

Lake Auman bypass possible

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Westsiders may be able to once again drive all the way around their community, if right-of-way can be secured to create a bypass road around Lake Auman Dam.

The Lake Auman Dam Bypass Road Committee received approval from the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors during the Tuesday, October 8 Work

Session to seek appropriate rights-of-way for a potential future bypass road around the dam.

President Mick Herdrich recused himself from voting on the issue, saying the fact that he lives on the east side of the dam created a conflict of interest.

Before recusing himself, Herdrich told the Board: "I am not in favor of using member funds for easements unless you can secure all easements. Although the easements in and of themselves do not present a prob-

lem, I do feel the utilization of such easements could be a violation of Seven Lakes West covenants restricting the use of residential property."

Addressing Herdrich's concern about the covenants, Legal Director Jack Stevens said, "laws over time or by-laws . . . can be modified." When it comes to securing certain easements, Stevens added, "There are and will continue to be windows of opportunity which may not reoccur over time."

Director John Hoffmann
(See "Westside," p. 23)

SLLA hires paving engineer

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Taking a key step to advance its long-anticipated major repaving project, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors has awarded a \$12,500 contract to engineering firm S&ME, which will inspect, evaluate, and develop specifications for the eventual repair and resurfacing of the twenty-seven miles of roads in Seven Lakes North and South.

Recommended by Director

Bud Shaver last April, the engineering firm's report will help the Board prioritize areas for repaving -- as well as help determine whether the overall project should be done in incremental phases, as funding allows, or all at once, using borrowed money.

During discussion at the Wednesday, October 26 SLLA Open Meeting, Director Bob Racine noted the engineering contract did not include a provision to confirm actual road mileage.

"I am concerned the contract is relying on distances estimated by Bud [Shaver],

which he had recommended should be rechecked," said Racine. "I suggest we table the contract until we get some clarification from them."

Director Shaver also sug-
(See "SLLA," p. 26)

'Dormitory' raises concerns

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



A single family home that is being used as a dormitory by a local business prompted cries of concern from several residents during the Tuesday, November 8, Foxfire Village Council meeting.

"I know of at least one home being rented by a commercial group that has six construction workers living in it," reported Angie McCue. "I am concerned, as a resident, that we are establishing what is a transient situation within a village of single family homes."

Several other residents

echoed her concerns and recommended a revision or addition to the Zoning Ordinance to restrict long term rentals for multi-family use. However, all agreed that short-term golf and resort rentals must be excluded from such policies.

"It is not that these men are bad people," said Mark Stores. "We do not mean to imply that, but what we are looking at is a houseful of people without a committed interest to the Village."

"It comes down to zoning, which puts rules in place to protect the value of our homes."

Mayor Pro Tempore Ed Lauer, who presided over the meeting in the absence of

George Erickson, said he was aware of the situation and had contacted the Village Attorney to determine how the zoning laws might be applied.

"There are a lot of considerations here," Lauer said. "He is reviewing our ordinance now, so I feel it is inappropriate for the Council to comment at this time. The Attorney will recommend whether we need to change the ordinances, but he has not come back yet."

Lauer said any potential zoning changes would most likely be referred first to the Planning & Zoning Committee for review, followed by a Public Hearing process.

(See "Foxfire," p. 20)

Award Winner



Community Manager Alina Cochran and President Bob Darr accept a "Community of Distinction" award on behalf of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association at a recent meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the Community Associations Institute.

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Foxfire fills four seats in municipal election

Turnout was light but steady at the West End Precinct poll as nearly eighty residents cast ballots for four of the five Foxfire Village Council seats to be filled in municipal elections held on Election Day, November 8.

Running unopposed, incumbent Councilman John Eltschlager secured the high-

est number of votes, at 76. He will serve out the remaining two years of the unexpired term which he was appointed to in August 2010, following Page Coker's resignation.

Also running unopposed, incumbent Councilman Mick McCue was only one vote behind, at 75. Likewise, he will complete the remaining two years on the term of office he was appointed to following

Vic Koos' resignation this past Summer.

The two four-year seats were secured with 74 votes each by incumbent Mayor George Erickson, who has served on the Foxfire Village Council since 2003, and newcomer Steven Durham.

In other Moore County races, former Moore County Planning Director and Planning Board Chair Nancy Fio-

rillo walked away with the Pinehurst Village Mayoral race, claiming nearly seventy percent of the ballots cast.

Pinehurst citizens elected Mark Parson, John Strickland, and John Cashion to the Council, passing over retiring Mayor Virginia Fallon, who had stepped down from the Mayor's post but sought a council seat.

Robbins Mayor Theron Bell

also failed to retain her seat, losing by eleven votes to Lonnie English in a race that attracted only 172 voters.

By contrast, Aberdeen Mayor Betsy Mofield easily won re-election, capturing nearly 80 percent of the votes cast.

David McNeill will serve as Southern Pines' new mayor, besting Chris Smithson 65 percent to 35 percent.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Nov 17*	Nov 25
Dec 2	Dec 9
Dec 15*	Dec 23
Dec 30	Jan 6
Jan 13	Jan 20
Jan 27	Feb 3
Feb 10	Feb 17
Feb 24	Mar 2
Mar 9	Mar 16
Mar 23	Mar 30
Apr 6	Apr 13
Apr 20	Apr 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
Aug 10	Aug 17
Aug 24	Aug 31
Sep 7	Sep 14
Sep 21	Sep 28
Oct 5	Oct 12
Oct 19	Oct 26
Nov 2	Nov 9
Nov 16	Nov 23
Nov 30	Dec 7
Dec 14	Dec 21
Dec 28	Jan 4

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

75 Years of North Carolina pottery

The North Carolina Pottery Center celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Mint Museum as an art institution with the special exhibition, 75 Years of Collecting North Carolina Pottery, which runs from November 11 through January 28.

In this exhibition, the Mint acknowledges the vital role of collectors, past and present, in making its North Carolina pottery collection one of the largest and most important in the country.

The exhibition includes both ceramics from the museum's permanent collection

and exceptional loans from local collectors. The objects were carefully selected to represent all the major pottery centers of the state — The Piedmont, Catawba Valley and the mountains are represented, as are most of the state's family dynasties of potters, such as the Coles, the Cravens, the Owens and the Reinhardts.

More than 75 examples by some of the great potters of the past, including Burlon Craig and Oscar Bachelder, will be on view, as will be wares by some of the most exciting ceramic artists work-

ing in North Carolina today.

Exhibitions are made possible through the generosity of the membership, the Mary and Elliott Wood Foundation, The John Wesley and Anna Hodgkin Hanes Foundation, and the Goodnight Educational Foundation. This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The public is invited to a

free opening reception on November 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

The Center is located at 233 East Avenue in Seagrove, NC. Hours of operation are Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm. For more information, please call 336.873.8430 or go to www.ncpotterycenter.org

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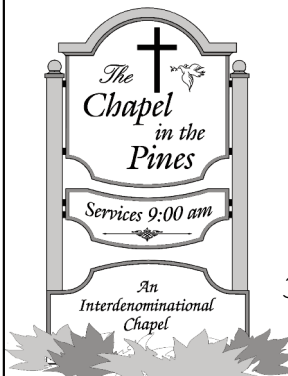
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Hearing called on Working Lands Plan

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

The absence of two members — Jimmy Melton and Larry Caddell -- from the Moore County Board of Commissioners' Tuesday, November 2 meeting resulted in the tabling of many, if not most, items on the meeting agenda.

But the Board scheduled a public hearing on a plan that aims to protect the County's working farms and forests and approved a contract that begins a significant upgrade of the County's emergency communications system.

Working Lands Protection Plan

At the request of County Planner Debra Ensminger, the Commissioners called a public hearing for November 15 on the Working Lands Protection Plan.

The plan was developed to assess the state of and contribute to the health of the county's farm and forest industries. The agricultural sector accounts for fifteen percent of the County's economic activity, producing and estimated \$373 million in 2008. Thirteen percent of the jobs in the county are agricultural jobs.

The Working Lands Protection Plan aims to protect agricultural lands without limiting or restricting landowner's rights or uses.

From 1990 to 2010 the County has seen a fifty percent increase in its population. According to the Planning Department, this growth creates pressure to convert farms and forests to non-agricultural uses.

In September a Consensus Working Group endorsed the final draft of Moore County's Working Lands Protection Plan. That group is comprised of four members from the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors, three members from the Moore County Agricultural Advisory Board, and three members from the Moore County Planning Board.

The group met five times from March through September of 2011 to review and comment on the plan. A public comment period was held from August 8 to September 16 to obtain feedback from County residents.

If approved by the Board of Commissioners after the November 15 public hearing, the Working Lands Protection Plan will then be submitted for review and approval to the Board of Directors of the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and the NC Commissioner of Agriculture.

EMS Communications

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved a sole source agreement with Radio Communications Company of Cary for the installation of communications equipment on a new emergency communications tower being constructed in Southern Pines by the NC State Highway Patrol. The company has handled maintenance of the County's emergency communications infrastructure and the 911 Communications Center for the past decade.

Earlier this year, the Board reluctantly agreed to upgrade

its emergency communications to the Highway Patrol's VIPER system under a mandate by the Federal Communications Commission [FCC]. Installing VIPER equipment on the Southern Pines tower is Phase 1 of a three phase process aimed at meeting that mandate and is scheduled for completion by no later than January of 2012.

The second phase is to upgrade the Carthage tower no later than April 2012, and the third phase is an upgrade to the Robbins tower no later than May of 2012.

Installing the county equipment on the new tower now will save the County \$10,000, Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips told the Commissioners, because coaxial cable and antennas will be installed during construction at no cost to the County.

The new tower being constructed by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol is scheduled for completion by December 15, 2011.

Tabled Items

The Board tabled a number of items during Tuesday's meeting that are expected to reappear on the agenda for the Board's next regular meeting on Tuesday, November 15. They included:

• A request by the Moore County Planning Department to initiate the application, solicitation, and selection process for the Land Use Plan Steering Committee.

• A proposed official policy regarding the Board of Commissioners' Travel Expense or Reimbursement Policy Procedure previously requested by Chairman Nick Picerno.

• A policy on residency requirements for Moore County Employees previously requested by Commissioner Craig Kennedy.

• The refunding of the County's 2003 General Obligation Bonds in order to obtain a lower interest rate.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board of Commissioners' Tuesday, November 1 meeting included:

• Moore County Human Resources Director Denise Brook recognized Moore County Employees with Service Awards.

• The Board approved a request by Social Services Director John Benton to recognize November as Adoption Awareness Month.

• The Board reappointed Dennis Campbell as the ETJ member of the Whispering Pines Planning and Zoning Board for a term expiring in 2014.

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'Strings & ribbons' start road planning process

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Tackling three highly controversial proposed road projects in a game-like setting, area residents had the chance to weigh in with their concerns and proposed solutions during several charettes, or community workshop meetings, held across the county in early November.

On Wednesday, November 2, a charrette held at the West End Senior Center drew a large and diverse crowd. Divided into ten different eight-man teams, participants played "Ribbons and Strings," which was described as an exercise more than a game.

Teams were asked to consider three detailed maps, each corresponding to a strategic corridor identified for improvement: the Western Connector, US 1 Bypass, and the Carthage 24/27 Bypass. Participants were given an estimated price sheet for any improvements, five stickers to designate priority areas they would like to see protected and \$400 million, per table, in transportation funding. At the conclusion of the exercise, each map was signed by team members and photographed and results will be posted online.

Hosted by the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT], the Moore County Transportation Committee [MCTC], and the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization [TARPO], the primary purpose of these two-hour charrette meetings was to gather public input and identify priority interest areas.

The three project areas under discussion have been on and off the table for many years; however, interest was renewed earlier this year, as Moore County began the process of developing a Comprehensive Transportation Plan [CTP]. Unlike a single improvement or roadway, the CTP addresses the community as a whole, taking note of quality of life concerns,

economic growth and development, and connectivity of users and destinations.

Of particular interest to residents in the Seven Lakes, West End, and Foxfire areas is the proposed Western Connector, which would connect West End and the Aberdeen commercial corridor. Intended to reduce traffic at the Pinehurst traffic circle and along NC Highway 5, there are three possible options under discussion: to "do nothing," to improve existing roads to a four-lane bypass, or to cut a new road through undeveloped farm and forest land.

The charrette exercise is the beginning of a long planning process. According to the website that NCDOT has created to document the process, "Years of study and analysis will follow the work done in this stage of planning to eliminate as many impacts as possible and ensure the best possible route is established."



Lois Ann and Bill Eisel of Seven Lakes West join in the "Strings & Ribbons" exercise at one of the charrettes the NC Department of Transportation hosted to obtain citizen feedback on transportation options for Moore County.

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Gospel Bearer



Excited to step into a more mature role at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, Lindsay Douglass, daughter of Jim and Laura Douglass of Seven Lakes North, recently volunteered to serve as an acolyte for Sunday Worship Services. She will be carrying out the duties of Gospel Bearer.

Lindsay is nine years old and a fourth grade student at West End Elementary, where she excels in math, English and science. She also participates in Girl Scouts and is a member of Seven Lakes Dance.

Above, The Reverend Fred Thompson, Priest Associate at Saint Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, congratulates Lindsay Douglass on her first service as an acolyte for the Church.

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Living history: Vietnam

The Museum of the Cape Fear is pleased to announce that A Co. 1/7th Cav. 1st Cavalry Division Vietnam re-enactors from Altoona, Pennsylvania are coming to the Heroes Homecoming Vietnam Living History event on November 12, from 11 am to 4 pm. This unit is part of the Greater Pennsylvania Military Preservation Association (GMPMA) and will be represented by eight of their members. Scheduled activities include: an 11:30 uniform talk; a 12:30 radio demonstration; firing demonstrations at 1:30 & 3:30; and a 2:30 radio demonstration.

In addition, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) will

staff a booth and hope to increase awareness about the organization and add to their membership. VVA was founded in 1978, and "is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families."

The museum will also be housing two special exhibits: "Voices of the Vietnam War" and "Hugh's Crate." "Voices of the Vietnam War" will showcase oral histories of Vietnam veterans, including written accounts, photographs, and personal items. Through Caroline Parsons (Hugh Wellons' sister),

"Hugh's Crate" was created by the museum a few years ago to tell the incredible story of how a local family dealt with the loss of their son by keeping the crate undisturbed in the family barn for 40 years.

Also on November 12 the Veterans Parade will take place starting at 11 am.

Admission is free. For more information, please contact the museum at 910-486-1330. General information about the museum can be found at www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov.

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., Fayetteville.

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Computer Club: Windows 8, The Next Generation

by Bill Beardslee

Seven Lakes Computer Club

Jim Anderson, retired professor of Computer Engineering Technology at Sandhills Community College, gave a sneak preview of Windows 8 to the Seven Lakes Computer Club. He had obtained a Developer Review Version of the new software, with the key word being New.

Windows 8 is "a whole new ball game." To compete in the rapidly growing Smartphone and tablet markets,

Windows 8 looks nothing like any of its previous forms. Gone are the familiar "desktop" and icons. Also absent are the tool bars. The new version of the icons is "tiles," which move and function like icons, but with a much different look.

Another difference is that when you are using multiple programs, or "apps," they are never turned off just by minimizing or closing them — they are running in the background, but not using any power. Anderson indi-

cated the Microsoft had dramatically improved their use of memory management to allow this new process.

"Office 2010" still has Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint, but with a much more "Vista" type appearance and toolbars to work through the programs. It will still recognize older versions of the software.

According to Anderson, Windows 8 will probably not be available until mid-2012, as there are still some interfacing issues to be solved.

Churches to join in Community Thanksgiving

West End Presbyterian Church will be hosting this year's Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20, at 7 pm, with the choirs from West End Baptist, Presbyterian and United Methodist churches combining to provide beautiful music. The Rev. John

Terry of West End Baptist Church will be delivering the message. Please join West End Presbyterian Church for this time of thanksgiving and fellowship. 275 Knox Lane, West End, just off of Hwy 73 and Hwy 211.

Seven Lakes Country Club invites all to Christmas Party

Everyone's invited to the annual "Christmas Party" on December 10, at the Seven Lakes Country Club. You do not have to be a member to attend this Holiday event.

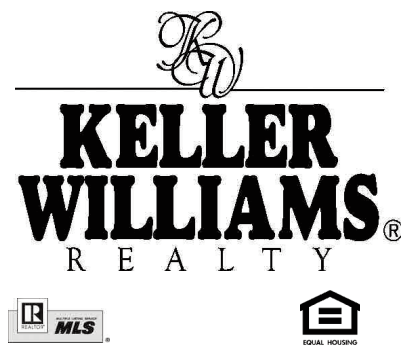
Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Dinner at 6:30 pm featuring Roasted Sliced Pork Loin with Applejack Brandy Sauce. Twice Baked Potato, Veggie Medley, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Carrot Cake, and Coffee/Tea/Lemonade. Holiday Entertainment will commence at 7:30 pm.

The all-inclusive price for members is \$25 and nonmembers \$30 inclusive. Reservations for members may be made in person on November 14 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and call in reservations taken after 11:30 am.

Nonmembers may call in starting November 21, by calling 673-1100.

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League to host forum on fracking for gas

On Thursday, November 17, The League of Women Voters of Moore County (LWVMC) will hold a forum titled: "The Impact of Natural Gas Development on Landowners Mineral Rights in Moore County."

The forum will run from 7 pm to 9 pm, at Elise Middle School, 180 W. Elm Street, Robbins. Four knowledgeable speakers will present different aspects of the issues concerning horizontal well drilling ('fracking'). The forum is free and open to the public.

The speakers include a retired geologist, an attorney, a landowner and a farmers' advocate. Afterwards, the audience is invited to submit questions for the panel to respond to.

Charles Holbrook will discuss the geology of well drilling and the mechanics and safeguards in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. According to Holbrook, it has been used in nineteen states and taps an energy resource that provides economic benefits to government, landowners, and job seekers. Holbrook holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geology and worked for Chevron for 32 years in all phases of petroleum exploration, both domestically and internationally. In retirement, he has taught geology courses, through Campbell University at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Base.

Jordan Treacle, a Mineral Rights Project Coordinator of the Rural Advancement Foundation international (RAFI) will discuss mineral rights leases and the impact of landowners. RAFI is a farmer advocacy nonprofit organization, distributing information to rural landowners about mineral rights contracts, landowner property rights and potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing so citizens can make informed decisions about their property. RAFI-USA is based in Pittsboro, and began informing landowners in its Contract Agriculture Reform Program since 2010. Treacle has a degree in International Studies from UNC Chapel Hill. Over the past year, he has worked with NC Ag Extension Centers, churches and community groups informing them about mineral rights contracts.

Theodore A Feitshans, an Extension Associate Professor in the Dept. of Agriculture and Resource Economics at NC State, and an attorney, will discuss legal issues raised by leasing of natural gas production rights, exploration and development. The legal issues are lease negotiation, and management, ownership of mineral and gas rights, environmental protection, waste disposal, land use, taxation, emergency preparedness, public finance and development of appropriate regulatory structures for gas development.

Feitshans received his Bachelors Degree in Animal Science from Cornell and His Masters in Agriculture and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota. He was awarded his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and can practice law in NY and NC. He is also an undergraduate teacher of Agriculture and Environmental Law for the NC Extension Service.

Dan Butler will talk about his experiences as a mineral rights owner himself. He will give an overview and share both good and bad experiences, and he will discuss a 'farm lease' and representation agreements and options to

lease. Butler advocates knowing the lessee's background in the oil and gas business and their safety and exploration records. He was born, raised and still resides in Southern Pines, graduated from Campbell College with a BS in Business Administration. He was involved in mineral ownership and devel-

opment of coal fields in WV, oil and gas leasing in PA and Ohio and oil, gas and coal in Lee County, NC.

For more information on this forum, contact Dr. Barbara Farr, LWVMC board member, at 910-949-2703 or email barbfarr@mind-spring.com

WEUMC Spaghetti Supper

Join the The West End United Methodist Men as they sponsor their annual Spaghetti Supper in the Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 11, 5 - 7 pm. Tickets are \$8 each (includes salad, spaghetti, desert and a drink). Takeout is also available. Tickets can be purchased at the door or ahead of time by contacting Stu Chase at 673-2635. All proceeds go to support local Scout Troops. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

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In memory of . . .

Alice While, 75, of Seven Lakes, formerly of Columbia, MD; died November 4. She was the daughter of the late Forest and Liddie Ellis Kirk.

A memorial service was held at Boles Funeral in Seven Lakes on Tuesday, November 8. The Rev. Don Welch officiated.

Mrs. While is survived by her husband of fifty six years, John R. While; sons, Tony While; Timothy While and Todd While; sisters, Joyce Brown and Pamela Harper and a brother, Paul Kirk and her grandchildren.

Memorial donations be made to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care at 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Christmas Table

The Annual Creative Christmas Table Arrangement Fund Raiser will be held on Sunday, November 20, 11 am until 5 pm at Little River Farms Resort Club House, Carthage.

There will be beautiful holiday tables, demonstrations of goodies to make, The Country Store and a raffle will be available for your enjoyment. Come see Seven Lakes own Leslie Rose of Sandhills Winery make Holiday magic.

Proceeds raised through this event provide scholarships to Culinary students at Sandhills Community College. Admission is only \$5.

Please support Moore County Extension and Community Association, Inc., by enjoying this afternoon of pre-holiday festivities. Call Moore County Extension office at 947-3188 for additional information.



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NOVEMBER ACTION

Holly Grove School
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to \$92,900

Stacey briefs Kiwanis on Pauley series, library

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Dr. John Stacey, Director of Library Resources at the Sandhills Community College, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, October 11, at the Beacon Ridge Country Club. His address was in two parts.

He told the group of the "World Class" nature of the Ruth Pauley Lecture Series, while extolling the virtues and superiority of the college's library.

The Pauley Series has

entered its 25th year. Its past speakers read like the elite of "Who's Who" include Senators George McGovern, Alan Simpson, and Daniel Inouye, have graced the lectern. Entertainers Ossie Davis and Patty Duke along with national leaders Ralph Nader and Newt Gingrich have also spoken. People from the Arts & Sciences include Maya Angelou and Dr. Jane Goodall. Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor kept the audience spellbound during her Pauley

Series visit.

"This year's speakers will be just as exciting," said Dr. Stacey. He cited two diverse personalities as examples. "Humpy" Wheeler, Past President and General Manager of Lowe's Motor Speedway and a member of Nascar's Hall of Fame, is scheduled in November. Doris Buffett, philanthropist and sister of billionaire financier Warren Buffet, will speak in March on the unique subject of "Giving it all Away."

Programs begin at 7:30 pm and are open to the public. Lectures are free. For further information call (910) 245-3132.

Dr. Stacey's true love at the Sandhills College is the library. He reported that there are more than 85,000 items available locally. With their remarkable affiliation with 46 other college libraries, more than 2,000,000 additional books can be accessed. The library is open to the

public like any city library, and all of these resources can be utilized by card holders.

"Our facilities represent an incredible asset to all Moore County residents," commented Dr. Stacey. "The Community College has 4,200 full-

time students and 10,000 part-timers in continuing education. Amazingly, the library gets up to 100,000 visitors annually."

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at the Seven Lakes Country Club.



Sandhills Community College's Dr. John Stacey

Benefit for Moore County EMS Paramedic

Everyone in the community is invited to attend a Spaghetti lunch and supper benefit for EMS Paramedic Gary Tadlock.

The benefit is being held due to the tragic loss of Tadlock's home and property to a fire.

The lunch and supper event will be held at the Seven Lake EMS building on Seven Lakes Drive, on Friday, November 18, 11 am to 7:30 pm.

Cost is \$6 for a plate of

spaghetti, salad and dessert. 100% of proceeds will be donated to Tadlock and his family.

The Seven Lakes EMS is accepting donations of noodles, sauce, plates and dinnerware that can be dropped off at the EMS building. They are also accepting donations of cakes, cupcakes and cookies to be sold as well.

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated for this event.



Merchants on Grant Street Christmas Open House December 3rd 2-4pm

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"My Open House is a small way of saying thank you to my clients for being faithful, sending family and friends to my office for massage. I have an amazing clientele and I am so blessed. I appreciate each and every one that has helped make my business a success. Please stop by for some Holiday refreshments, or just to say 'Hi!'"
- GG

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- Buy one Pendant get one pair of earrings for 30% off
- 10% off all Supplies (excluding clay)
- Drawing for a Fine Silver and Garnet Pendant @ 4pm (Retail value - \$150)

"My first Open House marks a wonderful start to the Holiday Season and another 'first' for Karen Simmons Designs. Thank you to Seven Lakes for being so welcoming to my new endeavor. Please stop by for some wine and cheese, take advantage of one day specials, learn about Art Clay or just say hello!"

—Karen Milligan

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Have a
Happy
Thanksgiving!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service planned

Communities of faith in the Foxfire and West End area are joining hands, hearts and voices in an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20, at 4 pm, at this year's host site, Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst, across from Elliot's on Linden Restaurant.

This sixth annual Thanksgiving community gathering is sponsored jointly by the

Sandhills Jewish Congregation, the Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC, Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and two new congregations, Healing Springs of the Pines Sangha, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Sandhills. Representatives from each faith community designed the service to invite

neighbors into a worship setting in which various faith traditions express their gratitude for the blessings of this shared community, nation and world. Everyone in the community is welcome and participants are invited to linger for music and refreshments following the service to enjoy getting to know their neighbors.

Using familiar hymns of the church and synagogue,

sharing words and prayers from Native Americans, the psalmists and the prophets, will offer worshippers an opportunity to share their common faith traditions and give thanks together for their many blessings. There will be a community choir lead by Chris Boveroux of the Congregational Church with members from each of the congregations, and acoustic music by Matthew Bahr,

Steven Hedgpeth, Amy MacDonald, David McDonald, Walt Lewallen, and Maureen Sutton.

Worshippers are asked to bring canned foods as a Thanksgiving Offering, to be donated to the Sandhills Moore Coalition for Human Care. As we offer thanks for the many blessings of this community we will also remember that some are in need.

Railroad Club will host model train show

The Sandhill Central Model Railroad Club will host its 29th annual pre-holiday Train Show from noon to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20. The show will be held in the Historic Aberdeen Train Depot and Museum in Aberdeen. The depot is located at the corner of Main and Sycamore Streets.

Admission is \$3 for everyone, except that children under four feet, eight inches tall are admitted free. Why that particular measurement? Because that is the distance between the two tracks on a modern railroad. In addition, visitors will be offered raffle tickets for an electric "Thomas the Tank" train set, and other Thomas items.

Several new elements are being added to this year's show, which should increase the interest of everyone interested in railroading. These new features will include tours of the Depot Museum, a model "N" scale layout, a small layout for the children to run, and a "Sales Store" where various train items (some new, some used) will be available for sale.

Visitors to the show will see a large HO-scale train layout featuring the town of Aberdeen and surrounding areas. Many buildings and scenes representing the Aberdeen area have been built by members to represent current town and area businesses and buildings. In addition, this year's show will feature a large circus tent,

with a complete circus being portrayed. The circus is serviced by a complete circus train.

Numerous freight and passenger trains will be operating at the same time on different tracks. All trains on the layout have sound and can be run independently on the same track. Many modern diesel engines will run under DCC or radio control direction, and will wind their way through tunnels, fields, neighborhoods and towns before completing their routes, on over 800 feet of track.

Younger visitors will delight

in seeing Thomas the Tank, as well as James, the Red Engine. The Thomas DCC engine is one of the few DCC Thomas trains in existence, and was custom built by one of the train club members.

The Sandhill Central Model Railroad Club was founded in 1979. The club started its first train show for the public in 1982.

Model Railroad Club members meet every Wednesday at 7:15 pm at either the Campbell House or Aberdeen Depot locations.

Visitors and anyone interested in club member-

ship are welcome. For information regarding meeting locations, membership, or other inquiries regarding the Sandhill Model Railroad Club, call Jim McNiff at 692-7439.

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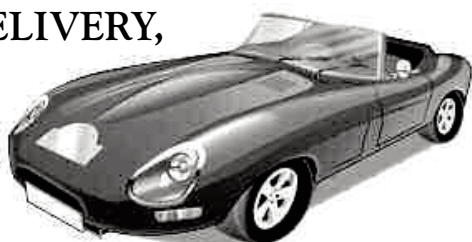
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A Sandhills jump start to high tech careers

For our county, state and country to remain economically competitive, the next generation of innovators must develop skills that will make them world leaders in productivity and innovation. Problem-solving and critical-reasoning abilities will be paramount. They will need to be creative and sustain a deep love for continuous learning.

These pioneers—young scholars who will make meaningful, innovative, high-tech, and highly skilled contributions to the global economy of the future—now have a clear path to college and career success through a special local collaboration.

The Palmer Foundation, Sandhills Community College and Moore County Schools have joined forces to create the Palmer Scholar Program. This dynamic partnership provides a focused program to expose high school students to the fascinating and intriguing world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by integrating the "Project Lead the Way" curriculum and resources into the college engineering curriculum.

"The mission of The Palmer Foundation is to empower young people with the skills needed for tomorrow's workforce," explains Penny Enroth, CEO of The Palmer Foundation. "We are particularly proud that this program is the pilot program for the North Carolina Community Colleges' High School STEM Initiative. It is also gratifying that the two Sandhills professors who trained for this program at Duke caught the vision of this curriculum's potential for our area high school students."

Dean of Instruction Rebecca

Roush explained how the Palmer Scholar program is an exciting opportunity for both students and faculty. "It has been a win-win situation for all involved, she said. "The beauty of this program is that it provides opportunities for students who are interested in transferring to a four year school and for students who are interested in a vocational/technical career."

Associate Vice-President of Instruction Ron Layne commented, "Few educational programs show the potential to restore American dominance in a world economy, but accelerated learning through STEM courses can help American youth bring this country back to that long-held status in a global market."

Funding from the Palmer Foundation enabled the college to install a new high-tech lab and make a concentrated effort to encourage students to explore STEM-related fields. The classroom

is equipped with the latest design software and cutting-edge equipment selected to introduce students to real-world challenges and opportunities in the areas of housing, healthcare, transportation, technology, energy, and the environment.

Courses offered during the spring 2012 semester are

Introduction to Engineering and Civil/Surveying CAD. Both courses incorporate a field trip to the NC State Engineering School. In order to provide an optimum learning environment, space is limited to 19 students per class.

For information on registration and testing required

to take a college course, prospective students should contact the SCC Director of Moore County High School Relations Lauren Holland, who will work with each student and the assigned school counselor to coordinate enrollment. She can be reached at 910-695-3713 or hollandl@sandhills.edu.



Palmer Scholars at Sandhills Community College, all Pinecrest High School students, recently demonstrated robots they created in an Introduction to Engineering course.

Diabetes Health Fair

Saturday, Nov. 12 • 9 a.m. - noon

FirstHealth Specialty Centers Building
35 Memorial Drive, Pinehurst

People of all ages living with diabetes and their families are invited to this **FREE** event.

Experts will be available to answer questions on supplements, medication and other topics. Tours of the FirstHealth Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center will be offered.

- Free Health Screenings
- Free Glucometer Tradeouts
- Cooking Demonstrations
- More than 25 organizations & exhibitors
- Kidney Care Mobile Medical Van
- Refreshments
- Giveaways & Prizes
- Activities
- Information

Registration is not required.

For more information, call (800) 213-3284.

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Presbyterians offer centennial cookbook

The Centennial Committee of West End Presbyterian Church announced the publication of its 100th anniversary cookbook *Centennial Cuisine*.

The book, first printed in August, has 750 recipes and 406 pages. Most of the recipes are new, a few have been reprinted from the 1984 cookbook called *Heavenly Dishes* as well as a youth cookbook published about 10 years ago. There are several recipes

from old families of West End, and many from the newer arrivals in West End, Seven Lakes and McLendon Hills.

The beautiful cover was designed by well-known local artist, Barbara Sickenberger. Len Bernard, Past President of the Sandhills Photo Club took the photo of the church included in the design. The design reflects the church heritage of the past as well as the present.



The book is a hardcover, three ring binder, allowing for the addition of personal recipes, as well as easy lay-flat access. The early history of West End and the church are included.

The committee of seven worked for several months to collect and edit this great diversity of recipes. Committee members are Donna Clemens, chairman, Angela Terry, Dodie Mulready, Dottie Boothe, Hilda Conrad,

Joanne Lentz and Lois Ann Eisel. They were supported by a large number of proof-readers, and the final editing was done by Anne Clemens-Holway.

The book is available in the church office at 275 Knox Lane, during regular office hours.

It's also available at the Sandhills Winery, Salon 7, and Head Quarters. The price is only \$18 per copy.

Granville explains Exchange Traded Funds

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On Tuesday, October 25th, Noelle Granville, a licensed stockbroker, addressed the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club

on the subject of Exchange Traded Funds.

These, called ETFs, are similar in many ways to mutual funds. However, mutual funds by law can

only be traded on a daily basis at 4 pm. Under certain circumstances – 9/11/01 for example – waiting until the end of the day to trade can have an extremely negative effect on one's investments. ETFs, on the other hand, are bought and sold in the same manner as stocks and can provide more flexibility for "timely" trading.

Granville graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College with Magna Cum Laude honors. She is affiliated with Granville Financial, Pinehurst, and teaches part-time at both the Sandhills and Carolina Community Colleges.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets on Tuesday's at the Seven Lakes Country Club at 11:30

am. Their slogan is, "Changing the World, one child at a time."



Kiwanis Treasurer Ed Schempp with Noelle Granville of Granville Financial

Come to the Merry Market!

The popular Merry Market sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church will take place on Saturday, November 19 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and running through 3:00 p.m.

The Merry Market this year is featuring the works of over 20 area crafters of wonderful jewelry, festive candles, baskets and a host of other items. Also take advantage of the huge bake sale of cake, cookies and all manner of baked goods.

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church
is located at 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

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Celebration of Seagrove Potters starts Nov. 18

The 4th Annual Celebration of Seagrove Potters and the participating artists are all busily working on special pieces for the Celebration weekend, as well as on collaborative pieces to be auctioned at the Friday night Gala, November 18.

A second, silent auction will take place on Saturday, November 19, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Last year's event was a resounding success, drawing over 400 people to the Friday evening Gala and over 5,000 folks from NC and multiple states to the unique festival weekend. Each year the event has generated a total measurable financial impact of over \$485,000.

The Celebration is distinctive; it is a showcase of the pottery artists of Seagrove, an area that covers the three county corner region of Randolph, Moore and Montgomery counties. Over 100 Seagrove potters, from 62 shops, are participating this

year.

COSP will be held indoors at the historic Luck's Cannery, on NC 705, Pottery Highway, one half mile south of the traffic light in Seagrove. The Celebration potters admire and continue the spirit of the original Luck's Cannery - people of the Seagrove area working together to provide a future for their community. The festival offers shoppers a one-stop, indoor-shopping opportunity to purchase authentic Seagrove pottery.

The event kicks off with the opening night Gala. Guests can purchase from the booths, while enjoying food and beverages, live jazz music and enjoy the opportunity to view and bid on collaborative, one-of-a-kind pottery pieces.

For up-to-date information and photos on the upcoming Celebration visit www.CelebrationOfSeagrovePotters.com and for more on potters of the Seagrove community and other local events visit www.DiscoverSeagrove.com

Merry Market!

The popular Merry Market sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church will take place on Saturday, November 19 beginning at 9 am until 3 pm.

The Merry Market this year is featuring the works

of over 20 area crafters of wonderful jewelry, festive candles, baskets and a host of other items. You can also take advantage of the huge bake sale. St. Mary Magdalene is located at 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

Cook Off Prize Winner



Congratulations to Jeannie Donaldson of Seven Lakes North. Jeannie was the winner of the drawing for the ceiling fan given away by K.R. Mace Electric, during Seven Lakes Business Guild's Chili Cook-Off in October.

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SCC program takes aim at alcohol abuse, drunk driving

In a culture increasingly aware of the broad impact of drinking and driving, Sandhills Community College's Hospitality and Culinary Technology program is serving up a glass of confidence not only to its students, but to restaurant owners in the community.

Thanks to the Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) certification program, students are learning how to inspire a responsible drinking culture and helping to reduce alcohol abuse, prevent personal injury, and mitigate property damage. The program is taught exclusively in Moore County by college instructor Pam Jensen.

"I'm excited about the success and value of TIPS," says Jensen. "This training is important because it extends beyond students obtaining a degree. It teaches students real world techniques that are applicable not only in the industry, but additionally in everyday scenarios, which can impact lives. TIPS training gives students the tools to directly diffuse a potentially volatile situation."

TIPS was developed by the Health Education Foundation of Washington, D.C. It's a skills-based training program that empowers the hospitality industry, already squarely on the front lines in a politically-charged war on drunk driving and underage drinking, to recognize potentially abusive drinking behavior and intervene on customers' behalf. For servers especially, it's a program that inspires confidence in dealing with customers directly. And for Sandhills students on their way to a career in the hospitality industry, many of them already working in restaurants and bars, it's an invaluable two-way tool of diplomacy.

"I have way more confidence in dealing with my guests," says recently-certified Sandhills student Kristin Terry, 21, "TIPS has taught me to be more observant, to watch for changes in guest



Graduates of Sandhills Community College's TIPS program.

behavior that indicate intoxication — for example going from quiet to loud. I can 'read' people better now, and I can tell my guests 'You've had enough' without offending them, in a way that encourages them to stop drinking now and come back later."

"There's no question in my mind that TIPS has far-reaching impact," says Jensen, who has more than 20 years experience in the hospitality industry. "It saves lives, it decreases the frequency of DUI arrests, it makes servers' jobs easier, and it even saves restaurateurs money on the cost of their liability insurance. Ultimately, TIPS can make a positive contribution to our society as a whole. That's why I'm so passionate about the importance of this training."

Sandhills' culinary arts and baking and pastry arts programs provide training to prepare students to assume positions as trained culinary professionals in a variety of food service settings including full-service restaurants, hotels, resorts, clubs, catering operations, contract food service, cruise ships, and health care facilities.

The majority of mid to high-end restaurants in the Sandhills area employ chefs, cooks and other restaurant personnel who were trained through these programs.

For more information about SCC's Culinary Arts program, refer to the Hospitality and Culinary Arts section of Programs and Majors area of the college's website or contact Chris Currier at currierc@sandhills.edu or 695-3760.

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FirstHealth Auxiliary funds school gardens

If they grow it, they will try it.

This unofficial principle of the Communities In Schools FirstSchool Gardens so inspired members of the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Auxiliary that they took a "leap of faith" four years ago and helped finance the first CIS FirstSchool Garden at Aberdeen Elementary.

There are now twelve gardens. Nine were built with money from the Auxiliary, which recently disbursed \$6,500 from its 2011-2012 Special Projects Fund for a thirteenth.

MRH Auxiliary President Julie Martin likes to think of the FirstSchool Garden project as a form of preventive medicine. "The gardens teach young children how to produce healthy foods and how to live a healthy lifestyle through the foods that they eat," she says.

Melody Crow, co-chairs the Auxiliary's Special Projects committee, agrees. "A primary purpose of the Auxiliary has always been to support a healthier community through its various projects," she says. "The FirstSchool Gardens create such a wonderful hands-on opportunity to promote healthy lifestyle choices to children and their families. The Auxiliary is very proud to have been a part of these gardens from the beginning and to continue to support their growth."

Kathy Byron is a life member of the Auxiliary and former Auxiliary Board president. A Master Gardener, she created and developed the FirstSchool Garden concept and now serves as the program's director. She describes the program as a combination healthy eating project and "outdoor classroom," a multidisciplinary endeavor based on a simple premise.

"If you want to educate people about food, you start with children," she says.

According to Byron, helping produce an actual garden changes the relationship between children and the foods they eat. Many kids,

she has found, have had little or no experience with fresh produce.

"A lot of kids may know what a French fry is, but they may not know what a potato is," she says.

Through the FirstSchool Garden program, children not only learn what a potato is but they also learn how it's grown and the numerous ways – in addition to French fries – that it can be prepared.

The original FirstSchool Garden project at Aberdeen Elementary received funding from both the MRH Auxiliary and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, which donated funds for an adjacent walking trail. The Auxiliary alone has funded gardens at eight other schools: the now-closed Academy Heights (whose materials were transferred to West Pine Elementary), Pinecrest High, Pinehurst Elementary, Pinckney Academy, Southern Pines

Elementary, Vass-Lakeview Elementary, West End Elementary and West Pine Middle.

There are also gardens, funded by other sources, at Sandhills Farm Life, Aberdeen Primary, Southern Pines Primary and Academy of Moore.

According to Byron, each FirstSchool Garden is unique to its school. Children, parents, administrators and staff at each location made suggestions about what they wanted their garden to include and/or how they wanted it to be built.

In each "outdoor classroom," children not only learn about healthy foods and healthy eating, but they also put subjects from their indoor curriculum – reading, math, science, even computer technology – into practical use.

"It makes it so hands-on," says Byron. "It's one thing to do something in the classroom, but it's something else to put it into real practical

application."

For information on the FirstHealth MRH Auxiliary,

call 695-7510. For information on the FirstSchool Garden project, call 295-1072.



Kathy Byron works with students in the Communities In Schools FirstSchool Garden at Pinehurst Elementary.



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Is hyper-scheduling wrecking kids' lives?

Sandhills Community College and The O'Neal School are co-hosting a screening and community discussion on "Race to Nowhere," a documentary film on the assumptions of how best to educate America's youth and described as: "Culture changing" - Rachel Simmons, author, *The Curse of the Good Girl*; "A growing grassroots phenomenon." - Washington Post; "Must see movie" - NY Times; "Another inconvenient truth" - George Lucas Educational Foundation; "Compelling" - Diane Ravich, author, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*.

By chronicling her own family's intense schedule, former Wall Street attorney, mom and now-filmmaker, Vicki Abeles takes the viewer on an intimate journey into the center of the daily struggle to balance academic commitments and cultural expectations, with healthy personal needs.

From nights at the dinner table doing homework, to the desks of education and child psychology experts, Abeles' camera goes straight into the

heart of the question, "Given current education modalities, (the pressure for test scores, over-scheduled lives of young people, highly competitive

through healthy, normal, developmental needs, a gap develops between inner needs and the high stakes, unyielding demands of today's preparation for young people to enter society.

It is a groundbreaking documentary feature film that examines the colossal price being paid, by today's students, for the achievement-obsessed way of life that permeates America.

The 85 minute film features the heartbreaking stories of young people across the country who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students are not developing the skills they need,

and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids. "Race to Nowhere"

points to the silent epidemic in schools: cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

As a result, "Race to Nowhere" calls for mobilization of families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

Among many others, "Race to Nowhere" features Dr. Madeline Levine, author of the bestseller, *The Price of Privilege*, Dr. Deborah Stipek,

dean of the Stanford School of Education, Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, an adolescent medicine specialist at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Dr. Wendy Mogel, author of *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee*, Denise Pope, author of *Doing School*, and Sara Bennett, author of *The Case Against Homework*.

The screening and community discussion will take place on Sunday, November 20, at 2 pm in the Hannah Center Theater on The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines.

Tickets are sold online for \$10. They will cost \$15 at the door. For more information and tickets, go to: www.RacetoNowhere.com/epostcard/5365



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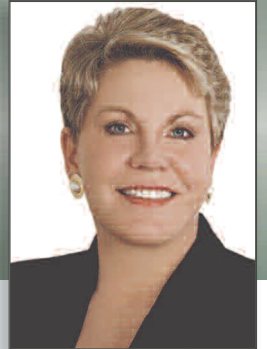


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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- **WEUMC Spaghetti Supper** – 5 - 7 pm, West End United Methodist Men will be sponsoring their annual Spaghetti Supper in the Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets \$8 each (includes salad, spaghetti, desert and a drink). Takeout available. Tickets can be purchased at the door or ahead of time, Stu Chase 673-2635. Proceeds support local Scout Troops. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm, \$10 (all inclusive), Pepper steak, mashed potatoes & veggie. Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- **Weymouth Benefit Tag Sale** – 10 am to 4 pm. A benefit tag sale to raise funds to maintain the historic grounds and buildings at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities. 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines.
- **Hanger Dance to Feature SCC Jazz Band and Local Vocalists** – 7-10 pm at the Moore County Airport, the Carolina Wing of the Commemorative Air Force USO style Hanger Dance at the Moore County Airport. The event is a fund-raising effort that supports the vintage air group and our World War II aviation veterans. Tickets \$20/person at Country Bookshop, Southern Pines or at Gentlemen's Corner, Pinehurst. 215-0155 or 692-3719.
- **Holiday Gala Dance** – 7 pm with dinner then a complimentary dance lesson from 7:30-8 and open dancing 8-10 pm. An evening of fun, music, food and dance, 105 McReynolds St. Carthage. First time guests free. 919-356-2784 or www.DancingInTheCarolinaPines.org

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45

pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Finn Magill and Peter Mawanga* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.



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Wildlife Photographer of the Year, and Nature's Best Photo Competition. For information on Todd Pusser visit toddpusser.com.

Guests are invited to join any meeting. www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 to 9 pm, at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland & Pee Dee Rd, Southern Pines. The guest speaker will be award winning wildlife photographer Todd

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- **AARP Honors Military With Free Driver Safety Course** – 10 am -3 pm, To show appreciation to the military, AARP is offering a free driver safety course at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Military, active or retired, and their spouses are encouraged to attend. For this course, there is no age limit. Registration required. Senior Enrichment Center 215-0900 for details. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501.

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- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:45 am. \$12. Learn more about how Moore County matches available resources with the needs of families when Director Claire Ruggles discusses "What Is the North Moore Resource Center?" Luncheon meeting at The Table on the Green, Midland Country Club, Reservations by Friday, November 11. Please call Charlotte Gallagher, 910-944-9611.
- **Financial Outlook Forum** – 3 - 4:30 pm, Without proper financial planning, your financial future could very well be bleak. Raymond James financial advisors Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon will offer a basic market overview of where finances are today. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Welcome to Medicare** – 7 - 8:30 pm. Will you be turning 65 soon? If so, you may feel that the Medicare related decisions ahead of you are overwhelming and confusing. This seminar offered by the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP). It will help you sort through the Medicare options available to those turning 65. Seating is limited; call 215-0900 to register. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm. H.A. "Humpty" Wheeler, Jr. the Past President of Charlotte Motor Speedway will discuss "The History of NASCAR in North Carolina." Wheeler is the most decorated promoter in NASCAR auto racing, helping to transform the speedway into one of the world's leading sports facilities. In Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College campus, Pinehurst. Program is open to the public. Lectures are free, no tickets are required. For information call 910-245-3132.



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, general meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- **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 \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **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
- **Sandhills Winter Weather and You** – 7 to 8:30 pm, Scot Brooks, Emergency Manager, Moore County Public Safety, will present what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones in the event of severe weather. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501. Seating limited; call 215-0900 to register.
- **Rufus Barringer Civil War Roundtable** – 7 pm. Held at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at Ashe and Pennsylvania Aves., behind the tennis courts, Southern Pines. Celebrating 10th Anniversary with founder and native born Tar Heel, Tonia "Teej" Smith. Smith will present the story of Patriotism that occurred in January 1861 with the Volunteer Militia seizing of Fort Caswell on Oak Island and Fort Johnson in Smithfield, North Carolina. New members are needed, and visitors are always welcome. Refreshments served. 910-235-0946 or 910-695-9058.
- **Moore County League of Women Voters 'Fracking' forum** – 7 pm to 9 pm, "The Impact of Natural Gas Development on Landowners Mineral Rights in Moore County." At Elise Middle School, 180 W. Elm Street,

Robbins. Four knowledgeable speakers will present different aspects of the issues concerning horizontal well drilling ('fracking'). The forum is free and open to the public. The speakers include Charles Holbrook, Jordan Treakle, Theodore A Feitshans, and Dan Butler. For more information on this forum, contact Dr. Barbara Farr, LWVMC board member, at 910-949-2703 or email barbfarr@mindspring.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **EMS Lunch/Supper Benefit for Gary Tadlock and Family** – 11 am to 7:30 pm, the community is invited to attend a Spaghetti lunch and supper benefit. The benefit is being held due to the tragic loss of Tadlock's home and property due to a fire. Held at the Seven Lake EMS building on Seven Lakes Drive. Cost is \$6 for a plate of spaghetti, salad and dessert. 100% of proceeds will be donated to Tadlock and his family. (Seven Lakes EMS is accepting donations of noodle, sauce, plates and dinnerware that can be dropped off at the EMS building. They are also accepting donations of cakes, cupcakes and cookies to be sold as well.
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm, \$10 (all inclusive), Turkey a'la King & salad. Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **Come to the Merry Market and Shop for the Holidays** – 9 am until 3 pm, sponsored by St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Featuring the works of over 20 area crafters of wonderful jewelry, festive candles, baskets and a host of other items. You can also take advantage of the huge bake sale of cake, cookies and all manner of baked goods. You may even find a few Christmas presents at the sale. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhill Central Model Railroad Club** – 12 noon to 4 pm, a host pre-holiday

Train Show thru Sunday November 20. The show will be held in the Historic Aberdeen Train Depot and Museum in Aberdeen, corner of Main and Sycamore Streets. Admission is \$3 for everyone, except that children under four feet, eight inches tall are admitted free. Jim McNiff at 692-7439.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Creative Christmas Table** – 11 am until 5 pm at Little River Farms Resort Club House, Carthage. Beautiful holiday tables, demonstrations of goodies to make, The Country Store and a raffle available. Come see Seven Lakes own Leslie Rose of Sandhills Winery make Holiday magic. Proceeds provide scholarships to Culinary students at Sandhills Community College. Admission \$5. Support Moore County Extension and Community Association, Inc., by enjoying this afternoon of pre-holiday festivities. Call Moore County Extension office at 947-

3188 for additional information.

- **"Race to Nowhere" Screening slated** – at 2 pm. An Education Documentary Film Hosted by Sandhills Community College and The O'Neal School. A documentary film on the assumptions of how best to educate America's youth. Screening and community discussions at Hannah Center Theater, The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Tickets are sold online for \$10. They will cost \$15 at the door. Information and tickets: www.RacetoNowhere.com/epostcard/5365
- **Interfaith Service Of Thanksgiving** – at 4 pm, Communities of faith in the Foxfire and West End area are joining hands, hearts and voices in an Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving. Host site is Congregational Church of Pinehurst, UCC, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst, across from Elliot's on Linden Restaurant. Worshippers are asked to bring canned foods as a Thanksgiving Offering, to be donated to the Sandhills Moore Coalition for Human Care.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45

pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Robert Poe, Lizzie Ross Band* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

- **Community Thanksgiving Service** – 7 pm, West End Presbyterian Church will be hosting this year's Community Thanksgiving service with the choirs from West End Baptist, Presbyterian and United Methodist churches combining to provide beautiful music. The Rev. John Terry of West End Baptist Church will be delivering the message. Please join West End Presbyterian Church for this time of thanksgiving and fellowship. 275 Knox Lane, West End..

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- **Thanksgiving Day**

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Foxfire Council

(Continued from front page)

K9 Program

Recent injuries and the steady march of time have taken a toll on "Ruger," the Foxfire Police Department's K9 officer.

Purchased for the bargain price of \$500 from a Sheriff's office in Indiana a little more than a year ago, Ruger quickly established a reputation among local law enforcement for his excellent tracking and drug search skills. However, at six years old, the Czech shepherd is nearing the natural end of his career.

"He is getting a bit long in the tooth," explained Councilman Mick McCue.

Working with K2 Solutions, a military and police dog contractor located in the region, McCue offered a possible solution.

"They are willing to barter with us," he said.

In exchange for a Crown Victoria vehicle that is owned but not currently in use by Foxfire Police, K2 Solutions is willing to trade for a new, much younger K9 still in training. The dog's estimated value is approximately \$16,000.

"A K9 program is valuable," McCue said, noting that funding had already been invested in equipment, training, and modifying a police vehicle with safety features to accommodate a K9.

"There have been several instances over the past year when Ruger was called to track individuals," McCue explained. "He has been used in a neighboring community following a home invasion.

And a K9 is a good PR tool."

Among the program's success stories was the abandonment of a known drug house in the vicinity of Foxfire once Ruger was on the job.

Brush pile at Foxfire Golf & Resort

An extremely large brush and debris pile that has been collecting at the golf course maintenance area has sparked complaints.

"It's pretty big and we've had complaints," said McCue. "We'd love to help the golf course, because they are a vital part of the community."

He reported a meeting with West End Fire Rescue to discuss burning the pile, which he said the Fire Chief did not recommend.

"He was concerned about radiant heat to nearby buildings — and also that it would probably burn for days and we would have issues with smoke," McCue said.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco also expressed concern that there may be unknown materials underneath the pile, such as paint cans or other hazardous building materials.

A second proposed solution would be to remove the pile bit by bit over a period of months using contracted

services or, perhaps, in exchange for other work the course could provide to the Village.

"We could ask the golf course to clean our streets using their blowers," McCue suggested.

"What I expect is this is probably a zoning violation — to maintain a brush pile over a long term," he cautioned. "And it is growing all the time."

Finance

Forty-two percent of budgeted Ad Valorem taxes have been collected, reported Frusco. She reminded residents that property taxes are due on January 4, 2012.

The General Fund balance was \$815,401 on October 31, and included \$9,463 in Powell Bill funds, \$20,988 in the Stonehill Pines account, and \$75,056 in capital reserves. The Water Fund balance stood at \$293,506, in addition to \$135,575 held in escrow for a new well.

Annual bank loans due in April 2012 for Woodland Circle include an interest-only payment of \$75,810 from the General Fund, and \$5,357 from the Water Fund. In addition, annual loan payments due in July include \$26,966 toward the Foxfire Village

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

Weymouth Tag Sale

The Friends of Weymouth are holding a benefit tag sale Saturday, November 12 to raise funds needed to maintain the historic grounds and buildings at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities. Weymouth contains approximately 22 acres and is the largest green space in the Southern Pines city limits.

The 23-room Boyd house and grounds are open to the public year round except for holidays.

To preserve and maintain this historic site, Weymouth depends on community support. All donations to Weymouth are tax exempt as it is a nonprofit foundation with 501-C(3) status.

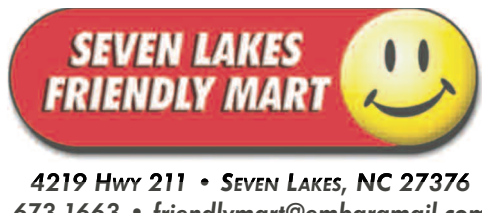
Donations for the tag sale have started to arrive. Wey-

mouth is looking for donations of soft goods such as drapes, rugs, decorative pillows, furniture, mirrors, prints and paintings, decorative accents, lamps, and decorative landscape (outdoor) items such as statuary.

Please bring donated items for the tag sale to Weymouth beginning Tuesday, November 8 through Friday, November 11, between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm.

Tax receipts will be available at Weymouth and given to the donor when items are dropped off.

For special drop-off arrangements or help with handling heavy or large donated items, call Hope at (910) 692-6261.



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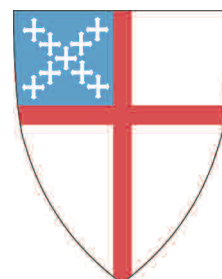
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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 20)

Green Park, and \$41,144 from the Water Fund for wells and improvements.

In addition, the Council approved a contract renewal for an improved copier machine for use in the Foxfire Village office. The new contract also offers a slight decrease in regular maintenance costs.

Improving traffic safety

Foxfire's Village-wide speed limit of 35 MPH cannot be reduced, reported McCue.

"[NC] General Statutes allow for 35 MPH in a municipality, and it has to be 35 MPH," he explained.

Earlier this Fall, McCue had proposed lowering the Village-wide speed limit to 25 MPH, both to slow traffic and to avoid having to post 25 MPH speed limit signs on every interior road — including cul-de-sacs.

Turning attention to three key intersections that have been under discussion and scrutiny for several months, McCue reported that he and Police Chief Mike Campbell met with a NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] representative to discuss the matter.

Regarding the Hoffman and Richmond Road intersection, previous traffic studies do not indicate the need to add a stoplight or flashing warning sign; however, a new, larger stop sign was installed this year. Adding rumble paint strips to improve safety is an option, McCue said, but NCDOT warned that the strips do generate noise from passing vehicles.

"DOT will install them," McCue said. "But they would want a written resolution from the Council, because they have been burned before."

"When they've been installed and then the public complains about the noise, they said they get blamed," he explained. "They didn't say that we should or that we shouldn't have them, just that they are loud. That is something we have to think about."

Regarding the intersection

of Hoffman and Foxfire Roads, NCDOT determined that no changes are necessary and, McCue noted, there have been no incidents or accidents since roadside brush in that area was pruned back.

In discussion of whether a stop sign or a yield sign is more appropriate at the intersection of Foxfire and Tie Roads, McCue said no studies will be conducted and NCDOT will support any decision by the Council.

"My concern is that, if you put in a stop sign, ninety percent of residents will violate it," said McCue.

Councilman Ed Lauer recalled that there once was a stop sign at that location, and surmised that if it was unpopular enough before to be downgraded to a Yield sign, public opinion would probably not differ today.

However, Councilwoman Frusco, who proposed the change, argued that the stop sign was removed when traffic

was significantly lighter along both roads.

Fire hydrants

Several fire hydrants in Foxfire Village are turned off, prompting concern from McCue.

Councilman Lauer explained the hydrants are located in areas where there are no homes and said the decision to turn them off was based on water issues.

"If we turn them on, every so often we have to flush them," Lauer explained. "We would have to waste water and dump it out on the ground. This is the Sandhills, and we are not willing to waste water if we don't have to. If there were homes in those areas, they would be turned on."

Drainage concerns

Councilman John Eltschlager reported he is in discussion with a Village resident concerning a storm drain located on their prop-

erty.

"They are concerned about who is responsible for maintaining those improvements," he said.

Elt Schlager said he also conducted an inspection of streets throughout the Village looking for other drainage problems and asked residents to report any areas where drains are not functioning properly during heavy rains. He noted that, over the long term, areas of standing water can cause damage to the roadway.

Councilwoman Frusco said there is some funding set aside in the budget for drainage concerns.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, November 8, the Foxfire Village Council:


- Considered a request by McCue to develop a procedure for official notification letters of non-compliance violations, as reported by the Appearance Committee.
- Heard from Lauer, who is retiring from the Council, thanks and appreciation offered to the Foxfire staff and his fellow council members for their efforts during his term of office.
- Postponed discussion of any potential changes to Equestrian Zoning minimum acreage while draft language is being developed by the Village Attorney.
- Approved scheduling a Work Session to further discuss traffic safety improvement options and the brush pile located at Foxfire Golf and Resort.



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Friday, Nov. 11th – Chili Pepper & Brew
Chili - Brew And Country Music
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Friday, Nov. 18th – Pampered Chef Wine Party
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Wednesday, Nov. 23rd – All Day Wine Tasting and Wine Accessories Sale
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OPINION

What would your mother think?

There is a large and sinister-looking feline in my kitchen.

And no, Mom! I am not letting my cats with their dirty little paws up on the countertops.

Full disclosure: I am an animal lover by virtue of my father. On her very best days, my mother will tolerate my parade of pets with only slightly gritted teeth.

But I digress. The kitty on my kitchen counter is not my own. In fact, it is not even breathing.

It is a bobcat. Scratch that, a stuffed bobcat.

And why the kitchen, you ask? Because this was the one safe place where I could

ensure bob-o-kitty-on-loan didn't become a scratching post or a really swell, new chew toy.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Certainly it has been an eye-catching choice in décor that has left me dead in my tracks on more than one morning as I trekked in for coffee. With dead being the key word here.

Luckily for Darling Hubby's

sake, I too can grit my teeth and tolerate such atrocities at least on a short-term only basis. The creepy creature

has now successfully served its purpose of entertaining a roomful of Cub Scouts and will be returned to

its rightful owner today. Today, dear!

But I must admit that the small, slightly twisted and deranged voice in my head — you know the one — is suggesting otherwise. A tiny whisper is urging me to keep

this countertop accoutrement at least through the weekend . . . when my mother arrives.

Maybe I'm feeling particularly devious since my own cherubic son cleverly placed a life-sized rubber snake in a darkened hallway earlier this week. Yikes!

Or perhaps it is just because I could never reconcile why my mother's aversion to animals is only applied indoors.

Once outside, she magically transforms into a child of nature. Screaming eagles and hawks that roost in her lakeside trees are no problem. For years, she refused to remove a dead tree that was right outside her back door

because of the resident raccoon family. And about those monster-sized spiders lurking in the patio bushes? Just leave them alone, she'll chide.

Like a swinging door clattering open and closed, she can be completely bipolar when it comes to critters — that is, those that are in and those that are out.

So, I can't help but wonder what she'd say if she spied an adult bobcat peering in through the guest room window?

Tee-hee, apparently that stuffed cat isn't the only sinister presence lurking in my house.

Why waste all that money on a building?

Question: I see that your Chapel is building an addition which must cost several hundred thousand dollars. With so much poverty in the world and in Moore County, how can your church justify spending that much money on a building?

Response: You have raised a very good and insightful question. The Board of Directors and the congregation spent the past several years agonizing over whether or not the Chapel needed addi-

tional space. They did not finalize the decision to build until an anonymous member, who was terminally ill, informed the board that he was leaving in excess of \$300,000 in his will to serve as a challenge matching grant for an educational building and community hall. Within a month, the members of the congregation matched that amount with gifts and pledges. Some considered this a sign that God approved the addition.

The question remains, however, "Couldn't this amount of money have been raised instead for the purpose of relieving hunger and poverty?"

With adequate motivation and energy on the part of the Chapel's leadership, the answer would be "Yes!" The members of the Chapel have always been generous in helping those in need. It is one of the few churches that spend more on benevolence than it pays its staff. For years, the chapel used a rotation of visiting preachers, and even now the two ministers and the administrator are all part-time workers.

Every Fall, the Chapel and many members of the community work tirelessly to hold the largest rummage sale in the area. Not only did this sale net over \$12,000 for persons in need, it provided an opportunity for the less fortunate people in the area to purchase necessary items at

very low prices. Thousands of volunteer hours went into the preparation and execution of this event.



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

When the Chapel in the Pines began thirty-five years ago, Seven Lakes was a retirement community. Over the past ten years, the demographics have dramatically changed. One only needs to observe the school buses picking up hundreds of children to recognize that we are now a diverse community of all ages. If the Chapel is to fulfill its mission to serve all of Seven Lakes, educational and meeting spaces are needed in addition to its beautiful and worshipful sanctuary.

Often, persons who raise the question you raise want churches to do what the questioner does not do with

his own spending priorities. I'm sure that is not true for you, and I invite you to join members of the Chapel in a mission to relieve hunger.

We are asking every member to set aside one dollar a day to feed hungry people in Moore County and starving people in East Africa.

If we are successful, we should be contributing over \$30,000

each year to alleviate hunger in the world. Over the next several years, as our congregation grows and families and children are added, we should give away far more than we are spending on the new addition.

Thanks for your question. It will always be one that the Chapel will ask again and again.

Don Welch, the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at dwelch1@nc.rr.com.

His weekly sermons can be heard on the website, sevenlakeschapelinthepines.com

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

Westside work session

(Continued from front page)

said securing any easement should be seen as an opportunity: "Without the easement you never have the option."

The individual contracts for easements would be approved in accordance with the Seven Lakes West financial policy, which allows financial decisions up to a certain dollar amount to be made with the approval of the President, Legal Director, and Treasurer without approval from the entire Board.

During Tuesday's meeting, the proposed route for a bypass road around Lake Auman Dam was not identified or discussed.

Construction to Begin at Lower Pond Dam

Construction at the lower pond dam at the Lakeway Mall entry is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 14, announced Infrastructure Director John Goodman.

The anticipated completion date for the project is the end of the year, but this is "weather dependent," Goodman explained. The road in the area will remain open during construction, but travelers may experience some "brief delays."

Information about the project will be posted in the mailhouse and on the community website. According to Goodman, one thing that may lead to "community discussion" is that the design calls for spring loaded vehicular guard rails. The community has to abide by state regulations when putting up guard rails, and this is one option that meets those standards.

Another option for the community is to put up a single post heavy timber guardrail system. However, this could possibly cost twice as much as the spring loaded option, Goodman said. A price for the timber guardrails will be brought to the Board's next meeting on December 13. [The Board will skip the second November Work Session because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.]

Goodman explained that guardrails may be placed in

other locations, so that choosing the more expensive guardrail design may result in additional expense at those locations as well, if continuity is to be maintained throughout the community.

One advantage of the spring loaded guard rails, Goodman said, is that they are see-through and would not obstruct the view, whereas the thick timber guardrails may present a visual obstruction.

Landowners with other suggestions for guardrails that can meet state standards are encouraged to contact Goodman with those suggestions.

In other Infrastructure business, Goodman reported that pavement patching throughout the community should be finished by the end of November.

Remote Control Locks at Lake Auman

The Board continued, during Tuesday's meeting, to discuss a proposal by Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy to install a remote

controlled unlocking system for the gates over Lake Auman Dam. The system would cost \$10,000 and would be operated by a remote at the guard house at the front of the community.

Director John Hoffmann questioned the high price tag, asking "What is the value added for \$10,000?"

Earlier in November, West End Fire & Rescue crossed over Lake Auman Dam to respond to a potential brush fire on the west side of the community. President Herdrich spoke with West End Fire Chief Wayne Kennedy who reportedly said he was very pleased with the current lock system on the Dam, saying it presents no issues to the department.

Secretary Jane Sessler was at the dam during the event and said it took a total of thirty seconds for the fire department to unlock both gates.

McCarthy said the remote control unlocking system would benefit residents in

(See "Westside," p. 24)

Thanks, 7 Lakes, for MIRA Run support

Dear Editor:

Our son, Caleb Robinson, a local seventh grader, recently ran in the Miles for MIRA fundraiser to help raise money for the MIRA foundation.

Mira, from the Spanish word "look," is a local organization that provides blind children with guide dogs.

Caleb recently went around to different businesses in the Seven Lakes business district

and he would like to thank Sandhills Winery, Quality Care Pharmacy, Food Lion, Seven Lakes Eye Care, Master Clean, Seven Lakes Snack Shack, and Ornaments for their donations and support.

We are so appreciative that even in these lean times our area businesses gave what they could to help a cause we feel so passionate about.

Thank you,
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Westside work session

(Continued from page 23)

case of an emergency — and was not being proposed primarily for emergency vehicles.

In order for the remote control unlocking system to work, two thirty-five foot telephone poles would need to be installed near the dam, something that Infrastructure Director Goodman said he was not willing to approve without seeing some type of blueprint for the project in advance.

Board members asked for additional information about the remote control unlocking system before voting on the proposal.

Increased police presence

In other Safety and Security business, McCarthy announced enhanced police coverage on the Westside, including patrolling for speeding.

Concerns about speeding — particularly near the back gate — have been brought up during two SLWLA meetings by Westsider Chuck Spellman.

During member comments, Kathy Kirst complimented McCarthy for enhancing speed enforcement.

Also during Tuesday's Work Session, McCarthy withdrew his proposal to install an exit-only gate at Banbridge Drive due to lack of community feedback on the issue.

Upcoming Westside Events

Events Director Jim Fer-

guson reported that the community will be decorated for the Holidays on November 19 from 9 am to 4 pm and on November 20 from 1 pm to 5 pm. Pizza and sodas will be served to the volunteers on Sunday at five o'clock.

The Community Christmas Party is scheduled for December 2 from 7 pm to 9 pm. The event is free to the community, but tickets are required and can be picked up at the West Side Park Community Center [WSPCC]. The community tree lighting will be held at 7 pm. Music and hors d'oeuvres will be served, but attendees should bring their own drinks to the adults-only event. Ferguson said.

The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 3 from 2 pm to 4 pm. There will be gifts from Santa, but Ferguson advised parents to bring their own cameras to take pictures.

Ferguson announced that he will be taking over the archiving in the community with Bob Fewkes and Tom Moran.

One of Ferguson's goals when elected to the SLWLA Board was to paint all the 114 fire hydrants in the community the same color. According to a report prepared by Ray McKay thirty-eight hydrants need painting and two are below painting grade, making them difficult to see. The fire hydrants in need of attention are in the Seven Lakes Fire Depart-

ment's district, Ferguson said.

Manager's Report

The Board approved during Tuesday's Work Session the replacement of two gate arm mechanisms — the device responsible for lowering and raising the gate bar when entering or exiting the community — at a cost of \$2,000 each. The arm mechanism at the exit of the main gate is completely broken, reported Community Manager Joan Frost.

Given the prospect that the front gate will be relocated in the near future, the Board decided to move the two gate arm mechanisms from the back gate and place them at the front gate. The back gate will then be furnished with the two new gate arm mechanisms. The total cost for the project is \$5,000.

Problems with the gates at the boat and trailer storage

lot not closing properly was brought to Frost's attention by Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly. Frost said the gates in the area have been hit six times in the last three years. She is working on a proposal to present to the Board in December that will address widening the gate and possibly putting an automatic lock on the gate.

Frost said she is working with the Infrastructure Committee on proposals for grounds maintenance throughout the community -- and anticipates no increase in the cost.

The CAS office now has the ability to view on television monitors what is happening at the front and back gates.

Work is still being done to paint and repair street signs throughout the community, Frost reported. Currently, twelve new posts have been put in, and ten new signs have been ordered.

Compliance Letters

After some minor changes, the SLWLA gave Architectural Review Director John Hoffmann the go-ahead on three new compliance letters that Hoffmann said offer "a much softer approach" than the previous ones. The three letters that will now be sent out are:

- A friendly reminder letter,
- A follow-up reminder letter, and
- A final letter that will be sent certified.

If the homeowner does not comply after the final letter is sent, the issue will be referred to the judicial review committee. The time between letters being sent to a homeowner will remain at the discretion of the Community Manager.

Secretary Jane Sessler complimented Hoffmann and the ARC committee saying, "Part of the reason that Hoffmann's

(See "Westside," p. 25)

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Seven Lakes West Interior lot with water view.

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Westside Work Session

(Continued from page 24)

group is being so successful: more information is on the website."

Hoffmann has been placing information on the website about permits that have "educated a lot of people," said Sessler, who added that the committee is "on top" of the permitting process which residents no longer see as a delay.

Currently, there are thirty projects underway in the community including one new construction, two ongoing construction projects, and six major additions.

Treasurer's Report

Due to some additional expenses, cash disbursements for the month of October were \$131,000, reported Treasurer Don Freiert. The extra expenses included \$2,000 for dam engineering work; \$5,800 for landscaping and erosion control; \$24,000 for fire hydrant installations; and \$33,000 in security payments to catch up for the months of July and August.

Briefing the Board on Association investments, Freiert reported that, for the quarter ending October 31, funds available total \$1.4 million, with \$400,000 in short term capital and over one million in long term investments. The investments all remain in accordance with Board authorization and include CDs, money markets, and treasury bills. There are currently no transactions pending or forecast transactions for the next quarter Freiert said.

Anyone interested in reviewing the financial statements can find them on the community's website under the "Finance Committee" section, he added. This includes statements dating back to May 2011 and last year's Year End Financial Statements.

Regular investment reports are a part of the Board's regular work session minutes and are found under the "Board" section of the website. Freiert announced that anyone who does not have access to the website can obtain a copy of the Financial State-

ments at the Association office during regular business hours.

West Side Park

In an 8-to-1 vote, the Board approved a \$2,000 upgrade to the electronic wiring system at the Community Center. The electrical company, RTS, will upgrade the system in the great room as well as the activity room downstairs. ARC Director John Hoffmann cast the dissenting vote.

Westsider Kathy Kirst said she was happy for the electronic upgrade at the WSPCC, especially with the County Commissioners' meetings that take place in the great room.

President Herdrich reported that a new ad hoc committee has been formed to study pool rules and regulations, as well as rental fees for Johnson Point and the Community Center. The Committee is being led by Nancy Workman and will report any findings to the Board in the near future.

Communications

The SLWLA newsletter was published this week and is available online, with print

copies available at the mailhouse and in the community center, Secretary Sessler reported, adding that she is trying to locate people without a computer and ask a neighbor to print them a copy of the newsletter. Every time the newsletter is published, an E-Blast is sent out, with a link to the newsletter in that email.

In May of 2012 the CAS team will take over maintenance of the community website. Manager Frost told *The Times* that approval for articles and information will still go through the communications committee, but the day to day operations of the website will be handled by CAS, Inc.

The Nominating Committee will meet with potential SLWLA candidates next week, Sessler reported.

Lake and Dam

The Board continues to discuss, but has made no decision on what material to use to resurface the docks at the Johnson Point boat slips and whether to repair or replace the swim platform.

Holiday Mailbox and Door Arrangements

The Sandhills Horticultural Society is hosting a make it and take it workshop conducted by Maggie Smith of Maggie's Farm.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, December 1, 10 am to 1 pm. Create mailbox or door arrangements using live greens. All materials will be provided.

The workshop will be held at the Ball Visitors Center, Sandhills Community College. Space is limited.

Horticultural Society members \$20 nonmembers \$25. All must prepay to be registered for the class.

To register call Tricia Mabe 695-3882.

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SLLA meeting

(Continued from front page)

gested the contract should include a request that S&ME inspect the roadways after a heavy rain, to better evaluate those areas with existing water drainage problems.

However, anxious to get the long-delayed project started, the majority of Directors agreed that the contract was adequate as written. After a motion to postpone the decision failed to win a majority, the S&ME engineering contract was approved on a 5-2 split vote, with Racine and Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. opposed.

'Gestapo' tactics or just too many pine cones?

During Public Comment, several residents expressed concern over the handling of Community Standards violations -- including Northsider David Miller, who engaged the Board in a lengthy discussion over procedures, rules, and authority.

"I've been cited six times, but only once has it been correct," Miller said. "And I want to see the sections of the Covenants where you are drawing authority for the rules you reference in these letters."

Miller explained that at least one letter received was for weeds in his driveway that had already been sprayed with herbicide. Another notice complained about grass and pine straw in his driveway, he said, but the offending material was actually in the Association's right-of-way. Another violation was for an illegally-parked vehicle that Miller said was not even on his property, which prompted him to question whether other violations may have also been issued in error.

Using terms such as "zealots" and "Nazis," Miller railed against the fact that the Community Standards Committee's meetings are closed and the names of its members are kept confidential.

"There is no reason other than personnel or contractual discussions that you should be having closed meetings,"

he said.

Responding, SLLA President Bob Darr said that Community Standards rules are in place for the specific purpose of maintaining property values. He also objected to Miller's tone.

"The beautiful part of what happens here is you have people wanting to maintain their homes and the value of this community," Darr said.

"In the past, the Standards Committee [members] were getting in trouble with their neighbors because they were identified," Darr continued. "During the transition with this new Board, we decided we didn't want these volunteers to be harassed. Their reports are delivered to the [Community Standards] Director and then to staff for a phone call or letter."

"What I have a problem with is the whole 'Gestapo' thing you are implying," Darr continued. "We are volunteers who spend a hell of a lot of time to maintain this community to those standards. Our responsibility as Board members is to see that we satisfy the rules that are in the Green Book. That is what we are elected to do."

Director Racine, who oversees the Community Standards Committee, also jumped to his volunteers' defense.

"They are doing the very

Responding to Miller's request for a set of published standards, Racine offered to provide him with the complete set of rules and guidelines as used by Community Standards.

Later in the meeting, Darr reminded residents that the Green Book of rules and regulations are not "etched in stone."

"If you have a problem, come to our Work Sessions and propose a change," he said. "Let us hear from you -- we want to hear from you."

Illegal dumping on lot

Also in receipt of a non-compliance letter for a Community Standards violation, Northsider Rich Faraci explained that he was not, in fact, responsible for the problem cited.

"The letter is about a vacant lot we own," Faraci said. "And, when I went to the property, I noticed fifteen to twenty piles of cut limbs from other areas. Needless to say, it's being dumped on. This was not deadfall."

Community Manager Alina Cochran also inspected the lot and agreed with Faraci's assessment that the materials cited had been illegally dumped.

"If you say I have to clean it up, I will do it -- but only once. I want to know what you, as a Board, will do to

make sure this doesn't happen again," said Faraci, estimating that removal of the debris will cost several hundred dollars.

Director Shaver said illegal dumping in the community continues to be a problem, both at the Yard Debris Site, where security cameras are installed and operational, and on private properties.

"It is a problem, and we will get back to you within the next few days with a plan to resolve your concern," Darr promised Faraci.

ARB files incomplete

In 2002, Carson Jones requested and received approval to construct a small roadside structure to house his trashcans.

"I was complimented on it, and the building was con-

sidered a model for what is expected in this community," Jones explained.

Fast forward a decade, and that same small shed was recently cited for violating the Architectural Review Board [ARB] code.

Emphasizing that the current SLLA staff had been helpful and polite, Jones complained that older records in the office are incomplete, so he was unable to provide any confirmation of the original approval of the structure and its location.

"There's been a lot of this kind of conversation in the community: that past agreements were made by [previous managers] Chad [Beane] and Dalton [Fulcher]," said Darr. "The problem is: a lot of this stuff was not written

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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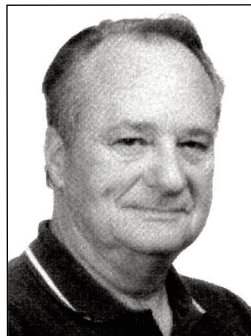


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SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 26)

down. If we have it in the files, we're fine. If we don't, then we're here. And I am concerned people may be using that."

Director Shaver agreed.

"Alina has been dealing with a lot of ghosts and skeletons coming out of the ground," he said. "Some of these issues have been costly and horrendous, but we are trying to rectify them."

Darr and ARB Director Don Fentzlaff thanked Jones for coming forward and said they would work with him to resolve the problem.

Fentzlaff noted that ARB applications and the newly-instituted project requirement list forms are available at the office and will also be available online.

"Any change to the exterior of a house or property should go through ARB for approval," Fentzlaff reminded residents.

Guard verbally assaulted

Describing it as a nasty incident, SLLA President Darr reported that an SFI guard was verbally assaulted to the point of tears after a resident noticed that the American flag at the North Gate was not properly displayed.

He explained the flag had been lowered to half-staff over the final weekend in October to honor fallen firefighters and emergency responders; however, security staff had inadvertently raised the flags upside down and in reverse order.

"It was a mistake," Darr said. "Someone noticed and they were ugly to the guard and called her names. Before she had a chance to fix the flag, he verbally attacked her again."

While recognizing the display was in error, Darr said the resident was out of line.

"He made her cry. This is

nonsense. Come on, we're bigger than that -- and, for crying out loud, grow up."

Director Andy Lowe also reminded members that any concerns over security staff or needs should be addressed to himself or Cochran at the SLLA office.

Security contract

Continuing discussion on security issues, Lowe reported that six security companies had submitted proposals for the SLLA contract, which is up for reevaluation, and three companies, including current provider SFI, have been invited to present their proposals to the Board.

Darr explained that the decision to reevaluate security companies was based on several concerns.

"Why are we looking? Because there have been a lot of comments about the security force and what they do and what they don't do. What they can and can't do," he said.

"What is the difference between what we are getting and what we want? And, are we getting the best bang for our buck?"

Noting that hiring off-duty police officers was costly, Darr said he believed most of the Association's security issues could be handled by a private contractor using proper training and procedures.

Responding to a request for an update on a recent vandalism incident at Northside Park, Darr said he personally had confronted the

alleged offenders.

"I don't think they are too happy with me," he said. "And I'm not sure if it will be any better, but we are working on it."

Finance

Dixon Hughes has not completed the annual audit of Association finances, reported SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer.

"It is still in process, and they continue to ask us new questions," he said. "There is no target date when it will be complete, and we are very frustrated and looking at our options."

Continuing the Finance Committee report, Meyer said reformatted financial statements are on track for distribution next month. He explained that the new form will be easier to understand, particularly in reviewing unrestricted and restricted accounts, as well as major capital expenditures.

A volunteer team working to improve the annual dues billing process for both staff and residents has met six times, Meyer said. Test data has been successfully used and the rest of the Association's database will be loaded into the system by the end of December.

Manager Cochran reported that there were no significant monthly variances from budget, adding that the finance report still includes a negative variance due to unanticipated expenses related to dam repairs and collection fees for delinquent accounts.

Lakes & Dams

Reporting good news on the recent work at Echo Dam, Cochran said expenses were less than anticipated. She thanked the Seven Lakes Fire Department and Chief Cal Loy for loaning the Association pumps and hoses to vacuum and jet-clean the collection drains.

The Board unanimously approved a revised rule which

will allow powerboats motor-ing outside of the ski areas to travel in either direction on Lake Sequoia and Lake Echo. The rule will go into effect on March 1, 2012.

Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. asked for clarification that orange safety sleeves used by the Seven Lakes Sailing Club were not in violation of the new rule that prohibits

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

Mental Illness Support Group

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County (NAMI-MC) holds its monthly meetings at the Community Room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, at the corner of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pine-

hurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings and programs are free and open to the public.

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SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 27)

tampering with buoys.

Director Meyers replied that he raised that question in September and was told the sleeves would be permitted.

Seven Lakes EMS

Southsider Ray Ulansey expressed concern that the Seven Lakes EMS building was not staffed around the clock.

"I had a problem and went to the Seven Lakes EMS," he said. "There was no one there."

Director Shaver explained that Moore County EMS

paramedics are stationed full time at the West End Fire & Rescue building. Seven Lakes EMS owns and operates the building on Seven Lakes Drive with primarily volunteer staffing.

Ulansey asked whether anything could be done to ensure 24/7 coverage within Seven Lakes, and Shaver said that would be a concern to raise with the Board of County Commissioners and the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council.

Other business

In other business on

Wednesday, October 26, the SLLA Board:

- Heard that the children's annual Halloween Party would include a flashlight scavenger hunt, crafts, and games. Volunteers willing to assist with special events and/or serve on the Recreation Committee are still needed.

- Heard that the Judicial Committee is dealing with twelve cases. Fines were levied for three offenses; one case was dismissed; grace periods to allow time to correct violations were offered in two cases; and the other cases have been scheduled for hearing or are in process.

- Heard from President Darr that the community

bulletin boards are deteriorating. He anticipated that replacing them could be expensive and will be bringing the matter to the Board for discussion in December.

- Heard from Racine that the Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates and hopes to convey that Board service is a time-consuming but, ultimately, exciting and very satisfying volunteer experience.

- Heard from Cochran that the ARB Committee is developing a new award program to recognize outstanding properties.

- Heard that the ARB Committee had approved several projects in September; including a new home, a bulkhead

and dock, a porch, a room addition, replacement of shingles, and a concrete slab and deck staining project.

- Immediately following the meeting, the Board met in Closed Session to discuss the performance evaluation of the Community Manager.

Wennberg honored

Nancy Wennberg of Seven Lakes West, recently attended a "Saddle Up" 20th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration in Franklin, TN.

Wennberg a cofounder of the organization along with Lynn Evans, Charles Crafton and Alton Kelley were honored for having a dream of a therapeutic riding program to serve and challenge children and youth who have disabilities.

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Wennberg was presented with the "Top Hat" award for her service in the 1990s at the Saddle Up 20th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration.



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Sandhills Animal Rescue League [SARL] is a no kill shelter, 501(c)3 organization operating since January 2002.

Please help Sandhills Animal Rescue League continue to provide excellent vet care and good nutrition, and to buy supplies

that are needed on a daily basis by sending a tax deductible donation using the form below.

You may choose yearly, monthly, or a one time contribution.

Thank you from the cats and dogs we rescue, our volunteers, and the board of directors of Sandhills Animal Rescue League.

For more information about the League, volunteer opportunities or other information please contact Lou Atkins at 974-4468 or 638-1921.

Donations to S.A.R.L. will provide shelter, healthcare, and adoptions for rescued pets.

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