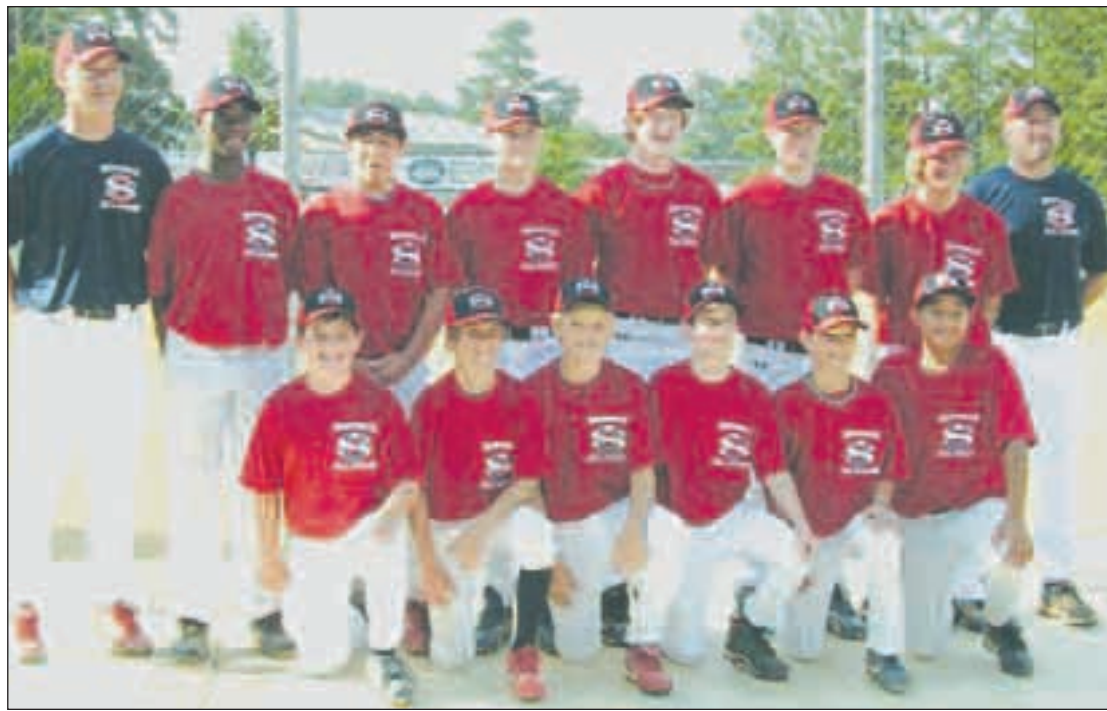


State Champs!



The 12U Sandhills Optimist All Stars recently won the State Championship for the second year in a row. They are (Back row) Coach Tim Carpenter, Ayinde McKnight, Carson Maples, Jay Thomas, Clay Thomas, Zach Atkins, Grant Osteen, Coach Steve Dinkins; and (Front row) Zachary Dinkins, Aden Swartzenstruber, Kyle Corbett, Clay Richardson, Jack Carpenter, and Stephan Stevens. (Not available for photo: Coach Jan Richardson)

Engineer explains the Lake Auman dam road closure

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The engineer stood his ground. After facing an hour-long barrage of questions from Westsiders -- not all of the happy -- dam engineer Dr. Dan Marks had not budged on this recommendation: the road across Lake Auman Dam should remain forever closed to vehicular traffic in order to protect the integrity of the structure.

A crowd of nearly 200 attended the presentation, which capped a day of activities involving Marks and members of the Board and the Dam Committee of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

Marks offered three reasons that he was recommending permanent closure of Longleaf drive across the dam:

1. Conditions encountered during last summers repairs to the dam were much worse than anticipated.

2. Even after the repairs, the dam's core will continue to deteriorate, though at a much slower rate.

3. Impact loading caused by vehicles traveling through the emergency spillway -- a 150-foot long, 4-foot deep dip on the east side of the dam -- could hasten deterioration of the dam's core and threaten the integrity of the

(See "Auman," p. 22)

Residents want Lakes & Dams Committee back

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Led by JoAn Moses, members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's [SLLA] disbanded Lakes & Dams Committee made a concerted effort during the Wednesday, July 28 Open Meeting to have the panel

resurrected.

Moses, speaking during the public comment segment of the meeting, recounted the history of the committee and its accomplishments. The group was founded as a ad hoc committee of concerned residents in 2006, in the wake of \$250,000 in

state-mandated repairs to Echo Dam. It worked with the Board and Association Engineer John Eddy to develop a six point action plan for dam maintenance.

In 2008, Moses explained, the panel became an official committee of the Board of Directors; had a \$100,000 line item for dam maintenance added to the budget; and began to work through the items in Eddy's maintenance plan. The committee rewrote the SLLA boating rules and made more than a dozen other recommendations in the areas of dam and lake maintenance, safety, and amenities, many of which were acted on by the Board.

In 2009, the Lakes & Dams Committee was rolled into the Maintenance Commit-

tee, Moses said, and, this Spring, that committee was disbanded.

Moses asked who was monitoring the piezometers that test water levels inside the structure of the dams and whether anyone had reviewed the 2010 state dam inspection reports.

"With these facts before you, I strongly urge this Board to reinstate the Lakes & Dams Committee as a Standing Committee," Moses said. This committee should include the past members who have the knowledge, expertise, and interest in being watchdogs of our lakes and dams to make sure they are maintained and inspected on a regular schedule. We must take a proactive approach to our lakes and dams, not only to catch any

problems before they become major but also to save in the cost of any repairs."

Others ask for Committee reinstatement

Andy Lowe echoed Moses' remarks, noting that the members of the Lakes & Dams Committee "were interested only in the safety and protection of the dams and the health of the lakes."

"I don't believe that our present management and Debbie can do the job that this committee did without going to an expensive consulting company," he added

"We had piezometers installed twenty years ago, but no one took readings," Lowe added. "It doesn't take an expensive consulting firm to do this. Please reconsider

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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Board asks Boles, Blake to delay incorporation

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

[An earlier version of this article appeared on *The Times* website on July 29. It has been updated here to reflect new information received since that date.]

The Westside Board will ask State Representative Jamie Boles and State Senator Harris Blake to delay any attempt to incorporate

Seven Lakes as a town until the Association's study of incorporation is complete.

That study is currently scheduled to wrap up in December, at the earliest, past the deadline for incorporation proponents to submit their petition to the Joint Legislative Commission on Incorporation.

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association

[SLWLA] Board voted eight to one during their Tuesday, July 27 Work Session in favor of requesting the delay.

John Goodman, offering the motion, said the SLWLA's study process is well underway, and will produce interim reports in September, final reports in December, and forums for discussion afterwards.

"That process would be in conflict with a rush to incorporation," Goodman said.

The letter was not in its final form when the Board approved it, but Goodman said it asks Blake and Boles "if someone asks you to move this forward, we would like you to wait until we complete our process."

Director John Hoffmann said that it is prudent for the Board to examine the implications of incorporation for Seven Lakes West and

that it is in keeping with the Board's pledge to the community to protect property values. Studying the complex issues involved "takes time," he said.

Secretary Karen Milligan,

I wouldn't agree with. If I want to write to them, I will."

Delay could be a long one

The group IncorporateSevenLakes.com, which advocates incorporation with the gates, hopes to present its petition to the state's Joint Legislative Commission on Municipal Incorporations by November, in order to place enabling legislation on the General Assembly's agenda for the 2011 legislative session.

The General Assembly works on a two-year schedule that includes a "long session" followed by a "short session" the next year, and legislation can normally be introduced only during the long session, which will be held in 2011.

It is not clear from the final text of the Westside's letter, which President Ron Shepard provided to *The Times* on Tuesday, August 3, whether
(See "Westside," p. 16)

West Side Landowners Meeting

7/27

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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@sevenlaketimes.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Aug. 20	Aug. 13
Sept. 3	Aug. 27
Sept. 17	Sept. 10
Oct. 1	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 8
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Commissioners drop county hiring freeze

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A hiring freeze policy that required top level review and approval to fill vacant county positions was eliminated by the Moore County Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 2.

Instead, the Board asked county staff to reduce overall payroll expenses by two percent.

Following what has become a standard period of discussion and approval to fill vacant positions deemed critical, Commissioner Nick Picerno argued that the Board's goal of a \$520,000 reduction in payroll would be more effectively met by asking County Manager Cary McSwain to instruct staff to find reductions through employee attrition.

"I don't want anybody fired," said Picerno. "Instead of bringing each position to the Board and us approving them, I suggest we ask county staff to find positions through attrition that they feel we can do without and still meet our goal."

The four positions greenlighted by the Board that

prompted Picerno's motion included a child abuse investigator with the Department of Social Services, a newborn and infant care provider with Public Health, and two positions with Public Works vacated due to promotions.

Sectarian prayer

The Board adopted unanimously a resolution asking NC House Speaker Joe Hackney to remove a ban on sectarian prayer on the House floor. The resolution came to the Board from the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, who are challenging all county boards to approve the measure.

"It concerns me greatly that there is a growing trend by a minority to control religious interest," said Commissioners Chairman Tim Lea. "Our country was founded on the right to prayer and to believe as we choose." Each of the Commissioners present made similar comments on the resolution Jimmy Melton, Larry Cadell, and Picerno.

Commissioner Cindy Morgan was unable to attend the meeting.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, August 2, the Moore County Commissioners:

- Heard a report from the Board of Equalization and Review that they had reviewed the valuations of 407 of the 68,555 taxed parcels in Moore County at the request of the property owners, adjusting downward the valuations of 222, while increasing the valuations of 13. Altogether, their adjustments reduced the total assessed value of real property in the county by \$9.9 million.
- Recognized the 2010

class of Moore County Government Interns. A program for students aged fourteen to twenty, interns learned leadership skills through placement in various county offices including Finance, Public Safety and EMS, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Environmental Health, Departments of Social Service and Aging, Register of Deeds, and Veterans Affairs.

- Recognized Patty Kempton for winning the Communicable Disease Program Spirit Award. Nominated both locally and statewide for her unwavering professionalism

and extensive knowledge, Kempton was described as an inspirational leader and a role model.

- Agreed to waive some unpaid interest on past due landfill fees owed the county by Taylortown.

• Called a public hearing on August 16 to discuss a grant application for \$241,496 in Rural Operating Assistance Program [ROAP] transportation funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

- Approved a \$573 contract amendment for Dr. (See "Commissioners," p. 33)

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Be careful around critters

A suspiciously behaving raccoon reported to Animal Control and picked up in the Morganwood section of Seven Lakes West in the last week of July has tested negative for rabies.

Only two animals – a fox and a skunk – have tested positive for rabies in Moore County this year. A virus which is almost always fatal without immediate treatment, rabies is primarily transmitted through contact with saliva and can infect all mammals.

Pets should be vaccinated and residents should immediately report any animal behaving in an uncharacteristic manner.

If you encounter a wild animal showing aggression or lack of fear, or appearing sickly or walking oddly, please call Moore County Animal Control at 947-2858 or the Sheriff's Office at 947-2911.

Westside Budget Input Sessions

Westside Treasure Joe Sikes will host two sessions to gather input from landowners before developing his rough draft of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association's FY 2011-2012 budget.

Sikes is inviting members to share their opinions, views, concerns, and hopes for the community's future, "before the numbers are inscribed on the page."

The two-hour sessions will be held in the Westside Park Community Center on Saturday, August 14, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and on Tuesday, August 17, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



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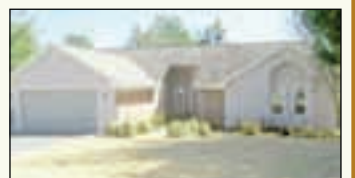
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Bolton's hobby has become vibrant business

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Blessed with both passion and a God-given wealth of talent, Michelle Bolton does a lot more than simply take a picture.

"Creating art," she calls it,

and it is just that.

Framing her clients at unique and dramatic locations throughout Moore County, Bolton selects backdrops that will compliment her subjects through color and texture. And by limiting

her schedule to only two or three photo shoots each week, she is able to bring her tremendous vision and concentration to each session.

A Moore County native, Bolton's very first camera was a Kodak Brownie – a gift when she was eight – which set her on a lifelong artistic path. After college, she prepared advertisements and also took photographs for a newspaper. Later, as she traveled and realized that she was always the one taking family pictures, she said it seemed to be the right time for a leap of faith.

Now in her second year of professional work, Michelle Bolton Photography specializes in high school senior portraits, bridal and engagement portraits, wedding and newborn photography. In particular, she enjoys catching those very early bonding moments when parents are focused on their infant and not on their camera or getting



Granddaughter Taylor is a frequent model

the very best shot. But Bolton's most popular work is her family and children portraits.

"I want to capture children as they are now. Not posed and I don't ever want a kid to say cheese! I want a natural picture that will catch the essence of their age," she explained.

Besides sunsets, which are

a longtime favorite subject for Bolton, she also frequently turns to her muse – her granddaughter, Taylor – who serves as a test model for new locations and techniques. Bolton has been especially busy lately practicing new editing skills recently learned at a photography workshop in Sonoma Valley, Calif. (See "Bolton," p. 15)



Bolton specializes in photos of families

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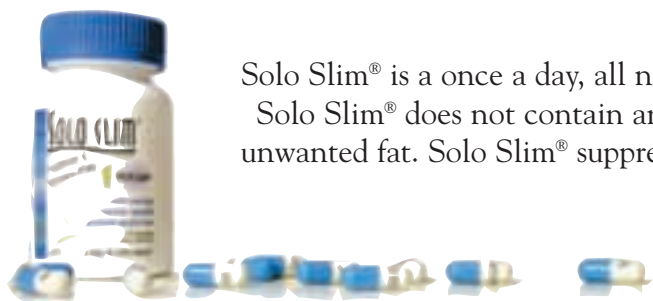
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Like a homecoming for new SL Baptist pastor

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

More of a Bible-est than a Baptist is how Chris Hrabosky, the newly installed senior pastor of Seven Lakes Baptist Church, describes himself and says he is looking forward to serving the community that he calls home.

"The building isn't the church — the people are the church. Our job is to build

the people and my job is to equip the saints to do the work," he said.

Hrabosky first came to Seven Lakes Baptist as its youth pastor in 2000 before settling in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 2007, to serve as pastor of Grace Baptist.

However, he and his wife, Nita, are glad to be back in the Sandhills.

"My kids grew up here and we feel like this is home,"

he explained.

Before receiving his call to the ministry, Hrabosky served in the U.S. Air Force in Desert Storm and later was stationed in Spain and Florida; however, it was during his initial student years at Liberty University that he first met the late Ken Hankins, founding pastor of Seven Lakes Baptist.

At first, he turned down the youth pastor job offer from Hankins; but after a second conversation, Hrabosky knew the Lord was directing him to the right place. Arriving in Seven Lakes, he was in his new position for exactly one day before Hankins fell ill, forcing Hrabosky to spend his first six months preaching with no experience.

"It was trial by fire, but I must have done something right because they called me back!" he enthused.

A lifelong learner, Hrabosky also continued his studies and is only a few credits shy of completing a Masters of Divinity. Once completed, he intends to seek a doctorate from Liberty.

"I've been in the habit of

study for most of my adult life. The more education I get the more I realize I don't know. I just keep on trucking and one of these days I'll be educated," he joked.

Looking to the future, Hrabosky said he will continue to build on Hankins' core vision of a church of a 1,000 in little Seven Lakes, but that his methods to achieve that goal

may be a little different.

"We want to be more involved in the community. The Bible says to go out into the world," said Hrabosky. "We have some fantastic facilities here and I'd like to work with the county. We want to let the community know we're here - to partner with them and to show them the love of Christ."



Rev. Chris Hrabosky of Seven Lakes Baptist Church

Men's Bowling League

The Seven Lakes Men's Bowling League is looking for bowlers. A league meeting, will be held at The Sandhills Bowling Center, on Tuesday, August 24, at 8:30 am, with three free practice games to follow – compliments of the Bowling Center.

If you are interested in joining the League, please call Ross Moreton 673-1405, Jim Gunderson 673-1124, Don Sass 673-3390 or Ken Collins 673-5505.



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In memory of . . .

Mary Madar O'Connor, 83, of Vass, died Sunday, August 1.

Mrs. O'Connor was born in Lastovce, Slovakia. She previously lived in Seven Lakes, where she was employed at Seven Lakes Health & Fitness Center. She was currently employed at Transit Damaged Freight in Lakeview.

A Funeral mass will be held on Saturday, August 14, at 2:00 pm, St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, Southern Pines. Monsignor Jeffrey A. Ingham will officiate the service.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael Madar and Suzanna Magura, her husband, Jack O'Connor, son, Stephen O'Connor and her brothers John and Michael Madar.

She is survived by her son, J.C. O'Connor of Vass; daughter, Marjorie Nurnberg of Seven Lakes; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; her sister, Joan McHugh of Crofton, MD; many nieces, nephews, other family members, and many special friends also survive.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105 or to Community Hospice, 185 W. Illinois Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory of Southern Pines is assisting the family.

Richard L. Hughey, 78, of Southport, formerly of West End, died Thursday, July 22, at his residence.

He was born in Galesburg, IL, the son of the late William Edgar and Ellen Othelia Wood Hughey. In Galesburg, he began a thirty-nine year

career with the Maytag Corporation. Upon retiring as a senior quality assurance engineer, he moved to Wilmington, and then to West End.

Mr. Hughey was a deacon and choir member at First Christian Church in Galesburg, IL, Wilmington, and Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen. He served as a county commissioner in Cape Carteret and volunteered with the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Cape Fear Hospital, and Cottage Hospital.

A memorial service was held Saturday, July 31, at First Christian Church, in Wilmington, with Dr. Lance Perry and Dr. Les Wicker officiating. A private committal will be held at Oleander Memorial Gardens.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, William and James Hughey.

He is survived by his wife, Willa Wicker Hughey; his daughters, Susan Hughey Walker of Jacksonville, FL, and Christine Ann Wilkie of Huntersville; his grandsons; stepdaughters Michelle Smith, Angela Pietro; and his step-grandchildren.

Memorials be made to the First Christian Church, 2035 Oleander Dr., Wilmington, NC 28403 or the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1002 Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen, NC 28315 or to The Brunswick Life Care Center of Lower Cape Fear Hospice, 1414 Physicians Dr., Wilmington, NC 28401.

Junnie C. Garrison, 84, of West End, died Friday, July 16, at his home.

He was born in Moore County the son of the late John Wesley Garrison and Monnie Smith Garrison. He

was a veteran of his country and served during World War II with the U.S. Navy, including two years in Australia as a secretary to Gen. Douglas MacArthur. During his service to his country, he was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, American Area, Asiatic-Pacific, and Philippine Liberation ribbons.

Mr. Garrison was a member of Culdee Presbyterian Church for over seventy years, a member of the Veterans of Foreign War and the American Legion Post No. 177, Southern Pines.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 19, at Culdee Presbyterian Church, West End. The Rev. Thomas

Spence and Pastor Jane Andrews officiated. Burial followed at the church cemetery, with military honors by the U.S. Navy.

He was preceded in death by six brothers, two sisters, and a grandson.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Dorothy Graham Garrison, of West End; two daughters, Teresa Garrison Ehrhardt of Julian, and Glenda Garrison Dick of West End; sister, Allie Lee Blue of Carthage; four grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Culdee Presbyterian Church, 924 NC 73, West End, NC 27376.

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Go Pink! with the Ladies of 7 Lakes West

The Ladies of Seven Lakes West invite everyone in the community to participate in their Fifth Annual Lunch & Golf Event, a fundraising event benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The event will take place at the Beacon Ridge Golf Club on Monday, September 13. The golf event starts at 9:00 am, but the Ladies of Seven Lakes West encourage you to come early to view all the great raffle prizes. For those attending the lunch only, you can join the group at 11:30 am for light snacks and lemonade. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm.

This year the ladies are encouraging women who do not play golf, to join them for a delicious lunch and the potential of winning the 50-50 or the Special Gift Raffle. The Special Gift Raffle consists of gifts donated by the many talented residents of Seven Lakes. The raffle prizes will guarantee a good time for all.

Anyone who wants to play the nine hole event can sign up in the women's locker at Beacon Ridge or contact Ellen Leslie at 673-5475. You will need to pay at the time of sign up to be registered as a confirmed reservation. For reservations for lunch only, contact Carolyn James 673-5056

If you are not able to attend and would still like to donate to the Susan G Komen Foundation, please make your checks payable to: Susan G. Komen NC Triangle Affiliates and can be sent to or given to Carolyn James, 5056 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

If you would like to purchase a book of chances for the 50-50 raffle; contact Sandi Keyser 673-3662.

The Ladies of Seven Lakes West hope you can join them and share in the fun and helping to contribute to such a worthy cause.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation promise is to save lives and end breast cancer forever.



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3/2 on 0.82 acres. Fenced yard, covered front porch, well maintained and updated! New heat pump 2010, newer floors, roof, freshly painted. **Great buy at \$137,500!**



SOLD!

163 GRANDE PINES CT. E
FOXFIRE
Beautiful home in Foxfire's gated community of Grande Pines!
\$595,000



SOLD!

120 WERTZ DR., 7 LAKES W
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Designed & built with the finest attention to detail. Enjoy Lake Auman sunrise from almost every room! Spacious, open, light & bright with all the upgrades! **\$412,500**



UNDER CONTRACT!

106 CARR CT., SL WEST
GREAT LAKE VIEWS!
4 Bed plus office! Carolina room, open floor plan, lots of upgrades, and great location on quiet cul-de-sac near community center! **\$385,000**



UNDER CONTRACT

112 DOUGLAS, SL WEST
ALL-BRICK LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT
Many updates, open floor plan with split bedrooms and tons of storage
Lower level guest suite, great views!
\$650,000



NEW LISTING!

165 MORRIS DR, SL WEST
AMAZING AUMAN WATERFRONT!
Desirable eastern exposure and wide open water views from almost every room! Lots of storage, beautiful Carolina room, dock & beach area! Priced to Sell at **\$660,000**



NEW LISTING!

105 LEE OVERLOOK
SEVEN LAKES WEST
WATERFRONT NEW CONSTRUCTION
Amazing views, great entertaining space and room for everyone!
\$1,250,000



NEW LISTING!

116 DENNIS CIRCLE, SL WEST
WATERFRONT ON LAKE AUMAN
3 bed /2.5 bath with great water frontage! Great floor plan with Carolina room. Well maintained, great views and nice dock!
\$540,000



NEW LISTING!

180 MORRIS, SL WEST
SALT WATER POOL!
Outdoor living at its best! Screened porch, great landscaping, 4BR + bonus room, open & roomy!
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BEST BUY!

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! **\$225,000**



UNDER CONTRACT!

119 LONGLEAF DR., SL WEST
Spacious home on over 1 acre, water view! 3 BR PLUS 2 multi-purpose rms! Open floorplan, heated & cooled garage, wooded backyard & many wonderful features! New Granite & Hardwoods!! **\$250,000**



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103 PINECONE COURT
SEVEN LAKES NORTH
3 BR, 2 BA, wonderful open floor plan with Carolina room and spacious back yard.
\$170,000



PRICE REDUCED!

119 PHILLIPS DRIVE
WATERFRONT LAKE AUMAN
Many updates include finishing over 1500 sq ft on lower level, new woodwork, new carpet, fresh paint, new bulkhead & composite dock! Priced to sell, at **\$525,000!**



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BACK ON MARKET!

101 SUNRISE POINT
SEVEN LAKES WEST
Waterfront masterpiece on Lake Auman! 5 Bedrooms, great views, dock, bulkhead, too many wonderful features to list!
\$1,200,000



BACK ON MARKET!

105 W DEVONSHIRE
SEVEN LAKES SOUTH
3 Br, 2 Ba, golf front with Carolina room, fenced yard, workshop, gas fireplace, nice layout!
\$200,000



BACK ON MARKET!

137 OWENS CIRCLE
SEVEN LAKES WEST
Beautifully renovated waterfront home on Lake Auman!
Priced to SELL at **\$465,000**

Lakes golfers raise funds for Backpack Pals

An exciting golf tournament hosted by Seven Lakers for Backpack Pals netted the program with \$9000 to be used for the children in the Moore County Public Schools.

Event coordinators were Ginger Finney and Jo Nicholas. With 120 golfers playing and enjoying the day's events at Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club on June 18, the tournament was a huge success.

Golfers enjoyed a deli lunch with a shot gun start at 12:30 pm. Many great prizes were awarded to the golfers. Everyone had a great time during the tournament.

The event was sponsored by North Carolina Electric Cooperatives with lunch being

donated by Lee Electrical Construction.

Many corporate sponsors assisted in the event by their contributions. Contributors included: Candy Alderman, DDS, Financial Analysts, Foundation of FirstHealth, J&L Home Services, Dr. Barry Kavanaugh Jr, O.D. P.A., Lee Electrical Construction, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Performance Anesthesia, Power Services and Jim & Linda Terrill.

Many companies sponsored holes for the event. Holes sponsors included: Aberdeen Exterminating, Watts Auman, Ray & Betsy Brezinski, Bunco Babes, Carolina Car Care, Dugan's Pub, Elliott's on Linden, Howard Gartman CPA,

Gentle Touch Home Care, Gorenflo Bierbaum & Campbell PLLC, Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes, Lee Moore Insurance, Ken & Olga Manning, Dr. Jennifer Massey DDS, McDonald's of Seven Lakes, NAPA Auto Care Center, New Century Staff; Nicholas, Finney & Lawless, Performance Anesthesia, Pinehurst Patio & Home Furnishings, Powell Funeral Home & Crematory, Real Estate Book, Seven Lakes Health & Fitness, The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Bill Smith Ford-Lincoln-Mercury-Mazda, Stackhouse Plumbing, Charles & Mary Lois Teyssier, and Tracy's Carpet.

A very special thanks went

to participating teams, Dean Allgeyer - General Manager and his staff at Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club, Coca

Cola Company of Aberdeen, US Food Services, First Bank and the Sandhills Tourist Center.



Jo Nicholas, Linda Hubbard, Coordinator of Backpack Pals Program and Ginger Finney

Schmidt offers art classes at 7 Lakes West

Andrea Schmidt, a renowned artist and dynamic teacher with more than 30 years experience, will be offering her popular art classes at West Side Park Community Center [WSPCC] this fall.

Classes will be offered in both Watercolor and Oil/Acrylic Painting.

All classes will be held on the lower level activity room of West Side Park Community Center and are limited to fourteen students each.

Instruction is designed for beginner and intermediate level students.

The cost is \$25 per student for each of the three 4-week classes (2-hours per week). Classes are open to all residents of Seven Lakes who must sign up at the WSPCC office to reserve a space.

Watercolor students will learn: 1. "Plein Air" painting on location using basic watercolor techniques, 2. Painting from self-provided photo, and 3. Live still life tech-

niques.

Choose either Monday morning from 10 am to 12 pm, September 6, 13, 20, and 27 or Wednesday mornings from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, September 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Oil/Acrylic students will

learn color values and structuring live subjects while working with photos of personal interest.

Friday morning classes from 10 am to 12 pm, September 10, 17, 24, and October 1.

The classes are sponsored

by the Seven Lakes West Community Activities Committee.

For more information, contact Schmidt at 673-1210.

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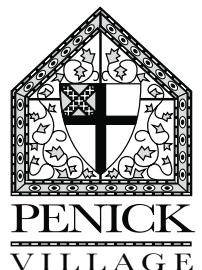
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To RSVP for this event, call us today at (910) 692-0386 or

(910) 692-0382. Visit us at www.penickvillage.org.



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(910) 692-0382 | (866) 545-1018 toll-free



Jeni & Billy play *The Rooster's Wife* Sunday

The ghosts of Appalachia haunt the lyrics and melodies of Jeni & Billy's music: coal miners and quilting bees, pentecostal preachers and beauty queens, moonshine and oxycodone, the quiet dignity and hard work of those who manage to carve a living out of the mountains.

The duo are out with a new CD of both traditional and original tunes — *Longing for Heaven* — that Maverick

Magazine calls "hope infused" and "totally genuine." The CD includes traditional tracks like the Carter Family's big 1929 hit "Single Girl" and, in the words of Chapel Hill novelist Lee Smith, "stunningly original" new numbers like "If I Ever Get Ten Dollars" and "The Ballad of Sally Kincaid."

They call it "New Old Music." Spare yet tight acoustic arrangements — voice and fiddle, banjo and

guitar, guitar and fiddle — are its muscle and bone. And its soul is the new, yet ancient melodies and harmonies Jeni & Billy craft while weaving stories of the mountains.

They bring their New Old Music to the Rooster's Wife Summer on the Porch Concert Series in Aberdeen Sunday night, August 8, at 6:00 pm.

Just back from a month-long tour of the United Kingdom, Jeni & Billy played Yorkshire's famed Beverley Folk Festival and the North Wales Bluegrass Festival in Conwy -- and in clubs, theaters, and "front rooms" from Manchester to Cornwall.

Earlier this Spring they were proclaimed the "hardest working band at Merlefest" when they played eleven shows during the North Wilkesboro festival hosted by North Carolina's legendary father of the flatpick guitar, Doc Watson.

Jeni & Billy bring to their work distinct musical backgrounds that draw from the deep well of Appalachian roots music.

Jeni Hankins traces her vocal style to Virginia Lowe,

the blind music minister of the Friendly Chapel Church on Smith Ridge, the Appalachian community in which Jeni spent her childhood summers. A natural storyteller and prolific writer since childhood, Jeni trained formally with Pulitzer-Prize-winning Northern Irish poet, Paul Muldoon, and earned a Masters in English Literature. While her singing has been compared to the lonesome voices of Maybelle Carter and Iris Dement, her writing has been likened to that of Southerners Carson McCullers, Flannery O'Connor, and Lee Smith. She is the daughter of Marcy and Greg Hankins, publisher of *The Seven Lakes Times*.

Billy Kemp, a Baltimore native, embraced the sound of country music in the nearby community of Oella — the home of Appalachian migrants who came to the

city looking for work in the mills. Fired on by dreams of the Grand Old Opry and his passion for the sound of Flatt & Scruggs, Billy headed to Nashville and toured with country bands all over the US, Canada, Germany, and right onto the stage of the Opry. He honed and shared his skills as both student and instructor at the University of Maryland, and built a producing career working with roots artists.

Jeni & Billy continue the country tradition of the sweet-heart duo, winning hearts with their genuine presence on stage and their true to life recordings, while bearing witness to the simple grace of plain folks.

More information on the duo is available at jeniand-billy.com; their CDs are available on CDBaby.com.



Jeni & Billy on Merlefest's Americana Stage this Spring.



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STR0908

Brush up on your computer skills at SCC

Today, computer skills are essential for the workplace, and Sandhills Community College offers short-term classes that provide needed training.

"Learning Windows and the Internet" provides the basics of Microsoft Windows. Students will also learn to navigate Windows and the Internet, perform Internet job

searches, and use e-mail. An afternoon class will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 17 through September 9 from 2 to 5 pm on the Pinehurst campus. An evening class will meet Mondays and Tuesdays, August 17 through September 13 from 5 to 7:30 pm at the Westmoore Center in Robbins.

A "Computer Lab" class will be held Mondays through Thursdays August 16 through September 2 from 8:30 to 11:30 am on the Pinehurst campus. Users receive one-on-one assistance to enhance computer skills of their choice.

HRD courses provide skills assessment, employment skills training, and career development and enhancement. HRD courses are offered in short classes to equip students with the knowledge, values, and practical skills essential to applying for, keeping, and advancing in a job.

Registration fee is \$120 plus a \$5 tech fee, however, HRD courses are free to qualified participants. Qualified participants are unemployed, have been notified of a lay-off, or underemployed. Underemployed persons are working part-time and/or are eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

In addition, students who

successfully complete the HRD series may be eligible for a Continuing Education scholarship.

For more information or to register for any HRD class, call Jenny Troyer at 910-695-3926 or 800-338-3944,

ext. 3926.

View the entire fall semester schedule at www.sandhills.edu. The site contains a calendar of every Continuing Education class on the start date and full information about all classes.

IC & Celiac Support Group

Moore County FirstHealth of the Carolina's will hold their first support group meeting, Tuesday, September 7, at 7 pm, in Conference Center Room "C".

This first meeting will be filled with informative helpful information that will include free brochures, packets, and more. The group will listen to participants that have IC and Celi-

ac disease or have family members with either one or both diseases.

The group will meet once a month, and in the future have special guest speakers, share recipes, and helpful advice from other members of the group.

For more information contact Diane Evans at 910-673-3992 or Jean Schrier at 910-295-3744.

Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club

The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club meets at 10:00 am, the first Saturday of the month, at the Club's meeting house located at 3280 Jackson Springs Road in Jackson Springs. The SPBC is open to anyone interested in the pointing dog breeds. Dog ownership is not required. For more information about the club, contact Donna Boyce at dboyce@nc.rr.com or 246-0190.



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SLCC offers Golf Pass Program

Seven Lakes Country Club, the Sandhills Golf Association's Course of the Year for 2010, is announcing the introduction of their newest promotion to familiarize local golfers with the Club.

The 2010 Golf Pass promotion provides an opportunity for interested golfers to purchase one of a limited number of a six round pre-paid pass for \$240 that will allow them to enjoy a seventh round of golf on the Club's Top 100 golf course for free.

Reservations for Golf Pass rounds can be made as many as five days in advance and

all rounds must be played by December 31, 2010.

Golfers can easily obtain more information on the Golf Pass opportunity by contacting the Golf Shop staff at (910) 673-1092 or by simply stopping by the Clubhouse to register and pick up their cards.

With cooler days ahead, the 2010 Golf Pass represents a great opportunity to catch up on some of the rounds that didn't get played earlier in the year due to the excessively hot or cold weather on a highly acclaimed four star world class course in your own backyard.

North, South, West Open

Join the Seven Lakes Country Club on Saturday, August 21 for a 8:30 am Shotgun start inaugurating the Seven Lakes North, South, West Open.

Cost for the tournament will be \$35 per member (\$70 per team) and \$50 for nonmembers (\$100 per team).

The Format is Fourball Competition - "Better Ball of Partners"- Men or Women with official USGA Handicap. Players must reside in

the same geographic development to qualify for this event (Seven Lakes North, South or West).

The winning team will have their names engraved on a trophy including the development that they reside in. The trophy will be displayed in the Seven Lakes Country Club trophy case.

Register at Seven Lakes Country Club Golf Shop or contact Gene Roberts with questions, 910-673-1092 ext. 2, or slccgolf@nc.rr.com



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229 West Devonshire • Seven Lakes South • Call Judy • \$339,500

New Listing!



One Owner, custom-built, well-cared-for brick ranch nestled on an almost 3/4 acre lot. Large bright Carolina room. Pella® Windows, central vac, Oversized two-car garage.

112 Dorset • Seven Lakes South • \$234,500

New Listing!



3BR/2BA Ranch with good potential for the do-it-yourself-er. Could be great investment property. Generous sized Living, Dining, and Master bedroom. Best price in Seven Lakes.

102 Pleasant View Lane • Seven Lakes North • \$114,900

Four Bedroom Lakeview • Great Price!



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101 Pinewood Court • Seven Lakes North • \$219,900

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273 Longelaf • Seven Lakes West • \$239,000

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Renowned historian to teach at Sandhills

Distinguished visiting scholar Dr. Julian Pleasants will teach two history courses during the fall semester at Sandhills Community College.

This eminent historian will join the Sandhills faculty as the North Caroliniana Scholar in Residence, a position funded by the North Caroliniana Society to help raise awareness of North Carolina and American history among college students. This marks the first time that a community college has been selected for this honor.

Dr. Pleasants will teach a survey course, "North Carolina History" during the Fall Mini-Mester, which will run from September 22 until December 14. This is a curriculum course, which means it is taken for college credit.

He will also teach, "Modern North Carolina History: A Field Guide for the Oral Historian" through the Center for Creative Retirement. This course will explain how one prepares for and collects oral history interviews. He will go into legal and ethical issues, transcribing and editing, researching and designing

questions, and what equipment to use and how to use it. This class will be limited to 15 students. It will be offered on Thursday evenings from August 19 through October 7 and again on Tuesday evenings from October 26 through December 7.

As part of both courses, students will interview local North Carolina figures and report their findings to the class. This research will serve as the beginning of the Oral History Program, which will document important developments that have occurred in this part of the state, such as golf, Native Americans, and tourism.

"If you know the history of this state and understand how the state has evolved, you ultimately understand where you came from," Dr. Pleasants explained. "Once you have that knowledge, you can make sound decisions in voting and contributing to the community. In addition, this knowledge helps people understand other people's perspectives."

"Any time someone teaches, he or she always wants to impart knowledge. Yet, often-

times with history, students focus on memorizing dates. I hope that students will remember the significant events and important people who shaped broad changes and movements that impact everyone."

Dr. Pleasants understands the importance of critical thinking and incorporates this into his courses. "I challenge students to explain their points of view. I hope that students will organize their thoughts and use historical facts to support their beliefs," he said.

"When I found out that it would be Sandhills, I became very interested," explained Dr. Pleasants, who was born and raised in Southern Pines and has retired to Chapel Hill. He looks forward to teaching this courses and establishing the Oral History Program at the college.

Dr. Pleasants has published six books, including two about North Carolina history "Frank Porter Graham and the State Election of 1950 in North Carolina" and "Buncombe Bob: The Life and Times of Robert Rice Reynolds," edited one book

and has written numerous published articles.

Registration for fall semester curriculum classes is on August 12. New students need to apply, request transcripts, take the Accuplacer test, and pre-advise on or prior to August 10. New students can apply online or in the Student Services Department in Stone Hall. All registration information can be found at www.sandhills.edu or by calling 695-3725. Fall semester begins on Aug. 16.

Registration and payment for the Center for Creative

Retirement class can be made at the Continuing Education office located on the first floor of Van Dusen Hall during the College's scheduled hours of operation. Phone-in registration, (910) 695-3980, requires payment with Visa, MasterCard or Discover. The fee is waived for those 65 and older.

View the entire Curriculum, Center for Creative Retirement, and Continuing Education fall semester class schedules at www.sandhills.edu.

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Lake Auman gets some new young sailors

Lake Auman now has seven new young sailors, thanks to the "Kids' Learn to Sail" course held July 21-23. The

course was sponsored by the SLW Events Committee, and taught by members of the Seven Lakes Sailing Club.

All of the students quickly learned and performed skills on the lake using borrowed American 14-6 and Sunfish

sailboats.

Dick Williams and Don Polard served as safety boats. John and Mandy Goodman, Ed and Diane Silberhorn, Mercedes Herdrich, Lee Foreman, Dan Blue, Jan Gustafson, Mary Ann Fewkes and Jane Sessler loaned their sailboats for the course.

A very special thanks goes to Mary Anne and Bob Fewkes, Jan Gustafson, Dan Blue, Mercedes Herdrich and Jane Sessler for instructing these very enthusiastic stu-

dents.

Jan and Gus Gustafson also generously hosted the group at their home and waterfront.



Young New Sailors of Lake Auman – Ryan and Emily Echols, Jacob Nazdan, Alex Allen, Dylan Meade, and Liam Nowicki and (not available for photo: Ryan Clark)

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Our Gastroenterology Department and many of our Primary Care Physicians will be moving to our new facility in August —

Starting on August 2, the following physicians will be relocating to the second floor of our new Heather Glen building:

Jeffrey Binney, MD Michael Daley, MD Jackson Gibson, MD
David Hipp, MD Melody King, MD Padiwath Ung, MD

Starting on August 9, the following physicians will be relocating to the second floor of our new Heather Glen building:

Michael Antil, MD Julie Baugher, MD Greg Blakely, MD Kathleen Letizia, MD
Philip Mondl, MD Michael Sobociro, MD Jennifer Szurgot, MD

Starting on August 16, the following physicians will be relocating to the first floor of our new Heather Glen building:

Wayne Lucas, MD David Martin, MD Thomas Swantkowski, MD
Ravikant Varanasi, MD Diane Williams, MD, MHS



Bolton

(Continued from page 5)
nia.

She credits this level of exceptional editing and development work as necessary tools to produce her top quality pictures. Hence, Bolton delivers a proof CD to customers so prints can be ordered through her carefully selected professional photography lab. Prices vary by event and time, but a portrait session includes a standard two to three hour photo

shoot with wardrobe and location changes, and then her time, talent, and creativity in the editing process.

A twenty-year resident of

Seven Lakes West, Michelle is also a co-owner of Bolton Builders with her husband, Chuck, and works as an interior designer and decorator

for their customers.

To view samples of Bolton's work, visit her blog at www.michelleboltonphotography.blogspot.com, at

Michelle Bolton Photography on Facebook, or she can be reached at 673-8960 or at michelleboltonphotography@gmail.com.



Michelle Bolton

Mental Illness Support Group

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)-Moore County moves to new meeting place. NAMI-MC will now hold its monthly meetings at the Community Room located in the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, located at the corners of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings and programs are free and open to the public. For information call (910) 295-1053 or go to www.nami-moorecounty.org



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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 2)

it attempts to short-circuit this schedule.

The letter, after describing the West Side's incorporation study process, asks Boles and Blake to "delay any legislative initiatives until our findings can be presented to the community with adequate time for our members to consider the information, ask questions, participate in community forums and make informed decisions. That would mean delaying any legislative action until the Spring of 2011 at the earliest."

If Blake or Boles can introduce legislation at any point during the 2011 "long session," there may be no conflict between the IncorporateSevenlakes.com petition drive and the West Side's request for a delay.

Speaking with *The Times* after the July 27 meeting, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn said he wasn't sure whether the Board was fully aware of the calendar of the Joint Commission and the General Assembly when they cast their votes to approve the letter.

Silberhorn questions changes in petition

During the meeting, Sil-

berhorn told the Board he had been involved in an email exchange with IncorporateSevenLakes.com's Randy Merritt, trying to understand whether the group had changed the menu of "essential services" that its proposed town would offer. Merritt confirmed that the group had initially thought the town would offer fire protection, but had since backed away from that as an initial offering.

Silberhorn said he had suggested to Merritt that the group might want to reconfirm with those who had signed its petition, since someone who signed on the basis of having fire protection included might object to its removal. "I am sure he will cogitate on it," Silberhorn said.

Johnson Point Security

President Ron Shepard said he had heard complaints

about the use of Johnson Point by unauthorized persons. Noting that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's [SLLA] roving patrol checks the membership cards of those using Sequoia Point and other amenities, he said the West Side may need to consider a similar enforcement policy, though that "would be a little touchy."

Infrastructure projects underway

Director Goodman reported that some pothole patching would be taking place throughout the community over the next several weeks, using both cold and hot patches, as needed. One complaint has been with a pothole along the railroad tracks at the front gate. Director Silberhorn recommended contacting the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway to see whether they would make the repair in that location --

or, if not, would allow the Association to make the repair.

Other projects coming up in the near term include correcting erosion at Shaw and Schever, along Longleaf between Anchor and Logan, and at a Dennis Circle location.

Goodman said his committee will meet with Dam Engineer Dan Marks during his visit on Tuesday, August 3, to discuss plans for repairing the overflow pipes at the lower Lakeway Mall pond, as well as potentially altering the top surface to correct a steep dropoff and provide a pedestrian walkway. Similar culvert problems near the Zebbley property will be dealt with at the same time. Funding for both projects is avail-

able in this year's budget. Goodman said.

Westside Stickers Available

Director Hoffmann said about twenty residents have purchased the new \$5 SLWLA windshield decals that will be recognized for entry at the gates of Seven Lakes North and South. Though a SLWLA membership card should also provide entry without an invitation from a North or South-sider, Hoffmann said, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] would prefer that Westsiders acquire the stickers -- or SLLA barcodes -- to improve traffic flow at the gates and to help roving security patrol distinguish vehicles belonging to Westsiders from


(See "Westside," p. 17)



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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 16)

those belonging to visitors.

Hoffmann said a lightning strike had blown out the electronics in one of the back gate operators, evidently because the unit took a direct hit. Other electronic equipment at the scene -- cameras, cables, modems, and a digital video recorder -- were protected from damage by the \$4,500 worth of lightning protection installed at the back gate. That protection should save the Association about \$10,000 per year, Hoffmann said, as well as reducing insurance claims that were making the SLWLA a less attractive customer for underwriters.

Public Comment

During the meeting's public comment periods:

Longleaf resident Nancy Beck objected to the \$25 per boat fine the Association levied against those who failed to complete the boat registration process by the deadline. She noted that she had been fined even though she had turned in all but one element of the required documentation by the deadline.

Gene Lenz said he felt the Board had made a bad decision in annexing all of the Parkwood subdivision save a single lot, allowing the occupants of that property access to Association-provided security without paying dues. Legal Director Silberhorn explained that the Association had no power to forcibly annex the property in question or to deny the owners access to their property. However, they are not members of the Association and have no right to use Association amenities, Silberhorn said.

Mercedes Herdrich asked why a monthly financial report was not available at the meeting. Treasurer Sikes asked Community Manager Frost to make sure copies were available for the public to pick up at each Board meeting.

Bob Horne asked a number of questions related to the removal of the current mailhouse and construction of a new gatehouse called for in

the recently releases entries master plan. President Shepard said the Long Range Planning Committee will be doing a presentation on the plan in August; Director Goodman offered to go over some of the details with Horne "offline."

Praising the Board for the settlement of a lawsuit with Lakeside Development that placed the gate area in SLWLA hands, Don Freiert asked whether the front gate sign could be changed to read "Seven Lakes West," instead of "Beacon Ridge."

Former SLWLA President Bill Mamel thanked the Board Members for being good representatives of the membership.

Other Business

In other business during the SLWLA's Tuesday, July 28 Work Session:

- The meeting began with a reception honoring Denise Duncan, who is leaving to care for her ailing father after serving the West Side for eighteen years.

- The Board approved at the request of Treasurer Joe Sikes the following roster for the Finance Committee: Ed Tuton, Don Freiert, and Don O'Shea.

- Director Hoffmann said that a drive around the community would reveal that "there is a fair amount of non-compliance" when it comes to landowners maintaining their property appropriately. He asked that the community "think about this" and encouraged residents to report non-compliant properties to the Community Manager.

- Recreation Director Jane Sessler announced that the next Johnson Point First Friday Concert will be held this Friday, August 6 and will feature the Fog Blues Band.

- Director Hoffmann thanked Ron Barrons and Jim Ferguson for working with him to spruce up the front gatehouse.

- The Board approved the recombination of Lots 5562 and 5563, subject to receiving a copy of a divorce decree to establish ownership.

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Kiwanis Lt. Governor visits Seven Lakes

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On Tuesday, July 20, Ms. Rose McAllister, current Kiwanis Lt. Governor, visited the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club. Her brief comments covered a recent trip to Brazil to study their Public School systems. Her observations of the schooling in Brazil indicated that they were really quite poor, and as a result a huge number of children are being deprived of an adequate edu-

cation from the Public School System. The story is quite different if a child can be sent to a private school.

Although Ms. McAllister will be leaving office in the not too distant future, she would like to create a districtwide project to help improve Public School education in Brazil before she vacates the office.

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



Ed Schemp, President, Seven Lakes Kiwanis and Rose McAllister, Kiwanis Lt. Governor

Harris attends seminar

Mark Harris, a Modern Woodmen of America representative has completed a five day life insurance educational program at Modern Woodmen's home office in Rock Island, IL.



Mark Harris

The program focused on helping families with Modern Woodmen life insurance plans, annuities and fraternal member benefits.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

- **Casual Fridays** – Everyone welcome to “Casual Fridays” at the Seven Lakes Country Club. A night of socializing and/or game playing. Feel free to bring your own games or you can join in with others playing games that will be provided. Buffet \$8.15 +tax & gratuity. For more details, call SL Country Club at 673-1100.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

- **31st Annual Revolutionary War Battle Reenactment** – 9 am to 5 pm, at the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site better known as the Alston House, 10 miles north of Carthage. A reenactment of a raid on Col. Philip Alston by Col. David Fanning on July 29, 1781. The house was built around 1772. Reenactors will be on site in period clothing and camps and various crafts and skills will be on display. Demonstrations of 18th Century artillery. Battle at 4 pm. Food and drink vendors on site. Admission is Free. Call John Hairr, site Manager at the Alston House, Alex Cammeron, Roy Thames at 910-947-2051.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr.,

Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist. Rev. Robert Brown. Pentecost 5, Proper 11. Gospel Luke 9: 28-36. All are welcome.

• **31st Annual Revolutionary**



What's When Calendar

War Battle

Reenactment – noon to 4 pm, at the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site better known as the Alston House, 10 miles north of Carthage. A reenactment of a raid on Col. Philip Alston by Col. David Fanning on July 29, 1781. The house was built around 1772. Reenactors will be on site in period clothing and camps and various crafts and skills will be on display. Demonstrations of 18th Century artillery. Food and drink vendors on site. Admission is Free. Call 910-947-2051.

- **Amazing Adaptations** – 3 pm. How does the flora and

fauna survive in the sandhills with such sandy soils and frequent fires? Come learn about some of the amazing adaptations that plants and animals

here have developed in order to survive in this region. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve,

1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

- **Summer on the Porch Music Series** – 6 pm, Jeni and Billy on stage tonight. Tickets \$8. Postmaster's House. 204 E. South Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 8:30 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – 10:30 am, monthly meeting, at Com-

munity Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. Guest speaker Darlind Davis, Executive Director, Drug Free Moore County, a coalition of agencies and organizations whose mission is to reduce alcohol and drug use. Additional information about NARFE is available by contacting: Vilma Geisert (910) 215-5898 or George Sandoval (910) 246-9881.

- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 to 9 pm, at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland and Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. The Club will hold a Digital competition on the topic of “Stop Action.” Susan Bailey of Raleigh will be the judge. An avid Photoshop and Corel Painter user, is on the Board of the Carolinas' Nature Photographers Association (CNPA) and plans their annual meeting and large weekend photo outings, recently completed her judging certificate from the Photographic Society of America. All guests are welcomed. www.sandhill-

photoclub.org.

- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211 (Exxon Station), just east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$10 for six wines and food from Goldie's. Located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Family Camp Out** – 7:30 pm, Sequoia Point. An evening of traditional Summer fun featuring s'mores & songs around the campfire, stargazing. Families

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- **Casual Fridays** – Everyone welcome to “Casual Fridays” at the Seven Lakes Country Club. A night of socializing and/or game playing. Feel free to bring your own games or you can join in with others playing games that will be provided. One item entrée buffet is also offered for \$8.15 +tax & gratuity. Reservations suggested but not required. This is the place to be on Friday nights. For more details, call SL Country Club at 673-1100.

- **Women of Weymouth and Elliott's on Linden Fundraiser** – The event will be an indoor “Picnic in Provence.” The evening begins at 6:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm with a live auction during the event and this will give everyone an opportunity to purchase wine baskets as part of the fundraiser. Cost for the Picnic in Provence is \$45 per person, includes wine. Reservations for this great summer evening at Weymouth Center may be made by calling Weymouth at 910-692-6261.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14,

- **Sandhills Children's Center** – hosting its third Annual Backyard Bocce Bash, at The Harness Track, Pinehurst. VIP Team of four is \$350 or Team of four is

\$100. For additional information, please contact Teresa Copper or Kathy Desmond by calling (910) 692-3323 or visit our website at www.BackyardBocce.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Fred Thompson, Priest Associate. Pentecost 12, Proper 15. Gospel Luke 12: 32-40. All are welcome.
- **North Carolina State Parks** – 3 pm, Take a journey from the highest mountain east of the Black Hills in South Dakota to the highest sand dune on the East Coast. Discover the amazing diversity, natural heritage and history that is protected and preserved in our state park system. Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

- **“Budding Artist”** – Beginners Art with Laine Lea (3-day class) through August 18. Classes for Age: 5 to 8 years - 9:30 to 11:30 am, and 9 to 12 years - 1 to 3 pm. Cost is \$85 (Proceeds to benefit the Adopt-A-Dancer program- all donations are tax deductible). Classes will be held at CPAC Studios, 670 SW Broad St., Southern Pines. Beginning painting and

drawing. Call 910-528-1169 or the CPAC Studio 910-695-7898 for registration or additional information.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

- **Moore Chamber and Town of Carthage Sponsor Blood Drive** – 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, The Moore County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Red Cross Blood drive at the Carthage Community Center, 203 Barrett Street, Carthage. Donors are urgently needed. Contact the Chamber at (910) 692-3926 to schedule a time to donate. This is a wonderful opportunity to assist those in need. The goal for this donation day is to have 45 donors. Everyone may register to win a \$1000 gift card. Give the gift of life, the life you save may be a friend.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$10 for six wines and food from Goldie's. Located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

- **Casual Fridays** – Everyone welcome to “Casual Fridays” at the Seven Lakes Country Club. A night of socializing and/or game playing. Feel free to bring your own games or you can join in with others playing games that will be provided. Buffet \$8.15 +tax & gratuity. This is the place to be on Friday nights. SL Country Club at 673-1100.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

- **North, South & West Open Golf Tournament** – Seven Lakes Country Club, 8:30 am Shotgun start. Cost for tournament \$35 per member (\$70 per team),

\$50 for nonmembers (\$100 per team). Entry fee includes cart fee, range balls, lunch and prizes. Format is Fourball Competition - “Better Ball of Partners”- Men or Women with official USGA Handicap. Players must reside in the same geographic development to qualify for this event (Seven Lakes North, Seven Lakes South or Seven Lakes West). Register at Seven Lakes Country Club Golf Shop or contact Gene Roberts if you have any questions, 673-1092 ext. 2, or slccgolf@nc.rr.com

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Auman Dam

(Continued from front page)

repairs in precisely the area where the worst core deterioration has occurred.

"I do empathize with those of you that are inconvenienced by closing the road," Marks said. "But I can't as a professional engineer advise you to open that road, with the possibility that those three things could cause a failure."

"I understand the inconvenience," he said. "I would probably feel the same way, because I love water. I love dams. I would love to get up every morning and drive across that dam with its view of Lake Auman. But I also know that my big old Ford Lariat with all my stuff totals out about 5000 lbs. Why should I take the risk of ruining the best thing in my life to save five minutes?"

The decision whether to reopen the road does not fall, ultimately, to Marks, but rather to the SLWLA Board of Directors. Director Mick Herdrich said at the meeting's conclusion that the Dam Committee would study the

information provided by Marks, consider options, and make a recommendations to the Board about next steps. In the past, Herdrich has left open the possibility that the

Creek, which meanders down toward Jackson Springs. Should Lake Auman Dam ever fail, Marks said, there would be twelve feet of water in Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church.

The dam is built of earth, with an exterior of silty sand -- the kind of soil Seven Lakers find in their

yards -- and a core of Triassic clay. Though that sort of clay is used in making bricks, the clays in Lake Auman dam have not been fired into solid bricks, but rather compacted with earth-moving equipment.

Unfortunately, Triassic clay can become suspended in water, and does not readily settle out. All dams either

leak or seep water, Marks said. As water seeps through the porous outer surface of the Lake Auman Dam, it passes through the clay, saturating it into a putty-like substance, and, very gradually, carries some of the core

away.

As a result, prior to the remediation, the water level inside the dam had begun to rise, saturating the soils on the face of the dam, and threatening its structural

(See "Auman," p. 23)

"Why should I take the risk of ruining the best thing in my life to save five minutes?"

— Dr. Dan Marks, Dam Engineer

committee might recommend seeking a second opinion for another engineer.

A dam primer

Marks began his presentation with a review of Lake Auman Dam's structure and a primer on how it is supposed to work, and how it had begun to deteriorate before the remediation.

To drive home the importance of its structural integrity, he noted that the dam is classified by the State of North Carolina as a "high-hazard dam," meaning that a failure of the dam would almost certainly cause significant property damage and possible loss of life.

Lake Auman, he explained, drains into the small Willow

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Auman Dam

(Continued from page 22)

integrity.

The repair

The remediation undertaken last year involved passing a vibrating steel beam through the top of the dam, ramming it as far as it would go into the core, and filling behind it with a slurry made of clays and cement. The result is a sort of replacement for the original core that will stop the passage of water high in the structure, forcing the seeping water toward the bottom of the dam.

The process began on the east, or left side, of the dam and proceeded for two weeks with better than expected results -- that is, the depth that the vibrating beam was able to penetrate averaged eighteen feet -- less than the twenty feet Marks had anticipated. The depth the beam can penetrate is determined by the firmness of the soil it encounters.

But then, as the process neared the west -- or right -- side of the dam, the beam began to penetrate lower and lower into the core, reaching depths of forty feet or more, and indicating that the core deterioration in that section was far worse than Marks had anticipated. It is this much worse than anticipated deterioration that provides one of Marks' reasons for keeping the the dam road closed.

Marks and the contractor addressed this development by extending the slurry wall approximately 100 feet further toward the right side of the dam than originally planned, reaching depths on the far right side that were more in the 20-foot range.

The risk

Marks said he could not yet explain why the core deterioration in the right side of the dam was so much worse than elsewhere in the structure.

One possibility is that the clays used in that portion of the core were less suitable. He said he had been studying photographs taken during construction under a micro-

scope and could definitely conclude that the soils used on the right side of the dam were a different color, suggesting a different composition.

Another possibility is that the impact energy created by vehicles traveling through the emergency spillway dip caused the putty-like clay in

the core to more rapidly become suspended in and carried away by seepage water.

He said he planned, with the support of the Association, to continue to study the dam, taking core samples, in order to better understand the problems on its right side.

Marks did say that the dam is probably in better shape now -- after the remediation -- than it has likely ever been.

"It's like open heart surgery," Marks explained. "Once you've had it, you're better off than you have been in years. But that doesn't mean you don't have to be careful."

The Questions

Marks fielded dozens of questions, many of them aimed in one way or another at a central concern: "Is there anything the West Side can do to reopen the road across the dam?"

Given the engineer's concern about the impact on

(See "Auman," p. 28)

INCORPORATION

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For information or to become part of the group that sponsored this ad, send your name and email address to Save7Lakes@gmail.com

Prepared by Nancy Workman on behalf of Save7Lakes.

Knocking down walls at the Douglass den

A consummate professional, I've spent the morning working from my home office in standard business attire: barefoot.

So it's not exactly the sensible pumps of my feminist forbearers but the dog doesn't seem to mind — or the cat on my lap, for that matter. It's just another routine day in front of the flickering screen on my journey to carpal tunnel city.

But my view has changed. Today I can see my refrigerator!

No, that's wrong.

What I actually see is a sea of magnets battenning down a colorful plethora of snips of

paper with artistic renderings of armed stick people, courtesy of the pirate, and gooey, glittery homemade cards, courtesy of the princess. Somewhere hiding stealth underneath this mish-mash of parental pride hums the fridge.

Not that I'm complaining. A week ago my desk overlooked a blank wall.

Remember the scene in "Fried Green Tomatoes" when Evelyn took a sledgehammer to her wall? All the while yelling to her gobsnapped husband that she couldn't breathe and that what the house needed was more air.

It was kind of like that.

Well, not really.

I decided to knock a hole in my house too, I just didn't get to do the deed personally: Harry did it.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

He built my house twenty years ago, so who better to tear it down I figured? Or at least an eight-foot load-bearing part of it anyway.

Like Evelyn, now I can breathe. And see my fridge, it turns out, from my desk — that being the slab of wood which occasionally serves its less than primary purpose as a dining room table.

Unfortunately, this little renovation project also means my in-box is full of drywall dust and the

remaining walls could double as spackled paintball targets, which are actually an improvement over my cabinetry.

Like my totally tubular Valley Girl impersonation and the Lover Boy cassette stashed in the Mommy-van, these Almond Joy-colored euro gems are straight out of the 80's.

But I have a plan.

Once Harry sands and seams what's left of the wall, I have rustic Quaker-style cabinet doors set in timeless maple on the way, courtesy of Carey.

Of course, you know what this means? It'll be 'hari kari' in the Douglass kitchen for awhile.

Guess I'd better order take-out — again.

Incorporation: There's no turning back

I am concerned that the loudest voices on incorporation will automatically be considered to be the majority. A great number of people are still thoughtfully considering the pros and cons.

As I see it, there are three key factors that are either a positive or negative for incorporation:

1. There is a fear among some

that we may be forcibly annexed by Pinehurst.

2. There is a concern that we do not have the political influence appropriate for a community of our size.

3. There are arguments pro and con concerning the financial impact of incorporation.

First, the fear of Pinehurst seems to be coming from the

Pinewild annexation. The Pinewild development started out in the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of Pinehurst, and it was always a foregone conclusion that it would ultimately be included in the Pinehurst corporate limits. Currently, the people in authority in

Pinehurst say they have no interest in a current or future annexation of Seven Lakes. If their position ever changes we can then respond in whatever way we deem most appropriate at that time.

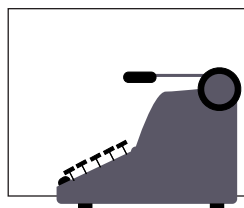
Second, we are told that by incorporating we would be the third largest municipality in Moore County. But we are the third largest voting group whether we incorporate or not. If we do not have appropriate influence in Carthage it is because we are not using the influence that is available to us. Perhaps we should coordinate better politically by encouraging more cooperation

between our respective homeowners associations and business guild.

Third, is incorporation a good or bad deal financially?

Your Turn

Mike Thomas
Seven Lakes West



There are two key points to keep in mind when considering the finances of incorporation:

1. Homeowners associations use volunteers extensively to get things done. Municipalities use employees to get things done. Employees have to be paid and may or may not have a vested interest in the community.

2. Even if our tax rate were to start out low, it is impossible to accurately predict where that rate will eventually go. The lowest municipal tax rate in Moore County is Pinehurst at 28 cents per \$100; the highest is Robbins at 66 cents.

The average municipal tax rate in this county is 43 cents. Isn't it reasonable to assume that our tax rate would eventually begin to look more like the other municipal governments in our county?

As for our getting funds from the county or state, we need to remember that these governments across our nation are struggling with huge budget deficits or huge cut backs in spending. Our county and state are no exceptions. Even if some funds were available today, there is no guarantee that those funds won't be lost under a budget ax tomorrow.

I think Seven Lakes is one of the best places in the world to live.

My greatest fear is that we mess that up. If we were to incorporate, there is no turning back if you decide you don't like it.

I prefer improving Seven Lakes with options that can be changed if we decide they don't do what we originally intended.

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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and Thomas J. Tucker

Let's let the community vote on incorporation

Dear Editor:

I believe residents should be allowed to vote — for or against — incorporating the town of Seven Lakes.

However, I read that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board will

attempt to block the current incorporation petition initiative. Their stated reason: “. . . until the Association's study of incorporation is complete . . . currently scheduled to wrap up in December . . .”

Regardless of your position on incorporation here are a few points for your consideration:

1. A successful incorporation petition doesn't mean incorporation is a done deal. A referendum on incorpora-

tion will be required that will allow Seven Lakes residents to vote for or against incorporation.

2. The timeline for the referendum vote could not occur before early to late spring of 2011.

3. The Landowner's Board has stated their incorporation studies will be completed no later than December 2010.

4. Given this timeline, there will be a period of 3 to 4 months for residents to review any studies produced by the Landowner's Board.

I'm not sure why this group is working so hard to block our right to vote on the question of incorporating Seven Lakes. But one thing is for sure . . . it's not related to completing any incorporation study.

If you also believe that the residents of Seven Lakes — not a landowner's board — should be deciding the question of incorporation, sign the incorporation petition, so we all have an equal voice in the outcome of this issue.

Jim Haggard
Seven Lakes West

More conjecture?

Dear Editor:

The advertisement placed in *The Seven Lakes Times'* July 23, 2010 issue did a good job of debunking some of the myths associated with incorporation efforts. However, I have to take exception with the facts presented in support of the .05 property tax rate.

The ad offered as a fact that “20 NC towns do quite well with such a low rate” . . . and then went on to name five towns, ending with “all of which closely approximate our population and projected budget . . .” That's a bit of a stretch.

Three of the five towns approximate our population. According to public records, Wallburg and Tobaccoville both have less than 3,000 residents (we have over 5,000). That leaves Unionville, Pleasant Gardens and Fairview — are they good examples of towns with ade-

quate budgets using a .05 tax rate? Well, no, not really. To have a fair comparison we need to look at comparable population as well as year of incorporation. Why is that so important?

Towns that incorporate after the year 2000 must provide 4 of 8 “essential services” to their residents. The more services you provide, the larger your town budget has to be to pay for those services. Those towns that incorporated before the year 2000 have no such requirements.

Both Unionville and Pleasant Gardens incorporated before 2000 and their budgets contain no provisions for multiple essential services, such as Public Safety (fire, police). Only Fairview was incorporated after the year 2000.

I'll take whatever help I can get that clears up the confusion about incorpora-

tion, but let's not stretch the facts to fit the argument.

Mercedes Herdrich
Seven Lakes West

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Sally Kindsvatter: 'I hate the gates'

Dear Editor:

I hate the Gates!

When Dick and I moved to Seven Lakes thirteen years ago, we were enchanted with our new home and surroundings. The people were warm, friendly and active; bridge, golf and tennis kept us busy and life was good.

We had never lived in a gated community and were not thrilled with the idea of gates, but we were open minded.

The concept of a gated community soon lost its charm, however. There were traffic problems, accidents, confusion about "who goes first," and many hours of

unmanned gates or gates that didn't work at all. I soon discovered that not only were the gates a "pain in the neck" but they were costly. The cost of gates for the North and South side, including the personnel that accompany them, is in the neighborhood of \$250,000 a year. That's money that is desperately needed for road repaving. I imagine that the West side costs are even higher.

The irony of the situation is that we don't even need the gates. We have a unique community — one that has only one access (the West side has two). With our camera

system, we can track every vehicle that enters and exits Seven Lakes. That's quite a deterrent for felons. We all know that much of our vandalism comes from within the gates - not from outside.

Many people are afraid that if we remove the gates, the lakes will be filled up with "outsiders" (perish the thought). That just isn't true. With or without incorporation, we will still have function-

ing landowners' associations that make the rules that control use of our private lakes.

Sally Kindsvatter
Seven Lakes South

More incorporation 'Facts'

Dear Editor:

Once again the proponents of incorporation are not telling the whole truth. Their two page ad in the July 23 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* gives a "fact" that more than 20 NC towns do quite well with a low .05 tax rate.

Then I read the list of towns, saw Tobaccoville and knew the answer to this one. For more than 25 years, we lived within a few miles of

Tobaccoville, and I was formerly employed by R.J. Reynolds. Tobaccoville is home to RJR's Tobaccoville plant which I think is the second largest cigarette manufacturing plant in the world.

The following is a quote from the Village Council of Tobaccoville: "The revenue from RJR means the Village Council can operate with a five-cent tax rate."

Last time I drove around

Seven Lakes, I failed to see any manufacturing facility of two million square feet complete with its own power plant.

Maybe someone else would like to check out some of the other towns listed and the "facts" that are being presented to us.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.

John B. Allen
Seven Lakes North

Thinking for us?

Dear Editor:

I must protest the persistent arrogance of the Seven Lakes West board in their thinking that residents can't figure out for themselves the benefits or detriments of incorporation.

I applaud Karen Milligan for pointing out that the board doesn't necessarily speak for the majority of the residents when they request of Representative Boles and Senator Blake to be unresponsive to a future request to pursue an incorporation bill.

Westside residents should be furious at this board's persistent pursuit of their

political agenda. Also, a simple glance at the calendar should reveal to the board that if their study is complete in December, they should have ample time to make any recommendations to members before it is even possible for the general assembly to consider an incorporation bill in January after the start of the long session.

Perhaps we should all ask the Seven Lakes West Board who to vote for in November, saving us all the trouble of deciding for ourselves.

Randy Merritt
Seven Lakes North



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What is the rush?

Dear Editor:

There were several comments in the July 23 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times* that challenged Kara Millonzi's statement about county police protection after incorporation.

Millonzi never claimed that the county would totally abandon us. What she said was, roughly, that once a town incorporates, the county invariably stops patrolling in that area. That seems quite consistent with the statement by Chief Deputy Neal Godfrey, as quoted in *The Times*: "If you had your own chief and an officer patrolling 8 – 5 Monday – Friday, we would probably use Kantorowsky (the deputy currently assigned to Seven Lakes) someplace else."

Thus, we would be replacing Kantorowsky with some-

one on our own payroll, and all that that entails.

And this is aside from the fact that no law enforcement professional that I have spoken to believes that \$100,000 per year is even close to adequate to maintain an effective police department.

Finally, I have some questions for the "Incorporate Seven Lakes" group: What in the world is your rush?

Are you really claiming that annexation is imminent?

If so, do you have any evidence to support that claim? Do you really feel it is prudent to rush this community into the most important (and irreversible) decision we will ever make?

Mike Shapiro
Seven Lakes West

'I'll vote no!'

Dear Editor:

Call me old-fashioned, Michael Florence of Seven Lakes North, but I do not want to see curbing in Seven Lakes; I do not want to see police vehicles driving around Seven Lakes; I definitely do not want to see street lights;

and I do not want to see sidewalks.

Obviously, I have no intention of signing a petition to incorporate Seven Lakes, and if and when it comes to a vote, I shall vote No!

Bob Hancock
Seven Lakes West

Perfection? No.



Mason's
Musings
Mason Gould

No, we're nowhere near perfection. But there's still time to feel better about ourselves, especially in our relations with others.

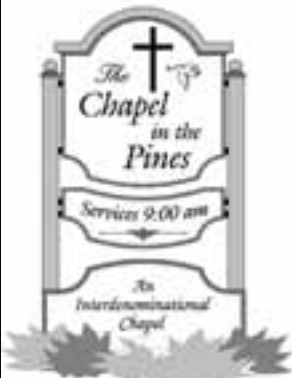
We're all different in certain respects, yes, but I continue to witness what God intended: to place members of humanity in a constant regard for the happiness of others, and for sincerity in relating to their emotional needs.

Yes, it's our thankfulness for the gift of life that can reverberate in innumerable ways as life goes forward. A gift to be nurtured.

Seamus
Murphy sez:
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Auman Dam

(Continued from page 23)

the dam caused when vehicles travel through the dip that is the emergency spillway, that became the focus for some questioners.

One resident asked whether the dip in the roadway could be replaced by culverts running under a flat roadway. Though Marks' technical reply likely went well over the heads of most in attendance, the ultimate answer was "No." Culverts cannot carry the amount of water that the state requires the emergency spillway to handle. Marks explained that it must be able to carry away the amount of rainfall that would occur in a 100-year precipitation event, without having water overtop the rest of the dam.

Another asked whether the roadway could be redesigned, using state of the art materials and techniques, in such a way that the impact of vehicles passing through the spillway dip would be absorbed by the roadbed instead of passed through to the dam's core.

"Today, there's just about not anything in engineering you can't do if you have the money," Marks replied. Pressed for what it might cost, the engineer said, "I'm not prepared tonight to give you cost estimate or a pavement design."

Marks also noted that any roadway design would have to be approved by state engineers before it could be implemented.

Director John Goodman asked Marks whether he had consulted with other engineers on his recommendation not to restore the roadway over the dam.

"I have talked with no less than twelve to fifteen dam safety engineers from California to New Jersey," Marks replied. Referring to communications from state officials that recommended the Association follow Marks' advice, he said, "The only reason that your dam safety engineer in North Carolina can't tell you to not open the road, is that he doesn't have the jurisdiction or the authority to advise you as a pri-

vate engineer."

One resident asked Marks to estimate how many years allowing vehicular traffic might take off the life expectancy of the dam.

"Let's take 100 years as the expected life of the dam," he replied. "We are approaching the midlife of the dam. I would venture to say that that one factor [traffic impact] might account for a 20 percent reduction in life. That's just based on a lot of engineering experience." Marks said good data on the impact of roadways crossing earthen dams is hard to come by.

Marks mentioned during his presentation that the Dam Committee had explored remediation options that cost as much as \$3 million — six times the cost of the option ultimately chosen. One landowner asked why the Board hadn't selected a more

expensive option, if that would have been a better repair.

"We did not select the cheapest route," Marks replied. We went through a very detailed evaluation form and ranked the options. Cost was only one factor. The alternative selected was not the cheapest."

In addition to those looking for a way to reopen the dam to traffic, the meeting attracted a number of members who were already convinced that it should remain closed.

Bob Kieling compared the dam to a battleship that had taken a hit from a torpedo. "We had to close some compartments to save the ship. Those compartments need to stay closed."

Former SLWLA President Mary Anne Fewkes stresses the liability the each member of the Association would face

if the dam failed.

"One thing that has not been mentioned is the fact that we all own the dam," Fewkes said "and, if anything happens, we are all liable We received a letter from the state saying that they would support what the

dam engineer recommends. That we have in writing from the state. If anything happens to that dam, someone will dig up that letter and ask, "Why would you put a road over that dam if your engineer told you not to do it? We are all liable."

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

reappointing the Lakes & Dams Committee."

Charlie Oliver said the Lakes & Dams Committee was very active, for example, putting out buoys to control speeding near the dam, which causes erosion. He recounted, after being charged by the Committee with the task of going through Association files on the dams, finding that years of reports were crammed into one big folder, in no particular order.

"We found there were reports indicating concerns about Echo Dam much earlier than when we had to repair it," Oliver said. "The piezometers were never read."

"Previous management did a miserable job on our lakes and dams," he added. "They did nothing other than mow the lawns. There is a real advantage to have a standing committee."

Oliver said he took umbrage at a statement by President Randy Zielsdorf (who was not present at Wednesday's meeting) that committee members "sometimes acted like the lakes were there for their own use."

Noting that he too was a member of the Lakes & Dams Committee before it was "unceremoniously bumped off," Bill Yarish said, "\$500,000 was spent on dam repairs and engineering fees,

and, as far as I know, nothing has been followed up on all of those recommendations."

"One of my real concerns is the dams," Ron Erskine said, recounting asking engineer Eddy what would happen if a boat hit the Sequoia spillway — the concrete structure that carries overflow from the dam to the creek below. "He answered, 'You would lose eight feet of lake immediately and maybe sixteen.' Not too long ago we had someone on the lake that flipped his boat," Erskine reminded the Board, lest they think an accident damaging the spillway is a remote possibility. "We need some kind of protective device."

Members of the Board made no response to those entreaties during the public comment segment of the meeting, but, later, Maintenance Director Bud Shaver said his committee includes former members of the Lakes & Dams Committee, and that he calls on others when their expertise is needed. He noted the Association had received a report on the dams from engineering firm S&ME in February, that included the recommendation of a follow-up video inspection of spillways in 2011.

"We are watching the dams," Shaver said.

Stricter boating rules needed?

During Public Comment, the Board heard from Ron Zwart, who suggested the Board take a look at the Association's regulations on the size of boats and motors, as well as at safety rules on the lake. "Our existing laws about the size of boats and horsepower were fine when they were made," he said. "But you can get a lot more out of a 50HP motor than we used to."

Zwart said he had seen boats pulling tubers and skiers or wakeboarders simultaneously, including one instance in which a boat was pulling two tubes with a wakeboard in the middle, its edge just inches from the faces for the children on the tubes — a condition he described as obviously unsafe.

He also noted that ski boats, once a skier falls, tend to make the U-Turn to retrieve the person at full speed, instead of slowing down to idle and making the turn. "So now we have four foot waves instead of two foot waves," he said.

Jerrold DeBruin said he had brought to the meeting photographs of misbehavior and rule-breaking on the lake, as had been requested by President Randy Zielsdorf and Security Director Chuck

Mims. But Mims dismissed the photos, DeBruin said, because they were shot with a zoom lens. DeBruin also charged that the SLLA Lake Patrol refused to take action against persistent violators of lake rules. "How many ways can you spell ineffective?" DeBruin asked.

Boat slips too cheap?

Joanne DeBruin suggested during Public Comment that the Board should increase the rental fee for Sequoia Point boat slips before it makes any decision to build more. She noted that Seven Lakes West currently charges \$700 per year for slips at Johnson Point and reported that other communities in the area charge \$1,000, \$2,000 or more per year.

She said the SLLA rate was "well under the market rate," and suggested that raising the price to \$700 - \$1,000 might significantly reduce the size of the waiting list for slips, making expansion of the existing facility unnecessary. She noted that many slips appear to remain empty all season, rented, but unused.

What about that agreement?

Former ARB Director Donna Stephan, speaking during Public Comment, urged the Board to complete its three-year-old agreement with the Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] that calls for the Club to place covenants on its property and grant the Association an

(See "SLLA," p. 31)

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 29)

easement on the old driving range along Seven Lakes Drive. The agreement was signed as the resolution to a dispute over the possible sale and development of the old driving range.

Stephan, who is a long-time member of the Club, said, "In view of the fact that these five agreements have never been completed, I feel I am in jeopardy. They have not been completed, and to my mind they have never been discussed."

Without the covenants in place, the possibility exists that the Club's property could be, at some point, developed as something other than a golf course. Without the easement, it may be possible for the club or some future owner to create a second entry into the community off of Seven Lakes Drive.

Noting that she had read the covenants proposed for the Club's property, Stephan told the Board: "If you folks have read them, and I think you have, you should quickly call another meeting."

Asking the Board what they intended to do, Stephan said they should not attempt to punt the problem over to Community Manager Alina Cochran, who was not on board when the agreement

was negotiated and signed.

Getting things done

Vice President Kent Droppers, presiding in the absence of President Zielsdorf, opened the meeting with a description of the Association's governing process.

"The vast majority of the work gets done at the committee level," Droppers said, suggesting that landowners who want to participate in running the organization get to know the committees and consider volunteering to serve on one of them.

The work of the committees feeds into the Board's monthly Work Session, where "we work through the issues," Droppers said. The month-end Open Meeting is when the Board actually votes on "things that come out of the work session."

Droppers cited as a good example the recent proposal

to add boat slips at Sequoia Point.

"A group of landowners presented that to the Work Session," he said. "We could approve it to come to the General Meeting, deny the request, or defer it." The boat slip proposal was deferred and "will come back later," he explained.

Action Items

The Board moved quickly to approve action items that were discussed in this month's Work Session, including:

- Approving a \$6,080 contract for a reserve study that will survey the community's assets and help develop a financial plan for saving the funds that will be needed to maintain and/or replace them.
- Approving a new copier lease that Director Droppers said would "streamline

some operations in the Landowners Office."

Committee reports

Finance. Treasurer Denny Galford reported that the Finance Committee met on July 20 and reviewed the various financial reports. The committee approved moving forward with soliciting estimates for the repair of the roadway over Echo Dam, but delaying consideration of financing for community-wide road repairs until results of the reserve study are available.

Galford said a recent meeting with Talis executives was "very productive," and resulted in Talis sending in a specialist to work with the SLLA on transition issues.

Noting that some had asked why the Association and its new management company were experiencing transition

issues, Galford said the Association must collect dues from 1,400 properties, as well as another 500 incidental fees.

"We are very happy with the way transition problems are being resolved," he added.

Because most SLLA accounting is now done in Raleigh, Galford said, the Finance Committee needs to write new internal control procedures. But that project will be placed on the back burner for thirty to sixty days while the panel works on revising the current years budget.

Security. Director Chuck Mims reported that a a break-in and burglary at the maintenance shed were being investigated by the Moore County Sheriff's department. Community Manager Cochran reported later in the

(See "SLLA," p. 32)



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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 31)

meeting that detectives had a suspect, but were unable to develop sufficient evidence to bring charges or recover the equipment that was stolen.

Community Standards. Director Droppers said the Community Standards Committee continues to “generate a fair number of situations that we are asking management to look into.” He noted that chasing the same rule-breakers over and over can become frustrating at times.

Droppers thanked those who participated in a recent clean up day that involved picking up fallen branches and pinecones along Longleaf Drive near the gates. A “neighbor-helping-neighbor” work day is being planned for September that will organize volunteers to assist some residents who are unable to keep their properties in tip-top shape. Pickups, trailers, and manpower will all be needed.

The Community Standards committee highlighted two issues that it asked Droppers to bring to the Board for discussion and action. First, parking along the roadways near Sequoia Point “has gotten out of hand,” he said, and alternatives need to be found. Second, there are a number of apparently inoperable or unlicensed vehicles that have been parked in

neighborhood driveways on a very long-term basis.

“We don’t want to be too onerous, but I don’t really want people’s driveways to become junkyards for cars that never get used, so we will try to come up with some language that addresses that in an evenhanded sort of way.”

Architectural Review. Melinda Scott reported that the Architectural Review Board [ARB] had met twice in July and approved a fence, a vinyl siding installation, a porch, three roof replacements, one new construction and two decks. The committee members continue to review projects to make sure work is proceeding according to schedule. She noted that the weather had unavoidably delayed a couple of projects.

Recreation. Day Camp is going well and “the kids are having a lot of fun,” Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. reported, “thought we haven’t had the turnout that we would have liked.”

“We will tweak it for next year — if we get to do it next year,” Keyser continued.

He noted that he and the office had received a number of compliments regarding this year’s pool manager and

lifeguards — as well as the new pool umbrellas.

Maintenance. Director Shaver said his committee didn’t meet in July. “We are waiting on the reserve study,” he explained. “We are really going to learn a heck of a lot from the study.”

With regard to the excellent suggestion regarding the docks and the beach,” Shaver said, “[Manager] Alina [Cochran] is looking at what it will cost to move the beach area over to the other side — if we are going to make one side of Sequoia Point strictly dock area and one side strictly swimming. . . .It’s

still within our agenda, but we’re not ready to deal with it yet.”

Manager. Cochran directed members’ attention to a balance sheet and income statement available for pick-up at the meeting and reported that has \$1.38 million in its cash accounts and \$313,550 in accounts receivable, which includes, delinquent dues, late fees, and payment plans. She said more than one hundred members had elected to make payments rather than paying their entire 2010-2011 dues at the beginning of the year. Turning to the income

statement, Cochran said the Association had over \$10,000 in unbudgeted pool expenses, including \$4,500 to bring the drains in compliance with new regulations; \$4,100 for paint, tile, and other repairs; and \$2,500 for repairs to the filters. “The equipment is very old,” she said. “As we move forward, we will need to budget for unexpected repairs associated with having an aging pool.”

Cochran said the SLLA section of the Talis Management website is now available and residents can register at talismanagement.com to gain

(See “SLLA,” p. 33)

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3Bd/2Ba MLS#139309

7 LAKES NORTH



102 RUSTIC DRIVE \$169,000
3Bd/2.5Ba MLS#138934

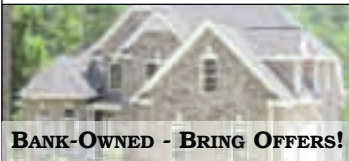
7 LAKES NORTH WATERFRONT



SOLD!

103 DOGWOOD LANE \$229,000
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7 LAKES WEST WATERFRONT



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7 LAKES NORTH WATERFRONT



120 SUNSET WAY \$239,000
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7 LAKES WEST



140 MORRIS DRIVE \$398,500
4Bd/3.2Ba MLS#138507

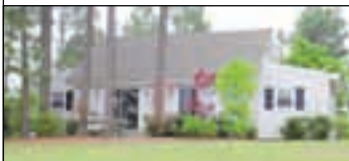
7 LAKES WEST GOLF FRONT



NEW CONSTRUCTION

142 BANBRIDGE DR \$389,000
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7 LAKES NORTH



144 E. SHENANDOAH \$139,000
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