allow Wingfield Properties, owner of Beacon Ridge Country Club, to catch up its share of the cost of providing security at the front gate.

- A group that has raised more

than \$6,500 to help defray the cost of the Annual Fourth of July fireworks display asked the Board to kick in the entire \$7,000 it had provisionally budgeted for fireworks in FY 2010-2011. But the Directors decided instead to stick with their previous agreement to match the group's contribution dollar for dollar.

- Frost reported the mandatory septic inspection program is proceeding nicely. Of 655 landowners sent reminder letter at the beginning of the year, 213 have already documented inspections, and at least one septic service is booked up for the next three months. Another reminder will go out September 1 to those who haven't complied.

- Frost reported that she had contacted Triple S Landscaping to explore options of using landscaping elements to screen the view of stockade fence erected in the backyard of a Parkwood residence near the mail house. The Board is in negotiations to annex Parkwood, but, until those negotiations produce a deal, has no authority over the lot in question.

- Director Silberhorn reported that he had contacted the office of NC Senator Harris Blake to seek additional information on the availability and permitted use of Powell Bill (gasoline tax) funds if Seven Lakes were to be incorporated.

- Silberhorn reminded Directors and residents that the NC Department of Transportation will hold another public hearing on the proposed upgrade of the Seven Lakes West railroad crossing and the related closing of two West End crossings. The drop-in meeting is scheduled for 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Monday, April 19 at West End Elementary.

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What tune's hammering in your head?

Rah-rah ah ah ah, roma-roma-mah, GaGa, ooh la la...

If you've flipped on pop radio for five minutes at any point since last October, chances are you recognize this syllable stream.

The catchy chorus has one of those Velcro musical hooks that stick in your head: a point excellently demonstrated by my three-year old niece who will absentmindedly chant that verse over, and over, and over.

This melody line is so contagious just a mere mention and 'rah-rah ah ah ah,' like magic, that jukebox between your ears automatically drops in a quarter.

Psst, that groaning noise you

just heard is from other folks familiar with this song. You all can thank me later.

Pervasive and invasive, I didn't even know what the song was called until...well, today.

"Bad Romance"

A fitting title, I decided.

If you've seen the artistically-dressed blonde behind this chart-topper, I'm sure you agree. So I was rather amused to read the headline, 'Lady Gaga joins the list of celibate stars.'

Chaste celebrities? This should be a quick read, I smirked.

It was....but I digress.

There is only one sure cure for that endless rah-rah musical loop: substitute another equally

infectious rhythm.

I humbly submit, 'Harvest Home.'

Haven't heard of that one?

Think Irish jig and you've nailed it.

Lately, I've been on speed dial in my brain. A hazard of my new hobby, I've learned. You see over the long, cold Winter I took up with a hammered dulcimer.

Hammered what? Go ahead and say it.

My 'drunken' dulcimer, as Dar-



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

ling Hubby christened the beast, is a stringed trapezoidal-affair with a distinctive twang. And I do

mastered a few songs including that bouncy little number, Harvest Home, and the most wonderfully titled fiddle song ever, 'Whiskey Before Breakfast.'

Too good a piece to stand alone, I was thinking of composing it into a musical trilogy, I'll call it 'Whiskey before breakfast,' 'Gin with lunch' and 'Rum after supper.'

Can't you just hear the bass hook already?

Rum-rum rum ah, now I've got a hangover, ohh, la la...

mean, TWANGggggggg. With an emphasis on the sustain.

[You know me, always looking for new ways to torture my kids, cats, and neighbors.]

After banging down too many sour notes to count, I've finally

Time to incorporate

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to a letter to the editor by Diane Evans in the April 2 issue of *The Times* wherein she gives some negative views on incorporation of Seven Lakes.

It is sad to think anyone does not know the ramifications of probably being annexed in a few years. She states she has been a resident for 13 years. I don't know what that has to do with it. I have been a resident for about 17 years and I know what

happens when a territory gets annexed.

Do these people not realize they would be paying the same moneys to Pinehurst or whoever annexes us and we would have nothing to say about it? Whereas, if we incorporate at least the moneys would be coming to us and we would have a say as to issues which affect us.

Hopefully, these people who oppose incorporation can learn the true benefits of doing it.

Her article also states "three wealthy business owners want to flush more money down the toilet" and "for someone to have a cushy seat as mayor of Seven Lakes."

Does that mean it would be all right for the mayor of Pinehurst or whoever annexes us to have a cushy seat to tell us what to do?

Jimmie E. Hurd
Seven Lakes West

Thanks for support

Dear Editor:

As non-profits scramble for funds in a bad economy, media with a sense of responsibility to the community and its readers, listeners and viewers is even more important than when times are good.

As a volunteer publicity person for the Moore County Historical Association, and several other nonprofit organizations in Southern Pines, I want to give special thanks to talk radio WEEB in Southern Pines and Life 103.1 (WLHC) in Sanford, both of which graciously ran our public service announcements on short notice, helping get the word out to area and Moore County listeners about several concerts planned during the first annual Palustris Festival held March 25-28.

Continuing support from these stations for other worthwhile community projects as well is

much appreciated, as is that from The Pilot, Pinestraw Magazine, The Seven Lakes Times, Pinehurst Magazine, Next!, the Fayetteville Observer, television calendar listings on local Channel 3, and Channel 99, plus newspapers in surrounding counties that run our news releases as a service to their readers.

Without the print and broadcast media supporting local non-profits whose income in tight times must first go to support the community goals that they exist to fulfill, Moore County and area residents would be much poorer in quality of life. And by bringing news of events that is important and interesting for the public to know, the media is certainly more likely to keep its audience and attract more viewers, listeners, and readers.

Sara Lindau
Southern Pines

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. See the box at left for our address and please limit your letter to 300 words.

Make mine a Toyota — circa 1980.

The first new car we owned was a Toyota.

It must have been about 1980. She was a red, five-speed, manual transmission Corolla. No air conditioning. Crank-down windows. Plastic seats. As I recall, a 1,800 cubic centimeter engine — which is not a whole lot bigger than the power plants they put in some big motorcycles.

"Vixie," the girls called her, probably because of the letters she wore on her license plate, though I'm not sure whether that was in Massachusetts, New Mexico, Nebraska, or Tennessee. She ran like the proverbial top, ferrying us to school and work every morning, ferrying us from state to state to state.

She ran and ran and ran, until I flipped her over on the Galatin-Hendersonville bypass north of Nashville, trying to avoid a Mercedes that stopped suddenly in the left lane during morning rush hour. I climbed up the New Jersey barrier, flipped Vixie on her lid, and skidded down the freeway, suspended from my seat belt, until I came to a stop, without so much as scratching the paint on any of the dozens of cars we screeched past.

She was boxy and simple. Basic transportation. Maybe the best car we ever owned.

A Toyota.

Toyota has been much in the news lately, plagued with cars that accelerate when they aren't supposed to, sometimes with horribly tragic results.

Some of the problem has been blamed on the company's drive to get too big, too fast.

But there are hints of other

problems: computer problems — problems in the sophisticated computer programs that control braking systems. And, evidently, the government agency charged with regulating Toyota and other car makers has few if any software engineers on the payroll.

That's a problem. And, if we're going to have cars run by software, it needs to be fixed. If.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



If we're going to have cars run by software.

But is that really a good idea? Or is it just the over-complication of a thing that actually worked a lot better when it was simple?

I'm not sure what kind of gas mileage Vixie got: probably about 30 miles per gallon in the city and 40 on the highway. That's doesn't measure up to a Prius, but Vixie didn't cost near as much as a Prius, either.

She wasn't fuel injected; she had an old-fashioned carburetor. She may have had some sort of primitive computer in her, but I can guarantee you it wasn't hooked up to the brakes, or the

steering, or the clutch, or the transmission, or anything you could look at on the dashboard.

I'm a big believer in computers; I spend most of my waking hours in front of one. We couldn't produce *The Times* without one.

But that doesn't mean I need a computer everywhere. In my toaster. My shower. My spade. My chicken waterer.

A lot of things work just fine without a computer inside. Most of those things are more reliable than the "new, improved" versions with computers in them. And they're a heck of a lot easier to fix when they break down.

Once he's done licking the wounds he suffered in those recent Congressional hearings, that's a fact Mr. Toyoda might want to ponder.

There is definitely a reason for and a market for a car that gets 50 or 60 mpg and comes complete with air-conditioning, power windows, a fancy sound system, and leather seats — and needs a fancy computer and software to make all that happen. So those software engineers at Toyota may need to spend some nights working the bugs out of those on-board computers — and the National Transportation Safety Board might want to hire a few software engineers of its own.

But Mr. Toyoda might also want to contemplate the possibility that there is a reason for and a market for a car that gets 40 mpg without all that expensive fancy stuff, including the computer. Some folks might be willing to crank down a window to catch the breeze, if it came in a vehicle that didn't need its own software engineer in the back seat.

I know one thing for sure: if I hadn't managed to flip her over north of Nashville, folks in this family would still be mighty grateful to be driving Vixie around town, even if she didn't have as big a brain or as sleek a fender skirt as those fancy computerized Priuses.

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The many faces of retirement

Retirement has many faces.

To some, it means the time to develop their latent talents, if any. To others, a chance to travel. To still others, the freedom to simply take life as it comes, without the stress of daily deadlines, conflicts on the job, and other irritations.

For retirees like myself, it's not what we failed to accomplish up to this point in our lives, but what we can do to make the remaining years fulfilling that we should focus on.

There are choices facing us.

We can do what some of our ancestors did in the twilight of their lives and more or less vegetate on the front porch and, in essence, await death.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Then, we were productive members of our communities by earning a living in exchange for providing a product or service that society had a need for.

Now, there's no need for an exchange. We have something to give – time and sometimes talent – and we need nothing in return.

We can indulge ourselves and enjoy some of the things it has given us. The freedom

Or — and this is one of the most noteworthy phenomena in American society today — we can look for missions to accomplish as many retiree's do these days, but in a way that's different from the way it was when we were in the work force.

that Americans enjoy immediately comes to mind. Particularly, the benefits that resulted the struggles that many who came before us endured to establish that freedom and protect it for all of our citizens.

How can retiree's help repay

society?

By coming forward with their experience, wisdom, talent, and enthusiasm to help solve – or alleviate – some of the pressing problems we face in America today. All over the nation, there are skeleton staffs with meager budgets trying to provide desperately needed social services.

This is where retiree's can make a major contribution to the communities or areas in which they live. Thousands of volunteers in our state continue to make their mark. A large number are retiree's. But the need for more volunteers is, and will continue to be, acute.

Very few retired volunteers are in it because "it's the thing to

do."

There has to be a better reason. That reason is simple: it's helping others. What a wonderful way to be productive in retirement.

Enjoy your retirement. Do the things you always hoped to do, but didn't have the time during your working years.

But save some time to reach out beyond yourself. Society will be the better for it.

I'm reminded of a perky acquaintance in his late 60's living in my neighborhood. I said to him, "Well, you earned it. Are you going to take it easy now?"

"Oh, no," he replied. "I've got too many things to do. Life's just beginning!"

Buddy Holly The Concert

Feb 3, 1959 – The day the music died. Buddy Holly. J.P. Richards – The Big Bopper. Ritchie Valens. All of these music legends died in a tragic plane crash after leaving a winter concert in Clear Lake, Iowa on a snowy, winter night.

In the short 18 months from when "That'll Be The Day" became a hit to the night of that fateful plane trip, Buddy began rolling the snowball that took over the world.

Moore OnStage has not forgotten their contribution to the beginning of rock 'n roll and will be celebrating their music over three performances only at the Sunrise Theater when it presents "Buddy Holly: The Concert," a fundraiser for Moore OnStage.

Starring as Buddy Holly is Baxter Clement, local Southern Pines boy who was influenced by Buddy Holly enough to enter a career of guitar, music and his own rock 'n roll.

Don't miss this final appearance of Buddy Holly, opening Friday, April 23 at 8 pm and continuing Saturday, April 24 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 25 at 2 pm.

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Westside budget

(Continued from front page)

proved lots from \$720 to \$672.

Sikes proposed larger cuts

Despite the negative outcome of the budget vote at the Annual Meeting, it actually represented approval of the Board's budget, because opponents failed to muster the majority of all landowners -- not just voting members -- required to reject the budget. Under SLWLA Covenants and the North Carolina Planned Community Act, it takes a 'No' vote from a majority of all members -- not just those who returned a ballot -- to reject a budget.

But the SLWLA Bylaws call for an immediate review of the budget by the Treasurer and Board when a majority of those voting disapprove of the budget. This year's 'No' vote triggered that provision for the first time in the Association's history.

Sikes' review of the budget recommended a total of \$217,169 in cuts, with the biggest chunk of those savings achieved by delaying the amount of cash directed to road repaving reserves by \$125,000 -- half the \$250,000 initially designated for that purpose.

Sikes proposed cutting the contribution to dam reserves by \$23,169, dropping that expenditure to just under \$6,000. The remainder of Sikes' proposed savings come from delaying a number of capital projects, including:

- \$6,000 for tree and shrub removal from the three pond dams.
- \$15,000 for guardrails at the intersection of Longleaf and Lakeway drives.
- \$15,000 for the installation of an entry card system at the swimming pool.
- \$20,000 for security gate cameras and other equipment.
- \$10,000 for Lakeway Mall

drainage.

- \$6,000 for a replacement reserve for the replacement of Community Center heating and cooling units.
- \$3,000 for a reserve for Community Center roof repairs.

In developing his budget recommendations, Sikes reported, he met with thirty landowners in five small group meetings organized by Association members, as well as taking input from a number of individuals. He came away with the impression that Association members objected more to the large one-year dues increase for FY2010-2011 than to any specific budgeted item.

Sikes also met with former Treasurer Kathy Kirst and the Finance Committee before preparing his review.

He noted that the bulk of the budget increase resulted from increased transfers to reserves and spending on various capital projects. Noting the difficulty of analyzing operating expenditures on short notice, Sikes confined his recommended reductions to reserves and capital items.

"Deferrals" not "cuts"

Sikes stressed in his memo to the Board and in conversation at Tuesday's meeting that the budget reductions he recommended were not permanent cuts, but rather one-year deferrals of essential projects and reserve-building. Neither the building of reserves nor the projects in question can be put off indefinitely, Sikes said.

"If the Board accepts these recommendations, it is my expectation that dues increases in the out years may well need to be significantly higher than they otherwise would have been..." Sikes wrote in his memo to the Board. "I believe we need to invest considerably more in this community now and in the future

than we have done in the past."

After hearing Sikes' report and comments from the public, the Board took up the Treasurer's recommendations one-by-one, accepting some, rejecting others, and using their more detailed knowledge of the operating expense line items to propose other reductions.

The final list of budget cuts included:

- \$14,000 for a contract with the consulting firm LandDesign to produce a Master Plan for the community's entrances and other infrastructure items. Infrastructure Director John Goodman, reporting via email because he could not attend the meeting, indicated that this expense had actually

already been paid for from the FY2009-2010 budget.

- \$6,000 for tree and shrub removal from the pond dams. Director Mick Herdrich said this expense as well had already been made in the FY2009-2010 budget year.
- \$4,000 for the reseeding of pond dams.
- \$13,000 of the \$15,000 budgeted for an entry card system for the Westside pool. The Board had planned to begin issuing photo IDs to members this year, to help with identification by the pool attendant, and to explore the feasibility of an electronic entry card system for use in FY2011-2012. They decided to delay that process, leaving only

enough money in the budget to purchase non-photo membership cards this year.

- \$10,000 of \$20,000 budgeted for Security Equipment. Director Hoffmann said a reconfiguration of the existing cameras at the front gate was producing usable images of vehicles and noted he was hopeful the same could be done at the back gate. He left \$10,000 in the budget line because of the expected need to replace at least one of the devices that raise and lower the gate arms.

- \$18,000 for a security fence around the Parkwood neighborhood, an expense that may be born by the developer of

(See "Westside," p. 36)

Follow the money!

Dear Friend,

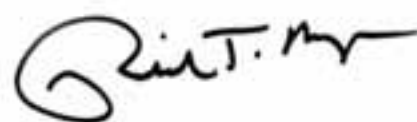
Here's an example of how state government works in Raleigh. Governor Perdue raises taxes a billion dollars. Then, the governor lets her Cabinet Secretary Lanier Cansler — a former lobbyist — give a no-bid contract for \$30 million to one of his former clients.

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Westside budget

(Continued from page 35)

- that subdivision, once it is annexed into Seven Lakes West.
- \$10,000 for a security fence to separate the Pinnacle neighborhood from the Seven Lakes Plaza shopping center. Hoffmann said he planned to meet with Pinnacle representatives to gauge their interest in having the fence installed.
 - \$3,000 in a line item designated for a Compliance Officer a position that has been eliminated by shifting that responsibility to other staff.
- That list totaled \$78,000 in cuts and deferrals.
- Reductions recommended by Sikes but not picked up by the Board included:
- \$15,000 for guardrails at the intersection of Longleaf and Lakeway Drives, kept in the budget because of safety concerns.
 - \$23,129 in transfers to dam reserves. Noting that the dam reserve is wholly depleted, Herdrich pointed out that, once the Association receives final approval of the dam remediation from state engineers, the Board will need to either contract with engineers to replace the dam roadway, or clean up the top of the dam if the roadway is not to be reopened.
 - \$10,000 in Lakeway Mall drainage, urgently needed to stop erosion caused by runoff from Parkwood.
 - \$9,000 for reserves for HVAC and roof repairs at West Side Park. Herdrich said it would be a mistake not to save for these inevitable expenditures.

Resistance to cutting road reserve allocation

Several Directors expressed skepticism that deferring any part of the budgeted \$250,000 transfer to road repair reserves was in the best interest of the community.

In determining future requirements for repaving, the Board has relied on a detailed report prepared several years ago by former Infrastructure Director Ray MacKay, who spent his career with the New York Department of Transportation. The report indicates the Association will need \$1.1-\$1.2 million in road repaving reserves by 2014; the current total stands at less than \$350,000.

MacKay's report is currently being updated, but neither that update nor Infrastructure Director John Goodman were available at the Budget Review Meeting, somewhat complicating the Board's deliberations on road reserves. An email from Goodman indicated he supported Sikes' recommended deferral of \$125,000 in transfers to road reserves, but did not provide any rationale for that position.

Director John Hoffmann noted the impact of the unusually cold winter, with its freezing and thawing cycles, on Westside roads

and suggested this had likely accelerated the need for repaving. He also noted that the \$1 million-plus required for road paving in 2014 is just the tip of the iceberg of repaving expenses that, by his rough estimate, could top \$20 million over the next 20 to 25 years.

Director Adam Wimberly said he had thought long and hard about the road repaving reserves and felt the move to reduce the proposed \$250,000 was "political," in response to the Annual Meeting vote.

"I'm not a politician; I'm a volunteer," Wimberly said. "There clearly was an overwhelming rejection of the budget we put forward . . . but my concern is that there is an economic stewardship that we have while we are on this Board to this community. And this road reserve thing is not going to go away."

Deferring the increase now will only mean another dues increase next year, he added.

"If we are going to defer, people better understand that it is a deferral and not a cancellation of that commitment," President Ron Shepard said. "I would vote for a deferral, but I will be the first one next year to stand up and say 'Okay folks, it's time to pay the piper.' Personally I think it is a mistake deferring it at all, but, if that

's the will of the people, then so be it."

Both Herdrich and Director Jane Sessler also expressed skepticism about cutting the transfer to road reserves.

In the end, the Board accepted a compromise offered by Legal Director Ed Silberhorn, cutting the transfer to road reserves by \$22,000 -- just enough, when combined with

the \$78,000 in cuts they had already agreed on, to amount to a twenty percent reduction in the \$495,000 year-to-year increase called for in the original FY2010-2011 budget.

That compromise was approved by all present with the exception of Hoffmann, who said his 'No' vote had to do with principle, and Sikes, who abstained.

(See "Westside," p. 37)

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Westside budget

(Continued from front page)

Public comment

Only a couple of dozen residents attended the morning budget review meeting, but sev-

eral of those weighed in with questions and comments prior to the Board's deliberations.

- Both Jean Downer and Bob Horne asked for and received

clarification on MacKay's plan for road repaving, prompting Sikes to ask for a show of hands of those who understood the road repaving plan. Very few

residents raised their hands.

- Alan Terruty called for stricter enforcement of weight limits on big trucks to prevent damage to the roadways.
- Tom DiBella asked that the Board change the process by which it arrives at a budget to allow for more public input earlier in the process. Specifically, DiBella asked the Board to hold a public hearing on the proposed budget before voting to approve it.
- Ed Zebly thanked Sikes for his budget review, which he called a "reasonable man approach," and asked the Board to seriously consider Sikes' recommendations.
- Charlie Merical, noting that many folks living on the West Side "are not wealthy" and that the depletion of Association reserves occurred over multi-

ple years, urged the Board, "Let's not try to be heroic and get out of this in one year's budget."

- Tom Laws said he supported the budget and, in particular, saving for infrastructure, but suggested the Board could do a better job communicating with the membership.
- Nancy Workman, a member of the Finance Committee, reminded Board members that the budget had, in fact, been approved by the Annual Meeting vote. Those who failed to return a ballot, she noted, may have done so because they accepted the Board's proposed budget. "To presume that the majority of the people don't want it is wrong," Workman said. "I think the majority of the people do want this because they care about the community and the reserves."

Zielsdorf

(Continued from front page)

Talis accounting systems, and in particular the next sixty days, it would be critically important to maintain continuity. The actual changeover from SLLA financial reporting to Talis systems will coincide with the new fiscal year, which begins May 1.

Zielsdorf did not make other committee appointments, instead opting to postpone decision-making until he had a chance to meet with Community Manager Alina Cochran to discuss what areas of focus and committees she feels could best serve the community; however, Zielsdorf did task several Board members with specific jobs during the transition period.

Newly seated Director Melinda Scott will serve as the temporary chair of the Architectural Review Board [ARB], until a formal appointment by vote is held. In addition, fellow new Director Charles Mims was asked to review and make recommendations on safety and security rules, particularly as they apply to the Sequoia Point beach and marina areas. Mid-term Directors Droppers, Keyser, and Shaver were asked to continue working, for the time being, in their previous committee roles, handling Community Standards,

Recreation, and Maintenance, respectively.

Speaking to *The Times* following the meeting, Zielsdorf said he was pleased and honored by the Board's confidence in selecting him to serve a third year as president.

"I look forward to successfully integrating Talis Management into Seven Lakes operations. Also, I want to make sure we examine our system of governance and start to seriously address our aging infrastructure -- with roads being a top priority," Zielsdorf said.

Work Session Schedule Unchanged

By unanimous decision, the Board agreed to continue meeting in Work Session at 8:30 am on Monday mornings, two weeks before the scheduled Open Meeting; exceptions will be made in November and December to accommodate the holidays.

Yard Debris Site

A significant pile of inappropriate material was dumped at the Yard Debris site this week, Director Shaver reported.

"I don't want to see the Debris Site closed down, but some people are abusing it," Shaver warned.

Of particular interest was a small dump truck-type vehicle seen leaving the site. Community rules forbid such commercial use.

Zielsdorf reminded the Board that results from a resident survey demonstrated that a majority of homeowners view the Yard Debris Site as the top amenity offered by the Association.

More frequent policing of the site by security at staggered times over the next few weeks was recommended.

Closed Session

Following the Organization Meeting, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

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April's Featured Home
\$324,000 4 Bd/3 Ba

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TBD Swaringen Drive	Water View.....	\$45,000
1 Ridge Road.....	Golf Front	\$45,000
112 Simmons Drive.....	Interior	\$50,000
134 Wertz Drive.....	Water View.....	\$55,000
TBD Morris Drive.....	Wooded	\$55,000
46 S. Shamrock Drive.....	Golf View	\$55,000
138 Andrews Drive.....	Water View.....	\$59,500
123 Harwich Court	Golf Front	\$59,900
TBD N. Shamrock Drive.....	Golf Front	\$72,000
130 Andrews Drive.....	Water View.....	\$75,000
TBD Otter Court.....	Water View.....	\$99,000
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113 Baker Circle.....	Water Front	\$375,000
413 NC Highway 73	Farm	\$499,000



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