

Dam Road debate has West Side buzzing

Board wants road closed | Group wants referendum

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

After hearing a dozen landowners weigh in on the subject, the seven members of the Seven lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors who were present for the Tuesday, October 12 Work Session voted for a second time to permanently close the road over Lake Auman Dam.

The Board, at its September 28 Work Session, designated the road closure a "matter of significant interest to the community," setting in motion a series of public hearings and ratifications by the Board that are expected to culminate in a hearing and vote during the October 26

evening work session.

An unusual feature of the process is that the Board not only hears from the public, but Directors were asked to individually state the reasons underlying their own positions on the question.

Infrastructure Director **John Goodman** said he was in favor of permanently closing Longleaf Drive over the dam because of the recommendation to do so from the Westside Dam Engineer, (See "Dam Road,"p. 28)

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

A loosely organized group of Westsiders will attempt to gather the 200 or so signatures required to call for a special meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] for a vote of the membership on whether Longleaf Drive across Lake Auman Dam should be reopened for vehicular traffic.

But it's not clear that a successful

special meeting petition and a vote of the landowners could force the Board to take any action that they felt was not in the community's best interest.

Special meeting petition

Mike Gorenflo presented the two-page special meeting petition to three or four dozen residents gathered Tuesday night, October 5, in the Great Room of the West Side Park Community Center. There was clearly a diversity of opinion in the room, but, by the end of the meeting, two dozen or more of those attending had signed the petition, and several had volunteered to recruit others (See "Petition,"p. 16)

Read more online

The Times is following the story on the Lake Auman Dam Road closely and delivering reports via our website and email newswatches between print editions. Visit www.sevenlakestimes.net for the latest updates.

SLLA considers boating rule changes

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors got its first crack at revising the Community's boating rules on Monday, October 11, when Director Chuck Mims presented a draft aimed at putting some teeth in the enforcement effort.

The Board was united in its

support for the overall project, though some of Mims' specific suggestions met with resistance. Ultimately, the Board worked its way through the document revision by revision, accepting some and sending others back to the drawing Board. Mims is expected to bring the document back for another review during the Board's (See "Boating,"p. 13)

Smokey surprise



Three would-be firefighters try to get the taste of smoke out of their mouths as they exit the smoke simulator at Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments recent Open House.

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It's National Massage Therapy Week

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October 24th to the 30th is National Massage Therapy Awareness Week, and although many of you have experienced massage therapy and understand the many benefits of the profession, I want to take this opportunity to help you get the most from your next massage.

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- Discuss any apprehensions you may have about massage therapy, whether you have modesty concerns

- or physical limitations your massage therapist is a professional and will be able to accommodate you.
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Biz Guild Golf Tourney

The 6th Annual Seven Lakes Business Guild President's Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, October 30 at Beacon Ridge Golf & Country Club. The event will feature an 8:30 am shotgun start and the traditional three person team Captains Choice format. This year players will have a choice to participate in either the Championship Flight or the Net Flight. The introduction of handicaps last year encouraged more participation and greater competition

for all. Each team in the Championship Flight must represent a Guild member business and Guild members may be represented by multiple teams in the tournament. The "President's Cup" will be engraved with the winning team's name from the Gross Flight and will be held by the winning Guild Member business for the year. The entry fee of \$65 per player includes range balls, golf, on-course refreshments, lunch after the round and prizes. To obtain more information, contact Gene Roberts at 673-1092 at Seven Lakes Country Club.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 888-806-2572, or e-mailed to mail@seven-lakestimes.net.

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Issue	Deadline
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3
Dec. 22*	Dec. 16*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Engineer asked state to close Auman Dam Road

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

These are the facts. Seven Lakes West's dam engineer not only recommended that the road over Lake Auman Dam be closed permanently, he took the unusual step of asking the state Dam Safety Engineer to order it closed. The state declined to do so, though it has jurisdiction and authority to order road closure, instead leaving any decision about reopening the road to the community.

If the community chooses to rebuild the roadway across the top of Lake Auman Dam, the level of interest the state takes in that project will depend on how deeply the roadbed and associated drainage structures intrude into the embankment. If the road is reopened to vehicular traffic, and the state, on inspection, finds significant signs of traffic-related stress in the embankment, the state's Dam Safety engineer would likely order the road closed.

The source of those facts

The West Side's debate about whether the portion of Longleaf Drive that crosses Lake Auman Dam should be reopened or permanently closed has generated substantial debate about exactly what Dam Engineer Dr.

Dan Marks recommended, as well as whether the State of North Carolina's Dam Safety Engineer has taken a position on the reopening of the roadway.

The Times interviewed the state's Dam Safety Engineer, Steven McEvoy, by telephone on Tuesday, October 5 and Monday, October 11 to try to clarify those issues. We also reviewed copies of the official communications from Marks to the state and the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] that touch on this aspect of the debate.

What Dr. Marks said

Marks went well beyond recommending the permanent closure of the road over Lake Auman Dam, actually asking McEvoy's office to make permanent closure a condition of the state's final approval of the 2009 repair work done on the dam. Marks' request is contained in the final paragraph of his December 1, 2009 Construction Certification Report, an official document aimed at obtaining a Certification for Approval to Impound from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR], the agency responsible for dam safety.

That paragraph reads as

follows:

Marks Enterprises recommends that the Certification of Approval to Impound for Lake Auman Dam to be issued by the North Carolina Dam Safety Engineer in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources following review of this Construction Certification Report for the recently completed dam remediation construction be granted only with the following stipulation:

• *That section of Longleaf Drive in the Community of Seven Lakes West that transverses the crest of Lake Auman dam shall remain closed to vehicular traffic of all kinds, except for un-licensed vehicles capable of transporting a maximum of two people. Furthermore, no future consideration shall be given to the opening of this section of roadway (resuming the use of this section of roadway for vehicular traffic) regardless of any plans to design and/or construct any type of high-strength roadway pavement design section. [Emphases in original.]*

For an engineer to ask for such a restriction is unusual and speaks to the depth of Marks' concern about the impact of traffic rolling over the dam.

SLWLA Director Mick Herdrich, who chairs the Asso-

ciation's dam committee, told *The Times* that neither he, the Board, nor the Dam Committee knew in advance that Marks planned to ask for this restriction on the state's approval of the repairs. State Dam Engineer McEvoy confirmed that it was out of the ordinary.

"We don't see that a lot," State Dam Engineer McEvoy said of Marks' recommendation. "That's an unusual request."

"We responded to that request in the final approval," he added.

What the state said

"I don't recall that [i.e., permanent closure of the road] being a condition of approval," McEvoy told *The Times*. McEvoy's office oversees 4,500 dams in the state; 1,100 of those are designated as high hazard dams.

In fact, the state's Final Approval to Impound, signed by McEvoy, did not include the condition that Marks had requested. The relevant paragraph reads as follows:

"In addition it is noted that the design engineer has recommended to portion of Longleaf Drive that traverses the crest of the dam embankment remain closed to vehic-

ular traffic in order to insure the integrity of repairs to the dam. Though we do not consider road closure a requirement for continued operation of this dam, you as the dam owner may wish to consider the design engineers' recommendation in this matter."

Much has been made in the ongoing Westside debate of the meaning of the word "may" in the state engineer's letter. Some have suggested that McEvoy's "may" is really a "should," softened because McEvoy lacks the jurisdiction to say anything stronger.


The Times questioned McEvoy closely on this point, asking him directly whether he meant "should" or "shall" and whether he was constrained by his jurisdictional authority in the wording he chose.

"This is a 'may'," McEvoy replied. "It's going to be left up to the dam owner. It's left up to the community. I don't know how we can make that more clear."

State can close a dam road

Part of the confusion may in fact stem from a "Letter of Clarification" authored by (See "State," p. 14)


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Koos suggests stop light at Foxfire & Hoffman

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Another traffic fatality in Foxfire has at least one Councilman looking at improved safety devices along the two state-maintained roads that crisscross the Village.

"I am toying with asking the State to put a light at the intersection of Richmond and Hoffman Roads," Public Safety Director Vic Koos told the Village Council on Tuesday, October 12. "But by the time you're done with permits and [traffic] studies, the project would cost around one million dollars."

Koos said the problem is not speeding but vehicles traveling at the recommended 40 mph limit coming around the corner too fast at the intersection.

While the recent accident occurred because the driver failed to heed a stop sign, he said the gap to enter the roadway closes quickly with approaching traffic and that,

perhaps, what may be needed is a blinking warning light before the turn.

Koos recognized both the Foxfire Fire and Police Departments and State Police for their professionalism at the accident site, a day which was further complicated by a secondary accident in the Village that occurred ten minutes later.

The victim and his wife, who was driving the vehicle when the fatal accident occurred, were timeshare guests at Foxfire. Koos was able to directly assist the wife and later accepted a \$50 donation from her that was given to the Village Green Park memorial fund. To date, \$4,000 has been raised toward the flagpole and memorial garden project.

Anticipated power outage

Foxfire residents should anticipate a scheduled power outage when Progress Energy converts the Village's elec-

tric lines and transformers from the rather archaic 12 kv system to a standard 23 kv line – a change which will not affect lines to individual homes.

"This is a project the Village certainly needs," explained Progress Energy's Andy Honeycutt. "The voltage is important because 23 kv allows us to switch from other points of delivery. Right now, Foxfire is a voltage [stand alone] island."

A nearly one million dollar investment by Progress Energy, the primary impact on residents will be felt during the switchover on conversion day scheduled for November 1 and also as power is disrupted while new transformers are installed.

"We will send thirty crews out. They will come in and do this quickly," said Honeycutt, anticipating power outages of approximately an hour.

One significant challenge is

coordinating the power supply to the Village's wells since conversion day is scheduled

to occur while the Foxfire Water tank is also undergoing
(See "Foxfire," p. 12)



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Dana Old says farewell to stables

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

"It takes patience and respect to work with an animal that is significantly bigger than you, but the horses taught me a lot about myself," said Dana Old.

A constant presence in the Seven Lakes Stables for nearly thirteen years, Old recently finished nursing school and is moving on to what she describes as her 'big girl job,' on staff at the telemetry unit of Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital in Dunn.

Old said she and her mother moved to North Carolina from the Catskills of New York when she was nine, set-

ting in Seven Lakes mainly because of the stables.

"A big reason we bought here was so I could ride the horses," she said. "I started riding the first weekend we were here and have never left."

While Old was not officially hired until she was sixteen years old, she had long since been working around the stalls often beginning at 6:30 am on Summer days. Her earliest pay was a free lunch provided by Stables Manager Karen Reeder.

In fact, Old said her departure has come full circle with Kim [McNeill] Tew now
(See "Dana" p. 11)



Dana Old and her large friend

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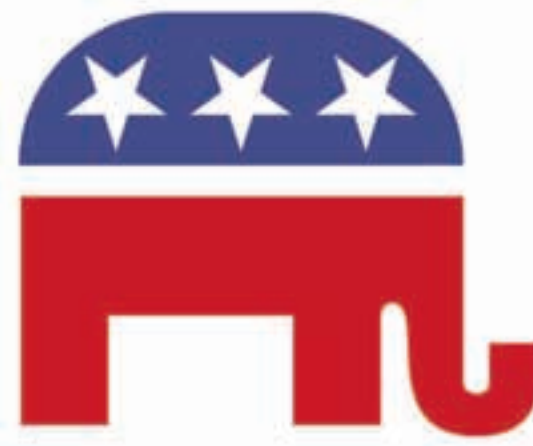
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County takes another step on building projects

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Taking another step in the approval process for a new Detention Center and Public Safety Building, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved a capital project ordinance on a 3-2 split vote during their meeting on Tuesday, October 5.

A financial vehicle used to allocated funds for a project — particularly when it extends over multiple fiscal years — such a designation is required for capital projects financed in whole or part by the proceeds of bonds or notes, explained Public Works Director Dennis Brobst.

Chairman Tim Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan opposed the capital project ordinance motion, with Lea specifically citing concerns over the interest rate and whether the project — and, thus cost — could be delayed.

Reading directly from *The Kiplinger Letter*, Lea reported, “Plan on long-term interest rates around three percent through the middle of 2011. The rates on ten-year Treasuries have been stuck between 2.5% and 2.8% for weeks now and aren’t going to push much higher for the next nine to ten months . . . The fact is, the Fed, at least, isn’t entirely unhappy with the deflation-mongering; it helps hold down long-term interest rates.”

However, later in the meeting, Commissioner Nick Picerno responded to Lea noting that, in forecasting future interest rates, one could find people to support both sides of the discussion.

“What I know is they [recent bonds] sold at 3.4%, which is 1.1% over the lowest point, so the potential to fall is very small, but the potential to rise is very large,” Picerno said.

Estimated costs for the public safety complex includes \$27,224,000 in construction costs, \$1,664,602 in basic architectural and engineering fees, \$280,935 in additional engineering fees, \$1,255,320 in other costs

such as furniture and fixtures, \$250,000 set aside in a contingency fund, and \$1,121,477 in RBC payoff, for a total cost of \$32,207,900.

The true interest cost is 3.407%, reported Assistant County Manager Ken Larking. The County’s total debt service is \$55,264,585 including \$41,454 in bond proceeds and \$16,844,585 in total interest and \$14,012,945 in net interest. The maximum annual debt service is \$3,768,675 and the average debt service is \$2,676,251.

During public comment, Carthage resident Libby Moodie asked why a North Carolina Grand Jury jail inspection report on the existing facility in Carthage was

not made readily available to the public and asked the Board to task County Attorney Misty Leland to investigate who had access to the report.

Hwy 211 road widening temporary easement

A small parcel of county-owned property at the corner of Hwy 211 and Rt. 5 was approved for a temporary easement during the upcoming Hwy 211 road widening project. Moore County requested a \$1,500 fee from the NC Department of Transportation to use the property and will be held harmless of any damage.

Public Works

A series of Public Works projects and contract amend-

ments were presented and approved by the County Commissioners including, \$4,000 to Locke-Lane Construction for additional repairs to rehab manholes, amended a contract for the Pinehurst Lake lift station, approved revisions and readopted the Water Shortage Response Ordinances for Moore County and the East Moore Water District, and closed out the \$293,484 Addor CDBG project to rehabilitate four houses and extend sewer to sixteen homes. Coming in at \$500 under budget, the Addor project was declared very successful by Brobst.

Action on an easement

request to allow a water line to run through a portion of the Moore County Landfill was tabled while language related to potential liability concerns is added to the draft document.

Microsoft Enterprise agreement

A three-year \$377,000 contract for network and software licensing was approved for renewal.

Currently, Moore County owns 613 computers with licenses owned in perpetuity for all MicroSoft software including replacements.

The financial impact is (See “Commissioners,” p. 11)

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Planning Board looks to increase open space

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Looking to increase the amount of useful open space in new subdivision projects, the Moore County Planning Board unanimously approved a proposed text amendment eliminating the required edge buffer on projects less than fifty acres in size. In addition, during the Thursday, October 7 meeting, the Board also revised the recommended density bonus along a more incremental scale.

As conceived, the Neighborhood Conservation option for subdivision projects required a minimum of thirty percent open space with a 50' perimeter edge buffer on all property lines and 75' along state-maintained highways. Since the buffer could be counted towards the thirty percent total, it can create challenges in designing smaller projects. For example, a small subdivision could meet up to ninety percent of its open space requirement just in the buffer area. By eliminating the buffer requirement, but keeping the open space percentage, larger areas of open space would be built into the development plans.

In a similar fashion, the original density bonus allowed for ten percent more development if forty percent of the land is left as open space, and twenty percent more

development at fifty percent open space.

As recommended, the new density bonus starts at thirty-five percent left as open space and increases up to a maximum bonus of forty percent more development when fifty percent of the subdivision is set aside as open space. In addition, builders can secure a separate bonus by increasing setbacks from state-maintained roads.

Unanimously supported by both the Subdivision Review Board and the Planning Board, the proposed text amendments will now go to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

CTP update

Described as a multi-modal long range plan, the Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan [CTP] will emphasize local land use while ensuring local, regional and statewide connectivity.

Now in the pre-CTP process, sensitive locations that will be addressed include

the Carthage 24/27 Bypass, the Hwy 211 Western Connector, road widening of Hwy 211 at West End, and the US 1 Bypass around Southern Pines and Aberdeen. In particular, the Carthage Bypass is a critical project and has been designated a strategic highway corridor.

Working Lands Protection

A project that spans several county departments and advisory boards, the Working Lands Protection Plan is being developed by the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District to satisfy requirements set by the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservations Enabling Act.

As explained by long range planner Jeremy Rust, the plan must include lists of existing agricultural activities, opportunities to maintain and enhance small family-owned farms, a description of how county plans maintain viable agricultural economic development, and a schedule for implementation and iden-

tification of possible funding sources for long term support of the plan.

The plan's number one goal is to foster an environment in which commercial agricultural is encouraged and embraced as economically important and culturally desired. Other goals include looking at a diversified and expanded agricultural economy and to protect agricultural lands.

The Working Lands Protection Plan is funded through a grant received as part of the Ft. Bragg BRAC impact. There is no fiscal impact to Moore County. The timetable to implement the plan is set at six years.

"One of the largest threats to agriculture in the near future is the expiration of

the tobacco buyout subsidies in four years," said Rust. "That could leave farmers without a viable crop and they may find pressure for development."

Other Business

In other business on Thursday, October 7, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Welcomed new member, Ralph Harris.

- Considered proposed text amendments to the Moore County Zoning Ordinance regarding home occupations and home occupations of an industrial or commercial nature; however, after discussion on the definition of nuisance factors and identifying reasonable complaints, action was tabled until November.

Rides available to Early Voting

Beginning Thursday, October 14, GOP Volunteers will be offering rides to Early Voting. Call GOP Headquarters at 793-3481 or 215-9060, to leave a message. A Volunteer will call you back for specific scheduling. You can also email your request to NPNH@aol.com



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Project Linus spreads the warmth

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Some come to cut and measure, others to tie, to knit or crochet, and some prefer to work just with flannel, but what the Project Linus blanketeers all agree on is the value of their mission.

Founded in 1995, the organization boasts 367 chapters and has delivered over three million blankets to traumatized children over the last fifteen years. Here locally, the Sandhills Moore County Chapter was established in 1990 by Bette Schultz and then reorganized by Pat Weber in 1995, and serves multiple agencies in Moore and Cumberland Counties, parts of Wake County, special requests in Montgomery and Hoke Counties, and also at Ft. Bragg.

Donating 5,509 blankets in just the last four and a half years – the Sandhills Chapter distributes, on average, one hundred blankets a month. Blanketeers meet twice monthly, on the first and third Wednesday, gathering in the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse for workshops, some working an hour and others for the whole day.

"Each blanket is individual and handmade with new materials in a style that is attractive to children," said Weber. "The blanketeers work hard and also socialize. It's very relaxed, but productivity is high."

In addition to blanket-building workshops, Weber said there are many more blanketeers that work from home and use one of several convenient drop-off sites to deliver their handiwork, including Phoenix Fashions in Seven Lakes, Brownson Presbyterian Church and Bella Fallati Yarns in Southern Pines, the Village Chapel in Pinehurst, and JoAnn Fabrics in Cary.

Once each blanket is complete, inspected for quality and safety, labeled, washed and bagged, every few weeks Weber will deliver them to the various agencies served.

"Different needs require different types of blankets," she explained. "It could be a

baby blanket for a new mother: a little receiving blanket can mean so much. If there is a fire or traumatic event, fire or police departments will carry single-layer or double-layer fleece. For social services, we're talking primarily about children removed from their home. Most don't have anything – not even toys – and a blanket is something that can be theirs. Something they can keep."

"A blanket can be a gift that lasts a lifetime," said Weber. "It's not just something to throw in a corner, but it can give comfort. For some, it becomes part of their being, a part of their life."

The hard-working blanketeers are responsible for the Sandhills Chapter's success but – with blanket costs at

\$10 each – Weber admitted their challenge is often fundraising for money to purchase material and office supplies for organizing, such as stamps.

She thanked the many local

organizations who offer support, including The Chapel in the Pines, Golf Capital Chorus, Seven Lakes Kiwanis, and Women of Seven Lakes, along with individual donors

(See "Project," p. 29)



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Jane Bright's secret? Never, ever give up.

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Years of patiently trying paid off for Jackson Springs resident Jane Hammett-Bright when she was selected this Summer as a contestant for the twenty-first season of 'Survivor.'

A lifelong tomboy, Bright knew she had what it would take to play and win.

"I tried to get on the show for ten years. I never quit!," Bright shared with the Fifth grade classes of West End Elementary during a special assembly.

Filmed in Nicaragua over several weeks in June and July, Survivor is wildly popular reality competition show that matches players wits, skill and a little bit of luck. This season the producers added a new twist by dividing the twenty contestants into two tribes by age: a battle between the young and the not so young.

At fifty-six, Bright was cast in the Espada Tribe and quickly proved her mettle on the very first day by starting a fire on the beach using her reading glasses.

"They gave us a machete

and rice – that's it. Every day you were starving. The first night it was pouring down rain, but I knew I could do this," she said. "You have to have a certain toughness. You can't be afraid of snakes, mosquitoes, monkeys, and hermit crabs. There were millions of them and they'd crawl on you at night."

But Bright knew she'd be okay by drawing on a lifetime of experience and mem-

ories.

"When it was raining, cold, wet, and the shelter was leaking, I'd think about what our soldiers had to deal with in Vietnam. I'd remind myself that this was not as hard as what someone else has been through in real life," Bright said.

Active and healthy through regular workouts, running and swimming, and an adherent of simple, clean liv-

ing also allowed her to compete at the top level, she explained to the students.

"I have a good attitude and I believe in myself," Bright said. "I kept focused on my day and treated the show like a job. I made friends and tried to do as many things as I could, because I never knew when my time would be up."

Survivor-Nicaragua runs for fifteen episodes and, as of the fourth week, Bright is still playing the game. While filming was completed months ago, contestants are

sworn to secrecy and the million dollar winner is not announced until the final show. You can tune in on Wednesdays this Fall to follow her adventure.

However, no matter the outcome, Bright is already a winner – in a big way.

A highly successful dog trainer and owner of Shadow Hills Kennel and Farm in Jackson Springs, Bright won two top prizes at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show last February,

(See "Bright" p. 11)



Jane Bright & friend



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SLLA Security Guard faces assault charges

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

An incident that began as a single car accident on Echo Dam in Seven Lakes North has a Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] security guard facing assault charges.

Moore County Sheriff's Detective Cathy Williams told *The Times* on Tuesday that Steven Roger McVey, 44, of 228 Black Berry Lane has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon causing serious injury as a result of an altercation that began when 19-year-old Jonathan Adam Buell of 404 Dublin Drive in Asheboro ran his vehicle off the road on Firetree Lane around 10:00 pm on Saturday night, October 2.

A report prepared by NC State Trooper K.R. Burroughs indicated that Buell was traveling east on Firetree Lane between Dogwood and Edgewater Drives when he drove off the right side of the roadway, struck a guardrail, and came to a stop partially blocking the road. Detective Williams told *The Times* that charges are pending against Buell for driving while intoxicated.

When McVey, employed by the SLLA to act as roving security patrol, came upon the scene of the accident, he found Buell in the vehicle, according to an incident report filed by Sheriff's officer Timothy E. Davis.

McVey told the officer that Buell was verbally abusive. The driver exited the vehicle and began walking up Edgewater. McVey followed him, attempting to persuade Buell not to leave the scene of the accident. According to McVey's account in the incident report, Buell began running, and, when McVey continued to run beside him, continued to verbally confront McVey.

When Buell took off his belt and began to swing it at McVey as a weapon, the security officer said, he decid-

ed to defend himself. McVey told Officer Davis that he struck Buell once on the left side of the head. Buell fell, and McVey handcuffed him.

Detective Williams told *The Times* that McVey had no obvious signs of injury and had apparently not been hit or struck by Buell.

She said McVey struck Buell with a heavy MagLite-type flashlight, apparently rendering him unconscious for some period of time. Buell was transported by Emergency Medical Services to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. Williams said it was her understanding that the

blow to Buell's head may have led to some internal bleeding.

Based on Buell's injuries, McVey was charged with assault with a deadly weapon causing serious injury and was released with a written promise to appear in court on October 27.

SLLA Community Manager Alina Cochran confirmed that McVey is an employee, but would not comment on whether he is still on active duty.

She told *The Times* that the Board had determined McVey's status to be a confidential personnel matter.



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)

\$164,000 with payments spread over three years and no interest. Funding for the first year was preapproved during the budget process.

Recognitions and appointments

Dana Old

(Continued from page 5)

returning to assist in the barn along with Northsider Morgan Brock.

"Kim was sixteen and working here the very first day. She put me on Rusty, put my feet in the stirrups and taught me to steer," said Old.

While Rusty and many

Judy Martin, Moore County's Register of Deeds, was recognized with a Shining Star award for dedicated service; one of only two honored in North Carolina.

Individual recognition awards were also given to Moore County employees who

Bright

(Continued from page 9)

including Best of Breed [opposite sex] in the Shetland Sheepdog category with her dog, Star Chaser.

She delighted the WEE students by demonstrating some basic agility skills with assistance from six of her Shelties. One – a fourteen year old grande dame – and two exuberant puppies drew the loudest applause from the wide-eyed children.

Whether competing in dog shows, reality shows, or just living day-to-day life, what's important is to focus on the good stuff, Bright said.

"The more positive the bet-

other horses and ponies have come and gone, Old still enjoys visiting with Casey. Like twins, both arrived at nine years old and are now twenty-two.

"I love Casey. He was a race horse when he was young," she said, noting that the Stables includes many breeds and backgrounds including thoroughbreds, Quarter horses, Appaloosas, and Paints, a Shetland pony and miniature horse, and Bonnie – who is also a retired race horse and a granddaughter of Triple Crown winner, Seattle Slew.

Under Reeder's careful tutelage, Old developed into an accomplished equestrian and has gone off property to show mules and participate in English-style horse jumping and rodeo barrel racing.

"I would not have had the opportunities I had without Karen. She was here when I was a little kid and became a mentor and close friend," she said. "I learned everything here."

reached their fifth through thirtieth anniversary years of service between May and October 2010.

Paul Baxter was appointed to the Aging Advisory Council, and Charles Carlton, Mary Elle Hunter, and Bud Wallen were reappointed to their positions.

Dr. James Watson, DVM, was reappointed to serve as Moore County Animal Cruelty Investigator, a position he has held since 2006.

Barbara Allred was reappointed to serve on the Library Board of Trustees.

Bruce Robson was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the RSVP Advisory Council.

Carol Geerdes was reappointed and Johnny Williamson was approved to serve as alternate members of the Town of Pinebluff ETJ Planning Board/Board of

Adjustments.

Shawn Dantzler was appointed as an ETJ alternate member to the Village of Whispering Pines Board of Adjustment.

Other Business

In other business on Tuesday, October 5, the Board of County Commissioners:

- Approved two budget amendments for the Moore County Health Department in response to a \$52,000 grant from NC Health and Human Services.
- Approved three houses for rehabilitation under a 2009 Scattered Site Housing for total costs of \$48,378, \$42,580, and \$49,190 respectively.
- Approved a motion to permanently change the County Commissioners meetings from the first and third Monday to the first and

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)

ing major maintenance work.

"We feel we can keep the pressure up and do the conversion, but we will do more research and get back to you," Honeycutt told the Council. "We'll make this work and make it right for the Village."

Water

A major fifteen-year maintenance project on the Foxfire Water tank begins this week and will continue over the next month, reported Councilman Ed Lauer.

He asked for Villagers to be conservative with their water use and said irrigation was forbidden while work is ongoing.

"We used almost a record 90,000 gallons recently and our well pumps are cycling every four minutes to maintain pressure," Lauer warned. "There can be no irrigation and the fine is the same as during a drought - \$250."

The \$71,000 project includes \$3,900 in permits, \$6,670 to install a riser, \$29,560 for a temporary hydropneumatic tank and system, and \$30,960 in tank reconditioning and painting services.

While the project is undertaken, a mobile yard debris site has been developed. Village residents may deliver yard debris to a truck at the corner of Richmond Road and Ridge Road on Tuesdays and Fridays, between 4:00 and 5:00 pm.

Woodland Circle

Foxfire consultant Tom Collins reported a number of letters have been written back and forth between contractors regarding deficiencies noted along the Woodland Circle Extension project. He said the contractor is currently undergoing what he hopes will be the final punch list.

One concern is that new electrical lines were installed by open trenching which damaged grass on the right-of-way and impacts the permanent erosion control plan.

Concerning final pay items, Collins said the engineer has

not yet responded to a letter from the general contractor. Once received, he will meet with the Council to discuss their options.

Hartsell Road, which was used as a main entrance to Woodland Circle during the construction process, has been restored to its original condition.

Finance

Reviewing a thorough comparison of revenue and expenditures over the past two pool seasons, Finance Director Leslie Frusco reported changes in policy had increased revenue by \$1,600; however, the overall deficit is still high, at \$20,000 for the 2010 season.

Non-resident pool fees were significantly increased this year and, consequently, the number of non-resident users dropped. Other changes included returning to a punch card system for residents and decreases in salaries and related expenses.

Frusco reported the General Fund at \$1,333,027 which includes \$725,911 in unspent loan proceeds for Woodland Circle, \$20,011 in Powell Bill funds, \$20,976 in the Stonehill Pines account, leaving approximately \$566,000 available for operating

expenses.

The Water Funds was reported at \$322,194 which includes \$26,556 in unspent loan proceeds for Woodland Circle; in addition, \$135,392 is set aside in a restricted escrow account for a new well.

The Woodland Circle annual loan payment of \$270,000 from the General Fund and \$19,000 from the Water Fund is due in April 2011.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, October 12, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Adopted the Foxfire Village Council Code of Ethics.
- Tentatively scheduled a Public Hearing in December to consider rezoning several recommended areas to the new Recreational District designation, including the Village Green Park, the pool and tennis court facility, and golf courses. After discussion on the storm water ordinance already in place that restricts the golf course property uses, the Council agreed that more in-depth research is required prior to any action.

• Heard from Koos that sprinkler system work at the Foxfire Fire Department building is nearly complete and, once in place, the facil-

ity will be manned 24/7 by a West End Fire & Rescue First Responder.

• Heard from Erickson that two new construction homes in Foxfire received Certificates of Occupancy from Moore County and that exterior compliance inspections were conducted; one house failed the first inspection and was visited a second time. In addition, Planning & Zoning anticipates plan for two new homes in the near future; one a 7,500 square foot house with a 5,500 square foot garage to house

a fine car collection.

• Heard from Erickson that he will be attending preliminary meetings with NC-DOT to discuss the proposed Western Connector Bypass. As proposed, the road will run east of Foxfire along the far edge of Stonehill Pines and Lake Diamond before connecting to Foxfire Road. A portion of the road intersects the Edwards property on land annexed by Foxfire.

Councilman John Elschlager was unable to attend the meeting.

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Boating Rules

(Continued from front page)
December meeting.

Among the changes Mims recommended were the following:

- Making it clear that all Boaters on SLLA Lakes must comply with both North Carolina boating laws and Association Rules and Regulations.

- Allowing only boats belonging to the lot owner to be moored overnight at private docks. Both Denny Galford and Melinda Scott pointed out that lakefront lot owners will often provide, or even rent, mooring space at their dock to SLLA members who do not have lakefront property. "I think we are creating a world of hurt if we start allowing folks to turn their docks into a commercial enterprise," Mims said, but the Board asked him to revisit that proposed revision.

- Allowing only members in good standing to register boats for use on SLLA Lakes, and requiring that members provide proof of ownership of the boat that is to be registered.

- Requiring that boat owners contact SLLA Security to have stickers affixed to their boats, in order to ensure that the sticker is applied to the right boat. Galford suggested that could create a significant amount of work for Association personnel, and Scott said the extra requirement amounted to "penalizing the 99.9% of those who follow the rules in order to catch the few who may be bending the rules." The Board asked Mims to rework that section of his proposed regulations.

- Making violations of the boating rules the responsibility of the registered boat owner, no matter who might be operating the boat at the time the infraction occurred. In addition, Mims proposed an escalating series of sanctions for the first, second, and third offense. Director Bud Shaver and Director Scott both suggested that any penalties prescribed in the rules and regulations be advisory in nature, leaving

the exact penalty to be imposed to the discretion of the Judicial Committee. The Board asked Mims to revise that section of his proposal.

- Making a failure to stop and "heed-to" SLLA security a violation of the boating rules.

- Declaring the operation of an unregistered boat on any SLLA lake to be Second Degree Trespass under North Carolina law.

Meeting held on Lakes & Dams

President Randy Zielsdorf opened Monday's Work Session with a report on a meeting between representatives of the SLLA Board and a group of landowners concerned about the maintenance of the community's lakes and dams. Zielsdorf, Galford, and Community Manager Alina Cochran attended the meeting on behalf of the Board; the concerned landowners were represented by Don Fentzloff, Conrad Meyer, and George Temple.

The group agreed on a number of maintenance tasks, including water testing four times per year, application of aquatic weed herbicide as needed, twice a year mowing of the dams, regular reading of the piezometers that measure water levels inside the dams, and regular annual inspection by the state and by the Association's dam engineer.

The landowner group expressed concern about the need to lime and fertilize the grass on the dams, to cut high brush on the backs of the dams, and to investigate a wet spot on the back side of Sequoia Dam. Zielsdorf said SLLA management would get a recommendations on fertilizing and weed cutting from a qualified dam engineer, as well as an assessment of whether the wet spot needs further attention. Director Shaver said he believed the Association had already received a recommendation on fertilizing from the engineering firm SM&E.

Zielsdorf noted that the Association has spent rough-

ly \$480,000 on the lakes and dams since January 2006 - - \$330,000 of that in state-mandated repairs.

Zielsdorf left the meeting early, turning the duties of presiding officer over to Vice President Droppers.

Community Standards Enforcement

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. expressed concern that the current Community Standards enforcement process -- using letters to advise landowners of rules infractions -- is impersonal compared to the earlier approach, when then Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane would telephone violators to try to seek compliance. "We try to treat everyone the same," Cochran explained, as well as maintaining a paper trail on violations. "If you think of 294 phone calls and voice mails and follow up calls -- we literally don't have the manpower to do that," she added.

Droppers, who heads the Community Standard Committee, said that the old approach created an enormous backlog of unresolved problems, because the process was so time-consuming. "It would be impossible to call on every single problem -- maybe we can get to that point in a year," he added.

Swimming Pool setbacks

Community Manager Cochran reported that she and Westside Community Manager Joan Frost had met with two representatives of the Moore County Planning Department to discuss how the county's rules regarding swimming pool setbacks could be modified to better fit the size of Seven Lakes lots.

Cochran said county rules currently require a fifty-foot setback from the back and sides of a property, which is too large to allow the placement of a pool on many Seven Lakes lots. They explored the possibility of changing the setback requirement to twenty feet in Seven Lakes.

Director Droppers asked Director Scott to have either

the county or the Architectural Review Board to make a presentation on the issue at the next Work Session.

Other business

In other business during their October 11 work session, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Unanimously approved placing a revised rule concerning propane tanks on the October 27 Open Meeting agenda for a vote. Director Droppers explained that the revised rule specifies that above-ground tanks must be screened with evergreen plantings and removes a clause that permitted screening "acceptable to the Board." "We're just adding a little

more specificity and taking away the arbitrariness," Droppers said.

- Droppers reported that the recent Community Clean Up day was successful, with volunteers helping a dozen or so residents dispose of yard waste and unwanted items.

- Cochran noted that a trip to the State Fair in Raleigh on October 21 is being coordinated through Kirk Tours. Landowners make register for the \$32 bust trip by calling 295-2257 or email reservations@kirktravels.com.

- Residents are invited to "Meet the Management Team" on Tuesday, October 19, from 10:00 am until Noon at the SLLA Landowners Office.

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State Engineer

(Continued from page 3)

Marks and addressed to Herdrich as Chairman of the Association's Dam Committee, in which Marks attempts to explain both the state's failure to impose the restriction he requested and McEvoy's use of the word "may."

Marks writes:

Mr. McEvoy, P.E., as the State Dam Safety Engineer has no authority and/or jurisdiction to serve as the private dam engineer for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association . . . In his statement 'You as the dam owner may wish to consider the design engineer's recommendation in the matter.' Mr. McEvoy, P.E., has come as close as possible to stating an agreement with the recommendation while not acting outside of his authority and jurisdiction.

Marks' is undoubtedly correct that McEvoy cannot, as State Dam Safety Engineer, serve as SLWLA's dam engineer. However, his statement has been interpreted by some as suggesting that McEvoy has no authority to close Longleaf Drive over Lake Auman dam, and that is clearly not the case.

McEvoy explicitly stated in an interview with *The Times* that his office could and would close the dam road to vehicular traffic, if they found clear signs of stress to the dam's structure linked to travel over the dam.

"We would not order the road closed unless we see signs of changing stress on the dam," McEvoy told *The*

Times. "If we came out one day, and there were signs of stress on the embankment, we might require closure of the road."

Among the problems McEvoy mentioned that might result in an order to close Longleaf Drive across Lake Auman dam were "sloughing on the downstream slope, significant seepage, rutting in the roadway, and apparent distress in the roadbed."

"Any dam that is repaired is subject to re-inspection," McEvoy told *The Times*. "It's just like a used car; you might fix it one day, and then the next day it needs something else."

"Sometimes we will close a road across a dam if the dam is in the act of failure," McEvoy said. By way of example, McEvoy told *The Times* that his office had ordered Camp Easter Road closed over the dam at Crystal Lake in Vass when it developed a sinkhole, which he called "a clear sign of current distress."

As for Lake Auman Dam, "we don't have any clear signs of current failure," the state engineer added.

"We can require a dam owner to close a road," McEvoy said, though he noted that his office typically does not have to take that step, because either the NC Department of Transportation or a local government that has jurisdiction over the dam will step in to close the roadway because of safety concerns.

(See "State," p. 15)

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It's time to clean them up!

We found several boats/trailers that are not registered with Seven Lakes West storage. We ask homeowners and previous residents who may have left their belongings behind to please check the storage yards at Longleaf and Johnson Point. If you have a boat/trailer at the storage yard that is not currently registered with SLW, contact the West Side Community Center Office @ 910-673-5314. All items remaining on Nov 15, 2010 will be removed from SLW by a towing company. You will then need to contact them directly to pick up your belongings and pay towing & storage charges. We appreciate your help in cleaning up our storage yards!

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10-20 acres in Reynwood with Shared Pond. Beautiful Tract

State Engineer

(Continued from page 14)

Would the state have to approve a new roadway?

McEvoy confirmed that his office would need to review plans for any reconstruction of the roadway atop Lake Auman Dam. The extent of the review required, he said, would depend on the degree of excavation required. If rebuilding the road requires excavations shallower than twelve inches, the Dam Safety Engineer could declare the repairs "non-jurisdictional," in effect, taking a hands off approach. More extensive excavation would likely result in more extensive review by McEvoy's office.

"Many times we will allow paving across a dam without approval, if it just involves pavement and and no excavation into the embankment for drainage structures and piping," McEvoy told *The Times*. "When you excavate into a dam, that's when we get involved. Many times road repairs involve just eight to twelve inches. As long as

you're not excavating into embankment, we're not going to be heavily involved."

Would the state approve Lake Auman Dam today?

The claim that Lake Auman Dam could not be built in today's regulatory environment is one that surfaces from time to time in the debate about the dam and dam roadway.

The Times asked McEvoy to comment on that notion: "It's been said that, should the dam fail, the state would never allow it to be rebuilt. Is that accurate?"

"I'm not sure I could say that," the state's Dam Safety Engineer responded. "With the right funding and right engineering effort, you could design a dam there."

The Times asked whether such a project would necessarily involve a concrete core, as opposed to the current earthen structure.

"That's a possibility," McEvoy said, "but earthen dams can be engineered that have internal zones. They

can be designed by using different types of soil to create zones in the structure." The current Lake Auman Dam is in fact such a "zoned" structure, with a less porous clay core, which Dam Engineer Marks has suggested appears to have been imperfectly constructed.

"So the state hasn't given up on earthen dams?" *The Times* asked McEvoy. "No," he replied. "The vast majority

of dams in the state are earthen."

The Times noted that the earthen dam at Hope Mills Lake in Cumberland County, after failing, was replaced by a concrete structure. McEvoy replied that the use of concrete in the replacement dam was not something the state had mandated.

The Times asked whether, if Lake Auman Dam were being built today, stricter

standards would prevent a roadway being placed atop the embankment.

"I do not think that would be the case," McEvoy replied.

The Times asked whether it was unusual, in today's regulatory environment, for a road to be placed upon the embankment of an earthen dam.

"No, that is commonly done," McEvoy replied. "That's not at all unusual."

Candidates Forum

The League of Women Voters of Moore County will present a Candidates Forum at the Pinehurst Village Assembly Hall, 395 Magnolia Rd, Pinehurst.

The forum will on Tuesday, October 19, 7 pm to 9 pm. The public is urged to attend.

Eight candidates for the School Board have been invited to the forum.

Also invited are the two candidates for Commissioner (district V) that have opposition; William S. Garner and Jimmy D. (Jim) Melton. All the other Commissioner candidates are running unopposed.



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Petition

(Continued from front page)

to support the special meeting drive.

The SLWLA bylaws provide for the calling of a special meeting at the written request of one-tenth of the membership, which would be roughly 172 lots. Gorenflo sug-

gested during the meeting that the group should try to collect at least 250 signatures, because some will likely be ruled invalid for technical reasons.

The bylaws provide no special instructions for the conduct of special meetings,

which may mean that such a meeting would be conducted in essentially the same way as an annual meeting, with ballots mailed to the membership, which would be eligible to vote by mail, in person, or by proxy.

The last time SLWLA mem-

bers successfully called for a special meeting was prior to the construction of the West Side Park Community Center, when those opposed to the project mounted a successful petition drive.

But, in that instance, a disagreement between peti-

tion organizers and the Board concerning interpretation of the bylaws led to dueling special meetings, one Board sanctioned and the other convened by the opposition.

The Petition

The Dam Road petition [download a copy at www.sevenlaketimes.net] outlines a multi-part process that begins with a special meeting vote on this question:

Shall the Dam Road be reopened for member and resident traffic subject to a (posted and reasonably enforced) speed limit of twenty (20) miles per hour and valid transponder/bar code sticker gated access and for all emergency vehicles (specifically including, but not limited to, fire trucks, ambulances, and police vehicles) only? (members to vote: yes or no)

If the membership votes to

(See "Petition," p. 17)

Board asks for input on dam road

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

As a drive to call a special vote of the membership got underway, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] mailed a letter to landowners seeking input into its pending decision on permanent closure of Longleaf Drive over Lake Auman dam -- a decision on which the Board is expected to vote during its Tuesday, October 26 Work Session.

The letter, which includes a tear-off form for member input and a postage-paid return envelope, asks West-side landowners to choose one of two options:

I support the Board's recommendation to close the Dam given the recommendation of its Dam Engineer and the suggestion of the State that we follow that recommendation, or

I do not support the Board's recommendation and want the road over the dam

reopened, regardless of the potential risk, liability, or cost to myself or the community.

The three page letter [download a copy here] includes background on the history of the dam remediation, presents the rationale for the Dam Committee's recommendation that the road be closed permanently, and includes answers to some frequently asked questions.

The Board writes that Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks "recommended to the state that the road remain closed to vehicular traffic "regardless of any plans to design and/or construct any type of high strength roadway pavement."

The letter says that a second engineering opinion is not being sought because a legal opinion from the Association's attorney indicates that disregarding Marks' advice -- and the recommendation of the Dam Committee -- could, if the road were reopened and the dam

subsequently failed "put the Association in the unenviable position of having to prove in Court that any future problems with the dam were not caused, in whole or in part, by the decision to allow resumption of traffic over the area of the dam where the latent defects in the core were discovered."

The Board estimates the cost of repairing the roadway, which was rendered unusable during last year's

remediation to be \$1.2 million, which could result in a \$700 per lot special assessment or "significantly higher annual dues for the foreseeable future."

Members are being asked to mark their preference on the input form and return it to the SLWLA office no later than Friday, October 22. Results will be tabulated by CAS, Inc. and that the responses of individuals will remain confidential.

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Petition

(Continued from page 16)

reopen the road, the petition instructs the Board to create a seven-member Dam Road Re-Opening Committee that will investigate what will be required to re-open the road.

The petition restricts the membership of the committee to members who have owned property in the community for at least three years -- i.e., before the closure of the road across the dam. Those who have served on the dam committee, the lake committee, or the Board of Directors in the last five years would not be eligible to serve on the Dam Road Re-Opening Committee. Gorenflo said this stipulation was included to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

With a minimum of \$25,000 for a budget and six months to complete its work, the committee will present to Board with a recommendation for reopening the dam road, which, after sixty days for public study and comment, will be put to the membership in a second public meeting. If approved, the recommendation will be implemented. If rejected, the matter will be returned to the committee for more work, a new recommendation, and another vote.

One meeting attendee pointed out that this could create an endless loop, in which the committee brings forth recommendation after recommendation, each rejected in turn by the membership. While acknowledging the possibility, Gorenflo said he doubted the process would devolve to that point before the community found another way to resolve the issue.

Why a special meeting?

Addressing the need for a special meeting petition, Gorenflo said the twenty-eight day window before the Board is expected to take a final vote on permanent closure of the road over Lake Auman Dam is not enough time to gather second opinions from other engineers or assemble other data that might convince a majority of the Board to vote against closure.

He also said he didn't believe the community could get a fair estimate of the cost of restoring the roadway across the dam if the Board of Directors produces the estimate, noting that Board members have already mentioned estimates as high as \$1 million, which he said were inflated.

In addition, Gorenflo said, it is unlikely that the Board of Directors will themselves call a special meeting to have a referendum on the matter.

A vote may not bind the Board

Even if the petition drive is successful, it's not clear that a vote of the landowners one way or the other can bind the action of the Association's Board of Directors.

During the Board, Tuesday, October 12 Work Session, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn announced that the Board had obtained an opinion from its outside counsel, the law firm of Robbins, May, & Rich that "we could not be forced as a board to accept the results of a referendum."

Referring to the group organizing the special meeting as the "Damn the torpedoes, torpedo the dam group," Silberhorn said: "Feel free to sign the petition, feel free to come to the special meeting, we would be happy to hear whatever you have to say at the special meeting, but according to the outside counsels memorandum of law that we have received, we don not have to act on that and be forced by the results of a referendum to change our vote should we chose not to."

Silberhorn did not provide any details on the rationale

underlying that opinion, other than that it was based on the covenants, bylaws, NC Planned Community Act and NC Non-Profit Corporation Act. When *The Times* asked for a copy, Silberhorn said it would not be appropriate to share the details with the press.

Several speaker later in the Work Session expressed surprise and concern that the Board would consider disregarding the vote of the landowners in a referendum.

Silberhorn rebutted those comments by noting that the SLWLA is organized in a representative form of government and not every decision can or should be handled through a vote of the membership.

Additional information

Members of the Special Meeting Petition Group began soliciting signatures at the Westside mailhouse on Tuesday, October 12.

Westside landowners who are current in their dues payments and otherwise eligible to vote in Association elections are eligible to sign the petition. Only one signature is allowed for each lot owned, just as each lot has only one vote in Association elections.

For additional information on the special meeting petition drive, to sign the petition, or to volunteer, contact Mike Gorenflo at 910-673-1325 (office) or 910-673-5593 (home). The petition may be downloaded from www.sevenlaketimes.net.

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- **Fall Smorgasbord at West End United Methodist Church** – at 6 pm. Tickets are only \$8, includes buffet, dessert, and tea. Proceeds benefit help various missions of the WEUMC Women. Tickets 673-3734.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

- **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines** – Annual Rummage Sale held at the Old West End Gym. Doors open at 8:00 am and the sale will end at 2:00 pm.
- **Parent-Child Round Robin Benefit** – 2 pm to 5 pm, at Seven Lakes Tennis Center. Make a difference in the search for a cure. \$30* per team. Prizes. Need a partner? Let the tennis center help. Sign-up at (910) 673-1098 or (910) 783-8382 or 7lakestenniscenter@gmail.com *\$20 of each entry fee will benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist All are Welcome.
- **2010 Horse Farm Tour** – 11 am - 4 pm, Travel down the back roads of Southern Pines. Self-guided excursion through scenic Sandhills horse country. Equine

demonstrations, lunch available. Proceeds benefit Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding Center. Tickets call (910) 246-3202 or prancinghorsecenter@yahoo.com or www.prancing-



What's When Calendar

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- **Local Service Worker's Recognition Sunday** – 11 am Service West End United Methodist Church. Local EMS workers, firefighters, and law enforcement are invited to our church to be recognized for their service to the community. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Hwy. 73. Questions: 673-1371
- **Old Growth Hike** – 3 pm, Enjoy the majestic stature of some old growth longleaf pine trees on the Boyd tract of Weymouth Woods. Take a hike to the oldest known

living longleaf (463 years old) as well as one of the largest in diameter. Wear good hiking shoes. Meet at Visitor Center, car pool to other tract. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills

Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167.

- **Culinary Showcase** – 5 pm -7:30

pm, Pine Needles Reception Center, Southern Pines, Tickets \$50/person or \$90/couple, includes all food and beverages, including beer and wine, and one door prize. Presented by Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Tickets (910) 692-3926 sold at Moore County Chamber of Commerce www.moorecounty-chamber.com

- **Awana** – Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Seven Lakes, Family Life Center Available to 3 years old by Oct. 15th through 5th grade. Questions: 673-4656.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **Ladies Bible Study** – 6:30 to 8 pm, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Seven Lakes. Class ends on November 15. Studies include Beth Moore - The Patriarchs, Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. Questions: 673-4656

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Rev. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are Welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, October luncheon meeting at Tavern on the Green, Midland Country Club. Guest speaker is US Army Reserve Officer Colonel Steve Tableman. His subject is, "An Update on the Middle East." Public invited. Reservations required. Call Charlotte Gallagher, 910-944-9611
- **The Stories of Genesis** –

4 pm, meet on successive Tuesdays for five weeks in the sanctuary of the Chapel in the Pines. A course on "The Stories of Genesis" taught by Don Welch, minister. Course will cover the mythic Middle Eastern stories of the creation. Stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the three Abrahamic Faiths of Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Free. All are welcome to attend.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Candidates Forum** – 7 pm to 9 pm, to hear candidates for School Board, District 111 Board of Education and District V County Commissioner. Held at Pinehurst Village Assembly Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Moore County.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10 am to 3pm in the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. The weather is cooler. It's the perfect time to make



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a blanket for a child in need. Supplies furnished. No sewing required. Call Pat Weber 673-1457.

- **Art Gallery Open**, 1 to 4 pm, local artists showing, fine art, photographs, and needle art. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Contact Helen at 673-6347
- **Artie Shaw Orchestra to Perform** – 8 pm, Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School. Advance Tickets \$20. Tickets at door \$25. Purchase at: Whelan Realty, LLC in Seven Lakes; Country Book Shop, Arts Council of Moore County, Gentlemen's Corner, The Village Apothecary Pharmacy, and Southern Comfort Salon.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, every Thursday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Ministry for single seniors (widows and widowers). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal, \$5/person. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Hwy. 73. Questions: 673-1371.
- **Art Gallery Open**, 1 - 4 pm, local artists showing, fine art, photographs, and needle art. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church,

1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Contact Helen 673-6347.

- **Seven Lakes Snack Antique Car Show** – 5:30 pm, Cruise on over and check out the unique and Antique cars at the Snack Shack.
- **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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm, Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

- **West End Methodist Church Youth Rummage Sale** – 8 am - 1 pm, at the church. Money raised will benefit mission trips, community projects, and activities for the children. *No early birds please.*
- **Sandhills Area Land Trust** – 10 am to 1:30 pm, "Land Conservation and Pointing Breed dogs - A Sandhills Tradition" at SALT's Wheeler Farm, Hwy 73. Jackson Springs Friends \$35/person, Kids \$15 (12 and under), Members \$25. Reservations Required. www.sandhillslandtrust.org with a Visa or MasterCard. 910-695-4323.
- **Kool Kids Parent Date**

Night - 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Recreational play for kids grades K-5th. An evening out. For 3 hour evening \$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes, 2 doors from McDonald's.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes. Holy Eucharist All are Welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Tennis Center Open House** – Wine & Cheese Tennis Social, 3 pm. A get together to socialize and play tennis. Open to members and nonmembers. Free. RSVP call 673-1096 or 7lakestenniscen@gmail.com
- **Owl Prowl** – 4 pm, Flying mousetraps and sky tigers are apt descriptions for these birds of prey. Learn to identify these birds by sight and sound. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 692-2167.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm. Featured artists Anne and Pete Sibley. Admission Charge. Poplar Knight Spot,

114 Knight Street, Aberdeen. 910-944-7502.

- **Awana** – Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Seven Lakes, Family Life Center Avail. to 3 years old by Oct. 15th through 5th grade. Questions: 673-4656.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

- **Ladies Bible Study** – 6:30 to 8 pm, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Seven Lakes. Questions: 673-4656.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. North American Bats and White Nose Syndrome - Lisa Gatens, Curator of Mammals at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences will be the guest speaker. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 or www.sandhillsnature.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Seven Lakes West**

Landowners Association – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, monthly meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. For single seniors (widows and widowers). A time of fellowship and devotion and meal, \$5 per person. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Hwy. 73. Questions: 673-1371.
- **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-.
- **Save Our Sandhills** – 7 pm, Save Our Sandhills hosting Candace Williams. Discuss "The Work of the Sandhills Area Land Trust – Past, Present, and Future." Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe St. and Pennsylvania Avenue. Refreshments served.



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Crushed . . .

It started off innocently enough with just a touch of the bug. A low-grade Bieber fever, Darling Hubby said.

I didn't mind much since the acute Hannah Montana flu has faded into a more benign chronic condition now that Taylor Swift has gracefully settled into the Princess of Pink's CD player.

But then came the 'I heart Justin' button and a glossy-paper 'tell all' biography she had to have. It didn't take long to realize that my little girl had been afflicted with a full-blown case of idolatry.

I'm trying not to take it too hard.

After all one of my first fan

crushes was also on a cute pop rocker: Rex Smith.

Rex who, you ask?

Never one to follow the crowd in most any aspect of my life, even my celebrity crushes are notably off-beat.

Occasionally, I toe-the-predictable-line, surely what oxygen-breathing chick over the age of five doesn't adore Brad Pitt or Johnny Depp? And I've seen Josh Groban in concert not once, but twice.

But more often than not my fandom tendencies run towards the rugged and obscure rather than the rich and famous.

Michael Biehn, Cary Elwes, Sam Elliott, Stuart Townsend,

and Dave Mustaine all have a piece of my heart though the top of my list is usually a fairly even toss up between Sean Bean and Scott Glenn.

So imagine my horror this week, when I took my Bieber-loving baby to see the new Disney feature 'Secretariat.'

The lights went out and we were transported back into the lush scenery of race horses and late 60's attire: and then it happened.

The father.

The ailing demented man who was physically secluded from his family in his back office and also mentally isolated in a body and mind that barely functioned was

played by...gasp, Scott Glenn! Are you kidding me?

You mean the guy who played the villain of 'Urban

October?' Glenn, the absolute perfect choice to play the first American to enter space, astronaut Alan Shephard, in 'The Right Stuff'?

I'm trying not to take it too hard.

After all, as Rex Smith once crooned in my preteen

ears, 'They tell me I should slow up, take my time and grow up. But sooner or later's too late.'

It's clear to me now that my sooner has become my much, much later.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Cowboy' and would do 1,000 daily pushups while on set? The same guy who stood up to the Russian subs with a frosty stare as the unflappable 'Buckaroo' Naval commander in 'The Hunt for Red

There is a right or wrong answer on the dam

I take issue with the statement, "There is no right or wrong answer on whether to close or reopen the dam road," uttered by Attorney Michael Gorenflo at a meeting on September 27 in his office concerning whether the Lake Auman dam road should be left closed to vehicular traffic.

It is my purpose to support the contention of dam engineer Dan Marks that the dam in its present repaired condition is incapable of resisting the repeated dynamic loading associated with vehicular traffic.

"Nature abhors a vacuum," stated Aristotle several thousand years ago as an explanation of why water pumps work. A more accurate explanation might be that nature abhors or tries to equalize a difference in pressure. A dam is an engineering device aimed at maintaining a pressure difference.

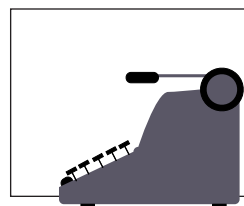
The dam [must resist] . . . a force of about 333,600 tons of horizontal force exerted against the wet side of the dam. This downstream force must be resisted by an upstream force developed by the granular materials com-

prising the dam. The force of interest is supplied by the frictional force developed between the granules opposing their horizontal motion.

This frictional force is proportional to the weight of material being sup-

Your Turn

Bruce Macdonald
Seven Lakes West



ported by the individual grains [and] in direct proportion to the apparent sur-

face roughness of the granules in contact. This apparent surface roughness . . . can be greatly diminished by introduction of a lubricant. Water is an excellent and readily available lubricant to the granules of an earthen dam. . .

Water is not only present in the dam; it also seeps through the

dam with enough speed to carry the dam material along with it.

The purpose of the dam repair was to reduce that flow rate and thereby reduce the rate at which dam material is carried away. Any phenomenon which enhances that flow rate diminishes the ability of the dam to resist the formidable downstream pressure of the lake water. Dynamic or moving loads are such a phenomenon.

You can simulate this effect by loading a sponge with water, placing it in a tray which will contain the water which leaks from the sponge,

and placing a weight on the sponge which it can support without going completely flat. Once the weight and sponge are in equilibrium, drain the excess water from the tray. If you next pick up the tray and wiggle it about, you'll notice that additional water will exit the sponge. None of the sponge material will exit with the water because of its cohesive nature.

For an added measure of realism, you may wish to perform the experiment with water containing some dam material and watch the simulated dam leak.

Dr. Marks "consulted with 12 to 15 dam engineers" who concurred with his advice to close the dam road. There is in fact a right or wrong answer.

As he and his colleagues maintained, no vehicle traffic should be allowed on the dam due to the diminished structural integrity in the west side fill. It was faulted from the start, and the recent repair will do its job only if the repeated impact loading of vehicular traffic is not allowed.

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Board should listen to Landowners Voice

I have been blessed to live and work in Seven Lakes for much of my life. My family moved here in 1982, and as a child I would ride my moped on trails through what is now Lake Auman. In 1999, after nine years away, my wife and I returned, built a home in Seven Lakes West, and opened a business. I love Seven Lakes, it is my home, and I hope to be here for many years.

For decades, the Lake Auman Dam has been both 1. the highlight of many Landowner's tours of the Community for their visiting friends and family, 2. an immeasurable selling point for Realtors trying to secure top dollar in the sale of property, 3. a bridge uniting residents on both sides of the dam, 4. faster access for emergency, safety, and security to some homes, 5. a shorter distance to the hospital in emergencies for some, 6. a time saver for busy Moms and commuters to/from work, and 7. has offered a beautiful view reminding us all of the wonder that is our beautiful community.

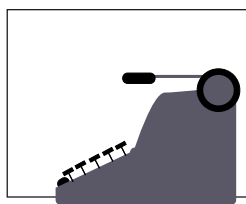
A few weeks ago, about fifty Seven Lakes West landowners met to discuss a way to convince the Board a public comment period regarding their premature vote on "Permanently Closing" the Dam Road was needed. "Premature," because Boards normally assess their members' opinions before they vote on significant issues affecting the Community's most valuable amenities. Luckily, on September 28 (after Landowner Group action), the Board tabled their ratification vote until October 26.

The Group next met Octo-

ber 5, approving a petition that is disseminated to landowners for signature (a copy of the petition is available at www.sevenlakes-times.com). The petition details a process where the Landowners ultimately decide this

Your Turn

Michael Gorenflo
Seven Lakes West



issue, and specifically includes the authorization of funds to secure a second opinion on the post remediation condition of the Dam, always keeping the Dam's integrity a priority throughout the process. The Dam Road would not reopen until a second vote of the Landowners approved a Dam Road Reopening plan (subject to the costs and responsibilities of management and care of the Dam, and the completion of any additional

remediation). No one wants a road that jeopardizes the dam's integrity or safety.

The Board should have:

1. acted consistent with their duty to the landowners in thoroughly examining all alternatives other than "Permanent Closure" of this amenity,
2. openly and transparently disclosed the results to the Landowners,
3. freely allowed for appropriate Landowner comment periods, and then
4. allowed the landowners to vote (subject to a non-binding recommendation of the Board).

Sadly, the Board:

1. formed a Dam Committee consisting mostly of members already on record as opposed to the road's reopening,
2. did not secure a second opinion regarding the condition of the Dam,
3. voted to "Permanently Close" the Dam Road (then concentrated its efforts on defending its actions/inactions and attacked all dis-

senting Landowners as irrational, emotional, or illogical),

4. sent a biased and polarizing request for Landowner opinion, and now,

Despite the State of North Carolina saying our community can choose whether or not to reopen the Dam Road for itself, the Board announced (at the October 12 Board work session) its belief that, regardless of the Petition and any vote at any Special Meeting (if held), they are not bound to follow the vote of the majority of landowners.

If that is true (which I am in no way conceding to be the case), the process of

landowners being able to require a Special Meeting as stated in the By-Laws of the Association is merely a placebo placed there to give the landowners the false hope that their voice matters. And if the Board disregards, disrespects and disenfranchises the voting landowners, I hope the landowners' memory of that injustice guides their votes when choosing the next set of Board Members.

I love Seven Lakes and will continue to regardless of the outcome of this issue. I just think it is time the Board listens to the Landowners' Voice.

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Dam road closure the only logical solution

Dear Editor:

Keeping Auman Dam road closed to vehicular traffic is only logical solution.

Having attended the board meeting where Dr. Marks evaluated the dam and its remediation, I came away convinced closing of the dam to vehicular traffic was the

only avenue our community should exercise.

As a result, I was not surprised when the committee recommended, and the board moved to close the dam to vehicular traffic. When enacted, the decision will allow the board to budget, and the community to approve, the

expense to remove the unsightly barricades and move forward with a plan to make the dam more attractive to foot, bicycle, emergency and perhaps utility vehicle traffic. What was surprising to me was the reaction from a segment of the community to the board's decision

and the way they went about attacking the board through e-mails, meetings, and media. Facts are facts, no matter how you try to bend or shape them. The dam is designed to allow seepage and will continue to do so; and vibration enhances that process.

How effective the remedia-

tion was and how much the dam will deteriorate, with or without traffic, is not known. Time is needed to determine that and only time will allow us to determine if vehicular traffic should be allowed across the dam. Until then, let's make it a beautiful place to watch a sunrise, the recreational activity on the lake or just a quiet place to ride, take a stroll or just relax.

My biggest concern is not liability, but what the State might dictate to us, if the dam were to continue to deteriorate at a rate determined to be excessive.

The dam does not need to fail for us to lose our number one asset. Let's allow enough time to be sure of the dam's stability and then discuss whether vehicular traffic across the dam should be reconsidered.

Bruce Keyser, Sr.
Seven Lakes West

This second opinion didn't suit Board

Dear Editor:

For nearly as long as we have lived in Seven Lakes West, I have had more than a passing interest in Lake Auman and the dam. I serve on several Board committees and support Board requests for special projects involvement.

For some time, I have been researching for additional technical information regarding the Lake Auman Dam remediation and roadway. During my search, I found a registered professional engineer/dam safety engineer with comparable credentials to Dr. Marks. This gentleman offered to provide me his personal comments on the Lake

Auman Dam as he was not registered to practice in NC.

Apparently, as long as the Board believed that this information would confirm the success of the dam remediation, they were amenable to providing limited access to existing dam information. I have read all of the dam information that has been made available and sent all allowed to this gentleman.

On receipt last week, initial comments were given to the Board with authorization for distribution only to the Board, lake/dam committee and Dr. Marks. I have not distributed copies to anyone other than one printed copy to the Board. Immediately follow-

ing, I was contacted by the Board and asked to keep the contents confidential due to the sensitive nature, to which I agreed for an interim period. I have tried diligently to resolve this situation with the Board. Unfortunately, the Board does not appear interested and as a result I am being forced to reevaluate our agreement.

Subsequently, the Board asked me to withdraw the report. Since I declined, I have been accused of being unprofessional, unethical, uncooperative, irresponsible, causing irreparable damage to Seven Lakes West, threatened, and, at the October 12 Board meeting, publicly vilified by one member for my dam related activities.

My interests have always been to get the proper, relevant facts through further

technical opinion(s) to concur or refute the remediation results and then have the dam/roadway situation resolved accordingly. I have no interest in biased opinions or special interests.

Frankly, I can live with what may ultimately transpire. However, I am unwilling to live with a dam that could be suspect.

James D Johnson
Seven Lakes West

Seven Lakes EMS Phone Book

It is time to update the Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Book. This is voluntary on your part. If you are not listed in the telephone book, please go to the Seven Lakes North/South Landowner's Office or the Seven Lakes West Landowner's Office and fill out a ticket which they have on their display tables. Or you can email your name, street address, mailing address & phone number to emsbook69@gmail.com with changes and updates. All changes need to be received by December 1, 2010.



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Board should stay the course on dam road

Dear Editor:

We have been listening to the debate over the closing of the Lake Auman Dam for the past two years. It seems that the real focus is on two issues – property values and safety/liability.

National property values, and those in Moore County, stagnated in 2006-2007. According to the statistics of the Southern Pines/Pinehurst Realty Board for Moore

County, property values leveled off and have remained stable for the last three years – 2007 to 2010. The dam was closed in September 2007. Therefore, based on the Realty Board statistics, the closing of the dam road has had no appreciable effect on property values in our area. Slowed sales are the result of a slowed economy.

It seems to us that a truly savvy real estate agent would

use the permanent closing of the dam road as a selling point – i.e., the community cares about maintaining a wonderful natural, and recreational resource, and cares about those “down stream” who could be in mortal danger if the dam was breached.

As to safety and liability, the Lake Auman Dam, designated by the state as a high hazard dam, was not designed to be driven across.

The fact that it did get a road as an afterthought, put all property owners in a precarious position – though we didn't know it at the time.

If the property owners association, in the face of strong recommendations by the dam engineer. Not to reopen a road across the dam, decides to build a new road, we will be liable for any and all damages caused by a possible breach. All a suing lawyer

has to do is wave reprints of the news articles and e-mails that are out there to show that the association knowingly went against all recommendations to the contrary, and opened the dam road. We do not want to have to sell our home – at a drastically reduced price ala Hope Mills – in order to payoff the never ending law suits that the association would incur.

In addition, this Board has been working with local agencies to develop emergency plans and alternate egress. This diligent, overworked, unpaid group of volunteers is only interested in one thing – the well being of this community. We thank them for their time and effort and for withstanding the slings and arrows of this unfortunate circumstance.

Johanna & Thom Moran
Seven Lakes West

Step up and demand a second opinion

Dear Editor:

Has the community of Seven Lakes West lost its mind? A decision that will impact every resident and property owner is being made by a board of a few on the opinion of just one man.

If a doctor tells you all that you have left is a year to live

would you not get a second opinion? We the residents and landowners of Seven Lakes West need to demand a second opinion, at any cost. This life impacting decision cannot, and should not be left to the opinion of one man. I realize we could get opinions forever, but to make such a

huge impacting decision on only one mans opinion is outrageous. We as a community need to have at least one more recommendation before we the residents and landowners vote yes or no to close the dam forever.

Step up residents and landowners of Seven Lakes

West. Demand a second opinion and demand the right to have a vote on the resolution of the dam.

This is too big for just a chosen few to decide.

Barbara Dennihy
Seven Lakes West

EMS phone book is great!

Dear Editor:

When I want to send a card or make a phone call to someone in Seven Lakes, I reach for our Seven Lakes directory compiled by the Seven Lakes EMS. This is the only place I can find a mailing address. It is also the only place that lists phone numbers other than Century Link numbers.

The phone book committee relies on the cooperation of

the residents of our community to keep the information in the directory up to date and accurate. No information is put in the directory without the consent and direction of the residents. If you are not listed in the directory or if you have a change to make please fill out a form that is found in the landowners' office or send your name, street address, mailing address and phone num-

ber to emsbook69@gmail.com.

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Angie Haan
Seven Lakes North



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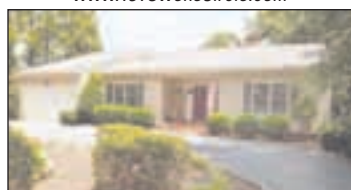
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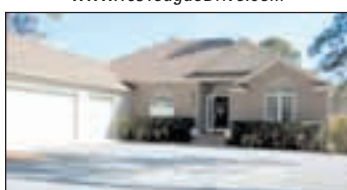
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St. James is no incorporated paradise

Dear Editor:

The two groups proposing that Seven Lakes be incorporated to solve all of the worlds problems have their own agendas. The first appears to be about street being paved. I am not sure of the driving force behind the second group.

We moved here from Oak Island, which is across the Intercoastal Waterway from St. James Plantation -- the last gated community to be allowed to incorporate. St. James is a far different community than Seven Lakes. It is larger, and a quite a wealthy area.

Yes, they receive money

from the state. In fact, this community is the reason for all the changes in the laws governing gated communities. Do they have so called 24/7 police protection their streets? No. Do they have better emergency response group than we have here? No, not even close.

Is there gold flowing from the state and county to pave their streets? No, they actually had to raise the funds to install a stop light at their entrance on Highway 211. After Hurricane Floyd, when their road was washed out, it was weeks before they could raise money to repair it.

Does St. James have a seat

on the county commission? No. If you want a say, run for office. We are large enough block of votes to make that happen.

Is St. James involved in annexation? You better believe it. How are they doing? They are involved in more lawsuits than you could believe.

[Some say] we can control the lakes if the gates come down. Pure hog wash. We are not controlling them now. On any given day, many of the people using our facilities are not homeowners. Their vehicles show no identifying tags, and in most cases they do not show day tags. Maybe

that is where the vandalism is coming from. They do not have a stake in what happens here. What would make them take care of our facilities?

We have a fine community here, why would you want to tear it apart?

The fear of being annexed by Pinehurst is unfounded. They would have to provide services that we not have at

present. Pinehurst would be broke trying to provide such things as sewer, police, etc. They would have to annex all the areas in between. They can not jump all over the land to spot annex certain areas.

Leave well enough alone. Join the group organizing to block this foolishness.

David Carr
Seven Lakes North

Let the landowners vote

Dear Editor:

It is hard for me to understand why the Seven Lakes West Board would deny its landowners from voting on closing the road over Lake Auman Dam. The dam and road has been in existence for over 20 years. The road has never suffered any sink or potholes or had any remediation in that period of time.

It has never been proven that the road had any negative impact on the performance and integrity of the dam, it has only been an assumption.

We should further our investigation of the dam's integrity with a second opinion, just as you would do in your personal life. The amenity of having a road that links our community is important and the absence of this

amentity, just as the absence of any amenity in any community will lessen the value of our properties. Relate this to the elimination of Johnson Point and/or our community center as an amenity.

I truly hope our Board will take a responsive action and allow the landowners to vote on this issue.

Richard "Dick" Osborne
Seven Lakes West


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Thanks for the rescue!

Dear Editor:

This is a letter of thanks to our Seven Lakes EMS and friends.

On September 13, my husband, Don Hauck, had cardiac arrest while playing tennis at Beacon Ridge. His great teammates came to his rescue by taking his pulse, calling 911, and Ron Shepard starting CPR.

Within minutes, Deputy Mike Kanterowski was there with paddles.

The Seven Lakes EMS arrived with Tim Bouchelle, Bob Haan, Jim Haggard and Clay Kurnert. No one, including the doctors at the hospital thought there was much hope for recovery.

Don had excellent care at the Emergency Room, and

in the CCU at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Thanks to the immediate response and the Seven Lakes EMS expertise and the many prayers offered for Don by our friends, Don is home recuperating.

*Don and Mary Hauck
Seven Lakes West*

Leave the hot dog man alone

Dear Editor:

I can't believe the West End resources officers asked Bob Darr to move his mobile cart from the corner of the school's property.

Don't they have enough to worry about inside the build-

ing and what harm or distraction was he causing?

A man earning a living, donating a portion of his profits and ALL of his tips to a worthy cause, The Wounded Warriors Foundation, and providing a convenient, rea-

sonable lunch to local folks didn't need to be hassled. Surely there are tasks inside the school that can be tackled instead of time being wasted on this.

*Mary Anne Lauer
Foxfire Village*

Women of 7 Lakes fashion show

Men's and women's new fashions provided by Belk's – from casual golf wear to dressy holiday looks – will be featured at the Women of Seven Lakes Fall Fashion Show & Card Party Luncheon on Thursday, November 4, starting at 11:30 am, in the Westside Park Community Center. Tickets are \$20 and include a delicious luncheon provided by Basco Catering featuring a selection of soups in a bread bowl, spinach walnut salad, and tuna, turkey or chicken salad on croissants, with petit fours for dessert.

The Women of Seven Lakes are also offering Belk Charity Day tickets for \$5.00 that can be used at Belk's for special discounts on Saturday, November 6, from 6:00 - 10:00 am, when only ticketholders will be admitted to the store. A credit of \$5.00

plus special discounts will be applied to any purchase. If you cannot shop at that time, you may pre-shop and pay, but will have to pick up your items after the sale time.

Proceeds from the WSL Fall Fashion Show and also the Belk's Charity Days tickets will benefit many local organizations supported by the Women including West End Fire & Rescue, Seven Lakes

Fire Department, Seven Lakes EMS, The Chapel in the Pines Empty Stocking Fund, and the Reading is Fundamental [RIF] program at Robbins Elementary.

For Fashion Show tickets, please call Ginger Finney at 673-1330. To purchase a Belk Charity Day ticket, please call Rosemary Weber at 400-3024 or email webze-mail@yahoo.com

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Board blasts, but does not release, '2nd Opinion'

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westsider Jim Johnson has been for some weeks pursuing a "second opinion" on Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks' recommendations regarding the Lake Auman Dam remediation and road closure, working with an as-yet unidentified Colorado licensed engineer with thirty years experience who serves as the Dam Safety Engineer for a large municipal water system. [See a letter to the editor from Johnson on page 22.]

In previous Board Work sessions and other meetings, Ed Silberhorn, Legal Director for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], has indicated the Board would cooperate with Johnson or anyone else interested in seeking a second opinion.

In Tuesday's meeting, Silberhorn said a "member of the community" had forwarded Lake & Dam Director Mick Herdrich a copy of an engineer's opinion on the dam that Silberhorn called "inflammatory." [Silberhorn was careful not identify Johnson or the Colorado engineer by name, but Johnson confirmed to *The Times* that the

report in question was the one he had obtained.]

Though Silberhorn criticized the Colorado engineer as lacking "the common courtesy, decency, or ethical instincts to communicate with the engineer of record" — i.e., Marks — and complained that the engineer had not returned emails or phone calls from SLWLA directors, he said the Board had forwarded the engineer's report to Marks requesting a response and asking whether the opinion should be shared with the office of the State Dam Safety Engineer.

Silberhorn also noted that the Colorado engineer is not licensed in the state of North Carolina. He said the Board would make the report public once it has Dr. Marks' response to its contents.

Because neither the Board nor Johnson have released the opinion, it is impossible for *The Times* to report on what it contains, but it appeared clear from comments by both Silberhorn and Johnson during the meeting that the concerns the report raises extend well beyond the question of reopening the dam road, perhaps to the adequacy of the recent remediation and its

implications for the integrity and safety of the dam going forward.

Silberhorn complained that the Colorado engineer's report was based on an incomplete review of the available data on the dam and the remediation; Johnson told *The Times* he had provided the engineer with all the materials to which the Board allowed him to access.

Johnson told *The Times* that the report rendered by the Colorado engineer is nineteen pages long, including tables and drawings. He said it was done as a personal favor to him, and was not a representation by the engineer that he was licensed in the state of North Carolina.

Silberhorn said during Tuesday's meeting that Marks had only that morning received the report; it is not clear when any details will be made available to the membership.

Third Incorporation report released

Director Jane Sessler had the unenviable task of presenting the third of the Association's subcommittee

reports on incorporation at the end of a very long work session. The Amenities Subcommittee looked at the implications of both incorporation with the gates and incorporation without the gates on the primary Westside amenities, including Lake Auman, the Johnson Point recreation area, the Westside Park complex, and Lakeway Mall.

Sessler noted that many residents may not think of Lakeway Mall as an amenity, but it in fact adds considerable beauty to the community at its primary entranceway. Should Lakeway Drive become a public road, if the Westside gates were dropped in order to incorporate Seven Lakes, the committee feared

that it would become a public park or picnic area, with the attendant problems of litter, wear, and tear.

Incorporating without the gates could present even greater challenges for the other amenities, requiring heightened security in order to make sure they aren't used by folks who aren't members of the Association, Sessler said.

Incorporation while retaining the gates presents much fewer problems of that sort, she noted, but both incorporation strategies would involve what the committee felt was the single greatest threat: the possibility that the new town could use its power of eminent domain to

(See "SLWLA," p. 29)



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Dam road

(Continued from front page)

Dr. Dan Marks, was credible. Goodman said the recent remediation had revealed defects in the dam the extent of which were not yet fully known. The results of reopening the road, if that causes further deterioration of the dam, could be catastrophic and subject the the entire community to liability in the lawsuits that would inevitably result.

Goodman did not rule out, however, the idea that a second engineering opinion, focused on the safety of the dam and the adequacy of the remediation rather than reopening the dam road, might be an option in the future.

Treasurer **Joe Sikes** said keeping the dam road closed is prudent. He said he had not yet seen enough information supporting the reopening of the road to convince him that was the appropriate course of action.

Community Events Director **Jane Sessler** noted that she had worked as a volunteer with Dam Committee member Paul Kirst doing piezometer readings and other routine dam inspection tasks. Sessler said there was probably "never supposed to be a road on that dam in the first place." Though she, too, misses the experience of driving across the dam and enjoying the view of the lake, Sessler said she had seen the dam "inside and out" and the idea of reopening the road "does scare me."

"Common sense tells me I would not put a road across there until I have more information," Secretary **Karen Milligan** said. "My biggest frustration on many levels is that the information given to me as a Board Member has not been as much information as I would like — and I am sitting on this side of the table," she told the landowners gathered for the meeting. "I would vote to keep it closed, but with the thought that this is an on-going

process."

President **Ron Shepard** said that "Everyone is welcome to their opinions," but added that he believed "the opinion of the Board is based on more facts than personal opinions." Noting that he appreciated both the convenience and the beauty of crossing the dam, Shepard said aesthetics and convenience in this case have to take a back seat to the safety of the dam and the liability the community would face should it fail.

Legal Director **Ed Silberhorn** said he had received hundreds of emails and personal communications on the dam road issue, and, based on that input, "I dare say this room is not representative." [Those in attendance seemed to include more people in favor of reopening the road than in favor of permanent closure.] "The community gets it," Silberhorn continued. "It is a matter of safety, a matter of potential catastrophic loss."

Silberhorn reminded landowners that the structure of governance in Seven Lakes West is "a representative democracy." He said the decision on the dam road is not one that can or should be put to the landowners in a

referendum that would require the Board to make a decision that is not in the best interests of the community.

He noted that Dam Engineer Marks had given the community a plan for a rebuilt roadway over the dam and "even if designed as he would recommend, he still is not in favor of us driving over that road and opening it to vehicular traffic, because it will continue to further the deterioration of the dam."

"I was elected by you to do what is in your best interest and I don't want to do something contrary to that interest," Silberhorn concluded. "I would vote to have the dam road remain closed."

Noting that, as a younger member of the community, he circulates among a different group of landowners than some other Board members, **Adam Wimberly** said his contacts, many of whom live in the area most affected by the dam road closure, "all think it is a ridiculous idea to even think about reopening the dam again."

Wimberly said, as a salesperson, he is always looking for the win-win solution to a problem, but added that the question of reopening the dam appears to offer no such

result, but only a win-lose option.

"I trust Dr. Marks," Wimberly said, "I am very much going to support his findings."

With that, the Board voted 7-0 in favor of Director Goodman's motion that the road over the dam should remain closed to vehicular traffic except for emergency vehicles, golf carts, bicycles, and

pedestrians. A final ratification vote is scheduled for the October 26 evening work session.

Directors John Hoffmann and Mick Herdrich were unable to attend Tuesday's meeting and did not participate in the vote.

See page 27 for more coverage of Tuesday's Work Session, including news of a "second opinion" on the dam.



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SLWLA

(Continued from page 27)

wrest ownership of the amenities from the Association, turning them to use by the general public.

Sessler said North Carolina's eminent domain provisions had been rated sixth highest in the nation in terms of the threat they pose to private property.

Copies of the subcommittee's report and presentation are available at www.sevenlakestimes.net.

Nominating Committee

At the request of Nominating Committee Chair Karen Milligan, the Board approved on Tuesday a set of guidelines for nomination to the board, vetted by the Association's outside counsel, which included a model code of ethics for board members prepared by the Community Associations Institute.

Treasurer Joe Sikes argued that the guidelines were both ill-advised and vague. He objected in particular to one code of ethics prescription that the board "always speak with one voice."

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn defended the guidelines as putting in writing an "oral tradition" that the nominating committee had always utilized in vetting nominees.

Sikes proved the lone voice of opposition in this care; the motion to adopt the guidelines passed 6 to 1.

Project Linus

(Continued from page 8)

who have made contributions.

Additional volunteers are always welcome and no special sewing talent is required. Bakers to whip up delicious treats for bake sales are needed and also people to help with thank-you cards and other administrative tasks, explained Weber.

For more information on the Sandhills Moore County Chapter of Project Linus, Pat Weber can be reached at 673-1457 or weberconsult@nc.rr.com If



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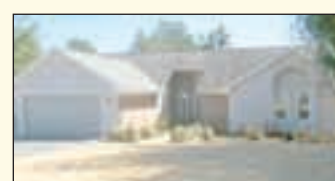
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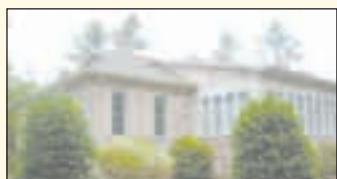
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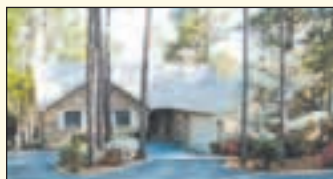
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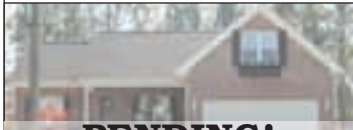
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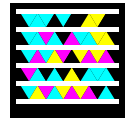
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SL North - 145 Shadywood Court



Charming Home!
\$259,900 4 Bd/3 Ba

Over 2,800 square feet. Three bedrooms and two full baths on main level with great room, dining room, sitting room and kitchen. Fourth bedroom, full bath and casual living area located on lower level of partial basement. Master bedroom offers and a nice dressing area just off the master bath and a private screened porch. Oversized garage! Located on one acre lot, and in cul-de-sac.



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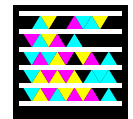


108 Hastings Drive - SL South Golf Front



Just Reduced!
\$249,900 3 Bd/2.5 Ba

Golf Front Living At Its Finest! Spacious and exhilarating Golf Front views, living on one of the most beautiful fairways in Seven Lakes Country Club. Large kitchen, living and dining spaces with expansive deck facing the golf course. This home is in "Move In" condition and has beautiful hardwood floors, spacious floor plan, and plenty of room for entertainment and relaxation.



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