

Deck the Halls!



Volunteers from the Women of Seven Lakes — under the able leadership of Pat Weber — decorated the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse for the Holiday Season.

Board nominees announced

At least six candidates will compete for four open seats on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors, and Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Directors approved on Tuesday a slate

of four candidates for three open seats candidates on the Westside Board.

The opportunity remains on both sides of town for additional candidates to enter the race by submitting petitions representing a suffi-

cient number of lots — approximately 50 petitions for either Association.

Both Associations hold their Annual Meetings and elect new Directors in March. *The Times* will profile and interview the candidates on both sides of town in upcoming editions.

Both challengers & incumbents on SLLA Ballot

Northsiders Bob Darr, Bob Racine, Conrad Meyer, and Don Fentzlaff will join incumbent directors Randy Zielsdorf and Bruce Keyser, Jr. on the SLLA ballot. Nominating Committee Chair Melinda Scott presented the candidates during the SLLA's December 15 Open Meeting.

(See "Candidates" p. 13)

Westsidiers vote to close dam road

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westsidiers have voted by a margin of more than seven to one to support a decision by the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors to permanently close the road over Lake Auman Dam to vehicular traffic. When the final tally was taken at a Tuesday, December 15 Special Meeting of the membership, there were 473.5 votes in favor of supporting the Board's decision, 65 against, and 10 abstaining or expressing no preference.

[It is possible to have a half-vote because each of the owners of a lot shared for septic field purposes pays

half dues and receives a half vote.]

The meeting attracted approximately two hundred members, but the real story was the number of proxies held by SLWLA President Ron Shepard. Proxies are legal documents that allow a member to assign his or her vote to someone else. The Westside Board, after turning the administration of the Special Meeting over to their outside legal counsel, used email, the Association website, and the landowners office staff to gather proxies assigning votes to Shepard.

As a result, he walked into Tuesday's meeting with 418.5 votes sewn up — more than

(See "Special," p. 28)

Zielsdorf impatient on pact with Club

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

"Time is ticking . . . and this needs to be resolved with the two current sitting boards."

Frustrated at the slow pace of progress toward implementing the three and a half-year old agreement between Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] and Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] over the "old driving range" property, SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf offered a brief update at the Wednesday, December 15 Open Meeting.

"I've asked three times for the tentative draft on the easement and covenants," Zielsdorf reported. "I was told there was one change to the easement that our attor-

ney said would be no problem — that it had no impact on our objective. There have been minor changes to the covenants [drafted by the Club]; and I've asked for copies to pass out to our Board, but those have not been received."

Approved in a 4-3 split vote in July 2007, the agreement includes five specific points: that the Club would draft its own covenants restricting its properties to golf course and club operations, that the Club would grant the Association a ten-foot easement along Seven Lakes Drive, that the Club would provide the Association with space for at least five additional parking spots at the Southside mail house, that

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

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Todd Pusser entertains 7 Lakes Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Todd Pusser, a local Moore County resident, and world renowned wildlife photographer, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Tuesday, December 14.

Pusser has gained local notoriety by his exquisite pumpkin carvings that he does each year at his home in Eagle Springs at Halloween. He carved a total of 158 pumpkins this year in designs that the average person would think impossible.

But Pusser's real talent and vocation is the filming of the world's wildlife, both flora and fauna. He started his career filming dolphins and whales on a small scale, but his expertise soon became known to others, including Woods Hole in Massachusetts and the Scripps Institute in California. He has now

done filming in 38 countries. The Kiwanis meeting, however, was devoted to wildlife that we have right here in the Sandhills. He caught the

attention of the audience when he started out by saying that the Longleaf Pine, so obvious in the Sandhills, is part of the most endan-

gered "forest" in the world. Moore County, in particular, is growing in population, which is the prime reason for the disappearance of the forest, not only because of man's cutting of the trees, but also the fact that the Pines need fire to germinate their seeds, and man does his best to fight wildfires.

By means of his beautiful photography, Pusser took everyone through a major "nature walk" through the Sandhills, showing the wonderful variety of plants, insects, animals, birds, and to the "joy" of many, the snakes found in the Sandhills. There are six venomous snakes in the Sandhills, four in Moore County.

Red foxes have historically been common in the Sand-

hills, but are becoming less so because of the increase in the number of coyotes, a natural predator of the fox.

When he is not filming in some other part of the world, Pusser does a lot of community speaking to various groups like Kiwanis, but he specifically enjoys the opportunity to speak to schools. He shares the concern of many parents and grandparents that the kids today don't spend enough time outside without their many electronic distractions, and are becoming less aware of their surroundings and the wonderful world of nature that lies just outside their doors.

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



Todd Pusser & Kiwanian Ron McGaughey

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Dec 30*	Jan 7
Jan 14	Jan 21
Jan 28	Feb 4
Feb 11	Feb 18
Feb 25	Mar 4
Mar 11	Mar 18
Mar 25	Apr 1
Apr 8	Apr 15
Apr 21*	Apr 29
May 6	May 13
May 20	May 27
Jun 3	Jun 10

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Faster mortgage payoff could save big bucks

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Accelerating debt service to pay down the Westside Park Community Center mortgage over the next five years could provide up to \$100,000 in overall savings to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

In his first official appearance as a member of the Board of Directors, newly appointed Treasurer Don Freiert presented this recommendation, along with a summary of the proposed 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget, during the SLWLA Work Session on Tuesday, December 14.

Freiert explained that increasing debt service payments by \$47,000 each year, funded by a decrease of \$52,000 in allocations to the capital reserve, would allow the Association to pay off the mortgage by mid-2016. Freiert recommended no change to the auto loan the Association carries on the community pickup truck, at a \$5,000 annual cost.

Director John Hoffmann expressed concern that paying off the mortgage could make it more difficult for the Association to borrow more money, if it were needed.

"My understanding is that one reason we were carrying debt was so that we could put more debt there should circumstance arise," said Hoffmann. "Under the Planned Community Act, we are precluded from incurring debt unless eighty percent of the membership approves. This [mortgage] has given us a means to add debt or carry debt without going through that process."

Hoffman noted that it is imperative to maintain significant reserves in case of a major, unexpected expense.

"Sometimes it may look like we're carrying extra reserves, and, prudently, we are," he said.

Freiert responded that the primary debt was incurred to finance the construction of the Westside Park Community Center and was never

intended to serve as general funding for the Association.

"We are electing to make these [extra] payments. If we run into issues, we could revert to paying the loan payments as required by the contract and use the \$45,000 a year in an emergency. We are choosing to do this for savings. There is no reason to leave these funds sitting in a reserve account earning one to three percent, when the cost of interest [on the mortgage] is five percent."

Proposed 2011-2012 budget unveiled

Freiert unveiled the Finance Committee's proposed 2011-2012 budget during the

December 14 Work Session.

Copies of the proposed 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget are available at the SLWLA office and have been posted

to the website. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm for public input, and the Board is expected to vote on the proposed budget

at the Tuesday, January 11 Work Session. A final budget will be submitted to the membership on or before
(See "Westside," p. 14)

Repairs will split West Side

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A major culvert replacement project on Longleaf Drive scheduled for the first week of January will effectively cut the community in half – with one side restricted to entering and exiting at the Seven Lakes West front gate, and the other side restricted to the back gate.

Barricades will be located at the culvert between Vanore Road and Wagoner Court. Work is anticipated to commence on Monday, January 3, and conclude on Friday, January 7.

A temporary guardhouse will be installed at the back gate and guards will be checking with vendors at the gates to determine if they

need to be redirected to the other gate to reach their destination.

"Notification has been sent to the fire departments, emergency services, and police. Signs will be posted at both gates and also on the crests of each hill preceding the work site," reported Infrastructure Director John
(See "Road," p. 29)



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Council approves Woodland Circle assessment

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

With a limited agenda and only three councilmen present, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Lauer presided over a short meeting of the Foxfire Village Council on Tuesday, December 14.

Taking another step towards completing the Woodland Circle Extension project, the Council unanimously approved a resolution to assess 100 percent of the cost of the improvement to the fourteen affected property owners.

Prior to the project's commencement, ten of the fourteen owners, representing 67 percent of the linear frontage of the proposed road, signed a petition approving construction. Assessed property owners may elect to pay in full without interest within thirty days of notification, or over a five year period at a five percent rate of interest.

A Public Hearing on the Woodland Circle Extension will be held Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.

Real Property taxes

Sixty-eight percent of total tax billings and 75 percent of budgeted taxes have been

collected, reported Finance Director Leslie Frusco, adding that reminder notices have been sent out.

"We send these as a courtesy," she explained, "to give property owners a heads up before we start assessing fees and interest as of January 5."

Foxfire resident Lydia Conard questioned the expense of sending the reminder notices, but Frusco replied that she wanted to ensure that property owners were given adequate and proper notice prior to the due date when penalties begin to accumulate.

"I'd rather give them advance warning just in case they forgot," said Frusco.

Finance

Foxfire Village received a clean opinion on the annual audit of its financial reports, Frusco reported.

Looking ahead, after nearly twenty years of service by the same auditor, she recommended that it was prudent to seek additional bids for the project. Four were received, including a bid submitted by the longstanding auditor, and after a comprehensive review of pricing structures, she recommended a contract with Anderson

Smith for a proposed fee of \$8,500, not to exceed \$9,500, plus the option of annual renewal.

Deputy Village Clerk Sharon Sanchez was thanked for assisting with the thorough review of the audit bid proposals.

In other action, the Council approved a \$1,640 budget amendment to the water fund for boring work.

Frusco reported the General Fund cash balance at \$696,210, of which \$608,531 is unrestricted, \$50,000 is set aside in a capital reserve fund, and nearly \$21,000 is in the Stonehill Pines restricted account. The Water Fund stands at \$284,263, not including \$135,419 in a restricted escrow account for a new well.

The Woodland Circle Extension project was completed in December and came in under budget. Frusco reported that all unspent proceeds from the project's loan had been returned to the bank. The first payment of \$199,869 from the General Fund and \$14,813 from the Water Fund towards the Woodland Circle loan is due in April 2011.

Public Safety

Foxfire's new police K9 officer is so good at his job that word is spreading around the county, reported Councilman Vic Koos.

"Several days ago we were asked by another municipality to send 'Ruger' to check a suspect," he said. "Ruger found 30 grams of marijuana on him! This is not the first time he has found drugs, and that is great news for Foxfire. If word gets around

that we have this dog and he is very good, they'll [the bad guys] quit coming through here — and I'm extremely happy with that."

Continuing his report, Koos said a new snow plow blade would be installed on the Village truck, adding that Officer Scott Patterson would drive the vehicle if and when it was needed.

Responding to questions he has received concerning

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

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Work needed to replace the badly corroded culvert pipes where the stream crosses Longleaf between Vanore Road and Wagoner Court has been scheduled to begin on Monday, January 3, 2011, and is scheduled to be completed on approximately Friday, January 7, 2011.

While the culvert replacement work is ongoing, Longleaf Drive cannot be traversed at that point. Therefore, the community will be "cut in half," with one side restricted to front/west gate entry and egress, and the other half restricted to back/east gate entry and egress.

**Please call the office at 910-673-5314 if you have any questions
regarding this temporary road closure.**



Seven Lakes West Landowners Association
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Phone: 910-673-5314 Fax: 910-673-2707



Board skeptical, but approves zoning request

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Unanswered questions about future development plans for a small piece of land in Vass had the Moore County Planning Board scratching their heads during the Thursday, December 9 meeting.

The matter at first appeared to be a relatively simple request to rezone a 5.98 portion of an existing 45.06 acre tract located on Lobelia Road near the intersection of McPerson Road from Rural Agricultural to Rural Business. But the request was eventually approved by a split vote, and only after the Board had exhausted all legal means to ferret out additional information from The Rhetson Company, the residential and commercial developer that requested the zoning change.

Because it made a general rezoning request rather than a conditional use request, the firm was not required to specify the type of business planned for the site. However, Planning Board Member Dave Kinney quickly zeroed in on fine print on the site plan that read "DWG=dollargeneral.dwg."

Due to restrictions on permitted questions, whether or not the developer or land owner intends to erect a Dollar General store on the site

was left unanswered.

When the motion to approve was called, Planning Member Robert Hayter cast the lone dissenting vote.

Zoning Ordinance text amendment

A 'housekeeping' type text amendment to add silos to the list of structures that are not required to meet height limit exemptions was unanimously approved — a change that now brings the Moore County Zoning Ordinance in line with permitted uses in the I-2 Zoning District. The amendment also will zone Feed Processing as an industrial use.

A silo is defined as stand-alone or attached cylindrical structure that is used in the storage of bulk materials for agricultural or industrial uses. Most silos exceed the maximum height restriction of all zoning districts in Moore County.

Unified Development Ordinance update

Initiated in January 2010, the Unified Development Ordinance will combine the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance into a single, user-friendly document that is more efficient for the Planning Board, county staff, and the

public.

Specific changes included in the new format include a redesign of the numbering system to create an index; a compilation of all development review procedures with scheduling tables and charts into one article; an addition to the procedure for Conditional Use zoning requests that mirrors the current Conditional Use rezoning procedure, except for the required quasi-judicial hearing; addition of dimensional requirements for each zoning district; addition of a section outlining the authority of every official and Board; and addition of diagrams and tables that make the regulations

easier to understand.

Accessory Dwelling Unit

Continuing a discussion of what options are available to the Planning Board in regulating older or unsightly manufactured homes, Planning Director Joey Raczkowski explained that, while an aesthetic code can be adopted, homes cannot be restricted by age.

Per North Carolina law, a city or county may not adopt zoning regulations which exclude manufactured homes from the entire zoning jurisdiction; however, the city or county may adopt and enforce appearance and dimensional criteria.

Another option would be to adopt a minimal housing code with provisions for heating, plumbing, room sizes and types, and structural integrity, but, Raczkowski noted, such a code would only address the structure itself and not its appearance.

In particular, the Planning Board has found themselves in the uncomfortable position of approving Conditional Use requests for accessory dwelling units even when neighbors have expressed concern because, as long as the property meets set requirements, they cannot deny the request.

After going around the table
(See "Planning," p. 20)

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Nathaniel Middleton makes Eagle Scout

Four out of every 100 young men who join boy scouts will achieve the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Nathaniel Middleton, son of LTC Daniel and Maureen (McIntyre) Middleton and grandson of Dorothy and Warren McIntyre of Seven Lakes North, is the newest Eagle Scout of Troop 747 in Fayetteville.

Middleton received the rank of Eagle at his Court of Honor on November 27. Accompanied by his fellow troop members, family and special guests, Scout Master Tom Archer presented Middleton his award.

Nate Middleton is a freshman at Fayetteville Terry Sanford High School where he also plays on the JV Soccer and Basketball teams.

As a child of the military, he has had the opportunity to scout in Germany, Georgia and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. "Frequent moves with the military has made completing his Eagle project a challenge, but he has always found good friends and great leaders at each new troop who have helped him progress. Scout-

ing has made the transition of moving easier because you get plugged into your new troop and make friends quickly," commented his mother.

Middleton's Eagle project consisted of planting fourteen 12' Red Oak trees on a training range at Fort Sill, OK.

He said, "After a severe ice

storm destroyed a lot of trees last January, I started thinking about planting new trees for my project. The garrison commander supported my idea and by May I completed planting the trees with the help of my troop."

Middleton's trees are a living example of his dedication to the scouting spirit.





Nathaniel Middleton

Westsidiers give to Toys for Tots

On December 10, several Seven Lakes West residents attended a "Holiday in the Pines" celebration that brought together new and old neighbors for the holidays. Funds were raised and dedicated in the amount of \$309 to the Marine's Toys for Tots program. The contribution will be earmarked specifically for special needs children and toys that are appropriate for them.



Rosemary Weber, Joe Gavala, Tom McKenna, Roseann Rapp, Gloria Williams, Dave Petrie, and Joyce Freiert

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In memory of . . .

Fred Deaton Williams, age 70, died Tuesday December 7, at Serenity Place Dublin, Georgia.

Mr. Williams was born in Moore County. He was a member of Bensalem Presbyterian Church and was retired from J.P. Stevens and Company.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 11 at the Bensalem Presbyterian Church, Eagle Springs. Burial followed in the church cemetery. Rev. Wess Brandon and Rev. Dwight Williams officiated.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the late James L. and Estella Williams, two brothers, James Lucian Williams, Sr. and Arthur R. Williams.

He is survived by his companion, Annette Griner of Enigma, GA; son Kenneth D. Williams of Oak Island, ; daughter, Barbara (Chip) Jackson of Dublin, GA; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Roy Colon (Virginia) Williams, Sr., Foster Lee Williams, Clinton Ray (Geraldine) Williams, and Viola Ethel Monroe all of Eagle Springs; Harold (Nellie) Williams and Winford (Ruby Ann) Williams all of Aberdeen; Treva (Edgar) Smith of Pied-

mont, SC, and Liz (Joe) Puss-er of West End.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Mr. Williams, to Serenity Hospice, 520 Hillcrest Parkway, Dublin, Georgia 31021

Arrangements by Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes

Frank Sauter, III, 81, died Tuesday, December 14, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

Mr. Sauter was born in Bronx, NY the son of the late Frank and Eleanor McKnight Sauter. He served his country in the Army National Guard. He moved to Seven Lakes in 1984

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lee.

He is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Matilda "Terry" Sauter; son Steven Sauter and wife Lilia of Conway, SC; daughter Donna Lee Conrad and husband Bill of Bascom, FL; step-daughter Maureen Pingel and husband Jack; step-son Tom Haddican and wife Bev; five grandchildren; five step grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 17, at The Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes. The Rev. Don Welch officiated. Interment followed

at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North,

West End, NC 27376 or The Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisted the family.



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Rosskamp reviews Windows 7 at Computer Club

by Irene Baumgartner
Seven Lakes Computer Club

At the December meeting of the Seven Lakes Computer Club, Doug Rosskamp covered Finding Files or Folders, 64-Bit Support, User Account Control, System Restore, Easy Transfer, Remote Assistant, using Easy Connect, using an Invitation file, and Uninstall/Change a program.

Find a file or folder - Windows provides several ways to find files and folders. There isn't one best way to search - you can use different methods for different situations.

64-bit Support - Put simply, a 64-bit PC can handle larger amounts of information than a 32-bit system.

User Account Control - User Account Control (UAC) helps defend your PC against hackers and malicious software. Any time a program wants to make a major change to your computer, UAC lets you know and asks for permission.

System Restore - Ever wish you could turn back the clock after a bad crash? With Windows, you can. System Restore returns your PC's system files and programs to a time when everything was working fine, potentially preventing hours of troubleshooting headaches.

Windows Easy Transfer - When you're switching to a new PC, Windows Easy Transfer helps you transfer

your files, e-mail, pictures, and settings.


Windows Remote Assistance - Sometimes the best way to fix a problem is to have someone show you how. Windows Remote Assistance is a convenient way for someone you trust, such as a friend or technical support person, to connect to your computer and walk you through a solution - even if that person isn't nearby.

Using Easy Connect - Easy Connect is a way to connect two computers that are running Windows 7 without the need to send an invitation file.

Using an Invitation file - With this option, the person requesting assistance pro-

vides an invitation file to the person offering help.

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FirstHealth introduces heart center Jan. 9

The public is invited to help FirstHealth of the Carolinas celebrate the completion of the Reid Heart Center: The FirstHealth Cardiac & Vascular Institute during an open house scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011. The 186,000-square-foot facility is located on the Page Road side of the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital campus in Pinehurst.

Highlights of the open house, held from 2 to 5 p.m., will include tours of the newly constructed cardiovascular hospital. Refreshments and entertainment will also be a part of the celebration.

Named for long-time FirstHealth supporters Walter and Betty Reid of Pinehurst, the Reid Heart Center consolidates Moore Regional's multidisciplinary cardiac and vascular services into a single location. Features include 27 designated cardiology-telemetry beds, 30 critical care beds, five cardiac catheterization labs, two electrophysiology suites and six state-of-the-art operating rooms.

Two of the operating rooms have been specially designed as "dual-purpose rooms" to

accommodate open-heart surgeries as well as interventional cardiac and vascular procedures.

"There's very little by way of cardiac and vascular surgery that we are not already doing, but this new hospital makes room for all the cardiovascular services a patient could need to be consolidated into one place," says Stuart Voelpel, chief operating officer for FirstHealth of the Carolinas and president of Moore Regional Hospital.

The Reid Heart Center was built by Brasfield & Gorrie of Raleigh on a design by the HKS Inc. architectural firm of Richmond, VA. Mechanical/electrical engineering was provided by IES Engineers of Chapel Hill, and the civil engineer was McGill Associates of Pinehurst.

The construction of the Reid Heart Center is the latest milestone for Moore Regional's nationally recognized cardiovascular program, which began in July 1987 with the hospital's first diagnostic cardiac catheterization. That procedure was performed by invasive cardiologist David M. Cowherd,

M.D., who also did the hospital's first balloon angioplasty in January 1991. The invasive program paved the way for the hospital's open-heart program, which was started by cardiothoracic surgeon John F. Krahnert Jr.,

M.D., in September 1990.

During the 2010 fiscal year, FirstHealth's interventional cardiology service performed 7,389 procedures, an average of more than 600 a month. The three cardiothoracic surgeons performed more than

550 open-heart and thoracic surgeries, an average of more than 45 a month, while three vascular surgeons performed more than 600 vascular surgeries (about 50 a month) during the same period of time.

Reuben Casserole

I had this recipe many years ago and was recently reminded of it by Evelyn Launhardt.

It has all the ingredients of a Reuben Sandwich and makes a hearty casserole, a one-dish meal if you add a salad.

Reuben Casserole

Ingredients:

1 32-ounce jar sauerkraut, drained
1 1/4 cups sour cream
1 medium onion, grated
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
10 oz. thinly sliced corned beef, diced
10 oz. Shredded Swiss cheese
9 slices rye bread
2 tablespoons melted butter

Combine sauerkraut, sour cream, onion and garlic powder. Put in a lightly greased 8-inch square baking dish. Arrange corn beef over mixture and sprinkle with cheese.

Remove crust from bread, and make 2 1/2 inch squares, half each square into triangles, and arrange bread over cheese. Brush with melted butter. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Before baking, let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes or until bread is lightly browned.

I believe my old recipe called for some Thousand Island dressing. You may add some if you like.



from Lucy's
Kitchen

Lucy Ingram
Seven Lakes South

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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Ham & Corn Chowder Italian Meatloaf Dinner	4 Potato Leek Soup Chicken Piccata Dinner ♥	5 Cabbage & Potato Dumpling Soup Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥	6 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Shrimp Creole Dinner ♥	7 New England Clam Chowder Pork with Sage & Apples Dinner ♥
10 White Bean Chicken Chili ♥ Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	11 Split Pea with Ham Soup Chicken Parmesan Dinner	12 Curried Chicken Soup ♥ Pot Roast Dinner	13 Vegetable Soup ♥ Bourbon Salmon Dinner ♥	14 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Beef Burgundy Dinner
17 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Sausage & Cheese Manicotti Dinner	18 Butternut Bisque Chicken Enchiladas Dinner ♥	19 Black Bean Soup ♥ Herb Turkey Dinner	20 Mexican Meatball Soup ♥ Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	21 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Smothered Pork Chops Dinner
24 Mushroom Bisque Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	25 Pinto Bean Soup ♥ Chicken Paprikash Dinner	26 Goldie's Chili Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	27 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	28 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Swiss Steak Dinner

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Keep your Christmas tree happy & healthy

The December weather thus far has been colder than normal with an abundant amount of moisture. The Holiday Season is here, and so are the spirit and festivities.

Here are a few reminders for the Yuletide gardeners.

The Christmas tree is the most focused-on plant and needs attention to do well.

The Frasier Fir is still the most popular tree. Hopefully, you have selected a fresh one, one that hasn't shed or dropped more than a few needles. Here are some tips for maintaining and keeping your cut tree fresh. Spray it with and antitranspirant (sold under several names) and other natural greenery can be treated with the spray as well, this will help to reduce water loss from the tree by transpiration.

Keep your tree turgid by filling the tree holder with water daily. This practice will aid the tree from drying out.

Use small cool lights and turn them off when leaving your home.

Many people use artificial trees; as a safety reminder be sure the tree is fire resistant and UL approved.

Poinsettias are another favorite decorative holiday plant. They are grown under

controlled greenhouse conditions and must be somewhat acclimated to your home environment changes. They do well in bright light, but not



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

direct sunlight. Keep them away from drafts, and never place them in hot spots, such as on top of your television. Poinsettias will last longer if you keep them in a room where the temperature is about 70 degrees or a little below. Don't over water them, and if the plant is wrapped in foil – remove it or punch a hole in the bottom before

watering for good drainage and aeration. The plants are not poisonous according to floriculturists and medical experts, although some people might be sensitive to the white sap on the plant and that might result in some skin irritation.

Mistletoe another holiday favorite, is toxic. Children and pets should be careful and not be allowed to come in contact with the berries or leaves.

Holly berries may also be toxic to children, if eaten.

The Holiday or Christmas Cacti is popular at this time of the year. These plants tolerate sun except during the hot summer sunny weather

when they need shade. Water the cacti thoroughly when needed with luke warm water and let them completely dry out between watering. They should also be kept out away from extremely hot, heated or warm areas.

December is the optimum time for planting bulbs, trees, shrubs, and perennials,

although time can be prolonged into next year, as long as the soil isn't frozen.

Drive safely and carefully during this Holiday Season.

Best wishes to everyone and especially to our Military Service men and women for a happy, safe, enjoyable and peaceful Holiday and New Year.

Give the Gift of Life

The Seven Lakes Blood Drive neared goal with 46 productive units from 50 presenting donors.

Processing was extremely effective with no waiting.

A highlight of the drive was the walk-in of three Fort Bragg soldiers to participate. A sturdy trio they

were.

The next blood drive will be on Wednesday, February 9, from 1 to 6 pm at the Seven Lake North Clubhouse.

Please mark the date and make an appointment to give your "Gift of Life."



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WSL to explore differences in the generations

Join the Women of Seven Lakes on Thursday, January 6 at 2 pm at the Seven Lakes West Community Center. The group will hear about "Understanding Generational

Differences."

Understanding generational differences may eliminate many misunderstandings as people often communicate based on the experiences of

their era. For example a senior, a Traditionalist, may have a difficult time understanding the work ethic of his or her Millennium caregiver, and a Boomer may struggle

to understand why their son or daughter would want to cover their body in tattoos.

How generational differences affect communication and behavior will be pre-

sented by Dr. Melinda Spohn, Executive Director of the Senior Retirement Project, a non-profit that serves the mental health and adjustment needs of seniors.



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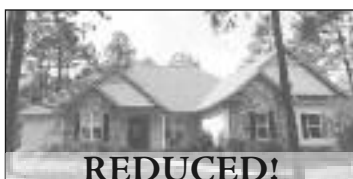
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116 DENNIS CIRCLE, SL WEST
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Candidates

(Continued from front page)

Vice President Kent Dropers will not stand for reelection to the Board.

With Treasurer Denny Galford concluding his term of office, Security Director Chuck Mims could be the only Southside resident remaining at the boardroom table next year.

Zielsdorf mentioned during the Open Meeting that there were rumors of a petition candidate who could swell the number of names on the ballot to seven. Any resident interested in running still has time, as long as they present a petition signed by fifty members in good standing at the January Open Meeting.

Four stand for three seats in Seven Lakes West

Nominees approved by the Westside Board in a Special meeting on Tuesday, December 21 include Patti Cleary, James Ferguson, James McCarthy, and Jack Stevens.

Stevens is a retired nurse anesthetist, an accomplished pilot, an avid gardener and officer in the Lake Auman Sports Club. He moved to Seven Lakes West in 2006.

McCarthy, a three-year resident, is a retired New York City police detective, and also served as a 9-1-1 dispatcher in High Point.

Ferguson retired to Seven Lakes West in September 2009 after spending more than 23 years with the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Cleary, the wife of former SLWLA Secretary Ed Tuton, has owned property on the West Side since 1997 and lived in the community since 2002. After retiring from a 35-year career in banking, she has been an Area Rep-

resentative and an active SLWLA volunteer.

The terms of three Westside Directors — Milligan, Silberhorn, and President Ron Shepard — expire in March; none of the three has indicated an interest in running for another term.

Board delayed approval, picked up candidate

The Nominating Committee presented three of those candidates to the Board for approval during its Tuesday, December 14 Work Session.

However, the Board withheld approval of the proposed slate until a more thorough interview process could be conducted.

"We passed a list of criteria

which requires an interview," said Legal Director Ed Silberhorn. "Since that has not occurred, I am uncomfortable not knowing more about these candidates."

The criteria in question are a set of guidelines for approving candidates that the Board imposed on itself, at Milligan's request, in October.

Director John Goodman also weighed in, taking issue with one candidate's statements that he "would not be a servant to any special interest group," and that he did not have any hidden agendas.

"I am concerned about not having an open question period with candidates," Goodman said. "I'm not even sure where some of these candi-

dates stand on issues. We can't have a situation where all we get is a one-page piece of paper and now we vote [approve at Board level]." He recommended that there be an opportunity to question the candidates both before Board approval and before the election.

Director Jane Sessler agreed, noting that, when she was interviewed by the Nominating Committee, an important question was in what capacity or role on the board would she would feel comfortable serving.

"That information is not presented here, nor have any

of these candidates served on any committees," said Sessler.

After further discussion, Milligan agreed to conduct a personal interview with each candidate — and then re-present the candidates for Board consideration at a Special Meeting called for Tuesday, December 21.

The results of those interviews — along with a fourth candidate — were shared with the Board in Executive Session.

The Board then returned to open session and unanimously approved the four nominees.

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Westside meeting

February 1 for a final vote at the Annual Meeting in March.

The budget anticipates a decrease in both income and expenses, including a \$12,000 decrease in total income and a \$7,000 decrease in operating expenses. Both changes represent less than one percent difference over the current fiscal year.

Primary reductions in operating expenses include \$10,000 less for road drainage expenses and \$3,000 less for the yard waste program under infrastructure; an \$8,000 reduction in dam engineering and maintenance; a \$2,000 reduction in landscape maintenance and recreation equipment expenses at Johnson Point. The proposed budget includes

an \$8,000 increase over last year for safety and security, including \$6,000 in anticipated increases for the renegotiated guard contract and \$9,000 for supplies and equipment; however, those increases are offset by a \$7,000 reduction in maintenance, operations, and patrols.

A significant reduction of \$24,000 in pool equipment and supplies and equipment, maintenance, and landscaping at Westside Park Community Center allow for an overall decrease of \$6,000 despite anticipated increases for utilities at \$5,000, pool staffing at \$5,000, and fire-works at \$8,000.

In addition, the proposed budget includes a \$15,000 increase in administrative

costs which includes \$7,000 in the renegotiated contract with CAS, \$5,000 in insurance premiums, and \$4,000 for audit expenses.

Responding to a question from SLWLA President Ron Shepard, Freiert explained the cost difference between an annual review and a full audit, which is completed in alternate years, was approximately \$6,000 versus \$10,000 for the audit.

Freiert said the Association received a clean report in its letter of review of financial statements completed by Busby & Company.

Reserves

After revenue, debt service and operating expenses, Freiert estimated the money left over to allocate to capital reserves would be approximately \$500,000 — a \$52,000 decrease compared to last year.

Current reserve funds include \$280,000 restricted for roads, \$10,000 for the dam emergency valve replacement, and \$210,000 in capital reserves. Long range projects that are not approved, but are under consideration include \$288,000 in road expenses and \$238,000 in other expenses, including mail house relocation, replacement of piezometers,

and expansion of recreation facilities at Westside Park Community Center and Pine Island.

Small dues increase proposed

Dues income in the proposed budget is expected to increase \$15,000, based on a two percent increase in rates, with dues on improved lots rising to \$912 and dues on unimproved lots rising to \$684.

Freiert reported that approximately ten lots that are currently categorized as unimproved do, in fact, have improvements on them, as defined by Moore County for tax purposes.

"We're talking about a \$2,200 difference in income if these were judged improved," Freiert said,

"which is not a significant number; but the question has come up." He cited as examples a lot with a stable that includes living quarters, and a bulkhead and dock that is being leased for income.

"Are these not improved lots?" Freiert queried.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn recommended that an objective standard should be developed by the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] since the community's covenants do not provide a definition for improved and unimproved lots.

"My sense is that something that requires or should have ARC approval would be the litmus test whether it should be considered improved or unimproved,"

(See "Westside," p. 15)

CAS contract renewed

Offering unequivocal praise to Community Manager Joan Frost, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors unanimously approved a three-year renewal contract with CAS, which includes a four percent rate increase next year, and two percent increases in the second and third years.

"CAS has a scope of work to perform and I believe they have gone above and beyond that," said Director John Goodman.

Echoing his praise, Director Mick Herdrich noted that, in particular, Frost

had been extremely flexible with her time and had worked diligently to cut costs.

"I cannot conceive of doing this job without the assistance of a management company," said Director John Hoffman. "I believe there is nothing but an upside in renewing this contract...From my position, CAS gets nothing but high grades."

However, CAS will continue to be evaluated on an annual basis and the Association retains the right to not renew during the three-year contract, if there is good cause.

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 14)

stated ARC Director Adam Wimberly.

However, Director John Goodman said that bulkheads are necessary to stabilize waterfront lots and recommended that owners should not be penalized for doing so. Instead he suggested only categorizing bulkheads that are also functioning as a dock as improved lots.

Architectural Review

A Pinnacle resident who was twice denied a permit to build a fishing dock over one of the Westside ponds, won approval from ARC to build a fishing "deck" that would not extend over the water, Director Adam Wimberly reported. But, when the completed project was inspected, it included a non-compliant staircase to the water and appeared to be essentially the disallowed dock.

"We told him his choices were to tear down the dock and staircase, or to get the necessary approvals for the work that has been done," Wimberly said. "Our concern was: 'Why are we here if we deny a request and they go and do it without repercussions?'" He suggested there needs to be a rule or regulation that is punitive in such cases.

"Our other thought was to tell him he must take it down

or carry liability insurance on the dock and put something in the property deed that any future owner must also carry insurance."

Wimberly said the owner had sent a letter of apology and also submitted letters of approval from Moore County and the Army Corps of Engineers. ARC then voted to approve the project as built, with one opposing vote, and recommended the request also be heard by the Board.

Director Silberhorn argued that the application could not be left in limbo between ARC and Board approval.

"ARC must make the decision and then it can come before the Board as a written request for appeal," he explained.

Community Standards

Community Manager Joan Frost noted that "quite a few" lots have been involved in bankruptcy proceedings and that she sent notice on four foreclosures last month; one was recalled because the owner is in bankruptcy in Florida.

"Delinquents [accounts] are down, but we sent out lot of liens," said Frost.

In addition, she reported fifteen to twenty compliance letters were sent out last month; and that a few ongoing concerns had been forwarded to the Judicial Committee for resolution.

Director Hoffmann

expressed concern about unresolved complaints that posed a safety hazard or danger to neighboring properties — such as a leaning or diseased trees. He recommended sending a final warning notice after a reasonable period of time and, if the property was still not in compliance, that the Association perform the necessary work and bill the property owner.

Frost replied that the Association won't do the work but, instead, could start fining the lot owner up to \$100 a day. She also recommended that, if a resident is fearful of a neighbors tree leaning toward their property, that they should send a certified letter declaring their concern, which puts the liability on the offending owner.

"The court will recognize the certified letter and see it as negligent, if no action was taken to inspect or correct the problem," said Frost, noting that determining if a tree poses a danger can be a very hard call. "You can have one healthy tree uproot in a storm that is right next to an old, dead tree that is left standing."

Community Events

Twenty-eight residents helped "Deck the Halls," and nearly seventy children enjoyed a visit with Santa during the children's Christmas Party in early December, reported Director Jane Sessler. She thanked Theresa Clark for chairing the event and also the Women of Seven Lakes for their finan-

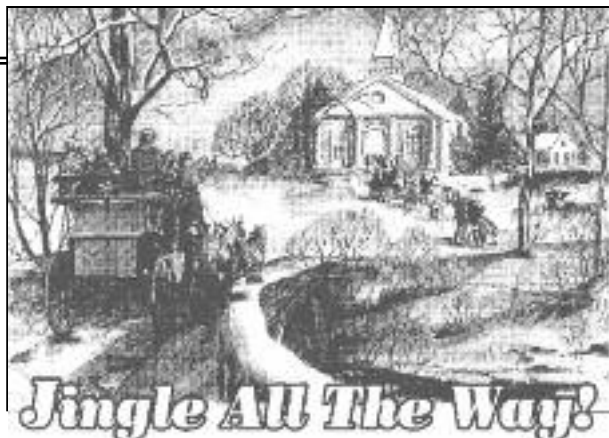
cial contribution, which is a long-standing tradition of support from the group.

A crowd of 125 enjoyed the adult holiday party at Westside Park Community Center, an event chaired by Nancy Workman, reported Sessler.

The first of two community CPR courses will be held on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm. Each can accommodate fifty participants and are offered with cooperation from Moore County EMS and the Seven Lakes West CERT team.

"This is not a certification class but a course for everybody. Even if you don't think you can physically do CPR, this class is helpful for training to be part of the CPR

(See "Westside," p. 16)



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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 15)

team," explained Sessler.

Other upcoming events include a jazz blues concert featuring 'The Musicians' on Friday, January 14 at 7:00 pm. Styled as a BYO coffee-house-type event, there is no cost for members to attend, but a donation of non-perishable food items will be collected. Later in Winter, a dance night with Glen Davis will be scheduled.

Safety and Security

"Slow down — for all the good reasons this holiday season," cautioned Director Hoffman, noting icy roads will be a concern and that he has asked Moore County Sheriff's deputies to patrol community streets to the maximum extent possible, watching for impaired drivers.

Hoffmann also recommended buying yourself a gift this year: a highly reflective address sign that can be posted prominently and will help identify your house during an emergency. These signs are available for purchase from the local fire departments.

Emergency gates at either end of Lake Auman Dam were tested recently by West End Fire & Rescue with positive results, reported Hoffmann. He said the new gates allowed rescue crews to save time in responding to areas west of the dam.

Legal

Concluding a two-year project that he described as "a monumental effort," Presi-

dent Ron Shepard thanked the many volunteers who assisted in reading, editing, rereading and updating the community rules and regulations, looking for discrepancies between ARC standards and the Bylaws.

At the Tuesday, December 14 Work Session, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn presented a few, mostly minor, changes, including updates to the definitions of developer, security, and the land area description for Seven Lakes West. Other changes included speed restrictions for the community, and a provision that swimming pool filters must not be visible from adjacent properties where practical.

More significantly, the rules now require written permission from ARC prior to any road cuts and set new standards for road patching. As approved, the subgrade must

be compacted with suitable soils to 95% of maximum wet density with a minimum of six inches of graded aggregate road base and four inches of asphalt paving.

Also, any renovation or repair of a bulkhead or dock must first be approved by ARC and accomplished within Moore County, Army Corps of Engineers, and NC-DENR rules and regulations. Bulkheads may only be installed from October 1 through March 1.

Recreation hours for Pine Island and its adjacent beach and buoy areas are restricted to dawn to dusk except by specific written permission of the Community Manager.

A complete copy of the newly updated Rules & Regulations will be available on the website, with hard copies and CDs available at the SLWLA office by request.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, December 14, the SLWLA Board:

- Heard from Director Mick Herdrich that the Lakes & Dam Committee would review a proposal for replacement piezometers in January.

- Discussed whether 'wake boats' should be restricted on Lake Auman. Because they are designed to create large wakes even at slow speeds, there is concern that these boats are causing damage to bulkheads. After going around the table, the Board tasked the Lake & Dam Committee with researching the issue.

- Heard that the Long Range Planning Committee

will be conducting a survey of the membership, with results to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Hoffmann requested the Board have an opportunity to review the survey prior to distribution.

- Heard from Community Manager Joan Frost that utility bills have increased dramatically. She asked residents to be thoughtful about turning off lights when leaving Westside Park Community Center in the evening.

- Tabled a presentation by Mick Herdrich of the Costs, Revenue, and Taxes Study Group on the question of incorporation. The report will be published on the website and will be presented at the January 11 meeting.

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Call Pete Garner \$329,000

393 Longleaf Drive, SL West
Flat building lot, close to back entrance, membership to Beacon Ridge included with buyer paying prevailing transfer fee.
Call Faye Gibson \$45,900

124 Vanore Road, SL West
Buildable waterview lot across the street from Lake Auman. Lot sits high with clear view of the lake. Current perk test. **Anxious seller; priced below appraised value.**
Call Ann Benton \$58,900

130 Vanore Road, SL West — SOLD!
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve**
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 5 pm, Christmas Eve Communion Service. 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 7 pm, Christmas Eve Service. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Christmas Eve Service** at West End United Methodist Church – 8 pm. Come and join the church as everyone prepares for the birth of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- **Christmas Eve Service** – 9pm. St. Mary Magdalene's Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-3838.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, Service of Christmas Carols. 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

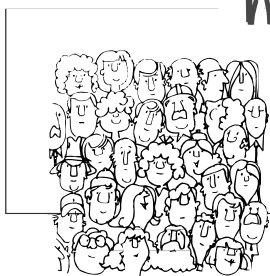
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

Need A Miracle?*Saint Jude Novena*

Pray the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude help of hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 8 days and then publish. Your prayers will be answered, It has not been known to fail.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.



What's When Calendar

- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 4 pm and 7:30 pm. Pops: New Year's in the Afternoon: Champagne Reception. Held at Founders Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Tickets available and may be purchased at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop

in Southern Pines, or by calling the box office at 687-4746.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **New Year's Eve**
- **Seven Lakes Tennis Center** – 12 pm - 3 pm, Get your kids out of the house and onto the tennis courts. Steve is holding a New Year's Eve camp. Only \$25 for three hours of instruction. Seven Lakes Tennis Center at Seven Lakes Country Club, 116 Edgewater Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Belford Baptist Church Annual Watch Night Service** – 9:30 pm, Rev. Todd Kiger of Lexington will be bringing in the New Year. Snacks served after the service. Contact Pastor Brenda K. Robinson at 974-4957

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

- **New Year's Day**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY JANUARY 6

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Browsers welcome.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – meeting, 2 pm, at the Seven Lakes West Community Center. The group will have a presentation about "Understanding Generational Differences." The program focus on how generational differences affect communication and behavior. Program will be presented by Dr. Melinda Spohn, Executive Director of the Senior Retirement Project a nonprofit that researches and serves the mental health and adjustment needs of seniors and

elders transitioning into or residing in retirement communities.

- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 4 pm, Twelfth Night: Chamber Music: Main Sanctuary Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst. Tickets available and may be purchased at Given Book Shop at Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop in Southern Pines, or by calling the box office at 687-4746.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

- **Recycle Your Christmas Tree** – 9 am - 3 pm, at "Leave One for The Chipper" Hwy 15-501 & Murray Hill Road, Southern Pines. (Beside Tripps Restaurant) Free Mulch available on-site. Event is sponsored by Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Reid Heart Center Open House** – 2 to 5 pm, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst, on Page Road between Memo-

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- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents April Verch. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Ticket Price: \$15 - \$18. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 8:30 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, just east of Hwy 220, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome. For more information, 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – 3 pm, meeting, at Seven Lakes North Game Room. Doug Rosskamp, of G&D Computers, will discuss Email programs.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Gallery 'Open' flag will guide you to a cheerful showing of local artist's and photographer's works.
- **"Candyland"** – opening reception 4 to 6 pm. The Art of Play on Display. The whimsical world of Eric A. Ton art comes to Hastings Gallery in the Boyd Library on the Campus of Sandhills Community College. Ton's exhibit will include traditional, digital and photographic works

that represent the whimsical world of play and toy inspired art. The exhibit will run through February 25. Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8:00 pm. \$10 for six wines and food from Goldie's. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, North Club House. The guest speaker will be from Sandhills Turf. Please join the Garden Club for this program – you do not have to be a club member to attend.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

- **Mixed Paper Recycle Day** – 9 am - 3 pm, at the Kangaroo Station in the Fresh Market Shopping Center, Southern Pines. Acceptable items include anything that is paper: All Christmas Paper and flattened boxes, paper grocery bags, telephone books, paperback books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, shredded paper, flattened corrugated cardboard, office paper, and newspapers. **Also accepting: Any type

of Household and Rechargeable Batteries, Inkjet Cartridges, Cameras, Cell Phones, diskettes, CDs, DVDs, and Laptop Computers.** Contact Joan Neal, Executive Director, Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc. at 947-3478 or by email at jneal@moore-countync.gov

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, Table on the Green at Midland Country Club. Representatives from Moore County School Superintendent Dr. Susan Pursor's Core Team on the US educational program, "Race to the Top" will speak. Their

topic is "The Federal Role in Education in Moore County." Reservations required. Please contact Charlotte Gallagher, 910-944-9611. Cost: \$12.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Bingo Night at Our Lady of the Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. Located at 298 Farmers Market Road, off Hwy 211, just east of Hwy 220, Candor. Minimum purchase \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Everyone over the age of 16 is welcome. For more information, 910 974-3051.



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Planning

(Continued from page 5)

and despite several months of work, a resolution did not seem attainable.

In a motion called by Hayter and seconded by Kinney, discussion on updating regulations to accessory dwelling units was closed with no action.

2010 Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

A five year update to the Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was initiated using funding from the 2009-2010 budget. All incorporated jurisdictions in Moore County opted to be included in the update and contributed

to the overall cost of the plan.

The fundamental premise of hazard mitigation is an understanding that current dollars invested in mitigation will significantly reduce the demand for future expenditures by reducing the extent of emergency recovery, repair, and reconstruction following a disaster. The purpose of a hazard mitigation plan is to assess vulnerability to various disasters and then take action to reduce or eliminate potential risks.

Following a review of the 2005 plan, planning staff determined that a complete rewrite was necessary. The updated 2010 plan is a forty-

eight page document with eight specific sections, including hazard identification, community capability assessment, a vulnerability assessment, mitigation goals, objectives and strategies, and procedures for monitoring, evaluating and reporting progress.

Low Impact Development

In mid-2009, Moore County received a NEMO grant [Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials] to provide educational assistance for in-ground projects that build local capacity to protect and improve water resources. As part of that grant, Dr. Patrick

Beggs of NC State gave a presentation on low impact development to the Planning Board on Thursday, December 9.

Low impact development is an approach to site management that aims to minimize a development's impact to the land, water and air and also to reduce infrastructure and maintenance costs. More specifically, its purpose is to create a landscape that mimics the natural functions of infiltration, runoff and evapotranspiration.

Beggs explained the benefits of implementing a low impact development plan are a reduction in pollutants and local flooding, cost reductions and improvement to local water resources.

"In the past, the objective of storm water management was to get the water off of roofs and off roads as fast as possible and into storm sewers," said Beggs.

"We now realize that a better way to handle storm water management is to retain as much water as possible on a site."

Sandhills offers BSW degree

Sandhills Community College, in partnership with the University of North Carolina Pembroke (UNCP), makes available a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree that can be completed entirely on the Pinehurst campus.

"Sandhills is one of only a handful of community colleges in North Carolina that makes a BSW available," says Rebecca Roberts, Coordinator of UNCP at Sandhills, "This unique and convenient opportunity arose from student inquiries that indicated a demand for such a program. I presented the need to UNCP's Social Work department and they decided to bring the program to Sandhills based on the interest in the program."

At Sandhills, the BSW is designed as a part-time, evening-based program for working adults. Faculty from UNCP delivers the courses. There is a combination of traditional and Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) instruction.

All classes needed to earn the BSW are available on SCC's campus; however, graduates participate in the graduation exercise on the campus of UNCP. December 2010 will mark the first cohort of SCC graduates of this unique program.

To learn more about SCC's

BSW program, please contact Rebecca Roberts at 695-3919 or robertsr@sandhills.edu.

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IRA0408

Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)

the Foxfire Fire Department, Koos said that no, they were not out joy riding. He explained that first responders are required to stay within 20 feet of the fire truck at all times. If the crew on duty goes out in the Village to check fire hydrants or inspect properties for fire hazards, the truck goes with them. The fuel is paid for through state taxes.

"I agree they shouldn't be out riding around for no good reason; and they don't," said Koos.

PARTF grant

The old axiom, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, and try again," was called to mind as the Foxfire Village Council approved a resolution to resubmit a \$375,000 grant application to the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund — for a fourth time.

If accepted, the Village would be required to match the grant and funding would be used for a major revitalization project to renovate the outdoor swimming pool, construct a new pool house, pool arbor, and deck extension, add a children's play area and walking trail, renovate the tennis courts, and add lighting and landscaping.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, December 14, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Appointed Mayor George Erickson as delegate, and Councilman Lauer as the alternate delegate to the Triangle J Council of Governments. Erickson was not present at Tuesday's Council meeting because he was attending a two-day workshop sponsored by the group.
- Approved a request by Kurt Pahner to continue to organize the DOT litter sweep

program on Foxfire Road between the Village and Linden Road.

- Approved the Water Shortage Response Plan, as required by North Carolina.

- Heard that one Certificate of Occupancy had been issued for a home on S. Shamrock and the Appearance Committee approved a new home in Grande Pines.

- Heard from Lauer that water tank maintenance work had been completed and that a heater had gone out at one of the Village's well houses. A repair bill is anticipated.

Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club

The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club meets at 10:00 am, the first Saturday of the month, at the Club's meeting house located at 3280 Jackson Springs Road, Jackson Springs.

The SPBC is open to anyone interested in the pointing dog breeds. Dog ownership is not required. For more information about the club, contact Janet Aruscavage at janarus@nc.rr.com or 910- 215-9313.



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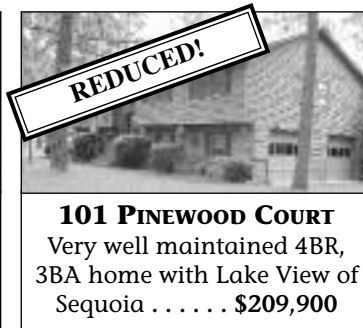
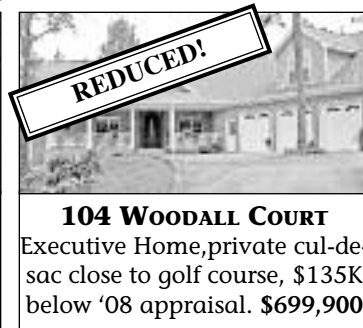
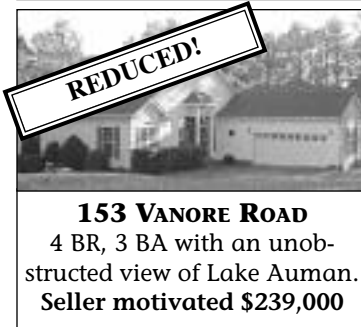
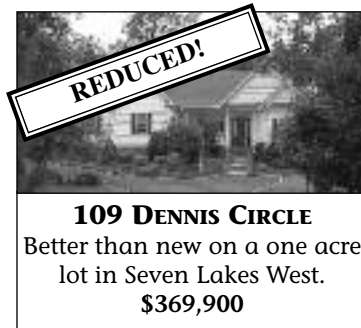
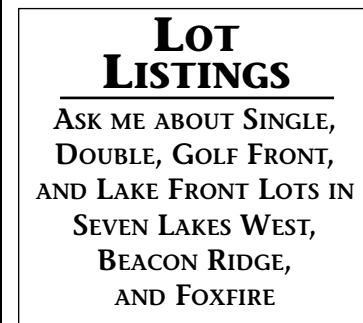
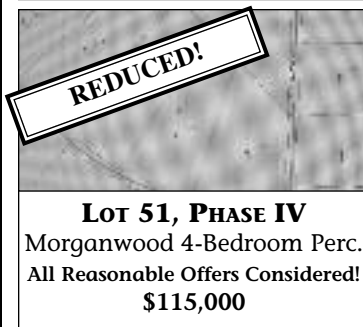
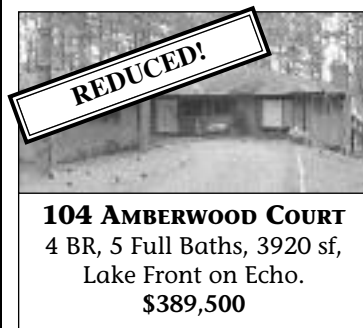
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You'd better watch out . . .

Do you ever get that creepy feeling that you're being watched?

Actually considering today's technology, my guess would be we all do. And most probably, near constantly.

I'm talking about video surveillance, of course.

iPhones and the ultra HD Flip, dash cams and security feed, Skype and video games that mimic your gestures are all conspiring to catch our every move. Even Barbie has caught pixel fever, which has unnerved quite a few moms.

I'm not one of them.

You see with two kids under my roof, it never occurred to

me that privacy was even an option. I'm already watching or being watched — day in, day out. You know the script, "Mommy, look. Mom, where are you? Mom, watch me. Mom? Mommy!"



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

So when last year's 'Dear Santa' letter included a spy-style video camera, I was okay with that. And while I

was a bit surprised at the lack of originality, I even gave a nod of support when this year's wish list included the same toy — an upgraded version it seems.

Perhaps my maternal radar needs some fine tuning, but it's not my son's interest in reconnaissance film-making that instills fear.

It's the elf — more specifically, the Elf on a Shelf.

Talk about the creep factor. Have you seen this little glin-

ty-eyed gnome? Forget the horror story; this is the 'Fright before Christmas.'

But what's really scary is someone out there is making a fortune off this holiday décor from . . . well, it sure isn't the uppermost point on my compass.

Here's the gist: you take home your own Santa spy. Each night, he sneaks up to the North Pole to report on your status — that is, whether you've been bad or good — and then returns home.

Now, this is where it gets weird. Elf doesn't settle back onto his shelf. Unlike us, he's not the I-have-my-com-

fortable-chair-and-you-better-not-sit-in-it type.

Nope, this odd fellow chooses a new perch each and every day. I'm guessing he's always looking for that new angle: a different vantage point to witness any possible transgressions.

Though, I know of at least one sprite that got the boot. A friend put her foot down when Elf roosted on the com-mode. We all have our limits.

Mine hit immediately.

Dear Santa, Jack has plenty of video feed of my deeds to share with you. You don't need to send an elf. Really, I'm serious. Don't. Send. Elf.

Love, Laura

Is Christmas just a myth?

Question: I have seen on television and the internet a picture of a Billboard outside New York City that was put there by atheists saying that Christmas is only a myth. Do you think Christmas is a myth and do you get upset like I do when people greet you with "Happy Holidays" rather than "Merry Christmas?"

Answer: The short answer to your question is Christmas

is not a myth.

There once was a child born and that child's name was Jesus. Christians believe that in Jesus, God is revealed in human form and in order to convey this belief, the story of Jesus birth is told through many stories designed to show that Jesus is a descendant of David; that he was superior to John the Baptist, and that he was the Son of God by an extraordinary conception and birth.

These stories and hundreds of stories and customs told and celebrated around the world at Christmastime are based on myths from many cultures. The problem with calling them myths today is that "myth" is usually understood in our time as a story that is not true. The actual meaning of "myth" is that a myth is a story written or told to illustrate a truth that cannot be told in a normal narrative.

The truth of the myth is not dependent on factual evidence that the story actually happened or that the details of the story are his-

I am a Christmas child. I simply love Christmas, and every year during this time, I set aside reason and immerse myself in the music, customs, tastes,

smells sounds and, yes, the marvelous myths of Christmas. For I believe that the



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

torically or scientifically true.

My quarrel with the atheists' billboard in New Jersey is different from yours. The actual wording on the billboard that pictures the wise men on their journey to the manger is "You know it's a myth. This season celebrate reason."

The great mysteries of life, such as falling in love and believing in God are never understood by reason alone. Human life itself is the greatest of mysteries, and we humans experience life through the senses and through our emotions and feelings, not just through our reasoning powers.

most wonderful name for Jesus is "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us." Every day, I try to follow the teachings of Jesus, not the beautiful babe in the manger, but the grown up teacher, who by his death and resurrection is the Savior of the world. The only way we can tell this story is through myths.

To all my Christian readers, I say, "Merry Christmas." To all my readers of other faith traditions, I say, "Happy Holy Days" and to my readers who are secular humanists, "Happy Days." The angels in the ancient story wish for all people of good will: "Peace!"

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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A deal's a deal, not a 'living document'

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the comments that Seven Lakes Country Club president Steve Ritter made about the agreement between the Club and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] being a "living document." Additionally, he said that no one wants another access into Seven Lakes South, but there needs to be some clarification as to what is meant by the SLLA Architectural Review

Board [ARB] working cooperatively with a potential builder/developer.

Ritter's comments to the average reader might sound reasonable. They are not.

First, the agreement that was entered into three and one-half years ago was a compromise agreement that was based on trust that honorable people would complete the terms of the agreement as written in a timely manner. People not being around that signed the agreement has nothing to do with the fact that there was an agreement made in good faith and there was no intent for it to be a "living document." It was a compromise agreement, not a point from which to start negotiations.

The ARB of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association is in place to protect all of the property owners of this community. But, Mr. Ritter, while using fancy, feel good words is in fact withholding the completion of the original agreement because the Country Club doesn't trust the Seven Lakes ARB to do what they are appointed to do.

The Club got the SLLA to agree to the use of the old driving range property as buildable lots rather than green area by entering into a controversial compromise agreement. Now that they have permission, the Club wants to change the deal. Mr. Ritter says that no one wants an additional access into Seven Lakes South

through the old driving range. Then what is the problem? It certainly is not the ability to use a 10 foot strip of land. The land in question for the buffer is already subject to a power line easement that will prevent any construction on far more property than the 10 foot easement would restrict. The only thing that the power line easement will not prevent is an uncontrolled entrance into the community.

So, if Mr. Ritter really means everyone wants the same thing, then why is the

Country Club holding the easement hostage until the ARB's authority over any potential project is neutered? The answer is really simple. The Country Club wants anyone that has the money and is willing to pay their price to be able to dictate what will be built. This comes down to a simple fact. A small group of people want to undermine the ARB's ability to be independent, so they will not have to worry about rules and regulations when selling the land.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

Nominate a Volunteer!

Nominees are sought for the annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards, which will be given in April this year.

Each year five Moore County volunteers receive this honor and one continues on to compete for the state Medallion award.

This year's theme is Celebrating People in Action.

Nominations must be submitted no later than February 1, 2011.

To be nominated volunteers must have a minimum of one year of volunteer service; secondly, two references will now be required for each nomination.

Nominations will be accepted for volunteers in eleven additional categories: individual, family, group/team, youth volunteer (age 18 or younger), senior volunteer (age 55 or older), perseverance in volunteerism, national service volunteer, outstanding mentor, faith-based volunteer, corporate volunteerism, and lifetime achievement.

Guidelines and nomination forms are available at the front desk at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Or call Shiela Klein at 215-0900 or email sklein@moorecountync.gov.

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A waste of money

Dear Editor:

I attended the special Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] meeting held on Wednesday, December 15, which I felt was a waste of time and money. Once I was there and found out that our board had hired council to conduct the meeting, I saw that as even more waste of our money.

I am not sure how the board can justify this additional expense; perhaps they felt that they could not conduct the meeting without being disrespectful to those that did not align with them, as evidenced in previous meetings. I hope the board will follow up on Patti Cleary's request for a full disclosure of the cost for all the dollars spent because of their refusal to have a yes or no vote on getting a second opinion on the dam remediation.

I believe the board accomplished what they wanted, which was to "close the dam road" but along with it they have divided our community, hurt home values, and discouraged future home owners from moving into our community.

Perhaps, the biggest item is that we are still not sure of just how safe our dam is. This board has stood firm on Dan Marks' say-so and refused to get an outside second opinion. They are afraid of what it may turn up. What they got was Marks' colleagues confirming what Marks had presented. When you get a second opinion you need to go outside of Dan Marks Associates.

As a homeowners we can only hope that the board changes its attitude regarding landowners in our community and recognizes that material matters should be presented to and addressed by members. I also hope they nominate potential new board members that are open minded and that don't necessarily agree with what has been done in the past three years.

Richard "Dick" Osborne
Seven Lakes West



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It was a great success!

What's wrong with a simple ballot?

Dear Editor:

I have to ask: Seven Lakes West property owners, did you read the letter to the editor headlined "Board's Failure Resulted in Special Meeting?"

If you did not, find your copy of *The Seven Lakes Times* dated December 10, 2010, and read page 21. Concentrate on what you have read, think carefully about what you have read,

and then read again. One statement especially stands out in the letter: "... internal differences that are easily settled by a vote of all members."

The reasoning is simple, it's common sense, and the entire controversy concerning the dam issue could have been put to rest weeks ago — and the expense to property owners would have been minimal.

If a one-page ballot had been mailed to each property owner with the opportunity to vote "No" to keep the road closed or to vote "Yes" to require additional studies to determine the feasibility and cost of reopening the road, the issue would be settled one way or another.

Instead, according to an email from one of the Seven Lakes West Committee chairs, the meeting on December 15, will cost the association \$5,000. How he came to this figure, I don't know, but I must agree with his comment that continued debate is a waste of time and money.

According to *The Times*, what was to take place at the Special Meeting remained an open question as of December 10, since no agenda had been published. However, *The Times* states that

Manager Joan Frost was attempting to pull together an agenda for the meeting. Shouldn't the agenda be the responsibility of the Board and its President?

CAS also brought in extra staff to handle registration on for the Special Meeting, which created another expense.

The Seven Lakes Board asked Board Attorney Stephen Later to chair the meeting and serve as its par-

liamentarian . . . another expense.

If only the Seven Lakes West Board had asked for a simple yes or no vote, the dam issue would be over because all property owners would have had an opportunity to vote by ballot, the voting would have been fair to everybody — and think of the money that could have been saved.

Dr. Ronnie Milligan
Seven Lakes West

Tax-aide Volunteers

Last year, the local AARP Tax-Aide program and local volunteers provided Free Federal and NC Tax Return counseling and preparation for nearly 2000 Moore County residents by preparing and filing their 2009 Federal and State Tax Returns. The claims were filed electronically to ensure prompt processing and rapid payment of any refunds.

AARP's Tax-Aide Program is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counsel and preparation service. This year the program expects to significantly increase the number of customers assisted in Moore County. To do this, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are needed to assist with one-on-one counseling and tax return preparation, as well as to serve as Tax Preparation Counselors and Site Facilitators.

Tax preparation counselors will be comprehensively trained and required to pass a competency test to become IRS Certified as a Tax Counselor.

Volunteer training will be conducted in the Pinehurst area during January of 2011. Volunteers who become IRS Certified are asked to give a minimum commitment of two each, four hour sessions per week during the ten-week filing season from February 1 to April 15, 2011.

Those who wish to help taxpayers and do not want to go through the training and testing can help with client

greeting and processing.

To volunteer, or for more information about becoming a local AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, contact the local AARP Tax-Aide Coordinator, Bill Roberson at (910) 673-1452.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

any residential development of the old driving range would be subject to Southside Covenants, and that the Association would cooperate with any future developer of the old driving range property.

In previous meetings, Zielsdorf reported the Club had expressed concern over what they feel is vague and subjective language in the final point, which commits the Association to work with a developer in "an open, efficient and cooperative fashion." He said the attorneys for SLLA and SLCC were scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 16, specifically to discuss this issue and to draft a letter of understanding or a memorandum that would beef up that fifth point.

Responding to a question posed by former ARB director Donna Stephan, Zielsdorf confirmed that the memorandum would be made available for public review once it was approved.

Echo Dam road repairs

Unexpectedly cold and wet conditions have delayed the Echo Dam road repair project by at least ten days — and the waiting continues.

"Unfortunately, weather has not been on our side; and it doesn't look like it's going to be on our side," reported Community Manager Alina Cochran. "I'm very sorry for the inconvenience. Let's hope we get a wave of heat."

Cochran said the project had been ahead of schedule, with work that was expected to take three weeks completed in the first week of the project. However, temperatures dropped precipitously and halted further progress. She explained that it must be a minimum of forty degrees before work can continue.

Resident Mike Cummins was thanked again for his dedicated efforts on the project.

Amendments to rules & regulations

Looking to streamline the annual member registration

form and associated administrative tasks, the Finance Committee recommended three minor changes to the rules & regulations and the elimination of a few related minor fees. All three amendments were approved unanimously during the Wednesday, December 15 Open Meeting.

Specifically, Rule 5.2.3 was amended so that dog owners may opt to register their pets for identification purposes, but are no longer required to do so. The \$3 registration fee was eliminated.

Rules 8.4.2.2 and 8.4.2.4 were also amended to eliminate a requirement to register non-powered boats and the related fee.

"To track a two or three dollar item costs us more in administrative expenses than we receive," explained Treasurer Denny Galford.

Recreation

Many hands made light work for the SLLA Children's Christmas Party on Friday, December 17.

Director Keyser thanked the Recreation Committee and volunteers for their efforts and also extended appreciation to the Women of Seven Lakes for their annual donation to the event; to Seven Lakes Dance for donating extra refreshments; to Chick Fil-A of Southern Pines for providing milk and small toys to be distributed to the children; to Seven Lakes Fire Department for giving Santa a lift to the party, since his sled was already loaded down; and especially to Northsider Jordan Rhodes for making sure Santa was available to attend the party.

Keyser thanked Bob Racine for compiling the results of a recent recreation survey, not-

ing that the committee is hoping to explore new recreational programming ideas and improve on old ones for 2011. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, January 5 at 9:30 am at the SLLA office. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Looking ahead, Keyser said the committee is focusing on a better approach to stay ahead of schedule in planning the pool and Summer Camp activities for next year.

Community Standards

Director Kent Droppers reported that he is pleased with both the progress and the process now in place to review Community Standards violations. He added that several ongoing issues had been

forwarded to Judicial Panel.

To ensure a fair and even-handed approach to applying standards, Droppers said that the entire committee will also be combining their efforts in January to inspect the entire community over the course of a single day. The committee's regular process involves having individual members regularly inspecting designated areas.

Infrastructure

A comprehensive review of the Reserve Study will take more than one or two work sessions, said Director Bud Shaver.

"This is a very in-depth thirty-year financial plan," Shaver said. "How we approach this will reflect on

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 26)

the value of your homes. Over the years, very little has been done to build a satisfactory reserve fund to deal with aging infrastructure."

The Reserve Study has not been made public; Shaver said he would release it once the Board had reviewed it.

Finance

The Association has taken action to file protective liens and to write-off bad debt on a few delinquent accounts, reported Treasurer Galford.

"This is an action that has been debated for several years," he explained. "With assistance from Talis and using a standardized system, we came up with ten properties [on which] to request liens, with four written off using reserves."

Continuing his report, Galford thanked the Board for approving changes to the rules & regulations recommended by the Finance Committee. The newly updated registration forms will be sent to residents along with

election ballots and the proposed budget. However, unlike in previous years, the membership dues statement will be sent separately, with instructions to mail payment directly to a lock box. Once payment is received, the office will then mail out vehicle stickers and membership cards.

"In past years there has been such an influx of payments that many had to wait for long periods of time at the office. This year we will have a much more efficient

process," said Galford.

The Finance Committee will hold a special meeting to review the proposed budget on Thursday, January 6 at 9:00 am at the SLLA office. Galford invited the SLLA Board and candidates to attend.

Other business

In other business on Wednesday, December 15, the SLLA Board:

- Approved a \$3,950 contract with Aberdeen Exterminating for an initial ter-

mite inspection, treatment program, and annual contract. Cochran apologized for the 'poke holes' at various buildings, that were made as inspections were undertaken. The areas will be repaired.

- Heard from Cochran that new lockers had been installed at the North and South mail houses. The lockers have been on-site since September, but it took several months of calls to the Postal Service before the necessary special locks were received.

Volunteer & reduce waste

Waste Reduction Partners (WRP), a nationally recognized program providing free technical assistance to NC businesses, industries, municipalities and institutions, expanded its reach statewide when it opened the Piedmont office in 2008.

In the 18 months since its inception, Piedmont WRP volunteers have helped clients from central and eastern NC identify more than \$1 million in energy savings and reductions of 6122 tons of greenhouse gases.

The program, Waste Reduction Partners, is a unique team of volunteer engineers, scientists and architects who work one-on-one with organ-

izations to help cut their utility costs while reducing their environmental footprint. Working in partnership with The Triangle J Council of Governments, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, the State Energy Office, and the NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach the statewide WRP program has helped businesses save over \$23 million in operating costs since 2000.

WRP is now recruiting volunteer retired engineers and scientists with industrial backgrounds in south-central North Carolina, including Moore County.

The volunteers work with both private business and

institutions to perform energy, solid waste, and water efficiency assessments. They provide confidential onsite consultations and technical assistance.

All expenses are covered and volunteers receive a stipend. If you have an interest in participating with the WRP program please, contact Conrad Meyer at TJCOG, phone (910) 986-2680 or e-mail cmeyer@tjcog.org.

TJCOG will host a Waste Reduction Partners volunteer informational session in the near future at their office in Research Triangle Park. For more information go to: www.wastereduction-partners.org

Mental Illness Support Group

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



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Special Meeting

(Continued from front page)

three-quarters of the votes ultimately cast. In fact, the meeting was able to proceed only because the Board decided to include Shepard's proxies in the quorum count. Without them, the official headcount at the meeting for determining a quorum would have been only the 120 members who showed up without already having assigned a proxy — a total more than fifty short of a quorum.

Dam Road Group outgunned in proxy fight

By contrast, the Dam Road Group, which had collected more than 200 signatures to call the meeting in the first place, never managed to get off the ground with its own proxy drive.

Westsider Mike Gorenflo, who organized the special meeting petition drive, asked in an email not to be designated as proxy for Dam Road Group supporters, indicating that his goal of ensuring a vote of the membership on the dam road closure had been fulfilled once the meeting was called. Apparently, no one stepped in to fill Gorenflo's shoes, leaving the Dam Road Group seriously outgunned in the proxy fight.

SLWLA Legal Director Ed Silberhorn told *The Times* that the Board could have stopped the meeting almost before it got started by simply pocketing the proxies Shepard held, leaving those members out of the quorum count.

"The Board decided in advance that we were going to go ahead and vote our proxies in favor of having the debate," Silberhorn said, "because we wanted to have the open debate and conversation that we had."

After the meeting, Silberhorn said he felt the vote reflected the judgement of the community as a whole.

"I found it interesting that the sense of the meeting vote produced the same 85/15 split we saw earlier when we conducted the survey," he said. "I remain convinced that our community is made up of intelligent, experienced

folks who understand the issues and consistently vote accordingly."

Bud Sales' motion opens debate

That debate opened with a motion by former Board member Bud Sales to support the Board's decision to close the dam road to vehicular traffic. Former Treasurer Kathy Kirst seconded the motion, and meeting moderator Palmer Suggs, of the law firm Robbins May & Rich in Southern Pines, opened the floor for comment.

Sales said the community had been debating the closure of the dam road for three years or more, and now knows, from the results of a survey circulated by the Board, that an overwhelming number of members supports the Board's position.

"We have wasted enough time and money on this," Sales said. "Let's move on."

Kirst offered members who attended the meeting a brief history lesson, explaining that Dam Engineer Dam Marks first advised closing the roadway over the dam in 2007, when water seeping through the dam saturated soil on the backside of the structure, threatening its integrity. The issue is not

the road, Kirst said, but the safety of the dam.

"There has been talk about getting a second opinion," Kirst said. "But what happens if it doesn't agree with Dr. Marks' recommendations? And how do you take away the stated opinion of Dr. Marks that the dam shouldn't be opened?"

A dozen speakers weigh in

Members were asked to sign up in advance if they wanted to speak during the meeting, and Attorney Sugg moved methodically through the list of eleven, then opening the floor to additional speakers.

"When the road was first closed, I screamed like a stuck pig," said Scott Duval, a resident of Banbridge Drive near the western end of the dam, told the meeting. But he added that he feared the Board could spend millions of dollars developing and then implementing an alternative engineering solution that would allow the dam road to be reopened. "I'd rather see the money spent on plans to really beatify this community," Duval concluded, noting that effort would likely have a greater positive impact on property values.

Patty Cleary asked that the

Board determine the cost of the special meeting process and make that information public.

"We've listened to rhetoric for months and months, a lot of deceit, and lot of scare tactics," Robert Campbell said. Noting that he was principally concerned about the continued safety of the dam, he added, "What will it cost for us to have another opinion, or two, or three, whatever it takes? Are we putting all our eggs in Marks' basket? I think we are."

"More than anything else I am saddened by the fact that we have come to this point over this issue," Wendy Fish-

er said. A resident of Longleaf Drive, she said traffic by her home had doubled -- and the speed of that traffic had increased -- after the dam road closure. "That affects the property value of my home," she said.

Dale Erickson said he was defending the dam, Dr. Marks, and the Board. "The dam was never designed for road traffic," Erickson asserted, noting that it has, over the past ten years, been used by all manner of heavy truck traffic. "Now that remediation is complete, we must vigorously defend the dam," he said. Failing to support the

(See "Special," p. 29)

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Special Meeting

(Continued from page 28)

Board's decision could lead to additional costs, a sullyng of the community's reputation, the possible involvement of state regulators, and more unrest in the community, he added.

Judy Pendleton said the Board, in closing the Dam Road, has not made adequate provision for alternative access to homes that lie west of the dam if an emergency should close Longleaf Drive for any period of time.

Acknowledging that she was among the minority in the room, Maureen Mead said, "All we asked from the beginning is that the Board involve us. And they haven't." She said the options for the dam road should have been studied more."I think we deserve a voice," she added.

Using a collapsible carpenter's rule as a prop, Fred Allen, drawing on his experience as a general contractor who has built earthen dams, explained that the forces that could undermine the dam are those that impact it from the side, not from above. "The road cannot compromise the dam," Allen said. "The dam could

compromise the road."

Larry Greenburg said controversy over the dam road represented "the tyranny of the minority." "We are looking at a situation where neighbor continues to be bitter against neighbor," he said, "and that destroys the community, which is one thing that I have always loved about this place. To see this community become so divided and so divisive, that hurts me."

"This is not a waste," Mike Gorenflo said, defending the petition that called the Special Meeting. He said opposition to the Board's decision on the dam road had forced the Board to become more open to input and more willing to release information about the dam remediation and Marks' recommendations. "Hopefully, what we got out of this is a Board that is going to think twice, before they make huge decision, to make sure the voice of the people is heard.

Jack Dumbleton, a resident since 1985 and an original organizer of the Association, asked members to support the Board's decision. His comments were echoed

by Grace Kirkpatrick, also a resident since 1985, and a member of the original West-side Landowners Association Board of Directors. She said the Board "couldn't have been more open to the community" in the process of deciding what to do about the dam road.

Lewis Gregory, a former police chief of Whispering Pines, said his entire career had been spent in public safety and his support for the Board's decision to close the dam road was based on a concern for the safety of the public.

When they registered for the meeting, members were asked to declare whether they were in favor of the Board's decision, opposed to it, or undecided. After the speakers had their say, Sugg called a brief recess so that those who hadn't already declared a preference could register a vote, or others could change their vote, if they desired.

He then read the results, called for a motion to adjourn, and brought the West Side's second ever Special Meeting to a close.

Road repairs

(Continued from page 3)

Goodman during the Tuesday, December 14 Work Session.

Goodman said the culvert channels an active stream and noted that the landscape slopes away from the road on each side, which creates a hazardous situation for any pedestrian trying to get off the road.

However, Legal Director Ed Silberhorn cautioned him that, from a safety standpoint, if a sidewalk is installed it must meet NC-DOT standards.

"If you put in a sidewalk and someone gets hit that is our problem. If a person walks in the road and gets

hit, that is their problem," said Silberhorn.

With several other similar culvert replacement projects anticipated, Goodman suggested another option would be to widen the road at culvert crossings or to simply add length to the culvert to create additional space for an adequate area for walking.

"I'd like to think we had enough room if, in the future, we decide we want to put up a guardrail [to protect pedestrians]," said Goodman.



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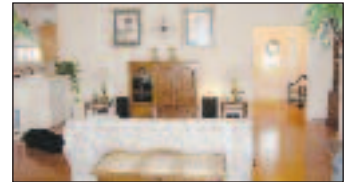
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