

Snow balls



Northsiders Sarah Rabstejnek, Maddie Burrell, and Georgia Grundy help Seven Lakes Tennis' Don Campbell show that tennis is an all-weather sport . . . sort of.

Pine Forest PUD critics speak out

by **Stacy Naughton**
 Times Reporter

After a four hour public hearing on Tuesday night, January 18, the Moore County Board of Commissioners tabled MHK Ventures' request for Planned Unit Development - Hamlet [PUD-H] rezoning for the proposed Pine Forest Golf Club subdivision, pending further review by both the Planning Department and the Board. The Planning Department is expected to bring recommendations to the Board's February 1 or February 15 regular meeting.

After hearing testimony during the quasi-judicial public hearing that development might threaten the headwaters of Nick's Creek, Commissioner Larry Caddell asked to withdraw from voting on the rezoning request, because he felt he could not

rule impartially.

"It's hard for me not to be partial after spending thirteen years of knowing Nick's Creek," the former Carthage Mayor said. "I've never run from a vote," he told *The Times* during a break in the meeting. But his intimate knowledge of the creek and its importance to the Carthage water system, he added, made it difficult for him to render the impartial decision required.

After Caddell made his request to withdraw, his fellow Commissioners voted unanimously to excuse him from further consideration of the matter.

Pine Forest Water & Sewer Contracts

The evening's discussion of Pine Forest began not with the rezoning request, but
 (See "Pine Forest," p. 22)

Woodland Circle project takes unexpected turn

by **Laura Douglass**
 Times Reporter

Initiated over five years ago by a petition of property owners, the construction and paving of Woodland Circle Extension is officially com-

plete. But the possibility that a majority stakeholder could walk — potentially leaving Foxfire Village with a \$1.5 million unpaid assessment — dominated discussion at a Public Hearing on Thursday,

January 13.

Addressing the Village Council on behalf of John McKean, who owns a significant portion of the property to be assessed, attorney John May argued that the Village was asking his client to pay more than his fair share of the cost.

Using the equal rate per acre methodology laid out in the preliminary resolution approved in December would burden McKean with almost three-quarters of the project costs, yet, owing to the position of his land, he will own only 30% of actual road frontage lots.

"The property that is going to pay the most for the assessment will not be equal-

ly benefited by the methodology you have chosen," said May. "He [McKean] is not looking for a fight or to avoid paying some of the costs, but he would like very much for the Council to consider another more equitable methodology or approach in how to pay for this."

May said that the current tax value on McKean's 156-acre property is \$1.1 million and that his anticipated assessment is \$1.5 million. He also noted that a 2008 survey delineated 20% of the property as jurisdictional wetlands, leaving only 130 acres of divisible land.

"He will get to a point that it is not economically appropriate for him to pay the

assessment, if he's never going to get the money back out of the property," warned May.

Faced with the possibility of McKean walking away — in effect giving the Village the property rather than paying the impending assessment — the Council consulted with Village Attorney Michael Brough, who was in attendance and considered their options.

Councilman Ed Lauer noted that it is difficult to revisit the payment methodology since the current Council does not know all the facts and thoughts that went into the original decision; only Erickson remains from the
 (See "Foxfire," p. 20)

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Rare & endangered species at Save Our Sandhills

On January 27, Save Our Sandhills will host Beth Evans, a Certified Wildlife Biologist, to speak about Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall's commitment to endangered species. Both military installations are located within the rare longleaf pine-wire grass

ecosystem. Less than three percent of the original 92 million acres of this ecosystem still exist. This ecosystem, dependent on fire maintenance, supports a wealth of flora and fauna populations, many of which are endangered or rare.

Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall contain 23 vegetative community types with over 1,200 plant species, approximately 200 bird species, 51 reptiles, 44 amphibians, 41 mammal species, and over 50 known aquatic species. Among these species, five

are federally endangered. Overall, 48 species are considered rare.

Evans will identify the five federally endangered species that can be found in the Sandhills, and will discuss their life histories and their management requirements. She will also highlight a few other rare species in our glob-

ally rare longleaf pine ecosystem.

Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening, Thursday, January 27, 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Refreshments served.

Chapel hosts Hospice intro

Join Seven Lakes Chapel on the Pines for a special presentation to highlight the new Hospice campus and the services provided by Hospice staff, on Tuesday, January 25. The presentation will be held at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, on Seven Lakes Drive, from 4 to 5 pm.

As the construction of the new Hospice campus is underway, FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care will work out of a new location, with a new Hospice House offering inpatient hospital-level care for patients whose symptoms can not be managed appropriately in their

home or current location. The campus will also feature a Grief Resource & Counseling Center and the new Hospice Chapel to better serve the spiritual needs of patients and their families.

If you need more information, please contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

The Annual Seven Lakes Kiwanis Breakfast will be held Saturday, February 5, 7 am through 11 am. The event will be held at West End Elementary School with eat-in or take out service available.

This important fundraiser will benefit local school classes Kindergarten through third

grade with cash and computers for an exciting new program entitled "Reading Diagnostic Assessment Initiative." This endeavor, supported by the Department of Public Instruction and the NC Teachers Academy, is designed to impact student learning.

Co-chairs John Shaugnessy and John Clohessy stated, "The Kiwanis Club exists for the support of the community and its children. Can you think of a better project that we might dedicate our energies toward?"

"We encourage our Seven Lakes neighbors to wholeheartedly support this year's Pancake Breakfast."



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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.



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Westside will speed up culvert repairs

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The condition of drainpipes uncovered in Seven Lakes West's first culvert repair has persuaded Infrastructure Director John Goodman to accelerate his work schedule and fix four more culverts this Spring.

"It's really a matter of public safety," Goodman told *The Times*. "It's not worth the risk to wait for one of these to fail, because you don't know how long it would take to get on the contractor's schedule."

The questionable culverts carry water under Longleaf Drive. The first repair was

conducted in the first week on the New Year and involved removing three 30-inch galvanized steel pipes from a culvert located on Longleaf between Wagoner and Vanore. Two of the pipes, when removed, turned out to be "on the low side of the scale in terms of their condition," Goodman told *The Times*.

"We could see that they had rusted out" during an earlier inspection, Goodman said, but silt in the pipes made it hard to determine the level of damage. Two of the pipes literally fell apart as they were being removed, he added.

Once the poor condition of

the pipes was evident, Goodman said, he reinspected twelve other suspect culverts and identified four more that appear to be in need of immediate attention. The plan is to repair all of those during the month of February and to complete repairs on the remaining eight by the Summer of 2014.

The price per culvert ranges from \$16,000 to \$22,000, Goodman told *The Times*. The current year's budget includes only funds for the repair just completed, but the other four are in the FY 2011-2012 budget, which starts in May. Goodman explained that the February culvert replacements will be funded from reserves, which will then be replenished with

the culvert replacement funds included in next year's budget.

Funding for four more culvert repairs will be included in both the budget for FY 2012-2013 and for FY 2013-2014.

The old galvanized metal pipes are being replaced with smooth concrete pipes. Noting that the metal pipes lasted 25-30 years, Goodman said the new pipes should last three times that long. The repair is being topped off with an aggregate that compacts well as a road base. Once this year's other four culverts are fixed, all five spots will be repaved at the same time.

The Wagoner-Vanore culvert was located in a spot

that offered no detour for traffic, which meant residents were restricted to using either the front gate or the back gate for a week,

The four culverts to be repaired in February don't pose this problem; traffic can be detoured around each of them using side streets.

The tentative February repair schedule is as follows:

Jan 31 – Feb 7 – Just South of the Community Center/Otter Road

Feb 8 – Feb 14 – Just South of Callis Circle

Feb 17 – Feb 24 – First Culvert just West of Lake Auman Dam

Feb 17 – Feb 24 – Second Culvert just West of Lake Auman Dam

Westside budget approved

The budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 was approved in a brief meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors held on Tuesday afternoon, January 11.

The Work Session scheduled for that Tuesday was called because snow and ice left area rendered area roads all but impassable.

But the budget approval was needed in order to allow the office staff to proceed with preparing packets for the Annual Meeting, where Westsiders will be asked to approve the budget, as well as electing three new Board members.

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The Long Range Planning Committee needs your input in evaluating a number of potential projects for the future of Seven Lakes West.

You can print a copy of the survey from the Long Range Planning area of the Seven Lakes West Website at www.sevenlakeswest.org or pick up a copy at the mailhouse or Community Center.

Please complete and return the survey to the West Side Park Community Center office by February 15th.

Please call the office at 910-673-5314 with any questions.



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SLLA may outsource landscape maintenance

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

In an unexpected announcement during the Monday, January 10, Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Work Session, Community Manager Alina Cochran reported that she had received bids from three of six companies contacted for quotes on handling landscape maintenance for the Association — a task that has up 'til now been handled by the in-house main-

tenance department.

The Board did not discuss of the proposals, but quickly approved the item for action on the January 26 Open Meeting agenda. But it was clear that the idea of outsourcing landscape maintenance has been on the table during frequent closed sessions held by the Board this year to discuss legal and personnel issues.

If a landscaping contract is awarded, the change would be in keeping with other deci-

sions over the last few years that have moved day-to-day functions of the Association — such as security and administration — from in-house staffing to contracted service agreements.

In a telephone interview with *The Times* following the Work Session, SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf said the Board's consideration of an outsourced solution for maintenance has not been easy or unanimous.

"The appearance of our community is looking old and tired," he said, "and the one thing that would help spruce the place up is a plan to start improving the outward appearances and landscaping. So, at that point, do you build that expertise in-house or outsource?"

He explained that initial discussions of the future of maintenance began in the

Fall of 2009, but had been put aside to give new management a chance to evaluate the community's needs — and the department's abilities — before making a recommendation.

Late in 2010, Zielsdorf said, discussion began again in earnest. Bids were solicited from six companies, he explained, and the Board interviewed the three responding bidders.

"I was very impressed with each of the three companies," Zielsdorf said. "They were very knowledgeable people — far beyond what I was expecting."

Of those three, a preferred contractor — apparently one from outside the county — has been identified. Zielsdorf said the company has expressed interest in establishing a base of operations in the area, with a group of

employees that would remain in Seven Lakes.

"It would be the same faces week after week," he said.

Zielsdorf said the proposed contract includes a three-year fixed price and he anticipated, at worst case, the change from in-house to outsourcing would be revenue neutral.

He also said that, rather than completely eliminating the in-house maintenance department, he is in favor of maintaining a reduced staff for general repairs while outsourcing the landscaping work.

Responding to a question about existing maintenance equipment, Zielsdorf said he wants to take a wait-and-see approach with the proposed contract and that he will recommend doing nothing with the equipment for at least a year.

WSL community mixer

Enjoy an afternoon with friends and neighbors at the Community Social Mixer on Sunday, January 30 at 4:30 pm in the North Clubhouse.

Sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes, this annual BYOB event features a delicious buffet of hors d'oeuvres and is a great opportunity for newcomers to meet and mingle.

Tickets are limited and

the cost is only \$5.00 per person. All proceeds are used by the Women of Seven Lakes to purchase new ribbons, garland and other holiday decorations for the community common areas.

Tickets will be sold at the mail houses, Wednesday through Friday, January 19-21, or can be obtained by calling Ginny Heerema at 673-5150 or Laura Douglass at 673-1817.

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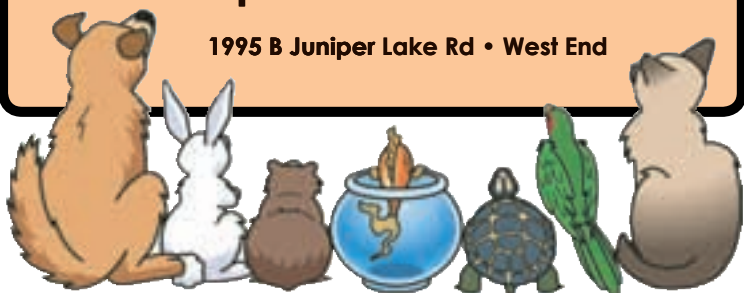
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No dues increase in SLLA Budget . . . yet

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

There's no dues increase in the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA].

That's the good news.

But initial reports from the recently completed Reserve Study suggest that substantial annual increases to reserve funds will be necessary over the next five years — increases that may be hard to achieve without future dues increases.

"This year, we did not attempt to incorporate, at this late notice, any dues increase," Treasurer Denny Galford told the SLLA Board of Directors during their Monday, January 10 Work Session. "We want to take time to review operating costs and whether we can improve those first. If we can perfect current operations, then we may be able to generate additional monies."

Detailed information on the Reserve Study and the proposed FY2011-2012 budget were not presented at the meeting, but discussion indicated that anticipated capital expenditures planned for next year include \$125,000 from unrestricted reserves

for work at the stables, among other projects, and \$80,000 in restricted reserves to complete road repairs at Lancashire and Dogwood Lane — two of the four areas identified as needing significant repair work prior to a community-wide major road repaving project.

The Board is expected to vote on the proposed budget during the January 26 Open Meeting.

Study recommends building reserves

The recently completed Reserve Study is a comprehensive evaluation of all community assets and infrastructure — a long range planning and financial tool that includes recommendations for the next thirty years.

At Monday's meeting, Director Bud Shaver gave Board members a summary of information from the Study that will be made available for public review once the full report is formally accepted at the January Open Meeting.

Shaver has advocated forming Ad hoc committees to look at each area covered by the Study and has also asked the Finance Committee to review the financial recommendations presented in the

document.

"They have done a superb job of defining what needs to be done and anticipated costs," Shaver said of the Reserve Study, noting that the report indicates reserves will reach a critical juncture in 2017, if the Association continues to fund them at the current level.

The Study recommends incremental but substantial annual increases to the reserve funds: \$300,000 in 2012; \$471,000 in 2013; \$642,000 in 2014; \$660,000 in 2015; and \$679,000 in 2016 — a total of \$2.75 million over five years. The Association's total budget for this year was \$1.4 million.

Treasurer Denny Galford said he was very pleased with the study, adding that it could serve as a consistent base for planning as the composition of the Board changes from year to year.

"The important thing is, this year we're not increasing dues but cutting costs," Galford said, explaining that, at least initially, reductions in operational costs will be used to offset the recommended contributions to reserves.

He anticipated that sufficient funds will be set aside to bring the Association into

compliance with the Reserve Study recommendations by the end of fiscal year 2012.

Once approved, both the Reserve Study and Shaver's summary will be posted to the SLLA website, and copies will be available for review at the office.

Boating rules spark debate

Numerous and repeated boating violations observed last Summer on Lake Sequoia prompted Director Chuck Mims to draft several proposed amendments to boating rules and regulations that specifically address safe-

ty violations and proposed penalties. The Board is scheduled to consider those rules changes under action items at the SLLA Open Meeting on January 26.

During Monday's Work Session, Director Chuck Mims presented the amendments and explained that the purpose for the recommended changes is to provide a fair and even application of rules. The amendment calls for increasingly severe consequences for first, second, and third offenses; however, Director Melinda Scott expressed

(See "SLLA," p. 19)



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In memory of . . .

Jared W. DeBruin, 62, of Seven Lakes, died Wednesday, January 12.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Joan, his children, Chris and Kate, and his grandsons, Nicolas and Timothy.

A gathering of remembrance for Mr. DeBruin was held on Sunday, January 16, at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, Seven Lakes.

Memorial considerations may be sent to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, Seven Lakes, NC 27376 or the charity of your choice. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Edna Pearl Southard, 68, of Candor, died Sunday, January 9, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 12, at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Southard was born in Montgomery County the daughter of the late Lucille Ritter and Marvin Luck.

Survivors include her husband Clifton; sons Jesse Clifton Southard Jr. of Burton, MI; Tony Southard of

Fayetteville; daughters Faye Sheffield of Candor; Bonnie Auman of Asheboro; brothers Bobby Luck of Pinehurst, Sonny Luck of Candor, and Johnny Luck of Eagle Springs; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

Edward Luck, 91 of West End, died Sunday January 9, at Manor Care Nursing Facility, Pinehurst. Mr. Luck was native of Montgomery County, the son of the late Colon and Amanda Dunn Luck.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 13 at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes, the Rev. George Ingram officiate. Burial followed in the Ellerbe Town Cemetery.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Gurney Luck, Marvin Luck, and a sister, Vernie Luck.

Survivors include his wife of sixteen years, Barbara Ritter Luck; two sons, Wayne Luck of Norman; Sammy Luck of Fayetteville; daughter, Brenda Farmer of McDo-

nough, GA; two stepsons, Fred Ensley, Jr. of West End; and Don Parsons of Florence, SC; three stepdaughters, Cindy Clegg of Seven Lakes; Sherry McKay of Seagrove; and Dixie Lee Oliver of Whispering Pines; brother, Lonnie Luck of West End; sixteen grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and one step great grandchild.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes served the family.

Amanda Von Canon Robertson, 49, died Saturday, January 8, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 14, at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church. Burial followed at West End Cemetery.

Mrs. Robertson was born in Moore County the daughter of Sylvia Hunsucker Von Canon and the late Paul Leonard Von Canon, Jr. She operated her own business in Moore County for many

years.

She was preceded in death by her father, maternal grandparents Paul and Molly Hunsucker, and paternal grandparents Paul and Mary Von Canon.

She is survived by sons Alexander of Putnam,; and Stephen Cagle of West End; daughter Amie Cagle of Lumberton; her mother Sylvia Von Canon of West End; sister Janice Bunton of West End; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, PO Box 7, Jackson Springs, NC 27281.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

John L.S. Joralemon, Jr., 88, of Seven Lakes, formerly of Morristown, NJ, died at his home, Tuesday, January 4, after a long illness.

A memorial service was held on Monday January 10, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. Burial will be private in NJ.

John Ladell Seward "Jack" Joralemon was born in Orange, NJ, the son of the late John and Marion Joralemon. He lived most of his

(Continued on page 7)



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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan. 31 <i>Lentil Soup ♥</i>	1 <i>Potato Bacon Soup</i>	2 <i>Chicken Dumpling Soup</i>	3 <i>Italian Meatball Soup</i>	4 <i>New England Clam Chowder</i>
<i>Baked Spaghetti Dinner</i>	<i>Chicken Pot Pie Dinner</i>	<i>Rosemary Pork Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Tilapia Florentine Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Beef Stroganoff Dinner</i>
7 <i>Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥</i>	8 <i>Chicken Curry Soup ♥</i>	9 <i>Tomato Basil Soup ♥</i>	10 <i>Crab & Shrimp Bisque</i>	11 <i>Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥</i>
<i>Shepherd's Pie Dinner</i>	<i>Chicken Tetrzzini Dinner</i>	<i>Chinese Pepper Steak Dinner</i>	<i>Bourbon Salmon Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Pork Paprikash Dinner</i>
14 <i>Chicken Gumbo</i>	15 <i>Goldie's Chili</i>	16 <i>Vegetable Soup ♥</i>	17 <i>Mushroom & Wild Rice Soup</i>	18 <i>Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥</i>
<i>Salisbury Steak Dinner</i>	<i>Chicken Divan Dinner</i>	<i>Pot Roast Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Broccoli Manicotti Dinner</i>
21 <i>Ham & Corn Chowder</i>	22 <i>Curried Carrot Soup ♥</i>	23 <i>Black Bean Soup</i>	24 <i>Beef Vegetable Soup ♥</i>	25 <i>Tomato Florentine Soup ♥</i>
<i>Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Beef Enchiladas Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Eggplant Parmesan Dinner</i>	<i>Sesame Salmon with Ginger Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Swiss Steak Dinner</i>
28 <i>Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥</i>	March 1 <i>Brunswick Stew</i>	March 2 <i>Butternut Bisque ♥</i>	March 3 <i>Creamy Chicken Alphabet Soup</i>	March 4 <i>Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo</i>
<i>Basil Shrimp with Feta Dinner ♥</i>	<i>Chicken Parmesan Dinner</i>	<i>Herb Turkey Dinner</i>	<i>Vegetable Pesto Lasagna Dinner</i>	<i>Beef Burgundy Dinner</i>

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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 6)

life in NJ, attended Columbia High School (Maplewood NJ) and Lehigh University. He was a WW II veteran Navy pilot, he served in the Naval Reserves for many years. After retirement from a career with General Motors and then Caterpillar Inc., he moved to Seven Lakes in 1986. He was a member of the Chapel in the Pines, served on the Board of Directors from 1993 to 1996, and was a dedicated volunteer with the Care Net Program at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Elizabeth Foley (died 1971) and his second wife, Grace Simpson Horsfield (died 2004).

He is survived by his son Jeffrey Seward Joralemon of Chester, NJ ; daughter, Mary Elizabeth Joralemon Boyd of Orinda, CA; stepchildren, Martha Connolly of Douglasville, PA; Geoffrey Horsfield of Long Valley, NJ; and Robert Horsfield of Webster Grove, MO, five grandchildren and seven step-grandchildren, and his companion of five years Paula Gibb.

Memorials may be made in Mr. Joralemon's memory to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home assisted the family.

Lou Sarah Bishop Wilson, 78, of Spartanburg, SC, died Saturday, January 1. Born in Spartanburg County, she was the daughter of the late Buford Gibson and Ora Cook Bishop . She had retired from Belk Hudson after many years of service, and was a member of the Presbyterian church.

She was preceded in death by two daughters, Sheila Jean Tinsley and Tyria Mechelle Wilson and her husband, Allen B. Wilson.

Survivors include her son, Roger Dale Wilson of Inman, SC; daughter, Vicki Lynn Davidson of Seven Lakes; her sister, Shelby Jean Bishop Jackson of Spartanburg, SC; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



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Snow plays havoc with school schedule

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

Winter weather and multiple snow days left the Moore County Board of Education in the unpopular position of calling school into session for two consecutive Saturdays and also on Good Friday, April 22.

During an abbreviated meeting held on Thursday, January 13, Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser

distributed copies of the updated school calendar.

"We tried to be sensitive to all the issues," said Purser.

So far this Winter, snow make-up days have been called for January 15, January 22, February 21, and April 22. Since the Easter holiday is late this year, Spring Break is scheduled for March 28 – April 1 and, thus far, remains intact.

Per North Carolina law,

schools must be in session for 180 days, with each academic year starting no earlier than August 25 and ending by June 10. Certain days on the academic calendar are designated as inclement weather make-up days, often during regular teacher work days. NC law also dictates a certain number and scheduling of unencumbered work days set aside for teachers that cannot be encroached

upon.

Last year's harsh Winter forced Moore County Schools to close multiple times and designated make-up days were used including the Memorial Day holiday.

Following administrative changes initiated this Fall that shifted the definition of when the school work week begins and ends, allowed Purser to make a recommendation, which the Board adopted last September, to designate Saturdays as an option for a make-up day – which is preferably within

the same week as the closed snow day.

Annual Audit

Adam Scepurek of Dixon Hughes, PLLC presented the independent annual audit for 2009-2010, reporting a clean opinion for Moore County Schools with no deficiencies in internal control of financial reporting. In addition, MCS were found to be in compliance with all major federal and state programs.

A complete copy of the audit report is available online.

Rail Crossing Project on the move

Construction on a rail safety project that will close two crossings in West End and equip the Lakeway Drive crossing in Seven Lakes with gate arms and upgraded signals is likely to begin in late Spring or early Summer, NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] engineer Nancy Horne told *The Times* on Tuesday.

Documents assessing the environmental impact of the project have been signed by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and by the Federal Highway

Administration, which is providing funding for the \$650,000 project.

Once she has those signed approvals in hand, Horne said, she can prepare the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates package and seek approval for construction funding.

NCDOT personnel are likely to handle the crossing closures in West End, while the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway will complete the work on the Seven Lakes signals.

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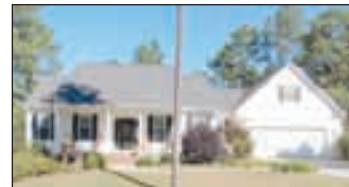
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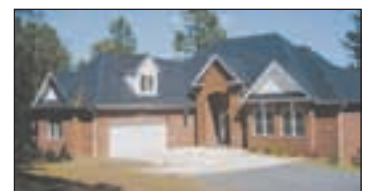
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Planning Board splits on human services center

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

There is interest in developing a multi-faceted human services center in Moore County that could provide counseling for job training, employment, childcare, medical and psychological needs, nutrition and education, as well as temporary lodging and meals; but there are no current ordinances that address such a facility.

"There is nothing remotely close to this use in the existing ordinances, so we determined the best option was to create a new use for this need," planner Robert Farrell explained to the Moore County Planning Board during the Thursday, January 6 meeting.

Planning Member Rodney Pickler expressed concern over the recommended text amendment.

"What control is there over how many and where these facilities are to be sited?" he questioned. "How many will be built in the county?"

Farrell responded that the recommended ordinance does not impose limitations but since such facilities would only be allowed in commercial zoning districts – which is the smallest percentage of acreage in the county – that zoning in itself would considerably restrict the number of such facilities.

Planning Member Bernard Capstick also questioned whether temporary lodging would be a magnet to indigent persons with no other ties to Moore County.

"I am concerned about non-county residents taking advantage of the system," said Capstick.

After discussion, the Board approved the recommended text amendment on a split vote.

Unified Development Ordinance update

Over the next few months, the Planning Board will consider proposed updates to the Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] which combines the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Flood Damage Prevention

Ordinance into a single, user-friendly document. The new format includes a redesigned numbering system, additional charts and tables that make the regulations easier to understand, and a section that outlines the authority of every official and Moore County board.

Proposed changes will be reviewed in segments, beginning with an overview in February, general information in March, zoning districts and Table of Uses in April, development standards in May, and subdivision regulations in June. Public review workshops of the UDO are tentatively scheduled between July and September. In addition, a draft will be available online in February and at the Planning offices by

request.

Concerned over a recent recommendation by County Commissioner Chair Nick Picerno to form a citizen task force to ensure the proposed UDO is 'business-friendly,' Planning Member Dave Kinney argued that it is the Planning Board's responsibility to ensure such practices.

On Kinney's motion, the

Board unanimously approved sending a letter to the Board of Commissioners stating their concern.

Hazard Mitigation Plan update

Described as a complete rewrite of the 2005 plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010 update

(See "Planning," p. 12)



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More water for 7 Lakes tops county agenda

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Bringing more water to the greater Seven Lakes area is at the top of the agenda for the Moore County Board of Commissioners this year.

The Board concluded its annual two-day budget retreat, held January 13 and 14 at the Moore County Senior Center, with a goal-setting exercise moderated by Agricultural Extension Director Craven Hudson. The result was a list of ten goals for 2011 and six additional long terms goals. At the top of the list was finding a "Seven Lakes Water Solution."

"The only reason I stayed for four more years," said Commissioner Larry Caddell, referring to his recent reelection to the Board, "is because I promised my friends in Seven Lakes that I would take care of this."

"We don't need to wait to find water. We need to find it now," Caddell said.

And, if the right deal can be negotiated, the Commissioners would like to find that water in the Town of Robbins.

The County plans to reopen negotiations with Robbins within the next forty-five days to determine whether the two local governments can work together to utilize a reservoir and mothballed water

treatment plant that Robbins owns but is unable to use. Currently, Robbins buys water from neighboring Montgomery County.

The Robbins plant could pump as much as one million gallons per day of water into the county system that serves Seven Lakes and Pinehurst, through a new water line that would likely run down NC Highway 705 to NC Highway 211 and on to Seven Lakes to tie into the county system. Previous estimates have placed the cost of that water line and its pump stations at approximately \$3.6 million — and rehabbing the Robbins water plant is likely to cost nearly that much again.

The possibility of bringing water in from the Robbins treatment plant has gone back and forth for more than two years without any agreement being reached, but the Commissioners appeared

determined to go back to the table with the intention of finally making a deal.

More Options for Water

Public Utilities Director Dennis Brobst outlined three other options for increasing water supply to the Western end of the county system, including bringing purchased water from Montgomery County down a new line along NC Highway 211 and two different options for buying water from Randolph County.

Water is currently pumped to Seven Lakes through a single water main that can carry over a million gallons of water per day. Currently, the area uses at most 880,000 gallons per day, Brobst noted that that Seven Lakes could be forty percent larger than it is now when fully built out.

Moore County Public Utilities is poised to bring online

Pinehurst Wells 5A and 9, which will supply an additional 500,000 gallons of water a day. In addition, new Well 6A will add a water supply of 65,000 gallons a day and should be completed in June.

Reduce ALS Tax

Holding the line on — or reducing — taxes has been a Board of Commissioners' goal in each of the last two years and this year is no exception. The target this year is the Advance Life Support [ALS] tax, a two-cent per

hundred levy added on top of regular property taxes to support the county's Emergency Medical Services.

The Board cut the ALS tax rate from 2.5 cents in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 to two cents that year, and appears ready to shave off at least another half-cent for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The levy is expected to generate \$2.3 million in tax revenue this year.

During his presentation during the retreat, Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips asked the Board to consider

(See "Goals," p. 12)

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Goals

(Continued from page 7)

the cost of replacing equipment, hiring more personnel, and the completion of system upgrades. Public Safety is seeing the number of calls for service grow, while, at the same time, it is becoming more and more difficult to recruit volunteers. As a result, departments are hiring firefighters instead of relying exclusively on volunteers.

Planning

(Continued from page 10)

is a comprehensive 48-page document developed with support from local municipalities that aims to promote public health, safety and general welfare of residents and minimize public and private losses due to natural disasters.

A Public Hearing on the proposed 2010 update will be held at the next Planning Board meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 6 pm.

Other Business

In other business on Thursday, January 6, the Moore County Planning Board:

Approved a conditional use permit request by Moore County Board of Education for a 24' x 26' storage building for athletic equipment at North Moore High School. Located on a 47.6 acre tract in Robbins, North Moore was constructed in 1965 and has a current enrollment of 564 students.

Approved a conditional use permit request by Moore County Board of Education to expand the existing concession stand at Union Pines High School. Located on a 34 acre tract in Cameron, Union Pines was constructed in 1962 and has a current enrollment of 1,215 students. The property is particularly unique because it lies within two local planning jurisdictions; the Town of Carthage and Moore County. While the school is located in Carthage, the football field and concession stand fall within the planning jurisdiction of Moore County.

Phillips asked the Board to leave the ALS tax rate at the current two cents, and consider an increase to three cents in 2016 or 2017. If no additional revenues are collected to offset these costs, Phillips warned, the EMS fund balance would drop below \$300,000 by 2018.

But, during their discussion of budget goals, the Commissioners seemed determined, as Commissioner Tim Lea put it, to "keep taxes low."

"At a minimum, it [the ALS tax rate] should be cut by half a cent," Chairman Nick Picerno said.

One strategy for cutting Public Safety department costs is to combine fire departments with rescue squads, so they can share a single facility, as is currently the case with West End Fire and Rescue. Another option is to merge fire departments that serve adjacent areas. Phillips gave an exam-

ple of the West End and Seven Lakes fire departments — which are headquartered roughly two miles apart.

Last year, the county approved the merger of the Cameron Fire Department, Circle V Fire Department, and Vass Rescue Squad into Cypress Pointe Fire and Rescue. The county is currently served by sixteen fire departments.

The board agreed that a better system is needed, including the strategic placement of fire, rescue, and EMS facilities. "We need to address this issue with experts," Commissioner Jimmy Melton said, "to find out the actual costs and figure out the most effective way to solve these issues."

Read more about the goals that Moore County's Board of Commissioners set for the airport and the new Heart of Carolina Mega Park during the annual retreat on www.sevenlakestimes.net

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Plant pests often survive cold weather

The holiday season is over, but Winter is still here. Let me make a few comments about the weather since little landscape gardening has taken place this season.

The weather this year has been again colder than normal. We had two significant snow coverings which is unusual and several days in December and January when the soil has been frozen. Some ask if the colder temperatures indicate that plant pests will be lessened. It is difficult to predict such, because many of the weed seeds and insect pests have a built-in environment and habitat to resist and acclimate to cold freezing situations and shallow cold soil temperature conditions.

Whereas some of the annual grasses such as crab grass and others have a soft outer seed covering that might be effectively reduced. On the other hand, those with hard outer seed coverings, such as cocklebur and sand spur will likely not be affected. Also those weeds and bulbs, such as dandelions, Bermuda grass, wild onions, garlic, and others will not be

reduced in population.

Gardening rotation has been a problem where space is limited for many of us who reside on individual lots in



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

developed areas of Moore County. In fact, vegetables and other garden plants produce and grow better if the spots are moved every four to five years. This rotation helps break the cycle of diseases, insects, and nematodes. If you cannot move the garden location, the next best thing is to move the vegetable plantings and flower plantings to a different spot every year if possible.

When the soil gets dry enough it is time to clean your vegetable garden and flower beds. Till or spade the areas several times and leave the roots to dry out for a fifteen-day period. Then thor-

oughly mix into the soil organic matter, lime, rotten leaves, dried composted manure and peat moss.

A general recommendation if your areas have not been limed in the past two years is to use ten to fifteen pounds Dolomitic limestone, ten to fifteen pounds of dry dehydrated manure, and twelve pounds of bone meal per 1,000 square feet of cultivated soil.

Pruning

Every year some ask about pruning woody ornamentals. Most of the dormant leafless ones can be pruned. Spring flowering budding ornamental plants and trees, such as azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, quince, and forsythia, should not be pruned. These can be pruned if desired and necessary after blooming. The rule of thumb is to prune following flowering unless there are dead plant parts that should be removed. Grape vines, crape myrtle, and fruit trees should be pruned as soon as possible.

If you desire to plant shrubs

or trees, do it now, after the ground has thawed.

January is a good time to plant Spring flowering bulbs. When planting, add a small handful mixture of finely ground bone meal, Dolomitic limestone, and mix into planting soil. When the sprouts emerge from the soil, add a tablespoon of bulb-boosting

fertilizer. Fertilize your pansies now and again when needed with liquid or granular fertilizer.

Suggested vegetable plantings for January:

Hardy dwarf and edible podded peas, onion sets and plants, asparagus crowns, and rhubarb plants.



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WSL reviews Senior Retirement Project

by Lana Schempp
WSL Vice President

At their January 6 meeting at the West Side Park Community Center, the Women of Seven Lakes welcomed Dr. Melinda Spohn as its guest speaker.

Dr. Spohn is the Executive Director of the Senior Retirement Project, a non-

profit that researches and serves the mental health and adjustment needs of seniors and elders as they transition into or already reside in retirement communities.

She resides in the state of Washington and is currently visiting the area while working on her Senior Research Project, studying

the emotional wellness of seniors after they enter nursing homes.

Dr. Spohn's presentation focused on the diversities in attitudes, ethics, behaviors, expectations, and motivations of the different generations. She enlightened the membership about why there may be misunderstandings

when communicating between generations result-

ing from these many differences and gave several examples of misinterpretations that may result. Her discussion gave the membership 'food for thought' and insight into intergenerational communication issues they may have encountered with others.

The Women of Seven Lakes will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 3, at 2 pm, at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Chef Richard will be sharing party recipes for Super Bowl or other events and provide tasty samples. Everyone is invited to attend.



Dr. Melinda Spohn

Biggest Loser at Kick Fit

Did you put on a few extra pounds this Winter? Don't wait until bathing suit season to lose them – start now!

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Participants may select a Saturday-only option for \$30 a month, or sign up for the full Kick Fit program at \$65 a month which also includes Tuesday and Thursday classes, held from 9-10 am and 7-8 pm.

Kick Fit is a fun and upbeat class for adults with all the kicking and punching from karate, just without the belts and uniforms. A great stress-buster, classes are led by Sensei Frankie Tapia, a 3rd degree Black Belt.

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Goshin Dojo's Sensei Frankie Tapia shows Bruce Shute how to punch his way to a smaller waistline.

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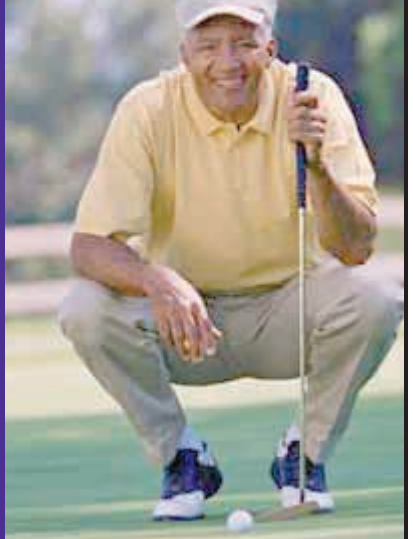
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

- **CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider** – 9 am - 4 pm, Introductory Certification Course. Certification Fee \$60. American Red Cross Moore County Chapter, 115 E. Penn. Ave., Southern Pines, 910-692-8571.
- **Kool Kids Parent Date Night** - 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Recreational play for kids grades K-5th. An evening out for just the two of you. Cost for 3 hour evening is \$7/child registered Kool Kids students, or \$12/child for others. 4139 Hwy 211, Seven Lakes, 2 doors from McDonald's.

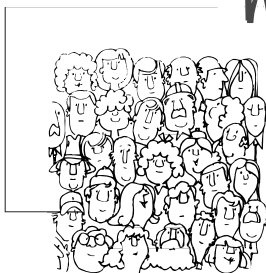
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Al Petteway and Amy White. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 or www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Shag and Line Dance (SLW)** – instruction on Monday evenings, 6:30 pm at West Side Park Community Center. To register, call 673-5314.
- **Sandhills Natural History**

Society – 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd, Southern Pines. Subject will be Polar Bears.



What's When Calendar

Join Glenn Gilchrist

for an overview of changes to polar bear habitat that are threatening the survival of these magnificent creatures. Gilchrist will share photographs during a recent trip to Kaktovik, Alaska. Visitors are always welcome.

- **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 is welcome. 910 974-3051.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

- **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. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Chapel In The Pines** – 4 to 5 pm, Special Presentation For FirstHealth Hospice & Pal-

liative Care. Join Seven Lakes Chapel on the Pines for a special presentation to highlight the new Hospice campus and the services provided by Hospice staff. Presentation will be held at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines,

on Seven Lakes Drive. Discussing will be about the new Hospice House offering inpatient hospital-level care for patients whose symptoms can not be managed appropriately in their home or current location. If you need more information, Fran Stark 673-5493.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. This ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). It is a time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal is provided at a charge of \$5 per person.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Last day of the current show
- **Save Our Sandhills** – 7 pm, speaker to discuss Endangered and Rare Flora and Fauna. Beth Evans, a Certified Wildlife Biologist,

will speak about Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall's commitment to endangered species. Both military installations are located within the rare longleaf pine-wire grass ecosystem. Less than three percent of the original 92 million acres of this ecosystem still exist. Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Southern Pines. Refreshments served.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

- **Scrapbooking Event** - West End United Methodist Church – 2 pm to 9 pm, hosting a Scrapbooking Event and Saturday, January 29 (9 am to 6 pm), Church Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$25 for both days

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SLWLA COMMUNITY NOTICE MORE CULVERT REPLACEMENTS

Because the culvert replacement work between Vanore and Wagoner revealed that our existing Longleaf Drive culverts are in worse shape than anticipated, our other existing culverts under Longleaf were re-inspected.

As a result, it has been determined four more existing culverts must be replaced immediately. **All four locations can accommodate detours** – no traffic will be cut off from reaching either the west/front gate or the east/back gate.

The culverts are located as follows and will be replaced in the order and per the **tentative** schedule shown below.

Just South of Community Center/Otter Road
January 31 – February 7

1st Culvert Just West of Lake Auman Dam
February 17 – February 24

Just South of Callis Circle
February 8 – February 14

2nd Culvert Just West of Lake Auman Dam
February 25 – March 1

Please call the office at 910-673-5314 with any questions.



Seven Lakes West Landowners Association
5314 Seven Lakes West, Seven Lakes NC 27376
Phone: 910-673-5314 Fax: 910-673-2707

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Reverend Don Welch
Minister

Reverend Fran Stark
Minister of Visitation & Outreach

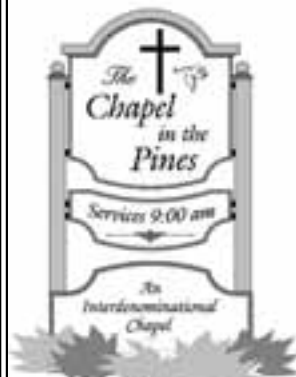
January 23rd –
Chapel Choir

January 30th –
Glenda Clendenin

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includes drinks and light snacks each day as well as a Pot Luck Dinner Friday night and Lunch on Saturday. Door Prizes will be provided – you must be present to win. All proceeds will benefit a mission trip to Haiti. Contact Brooke Bowman at (910)690-9934 or bwbowman03@yahoo.com to register.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

- **Flapjack Fundraiser** – 8 to 10 am, at Applebee's. A Fundraiser to raise money for the Pinecrest High School Debate Team to attend the Harvard Invitational. Tickets \$7 each for "all you can eat" pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee or tea. Tickets available from any member of the team, at the door the morning of the event, or by calling Lisa Quinlan, Fundraising Chairperson at 673-3075.
- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED** – 8 am - 1:30 pm, Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$55. American Red Cross Moore County Chapter, 115 E. Penns. Ave., Southern Pines, 910-692-8571.
- **January Birthday Club** – 11 am to 1 pm, Please join the long-standing Seven Lakes January Birthday Club for their annual birthday celebration. Held at

the Table on the Green, Southern Pines. Cost is \$16. Call Roxanna Davies 673-8200 or Linda Donnell 673-8025 to reserve your place at the celebration table.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Women of Seven Lakes Community Social Mixer** – 4:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Sponsored by Women of Seven Lakes, a BYOB event with heavy hors d'oeuvres served. A fun opportunity for newcomers as well as old neighbors and friends to meet and mingle. Tickets \$5, available for purchase Wed-Fri, Jan 19-21 at the mailhouses or call Ginny Heerema, 673-5150 or Laura Douglass, 673-1817.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Craicdown. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502 www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Current gallery pieces pick up and new works received today. Helen, 673-6347.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Gallery Grand Opening of new show, refreshments served.
- **"Evita"** – presented by Moore OnStage, the story of the rise and fall of not only Eva Duarte Peron, the wife of the President of Argentina during the late 40s and early 50s, but how her "influence" caused the economic demise of the country of Argentina. Held at the Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School, opening Wednesday, February 2 through Sunday, February 6. Tickets \$22 adults & \$15 for

students 18 and under. Wednesday night is special pricing night where all seats are \$15 and all seats are reserved for all performances. Evening performances (Wednesday through Saturday) play at 7:30 pm & Sunday's matinee at 2 pm. Reservations 910-692-7118 with a Mastercard, Visa or Discover.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. This ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). It is a time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal. \$5 per person.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** –

1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. New works on display.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** – 7 am to 11 am, at West End Elementary School with eat-in or take out service available. Proceeds to benefit local school classes Kindergarten through third grade with an exciting new program "Reading Diagnostic Assessment Initiative."
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6 pm, presents Polecat Creek, David Jacobs Strain. Poplar Knight Spot, 113 Knight Street, Aberdeen. Admission charge. 910-944-7502



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In search of a little shut-eye . . .

Once upon a time, a long long time ago, there lived a beautiful princess. Each night she would fluff her pillow and close her eyes, content that a full eight hours of blissful slumber was just a quiet breath away.

Alright, so maybe beautiful is bit of a stretch. But the rest is true — well, except for that princess part.

And while our fair princess . . . err, maiden did find her knight in shining armor and is busy living happily after all — her beauty sleep has faltered and unraveled like an old spool of thread.

Sharing a castle with a king, two kids, three cats

and one questionably-bred Labrador underachiever, you can understand why fitful has replaced blissful and my quiet repose to snoring tempos.

10:00 pm: I announce last call at the door. You see,

manning the door is my actual fulltime occupation; this journalism slash mothering-thing is just a sideline.

A typical mammal exchange occurs as the dog takes flight

down the steps, one kitty comes in, one goes out and the third stands fast on the threshold. I wait for some discernible sway either for or aft but she rewards my

Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass



patience by simply squatting down: immovable, sphinx-style.

Some people have lion statuary to impress guests at

their door: I have rotund unemployed housecats.

11:00 pm: Bedtime or, rather, lay down and stare at the ceiling time commences.

12:00 am: I finally drift off and sleep like a baby. You know, I wake up every two hours.

2:00 am: A gentle nudge breaks up my reverie — and, apparently, my propensity to snore. Blearily, I roll over and squelch a desire to reciprocate Darling Hubby's tender touch with a punch.

3:00 am: Nudge, rinse repeat.

4:00 am: Nudge, rinse repeat.

6:00 am: No alarm is nec-

essary. The sun is up and so are the critters.

Meow, meow. Lick, scratch. MEOW!

Allow me to translate, "Are you awake? Look, it's morning! I guess I'll get started fixing my fur. Hey, since you're up now, how about making me breakfast?"

If I could sleep through ten hours of perfectly good daylight every day, maybe I'd be a morning person too.

Eyes still closed, I stumble off to another hard day at the office — open the door, close the door. Dog in, dog out. Cat in, cat out, cat confused.

I need a raise.

Jack says 'Thanks for the support.'

Dear Editor:

To the Seven Lakes Community —

We at Jack's Place, having served the Seven Lakes community for the past 10 years would like to make you aware of upcoming changes to our restaurant.

As all of us work through the challenges of today's economy, Jack's Place is also facing those challenges and we have regretfully decided to temporarily discontinue our

dining room service.

We will continue to offer carryout for Jack's Famous Pizza, as well as many of your menu favorites.

Jack's Place new hours of operation will be everyday from 4 to 8 pm, beginning Monday, January 31. Please plan to stop by and pick up a copy of our new carryout menu.

In the near future, we hope that Jack's Place will once again provide a full service

dining experience. Until then, everyone at Jack's would like to thank the people of Seven Lakes, West End, and the surrounding communities.

Proudly serving Seven Lakes for the past 30 years, Jack's entire family looks forward to continued service for our friends and loyal customers.

Thank you for your support,
Jack

Snow happens. Let's be prepared.

Dear Editor:

To: Seven Lakes West Board President and Chairs of Infrastructure and Safety & Security —

You have brilliantly maintained your perfect record from last year of abject failure to assure emergency vehicle access to all residents of Seven Lakes West when snow and ice are predicted well in advance. Failure to do so might easily result in an injured party

law suit that would decimate the corporation and all judged responsible.

Spend some money, get a real contractor, and provide the oversight to make sure the work is done properly. We have the right to expect roads will be serviceable to emergency vehicles 24/7/365. If you don't see it that way, perhaps it's time for you to step down.

Bruce Macdonald
Seven Lakes West

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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

Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached.

We accept letters delivered by e-mail, fax, or the US Postal Service. You'll find our addresses in the boxes on page 2 & 18.

The length limit for letters is 300 words. Longer letters will be returned to the author or edited for length.

SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 5)

concern that the facts of a case — not repeated violations — should determine the penalty.

"I agree with the proposed penalties, but to codify them by frequency is a mistake. In regular judicial processes, it's not just how often [that determines penalties] but the severity of the violation and circumstances surrounding it."

Scott recommended that the proposed penalties should be included, but only as a recommendation.

Mims responded that he was concerned about impartiality and the possibility that rules could be applied to some landowners and not others.

"How do we enforce based on 'I like you and I don't like you?'" he asked. "What we need is a law that is not open to interpretation."

Scott countered that there has been no negative feedback from homeowners contesting the impartiality of Judicial Committee rulings. If a Judicial Committee member had problems with rendering impartial decisions, Scott added, he or she should be removed.

"When Judicial looks at a violator, the decision-making process will be the same," Scott said. "It's more than just frequency, it's the intensity of the type of penalty, and it shouldn't be the same penalty when you have dif-

ferent violations."

Looking for a compromise, Zielsdorf suggested amending the rules so that any suspension be imposed for a minimum of thirty days and also involve a fine. He also suggested that after three violations, a member could permanently lose privileges.

"It is crucial that we come together and put something together," Zielsdorf said. "We do not want to go through another boating season without new rules in place."

Wildlife Commission Enforcement Presentation

Exploring options for boating safety enforcement, several Directors to met recently with Sgt. Mark Dutton of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] to discuss options for safe boating enforcement.

At the SLLA Board's invitation, on Wednesday, January 26 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Sgt. Dutton will provide an informational presentation and be available for questions. All interested residents

are encouraged to attend, as this "meet and greet" will provide an exceptional opportunity to learn what services are available from the State and, perhaps, to dispel some common misconceptions.

Toe drains to be installed on dams

Four of five recent dam inspections indicated no apparent problems, reported Cochran, but a fifth inspection — of Little Juniper Dam — raised concerns and generated a recommendation that a toe drain be installed at the foot of the dam. Toe drains are used in earthen dams to prevent saturation of the soil on the dam's face, particularly near the bottom of the structure.

While the problem at Little J has been in existence since at least 2008, according to reports filed by the engineering firm S&ME, Cochran recommended correcting the problem sooner rather than later.

In addition, she recommended installing a second

toe drain at Sequoia Dam, which would reduce water pressure within the dam.

Cochran told the Board that some of the necessary work can be completed by in-house staff and that the recommended repairs had been included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget.

Other business

In other business on Monday, January 10, the SLLA Board:

• Heard from Cochran that work is not yet complete at

Echo Dam, but the roadway was reopened for traffic. Cold temperatures and high soil moisture caused delays in the project.

• Heard from Cochran that five inspectors visited the Northside Pool and made recommendations. "I feel confident that it's not as bad we thought it was," she said, referring to the condition of the thirty-year old pool. Some work, including adding additional bars to some points of the pool fencing, will be necessary.

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IRA0408

Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Council that approved the project.

"We received petitions and the decision was made. Whatever happens now is what it is," said Lauer.

The extension project commenced in March 2006 when, at the urging of former mayors Wayne Arnold and Arden McConnell, the Council pledged its support of the then-proposed roadway to connect Woodland Circle where it had been left untouched as other areas of the East Side were paved.

In May 2008, all affected property owners along the proposed 1.5 mile road extension were notified of estimated construction costs — originally projected as high as \$2.6 million but lowered to \$2.3 million after the bidding process.

Mayor George Erickson noted that he and former finance director Wally Peckitt had spoken with McKean about the project on two occasions. In both instances, McKean had expressed reservations over the proposed cost.

In October 2008, seven bids were received and the lowest bidder, Vaughn Contracting, was awarded the \$1,611,124 million project. [With the addition of engineering fees and other expenses added in, the total project cost that is being assessed is \$1,996,000.]

Updated lower cost estimates were sent to property owners in December 2008 and again in January 2009. Ten of the fourteen owners, who together represented thirty-four properties and sixty-seven percent of the road frontage, responded favorably; three refused to sign, and one owner could not be located. Under North Carolina law, a petition may proceed with slightly over half of the affected owners' approval.

However, May told the Council, McKean's concern is not that the road was built, or that he must pay a portion of its costs — but, rather, his concern is the formula used to determine each

assessment. As approved in the preliminary assessment resolution, 100% of the cost of improvements will be assessed at an equal rate per square foot of affected lots.

May asked the Council to defer the assessment roll while other options are explored.

A particularly significant question, and one not easily answered by Village Attorney Brough or NC law it seems, is: If the Council reversed course and opted for a different assessment methodology, would the original petition stand? Or, put more simply, could the ten owners that approved the roadway extension in 2009 renege on the agreement if the deal were changed this late in the game.

"Instead of one unhappy property owner, we could have ten," said Erickson.

Councilman Vic Koos agreed, "The problem is, if

we would have to make-up the difference with the other property owners. They're liable to bail out too, so what to do? I understand his point, but we might lose either way."

Mayor Erickson advised against any postponement that could impact the Village's ability to meet the project's next loan payment, which is due in April. After going around the table with no clear legal answers on how or if the assessment methodology can be reworked, the Council adopted a resolution declaring the Woodland Circle extension project complete.

A Public Hearing on the preliminary assessment roll will be held on Tuesday, February 1 at 7 pm.

Long Range Planning survey results

A recently completed survey of Village citizens by the Long Range Planning Committee was designed to be

general in nature rather than a vehicle to gather actionable data, Chairman Mick McCue told the Village Council during its Thursday, January 13 meeting. In total, sixty surveys, representing twelve percent of the population, were collected late last year.

In compiling results, McCue explained, the LRP Committee identified five basic themes; infrastructure, governance, public safety, taxes

and finances, and visions of the future.

The two most commented upon areas of interest were infrastructure [70 comments] and visions of the future [54], followed by governance [16], public safety [14], and taxes and finance [8].

McCue said the next step will be to broaden those areas through focus groups meetings with specific interests, including the Foxfire Property

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

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174 Baker Circle, Seven Lakes West

4 BR 2 1/2 BA 2 story brick home, located close to the 7-Lakes West back entrance. Living room, Carolina room, 2 Family rooms, office, and large garage with a 11x17 workshop. Seller is offering a \$5000.00 closing allowance with an acceptable offer!

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.**

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130 Vanore Road, SL West — SOLD!

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Call Ann Benton \$69,000

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 20)

Owners Association, Foxfire Garden Club, those with business ties to the Village, and others. He anticipated completion by the end of February.

Finance

Eighty-six percent of real property taxes have been collected. Notices will be sent at the end of the month to delinquent accounts.

As of December 31, the General Fund stood at \$752,537, with \$444,891 in money market, \$219,912 in checking, and \$50,029 in reserves, \$16,624 in Powell Bill funds, and \$20,979 in the Stonehill Pines account, plus \$100 in petty cash. The Water Fund stood at \$257,260, with \$244,971 in money market, \$31,238 in checking, \$19,050 set aside for contractors deposit, and \$100 in petty cash. In addition, \$135,434 is held in escrow, restricted for a new well.

Annual bank loans include a July payment of \$27,740 from the General Fund for the Village Green Park and a July payment of \$41,144 from the Water Fund. In April, loan payments will be due for Woodland Circle of \$199,869 from the General Fund and \$14,813 from the Water Fund.

Deputy Village Clerk Sharon Sanchez presented the finance report for Councilwoman Leslie Frusco, who was unable to attend.

Public Safety

A new snow blade recently purchased for the Foxfire Police truck was put to good use during last week's winter storm. Councilman Koos reported that Chief Mike Campbell and Sgt. Chad Shue worked alternating shifts to clear Village roads on Monday and Tuesday. In addition, the two primary thoroughfares — Richmond and Hoffman Roads — were well-maintained and cleared by North Carolina DOT.

"They did quite a job, both the state and our police," said Koos, thanking them for their efforts.

During public comment,

Foxfire resident MaryAnne Lauer also commended Foxfire's officers for doing an excellent job of taking care of the Village streets.

Streets & infrastructure

A request for quotes to renovate the existing tennis courts netted two bids, reported Councilman John Eltschlager: one for \$62,500 to renovate plus \$7,500 to remove the existing surface, and a second bid of \$57,000 that included both services.

Elt Schlager said he also generated his own estimate of what he determined would be appropriate costs and came up with \$52,000.

He said there were variables between the two bids and recommended a more definitive scope of work as well as exploring cost savings, including reduced fencing height and obtaining potential grant funding through the United State Tennis Association [USTA].

In response to last year's traffic fatalities, Foxfire Village asked the NC Department of Transportation to perform a traffic study at the Richmond and Hoffman Road intersection. Eltschlager reported that an outside contractor has been hired by the State to perform the work and should be on-site in the next two or three weeks. During the up-to-twelve hour study period, the contractor will monitor both heavy and light vehicle traffic for speed and turning movements, and will also be evaluating the Council's concern that there is limited sight visibility coming

into the intersection.

Moore County is completing a five-year update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. A Public Hearing to review the proposed update will be held Tuesday, February 8 at 7:30 pm.

Recognitions and Appointment

The late Richard "Wally" Peckitt was recognized by the North Carolina League of Municipalities for his twenty-three years of service to Foxfire Village. During his long tenure on the council, he served as mayor pro tem, director of streets, and finance director. Peckitt was commended for his significant and lasting contributions and for excellence in municipal government.

The late Richard "Dick" Christman was recognized

by the North Carolina League of Municipalities for seventeen years of faithful service as water superintendent to Foxfire Village. He was commended for his contributions and, Council Lauer noted, is greatly missed.

Lydia Conard was reappointed to serve another term on the Planning & Zoning Board, effective February 2011 to January 2014. Two more vacancies remain on the Zoning Board and interested residents should contact Village Clerk Lisa Kivett or Mayor George Erickson for more information.

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Pine Forest

(Continued from front page)

with a review of contracts that have been worked out between the Moore County Public Works Department and the developer, MHK Ventures, Inc.

Public Works Director Dennis Brobst presented the Commissioners with two contracts already signed by MHK: one relating to an on-site private wastewater treatment plant and the other relating to how the development will be supplied with water from

the county system.

The wastewater contract requires the developer to construct a one million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant and to use treated water from that plant for irrigation throughout the Pine Forest community. The county pledges unspecified cooperation in that project.

Brobst explained that Moore County Public Utilities has adopted a policy prohibiting the use of potable water from the county system

for irrigation purposes in new developments. Later in the meeting, MHK's engineer Fred Hobbs said Pine Forest would initially take several hundred thousand gallons of untreated wastewater per day from the county system for treatment in the private plant. That will provide the developer with irrigation water as it establishes the resort's golf courses.

The water supply contract obligates the developer to pay the county \$3 million

dollars within six months from the date of PUD approval and requires the county to construct a water line extension to serve the community and guarantee a maximum of 500,000 gallons of potable water per day.

Noting that some material relating to the contracts had been omitted from the agenda packet for the meeting, Commissioner Lea moved and the Board agreed to table the contracts for further review.

Public Hearing

The public hearing on Pine Forest's rezoning request began with an overview of the development, presented by a presentation by Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates. Pine Forest would encompass 1,652 acres in size and include up to 700 residential units, up to 300 hotel units, three golf courses, and up to 120,000 square feet of commercial and retail space.

Those who opposed the
(See "Pine Forest," p. 23)



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Pine Forest

(Continued from page 22)

development — many of whom identified themselves as members of, or speaking on behalf of, Save our Sandhills — raised concerns about sources of water for the development, how it will affect the environment, increased traffic congestion, and its impact on the real estate market.

Using Nick's Creek for Irrigation?

Though the issue of potable water for Pine Forest will be likely be settled through an agreement with and payment to the county, opponents expressed concern that the developer would inevitably turn to Nick's Creek to supply irrigation water for its golf courses. The headwaters of Nick's Creek are found on the Pine Forest acreage.

Bill Huber of Pinehurst, citing public documents filed with the state, said that a single golf course in the Dormie Club, another MHK Ventures Development, uses 600,000 to one million gallons of water per day, even during a drought. Since Pine Forest will have one 9-hole and two 18-hole golf courses it could easily need twice that amount of water.

Huber feared that if the proposed development needed water it could, under North Carolina law, legally use that in Nick's Creek. "There goes Nick's Creek, there goes Carthage's water supply" Huber said. Huber's concern was echoed by other speakers, including Allison Weakley, a Chatham County biologist speaking on behalf of Save Our Sandhills.

Engineer Fred Hobbes argued that Pine Forest's wastewater treatment plant would include on-site storage that could hold as much as 60 million gallons of treated wastewater for irrigation. He said the developer had no intention of withdrawing irrigation water from Nick's Creeks and would agree to a prohibition on that as a condition of the rezoning.

But Huber argued that, under North Carolina law, no such stipulation would be ultimately binding on the

developer.

Ruth Stolting charged that the potable water agreement with Pine Forest was "secretive" and a "shrewd attempt to force an agreement down citizen's throats."

"Is this transparency and open government?" she asked the board during the public comment period, noting that copies of the agreements had only been made available to the public the Friday prior to the meeting.

On-site Wastewater Treatment Facility

The privately owned and operated wastewater treatment plant proposed for Pine Forest would be the first such facility in Moore County. Hobbs assured the Board that the Pine Forest plant "will be cast in place similar to what a government would build — similar to what you

are building at Addor [the location of the county's wastewater treatment plant]. The reason for that is because we don't want the opportunity to exist 30 years from now that it would rust out and there would be no one to take responsibility."

But Hobbs assurances were not enough to satisfy Attorney David Rooks, who represents Save Our Sandhills [SOS]. Rooks asked what would happen to the treatment facility, if the developer "goes belly to the sun" or if a "homeowners association of a minimally or partially developed community" is left responsible for the decisions associated with the facility.

"What happens if the system doesn't work?" Rooks asked. "Who takes care of it? The County?"

Bob Stolting, Vice President of SOS, agreed with

Rooks, noting that "There has never been a private wastewater treatment plant in Moore County." Drawing on news reports about another developer's desire to install a private wastewater plant, Stolting quoted Public Work Director Brobst as saying "What concerns me is who is going to take care of it. The homeowners association? That scares me to death."

Watershed and other pollution

Biologist Weakley and other speakers raised concerns about the negative impact on Nick's Creek and the Carthage water supply of runoff from the Pine Forest streets and golf courses, which could include oils, greases, pesticides, and fer-

tilizers.

Because Pine Forest is located in a WS-III watershed protection zone, impervious surfaces may cover no more than twenty-four percent of the development's acreage under state law. The Pine Forest plan includes only twelve percent impervious surface.

Harry Huberth, representing the Sandhills Area Land Trust, spoke during public comment and was most concerned with damage to the watershed. "It is imperative that this type of development is given a critical eye," he said. Huberth stressed that the wetlands are like the "kidneys of the ecosystem" and there is no such thing as a "wetland transplant."

(See "Pine Forest," p. 24)



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Pine Forest

(Continued from page 23)

Dr. Jay Carter, a biologist retained by MHK, told the Commissioners that the developer has included in its plans a twenty-five foot natural vegetative buffer along all wetlands to allow any surface water runoff to be filtered through natural vegetation. Carter predicted that there should be little or no surface water entering into the wetlands.

However, Ruth Stolting, who resides near the proposed development, disagreed with this assessment and reminded the board that with sandy soil there is "no fool proof way that all pollutants are detected and removed."

As a beekeeper, Stolting fears that the use of pesticides on the Pine Forest golf courses will cause a decrease in the number of bees that pollinate crops and supply honey. Since the development of the nearby Dormie Club golf course, Stolting said, she has lost forty percent of her hives each year, a problem she blamed on the increased

use of pesticides within the bees foraging area.

NC State apiarist Donald Hopkins agreed with Stolting, stating that "Bees and golf courses don't mix too well."

Value of the Ecosystem

Pine Forest, if approved, will destroy what botanist Bruce Sorrie, of the NC Natural Heritage Program, identified as one of the last Longleaf Pine-Wiregrass ecosystems of its size in the Sandhills region — and perhaps in the Southeast as a whole. Lawrence Earley, author of "Looking for Longleaf: The Fall and Rise of an American Forest," argued that "given the monumental decline of this great ecosystem, protecting what we have left is an opportunity to honor the heritage of the longleaf pine."

Jeff Marcus, of the NC Wildlife Resource Commission, told the Board that there are five types of wildlife in particular that rely on a longleaf habitat, including the Star Nose Mole, Sand-

hills Lily, Fox Squirrel, Northern Pine Snake, and the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

Marcus commended MHK Ventures for trying to develop Pine Forest in an environmentally friendly way, but reminded the Board, "[Development] can retain some elements of the habitat, but it's almost never as good as it was before development."

Many of those opposed to the development reminded the Board of the goals set out in the Moore County Land Use Plan.

Marsh Smith, an environmental lawyer and member of SOS, said the first goal in the Land Use Plan was to preserve Moore County's rural and agricultural heritage for future generations.

Jesse Wimberley of West

End reminded the Board during the public comment period that the most important thing to residents in Moore County is to keep the rural nature of the homeland.

"Look at the report [Area A Land Use Plan], then look at the project in front of you," Wimberley said. "Will we be better after it's done, or will we lose some of our quality of life?"

Increased traffic

Opponents of the development argue that Pine Forest will increase the amount of traffic in the immediate vicinity, and also at the Pinehurst Traffic Circle and the intersection of NC Hwy 211 and NC Hwy 5.

Bob Koontz a land planner for Hobbs Upchurch Associates, reiterated that

the expansion of NC Hwy 211, is projected to begin in 2012. He noted that MHK had donated land for the highway expansion.

Attorney Rooks quoted NCDOT estimates that Pine Forest, at build-out, will generate an additional 16,700 trips per day. Citing the well-known delays in getting NCDOT projects into the construction phase, he asked, "Who knows when 211 will be expanded?"

Former Moore County Board of Commissioner, Colin McKenzie asked the board during the public comment period to think of the impact on traffic that the Pine Forest development would have on an already congested area. "We will have significant additional traffic between Pine-

(See "Pine Forest," p. 25)



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Pine Forest

(Continued from page 24)

hurst and West End," McKenzie said.

Real-estate oversupply

Along with too much traffic, Joe McDonald, a real estate broker of 21 years, warned that too much real estate may also be an affect of the Pine Forest development. In the greater Sandhills area alone there are over 1500 total residential listings, MacDonald said. The new development may bring a surplus of existing homes in the Sandhills area unless there is some "miracle in the economy," he added.

The plans for Pine Forest project a maximum of 710 residential dwellings at build-out.

Other Business:

In other business during its Tuesday, January 18 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Approved an amendment to the current Moore County Solid Waste Management Program that will now include a recycling program for electronics. As of July 1, electronics will be banned from disposal at landfills in North Carolina. Anyone disposing of electronics will need to take such "e-waste" to designated electronic recycling sites. Currently electronics are being collected at two different sites: 5361 US 15-510, Carthage and 363 Eagle Springs Rd, Eagle Springs. Each site is open Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. If and when the demand for e-waste grows then additional sites will be added eventually making every drop off site e-waste compatible.
- Tabled a request to support a resolution to leave intact the current system of alcohol sales through local ABC Boards, after Commissioner Lea noted that the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff's Association had not taken a position on the resolution.
- Approved a contract with the Hydrostructures, PA

contract for engineering and inspection services for Old Town Pinehurst sewer replacement and Lake Pine-

hurst sewer line for a total of \$373,430.

- Approved a \$25,000 increase in a contract with

The Charles Underwood Company, which provides emergency repairs services for the county's water

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491.

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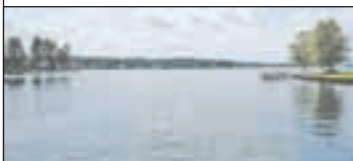
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