

Former Foxfire Chief killed in the line of duty

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Moore County was stunned and saddened by the death of former Foxfire Police Chief Rick Rhyne, who was killed in the line of duty on Thursday afternoon, December 8.

After retiring from his Foxfire post, Rhyne joined the Moore County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy.

According to a news release from Sheriff Lane Carter, Rhyne was shot while attempting to arrest Martin Abel Poynter, 33, later described as a mentally-disturbed veteran of the Iraq

War. Responding to a report of trespassing at a home in Lobelia, Rhyne stopped two suspects. He was informed of an outstanding child support warrant for Poynter. Resisting arrest, Poynter shot Rhyne and then took his own life.

Rhyne, 58, had served with the Moore County Sheriff's Office since 2007. He began his law enforcement career with the Village of Pinehurst, where he served for seven years, before serving twenty-six years as Foxfire's Chief of Police.

"You couldn't ask for a bet-

ter person to head up your safety force," Foxfire Mayor George Erickson told *The Times*.

He continued, "Everything you've read or heard about Rick, he was that and more to Foxfire Village. We were lucky to have him for as long as we did, as Foxfire grew from nothing to over 1,000 people today."

Erickson said Rhyne cared deeply for the people in the community and was a well-known presence, helping residents with projects around the house and hosting a pop-

(See "Rhyne," p. 28)



Sheriff's Deputy Rick Rhyne

Unimproved lots would bear brunt of Westside dues hike

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Treasurer Don Freiert is recommending a two percent dues increase on developed lots in Seven Lakes West, and just over six percent on undeveloped lots, for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Even with the dues increase, balancing

the budget will require reducing the amount the Association devotes to capital projects and capital reserves by \$42,000.

"A more challenging year" faces the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA], Freiert told his fellow Directors during their Tuesday, December 13 Work Session.

Anticipating a \$94,000

increase in expenditures but only \$52,000 in additional revenue, Freiert recommended an overall decrease of \$42,000 in allocations to capital reserves and proposed capital projects — an 8.5 percent reduction.

The additional revenue reflects an increase of dues on improved lots from \$912 to \$930, and an increase from \$684 to \$726 on unimproved lots. Freiert explained the steeper hike on unimproved lots is aimed at gradually bringing the dues on all lots into parity over the next seven years.

Responding to a question on the rationale for parity, SLWLA President Mick Herdrich said the covenants allow for only one type of member, so the Board felt strongly that all should contribute equally.

"The budget expenditures (See "Budget," p. 26)

Three seek seats on SLLA Board

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Three candidates have agreed to stand for election to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

David Buckingham of Seven Lakes North will run for one of three open seats on the Board alongside two Southside residents: Chuck Leach and Steve Ritter. Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Racine announced the nominees during the Association's Wednesday, December 14 open meeting.

With the election ballot no longer vacant, two-term Director Bud Shaver bowed out of the race and instead offered to assist the incoming members, particularly with respect to his knowledge of the reserve study and paving projects.

Shaver applauded the efforts of the Nominating Committee and Director Bob Racine, especially his success in identifying two Southside candidates that could help round out a Board comprised exclusively of Northsiders. Shaver noted that, like himself, Ritter is a member of (See "SLLA," p. 20)

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Family of accident victim needs support

During this holiday season of giving and joy, Southsiders Tom and Roberta Robinson are hoping neighbors and friends will join them in assisting the Delgado family.

In late November, Marisol Delgado, 41, was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on NC Highway 211 near the McLendon Hills community. A resident of Candor,

she was survived by her husband and four school-aged children.

A memorial fund to assist the family has been set up through First Bank.

"Winter clothing for the children has been purchased

and toys have been bought, but their shelter needs are critical," explained Robinson. "This family truly needs help."

Robinson told *The Times* that the Delgado family's home has several outstanding maintenance concerns. A

contractor has offered services at a reduced rate, but financial donations are desperately needed to purchase supplies and accomplish the work.

She said that Marisol was known to many in the Seven Lakes community, as she provided cleaning services, and that she was a wonderful mother who cared deeply for her children. Music, in par-

ticular, was a major interest and all of the Delgado children are accomplished musicians and play multiple instruments.

Donations may be made to the Delgado Memorial Fund at any First Bank location. Or for more information on how to assist the family, please call Roberta Robinson at 673-4090.

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@sevenlakestimes.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
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.

Art classes offered

January Art Classes will be held at the West Side Park Community Center.

Watercolor painting classes are being offered Thursdays 10 am – 12 pm on January 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Acrylic/Oil painting classes are being offered Fridays from 10 am – 12 pm on January 6, 13, 20, and 27.

All residents of Seven Lakes are welcome to sign up by calling the Seven Lakes West Landowners Office. The teacher is Andrea Schmidt, a renowned local artist with over 30 years' experience. Cost is \$25 for either 4-week class. Call Andrea at 673-1210 for more information.

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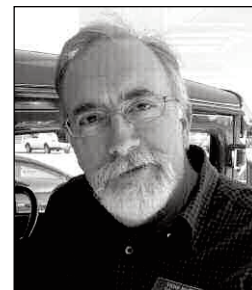
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Council struggles with zoning definitions

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



The minimum lot size for equestrian zoning in Foxfire Village should remain

at ten acres. That's the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Committee, presented by Councilman Mick McCue during the Tuesday, December 13 meeting of the Village Council; but not everyone is convinced that ten acres is necessary or appropriate in today's market.

"I think this topic needs further exploration," cautioned Finance Director Leslie Frusco. "From the standpoint of promoting Foxfire, we are doing ourselves a disservice."

She noted that there has been a steady supply of homes built in the equestrian areas in and around Foxfire, while the market for single family residential homes in the Village has been stagnant.

Frusco also said that other communities in Moore County utilize a six acre minimum requirement; and, during previous meetings, the Council has heard from local real estate professionals who anticipated quicker sales of equestrian properties with a six acre minimum.

McCue thanked the Planning & Zoning Committee for their service, and then explained that the committee had solicited input on the topic from a knowledgeable veterinarian and an animal

control officer.

But, proper maintenance of the animals is not the core issue, McCue said.

"It seems the issue is appearance or aesthetics,"

Council turned to the more pressing concern of how best to define "family" and enforce single family residential zoning.

Earlier this Fall, several

proposed language is available online for review at www.foxfirenc.com

"The intent is to generally restrict the use of single family homes to families, but still allow for vacation language," McCue explained.

Councilman John Eltschlager said he disagreed with the term "rental restrictions," adding that he did not appreciate a headline in the November 23 edition of *The Times* that suggested the Council was considering action that would create a more restrictive situation.

"If you are renting a property, you want good renters," he said. "But you cannot guarantee, whether someone is buying or renting, that they are going to be a good neighbor."

"My position is: I don't want to give the perception that

we don't want renters," said Eltschlager. There are many renters here who are supporting local businesses and our community."

Addressing the Council and speaking as the only resident in attendance at the meeting — Mary Ann Lauer said she would rather see renters in homes than abandoned properties in foreclosure.

McCue also said he was not opposed to renters, but argued that single family residential zoning should be enforced in a reasonable manner.

"Family — or whatever the functional equivalent of 'family' is — is the character of this neighborhood as a single family residential area," he said. "Put yourself in the neighbor's shoes. Do you

(See "Foxfire," p. 16)

"Equestrian is equestrian. Whether it is six or ten acres, it will be pasture land with fencing, a house, and a barn."

— Foxfire Councilwoman Leslie Frusco

he said. "And that is a reasonable thing. But I don't think ten acres is going to solve it."

McCue said he drew a mock-up equestrian property using six-acre dimensions and included a home, barn, and an outbuilding.

"And I still had plenty of pasture land to properly maintain two horses," he said.

Frusco agreed that the difference in acreage would make little difference in appearance.

"Equestrian is equestrian," she said. "Whether it is six or ten acres, it will be pasture land with fencing, a house, and a barn. I'm not sure where this appearance thing is coming from, but I think we're hurting ourselves. I would like to see further exploration."

Single family zoning

Work on the Zoning Ordinance continued, as the

residents raised objections to a rental home in the Village that is being used as a dormitory by a local business, arguing that such use is not appropriate in the community. The current Zoning Ordinance does, in fact, prohibit such use; but the Council accepted the advice of Village Attorney Michael Brough that it should update the ordinance before proceeding with any enforcement action.

McCue reported that the Planning & Zoning Committee had reviewed a proposed new definition for "family," and Brough had incorporated their suggestions into the new ordinance for the Council's review. A copy of the



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Three run for three seats on Westside Board

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Three candidates boasting a diverse set of backgrounds and interests will run for a seat on the 2012-2013 Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

Jim Pierman, Dan Blue, and Bruce Keyser, Sr. will formally introduce themselves at a Candidate's Night event during the Board Work Session on Tuesday, January 24, Nominating Committee Chair Jane Sessler announced at the Tuesday, December 13 Board Meeting.

"I would like to thank them for stepping forward — and also thank the committee for the many hours spent interviewing many people in the community," Sessler said. "We have some very qualified candidates, and these gentlemen will bring some very different perspectives to our Board."

Bruce Keyser, Sr.

Bruce Keyser, Sr. is a long-time area resident, living in Seven Lakes North for fourteen years before later settling in Seven Lakes West, where he and his wife, Sandi, have lived for fifteen years. Now semi-retired, he has owned several area businesses. Keyser is involved with various civic organizations, and currently serves as Commodore of the Seven Lakes Sailing Club. He was recently appointed to the Lake & Dam Committee and previously served on the Johnson Point subcommittee. He is a member of the Seven Lakes Sports Club and has participated in Neighborhood Watch. In addition, he is an active member of the West End United Methodist Church. Keyser's primary interests in serving on the SLWLA Board are lakes, infrastructure, and communication.

Dan Blue

Moore County native Dan Blue is also a longtime resi-

dent of Seven Lakes West, owning property in the community for twenty-four years. He is the owner of BlueWeb Design and has professional experience in recruitment, sales, and event management. Blue is a member of the Seven Lakes Sailing Club and an avid racer. In addition, he tutors computer science at Sandhills Community College and volunteers with the Moore County Literacy Council. Blue maintains websites for the Sunrise Theatre and the Sailing Club. His primary interests in serving on the SLWLA Board are in long range planning, particularly infrastructure issues related to roads, drainage, and amenities.

Jim Pierman

Jim Pierman retired from nearly thirty years with Ford Motor Company in Michigan, settling in Seven Lakes West in 2007. He writes the Sports Line newsletter for the Seven Lakes Sports Club and volunteers at Moore Regional Hospital, repairing and maintaining wheelchairs and stretchers. He particularly enjoys tinkering with motors and digital circuits, in addition to pursuing a range of pastimes that include motorcycles, snowmobiling, and rifle and pistol shooting, among other interests. His professional background includes experience in planning, product development, facility projects, budgeting,

and environmental issues.

Current Directors Adam Wimberly, John Goodman, and John Hoffman will all be retiring from the Board, each after completing one three-year term of service.

Nominating Committee looked high and low

Nominating Committee Chair Sessler told *The Times* that her committee members spoke with a large number of potential nominees, either recommended by members or spotted on the membership lists of various community organizations.

"We literally sat down with the Association membership

roster and started going down the list of names," to identify prospective nominees, Sessler told *The Times*.

Most of those called by committee members declined the invitation to run for the Board, she explained, "but everyone could give us names of three friends that we should contact."

Hoping to cultivate candidates for future Boards, Sessler said her team encouraged those with an appetite for service to serve on one of the Westside's many committees — creating a "farm team" system that will provide a pool of experienced mem-

(See "Candidates," p. 24)

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Stonegate variance provokes lengthy debate

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Facts mixed with conjecture to create a blizzard of emails and a maelstrom of controversy in Seven Lakes West over the past few days. At the center of the storm was a request for a hardship variance that would reduce the minimum square footage requirement for homes that will be built on several lots in the Stonegate development.

The flurry of emails became a lengthy debate during the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board's Tuesday, December 13 Work Session. But that discussion offered President Mick Herdrich the chance to clarify several key points of contention — and to emphasize that the variance will not be granted unless developer Ron Myers can justify the request.

"As it stands now, that has not been presented," Herdrich said. "We still have a long way to go on this."

He also clarified that the request is for a variance to the annexation agreement, not the community's covenants. Specifically, the developer is seeking a reduction in the minimum square footage requirement from 2,000 to 1,600 square feet for eight of the twelve proposed homes, citing concerns over impervious soils and the possibility that the current size requirements could force him to construct two-

story dwellings.

Herdrich said economic considerations or marketability issues are not considered a justifiable reason for approval of a hardship variance.

He further explained that the majority of the SLWLA Board of Directors had been unaware of the variance request — and of its approval by the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] in a split vote — until after reading minutes from the ARC meeting. ARC Director John Hoffmann was traveling and unable to attend Tuesday's Work Session; but Herdrich explained that, following the ARC decision, Hoffmann contacted him for clarification on hardship variances and determined that the request

should be reconsidered at the committee level.

"They [ARC] will take up the request once again," Herdrich said. "They will make a decision, and it will be reviewed by the Board in open session . . . Yes, he [Hoffmann] was wrong, but I'm not sure he realized that at the time. That is why, once he had more facts, he decided to kick it back to the committee for more discussion."

Stonegate, ARC, & annexation

Bankruptcy proceedings in the early development of the Seven Lakes communities created a diverse and somewhat haphazard patchwork of neighborhoods and large, undeveloped tracts.

"The community is not

homogenous," explained Director John Goodman. "There were large areas left out of the Association. Some were recombined in a merger, and other areas were annexed."

The minimum size requirement for homes in Seven Lakes West is 1,600 square feet; however, it has been the practice of the Association to require any annexed properties to adhere to the higher standard of a 2,000 square foot minimum. However, ARC has the authority to grant hardship variances on a case-by-case basis.

"The variance process, is relatively new," said Director Adam Wimberly, who chaired ARC before Hoffmann took the reins. "You can't say it is broken, as much as amateur

hour . . . The trick is, the covenants and rules are specific about ARC responsibility. If you are a homeowner and you make a request that is denied, where do you go? If the Board has already seen [and denied] your variance, where are you to go?"

"There has to be an appellate process," Wimberly added. "There is a method to the madness."

In October 2010, the SLWLA Board approved an annexation agreement for Stonegate, a twelve-home development near the back gate. The agreement was completed in January 2011, subject to approval of a final plat by Moore County and the Board.

As planned, the homes
(See "Stonegate," p. 14)

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Aaron Spence named new MCS Superintendent

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

After months of research and interviews with twenty-six candidates, the Moore County Board of Education unanimously appointed Dr. Aaron Spence as the next superintendent of the Moore County Schools [MCS] during a special meeting held on Tuesday, December 21.

Spence will relocate to Moore County, with his wife and five children, from Houston, TX, where he currently serves as the Chief High School Officer for the Houston Independent School District. He will begin his duties in Moore County on February 6.

MCS Finance Director Mike Griffin will serve as Interim Superintendent from January 1 through February 6.

The newly appointed Superintendent brings to his new post a broad background as a school teacher, high school principal, chief academic officer, and director of curriculum and instruction.

"One of the things that drew me to Moore County was your commitment to excellence," Spence told the Board during Tuesday's meeting, "and it comes through in both the way you talk about students and the way you talk about the district. But, also, it comes through when you look at the comprehensive plan — when you look at this journey to greatness that you have undertaken with Dr. Purser and this team."

"I am excited about continuing this work . . . we will continue this journey to greatness."

When out and about in the county, Spence said, he hears "wonderful things" about Moore County schools.

"I hear we have incredible, wonderful students. I hear

we have a supportive and engaged community, and that our parents are very supportive of the schools. And the thing I think I like the most is I hear about the



Dr. Aaron Spence

incredible teachers and the amazing staff and the wonderful principals."

Former School Board Chair Laura Lang, who led the superintendent search, said she was "very excited on behalf of the Board for a smooth, well planned, and successful search process."

She thanked everyone —

from MCS staff to members of the wider community — who filled out a survey or gave input on selecting a new superintendent. "It's so much easier to make a decision this big with a lot of input," Lang said, "and we really appreciate the input that we got to make a more informed choice."

Current Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser, who will retire at the end of the year, had high praise for Spence.

"I have gone many times by my gut in making decisions about people," Purser said. "I know why the board selected Aaron to be the next Superintendent. He is a man of quality. He is a man of commitment. He is a man who believes in the work that serves children. I think he is going to be an outstanding match for Moore County Schools."

"Today is a happy, sad day," School Board Chair Kathy Farren said, concluding Tuesday's meeting. "We are so happy to have you [Dr. Spence] but sad that we know it brings us one day closer to you [Dr. Purser] leaving."

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In memory of . . .

Ruth Ann Dworak, age 70, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, December 17 at Peak Resources-Pinelake in Carthage.

She was born in Newark, NJ, daughter of William Crozier and Jenni Elizabeth Bryant. She was a medical assistant and a caregiver.

Mrs. Dworak is survived by her husband, Walter B. Dworak of Seven Lakes; her mother, Jennie Elizabeth Bryant of Aberdeen; daughter, Kathy Norton of Laury Station, PA; sons: Walter Dworak of Newport Richey, FL; and Richard Dworak of New Jersey; a brother, Bill Crozier of Tennessee; two sisters: Hazel Sandquist of Colonial, NJ and Barbara Stapoto of Thomasville, NJ; and seven grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, December 21, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. The Rev. Edward J. Burch officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Charlie William Mahin, Jr., 79, of Seven Lakes, died on Wednesday, December 14, at FirstHealth Hospice House.

He was born in Stockton,

CA, son of the late Charles William Mahin, Sr. and Dorris Hedgepath Mahin. He was a United States Air Force veteran and retired with 22 years of service. He was a member of the Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes. Mr. Mahin was a past director of the United Conference of Welfare Fraud; and also had service with the California Police Officers Association and the California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers: Frank Williams, Michael Mahin, and Mel Williams.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Mahin of Seven Lakes;

daughter, Mary Rollins of Handford, CA; son, Bob Mahin of Delhi, CA; brother, Pat Mahin of Teton Village, WY; stepdaughter, Sherry Keck of Sherrills Ford, NC; stepson, Jackie Sealey of Charlotte, NC; his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Saturday, December 17, at Seven Lakes Cemetery, Seven Lakes, with Rev. Don Welch and Rev. Fran Stark officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or to the Chapel in the Pines, 2215 Seven Lakes South, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Frank Michael (Mac) McKenna, age 88, of Seven Lakes, formerly of Freeport, New York, died Saturday, December 10.

Mr. McKenna was the former owner of McKenna Electric and an Electrical Contractor. He had volunteered with the Volunteer Freeport Fire Department, Emergency Department and was most recently a volunteer with the Oncology Department of FirstHealth Memorial Hospital.

Memorial services were held at Chapel in the Pines in

Seven Lakes, Thursday, December 15, with final resting at Arlington Memorial Cemetery at a later date.

Survivors include his wife Cynthia (Scotty) McKenna; his children Frank McKenna, Karen Wiedmer, Pamela Rabstejnek and his grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in memory of Frank McKenna to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374 or the Disabled Veterans Association, PO Box 1881, Carthage, NC 28327.

Boles Funeral Homes of Seven Lakes assisted the family.



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Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Friday starting January. 6, from 8:30 – 9:30 am, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will be teaching. This is a Free class. Questions: call the church at 673-4656. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Sophisticated Ladies entertain countywide

The Sophisticated Ladies dance group performed special Christmas dance programs for over a dozen retirement homes throughout Moore County, as well as at the Pinehurst Tree Lighting, the Festival of the Trees, and

a local company's Christmas Dinner at the Fair Barn, attended by more than 200 people.

Traditional Christmas tunes included were "Toy Soldier," "Sleigh Ride," "It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas,"

and "Frosty."

The group is patterned after the New York City Rockettes and is available to perform at retirement homes, charity benefits, birthday parties, and civic events.

For more information about

the group, call Managers Sherry Wood, (420-2650) or Angie VonCanon (638-4070).

Pictured below are The Sophisticated Ladies, including: (kneeling left to right): Angie VonCanon, Lois Owen, Madeline McGugan, and Jo Ann Duncan. Standing: Ann Kastl, Jonnie Ryon, Carol Collins, Betty Yount, Marilyn

Dotto, Angie Huber, Jan Carey, and Marlene Leonard.

Not available for photo: JoAnn Olson (Director), Pauline Bruno, Sherry Wood, and Beverly Wetherbie.

Three of the dancers — Lois Owen, Angie Huber, and Marilyn Dotto — are Seven Lakes area residents.



Join the band!

The New Horizons Band is holding an "Information Day For New Members" on Tuesday, January 3, at 3:30, at Sandhills Community College.

If you have ever played a wind or percussion musical instrument in high school or college and would like to play again, this is your opportunity.

Also, if you have never played a wind or percussion instrument and would like to learn and fulfill your dreams, this is your chance. Come on out to the meeting and hear what this band is all about. You may like what you hear.

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Board approves rezoning

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A general use rezoning request for a 3.5 acre parcel located on U.S. Hwy 1, near Southern Pines, was approved on a split vote of the Moore County Planning Board during its meeting on Thursday, December 8.

The request had been tabled in November following a barrage of questions, for which Planning Board Chair Robert Hayter personally apologized.

"I take responsibility for the less than effective leadership from the Board," he said, in reopening the Public Hearing for the request. "We have heard so many conditional use hearings over the last few months, that we did not conduct ourselves appropriately for a general use rezoning."

A broader request, general use zoning allows for any uses included in the County's approved Table of Uses, thus several questions levied during the November meeting were later deemed inappropriate.

As approved, a portion of the 3.5 tract will be rezoned from Rural Agricultural RA-20 to Highway Commercial B-2.

Back to school

In light of the missteps taken during the general use zoning request, Hayter said Debra Ensminger, Moore County's Planning & Community Development Director, had suggested a series of sessions that could be scheduled during monthly meetings, when the agenda is otherwise limited.

"These would be topics that, procedurally, would benefit the Planning Board," explained Hayter. "I am looking for suggestions of what you want to learn, so the staff can be prepared, and get us better prepared to do our job."

(See "Planning," p. 11)



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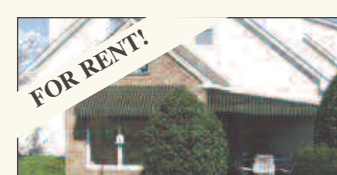
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'The Links' entertain Women of Seven Lakes

Egg Nog Jog Winner



Weston Thomson of Seven Lakes West finished first in his age bracket in the Egg Nog Jog on December 3. This event was part of the 5th Annual Reindeer Fun Run that raises money for the Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills.

In keeping with their "Tis the Season" theme, the Women of Seven Lakes were entertained by The Links quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus at their December 1, meeting.

This delightful quartet sang a wonderful variety of holiday music interspersed with traditional barber shop quartet numbers.

Afterwards, members enjoyed wine punches, home-

made chocolates and snacks.

Members generously contributed to the Women of Seven Lake's gathering of toys and funds that were donated to Brenda Burt of GodSent Angels Mission in West End. She is partnering with Bill Smith Ford and Earl the Bicycle Man, this season to bring Christmas joy to those in need in Moore County area.

Women of Seven Lakes

meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 2 pm, September through May, at the SL North Side Clubhouse or the SL West Side Park Community Center. Dress is casual and visitors are always welcome.

Below, Bob Tweed (bass); Joan Matula, WSL VP for Programs; Ron Sickenberger (lead); Lana Schempp, WSL President; Juan Russ (tenor); and Larry Harter (baritone)



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**Closing Subject to Game Time*

FCIG Food Drive nets more than 12,000 cans

by **Stsacy Naughton**
Times Reporter

In its first year, the 5+5=5,000 Food Drive held by First Casualty Insurance Group [FCIG] donated 12,134 cans of food to five local charities: Sandhills Food Bank, Backpack Pals, Moore Humane Society, Animal Advocates, and Sandhills Animal Rescue.

At the beginning of the drive, FCIG owners and Seven Lakes West residents Gary and Ann Kunce offered to match every can of food donated, up to 2,500 cans.

But the overwhelming response to the drive brought in 6,064 cans of donated food for people and pets, and the FCIG will match that can for can.

Making it a community effort was key from the beginning of the food drive, Gary Kunce told *The Times*. With the help of FCIG agents Kim

Kelley and Jill Edwards, a number of Moore County Schools participated, generating large donations. Pinecrest High School donated 3,300 cans, Carthage Elementary donated 1,240 cans, and Vass Lakeview donated 170 cans from their own food

drives in order to take advantage of the match from FCIG.

FCIG singled out Pinecrest teacher Dedra Waller's class for praise for an outstanding effort, bringing in 885 cans of food.

Many businesses and churches also participated

in the drive, including Moore's Appliances, Janet Dustin from Keller Williams, Pinecrest Lawn and Tennis Club, Estate Builders, Carthage First Presbyterian Church, and Pinetree Animal Hospital.

Moore's Appliances alone donated enough food to fill up to 400 back packs for children in the Moore County Backpack Pals Program.

Many individuals participated by dropping off cans of food at FCIG's offices in Southern Pines.

The success of this inaugural drive has the Kunces already planning to repeat the event next year.

"As successful as it was this year," said Gary Kunce, "I think we are going to try and do it again."



FCIG staff and food drive recipients celebrate the great response to the 5+5=5,000 Food Drive.

Planning

(Continued from page 9)

Hayter thanked Ensminger for her professionalism and for offering the training opportunity.

Other business

In other business during the Thursday, December 8 meeting, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Reviewed the final two articles of the proposed Unified Development Ordinance, which included a Table of Uses and word interpretations and definitions.
- Heard the Board of County Commissioners tabled the proposed Working Lands Protection Plan and requested Planning staff seek out and continue to work on resolving concerns voiced by area farmers.
- Heard that the Board of Adjustment upheld the zoning permit issued to the Seven Lakes Aeromodellers Club. That permit was challenged last Summer by the owner of an undeveloped property adjacent to the Club's leased land in West End.

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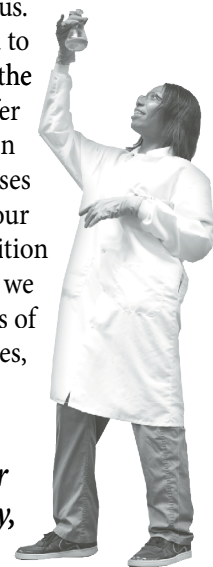
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SLLA hosts Mingle & Jingle holiday event

With Santa arriving to an excited group of children and their parents, Seven Lakes families enjoyed the first "Mingle & Jingle" event. Children of all ages enjoyed playing games and eating the treats that were provided, the adults were invited to sit, relax and enjoy an afternoon of food, drink and friendly conversation.

The events were interrupted briefly for the awarding of door prizes donated by local merchants. Sandhills Winery provided a gift of three bottles of Champagne, Italian Table Restaurant gave a gift certificate for lunch or dinner, Blush Salon donated a wash, cut and blow dry, Davenport Landscaping donated a half dozen poinsettias and Seven Lakes Country Club provided a round of golf for four.

A special thanks goes to Tim Burgess for making sure Santa Claus was able to participate in the festivities, and to Monica Keating, Director

of Activities, and the residents of Sandhills Memory Care for making and donating the table center pieces.

Thanks also to the Women of Seven Lakes for the significant donation towards party expenses and for dec-

orating the North Clubhouse and the Community Christmas tree.

The event was put together by the efforts of the recreation committee: Bob Racine, Laura Douglass, Joyce Keller, Barbara Keating, Kurt

Kreuger, Jackie Wells, and Alina Cochran.

Special thanks to youth volunteers: Caroline, Maddie, and Thomas Anderson; Johnny and Annelise and Chris Siebel; Abby Keller; Mary Kate DeVane; and Lindsay Douglass.

Plans are already underway to make this event even more exciting for all next holiday season.



Santa Claus had the full attention of the younger set at the SLLA's Mingle & Jingle event.

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Piranhas make their debut at Cary meet

Pinehurst Area Swim Team (PAST) competed in their first official USA Swimming Swim meet on December 10 and 11 in Cary.

This was an invitational meet with fourteen other teams from across North Carolina competing at the Triangle Aquatic Center. Although this was a very

competitive swim meet, the Piranhas held their heads high, swam hard and established newly individual best times. Most of all they had fun as a team. With these

best times the team will work hard in practice to improve and establish new goals.

They are looking forward to their next meet in Greensboro January 6 and 7.

The Piranhas hold swim practice at the Seven Lakes Health & Fitness center at Seven Lakes North. They currently have 18 swimmers. Anyone can join starting at 6 years old up to 18 years

old. This is a year round swim team that focuses heavily on the swimmers development of each stroke, turn, dive and everything in between with a little yardage thrown in.

If anyone would like information about joining the Piranhas or becoming a sponsor, email Coach Bryan at pastswimming@gmail.com

Novelist to teach at Sandhills



Patricia Hickman

Southern Novelist Patricia Hickman will be teaching Creative Writing at Sandhills Community College beginning January 9.

Hickman is currently writing her eighteenth book, a novel set in the Pinehurst area in the 60s. Spring semester begins on January 9. New curriculum students are encouraged to apply, order transcripts, take assessments and meet with a pre-advisor on or prior to January 3.

Class registration for current, returning and new students will be on January 5. Inquiries can be made to 910-695-3725.



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Stonegate

(Continued from page 5)

would be a minimum of 2,000 square feet and designed to be attractive to retirees looking for a smaller, high-quality, maintenance-free home. Over the last few years, in various discussions related to this project, the estimated price for homes in Stonegate has ranged from \$275,000 to \$400,000.

"When he [developer Myers] talks about marketing, he is talking about a widow or widower who doesn't want a large home," Infrastructure John Goodman explained. "A number smaller than 2,000 square feet may make sense In my opinion, you can build a very nice home at a smaller square footage. This was designed and annexed as a downsizing opportunity mainly for people already in our community. That is the reason it was approved, because it did offer that."

Director Wimberly agreed, describing the conceptual plans for Stonegate as "absolutely fantastic" with proposed homes in the Craftsman style.

"What is getting lost in this discussion right now, is that we are now looking at it after the fact," said Wimberly. "The community had a choice a long time ago whether or not to do these annexations. This is the tail end of a very long process. It is irresponsible to think the nine of us [Board of Directors] would want to do anything but to increase our property values."

Director Don Freiert explained the developer's request for the variance was partly based on limitations at the site that could force construction of two-story homes in order to meet the 2,000 square foot requirement.

"When people are looking to downsize, they don't want a second story; they want one-story convenience," he said.

Freiert also reminded the assembled crowd that all ARC rules on permitted construction materials would still apply.

"The presumption that, at

1,600 square feet, you will end up with crappy, tract housing is wrong," Freiert argued. "There are rules in this community about what can be used. Simply setting a 1,600 minimum does not establish an expectation that the development will draw down people's [property] values."

Former SLWLA President Ron Shepard said that discussion of Stonegate dates back at least four years.

"There was a long process with annexation that went back and forth," Shepard explained. "The developer is a legitimate businessman and a nice person besides. He made a presentation to the community on what he plans to do. The final annexation was done with 2,000 square foot homes that are absolutely beautiful. The only variance, early in the process, was the setback between homes. What has come up now must be a change in heart from someone over there to decrease the size so he can sell more or sell them for less money."

Director Jack Stevens said his understanding of the developer's intention was to increase space between the houses by pulling them back from the street to make them more attractive and appealing.

Strong opposition to requested variance

Ray Sibiga said he was one of two ARC members to

oppose the decision when the variance request was first heard — and that he sent out an email describing what had occurred, because he felt it was an item of significant interest and the community should have input.

Sibiga said he was concerned the approved variance would be setting a precedent for future developers, and explained he was upset that the request had not been included in the ARC meeting agenda. Instead, he said, the request was thrust on the committee for a snap decision.

Many other residents shared their concerns with the Board, the vast majority expressing opposition to the granting of the variance.

Former Director Betty Milligan recalled that the original annexation agreement was set at 2,000 square feet to protect the community.

"We have houses from 11,000 square feet on down," Milligan said. "When you put a 1,600 square foot house up against the majority of homes in here, you are talking about downgrading the community. Developers are in the business of making money and developing properties. They are not concerned about what the community will look like [in the long range future] and what will happen to property owners."

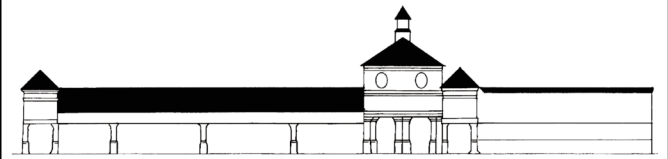
"To downsize doesn't mean that people [already] in here will be buying. Anybody can buy into those houses and

have all these wonderful amenities," she cautioned.

Resident Bernadette York said that, in her experience

as a real estate professional, homes under 2,000 square feet are typically not of the

(See "Stonegate," p. 15)



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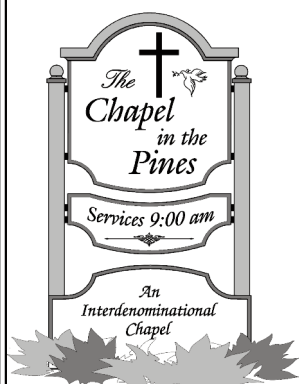
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Stonegate

(Continued from page 14)

same calibre as larger homes. "Square footage determines value — taxation wise and in all other parameters," York said.

Director Jim Ferguson countered that upgraded interior finishes and appliances will add value — no matter the overall size of the home.

"There are plus and minus factors," Ferguson said. "You just can't judge a book by its cover."

Director Wimberly also pointed out the proposed development is not so different from the smaller, clustered homes of The Pinnacles. However, York argued that was a different situation, as those homes are mostly hidden, unlike the Stonegate property, which is adjacent to the back gate.

"They [Pinnacles] are not obtrusive," she said. "You can't see it or walk to it."

Walking — or rather a walking trail — was another sore point in discussion, as many residents questioned whether the variance had been granted based on a quid pro quo agreement for an easement located at Colton's Corner, a related development also located near the back gate.

Addressing the Board, Bob Keiling said the email that kicked off the controversy had suggested the walking path and variance were related.

"Let's get the facts straight and information on table before we go any further," he recommended.

President Herdrich said there was no quid pro quo, and both he and Director Wimberly noted that the proposed walking path easement has been an ongoing topic of discussion since long before the Stonegate variance request.

"We made it very clear that quid pro quo is not allowed, and the developer understands this," added Director Freiert.

Addressing the other supposed goals of the developer's variance request, another resident suggested that reducing the total number

of proposed homes — rather than reducing the size of each home — would allow for additional space between homes and also avoid any problems with impervious soils.

Resident Kathy Bergquist noted that the Board was

actively taking steps to increase property values on a number of fronts — such as developing standards to improve procedures for Open House events — yet, were considering reducing requirements somewhere else.

Resident Roger Brooke also

spoke in opposition to the reduction, arguing the Board should be raising the standards of the community, not lowering them.

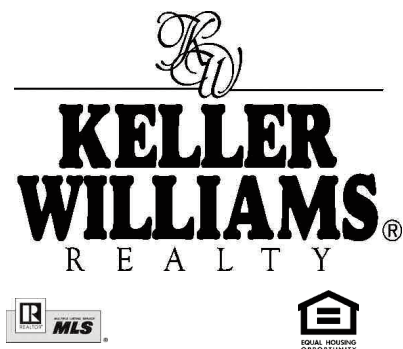
An abundance of ridiculousness

Beyond the variance

request itself, Board members during Tuesday's Work Session expressed consternation about communication on the issue — or the lack thereof.

"There has been an abundance of ridiculousness," said Director Adam Wimberly.

(See "Stonegate," p. 16)



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123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW



AMAZING WATERFRONT - \$750,000

221 LONGLEAF • 7LW



4BR+BONUS, OPEN LAYOUT - \$275,000

104 BIRCHWOOD CT • 7LN



3 BED PLUS DEN! PRICED TO SELL! \$125,000

168 SIMMONS DR • LAKE AUMAN



3 BR, ALL BRICK, NEW KITCHEN - \$684,000

230 FINCH GATE • 7LW



GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! - \$330,000

108 SMATHERS • 7LW



CLOSE TO MARINA! MANY UPGRADES! \$300,000

120 FOREST SQ CIR • 7LW



315 FT. GOLF FRONT - \$339,000

105 DOUGLAS DR • 7LW



3BR+BONUS, DBL LOT \$275,000

148 MORRIS DRIVE • 7LW



POOL!

3BR+2 BONUS RMS • \$342,000

110 DORSET DR • 7LS



STORAGE GALORE! - \$182,500

251 FIRETREE • 7LN



2500 SQ FT, MANY UPGRADES - \$190,000

Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 3)

want a house next to you with six vehicles in the driveway coming and going?"

After going around the table for comment, the Council tacitly approved the proposed amended language and scheduled a Public Hearing for January 10 at 7:00 pm.

Zoning Ordinance Update?

Continuing discussion the Zoning Ordinance, McCue reported that, after a careful review of the existing document, Attorney Michael Brough recommended the Council consider a complete rewrite.

"There will be costs; but, in some ways, it costs the Village every time we have

issues with the Zoning Ordinance," McCue said, noting that has been a relatively frequent occurrence in the last few years.

Frusco agreed with the recommendation, but questioned whether a total reworking of the document was necessary or if the problem areas could be resolved individually.

"Ordinances are not static: life changes, the world changes," she said. "The Council that put these ordinances together were in a different place and time from the Council today, to the Council in twenty years. But we need to keep in mind it will be a very large bill to rewrite, and then a large bill to re-codify and put it back together in an ordinance book."

Woodland Circle property

Sandhills Area Land Trust has no interest in the 160 acre Village-owned property at Woodland Circle, reported McCue.

He explained the tract — which includes some designated wetlands — does not meet the organization's requirement for grant funding because it is not riparian

land. The Nature Conservancy also passed on the property interest because the tract is not contiguous with other area preserves.

However, McCue noted that Sandhills Area Land Trust did recommend that the Village consider retaining some or all of the land for future use.

"We may have an opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade," said McCue, suggesting that a quick sale of the lots fronting Woodland Circle could be possible while maintaining the back portion as a green space.

Finance

Ad valorem property taxes are due on or before January 6, Finance Director Frusco cautioned residents. To date, sixty percent of budgeted taxes have been collected and reminder notices will be sent at the end of the year, as appropriate.

The General Fund balance was reported at \$891,185, including \$104,419 set aside in restricted funds. The Water Fund balance stood at \$290,430. In addition, \$135,589 is held in restricted escrow funds for a new well.

Annual loan payments paid in July included \$26,966 from the General Fund toward the Village Green Park, and \$41,145 from the Water Fund for new wells and lines. An interest-only loan payment due in April 2012 for the Woodland Circle extension project includes \$75,811 from the General Fund and \$5,357 from the Water Fund.

Foxfire Village received a favorable opinion on the annual audit, Frusco said, and thanked Deputy Finance Officer Sharon Sanchez for her assistance.

"I want to extend a tremendous amount of gratitude to Sharon for all the work she did in preparation for the audit," said Frusco. "Even with a new auditor, it was exceptionally smooth and the

Village received several positive comments about the way we conduct things."

A complete pdf copy of the audit report is available online and may be downloaded from the Village website.

Budget amendment

Several years ago, a Village employee voluntarily resigned and accepted a job elsewhere — and shortly thereafter was laid off.

Frusco explained that Foxfire was included in the unemployment insurance filing of a four quarter "look back period" and — as a reimbursable employer — is now on the hook to pay a portion of those costs.

"This was not a budgeted item, but it is a bill we have to pay," Frusco said, recom-

(See "Foxfire," p. 17)

Stonegate

(Continued from page 15)

"Communication is a two-way street, and we have to be responsible on both sides."

"There are a lot of wrong emails that went out," he continued. "Some people should have known better because some of these bordered on the ridiculous," he said.

"We have a responsibility to increase our communication with the community, but the community has a responsibility to discuss things with us in a reasonable way. We are taking hits for things we haven't done, for things we haven't considered!"

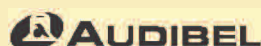
Director Jane Sessler agreed and said that transparency is a non-issue, specifically expressing disappointment that the initial email did not mention that the Board had, in fact, responded when the concern was first raised.

Herdich said that, while ARC has the authority to approve variances, it will be the practice of the Board to review those decisions. He explained that ARC meetings are open meetings. Any resident wishing to address the committee should contact Community Manager Frost so their name can be placed on the meeting agenda.



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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 16)

mending an approved motion to transfer \$8,800 from the fund balance to unemployment insurance.

Public Safety

The Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing an exchange of property with K2 Solutions, trading an unused police vehicle for a trained K9 officer.

Specifically, the exchange includes a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria purchased new in 2002 for \$20,708 for a young dog valued at approximately \$15,000.

"This is a great deal we've gotten here," said McCue.

Foxfire Police Department currently has K9 Officer "Ruger" on duty, but the dog is nearing the end of his anticipated working career and has suffered leg injuries

this year.

PARTF

Rejected for a sixth straight year by the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund [PARTF], the Village will not be resubmitting a grant request proposal for improvements to the community pool and park areas, Mayor Erickson said.

"I anticipate this is the end for the near future," he said. "I do hope to see future improvements one way or another," he said, noting the Village's most recent request was ranked fifteenth in the State by the PARTF Board.

Meeting scheduling

Beginning in January 2012, all future Foxfire Village Council meetings will commence at 7:00 pm.

There was little discussion

on the proposed change, which was unanimously approved.

Upcoming meetings include a Public Hearing and meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm, and a work session on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm. In addition, the Foxfire Village Council will convene for an annual retreat on January 26 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Belle Meade.

Other business

In other business during the Tuesday, December 13, meeting of the Foxfire Village Council:

- Mayor Erickson thanked Police Chief Mike Campbell and retired Major General Don Strait, a resident of Foxfire, for taking part in the funeral and speaking to the media following the tragic death of Moore Coun-

ty Deputy Rick Rhyne. "They both did an excellent job and reflected well on our small community," said Erickson.

- Councilman McCue reported the Long Range Plan Committee's final draft of survey results will be distributed in January and posted to the community website.
- By a vote of acclamation, Mayor Erickson was reappointed to serve as delegate to the Triangle J Council of Governments, and McCue was appointed as alternate.
- Responding to a resident's report of soliciting in the Village, Erickson said the Council last considered drafting an ordinance prohibiting such activity in March 2010, though no action was taken at that

time. Village Clerk Lisa Kivett determined that the Village of Pinehurst has the most comprehensive policy and distributed a proposed permit application for soliciting, for Council review.

- Councilman Steven Durham reported he met with Ed Lauer and John Sedlak of Foxfire Water for orientation sessions. "It is clear to me that I have a lot to learn," he said.
- Councilman Eltschlager reported that contractor Gilbert Brown is working on various drainage issues, identifying and prioritizing projects.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- **Sunflix at Sunrise** – *Annual Free Christmas Movie! The Polar Express* at 6:30 pm. This is the story of a young hero boy on Christmas Eve who boards on a powerful magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home. He embarks on a journey of self-discovery which shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

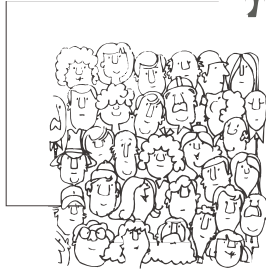
- **Christmas Eve**
- **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines** – 5 pm, Christmas Eve Service. All are welcome.
- **Christmas Eve Service at West End United Methodist Church** – 8 pm, Come and experience the mystery of incarnation with us at West End United Methodist Church. Holy Communion will be served. Please join the church as everyone prepares for the birth of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9 pm, Christmas Eve Service. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- **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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 am-3 pm, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Conference Center, Hwy 211 at Page Rd. For an appt. – call 715-1478, Pinehurst. For eligibility questions, donor counselor at 866-236-3276.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

- **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.
- **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
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *My Week with Marilyn*, 7:30 pm, Rated R for some sexuality. In the early summer

of 1956, 23 year-old Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), just down from Oxford and determined to make his way in the film business, worked as a lowly assistant on the set of 'The Prince and the Showgirl.' The film that famously united Sir

Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) and Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams), who was also on honeymoon with her new husband, the playwright Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott). Nearly 40 years on, his diary account *The Prince, the Showgirl and Me* was published, but one week was missing and this was published some years later as *My Week with Marilyn* - this is the story of that week. When Arthur Miller leaves England, the coast is clear for Colin to introduce Marilyn to some of the pleasures of British life; an idyllic week in which he escorted

a Monroe desperate to get away from her retinue of Hollywood hangers-on and the pressures of work. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *John Cowan* 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.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *My Week with Marilyn*, 7:30 pm, Rated R for some sexuality. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- **New Year's Eve**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *My Week with Marilyn*, 2:30 and 7:30 pm, Rated R for some sexuality. Sunrise

Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Turkey Shoot** – Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) now through February 25, 2012. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or \$\$\$\$\$. All proceeds will benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm is located is at 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. For more details, call 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.
- **Tommy Edwards and the Bluegrass Experience** – at 8 pm. The Bluegrass Experience has been a vital force in the North Carolina/Southeastern Bluegrass scene for over 30 years. Members have worked or recorded with some of the greats of the genre including: Bill Monroe, Chubby Wise, Bobby Hicks, Jimmy Mills, Roland White, Wilma Lee Cooper, Gene Wooten and many

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others. Tickets: \$15 Box Office 919.774.4155 or www.templeshows.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

- **New Year's Day**
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Weymouth Woods New Year's Day Old Growth Hike** – 10 am and 2 pm, Rain or Shine. Meet at Weymouth Woods Visitor Center. (car pool to Boyd Round Timber Tract-4 miles). Weymouth Woods Old Growth Hike. Celebrate the New Year with Weymouth and explore the old growth longleaf pine forest at the Boyd Round Timber Tract. 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Car pool to the Boyd Round Timber Tract (4 miles). Hike will be approximately two hours. Contact the park office at 910-692-2167 to register..
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *My Week with Marilyn*, 2:30 and 7:30 pm, Rated R for some sexuality. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

- **New Year's (Observed)**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *My Week with Marilyn*, 7:30 pm, Rated R for some sexuality. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

- **Metropolitan Opera at the Sunrise** – Handel's Rodelinda Encore, 12:30 pm to 4:45 pm. (Two intermissions) Individual tickets \$25. Good seats available. Sensational in the 2004

Met premiere of Stephen Wadsworth's much-heralded production, Renée Fleming reprises the title role. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

- **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,
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, at West Side Park Community Center. The program will feature Bob Baillie and his Bernese Mountain guide dog, Devon. Baillie and his wife Elaine founded the MIRA Foundation USA in 2009. MIRA is the only organization in the United States dedicated to providing guide dogs to blind children and youth between the ages of 11-17. Join the Women of Seven Lakes for this informative speaker. Refreshments. All are welcome.
- **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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

- **Turkey Shoot** – Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) now through February 25. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or \$\$\$. All proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm is located is at 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. For more details, call 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

- **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.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **English Speaking Union (ESU)** – 5:30 – 7 pm, English Speaking Union (ESU) mid-winter wine tasting

party at the Sandhills Winery in Seven Lakes located at 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. The event is being held to provide information about membership in the local ESU chapter and its mission to support the Moore County Schools.

- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7:00 pm, meeting. At Foxfire Village Hall. Open to community and public.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **George Poteat to Speak at ESU Meeting** – The English Speaking Union will host – George Poteat on the subject "Southeast Asia Forty Years after the Viet Nam War." Cocktails 6 pm, dinner served at 7

pm. English Speaking Union dinners are held at the Country Club of North Carolina. For more information, contact Martha O'Connor at (910) 235-0635.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

- **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

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SLLA work session

(Continued from front page)

Seven Lakes Country Club [and its former Board President].

Neither Director Andy Lowe nor Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. submitted their names to the nominating committee in order to run for re-election to their seats.

Any member of the Association in good standing may still have their name placed on the Annual Meeting ballot by submitting a petition signed by fifty residents in good standing to the Board during the January Open Meeting.

A micro-managing board?

Challenging the lengthy "to do" list undertaken by this year's Directors, former Director Donna Stephan scolded the Board that they had taken on too much.

"What you are doing is magnificent, but you are doing more than you should," she cautioned, during the December 14 meeting.

Stephan recalled how the number of committees has grown steadily and that — due to previous incidents and concerns — it became practice for each committee to be overseen by a director. But oversight is evolving into micromanagement, she argued.

"I am not stamping on Alina's feet, but Talis is here, and they are our manager," she said, referring to Community Manager Alina Cochran of Talis Management.

In particular, Stephan expressed concern that the

Board is overworked, and said it was no wonder they were finding it difficult to find candidates for next year's election.

"To ask people to run for the Board, when they know what they are walking into, is not going to be easy," she said.

Responding to her comments, Director Bud Shaver agreed the Board had a full plate, but said each task was necessary.

"The Board is overworked because we are dealing with skeletons coming out of the ground," he argued. "We are dealing with above and beyond what a Board would normally deal with. We have worked hard, but it had to be done," he argued.

SLLA President Bob Darr echoed those sentiments.

"We're dealing with what we consider to be major issues that weren't taken care of the past," Darr said. "That is not a criticism. It is just what we [Board] feel needs to be done."

And the work load is leveling off, Darr explained, noting that much has been accomplished in the last six months. Darr added that he hopes the near future will bring an expanded use of committees — specifically for communications and beautification — and additional volunteers will encourage a broader distribution of tasks.

Membership & Voting Amendments

Clearing the final hurdle to streamline and improve voting procedures before the

next election, the Board approved several amendments to the rules related to how members are defined, how many votes each member is eligible to cast, and who will — in fact — count those ballots.

With little discussion except some confusion over a procedural question on a motion, the Board clarified the definition of a member as a single entity with the right to cast one vote. And rather than a committee appointed annually for the express purpose of counting ballots, the Judicial Committee will assume that responsibility.

Also approved were amendments that clarified how a quorum is determined and established a set of procedures to follow in the event of a tie for the last open seat on the Board.

Santa Claus came to town

Director Bob Racine thanked the Recreation Committee for their efforts to reinvigorate the annual Christmas party for a much broader appeal.

The "Jolly Old Elf" himself stopped by the SLLA Christmas Mingle & Jingle on Sunday, December 11, arriving in style on a festively decorated golf cart. The afternoon event also featured plentiful treats, good company for the adults, and supervised crafts and games for children. [See page 12 for story.]

SLLA President Darr also congratulated the committee: "It was a really nice party, and I thought it was just terrific!"

Director Racine noted that the Recreation Committee is actively seeking new members and would like to expand the program's offerings. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 4 at 9:30 am.

Lakes and Dams

The Association has been notified by the State of North Carolina that repairs will be required at Little Juniper Dam, Cochran reported to

the Board.

"The Association has known for years that there is an erosion concern," she said, "and engineers are working on a design for those repairs."

There was no further discussion of an anticipated timeline or costs of that work.

Three new members have joined the Lakes & Dams Committee, reported Director Don Fentzlauff. But he is still

(See "SLLA," p. 21)



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173 Cardinal Dr
Seven Lakes North – Lot 725
Great home with lots of extras. Over 1/2 acre lot with vacant land to left for privacy and nice wooded view from the screen porch. MLS#: 146094
Call Pete Garner . . . \$186,500

139 Beacon Ridge Drive, Lot 6044, Seven Lakes West
Prime Golf Front Lot on Beacon Ridge 9th Fairway. Flat lot sits above road level. Walking distance to Club House, Tennis Courts and Club Pool.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$44,000

128 Vanore Road, SL West – Lot 4207 Sec. Blackwood
Large sloping timbered lot. Good view of Lake Auman across the street. Lot near front gate entrance.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$59,000

102 Donnell Pt – Lot 4283, Seven Lakes
Large corner lot at Dennis and Donnell Pt with large water views.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$62,500

111 Dubose Drive Seven Lakes West, Lot 5161 Westwood Sec
Wonderful building lot on cul-de-sac surrounded by beautiful homes. Lot slopes away from the street lending itself to a walk-out lower level.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$34,000

124 Vanore Rd – Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West
Across the street from the lake. Deep lot with a slope towards the road. Many nice trees. Lot has been peaked.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$42,000

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

115 James Drive, Seven Lakes West
Wonderful wooded building lot
Call Ann Benton . . . \$42,000

147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173
Good building lot across the street from Lake Auman. Located near the recreation facilities and the main gate.
Call Pete Garner . . . \$27,500

122 Lawrence Overlook - Seven Lakes West Lot 4188
Wonderful homesite with great views of Lake Auman. Lot sits high above road on cul-de-sac street surrounded by beautiful homes. Close to front gate and community center.
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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 20)

looking for more help: specifically, volunteers who are lakefront property owners on Lakes Echo, Big Juniper, Longleaf, Ramapo, and Dogwood.

"We need someone from each lake in the community to help us keep a close eye on things," Fentzlauff explained.

He said the Lakes & Dams Committee is developing a plan for maintaining water levels evenly across the community.

"Unfortunately, there are not enough springs to maintain all the lakes [at full level]," he said. "You wouldn't believe how much disappears every day due to evaporation."

That problem, he explained, is compounded by lack of rain, as Moore County — and particularly the Seven Lakes area — has experienced a prolonged drought period in the last few years.

Darr said the existing water line configuration is likely to restrict the movement of water from lake to lake.

"It will not be equitable, but we'll try to do the best we can," said Fentzlauff.

Finance

Due to the tighter scheduling of meetings in December, monthly financial statements will be emailed out to members; and, SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer explained, will include the new report format implemented in November.

The Finance Committee will also review the recently completed annual audit report.

Meyer said the ad hoc committee reviewing the annual registration and billing processes continues to make good progress. The target completion date to have all member information in the database is December 31.

Security

The transition from SFI to new security contractor, The Budd Group, went smoothly, reported Cochran.

Security Director Andy Lowe said, so far, he is quite

pleased; and Cochran thanked the community for their patience during the training and transition period.

Turning attention to community public restrooms, Lowe said he has requested that Budd personnel lock the Sequoia Point facility each day between 5:00 – 6:00 pm, in an effort to prevent vandalism. Director Racine has voluntarily took on the task of locking and unlocking the facilities at Northside Park on a daily basis.

Lowe reported that cameras are functioning at the Yard Debris Site, and he is able to monitor materials being dropped off by residents and as they are collected for dis-

posal by a contractor.

Reserve Study

Picking up an ongoing discussion on the Reserve Study, Director Shaver again recommended that a study committee should be formed to assess short term goals.

"It really comes down to a matter of what we want to do and whether we can afford it," Shaver said. "There are some things we really need to ask ourselves if we really want it."

Meyer agreed.

"The Reserve Study was done a year and a half ago and it is their [the consulting firm's] idea of what needs to be done," he said. "I don't feel there has been enough

community input to prioritize. And we don't have enough money to do everything."

Surplus and abandoned property

Three boats located at the maintenance area will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner, now that legal documentation has been secured and filed.

Director Lowe reported that he had recently contacted a relative of one of the boat owners and, as a courtesy, offered him a grace period to decide how to handle the abandoned boat.

President Darr noted the Association will also be look-

ing to dispose of a Ford truck.

"We need to set it up in a way so that people who are interested will have an opportunity to bid," he said.

Controlled burn scheduled

Properties located on the perimeter of Seven Lakes North near the maintenance area, and at Seven Lakes South near Carthage Road, have been scheduled for a controlled burn in the next two to three weeks. The burn will be coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service.

Community Manager Alina Cochran said residents may notice some smoke during that period.

(See "SLLA," p. 24)



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OPINION

White, or gloppy, it's still Christmas!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas these days around the Douglass tree, with the sights, smells, and sounds of the season.

Though, with sixty degree temps all week, what it's not looking like is another White Christmas — even the day-late version we got last year.

For me, that frosty timing was just about perfect. You see we, were visiting with Santa Claus and my snow-bird in-laws way down in the Sunshine State. On that most jolly of mornings, the gifts were opened and ribbons and paper were strewn all about. A hardy breakfast was underway, when Darling

Hubby flipped open his laptop computer.

"I just want to see what's going on," he chirped.

Start counting down: ten, nine, eight, seven . . . six seconds later he changed his tune.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

"Pack now! Right now! Snow is coming, lots of it!"

A ridiculous mad scramble

ensued; and, an hour later, we were on our way home to the Sandhills, where we witnessed the first few flakes falling from the sky almost exactly twelve hours later.

This time around, my kids are looking forward to a less

hectic holiday, but I'm not crossing any possible quirks off my list. After all, I have a long and cher-

ished history of oddball Christmas experiences.

Like the year the Advent

wreath caught on fire — that's a good, albeit harrowing, story. Or once, when I was my daughter's age, awaking to Christmas morning in a fleabag hotel somewhere in 'where-the-heck-am-I-a-stan.' That is a great story too, and I still have the hand-knitted stockings my parents filled with oranges and exotic candies for the occasion.

On the other side of the globe, I recall later festivities spent hip deep in snow in the Great White North or baking under the glazed sun of the Golden State.

Maybe it's the Hollywood special effects influence or the sheer fatigue of living the

endless summer, but folks in SoCal go crazy for natural trees dipped in the most unnatural gluey, white glop.

Not that I'm totally opposed to glop, but I figure it's probably best to stick with a more traditional Douglass fir that offers a deep and personal reflection of my life.

You know, a tree trimmed Charlie Brown-style with a lifetime's worth of googly-eyed, bedazzled, and glitter glued homemade ornaments; several enormous pine cones collected from my yard; and one exceptionally well-fed cat that is bound and determined to chase down every...single...blinking...light.

Was Jesus really born on December 25th?

Question: In recent weeks, I have read in newspaper articles and on the Internet that Jesus was not born on December 25, the date on which we celebrate Christmas. Is this true? Or is it another attempt by atheists and secularists to eliminate the celebration of Christmas in our country?

Response: Why do so many people believe that there is some non-Christian conspiracy to destroy Christmas?

Christmas seems as

healthy as ever, and our country is counting on the consumerism it generates to lift us out of the current recession. There are some legitimate protests here and there about Christmas trees and Nativity Scenes on public property that give some the impression that Christianity is the official religion of our country or our state or town.

Look around you. Christmas is everywhere, with Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus, wise men, shepherds, angels, and a star.

Was Jesus born on December 25? Only two Gospels in the bible report anything about the birth of Jesus, and they seem to disagree on the details. Neither gives a hint of the time of year he was born, unless you cannot imagine shepherds on the hillside watching over their sheep in the middle of winter.

Apparently, the first century followers of Jesus did not celebrate Jesus' birth. They were too close to his crucifixion and to close to what they believed would be his imminent return. What we believe to be the earliest of the Gospels, Mark, begins his story of Jesus with his baptism as an adult. Paul, whose letters fill a sizable portion of the Christian New Testament, never mentions any stories of his birth.

We now know that it was not until the second century — or even the third — when some of Christ's followers became concerned about Jesus' birth. It was toward the end of the third century when the Roman emperor introduced a monotheistic

religion to the Empire — the worship of Sol Invictus, the Unconquered Sun. Emperor Aurelian declared the winter solstice, which fell each year on December 25 on the Roman Calendar, a festival day for the new religion.

continued to see himself as the head of the Cult of the Sun worshipers — either in an attempt to unify the Empire or perhaps to make conversion to Christianity easier.

A number of Christians did not accept December 25 and

continue even to this day to celebrate the birth of Jesus on January 6, Epiphany. Some of these folks live on North Carolina's outer banks and celebrate that date as "Old Christmas."

Most of us don't let facts stand in the way of celebrating the birth of Jesus. Personally, I suspend all reason at Christmas and immerse myself in the beauty and meaning of all the myths, old and new.

Merry Christmas!

Don Welch, the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines erite him at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

In 336, the persecuted Roman church proclaimed December 25 as the birthday of Christ, enabling these Christians to celebrate that day unnoticed by their Roman oppressors, who were celebrating their own holiday.

In 325 CE, Emperor Constantine declared December 25 as the birth date of Jesus and proclaimed it a holiday to be celebrated across the Empire. Constantine had recently described a conversion to Christianity, but con-

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Plenty of places to equip the gardener

Christmas is almost here and the weather forecasters tell us favorable weather will grace us over the next few days, but we could experience a few light showers. Everyone is busy cleaning up and decorating, and cooking for a joyful Christmas Day when friends and family get together.

There have been several questions about reliable nursery or garden centers where quality plantings can be obtained. So I will give readers a list of ones that I have found satisfactory.

Cardinal Chemical Company on NC Highway 5 in Aberdeen has all types of plant food [fertilizers], plant pest control chemicals including weed and grass killers, and free advice on usage of many landscape products.

The Log Cabin on NC Highway 211 in West End offers hanging baskets, flowers, seeds, flats of flowers and vegetable plants, and more.

Seven Lakes Hardware sells small seed packets, fertilizers, and vegetable plants in season.

Etheridge Nursery on Hwy 211 between West End and

Pinehurst offers various plants and landscaping products

Aurora Nursery in Pinebluff sells all types of plants and landscape products as well.

Thomas Trucking located at the intersection of Seven Lakes Drive and Carthage Road offers gravel, pine straw, bark and mulch.

Blue Bark and Mulch on NC Highway 211 towards Eagle Springs also offers pine straw, in addition to bark and mulch.

Knat's Creek Nursery in Jackson Springs offers a complete line of plants and trees.

Green Thumb Nursery on old US 220 offers irrigation supplies and installation services, plus plants and trees.

Gulley's Garden Center on Broad Street in Southern Pines offers a diverse inventory of garden supplies and plants.

Dowd's Nursery near Carthage offers plants and trees.

Hughes Irrigation offers a range of supplies on McCaskill Road in Pinehurst. Sandhills Sod Farm on NC Highway 211 near the Mont-

Aberdeen Supply in downtown Aberdeen sells plants, seeds, fertilizers, and other landscape products.

Cameron Nursery located south of the Moore County line on NC Highway 15-501 has a complete line of quality nursery plants.

Sandhills Community College – Landscape and Horticultural Department offers practical training in the science of landscape and gardening.

I have mentioned a few

lawn and garden businesses I have known throughout the years, but there are others that I have not intentionally left out. If I have done so, please accept my apology.

Mary and I are wishing all our friends and readers of the Gardening in the Sandhills a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are especially thankful and appreciative of *The Seven Lakes Times* and staff for their news services to our communities.



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

gomery County border sells grass, seed, and sod.

Carthage Farm Supply on NC Highway 15-501 in Carthage offers many types of plant foods, vegetable plants and seeds, flowers, and gardening supplies.

Walmart in Aberdeen and Biscoe both offer garden tools, flowers, fertilizers, and other landscape items.

Food Lion grocery stores located across the county sell flowers and trees, in season.

Turkey Shoot

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9 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner ♥	10 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Herbed Turkey Dinner	11 Chicken Florentine Soup Pot Roast Dinner	12 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Sesame Salmon Dinner ♥	13 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Vegetable Manicotti Dinner ♥
16 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Italian Meatloaf Dinner	17 Corn Chowder Chicken Paprikash Dinner	18 Butternut Bisque ♥ Pork with Cranberry Merlot Dinner ♥	19 French Onion Soup ♥ Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	20 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Stroganoff Dinner
23 Vegetable Soup ♥ Shepherd's Pie Dinner	24 Goldie's Chili ♥ Chicken Enchiladas Dinner ♥	25 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	26 Mushroom Bisque Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	27 Shrimp & Corn Soup Swiss Steak Dinner
30 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	31 Tomato Florentine Soup Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	Jan. 1 Chicken & Dumpling Soup Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥	Jan. 2 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Tilapia Florentine Dinner ♥	Jan. 3 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Pork with Apples & Sage Dinner

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Candidates

(Continued from page 4)

bers who could perhaps be tapped for Board service in the future.

Sessler said she intentionally assembled a diverse nominating committee — members included Jim Ballew, Ed Cockman, Kathy Kirst, Pat Land, Johanna Moran, Ron Shepard, and Ed Silberhorn. Having former Board members on the panel proved invaluable, she added, because of the perspective

they could offer prospects on the nuts and bolts of Board service.

Though the Committee's goal was to bring more than three candidates forward for the three open seats that will be filled at the March Annual Meeting, Sessler said she was "gratified and quite relieved" to have identified three individuals who bring strong talents and diverse backgrounds to the Board.

Ballot open to petition candidates

The SLWLA bylaws allow additional names to be placed in nomination by petition. Such candidates must present petitions signed by at least three percent of the members entitled to vote, delivering those petitions to the Board's Secretary at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, March 18.

SLLA work session

(Continued from page 21)

Other business

Additional items of interest discussed during the SLLA Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, December 14 included:

- A resident thanked the gatehouse staff for lowering the flag to half-mast in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. Darr noted that gatehouse staff will also lower the

Association flag to half-mast when a member dies.

- An ARB request for a deck replacement project was denied due to lack of required information, reported Fentzlaff. A resubmitted request is anticipated.
- Door-to-door solicitation by contractors is prohibited in Seven Lakes, Cochran said. Non-compliance could result in denial of future

access.

- The SLLA office will close early on Friday, December 23 and reopen for business on Tuesday, December 27.

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January birthday club

The Seven Lakes January Birthday Club luncheon will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 11 am, at Table on the Green, Southern Pines.

Anyone that has a birth-

day in January and would like to join in for the celebration is welcome.

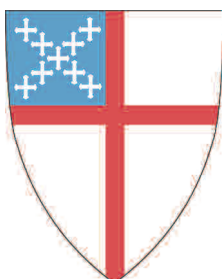
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National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County (NAMI-MC) holds its monthly meetings at the Community Room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, at the corner of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst. Educational/Support Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings and programs are free and open to the public. For information call (910) 295-1053 or www.nami-moore-county.org

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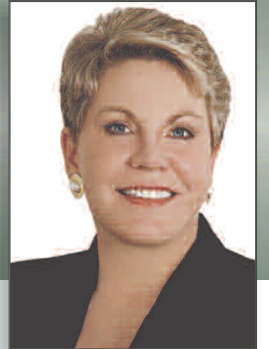


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Budget

(Continued from front page)

are mainly operating expenditures — that is, what it takes to run the Association,” Herdrich said. “Whether they [members] have a house or own a lot and live in Michigan, we still maintain the roads, the pool, the lake.”

Treasurer Friert agreed, noting there are also instances of lots being purchased exclusively for access to the community’s amenities.

“You can’t make a distinction,” said Friert. “Yes, it is true some own lots and never come here. But, the reality is, they are either part of the community or not. The community has to exist and operate. This puts all on a equal footing with everyone else.”

Administration & infrastructure drive expense increases

The \$94,000 projected increase in expenditures is driven largely by a \$44,000 increase in administrative expenses, and an additional \$31,000 allocated for infrastructure, Friert reported. The Association plans to add an additional CAS staffer to the office at a cost of \$49,000, an expense that will be partially offset by the elimination of a part-time compliance officer at \$5,000. Friert emphasized the addition of the staff member has Board approval and is based on a recommendation from the Human Resources Committee.

A \$6,000 reduction in insurance premiums and \$4,000 savings on audit expenses are expected to be offset by increased state and federal income taxes.

The increase in infrastructure spending includes an additional \$20,000 for Road Maintenance and \$11,000 for an expanded yard waste program, boats storage lot maintenance, and landscaping.

Friert noted increases at Johnson Point related to enhanced security measures and also expanded Roving Patrol costs and guardhouse supplies and equipment. In addition, the budget includes

\$4,000 based on a planned expanded lake quality study.

The Treasurer recommended no change in debt service costs next year. Capital Reserve allocations for roads \$80,000, while allocations for other capital projects will

meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall of the West Side Park Community Center. The Board will review the budget again during the January 10 Work Session, and the Board-

“Whether they have a house or own a lot and live in Michigan, we still maintain the roads, the pool, the lake.”

— Westside President Mick Herdrich

increase by \$38,000. A proposed \$279,500 for capital projects will include for work on mailhouse relocation and improvements to the front entrance, additional fire hydrants, and other improvements.

A complete copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget is available for review at the SLWLA office and on the Association website. Residents will also have an opportunity ask questions or provide comment on the budget during a Town Hall

approved budget will be submitted for final vote at the Annual Meeting in March.

Improvements to the front entrance lower pond & dam

Many issues both structural and safety-related are being addressed simultaneously at the lower pond dam, Infrastructure Director John Goodman reported.

Work has included removal of a tree and repairs to the dam face; improvements to the storm drainage system, overflow and spillway pipes,

and widening of the dam itself to allow for a pedestrian walkway and to eliminate any chance of erosion or collapse on the side facing the pond.

One related item that drew considerable interest and discussion in Tuesday’s meeting was a proposed “guiderail” system to separate pedestrians from passing vehicles on the dam.

Describing standard guiderails as unattractive overkill and heavy steel-backed timbers as too costly, Goodman instead recommended a lighter single-rail version of timber guiderails that he said is very attractive and modular — that is, they

could be relocated if desired.

Goodman acknowledged there has never been an accident at the location, but said guiderails were a budgeted improvement that would enhance safety along the walkway and also the two corners of the pond where they intersect with Lakeway Drive. Guardrails at those curves would be less obtrusive than the existing white vertical posts, he noted.

“The vision of the entry is that it is one of those things that everybody loves,” said Goodman. “I would like to reopen the view to the lake and make it one big feature of our community . . . These

(See “Budget,” p. 27)

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Budget

(Continued from page 26)

are high quality and they will look nice."

However, some questioned whether the guiderails were even necessary.

"I don't like the epidemic of one," said resident Roger Brooke. "There was one person who couldn't make the turn so we put in the posts. Now we're talking about taking out the posts and putting in a guardrail."

Brooke said he was concerned over both costs and aesthetics and argued that pedestrians share the road with vehicles throughout the community. "So, now, we're suddenly going to worry about that in one place?"

Another resident questioned whether deepening the pond would be helpful, particularly for irrigation.

Goodman responded that the main purpose of the pond is to beautify the area. And while natural springs normally provide a more-than-adequate water level, he said the current improvements also include installation of an underground sleeve where a future water line could be located to draw irrigation water up from Lake Auman, if needed.

"It doesn't matter how deep it is, we need to maintain the water level in the pond for an aesthetic reason," Goodman said.

Dam bypass road

Reporting for the Long Range Planning Committee, Director Freiert said there

bridge would be needed over the stream at the dam's foot — were premature.

"There is no road plan . . . at this stage it is simply speculation," Freiert explained. "If we could? Where we could? And could we get the right-of-way across any of those variations? There is no con-

"There was one person who couldn't make the turn so we put in the posts. Now we're talking about taking out the posts and putting in a guardrail."

— Westsider Roger Brooke

was no news related to the ongoing effort to develop a bypass road around Auman Dam.

"This is a continuing effort to see if this is a possibility," he said. "We will come back to the community for substantial input before going further."

Responding to resident Jim Ballew's question on conceptual design, Freiert said there are multiple variations on where the road could be placed, and that other questions — such as how high a

cept other than we might be able to draw a line from point to point — that is all there is today."

Treasurer's Report

Expenditures for the month were normal with ongoing expenses posting slightly higher than anticipated, reported Freiert.

Non-recurring expenses noted include \$36,362 for Johnson Point marina dock resurfacing; \$18,500 for road improvements; \$9,600 for collection fees under the legal

line item; and \$6,700 for gatehouse supplies.

Based on a recommendation by Freiert, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of \$25,000 from unrestricted funds to roads and related infrastructure account.

Freiert also reported annual tax returns have been filed and the Association received an unqualified opinion on the recent biannual audit. A

full copy of the audit report is available for review at the SLWLA office.

Community Events

The community Christmas Party events were well-attended and very well-received, reported Director Jim Ferguson.

An evening party for adults with Basco Catering providing delicious treats was extended

(See "Budget," p. 28)

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Budget

(Continued from page 27))

for longer than anticipated, as over one hundred and thirty residents danced the night away; and an afternoon party with special guest, Santa Claus, was attended by sixty local children.

Ferguson thanked the many volunteers who coordinated the parties and also those who decorated the Westside Park Community Center. In addition, he thanked residents for their generosity in donating enough toys to overfill four boxes for the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program.

The next community event will be "Wine, Cheese, & Chocolate," scheduled for February 17. Tickets will be available for purchase in mid-January.

Real Estate Open Houses

Looking to assist potential new residents with navigating the community, Director Ferguson recommended allowing placement of Realtors signs to guide visitors to Open House events.

Specifically, he suggested signs could be placed at strategic locations up to one hour before and one hour after the Open House, and that maps be distributed by gatehouse guards.

"We are looking to help the

community maintain or improve our values and also make it easier for those not familiar with the community to get around," he explained.

Lake & Dam

Rather than start from scratch, the Lake & Dam Committee is considering resurfacing the existing swim platform, reported Director Adam Wimberly.

Resident Dick Williams also recommended that the decks of the Association's two boats should be resurfaced with a more durable material. Wimberly agreed and noted that others have also suggested installing a winch and sturdier guard rail to assist with buoy retrieval.

Bruce Keyser, Sr. was appointed to the Lake & Dam Committee by unanimous approval.

Safety and Security

A proposal to install an additional access gate in Seven Lakes West was withdrawn due to lack of support, President Herdrich told *The Times*.

Taking a humorous look at recent repairs made to the main entrance gates, Director Jim McCarthy joked they were expected to work for at least the next hour.

Additional repairs & improvements

Repairs have been made to the pool cover, said Community Manager Joan Frost, and blinds were installed in the Great Room of the Westside Community Center. In addition, two recently painted walls in the building were damaged by tape and repair costs were assessed to the responsible party.

During her report, Frost also said she assisted with budget preparation, is using a new letter developed for compliance violations, and that materials ordered for the deck resurfacing project at Johnson Point are expected any day.

Noting that fencing at the storage lot has been knocked down six times over the last year, she said they are considering enlarging the gate area and also adding electricity.

During a brief discussion related to boats stored directly in the gravel roadway of the lot, Wimberly said those were boats that had been pulled temporarily from Johnson Point due to the renovation project.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, December 13, the SLWLA Board of Directors:

- Unanimously approved formation of a new committee to oversee amenities. Chaired by Nancy Workman, the committee will develop guidelines to opti-

mize and protect the use of various community amenities, including the pool, Johnson Point, and Westside Park Community Center.

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Rhyne

(Continued from front page)

ular fishing tournament for children every year during Foxfire Days.

"He was an outstanding man, not just an outstanding police officer," Erickson said. "That is how I want people to remember him."

One of Rhyne's many legacies to Foxfire Village is his mentoring and training of Chief Mike Campbell, who has led Foxfire Police since Rhyne's retirement in 2007.

The two men meet when Campbell was a teenager and Rhyne encouraged him to pursue a career in law enforcement. In 2001, Campbell was hired by Foxfire Village.

"He made sure I continued

my education and brought me up through the ranks," Campbell told *The Times*. "He was a very good guy. He really guided me and took the time to mentor me."

Campbell said that Rhyne extended that personable attitude to everyone he met, introducing himself to new residents and offering to help people on a regular basis.

"He really didn't expect anything in return. That is his legacy," Campbell said.

A funeral service for Rhyne was held on Monday, December 12 at Owens Auditorium on the campus of Sandhills Community College and drew hundreds of mourners and law enforcement officers from across North Carolina. Fol-

lowing the service, a large procession of police vehicles escorted Rhyne to Roseland, where a horse-drawn caisson carried him to his burial at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.

Rhyne was the first sheriff's deputy to be killed on duty in Moore County. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Wanda Thomas Rhyne; a son, Lt. Col. Allen Rhyne and his wife, Lt. Col. Jessica Rhyne of Laughlin AFB; and two grandchildren, Ruby and Roxy Rhyne.

A memorial fund in his honor has been set up at First Bank. Donations may be made at any branch to the "Deputy Rick Rhyne Memorial Account."

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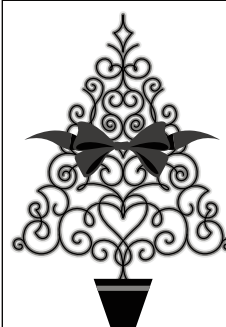
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