

Scott, Mims, resign from SLLA Board after election

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Scarcely forty-eight hours into his term of office, newly-elected Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] President Bob Darr found himself in the hunt for two replacement Board members when veteran Directors Melinda Scott and Chuck Mims both resigned abruptly on Wednesday, March 30.

And the search is ongoing following a special Closed Meeting called to deliberate the vacancies on Monday, April 11, immediately following the Board's first official Work Session.

In a telephone interview with *The Times*, Darr said the Board had considered options and are actively seeking interested candidates to fill both the two Director seats as well as to round out membership on various committees. Names and nominations may be submitted to Darr or presented to the Board during the SLLA Open Meeting on Wednesday, April 27.

Rather than a special election, Darr said the Board would appoint two Directors from the list of nominees presented.

The Association's By Laws

grant the remaining Directors the power to fill vacancies on the Board and recommend that "The Board, in filling the vacancy, will give first consideration to the Seven Lakes resident receiving the next largest number of votes in the previous election."

In the case of the election just concluded, the next-highest vote getters would be former Directors Bruce Keyser, Jr. and Randy Zielsdorf, who lost their bids for re-election after attracting fewer than twenty-five percent of the votes cast.

Previous vacancies on the
(See "Resignations," p. 27)

SLLA Directors lay out plans for more public input

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Using broad brush strokes, the newly seated Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors sketched out a plan to improve communication with residents during their Monday, April 11 Work Session.

Under development is a new monthly town hall-style

gathering — in addition to the regularly scheduled two standard meetings — that will feature a set agenda, but reserve ample time specifically for public comment and discussion. In addition, the Board approved a return to an evening schedule for Work Sessions, tentatively planned for 7:00 pm on the Monday night ten days prior to the

Open Meeting. These sessions will also include expanded opportunities for interaction from non-Board members.

"We have huge things that we are going to be dealing with," SLLA President Bob Darr said. "Many of those items will need input from and backing from the community. If we intend to move forward, we have to establish a new system and a set of tools to do that job."

Public address during Open Meetings will continue using a set of standards gleaned from county-level meetings that restricts speakers to three minutes at the podium.

But taking a much different tack for input at Work Sessions, the Board tossed aside a policy that required residents to sign up three days in advance to address the
(See "SLLA," p. 26)

Taste of the Town



The Women of Seven Lakes presented a \$5,200 donation to the West End UMC Food Pantry through proceeds from the recent Taste of the Town event, pictured are WSL President Lois Ann Eisel and Pastor Won Namkoong.

No change for Lake Auman rules

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

After listening to feedback from the community and engaging in spirited debate, the Buoy and Boating Rules Revision Committee decided to withdraw its recommendation for rules changes that would have eliminated a transition zone between the No Wake Zone and the Ski Area, Director Adam Wimberly reported during the Tuesday, April 12, Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board Work Session.

A motion to discard the rules revisions already provisionally accepted by the previous Board was approved unanimously by the new

slate of Directors, meeting in their first formal Work Session since the March Annual Meeting elections.

At this point only the buoys will be repositioned on the Lake; and, as they have done in the past, the Lake and Dam Committee will continue to be responsible for moving the buoys as they see fit. President Mick Herdrich said those in the community who came to the Board in a "professional manner" were very effective in pleading their case.

Speaking during the member comment period Jim Ballew said "a big problem of people complaining or misunderstanding" the proposed
(See "Westside," p. 14)

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Aeromodelers can keep flying – for now

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

The Seven Lakes Aeromodelers can, for now, continue to fly their remote-controlled planes on a tract of land near West End on NC Highway 73, Planning Director Joey Raczkowski told *The Times* after the Tuesday, April 7 meeting of the Moore County Planning Board.

But the Planning Department will make another stab at defining “outdoor recreation” in the Zoning Ordinance, in order to ensure recreational activities are appropriate to the zoning district in which they occur.

Planners discovered they needed a definition for “out-

door recreation” when property owners Andy and Elizabeth Blackwell of Raleigh, who own a ten-acre lot zoned Residential Agricultural RA-5 on Highway 73 near its intersection with Beulah Hill Church Road, filed a complaint about the noise level the Seven Lakes Aeromodelers Club was producing on an adjacent sixty-acre tract they lease and use to fly their radio-controlled model airplanes.

The Club’s President, Bill Sherman, represented the organization at the hearing and said they have not received noise complaints from any other neighbors. The Club also questioned if noise truly is the issue, since the Blackwells do not live on the undeveloped ten-acre tract they own.

Neil Yarborough, Blackwell’s attorney, said that the Club is in violation of the property’s RA-5 zoning — which discourages high traffic volumes — and argued that the violation is occurring whether or not the Blackwells actually live on the property.

Sherman rebutted Yarborough’s claim, reporting that the Club’s operating hours are on Wednesdays and Fridays from nine to noon, with at most ten to twelve cars at the site on flying days.

“This club has been in violation for five months,” Yarborough said, “and, instead of punishing them, you [the Board] are trying to legalize this violation,” by changing the County’s zoning ordinances.

Board tables the matter

The County’s Zoning Ordinance does not address the use of model airplanes or define other types of outdoor recreation, so the Planning Department was tasked with developing a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, which was presented to the Planning Board in a Public Hearing during Tuesday’s meeting.

Planner Robert Farrell presented the Board with a proposed definition that enumerated the types of outdoor

recreation permitted in various zoning districts, but that approach met with skepticism from Planning Board members.

Farrell explained that activities not listed in the zoning ordinance are prohibited, rather than permitted by “omission.” But Planning Board member Bernard Capstick said that would set up “a never ending list” in the ordinance, if every activity has to be recorded.

With other members in agreement, the Board tabled consideration of the amendment and asked the Planning Department to return to them with new draft language that better defines “outdoor recreation.”

Raczkowski told the Board he would consult with County Attorney Misty Leland about the alleged violation of the

existing ordinance. He told *The Times* after the meeting that, for the time being, the Aeromodelers can continue to fly their planes on the adjacent property.

Other Business

In other business during the Planning Board’s Tuesday, April 7 meeting:

- Long Range Planner Jeremy Rust presented information on the Land Use Plan Advisory Committee [LUPAC] and on public participation in the revision of the County’s Land Use Plan. The next step for the Advisory Committee is for the Board of Commissioners to approve the formation of a committee of 9-15 individuals, who will meet twice a month for eighteen months. Rust

described LUPAC as a “Rubic’s Cube” to include purpose, people, methods, and evaluation by Moore County citizens.

- The Board approved by an eight to one vote the scheduling of three-hour work sessions, dedicated solely to revising the Unified Development Ordinance, to be held the second Thursday of every month. Further details will be presented at the Board’s regular meeting in May.
- The Board tabled a discussion of time limits on public participation during public hearings until their next meeting.
- Planner Tim Garner reviewed Article 6: Zoning Districts of the Unified Development Ordinance.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Aug 12	Aug 19
Aug 26	Sep 2
Sep 9	Sep 16
Sep 23	Sep 30
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Purser takes Foxfire Council back to school

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The Foxfire Village Council went back to school at their Tuesday, April 12 regular business meeting.

Special guest, Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser, gave a brief presentation on the core beliefs and goals for Moore County Schools, while a team of four principals representing the full range of grades offered a glimpse behind the schoolhouse doors into what is actually occurring in today's classrooms.

Using the four pathways as defined under their "Growing to Greatness" mission — learning, culture, community, and leadership — Principals Joel County of Pinecrest High School, Dr. Candace Turk of West Pine Middle, Seth Powers of West Pine Elementary, and Leigh Ann McClendon of West End Elementary each spoke to how these core values are translated into a daily lesson plan.

Purser explained that the pathways extend the learning beyond the core skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

"We are also driving in the notion of responsibility," she said, "in learning, behavior, and giving back. There is no greater gift that we can give students than to develop a desire to be responsible citizens in our communities."

In particular, Purser said, the goals and values defined by "Growing to Greatness" have been critical in planning for the current budget crisis — with the most recent projections anticipating a \$12.1 million shortfall next year.

"In forty years of education, this is the first time I really found out what it means to go back and understand what we clearly believe," she explained. "When you step back and are clear about that, everything else becomes so much more doable."

Steiner Stempel Awards

In recognition of outstanding service and making Foxfire Village a better place to live, the 2011 Steiner Stempel Awards were presented to Craig Ramey, Betty Worst,

and the late Dick Christman.

Ramey led the Planning & Zoning Committee during the single most active growth period in Village history and

was also instrumental in laying the groundwork that allowed the Stonehill Pines development project to move forward.



Betty Worst was one of three recipients of Foxfire's 2011 Steiner-Stempel Award, presented by Mayor George Erickson

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Christman served as the Foxfire Water Superintendent from 1993 to 2010, overseeing a major transformation as the Village grew from 2,100 to over 5,000 acres through eight voluntary annexations. Specific projects cited included new wells dug and old wells closed, as well as installation of a new system of remote-control water metering.

In presenting the award, Mayor George Erickson described Betty Worst as the "epitome of what the Steiner Stempel Award stands for." She has been an active volunteer and leader in the community for many years with

service to the Garden Club, Welcome Committee, and Women's Association. Worst is responsible for decorating the Country Club's community Christmas tree, and also helped plan and create the Village Green memorial garden and other community garden areas.

Budget workshops

Budget planning will dominate discussion over the next few weeks as the Foxfire Council meets with citizens and in work sessions to hammer out details for the coming fiscal year.

Citizen participation work-
(See "Foxfire," p. 18)

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'Ornaments' opens in Seven Lakes Village

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Kristianne Bebout, co-owner of Ornaments in Seven Lakes, has always had a passion for going to auctions, antiquing, and shopping. Seven years ago she met Shannon Bateman, a pre-K teacher's assistant, and the two instantly clicked.

"She (Bateman) was the first person to introduce herself to me at church," Bebout said. "Since then we have been thrift shopping together."

A high school teacher at Pinecrest, Bebout relocated with her family to Seven Lakes from California, where they enjoyed attending auctions. With plenty of auctions to choose from in North Carolina, the hobby continued.

"I sort of grabbed onto their [the Bebout's] boat of enthusiasm" when it came to

antiquing, Bateman said.

With a growing public interest in antiques, the women decided to open Ornaments in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

Bebout's daughter, Kelsianne Bebout, also helps run the business, fitting shop hours into her busy class schedule at Sandhills Community College. "She brings a more youthful perspective" to the shop, Bebout the mother explained, and contributes an artistic approach by crafting and sewing her own products.

Busy schedules didn't detour the women from pulling together to repaint the store and set it up with refinished dressers, tables, jewelry, vintage books, handbags, and antiques for opening day.

Ornaments' Open House was Saturday, April 9, and proved successful. With over 150 invites sent to followers on Facebook, "we have sold out of a lot of things," Bebout said with a smile, "especially necklace sets, and we already need to restock."

Less than a month old, the store is already expanding to include more items for men, gardening supplies, and Pandora jewelry. The shop will start out by carrying Pandora bracelets and then slowly expand to other items

in the collection.

A "wish list" book is available to customers — so, if you don't find it in the store, you can always make a request for it to be brought in. Gift wrap is available, free of charge, and the store boasts a variety of hand crafted cards for many occasions.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of Ornaments is the combination of old and new merchandise: from an antique beaver top hat to prom purses.

"There is nothing more than two of a kind" in the store said Kelsianne. "We try to keep it unique." With new products arriving daily, there is always something new in the store. Prices range from \$1 to \$500.

Both Bateman and Bebout gave credit to Harriet Wicker, of Medleyanna's in West End, for her support in opening the shop. Harriet "was an inspiration and a good mentor," to us, said Bateman.

Ornaments is located at 4309 Seven Lakes Plaza — across the parking lot from First Bank — and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.


The shop phone number is 910-805-GIFT; email is ornaments4you@yahoo.com; or you can find Ornaments on Facebook.



Shannon Bateman, with Kristianne and Kelsianne Bebout, of Ornaments, in Seven Lakes Village

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Brewer honored by both WEE and County

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Longtime Foxfire resident Lori Brewer has not only garnered the Teacher Assistant of the Year award for West End Elementary [WEE], but has also received the top award across the county, being named the Moore County Teacher Assistant of the Year.

Now in her sixth year at WEE as a dedicated kindergarten assistant, Brewer said her most rewarding task is

the chance to work one-on-one with children.

"I can pull kids aside that need a little extra help," she explained. "And, when you see that click and the smile on their face — the 'I did it myself' moment — that is the reason I'm here. I get to see them succeed!"

A stay-at-home mom for twelve years, Brewer started volunteering at West End Elementary when her kids began school. Volunteering led to substitute teaching,

which led to a full-time career as a teacher assistant. She explained that a primary role for teacher assistants is to help create both a successful and safe learning environment.

"We're kind of their home away from home five days a week," she said. "We have to create a place where they are comfortable because if they are comfortable then they can learn."

Brewer serves side-by-side with Kindergarten teacher

David Landolt, who described her Brewer as a devoted presence for himself and the students.

"I get closer to God everyday by thanking him for Lori Brewer," Landholt said. "I've

been saying that for six years."

"She maintains the love and caring for these children; and she has been the constant, even when I have had to be away from the class."

Renee Robbins named WEE Teacher of the Year

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Ask most teachers what is the best part of their job and they all agree — it's the kids.

"My kids make me excited. Just to watch them when that light bulb comes on and you know they get it, just lifts my spirit," said Fourth grade teacher Renee Robbins, who was recently recognized as the Teacher of the Year by West End Elementary.

"I love to watch them grow and to get better. They fill my day," she explained.

A Moore County native, Robbins graduated from North Moore HS, Sandhills Community College, and St. Andrews College, before completing her education with a Master's degree from UNC-Pembroke.

She began her career with Moore County Schools over twenty years ago and has spent the last seven at West End Elementary. First hired as a teacher assistant in a special education class, she later moved to kindergarten, then first grade, and now fourth grade. She and her husband have a young daughter and make their home just outside the West End area.

More so this year than ever, she said, with her husband deployed to Afghanistan, her "kids" have made all the difference.

"It's been easy because they are here and they're mine," Robbins said. "We spend time together and they fill that hole that he is not

here, and they make me happy."

"We're family here," she added. "The community is (See "Robbins," p. 14)



Renee Robbins and Lori Brewer take a break in the West End Elementary "First Garden."



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School Board will seek more county support

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

With a projected cuts in state and local funding for next year now reaching \$12.1 million dollars, the Moore County Board of Education on Monday night, April 11, decided to dig deeper into its fund balance, while asking the Board of Commissioners for \$3.1 million in additional local funding.

If approved, county taxpayers' contribution to the \$90.2 million budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 would jump from \$26.1 million to \$29.2 million.

Funding for Moore County Schools [MCS] has been a moving target as information continues to filter down from Raleigh. State government provides the lion's share of MCS funding.

State budget cutters, facing their own revenue shortfalls, have continued to whittle away at funding for local school systems, including Moore County's. A FY 2011-2012 Budget that anticipated a \$8.2 million revenue shortfall when first presented to the Board of Education a few weeks ago now includes a

\$12.1 shortfall, including the loss of \$5.2 million in federal stimulus funding; a \$5.4 million cut in state funding; and approximately \$1.5 million in additional new "pass through" costs from the state.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser's original budget proposal recommended the elimination of ninety positions, including teaching, central office, and instructional support staffing. Other strategies for saving money included consolidating bus routes, which will require staggered school opening and closing times; reductions in middle school athletic funding; realignment of orchestra and band programs; and increasing the formula ratio at each grade level by one student, which means more students for each teacher and teacher's assistant; and other measures.

Altogether, those cuts represented \$5 million in savings, and Purser initially recommended pulling \$3.2 million from the MCS fund balance to cover the rest of the \$8.2 million shortfall.

As the budget knife in Raleigh cut closer to the bone,

the Superintendent revised her budget recommendation to include the consolidation of the Academy Heights Elementary year-round program at Pinehurst and West Pine Elementaries [see page 7], as well as more reductions in staffing and closing MCS for a sixth day in December. However, those additional cuts still did not compensate for the loss of state and federal funding.

To make up the remaining shortfall, Purser recommended the Board pull \$5 million from the fund balance, which would still leave an \$2.1 million in expenses unfunded next year. With the fund balance currently standing at approximately \$8 million, her recommended budget would seize over half the account, which exceeds the suggested minimum safety level.

Purser told the School

Board that she had looked at everything and in every place to find cost savings. She explained that she reviewed the feasibility of dipping so deeply into the fund balance and felt confident that she could make it work — but asked the Board to point the way to deal with the \$2.1 million still unfunded in her budget.

"Do you want us to go back on the \$2.1 million and identify additional cuts?" Purser asked. "Or do you want us to dig deeper into the fund balance? Is there another recommendation or option or combination of options that you want us to pursue?"

"Or, do we ask for help?"

With Federal stimulus funds drying up and the State facing its own budget problems, help can only come from one source: county taxpayers.

With few other alternatives

at hand, Board Chair Laura Lang said: "We have met with the County Commissioners and told them we are trying to be fiscally responsible. It won't be fun to go back and say we were wrong and that we will have to ask for more money this year."

"It's important to share in the education of our kids," Lang continued. "We have tried to make our schools like a household — that is, turning off lights and A/C, saving fuel, and other cost saving measures — and our staff have done a tremendous job of looking for places to cut. But it's not fiscally conservative of us to use our rainy day account instead of going to ask for more. It's not fair to dip our fund balance that low. We need to find a way to have them work with us."

Also unwilling to further
(See "Budget," p. 7)

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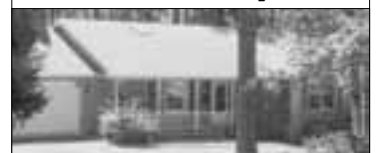
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Academy Hts program to continue – elsewhere

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Academy Heights Elementary School [AHES] will close next year — that is, the building itself. But its year-round kindergarten through fifth grade program will live on at Pinehurst and West Pine Elementaries.

On Monday, April 11, the Board of Education approved a modified recommendation offered by Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser that will shutter the school but allow the program to continue, by placing kindergarten through second grade year-round students at Pinehurst Elementary, and third through fifth graders at West Pine Elementary.

In addition, both facilities

would continue to accommodate students enrolled in the traditional K-5 program, a plan which mimics the successful dual-track programs already in place at Southern Pines Primary and Elementary schools.

Addressing the Board, Purser said her revised recommendation would allow the year round program to continue in the Pinehurst area through the use of mobile units at both West Pine and Pinehurst.

"The addition of a dual track will not impact the class size at either school," Purser said, but she cautioned parents that, due to overall budget cuts, class sizes would increase.

In addition, operation times for both schools — again, as for all facilities across the county — may be adjusted to allow for consolidation of bus routes. Current Academy Heights students will be given priority admission to continue

the program, with rising Kindergarten siblings grandfathered in as well, followed by students at Pinehurst and West Pine wishing to transfer.

The compromise was negotiated and developed to accommodate AHES students, but, before voting on the recommendation, the School Board heard from a number of concerned parents from Pinehurst and West Pine, who argued that they had not been offered the same consideration.

Echoing what Academy Heights supporters said during a marathon public hearing in March, many Pinehurst and West Pine supporters offered the same request: "Stop — Delay the decision a year to allow time to study the potential impact and various options."

Purser originally suggested closing AHES would save MCS \$500,000 per year. Transferring the program to

other school instead reduced the potential savings to \$375,000. Some members of the public addressing the Board asked whether those funds could be better used to retain teachers and programs that affect all 12,500 students in Moore County Schools, not just the 260 or so currently enrolled at Academy Heights.

However, after extending the public address period to allow adequate time for all to speak, the Board finally had a chance to weigh in. Most admitted to sleepless nights with many hours spent researching options.

Former Chair Bruce Cun-

ningham, Jr. argued against any delay: "We're not Congress. We can't keep ourselves afloat while we talk about things. We cannot borrow from ourselves. We deal with the here and now and make the best decisions and prepare for what comes down the road. I feel a delay for a year to study options is not in best interest of our children, our school system or our finances."

The only Board member who did not speak to Purser's recommendation was Dale Frye, who was the lone dissenter when the motion to accept her proposal was approved on a 7-1 split vote.

Budget

(Continued from page 6)

drain the fund balance was former Board Chair Kathy Farren, who instead moved to amend Purser's recommended budget.

As approved by unanimous vote, the Board of Education adopted a proposed budget that pulls \$4 million from the fund balance — which would maintain the account at the minimum safe level — and seeks an additional \$3.1 million from the county, for a total of \$29.2 million in local funding.

What sort of reception that idea will receive from the Board of Commissioners is not clear; they have included in their short-term goals for the current year holding the line on property taxes and continuing to cut the county's \$70 million budget, more than a third of which already goes to education.

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Board hears options on Seven Lakes Water

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

The US Department of Agriculture [USDA] has given Moore County "specific marching orders," Public Works Director Dennis Brobst reported during the Board of Commissioners Tuesday, April 5 regular meeting, with the first job being to establish boundary areas for the North West Moore Water District [NWMWD].

Brobst was reporting on a series of recent meetings between the USDA and the County about the NWMWD, which could borrow up to \$16 million from the federal agency, based on a successful bond referendum in 2004.

Since the referendum passed, the Water District has been trying to attract enough potential water customers to be viable, but too few sign-ups has left the project at a standstill. One solution that could expand the customer base is to incorporate Seven Lakes into the District — which also has the virtue of providing Seven Lakes with more water, from a second source. The area currently receives almost all of its water through a single water main that runs up NC Highway 211 from Pinehurst.

Although the Board of Commissioners on its own authority could incorporate Seven Lakes into the District, Chairman Nick Picerno has promised that it will not be incor-

porated into the NWMWD without a vote by its residents. The Town of Robbins is also not currently included in the NWMWD, but could join it through a resolution approved by the town council.

On Tuesday night, Brobst presented four options for using the NWMWD to bring additional water to Seven Lakes:

- The first option is to construct a 1.5 million gallon per day treatment plant near the reservoir in Robbins, at an estimated cost of \$8,510,000, with a booster system and water lines large enough to bring water into Seven Lakes, which would cost an additional \$3.6 million, for a grand total of a little more than \$12.1 million.

- The second solution is to purchase water from the City of Asheboro, pumping up to one million gallons per day of water through a 16-inch water line from the NC Zoo down Highway 705, at a cost of over \$14 million.

- The third option is to bring Asheboro water from the NC Zoo down NC Highway 220, in order to serve the proposed industrial megasite near Star as well as Seven Lakes and possibly Robbins, at a cost of \$15 million.

- The fourth option Brobst described is to "wheel" 600,000 gallons per day of

Asheboro water through Seagrove using a 12-inch water line at a cost of over \$5.5 million.

The first of the four options would require the participation of Robbins, because it owns the reservoir that would be used in that scenario. Robbins has been anxious to provide water to Southern Moore County through a partnership with the county, but has generally leaned toward trying to reactivate its own water plant, which is currently not in service.

Thought Brobst's presentation at the meeting didn't provide any detail on the impact of the four options of water rates for Seven Lakes customers by \$11, taking them from \$6 to \$17. Residents of Robbins could potentially see a slight decrease in their current water rates.

During Tuesday night's public comment period, Doug Middaugh of Pinehurst said, "A viable plan should, at a minimum, be rate neutral," to current and future customers.

The USDA has authorized \$16 million in general obligation bonds to fund the project. The next step, according to Brobst, is to meet with

all the "various players" especially the Town of Robbins, to establish some district boundaries as recommended by the USDA.

A public hearing on renewing the USDA bonds is set for April 19 at 6 pm in the Historic Carthage Courthouse.

Short-term Goals Revisited

Creating an alternate water solution for Seven Lakes was at the top of the Commissioners' short term goals at their annual retreat in January and was revisited by the Board, Public Works Director Brobst, and County Manager Cary McSwain during Tuesday night's meeting.

The primary thrust at the moment is to explore the feasibility of incorporating Seven Lakes into the Northwest Moore Water District [NMWD].

Other short term goals set

in January for the 2011-2012 year are to:

- Complete the Vass Waste Water Treatment Plant project. Brobst said he anticipates bidding to begin in June with a bid opening scheduled for July.

- Put the Addor Water Pollution Control Plant expansion project out to bid. The County is awaiting an approval from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR], which Brobst anticipated should be done by the end of month.

- Avoid any increase in property taxes, while reducing the Advanced Life Support (ALS) tax a minimum of one-half cent and continue to evaluate and reduce annual operational expenses. The budget process is underway, with a public hearing expected.

(See "Commissioners," p. 24)



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Jacobson entertains The Book Scene

by Carolyn James
The Book Scene

It was not only St Patrick's Day on March 17, but the Book Scene was honored to have Vivian Jacobson discuss her book, "Sharing Chagall: A Memoir" at The Book Scene's March meeting.

It was a fascinating lecture and everyone wished Jacobson could have stayed much longer. Jacobson portrayed Chagall, not just as an artist, but as a humanitarian who endured pogroms, anti-Semitism, the Russian Revolution, two world wars and escape from the Nazis.

She has written about his personality as well as his talent.

Through a unique set of circumstances, it was Jacobson's good fortune to have the friendship of the famous 20th century artist Marc Chagall for the last eleven years of his life, and to have the opportunity to work closely with him. She met him when

she was 39, and he was 87. From her recollections of the time spent with Chagall, and from her own research and a vast collection of documents, memorabilia and photographs, Vivian Jacobson created a dozen lectures touching on many aspects

of Chagall's life.

Besides her successful lecture tours, Jacobson would like to continue discussing Chagall at more local book clubs. Jacobson expressed how she likes the interacting that book clubs afford and the openness of questions

and opinions.

If you're interested in contacting Vivian Jacobson to speak at your book club, she can be reached at ravi@pinehurst.net.

The Book Scene highly recommends Jacobson's lecture.



Vivian Jacobson

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In memory of . . .

Barbara Read Hannaway, died Sunday, April 10, at Emerald Pond in Durham.

Mrs. Hannaway was born in Bisbee, Arizona and graduated from Iowa State University. She worked in Chicago until the war was over and then married her husband of 59 years, Robert F. "Red" Hannaway. They settled in Columbus Ohio, and raised their five children. Mrs. Hannaway was an active member of PEO for many years. She and Red retired to Seven Lakes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her brother Thomas B. Read, and her son-in-law Douglas Block.

Survivors include her children, Carol Block of San Jose, CA; Penny and Rick Denham of Austin, TX; Chuck Hannaway of Fort Myers, FL; Barbara and Mort Hansen of Durham; and Patrick and Janet Hannaway of Columbus, OH; eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at The Chapel in the Pines, in Seven Lakes, on Friday, April 22 at 1:00 pm. Her ashes will be placed next to her husband's.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to Duke Hospice, 4321 Medical Park Drive Suite 101, Durham, NC 27704.

Robert J. Johnson of Seven Lakes, died on Monday April 4, at his residence. He was 91. Mr. Johnson was the son of the late N. Dale Johnson and Ethel Dixon Johnson in Uniontown, Fayette County, PA. Mr. Johnson was raised on a small farm owned by his paternal grandparents, Lydia Belle Snider Dixon and John Nicholas Dixon.

He graduated from Penn State University. Following graduation in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgy, he joined Republic Steel Corporation at Canton and Massillon, Ohio where he gained extensive experience in the production and application of alloy and stainless steels for

military and civilian uses.

In 1953, he became Chief Metallurgist at the Cleveland Chain and Hoist Company. Shortly thereafter he joined the International Nickel Company in their Pittsburgh, PA; district office. Following several years of promotional work in that area Mr. Johnson was transferred to Inco's headquarters in New York City.

He became a nationally recognized expert on low temperature alloys and case hardened steels including markets for nickel-containing materials in heavy machinery and transportation equipment. Author of thirty one publications, Johnson made numerous presentations on the subjects to clients across the USA. His technical affiliations included the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the British Iron and Steel Institute.

After retirement in 1981 Mr. Johnson resided with his wife, the former Laura E. Kanengeiser of Bessemer, PA; and their daughter

Suzanne in Berkeley Heights, NJ and Seven Lakes.

For many years he was a member of the Twin Oaks Tennis Club in Morristown, NJ; and the Seven Lakes Tennis Club, served as a volunteer at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey and the North Carolina Botanical Gardens in Chapel Hill and also the Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. He was a past president of the Sandhills Photography Club, Life Member of the Nature Conservancy, and a Life Member of the Sandhills National History Society.

In addition to his daughter Suzanne, surviving family members include his sister, Mary Belle Cordell, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; a nephew, Robert Dale Johnson, of Agoura, CA; and a niece, Nancy Brooks of Atlanta, GA.

Memorials may be made in memory of Robert J. Johnson to the Nature Conservancy at 1815 North Lynn Street, Arlington, VA 22209 specified for the Preservation of Land in the Continental USA.

Pauline Louise Lawkins, 88, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday April 3, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Lawkins was born in Long Island, NY to the late Hugues and Molly (Askew) Held.

Mrs. Lawkins joined her husband in 1943 traveling to various Army Air Corps Bases, where he taught instrument flying and she worked in Air Corps Administration during World War II. Returning to the New York area in 1946 she was later employed as a teachers

aide until her retirement in 1984. Mrs. Lawkins moved to North Carolina in 1991 where she enjoyed bridge, mahjongg and the game of golf as a long time member of the Beaconettes.

A funeral mass was held Thursday April 14, at Our Lady of the Americas Roman Catholic Church, Biscoe. The Rev. Ricardo Sanchez officiated. A Rite of committal will be in the Askew family plot in Jamesville, NC; at a later date.

Mrs. Lawkins is survived by her husband of sixty eight

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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 10)

years, John A. Lawkins; cousin, Charles Askew, of Williamston; a niece Joyce Held, great niece, Doreen Held and great nephew, Kevin Held of Massapequa Park, Long Island, NY.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Pauline Lawkins to the Seven Lakes EMS at 969 Seven Lakes North West End, NC 27376

Colonel, USAF (Ret.) Robert Archie Farmer, MD died Thursday, March 31, after a four month battle with brain cancer. He was 79 years old.

He was the eldest of six siblings, born and raised in West End, he graduated from West End High School, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout at 16 years old. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar; then attended UNC Medical School.

In 1958, he joined the Air Force, where he was a flight surgeon, retiring as a Colonel after twenty-two years. Mr. Farmer received many awards during his tenure in the Air Force, among them the Legion of Merit.

After retiring from the military, he went on to his second career, starting psychi-

atric studies at age 49. He practiced psychiatry in Vacaville, CA until his retirement.

He began cycling avidly, riding in many charity rides — AIDS Ride California and Waves to Wine for MS among them. He also began a long tenure as a volunteer adult literacy tutor, helping many Vacaville area adults learn to read English as their second language. Every year he was the captain of his church team that participated in Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. He was an active Rotarian for many years where he was a Paul Harris fellow.

He is survived by daughters, Sally Bolen, Betsy Hada and Laura Xuereb; sons, Martin Peatross, Bob and Jim Farmer. He is also survived by sisters, Patricia Moore and Karen Troutman; brothers, Franklin, Donald and Phillip Farmer; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 300 West St., Vacaville, CA; Friday, April 8. Memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society or Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign.

Colleen Mary Whalen, age 58, of Rochester, NY died on Friday, March 4, at her home

in Rochester, NY.

She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota the daughter of John Joseph Whalen and Carol Poston Whalen who now reside in Seven Lakes. She was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where she received her Masters Degree in Education. She was a school teacher for the Monroe County, NY school systems, and a very dedicated teacher who helped handicapped children.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her brother, John Whalen and wife Midge of Plainfield, IL; sister, Kathleen Ptik and husband Pete of Elgin, IL; and her nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, April 30, at 1:00 pm at St. Mary Mag-

dalene Episcopal Church in Seven Lakes with Father Robert H. Brown officiating. Inurnment will follow at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorials contributions may be made to St. Mary Magdalene, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., West End, NC 27376.

Safe Driving at Pinecrest

The Pinecrest High School PTSA will hold its Spring General Meeting on Thursday, April 21, at 5:30 pm in the school auditorium.

Following at 6 pm, the PTSA will offer a very important program on Safe Driving and "Keys to Life." All Pinecrest parents and students are encouraged to attend. Guest speakers will be Moore County District Attorney Maureen Kruger, Southern Pines Police Lt.

Chuck Campbell and Chris McGrath of the UNC Trauma Team. A short video of the mock accident presentation which was staged for the entire Pinecrest student body on March 24 will be shown.

Up-to-date information on safe teen driving, texting while driving, and NC alcohol laws will be presented, with an explanation of the consequences when these laws are broken.

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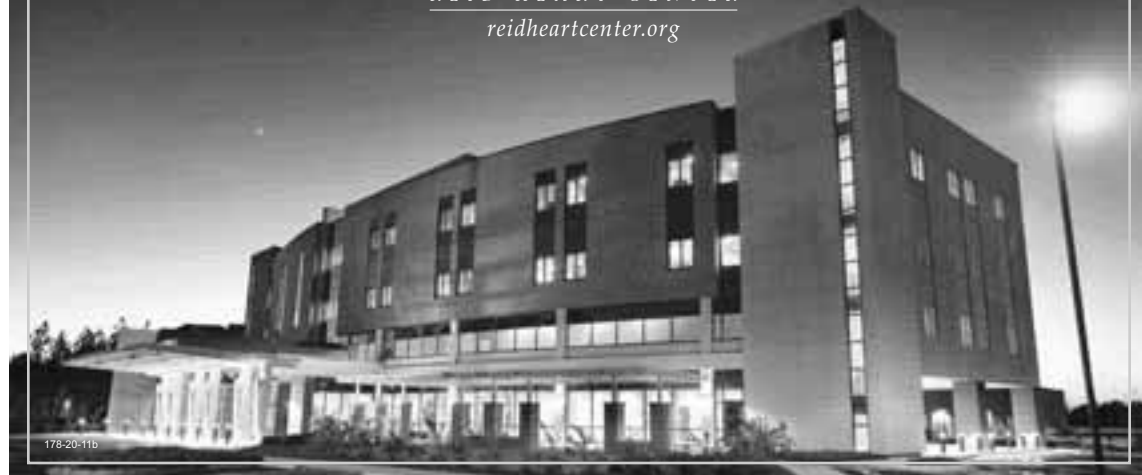


Peter Duffy, M.D.

This event will be held at the Reid Heart Center on the campus of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. The Reid Heart Center is located at 120 Page Road North, Pinehurst, NC.

Registration is required. Please call (910) 715-1478 or toll-free at (800) 213-3284 for more information or to register.

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Don't miss Clenny Creek Day on Saturday

The sixth annual Clenny Creek Day at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin is set for Saturday, April 16.

Come and spend the day from 11 am to 4 pm celebrating the traditions of Moore County's earliest settlers.

The cabin was built in 1760 by Joel McLendon, across the road from McLendon Creek, for which "Clenny Creek" day is named. The cabin is the oldest house in Moore County on its original site, according to Joyce Dunlap Wilson, chairwoman of Friends of the Bryant House, that carries on the Clenny Creek Day event.

The approximately four-acre site, just around the corner from Seven Lakes, is shared with the Bryant House, a manor home built about 1820 whose owner later acquired the McLendon Cabin.

Both restored houses are now museums, owned by the Moore County Historical Association, that uses money raised by the Clenny Creek Day events to restore and maintain the buildings.

The Moore County Historical Association hopes to raise donations this year to make some much-needed restoration and repairs at the old cabin and to cover ongoing needs at the Bryant House.

Friends of the Bryant House are arranging for hot dogs with all the trimmings, pinto beans, corn muffins and non-alcoholic beverages for all the family to enjoy without leaving the site.

Visitors can wander around in the fresh spring weather, listening to live Bluegrass music by Clyde Maness and Friends, followed by The April Fools.

Antique restored tractors from the 1930s through the 1950s can be viewed.

Marshall Caddell's Civil War re-enactors are already on board. Traditionally, American Revolutionary-era, re-enactors are also on hand, commemorating the rich history of the houses to Moore County history. The array of vendors offering crafts,

including Maureen Sutton's flowering and heirloom tomatoes, plus vegetable plants, herbs, handcrafts and other wares will probably be as varied and colorful as ever, including the ever-popular White Elephant table.

Terry Palmiter will be on hand with his popular cast iron crafts or similarly

appealing items, and Clenny Creek T-shirts can also be bought to remind yourself of the big day for a year to come.

The MCHA will have a table with books for sale about local history, stationary, post cards, soaps and other souvenirs recalling the domestic history and lore of Moore County reaching back into

the 18th and 19th century.

A raffle will be held, with \$1 tickets for sale. Prizes may be viewed at the MCHA website at www.moorehistory.com. Raffle items will be provided by Gulistan Carpets of Aberdeen, a 5-foot by 7-foot oriental carpet made in Egypt of 100 percent wool; two oil paintings and Antique

handmade quilt from Joyce Wilson, a 29-inch by 50-inch hand loomed red and brown wool rug by Anne Bright, donated by Sherlynn Bissell.

For directions to Clenny Creek Day, go to 3361 Beulah Hill Church Road, visit www.moorehistory.com, or call (910) 692-2051.



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Eubank grandson receives study grant

Joshua Turner Dragnett of Colorado Springs, CO, is one of 24 students, of The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, Charleston, SC who will be studying and interning abroad this summer thanks

to a \$145,000 grant from the Star of the West Foundation. Dragnett's scholarship will allow him to study at Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, Valparaiso, Chile.

Joshua is the son of Kevin and Julie Dragnett of

Charleston, SC and the grandson of Jack and Joni Eubank of Seven Lakes West.

The Star of the West International Summer Scholars is a one-time grant to support the academic enrichment of cadets whose project pro-

posals presented a clear connection between the summer experience and their goals after graduation.

The international summer scholars range from working with HIV health care professionals in Vietnam to language training in Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, France, Argentina, Kenya and Peru.

The Star West Foundation is a trust that was established in 1945 through the tremendous vision and compassion of the late Col. William W. Wannamaker, Citadel class of 1919.

The foundation make this annual grant in an effort to strengthen The Citadel's global initiatives.

Students submit proposals based on specific academic studies and awards are based on academic class standing,

the quality of their proposals and letters of reference. This year's competition was competitive and demonstrates the strong academic caliber of Citadel cadets.



Joshua Turner Dragnett

Terry Hunt Honored

The Seven Lakes Village Beautification Committee has installed a plaque in honor of Terry Hunt in the rock garden she designed at the east entrance to Seven Lakes.

The dedication took place in December 2010 with an unveiling of the plaque followed by a lunch at Seven Lakes County Club.

The plaque is in recognition of her founding of the Seven Lakes Village Beautification Committee and for the many hours she spent improving the appearance of numerous areas of the village over a period of nine years.

In addition to the "Zen Garden" at the intersection of Seven Lakes Drive and Carthage Road, other areas include the flower beds near the railroad tracks along NC Highway 211, the trees and shrubs at the Dollar General, Exxon and other areas. She inspired others to volunteer

their time to continue the beautification work.

Terry and her husband Bill have moved to Cary to be closer to her family.



Terry Hunt

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Carry Out

Westside work session

Lake Auman rules changes was because they didn't have access to accurate information. Secretary Jane Sessler assured Ballew that the information had been readily available for months.

This year, like last year, when Westside residents pick up their boat tickets, they will have to read and sign off on the Lake Auman rules and regulations.

Key elements of the rules for this year — approved by a nine to three vote of the Buoy Committee — are:

- Repositioning the ski area buoys as proposed.
- Reaffirming the novice ski starting area from the island.
- Retaining the old rule that boats can go up to 25 mph in any direction within the zone between the ski area (as revised) and 150 feet from shore. The No Appreciable Wake Zone, with a maximum speed of 5 mph, remains as it has been

between shore and 150 feet off shore, and behind the island and Johnson Point.

- The proposed transitional speed area between Johnson Point and the ski area is no longer part of the proposal, since it will continue to be a 25 mph zone.
- The no wake buoys guarding Johnson Point will be moved to 150 yards from the docks.
- The two no wake buoys guarding "Callis Cove" and "Vanore Cove" will be removed to make the 25 mph max zone more uniform around the lake.

Lake Auman will be patrolled

Wimberly told *The Times* that Lake Auman will be patrolled this summer on weekends and major holidays.

A warning will be issued to first time violators, after which tickets will be issued: \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and \$100 for the third offense. After one warning and three tickets offenders will be sent to the Judicial Panel.

A patrol guard will be taking a picture of the boat's

registration number; tickets will be mailed to the homeowner.

Beefing Up Communications

Secretary Jane Sessler told the Board she wants to "beef up" the community website to keep homeowners better informed. One option she is considering to get information out to the community is through weekly emails sent to those registered on the website.

Sessler said she wants to get people involved through a "push" rather than "pull" method. Community Manager Joan Frost said sending out emails to the community can really help out in case of an emergency.

Director John Hoffman expressed concern that individuals may not want to receive emails from the community, and asked Sessler to consider an option to opt out of receiving the emails.

The Board gave Sessler unanimous approval to send out emails to those signed up on the website and "see what happens." Frost emphasized that email addresses

given to the association will not be given out in weekly emails.

Sessler said she hopes to better educate members about the use of the website through "mini-seminars." Director Jim Ferguson said he has received a lot of comments from the community about the difficulty to navigate the website — something that Sessler said she will address during the seminars. Dates for the website seminars are pending.

No Free Barcodes

New Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy's motion to give one free vehicle barcode per household was opposed eight to one by the Board during Tuesday's Work Session.

Community Manager Joan Frost said it would be "impossible" to keep track of who had received a free barcode and who hadn't. McCarthy said the \$20 in revenue from

each barcode that the association receives would be a "minimal" cost to the treasury. However, Treasurer Don Freiert disagreed, saying the budget is a "zero sum game" — if you take something out of it, you have to find a way to put it back in by either cutting costs or increasing dues.

Frost said she receives at least 200 requests each year for new barcodes, which generates about \$4,000 for the Association.

Former Safety and Security Director Hoffmann said, given the likely need to replace security infrastructure sometime in the new future, it doesn't make sense to take money out of the treasury.

Infrastructure Director John Goodman echoed this, saying, public relations wise or administratively, it would make "no sense" to give out free vehicle barcodes.

(See "Westside," p. 15)

Robbins

(Continued from page 5)

great, and the kids — I couldn't ask for a better set of kids."

Robbins said her class hits the ground running first thing each day, with math, writing, and reading work accomplished before noon. She said her instructional method offers plenty of back and forth discussion on topics.

"We do a lot of hands-on things, and I want them to be able to work in a group," she explained. "They need to work together, because adults collaborate on a day-to-day basis, and they need to learn to do that effectively."

In addition, she encourages the children to complete individual projects based around a PowerPoint presentation.

"They just take off! They are so encouraged to get up there and turn on the Smart Board and share their information," said Robbins. "It's incredible what they are doing. They are phenomenal kids."


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GUI0408

Westside work session

(Continued from page 14)

McCarthy looks at traffic issues

Director McCarthy's recommendation that a four-way stop sign system be installed at the intersection of Longleaf and Lakeway was tabled by the Board until further information is presented. He called the need for a four way stop a "safety net" for those coming and going out of the community.

Community Manager Frost will check for any applicable County regulations. Hoffmann asked for public hearings on the matter saying maybe it is time to, "tackle this bear" and get it out to the community.

Speed bumps have been a perennial hot button issue in the community. McCarthy said they can slow down traffic, but pose a safety hazard to those on motorcycles.

McCarthy said he planned to further investigate the possibility of an Association patrol that could hand out speeding tickets, an option that has been explored in the past. He was assured by Hoffman that there is money in the budget to fund such patrols.

Other issues presented by McCarthy at the Tuesday, April 12 meeting included:

- Security Guards in the community will be given reflective vests when working outside.
- Frost will work with an electrical contractor to get more lighting for the flag and each side of the road at the front gate house.
- McCarthy will form an investigative committee to check the feasibility of placing a second back gate at Bainbridge or Finch Gate Drive.

Community Manager's Report

Community Manager Joan Frost reported \$24,000 in delinquent accounts as of March 31, of which \$13,000 are long term delinquents on which liens have been filed. According to Frost there has been a continuation of foreclosures in the community which would cause some

of these outstanding dues to be written off as uncollectable.

Dues coupon booklets have been ordered for the annual dues mailing Frost reported. Payments for the new year come due on May 1; however, late fees will not be charged until June 11. Annual usage charges for mail boxes, boats and storage areas will be sent out in a separate mailing to residents.

Community Swimming Pool

The Board voted unanimously to move forward with \$4,000 in necessary improvements to the community pool to meet state standards, unless an appeal to suspend new North Carolina regulations for swimming pools is passed by Friday, April 15. Frost reported that sources with Moore County have suggested that the appeal may not pass until next year, which would leave the pool closed for the season —

something the Board does not want to see happen.

Passes for the community pool will be laminated this year to better protect them from damage. A photo system for the passes proved to be too expensive this year and will be looked at again for the 2012-2013 budget.

Community Center & WSP

Frost reported that the Community Center will be power washed the week of April 25 by Hussey's Home Improvements for \$2,300. Once this is complete, it will be determined if any painting needs to be done to the building. Currently, there is money built into the budget for touch up paint to be administered, if necessary.

A new security system has been installed at the Community Center by ESC, the same company that monitors the security gates, Frost reported. Entrance codes are being issued to Board mem-

bers, CAS office staff, and maintenance. The upstairs portion of the building, the Great Room and kitchen, will be closed with security on at all times, unless notification is given for the room to be used. The building will continue to be opened by Mike Ellison and Jon Bolles for weekend events.

Repairs currently underway in the community include:

- The entrance sign to the Pinnacle is being sanded and painted.
- Repairs have been completed on boat slips torn off the main dock. Other dock and bulkhead repairs are being scheduled, with a new material being used,

for safety reasons, for the top of existing bulk heads.

SLWLA Events

Events Director Jim Ferguson announced that tickets are still available for the Wine, Cheese and Chocolates event to be held at the WSPCC on Friday, April 15 at 7 pm. Wine is being presented by the Sandhills Winery, cheeses by Goldie's Gourmet and chocolates by Seven Lakes West resident, Carole Huettig.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 17 at 1:00 pm at the Community Center upper parking lot.

The Johnson Point Concert

(See "Westside," p. 16)

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on April 15th from 5 to 8 pm

Westside

(Continued from page 15)

Summer Event will begin in May and run through September, with concerts held the first Friday of every month starting at 7:00 pm.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, April 12 SLWLA Work Session:

- Charlie Flinchum told the Board during member comment that the community needs to put more emphasis on welcoming new homeowners into the community. "This is a family community here," said Flinchum. "I will volunteer my time," to enhance family relationships in the community.
- Infrastructure Director John Goodman reported that the five culvert repairs are finished. Next on the agenda are "major" road repairs at the two pond dams south of the entrance on the right hand side of the road.
- ARC Director John Hoffman reported thirty new projects other than new construction going on in the area. These projects include "anything visual in yards," which need to be approved and signed off by any ARC member.

Judicial Panel

Jerry Lewin was elected Chair of the Seven Lakes West Judicial Panel in a meeting on April 5, replacing Charlie Merical, who has served for five years in that post.

Bill Price will take Merical's seat on the Panel and Bill Berger will replace Ed Zebbley, also retiring after several years of service.

Other Panel members include Betty Milligan, Joan Lentz, Jim Johnson, and Secretary, Pud Kent.

Ed Silberhorn serves as Community Advocate in the Panel's proceedings, with Bud Sales serving as Associate Community Advocate.



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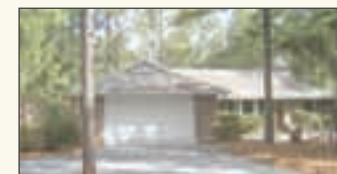
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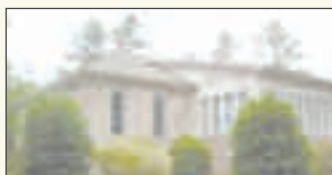
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The Parks and Recreation West End Girls U10 Basketball Team remained undefeated throughout the season and lost their first game in overtime at the final championship game. Thanks

goes to The Nail Boutique & Chisholm Electric for sponsoring this team.

Parks and Recreation West End Girls U10 Basketball Team: (Front) Samantha Gosline, Asia Adams, Katelyn

Chisholm, Jordan Hunt, L'Asia Jackson (Back) Coach Linda McNair, Maggie McNair, Veronica Monroe, Tykiaya Carter, Kayleigh Wachter, Hannah Brown and Coach Melinda Jackson



The Parks and Recreation West End Girls U10 Basketball Team

Learn to Sail!

The Seven Lakes Sailing Club announces the opening of enrollment for the Learn-to-Sail Program. All residents of Seven Lakes, minimum age of seventeen (17), are eligible for enrollment. The program is conducted annually for those persons who would like to 1. learn the basics of sailing, 2. improve their current skills or 3. apply their skills by racing competitively on either Lake Auman or Lake Sequoia.

Previous sailing experience or boat ownership is not necessary, as instruction will consider the needs and objectives of the individual student.

The program will be conducted from Monday, June 13 through Friday, June 17, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Instruction is conducted in a classroom setting and on the water in sailboats provided by Club members. Contact Bill Mamel (673-8970) or by email wmamel@nc.rr.com.

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

shops have been called for Tuesday, April 26, at 4:00 pm and Thursday, May 5, at 6:30 pm. [See box at right for details.]

Finance

As of March 31, the General Fund stands at \$794,346, which includes \$50,035 in capital reserve, \$20,982 in the Stonehill Pines escrow account, \$16,875 in Powell Bill funds.

Frusco reported the Water Fund at \$273,112, with an additional \$135,475 held in escrow for a new well.

Bank loans due in July include \$27,740 from the General Fund toward the Village Green Park loan, and \$41,145 from the Water Fund toward new wells and water lines.

In addition, a first payment of \$149,000 was made towards the Woodland Circle Extension project loan. The loan was recently renegotiated to two-years of interest-only payments in response to a large donation of property in lieu of a paid assessment. Frusco explained that the March payment included the full interest payment, as well as additional money paid towards the principal, which will help reduce next year's payment.

Two budget amendments were approved: in the General Fund for increased pool maintenance and repair expenditures, and in the Water Fund as part of the Woodland Circle assessment for a new water line installation.

Water

Councilman Ed Lauer is developing an amendment to the ordinance prohibiting new private wells within the village limits, allowing for permitted applications only on equestrian lots greater than five acres.

He explained that, based on meetings with developers and owners of these larger tracts, he recognizes that having readily available on-site water is important.

"When you punch a lot of wells, you risk damage not only to the aquifer, but you

also increase the danger of contamination to Village wells," Lauer said. "That was our objective, to try to avoid that. While well-intentioned, our ban on wells has adversely affected our horse people, because of the size of their lots."

Lauer said he thought long and hard about the issue and has determined that lifting the ban only on five-plus acre, equestrian zoned lots would be beneficial to those landowners and also more economical to the Village, by eliminating the need to run extensive water lines.

In other discussion, the

Council approved a \$270 credit on a rental unit water bill, described as an unresolved billing discrepancy.

Public Safety

Foxfire Police have made four arrests directly related to stopping vehicles for speeding, reported Councilman Vic Koos. At least one of those arrests was attributed to Officer Chad Shue and his K9 Ruger being alerted to the presence of illicit drugs.

"Based on these arrests, I think part of reason we don't have a crime problem in our community is because of the

(See "Foxfire," p. 19)

Foxfire Budget Workshops

All citizens of Foxfire are encouraged to participate in the upcoming budget process. Please plan to attend a Citizens Workshop on Tuesday, April 26, at 4:00 pm or Thursday, May 5, at 6:30 pm, when the Village Council will offer a short presentation and then open the floor for discussion with an eye toward future planning. All meetings will be held at the Foxfire Town Hall.

"Mostly this is a chance for the Council to listen to what folks want done in the Village and their feelings about property taxes, and other issues," said Finance Director Leslie Frusco.

In addition, the Council will convene two budget work sessions on May 9 and Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30 pm. A public hearing on the proposed final budget will be held Tuesday, June 14 at 7:30 pm, and the budget will be adopted at a special meeting on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 pm.



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 18)

preventive actions our police take," said Koos.

Addressing damage to the Foxfire Fire Department building and truck in an accident several weeks ago, Koos said the cost of all repairs was covered by insurance.

Streets

Councilman John Eltschlagler reported that a traffic count and intersection evaluation at Hoffman and Richmond Roads was recently conducted by NC Department of Transportation. A report should be in-hand by the end of the month.

In addition, NC-DOT repaved and feathered out

asphalt on a section of Hoffman Road near the Woodland Circle entrance to reduce a noticeable bump.

Other Business

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

- Proclaimed April 10-16 as National Library Week

- Heard that Mayor Erickson met with NC Rep. Jamie Boles concerning NC House Bill 224, which is related to the special assessment levied for the Woodland Circle project.

- Heard that Erickson recently attended a joint meeting with the Triangle J Council of Government and

a six-member delegation of Japanese leaders representing trade and safety issues.

- Heard from Long Range Planning Chair Mick McCue that a survey will be ready for distribution next month. Appended to the survey will be a budget fact sheet prepared by Frusco that will clarify tax consequences of

the different options.

- Heard from Marsha Lambeth of Triple L Farms in Ellerbe that the strawberry crop and other fresh produce is now available. Residents are also invited to attend Derby Days on the first Saturday of each month, featuring music and local talent.

Documentary on Development

On Thursday, April 28, Save Our Sandhills will show the documentary *The Unforeseen*, produced by Terrence Malick and Robert Redford. This film questions what members of communities around the country — are willing to sacrifice in the name of growth.

This 90-minute film depicts the transformation of thousand of acres of pristine hill country in Austin, Texas, into suburban development by an ambitious real estate developer. In the process, a nearby natural spring is threatened, community conflict ensues, land is devastated, and lives are ruined.

The Unforeseen, beautifully crafted, explores in-depth all sides of this politically-charged situation, showing the effects of development and sprawl on landowners, developers, and members of the community.

Join SOS for an informative and provocative evening on Thursday, April 28, at 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Everyone is welcome.



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<p>119 PHILLIPS • 7LW</p> <p>WATER FRONT - \$430,000</p>	<p>172 MORRIS • 7LW</p> <p>SPACIOUS & MOVE-IN READY! - \$240,000</p>	<p>116 DENNIS CIRCLE • 7LW</p> <p>WATERFRONT - \$504,000</p>	<p>48 RICHMOND • FOXFIRE</p> <p>GOLF FRONT BRICK - \$320,000</p>
<p>110 BLACKSTONE CT • 7LW</p> <p>GREAT LAYOUT, BARGAIN PRICE! - \$195,000</p>	<p>1 BRASSIE CIRCLE • FOXFIRE</p> <p>CALL ANGIE! 315-6280</p> <p>3 BED, 3 BATH - \$282,000</p>	<p>364 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>CALL ANGIE! 315-6280</p> <p>3 BED, 3.5 BATH - \$580,000</p>	<p>1 PINE RIDGE CT • FOXFIRE</p> <p>CALL ANGIE! 315-6280</p> <p>3 BED, 2.5 BATH - \$210,000</p>

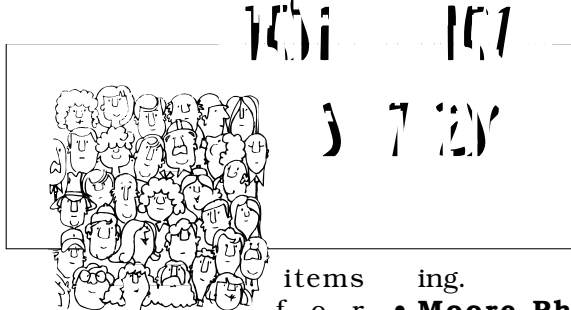
FRIDAY, APRIL 15

- **Pinehurst United Methodist Men's Barbecue** – 4111 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Lunch 11:30 am to 2 pm; dinner, 4:30 to 7 pm. \$7 plate includes barbecue or fried chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll, iced tea and dessert. Buy tickets from any PUMC member or at the church 9 am and 4 pm. Eat in or carry out. Delivery available for orders of 10 or more plates. Proceeds benefit church projects.
- **Carolina Philharmonic** – 7 pm, Holy Week Concert: Orchestra and Chorus: performed at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst. Tickets may be purchased at Given Book Shop, Olmsted Village, the Country Book Shop, Southern Pines, or by call the box office 687-4746. www.carolinaphil.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

- **WEES Yard Sale** – 7 am, West End Elementary School PTA will be hosting a fundraising yard sale. Rent a 10x18 space for \$20 to set up your items for sale. Contact Brian Povish (638-1802) or Crissy Skipper (673-8185) to purchase a space or to make arrangements to donate your items. All proceeds benefit WEE playground!
- **McLendon Hills Community Yard Sale** – 8 am to 11 am. Ultimate yard sale! 1.5 miles past Seven Lakes on Hwy 211, McLendon Hills residents combine their treasures for a huge neighborhood yard sale, household & yard items, furniture, clothing, toys, games and more.
- **Bird walk** – 8 am, Join the Park Ranger for a 2 mile hike where we will observe and identify native species as well as migratory birds. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free. Gather at the visitor center.
- **Clenny Creek Day** – 11 am to 4 pm, music, food, prizes, history, and just plain fun on the site of the historic Bryant House and McLendon Cabin near

Carthage at 3361 Mt. Carmel Road. Admission Free. Enjoy the spring weather, listen to authentic Bluegrass music by local groups, and for lunch, enjoy Southern country-style food with all the trimmings and non-alcoholic beverages. Vendors will be on hand and will offer



items for sale. Call (910) 692-2051 or www.moorehistory.com Sponsored by the Moore County Historical Association.

- **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.
- **Second Annual Spring Barn Dance** – 6 pm,

McLendon Hills Equestrian Center, West End. Boot scootin' fun, country music, good eats and some fired-up dancin'. Tickets \$40 each. Ticket locations: Country Bookshop, Moore Equine Feed, Faded Rose, Givens Bookshop, Sandhills Winery. Call 910-246-3202

or visit, www.prancinghorsecenter.org Proceeds benefit Prancing Horse Center for Therapeutic Rid-

- ing.
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra announces Spring concert** – 7 pm, Celebrate the sweet sounds of Spring. Performance will be at Pinecrest High School's Robert E. Lee Auditorium, 250 Voit Gilmore Lane, Southern Pines. Featured soloist Sophia Pavlenko, renowned pianist with guest conductor, Paul Chandley. No tickets are required, donations are welcome. www.mporchestra.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

- **Palm Sunday**
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church Palm Sun-**

day Holy Communion – 9:30 am, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838. All are Welcome.

- **West End United Methodist Church Palm Sunday/Easter Cantata** – 11:00 am, service to celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday at West End United Methodist Church. Join the church as they gather to remember the triumphal entry of Christ into the city of Jerusalem with a presentation by the Chancel Choir entitled, Tapestry of Darkness. 673-1371.
- **"Dragons & Damsels"** – 3 pm, The beautiful flying mosquito hawks have fascinating lives. Join Park Ranger for a short talk and 1.5 mile hike to look for damselflies and damselflies. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free. Gather at visitor center.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

- **First Day of Passover**
- **Weymouth Center Annual Plant Sale** – 9 am until 12 pm noon, at Weymouth Center, Southern Pines. Purchase annuals, perennials, herbs, and small shrubs at great prices. Pro-

ceeds help to support the Weymouth gardens. Assistance will be available to carry plants to your vehicle. Cash/checks only. Call 910 692-6261.

- **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.
- **League of Women Voters Luncheon** – 11:30 am, 12 pm lunch served. League April luncheon speaker is Jennifer Frye of Democracy NC. This group works to facilitate voter registration and to create awareness of current issues. Reservations required. Charlotte Gallagher, 944-7611. Cost is \$12. Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, regular meeting. Held at Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 1 pm, club will be working on their Spring planting at

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the three Seven Lakes gates. Volunteers are needed for this event. Call Laurie, 673-1121 if you can help with planting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided at a charge of \$5 per person.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Diagnosing and Treating Heart Disease** – 6 to 7:30 pm, Join Peter Duffy, M.D., a cardiologist with Pinehurst Cardiology Consultants to learn more about how heart disease is diagnosed and treatment options. Reid Heart Center, 120 Page Road North. Registration is required. Call 715-1478 or (800) 213-3284 to register. Free.
- **FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Pregnancy Fair** – 6 to 7:30 pm, at The Fair Barn, Pinehurst. More than 30 vendors from across the Sandhills will be present. Experts on prenatal care, pediatrics, childbirth, mother-baby care, neonatal services, breastfeeding and more will be available to answer questions. New and expectant parents are invited to attend this free event. Call (910) 715-2275 or (800) 213-3284 for more information.
- **Belford Baptist Church** – 6:30 pm, annual Youth Revival April 21 through April 23 beginning each night. Guest speaker will be Elder Sherri Allgood of True Worship Ministries, Biscoe. Church is located on 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson Springs and everyone is welcome.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – 7 pm, Maundy Thursday Service, West End United Methodist Church, West End. Information 673-1371.
- **Rufus Barringer Civil War Roundtable** – meeting, at 7 pm, at Southern Pines Civic Club, located at Ashe and Pennsylvania Aves., Southern Pines. Special guest speaker Mark L. Bradley of Alexandria Virginia, who will speak about his book, "Bluecoats and Tar Heels: Soldiers and Civilians in Reconstruction North Carolina." New members and visitors are always welcome. Refreshments. Information 910-235-0946.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

- **Good Friday**
- **Earth Day**
- **West End United Methodist Church** – 7:00 pm. Good Friday Service and Drama Presentation at West End United Methodist Church, West End. Information 673-1371.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- **SLLA Easter Egg Hunt & Community Block Party** – at 11 am, Seven Lakes Northside Park. Hop, skip or jump on over for a fun-filled day with friends, neighbors and the Easter

Bunny! The Egg Hunt starts promptly at 11 am but plan to spend the afternoon enjoying games and a Jumping Castle. Everyone is welcome. Pack a picnic lunch or hot dogs & chips will be available for purchase.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

- **Easter**
- **Orthodox Easter**
- **West End United Methodist Church Easter Sunrise Service** – 6:45 am, at West End Cemetery with West End Baptist Church and Services at West End United Methodist Church at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Information 673-1371.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838. All are Welcome.
- **"Nature's Easter Eggs"** – 3 pm, Become an amateur zoologist as you learn about the colors and markings of eggs produced by our native wild birds. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public. Gather at the visitor center.

MONDAY, APRIL 25

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, meeting at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Fire in the Pines: Join Scott Hartley, Superintendent of Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve, to learn more about the crucial role fire plays in maintaining the incredibly diverse longleaf pine community. Also, find out how plants and animals deal with fire and what it takes for staff to conduct a controlled burn. Visitors Welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

- **Zipper Club** – 7 pm, Monroe Auditorium, Peter Ellman, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon at Reid Heart Center, will present at the monthly meeting of the Zipper Club. The Zipper Club is a support group for people recovering from open-heart surgery and related procedures. (910) 715-5266.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided at a charge of \$5 per person.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Temple Theatre Presents Beguiled Again** – The Songs of Rodgers and Hart (Conceived By J. Barry Lewis, Lynnette Barkley and Craig D. Ames) Show runs through May 15. The remarkable partnership of composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Lorenz Hart.

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Seven Lakes Times
April 15, 2011

OPINION

Let us eat cake . . .

It's a traumatic day when your so-called friends stop singing 'and many more' after a rousing round of the Happy Birthday song and instead offer hopefully, "Hey, it's better than the alternative."

I've decided that my youth is like a pesky mosquito on a warm night — buzzing at my ear, but far enough away to be just out of reach.

I know it happened recently, but I can't seem to quite pin down that exact moment when Darling Hubby and I left young adulthood and merged onto the express lane to middle age.

Though there have been a few hints; like gray hair, ran-

dom hot flashes, not to mention when the sign at the cash register says "Anyone under 40" will be automatically carded and the clerk barely gives me a passing glance before bagging my beer.

Unfortunately, since more often than not, those same groceries are scanned by my peer's children, rather than my own peers, I guess I shouldn't be surprised.

I know a kid when I see one, and, apparently, they know a post-40 pre-menopausal chick when they see one too.

These cash and carry transactions are usually my only

interaction with my fellow citizens of the mid-puberty persuasion: except Tuesdays.

Those are the days I frequently have to "hit the digits" and call in a babysitter.

Admiring a formidable life force filled to the brim with hopes and dreams, I couldn't help but smile at the teenager before me last night.

Resorting to a comfortable place, I couldn't stop myself from interviewing her about

prom, college planning, and Summer jobs.

"What's new? What's next? Tell me about your dress."



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

As I listened I realized I had just reached another milestone: clarity.

Aging isn't about numbers, it's about priorities. That is, accepting that the little things in life can be just as impor-

tant and rewarding as the big things.

She's looking forward to graduation. I'm looking forward to Saturday, when I can sleep in an extra hour.

She's hoping to find the perfect prom dress — as long as it costs less than \$300. I'm hoping to find the perfect recipe for meat loaf.

She's staring down a handful of life-altering decisions about career and college. I'm staring down a piece of left-over birthday cake trying to decide how many calories I can save if I scrape off the icing.

Hey, it's better than the alternative: no cake at all.

This cheater makes me want to quit church

Question: I play in a men's golf group where we put in a few dollars each week and the winning team gets the money. No one ever loses much and we all seem to get along well; however, one of the players cheats by moving his ball, falsifying his score and padding his handicap. No one in the group ever calls him on his cheating. He and I attend the same church and lately, I've had difficulty worshipping there knowing that he is a cheat and a hypocrite. What is your advice?

Response: One of the things I have enjoyed in playing golf is that the game not only depends on the skill of the players, but also on their integrity. There are no referees or umpires to call foul when a person breaks the rules. The handicap system makes it possible for the best player and the worst player to have a match, as long as the rules have been followed and the scores have been reported truthfully. When a player is not truthful about his or her strokes or scores, that particular game becomes

unfair to everyone involved.

I'm not surprised that your group has not dealt with the offender because most of us try our best to avoid judgmental encounters. Have you considered speaking to him yourself? It could be the biggest favor you could give him; and on the other hand it could cost you his friendship, if that is important to you.

People cheat for many reasons. They may want to look better in the eyes of others than they really are. We call that pride. Some cheaters may be unfamiliar with the rules; although I doubt that is true in your case. A few sessions when some outside expert goes over the rules for the entire group might help your cheater identify himself as an offender. Of course, some people cheat out of greed, they just want the few extra dollars cheating brings them.

Recent polls have indicated that there is an epidemic of cheating in America. Large percentages of school children, college students, and even teachers and business men and women admitted



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

having cheated on tests or required papers and reports. I had a student once who told me that his father used to play games with him and his brother when they were young. The father wanted to beat them so badly, that he cheated to win.

For people who have cheated all their life, the habit may be as hard to break as smoking or compulsive gambling.

Please don't stop attending church because your cheating golfer is also present, and don't let your judgment

of him keep you from worshipping God. Some time ago, I stopped keeping the conscience of others since I was having difficulty keeping my own. I have been a minister for over 60 years and I have never been the pastor of a church where any member was perfect. I have preached to bootleggers, prostitutes, embezzlers, adulterers, liars, and a lot of racists.

I have concluded that the church was never meant to be a sanctuary for saints, but a hospital for sinners. Your cheating golf companion needs to be there. Perhaps he will hear something that will change his habits. Perhaps you will learn more about forgiveness. That's something I am working on these days. Have a good game and don't yield to the temptation to move your ball in the rough when you think no one is looking. God knows.

Don Welch is the minister at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. He welcomes your comments and questions. Write to him at dwelch1@nc.rr.com.

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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The public can add value to Board debate

Dear Editor:

We have all heard the saying that "elections have consequences." Less frequently we hear that "elections have meaning."

The most recent Seven Lakes Landowners election delivered a definite message.

I think that everyone would agree that people are elected to the board and are empow-

ered with the responsibility of making the decisions required for the good of the community. The message delivered in the most recent election was that while the Board of Directors has the responsibility to make the decisions, the community wants to be heard on important issues in a meaningful way before decisions are

made.

We have heard from past President, Randy Zielsdorf and from recently resigned Board member, Melinda Scott that there were many problems discovered with previous management operations. Had previous boards listened to the community, it would not have taken years to "discover" those problems.

More recently, the covenants that were recorded on the golf course property were recorded with major problems contained within. There was secrecy surrounding the documents rather than getting them out for people to read before they were recorded. Open discussion would have prevented the mistakes from being made.

I encourage the new board to study N.C. General Statute 47F, the North Carolina Planned Community Act. Seven Lakes is exempt from many sections of this law because we were chartered prior to 1999, but, the law contains many good features

that if adopted as policy will result in improved communication with the membership.

Also, N.C. General Statute 55A, The North Carolina Non-profit Corporation Act contains requirements regarding reporting should be embraced.

Open communication with the membership will bring the community together and make the job of being a director significantly easier.

My open plea to the New Board is to embrace community involvement rather than resent it.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

'Scaping' the wrong goat

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Chuck Leach's letter "Talis Failed To Act On Club's Flawed Covenants" in the

April 1 edition of *The Times*.

Let's see, who can we blame? Let's pick on the new kid on the block: that would be Alina Cochran of Talis

Management.

Chuck, I think your slings and arrows are aimed in the wrong direction. The Seven Lakes Country Club Board, its attorney and the Seven Lake Landowners Association and its attorney, both of whom have vested interests in not wanting the golf course developed, dropped the ball. They were doing the negotiating.

The *Seven Lakes Times* April 1 editorial "Fix the covenants" has it right: the attorneys and the boards of Seven Lakes Country Club and Seven Lakes Landowners Association didn't pay attention. It is as simple as that.

Bill Yarish
Seven Lakes North

The lake's not broke, so let's not fix it.

Dear Editor:

I moved to Seven Lakes West a year and half ago. Prior to that, I lived on a lake in Pennsylvania — loud with heavy boat traffic.

I now live on Lake Auman near Johnson Point — very quiet and very peaceful.

Why the lake committee is making changes in the buoys

and speed limits completely puzzles me.

I also heard they were thinking about hiring police patrol to police the lake. To me, it's like taking my dues and throwing them in the lake.

Leave it peaceful.

John Viscuso
Seven Lakes West



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)
ed in May.

- Research the effect of reinstating longevity pay for County Employees on a grandfathered basis and develop a plan for adjusting the County's employee performance evaluation system. During Tuesday night's meeting Human Resources Director Denise Brook told the Board that grandfathering in longevity pay at one hundred percent for all eligible employees hired before July 1, 2010 would cost \$549,256 annually. Chairman Picerno asked for the performance evaluation system to be reviewed. The Board will review the FY 2011-2012 budget before making any decisions about longevity pay.

- Utilize a competitive bidding process within legal limits. County Attorney Misty Leland anticipates a report to the Board by August.

- Determine who will review Emergency Services and the process by which the review will be completed.

- Endorse and support the Planning and Community Development Department's timeline with regard to a Moore County Long Range Plan.

Public Comment Creates Sparks

During the public comment period of Tuesday's meeting, Carthage resident Bert Patrick called the Pine Forest

rezoning decision a "done deal." Just like the \$50 million spent on the new county jail "using tax payer dollars" without a "vote" by residents it too was a "done deal," Patrick said.

County Attorney Misty Leland warned Patrick, a persistent opponent of the new jail, that the County is doing everything to make sure all legal standards are filed when it comes to the Pine Forest issue and to be careful that her words were not "misconstrued."

Chairman Nick Picerno revisited remarks by Patrick at the close of Tuesday night's meeting saying he is, "sick of hearing" about a \$50 million project for a six hundred bed jail. He said the jail, which will hold an additional 192 beds, is part of a bigger project to build a sheriff's office and a public safety complex for a little more than \$41 million.

In September of 2010 the Board approved a \$27.2 million construction contract to begin building the new facilities.

Moore County Will Not Balance the State's Budget

The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved Tuesday night a resolution opposing the loss of county school construction dollars with copies being sent to Representatives Jamie Boles and Joe Hackney and to Senator Harris Blake to be pre-

sented at the General Assembly. County Attorney Misty Leland penned the resolution and presented it to the Board at their Tuesday, April 5 meeting.

Under Governor Beverly Purdue's budget plan, unveiled on February 17, the state would shift school funding responsibilities to the counties, including replacement of school buses at a price tag of \$56.9 million and more than \$36 million in worker's compensation costs for state-paid public schools and community college employees.

The overall proposal would force counties to come up with \$345 million in FY 2011-2012 alone, which, according to Leland, could force counties to raise property taxes. Currently, the county relies on local sales taxes, property taxes, the county share of lottery funds, and the county share of the corporate income tax to help fund public schools' capital needs.

Counties have issued public debt based on these revenue streams, Leland noted. Governor Purdue's budget proposal would eliminate the county's share of the corpo-

rate income tax and reduce the county lottery share by seventy five percent.

Revisions Approved for Water Shortage Ordinance

The Board approved during Tuesday's meeting a request by Public Works Director Brobst to change the County's Water Shortage Response Plan, revising the indicators that trigger conservation measures.

The changes essentially delay the triggers, so that there is a smaller chance that mandatory water restrictions will be implemented.

Five parameters are used to trigger water conservation in the County:

- Static water levels in the Middendorf Aquifer
- NC Drought Monitor classification
- US Seasonal Drought Outlook classification
- Drowning Creek Stream

flow conditions

- Amounts of local precipitation

Currently, there are five levels of water shortage response in the County's Plan: voluntary conservation, moderate and severe mandatory conservation, emergency mandatory conservation and water rationing.

Changes to the County's Response Plan include static water level increase for stages one, two, four and five with stage three remaining the same. Brobst explained that the higher the static level is, the lower the water levels in the aquifer are.

US Geological Survey stream flow conditions of Drowning Creek will also change for levels one through four.

Local precipitation amounts have been scaled up for stage one though five to now read

(See "Commissioners," p. 25)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 24)

that low levels of precipitation must be recorded for "consecutive" months. Stage five under local precipitation will only go into effect if drought conditions persist for fifteen consecutive months.

Every five years the plan will be reviewed and revised to adapt to new circumstances affecting water demand and supply.

EMWD Gets Interim Funding

The Board adopted a resolution for interim financing of the East Moore Water District [EMWD] Phase 3 at an interest rate of two percent at the request of Public Works Director Dennis Brobst.

The county is providing interim construction funding for the EMWD and the district is expected to repay the loan on or before August 5. The USDA has agreed to finance \$5.1 million for the project once substantial completion has been achieved, thus requiring interim financing from the County.

The total budget for the EMWD is \$5.4 million with two contracts being awarded in March. Brobst said Public Works has received a dozen

new sign ups per day for the new area covered by the water district expansion.

Public Safety

The Board approved Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips' request to upgrade the County's E-Series Zoll Monitors/Defibrillators at a cost of \$33,700, extending the life of the monitors for another three years. To replace the nine monitors/defibrillators would cost \$200,000 to \$300,000, Phillips explained, so sending the current equipment in for upgrades will not only extend the life of the equipment for three more years, but also save the County money.

The Board awarded a service contract to Carolina Recording Systems, Inc for \$74,300 to upgrade the 911 recording system and to renew a maintenance agreement. Phillips told the Board the current system, which is known to fail on occasion, has been in place for five years and poses a potential liability to the County since it is the only voice log records of callers and responders.

The Board approved County recognition of the week of

April 10-16 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators week honoring the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch, and emergency professionals and render life saving assistance to the citizens of the US.

Residents Recognized for Volunteerism

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award 2011 was presented to six Moore County residents for outstanding volunteerism. Director of the Moore County RSVP Shiela Klein and Advisory Council Chairman Bob Sasser presented the awards during Tuesday, April 5 Board of Commissioner meeting to the following:

- The Senior Volunteer award was given to John Mattoon for his work at the Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross.
- The Group Award was given to Meals on Wheels.
- The Perseverance Award was given to Britt Mecherman for his work with Habitat for Humanity.

• The Faith Based and Medallion Award was given to John Calhoun for his work at Family Promise.

• The Individual Award was given to Donna Staunton for her help with the Department of Aging.

• The Award for Director of Volunteers was given to Dr. Robin Moore.

• The Board of Commissioner approved National Volunteer Week from April 10-16 as requested by Shiela Klein Director Moore County RSVP.

Other Business

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

- Awarded a construction contract to Frank Horne Construction of Fair Bluff, NC for \$499,590 to extend the public sewer line to ATEX Technologies, a manufacturer of medical supplies, to expand their business. Brobst who presented the information said this will also allow for greater sewer capabilities in the Town of Pinebluff's business district.

- Entered in to a Regional Partnership Workforce Development consortium with Alamance, Montgomery, Orange and Randolph Counties for job training purposes. Workforce Development Director Linda B. Parker told the Board without a collaboration with the other counties than the workforce development in Moore County could not exist.
- Designated April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Social workers will participate in the a variety of events to build awareness.
- Approved the Annual Secondary Road Construction Program for Moore County as presented by NC Department of Transportation's Chuck Dumas
- Tabled considerations to dissolve the government center committee until Commissioner Tim Lea is present for discussion.
- Recognized Carrie Neil, the County's new Chief Financial Officer.



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SLLA work session

(Continued from front page)

Board. Instead, those wishing to speak or ask a question may simply raise their hand during Board discussion and wait to be recognized —

though Darr cautioned that such input should be “on subject” and appropriate.

In addition, he encouraged his fellow Board members to be more open in their

responses to such input, either by defending or supporting their actions and decisions.

Looking beyond face-to-face interaction, the Board

also agreed that additional written information should be available. One suggestion that seemed to gain traction was a community newsletter that could be printed alongside the Interlake or downloaded from email alerts.

“It’s important, and I want the community to know that we are hearing their concerns and we are going to respond,” Darr said.

Reserve Study

The SLLA Reserve Study offers a substantial and comprehensive long-term projection of infrastructure and financing needs over the next thirty years. Unfortunately,

the voluminous amount of information is so chock full of figures that it easily overwhelms any casual review.

Attempting to break the study down into a more manageable document, Director Bud Shaver compiled an extract of information and now, working alongside newly seated Treasurer Conrad Meyer, has further simplified his recommendations based on the study into two categories: road repaving and everything else.

“This is like a big elephant, and you can’t eat it all at once,” said Meyer.

Of primary concern are
(See “SLLA,” p. 27)

Explainer —

Closed Sessions continue

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The four freshman members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board — President Bob Darr, Treasurer Conrad Meyer, Secretary Bob Racine, and Don Fentzlaff — ran for office on a platform of increased transparency, tapping into public concerns about too many decisions made in closed meetings.

Yet, the new Board members have ended their last two work sessions with . . . closed meetings. Monday’s executive session was devoted to deliberations on how best to fill the Board seats vacated by Directors Chuck Mims and Melinda Scott, who resigned shortly after the Board’s organization meeting last month.

President Darr said told *The Times* that he would refrain from calling closed meetings whenever possible, but deliberations to fill the vacant seats would be inappropriate if conducted in the open.

“I understand this is not

strictly a personnel issue — Board members are not employees — but, when you are talking about an individual and their experience and qualifications, it smacks of that,” he explained.

“We don’t want to be secretive. I want people to know what we’re planning to discuss going in, so we called the meeting as personnel,” Darr explained.

While the broad categories of “personnel” and “legal” have become the go-to rationale for SLLA Closed sessions, in fact, the Association’s by laws are much more precise in defining what can be discussed in closed session.

As posted on the community website, By Law 6.9.2.1-5 outlines several very specific occasions as the “only” time the Board may deliberate in closed session. In plain English, they are

- to discuss matters regarding a specific, individual employee;
- to discuss criminal misconduct;
- to develop terms for negotiating a contract, whether

to hire someone or purchase real estate;

- to prevent the disclosure of information related to a lawsuit; or
- to preserve attorney client privilege. (This one helpfully notes that simply having an attorney present or information from an attorney to be presented isn’t enough, by itself, to warrant closing a meeting.)

Those are the only reasons, under the current SLLA by laws, that the Board may meet in closed session.

The by laws also insist that closed meeting may only be called from open meetings and require a motion, second, and vote of the Board. The motion to move into closed session must cite one of the permissible reasons laid out in By Law 6.9.2.

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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 26)

four areas of focus for future capital expenditures — dams, pool, buildings, and other — all with replacement estimates ranging from \$500,000 to \$600,000 each: costly, but manageable.

Road paving is an entirely different story, with an antic-

ipated price tag in the multiple millions.

"When we looked at the study, we found one key element — that is paving, asphalt," said Shaver. "All the rest of the recommendations can be handled within our future budgets without a major incremental dues

increase — but not paving."

Shaver reminded the Board that three areas have already been identified as requiring immediate and necessary repairs, and suggested a complete analysis should be completed on various options moving forward.

"What is the cost to do these repairs?" Shaver asked, listing the questions such an analysis needs to answer. "What is the cost to do all the roads at once? What happens if we break it down in increments of two, five or ten miles paved at a time? We must offer options to our residents: If we do this what is the cost? If we do that, what is the cost?"

Shaver recommended that a committee should be formed for the specific purpose of looking at how to deal with the roads.

"This is the critical point for financing and the main issue that will drive the Reserve Study," he said. "This is not a one-time Board issue, but an issue that will need

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

Resignations

(Continued from front page)

SLLA Board have sometimes been filled from the ranks of election candidates, as when Denny Galford was selected to fill the seat of director Laura Douglass, who resigned in 2008. But when Donna Stephan resigned a month later, the Board passed over all six candidates who finished after Galford in the Annual Meeting elections, instead asking Don Welch to fill the seat.

Prior to his resignation, Chuck Mims had been reappointed to serve as Security Director for the coming year. A career law enforcement officer who now operates a private investigation firm, in his resignation letter Mims explained that his business keeps him away from the community for as much as ninety percent of the time, making Board service difficult.

Melinda Scott — who had been reappointed to chair the Architectural Review Board and also elected Vice President in the Board's organizational meeting, held two days prior to her resignation, said her decision was prompted by "differences between myself and the new Board in terms of Board philosophy and protocol."

In a statement made to *The Times*, Scott encouraged the incoming Board to stay on track and to tackle the tough issues the community is facing in a positive and respectful manner.

"This new board is charged with the continuation of leading our community in a forward direction to address the serious issues of our aging infrastructure as well

as our need to identify a fiscally responsible method to support both the short and long term reserve needs. To that end, the future of Seven Lakes depends upon the Board's ability to develop multiyear goals that will, at the very least, address two major areas: a detailed plan to initiate the much-needed paving project and a detailed plan to implement the looming reserve shortages identified in the Reserve Study," Scot stated. "These goals should be at the very heart of every work session and every board meeting."



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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 27)

to be addressed for the next twenty years by whoever sits here. They have to keep this as their number one issue, and failure to do so will hurt this Association."

Darr agreed. "There is anticipation from the community that we need to do something," he said. "We need to have progress."

Darr appointed Shaver to oversee the road committee; and interested residents, especially those with engineering or construction experience, are encouraged to volunteer.

Architectural Review

Director Don Fentzlaff was appointed to serve as Acting Chair of the Architectural Review Board [ARB]. With contracts pending and the review process at a standstill following the unexpected resignation of former Director Melinda Scott, the Board also reelected standing members Sally Kindsvatter and Edie Starkey.

Two new members, JoAn Moses and Dennis Mueller, were named to the ARB, and Mike Cummins was tapped as an alternate. All ARB appointments are considered temporary, pending a formal vote that will be held at the next Open Meeting.

Judicial Panel

Director Bob Racine nominated former SLLA President Ed Chapman to continue his position as chair of the Judicial Panel, with assistance from standing members Dean Charles, Carolyn Follansbee,

Ken Keating, and Frank Krohn. As with ARB, all appointments are considered temporary, pending a formal vote.

"This is a good committee of conscientious and dedicated residents," said Racine.

In a related discussion, Director Shaver recommended, based on a suggestion by longtime Election Committee member and advisor, Ray Pardue, that the community rules and regulations be revised so that Judicial Panel members would also conduct the official ballot count for annual Board elections.

Community Standards

With only two active members and a stack of pending non-compliance reports, Racine said he is seeking additional residents to assist with the Community Standards Committee.

"I would like to narrow down this list and investigate if these infractions still exist," he said. "If it is a minor concern and nitpicking, then we will put it aside. But we need help. If you want the community to look nice, then we need your help."

In addition he expressed concern over the fairly recent practice that eliminated a courtesy phone call to residents prior to a letter of complaint.

"This question was raised at a meeting and I checked the By Laws, which state that a phone call is required; but I was informed my copy of rules was out of date and the letter is first," said Racine.

After discussion, he agreed to follow up with Community Manager Alina Cochran to determine if and when the revised procedure was officially adopted.

Grounds and Maintenance

Revisiting the Davenport Landscaping contract was a priority and a necessity, said Darr, with the four new Board members pledging such action in the recent election.

"Having reviewed the contract and after saying that one of the first things I planned to do was to get rid of it, I'm telling you – it can't happen," Darr said, explaining that the contract can only be cancelled with due cause. "Davenport is out there mowing grass, picking up pine cones and, in my mind, satisfying their contract. I think they're doing a good job and it looks fine."

Distributing a bid sheet that accompanied the original contract request and details the scope of work required, Darr said that, unless those objectives were not met, it would be extremely difficult and costly to cancel the contract.

"We have a contract for \$146,400; and, if they don't violate this agreement, we have a contract and that is what we're going to live with," he said. "I want it understood that I do not have an agenda against Davenport. My concern was cost. We have a contract for three years, and we need to move on."

Unconvinced, Fentzlaff questioned the cost to negotiate with Davenport to end

the contract amicably and then look to local contractors for new bids, which prompted Northsider Joan Cook to remind the Board that Davenport has hired two former SLLA maintenance staff.

In addition, Fentzlaff expressed concern that the contract had not been reviewed by the Association attorney and worried over security needs and placement of a proposed storage unit to house Davenport supplies.

Shaver countered that while the contractor could be replaced, the question was then by whom and at what unknown cost. On the storage unit, Darr said it would be placed behind the mainte-

nance yard out of sight.

On a recommendation by Racine, Darr said he would also research whether the unit would only store materials for on-site use or also be used by Davenport for any other potential contracting needs in the area.

Addressing additional proposed costs for overseeding, fertilizer, and flower installation work by Davenport, Darr said he would reinstitute the Beautification Committee for assistance.

"This is not a replacement for Davenport, but rather to have them working together and with the community particularly with flower planting

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 28)

and planning," he said.

In addition, Darr said he would invite the Davenport leadership team to make a presentation to the newly seated Board.

"We need to understand them better, so we can work together better," he said.

Finance

George Temple and Ed Sanchez, both standing members of the Finance Committee, have agreed to continue, reported Meyer, along with new member Jim Allen, who has volunteered to fill the seat vacated by Gil Jones. Meyer credited former Treasurer Denny Galford with providing him with copious background information that has been very helpful.

He said the committee is looking for volunteers to assist with an inventory count at the end of April, and will also be addressing how to improve inventory control, following up on a recommendation by Cochran.

In addition, he and Cochran will be defining and then auditing the community for any improved lots — basically, undeveloped residential lots with infrastructure such as septic fields or bulkheads.

Continuing an informal but standard practice, after receiving tacit approval by the Board, Meyer said any extra operating revenue from the current year would be rolled into next year's reserve fund.

Lakes & Dams

More residents are needed to fill out the Lakes & Dams Committee, though the total number of volunteers will be limited to keep the group manageable, said Lakes & Dams Chair Don Fentzlaff.

He noted that a new state regulation requires all power boat operators under the age of 26 to complete the NC Wildlife Boating Safety Course. Fentzlaff said he participated in the recent offering held in Seven Lakes and was pleased to see a number of teenagers in attendance. He said another class will be scheduled in the near future.

Addressing current issues, Fentzlaff reported a spillway pipe at Dogwood Lake is not functioning properly; Darr and Cochran will follow up. Dogwood Lake is a small pond-like water area located near Sequoia Point, the dam is classified as low-hazard.

Security

Without a dedicated Director in place, Darr said there was little to report on security.

He noted that former Director Mims had been researching security camera options and said he hoped to work with him to gather more information and history on current concerns.

Northsider Bob Cook asked about vandalism and said he felt there was considerably more damage occurring than was being reported to the community.

Shaver noted the vandalism problem was mainly the work of a very small group of people, and Darr said he would look into developing a standard report on incidents of vandalism.

Recreation

Picking up on the discus-

sion of vandalism, Racine said he learned that the chronic threat of damage is the reason boat slips are left vacant during the week at the Sequoia Point dock.

"Why are there empty slips? Because people won't leave their boats there because of the vandalism," he said.

Racine recommended removal of two of the three entrance ramps at the dock, leaving one in place that could be gated, locked and further secured with extended fencing.

Addressing other recreational concerns, Racine asked the Board to approve a stop work request from Cochran for any repaving work at the basketball courts and to bring the discussion back to the committee level.

"I am in favor of resurfacing," Racine said, "but I see skateboarders using it more and more. They are moving the picnic tables to use as jumps. My argument is, why spend a dime, when you cannot control the activities going on?"

Looking towards Summer, Racine said he reviewed the fireworks contract. With \$3,600 already paid, which

represents half of the total expenditure, he noted the full contract amount exceeds Cochran's limit of approval [set at \$5,000], yet the Board had not been consulted nor signed approval.

Meyer said he would address the concern with Cochran.

Other Business

In other business on Monday, April 11, the SLLA Board:

- Discussed parking concerns along Firetree Lane at Sequoia Point. Fentzlaff reported the current "No

Parking" signs are inadequate, unattractive, and ineffective.

- Heard from Shaver a recommendation to publish a suggested list of responsibilities addressing homeowners, the Board, and management; however, all agreed the list needed additional review before it was distributed for public input.

- Heard from Darr that Alina Cochran was not present at meeting because her father was critically ill. "She is in our prayers and will return as soon as she can."

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There is a saying that goes, "You have to get rid of the old to make way for the new." If you are feeling stuck or stagnant in your life, try spring-cleaning. Throw out some of that stuff, say goodbye to your past and welcome the new energy of your happy, healthy future.

For good mental and physical health, we actually have two "houses" that need to be spring-cleaned: our physical homes and our physical bodies. Just as we accumulate "stuff" in the form of outgrown clothes, magazines, rusty bicycles, tools and random keepsakes, so do our bodies accumulate old food residues and toxins that need to be cleaned out.

To spring clean your body, give it a break from rich and complicated foods by either cleansing or fasting for a short period of time. Cleansing means paring down your food to just simple fruits and vegetables, lots of water and perhaps whole

grains. Fasting means limiting most foods and drinking lots of water, fresh vegetable and fruit juices, teas and soups. Without much energy going toward digestion, more energy is available to the rest of your body and mind.

Cleansing and fasting can sharpen your concentration, help you gain insight and promote spiritual awareness. It can also bring improved immune function and better digestion.


While you're cleaning out your body and home, don't forget to spring-clean your heart. Throw away negative thoughts and habits you've been harboring that no longer serve you. A clean, open heart will allow you to receive all the good that awaits you each and every day.

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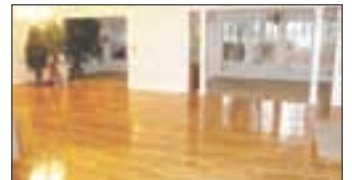
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