

Scouts' Day Out



Cub Scouts Grant Oldham, Konrad Koltyk and Joshua Joyce, members of Pack 98 in West End, enjoyed a recent overnight trip to the Yorktown, a WW II aircraft carrier moored in Charleston Harbor. [See page 2 for more.]

2011: 'In like a lion' for SLLA

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Controversy and hotly-debated decisions tainted the early months of the year for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], as all but one seat on the seven-member Board of Directors turned over in a rancorous election followed by unexpected resignations.

But, as the year progressed, significant work was accomplished; and 2011 may be remembered as the year that came in like a lion and went out like a lamb for the SLLA.

One notable highlight came in September, as SLLA was recognized as a "Community

of Distinction" by the NC Chapter of the Community Associations Institute.

Davenport Landscaping

Early in the year, an unexpected announcement that three bids were under consideration for an outsourced landscaping contract kicked off a months-long firestorm over closed door meetings, lack of public input, and financial questions. The controversy ultimately concluded with a nearly complete re-staffing of the Board of Directors during the annual meeting elections in March.

Former SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf told *The Times* that discussion on out-

(See "SLLA," p. 24)

Roads are big Village issue

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Two road projects — one completed and one proposed — held major implications

for Foxfire Village as 2011 drew to a close.

In early Spring 2011, construction was completed on the Woodland Circle Extension project, a new 54,000 square foot roadway that connected the existing open

ends of Woodland Circle. Initiated six years ago by a petition of property owners along that stretch, the total cost of the project came in under-budget at \$1.6 million. But the lion's share of that cost was assessed on a single property owner, who chose to donate his 160 undeveloped acres to the Village in lieu of paying the assessment.

Several area land trust and conservancy groups were approached, but expressed no interest in acquiring the parcel, which has a tax value of \$1.1 million. The Village continues to look for a buyer for the property — and faces the challenge of paying for the Woodland Circle paving

(See "Foxfire," p. 13)

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



From deciding how many mailhouses the community needs, to ramping up security on Lake Auman, it was a busy year for Seven Lakes West.

Just in time, community decision making and communication benefitted from a major upgrade of the Association's website, including a community forum section and invitations from the Board of Directors to use the website as a vehicle for input and feedback on specific topics.

As it weighed the question of whether to build one or two mailhouses, the Long

Range Planning Committee asked members for input via the website. A proposal by the Safety and Security Committee to install an exit-only gate on Bainbridge failed to receive online support, and was withdrawn.

Secretary Jane Sessler was credited for building community involvement with the website through "E-Blast's" — weekly emails with community related information that are now reaching more than 620 Westsiders.

It Will Be One Mailhouse

At the top of Westside agenda for much of 2011 was a decision about how the community's mail would be delivered. After two town hall meetings, the Long Range

(See "Westside," p. 16)

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Vietnam Vets feed homeless vets Holiday Meal

Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966, sponsored a holiday dinner for homeless veterans and their families on Tuesday, December 6 at the Veterans Medical Center in Fayetteville.

Chapter representatives assisting in the event were Mike Shapiro, Joe Kristek, Jim and Elaine Ambler. This is the second year Chapter 966 has sponsored this event, which is made possible

through the fundraising efforts of the chapter throughout the year.

Chapter President Mike

Pusillo invites anyone interested in membership to contact him at (910) 400-3056.



Chapter members Jack Bergquist, and Mike Pusillo serving ham and chicken with all the trimmings to about sixty guests.

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@sevenlakesimes.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
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
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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.

Lunch with the 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 birthday in January and would like to join in for the celebration is welcome. Call Linda Donnell (673-8025) for information or reservations.



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Cubs visit USS Yorktown

Cub Scout Pack 98 of West End relived a part of history during a visit to the USS Yorktown in early December.

The World War II aircraft carrier is moored at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, where the scouts also had the opportunity to tour the USS Clagmore, a World War II submarine, and the Medal of Honor exhibit located on site.

Morning and evening meals were prepared and served in the Chief's Mess aboard the Yorktown and scouts slept in bunk beds in the ship's berthing areas for the full effect of living aboard a famous man-of-war.

Pack 98 is sponsored by the West End United Methodist Church. For more information on scouting, please contact Cubmaster Jim Douglass at 673-1817 or visit www.pack98nc.com

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Commissioners appoint Land Use Committee

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

After three months of discussion, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved, during their Tuesday, January 3 meeting, a membership list for the Land Use Plan Steering Committee. The panel will include twenty-one Moore County residents; the roster was developed with the assistance of Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter.

Hayter, who will chair the Steering Committee, asked the Commissioners to create a committee with "more of a quality number than a quantity number," adding that the decisions made by such a committee will be a "very serious part of our County's future."

The appointees include: Hayter, Felton Capel, Pat Corso, Nancy Fiorillo, Susan Purser, David McNeill, Ron Maness, Joe Clendenin, Randy Gould, Harry Huberth, Billy Carter, David Cummings, Art Williams, John Monroe, Michael Wilson, Watts Auman, Stephen Later, Betsy Mofield, Linda Gore, and Brad Neil.

Each Commissioner was allowed to appoint one person of his choosing to the committee. A final name will be added to the list by Commissioner Tim Lea, who was absent from Tuesday's meeting for health reasons.

It been more than ten years since the County's Land Use Plan was updated, and the County has added almost 30,000 residents in that time.

The 1999 Land Use Plan Committee had a wide variety of Moore County residents — officially twenty-one members — who ranged from elected officials and business leaders to environmental advocates and educators. The process took eighteen months to complete, with committee members meeting twice a month during ten of those months.

The Board did not determine when the new Committee will have its first meeting.

Residency District Map Approved

On a motion by Chairman Larry Caddell, the Commissioners unanimously approved Voting Redistricting Map Option Six at the Board's Tuesday, January 3 meeting.

During the public comment period, both President Jo Nicholas of the League of Women Voters in Moore County and President O'Linda Gillis of the Moore County NAACP spoke in favor of the County adopting redistricting Map Option Six.

Nicholas told the Board, "Our [League of Women Voters] goal is to have the voting districts more equitable." Gillis echoed these words by telling the Commissioners, "[The NAACP] is seeking equality for all persons in Moore County."

The Redistricting Map Option Six will allow all currently seated Board of Commissioners and School Board members the chance to run for re-election while evenly dividing the population in the five districts in Moore County.

The new map will also divide Seven Lakes between two districts, with Seven Lakes North and South remaining in District II, currently served by Commissioner Nick Picerno, and Seven Lakes West moving to District III, currently served by Commissioner Craig Kennedy.

Because all Moore County voters are allowed to cast

ballots for the Commissioners drawn from each district, the new map will have little effect on voting. It does mean, however, that, in the future, two Commissioners could make their home in the Seven Lakes area.

Commissioner Nick Picerno asked that the new map be available for reference by the public.

Employee Residency Requirements Changed

Resolving a matter that had been tabled in multiple meetings, the Commissioners approved a change in the residency requirements for Moore County employees.

As advocated by Commissioner Craig Kennedy, only the County Manager and Assistant Manager will be required to reside in Moore County. No other County employees would be held to that residency requirement. Previously, County policy had required that all department heads live within the county.

County Library programs well-attended

The Interim Director for the Moore County Library System, Phil Barton, gave the Commissioners an annual report for the Sandhills Regional Library System for the 2010-2011 year.

Over the last year, the County invested \$542,000 in the library system; and, from that, Barton estimated a return of over \$3.5 million through checked out books,

audio visuals, and programming.

In the last year, over six thousand citizens participated in programming at the library. Close to 165,000 book and audio visual material checkouts were made last year.

Barton said the library represents "a significant anchor for the County . . . and generates a tremendous amount of activity that we can't afford

to ignore."

Sandhills Regional Library Director Carol Walters told the Board, "We [the library] live within our budget — whatever our budget is." Walters told the Board that the library is embarking on a learning and training series that will allow library personnel to help County resi-

(See "Commissioners," p. 10)



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Former Robbins Mayor to address League

The League of Women Voters of Moore County luncheon meeting is Tuesday, January 17. The guest speaker is Theron Bell, the former mayor of Robbins. The title of her speech is "All you want to know about Robbins: past, present and future."

Mrs. Bell has been on the Robbins town board for 18 years, including her being elected mayor in 11/2007. As of November, 2011, she

is no longer Robbins' Mayor, but she remains active on many committees. She is the chair of the Robbins Library Committee, and also chaired the committee that built the Robbins Area library.

Bell is the Chair of Robbins NC STEP committee through the NC Rural Economic Development Center. She is the vice president of the Robbins Theater Foundation, Inc, a member and past chair

of the Moore County Library Board of Trustee; a member of the Friends of Moore County Library, and also a member of the State Library Certification Committee.

The League luncheon meeting will be held at the Table on the Green Restaurant, inside Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Road, Southern Pines.

Check in time is 11:30 am, meeting at 11:45 am. The

meeting is open to the public as well as League members.

Prior reservation is required. Call Charlotte Gallagher at 910-944-9611 by Friday, January 13 to reserve.

Cost for the luncheon is \$12: a check payable to LWVMC is the preferred method of payment.

GOP Women elect officers



Moore Republican Women is the largest Republican Women's Club in North Carolina. On December 5, at their annual Holiday Brunch, held at the Pinehurst Country Club, they installed their officers for the new term. The new officers, pictured above, include: Kathleen McGillan, 2nd Vice President; Gina Brown, Treasurer; Lane Bergstrom, President; Kay Wildt, 1st Vice President; and Denise Bennett, Recording Secretary.

SLCC Winterfest

Everyone's invited to a "Winterfest" dinner/dance on Saturday, February 4, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Festivities begin with Cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Buffet at 6:30 pm featuring Beef Bourguignon, Chicken Dijon, Rice Pilaf, Mashed Potatoes, Petit Peas with Pearl onions, Spring Greens Salad with Almonds & Cranberries, Rolls/Butter, Peach Cobbler and Coffee/Hot Tea.

Music provided by DJ Glenn Davis at 7 pm.

The all-inclusive price for members is \$20 and non-members \$25 inclusive. Reservations will be taken in person on January 16 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and call in reservations taken after 11:30 am by calling 673-1100.

Invite a friend or neighbor for a fun filled evening.

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Harpeth Rising comes to Poplar Knight Spot

Voted "Best Local Band in Nashville" by Nashville's daily newspaper, *The Tennessean*, the four classically trained musicians of Harpeth Rising bring an exciting and distinctively new sound to the folk genre.

With a banjo and a fiddle, you might think they're traditional bluegrass - but think again. Cello and hand drums round out the ensemble, creating a truly unique sound. Their virtuosic instrumentals are coupled with intimate vocals and sincere lyrics. The group met at the Indiana University School of Music and were united, and continue to be driven by, their eclectic musical interests. A little bit bluegrass, a little bit classical, a little bit folk and a whole lot of original, Harpeth Rising is a band to watch.

The quartet is currently touring to promote their new album: *Dead Man's Hand*. They spent the summer touring in the UK where they played a number of presti-

gious engagements including the Cambridge Folk Festival and The London Folk Festival in addition to numerous sold-out concerts throughout England.



Harpeth Rising brings a fresh mix of traditional and classical string music to the Rooster's Wife concert series.

Harpeth Rising's eponymous debut album appeared on numerous best of 2010 lists.

Dead Man's Hand is expected to both excite the folk music community and bring a whole new audience to the genre.

Harpeth Rising will be playing in Aberdeen at the Roost-

er's Wife concert series on Sunday, January 15 at 6:30pm (\$12-15 admission). The concert will be held at the Poplar Knight Spot gallery. For those who love folk, classical, bluegrass, or Celtic music, or those who love original songwriting, this promises to be a very exciting evening.

Learn All About Annuities at Senior Center

On Wednesday, January 18 at 3 pm, Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, Raymond James & Associates Financial Advisors, will discuss Annuity Basics.

Participants may come away with a better understanding of the various forms of annuities, how they work, their underlying investments, their benefits, their drawbacks, contract Riders, who they might be right for, purchasing with Qualified vs. Non-Qualified funds, what to be aware of when purchasing.

Come and enjoy this informal and interactive presentation. Questions are encouraged! Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

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English Speaking Union hosts Winery tasting

On Tuesday, January 10, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, the local chapter of the English Speaking Union (ESU) will hold a wine-tasting party at Sandhills Winery in Seven Lakes.

This event is to introduce area Seven Lakes residents to the exciting programs ESU offers each year. The mission of ESU is to promote education, scholarship and

understanding in Moore County Schools.

To accomplish this goal, members provide opportunities for hundreds of middle school students to participate in debate programs, and for high school students to compete in a Shakespeare competition that can lead to an all-expense paid trip to the national finals. Funding to support these exciting pro-

grams comes from ESU members who attend world-class dinner presentations at the Country Club of North Carolina.

Recent programs have included presentations by The Honorable Corinne Dettmeijer, a judge at the District Court of The Hague, who spoke on "Trafficking in Human Beings," and author Kevin Duffus who spoke on

"Shipwrecks of the Outer Banks."

In the months ahead, outstanding speakers such as Graham Anthony will headline the events. In April, Anthony who will speak on "The Triumph That Turned to Tragedy," marking the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. It is

through these presentations that members support education programs in Moore County. The community is invited to attend the wine tasting on January 10 to learn more about joining ESU and its mission. For additional information, please call Martha O'Connor at 235-0635.

Southeast Asia after Vietnam

The Sandhills Branch of the English Speaking Union is pleased to announce its first speaker for Wednesday, January 11, is George Poteat on the subject "Southeast Asia Forty Years after the Vietnam War."

Dr. Poteat is a highly experienced analyst and teacher in US Army instructional programs enabling soldiers to gain greater understanding of and respect for foreign cultures in which they may be posted.

Having traveled in official capacities to more than sixty countries in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia, including Russia and China, he has organized training institutes and seminars for military officers at all levels. These include advanced regional analysis tools and software for Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations in selected countries.

From 1992 thru 2010, Poteat was Academic Program Director and Associate Professor at the US Army Special Warfare Center at Ft. Bragg. He earned his Ph.D. degree in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis and resides in Southern Pines.

One of Poteat's special interests is the development of Southeast Asia since the end of the Vietnam War forty years ago. He has often traveled to the area in recent years.

Poteat will offer his reflections on the Vietnam War era, political and cultural tensions within Vietnam after its "victory," and its impact on the region's cultural development including implications for America's role in the region since then.

His presentation will place Vietnam's experience in the context of other Southeast Asian nations, including

Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. Poteat's thesis will emphasize the primacy of culture as a determinant of current regional issues. The presentation is extremely timely, as the United States is currently exploring ways to reengage Southeast Asia, including Australia, in a variety of economic, political and military areas.

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

HDR Photography

The Sandhills Photography Club will hold their meeting Monday, January 9, 7 to 9 pm. Photographer Vinny Colucci will present "Introduction to HDR Photography." The meeting held at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland & Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines.

Colucci will present the January program "Introduction to HDR Photography." He has been an active photographer since 1979 and a shooting professional since 1995, has photographed North Carolina from the coast to the mountains, south to the Everglades and westward into

Arizona. Colucci is an avid outdoors man and a member of Nikon's Professional Services and Wimberley Professional Services and is a sponsored Lowepro Photographer. He has images appearing in Nature Photographer Magazine, Microwave Journal, and other publications.

Colucci maintains memberships in the North American Nature Photography Association and the Carolina Nature Photographer's Association. Guests are invited to join Sandhills Photography meetings.

For information, visit www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

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In memory of . . .

Frances Kluttz Hall, 60, died Monday, January 2, at her home in Seven Lakes.

A visitation will be held from 11 am to 1 pm, with memorial services to begin at 1 pm, Friday, January 6, at Boles Funeral Homes, Seven Lakes with Pastor Larry Lamberth officiating. Burial to follow at Unity Grove Baptist Church in Carthage.

Mrs. Hall was born in Rowan County daughter of Frances Measmer and the late Clyde Lou Kluttz. She worked many years as an office administrator and was currently employed at Sandhills Center in Seven Lakes.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years John C. Hall; son Christopher B. Anderson of Burlington; mother Frances Measmer Kluttz of Kannapolis; brother Tony L. Kluttz of Salisbury; and her grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to Moore County Humane Society, 5355 NC Hwy. 22 Carthage NC, 28327.

Boles Funeral Homes of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Mary Louise Hawkins Slate, of Southern Pines died on Sunday, January 1, at FirstHealth Hospice House.

She was born in Rockingham, the daughter of James Theodore Hawkins and Dora May Gilliam Hawkins. She was a 1951 graduate of Rockingham High School and a member of Page Memorial United Methodist Church, Aberdeen.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 5, at Boles Funeral Home chapel, Southern Pines. Dr. Zeb V. Moss officiated. Burial will be held at a later date.

She was preceded in death by her husband James D.

Slate Sr.; by her parents, her brother Charles Edward Hawkins.

Survivors include daughters: Nancy S. Martin of Jackson Springs, and Jennifer S. Dawson of Winterville; sons: James D. Slate Jr., of Herndon, VA; Charles Dale Slate of Advance; and Trent J. Slate of Pawleys Island, SC; nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law Virginia Slate of Cordova and Diana C. Hawkins of Covington, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Clara Mabel DePew Clochessy Rundell, 97 of Foxfire Village, died Friday December 23, at her residence. Mrs. Rundell was in New City, NY; daughter of the late Frances DePew and Lila Garrison DePew.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, January 3, at the Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. The Rev. Robert H. Brown officiated. Burial will be held in the Summer in Gloversville, NY.

Mrs. Rundell graduated from Haverstraw High School in Haverstraw, NY, then attended the Catherine Gibbs Secretarial School in New York and worked as a secretary for Travelers' Insurance Company in New York after graduating. She was an avid golfer and a past member of the Ladies of the Elks organization.

Mrs. Rundell was preceded in death by her first husband of 40 years in 1977, John Clochessy and her second husband of 32 years in 2010, Frank F. Rundell.

Mrs. Rundell is survived by three children, John Clochessy of New City, NY; Marilyn Grady and of Foxfire; William Clochessy of Weeds Port, NY; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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Protect yourself: Germs are everywhere!

Winter is upon us and with it flu season – the time to start thinking about avoiding the germs most likely to torture tummies and ravage respiratory systems this time of year.

There are preventive measures you can take, however. The best, according to the director of patient safety and infection control at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, is hand-washing. It also helps to be aware of surfaces that are common breeding grounds for germs. Some of them might surprise you, says Jayne Lee, R.N.

“Gas pump handles were a new one for me,” Lee says.

A recent major-city study conducted by the University of Arizona and the Kimberly-Clark Professional’s Healthy Work Place Project identified a half-dozen commonly touched “dirtiest surfaces” that are likely to be teeming with illness-causing bacteria.

Topping the list were the previously mentioned gas pump handles, followed by mailbox handles, escalator rails, ATM buttons, parking meters and kiosks, crosswalk buttons and vending machine buttons.

To develop the list of offenders, researchers swabbed 350 of the most frequently touched surfaces in six major U.S. cities (Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami and Philadelphia). They then

tested the swabs’ ATP levels, indicators of animal, vegetable, bacteria, yeast and mold cell contamination.

Objects that had an ATP reading of 300 or higher were determined to have an increased risk of illness trans-



Jayne Lee, RN

mission.

Although only public-place environments were involved in the big-city study, plenty of home surfaces also serve as breeding grounds for bacteria. “Door knobs are the worst,” says Lee.

So are telephones, computer keyboards and light

switches. But there is a difference between contaminated home and outside-the-home surfaces, Lee cautions.

“The germs in the home environment are mostly your germs and your family’s germs,” she says. “Outside the home, you have to consider all the different people who could have touched and contaminated (the surfaces).”

Since public exposure to illness is common and widespread, no one is immune. Annual vaccinations help prevent the flu, but actions as simple as hand-washing and avoiding facial contact are very important, says Lee.

The general rule is to wash your hands before eating and after going to the bathroom while keeping your hands, which probably have touched any number of contaminated surfaces, away from your face.

“Don’t touch your nose with your hands,” says Lee, “in case they have been contaminated.”

Effective hand-washing, Lee points out, involves the simple combination of soap, water and friction. The greatest of these is friction.

“Friction is by far the most important,” Lee says. “Antimicrobial solutions have some kill-effect, and that’s good to have at a kitchen sink, but it’s not something you have to have. A mild, warm (water) temperature is fine. Gently scrub, making sure to get under the nails and between the fingers. Try not to dry out the skin so you end up with cuts or cracks that open you up to more risk.”

For public places, the disinfectant wipes now available at most grocery stores and some gas stations are good

for wiping down surfaces like grocery cart and gas pump handles.

While risk of infection is especially likely during late Fall and Winter, when people are more likely to gather in groups and in enclosed spaces, it is also important to remember that infection – and therefore hand-washing – is a year-round business.

“Germs don’t go away in the Summertime,” says Lee. “There are more colds and flu during the winter, but that doesn’t mean you can’t get sick at other times of the year.”



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Tutors are key to student success at Sandhills

Sandhills Community College students are diverse. They come from a variety of walks of life and educational levels. The college has an open-door policy, which means that anyone who wants to take college credit courses won't be turned away due to poor high school performance or low test scores. Thanks to the Tutoring Center at the college, most who attend Sandhills eventually do become successful in their classes.

Applicants take placement tests, which assure that every student is up to the rigors of college-level coursework. If the tests indicate that a prospective student may not be quite ready for college, developmental classes are available and when students complete those courses successfully, they can enroll in college courses.

Tutoring has been offered at SCC for almost fifty years. Half a century ago, it was available as needed; that first semester, 22 students signed up to become tutors and 132 of their peers assisted. In 1998, via a private grant, a permanent tutoring program was established.

Today, Kennedy Hall is the home of the Tutoring Center and it's open to all students, in almost any subject matter. And thanks to the center's success, it will move to a new and larger area in Logan Hall. That space is currently under construction.

Coordinator Nancy Heilman actively recruits community

volunteers willing to share their knowledge and desire to educate — in any field of study — a new generation. "Due to the nature of our community," Heilman said, "we have had nationally-recognized scientists assist students in physics and chemistry, retired educators help with English, bilingual individuals tutor languages, the list goes on and on."

Over the past 13 years, more than 200 volunteers have helped students pass their courses and go on to graduate. Currently, 53 student tutors, five professionals, and 25 volunteers are helping more than 400 students improve their skills in math, English, business, and science.

One of the best indicators of the effectiveness of the Tutoring Center is its "pass rate." Impressively, since the center was created, 70 percent of the students who access the center's services passed their courses with a "C" or higher. Needless to say, that pass rate has contributed to increased student satisfaction overall and to increased earning potential after graduation.

Another indicator is the

low turnover rate of the tutors themselves. Very few volunteers or peer tutors leave the program. "Not only are the students who are being tutored grateful for the additional help," said Heilman, "but the tutors experience a great sense of gratification."

For example, one tutor, Phyllis Olson, a retired educator has been a volunteer in the Tutoring Center for more than four years. In recent years, Olson tutored Tina Goins, a highly motivated culinary arts student. Olson worked with Goins for more than two years and was privileged, she said, to see Goins become far more confident, both in her studies and in her own abilities. Olson says she was impressed by Goins' eagerness to learn, by her determination, and by her genuine appreciation for the assistance she was receiving. She proudly attended Goins' graduation last May.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can become a factor in the success of a college student, contact Tutoring and Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Heilman at 910-246-4138 or heilmann@sandhills.edu.



Tina Goins, on the left, is pictured with Phyllis Olson. Olson was Goins' tutor at SCC. The two developed a special relationship and Olson presented Goins with a quilt she made for her. Tutors are instrumental to the success of SCC students.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

dents with troubleshooting problems with their E-Books.

Sandhills Community Action Program

The Sandhills Community Action Program [SCAP] work plan was presented to the Commissioners by Nina Walker and Karen Thomas. The goal of the program is to help residents in Moore County successfully enter the workforce.

"Our program now is not a handout program, but it is a hand-up program," said Thomas. The program helps participants enroll in college, assists with the cost of books and tuition, and equips them with the tools needed to enter the work force. SCAP is a three-year program with fifty individuals enrolled on an ongoing basis and twenty-five new participants enrolled this year.

Public Hearings Called

The Board called a public hearing requested by Planning Director Debra Ensinger to amend a portion of the Moore County Zoning Map from Residential Agriculture to Highway Commercial. The property is located at the corner of Savannah Lane and US Highway 1 between the Town of Southern Pines and the Town of Vass.

The Planning Board approved the zoning change to the property in an 8 to 1 vote. Commissioner Picerno asked that the Planning Department bring back the reason for the dissenting vote from the Planning Board during the public hearing on January 17 at 6 pm.

The Commissioners also approved a public hearing for January 17 at 6 pm to close out the River Bend Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] as requested by Planner Tim Emmert. The CDBG was a grant used for repairs after Tropical Storm Hanna which caused damage to the River Bend Community.

A public hearing will be held on January 17 at 6 pm to close out the CDBG Hous-

ing and Community Family Act Funding Grant. The grant was used to assist Moore County residents in obtaining necessary skills when buying their first homes.

The Board also called a public hearing on a Community Transportation Pro-

gram Grant Application as requested by Manager of Moore County Transportation Services, Tawanna Williams. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 17 at 6 pm.

Public Works projects

The Board approved upgrades to the water system in Old Town Pinehurst that will provide sufficient fire flow for the Village Chapel in Pinehurst to construct a Christian Education Building. The County owns the water

system that serves the Village of Pinehurst.

Making upgrades in a way that will improve service to the Village Chapel alone would cost \$130,000, a cost that will be borne by the Chapel, Public Works Director (See "Commissioners," p. 11)



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105 DOUGLAS DR • 7LW 3BR+BONUS, DBL LOT \$275,000	105 PINENEEDLE • 7LN ALL-BRICK, 3/2 MANY UPDATES! - \$165,000	110 DORSET DR • 7LS STORAGE GALORE! - \$182,500	251 FIRETREE • 7LN 2500 SQ FT, MANY UPGRADES - \$190,000

Commissioners

(Continued from page 10)

Randy Gould explained. However, by adding \$94,000 in County money to that total, fire flow can be improved to other county water customers in Old Town.

The County's contribution has not been allocated in this year's budget, but can be budgeted into next year's budget, Gould said.

In other public works business, the Board approved a Water Pollution Control Plant Revised Project Ordinance as requested by Gould. The total cost of the project is \$25 million — a decrease from the initial estimated cost of \$32 million.

The Board also approved a change order to a sanitary sewer project aimed at connecting the ATEX Technologies manufacturing plant in Pinebluff to the County's wastewater system, in order to support a business expansion. The change order is for Terry's Plumbing and Utilities Construction for a net increase of \$53,000. The total revised construction cost for the project is \$578,500.

Public Safety

The Commissioners approved contracts for West End Fire and Rescue and Aberdeen Fire and Rescue, submitted by Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips, that consolidate fire protection with medical and rescue services in a single contract.

The Board approved a con-

tract with the Town of Pinebluff to provide medical and rescue services within the town's fire district. That contract had previously been between the County and Aberdeen Rescue Squad, which has been dissolved. Phillips said the Town has been working with the County to provide rescue services in the area since August 2011.

The Board approved Phillips' request for a contract revision for the Cypress Pointe Fire and Rescue lease to provide for the housing of a County EMS unit for \$750 per month.

The Board approved a product and service agreement for CenturyLink which covers the County with: Automatic Number Identification, Automatic Location Identification, Selective Routing, and the 911 database. Phillips explained that the new "true-up" agreement will decrease the monthly fee from \$13,500 to \$12,300 a month, for an annual savings of almost \$15,000. The County has been under contract with CenturyLink and its predecessor companies since 1991, when the 911 center was first established.

Other Items

The Board tabled a request by the Moore County Transportation Services Manager Tawanna Williams for further review of two grants for the Targeted Transit Assistance Program for the year 2011

through 2013. The approved grants amounts are \$64,000 for Capital and \$95,000 for Operating expenses. The local match by the County would be \$54,000, which would be met by user fees. The Board has asked to further review the grant before making a decision.

The Board also tabled a proposed Request for Proposals for an update of the County's Space Allocation Study, which would look at the space needs of county operations and the space available in existing buildings owned by the County, including the Court House and the new Public Safety Center.

Commissioner Picerno asked for a long term plan for County properties to be presented to the Board during the Commissioner's next regular meeting. "We want to solve our long term needs and spend the money one time — not multiple times," explained Picerno, adding, "[Have] everybody buy into the plan, and keep the politics out."

The Board approved a Community Development Cost Allocation Plan for Moore County's Community Development Division as requested by Tim Emmert. The purpose of the plan is to forecast grant

reimbursable costs for the County.

The Commissioners approved a request by Planning Director Debra Ensinger to appoint County Review Officers for the purpose of approving all surveys and plats to be recorded in Moore County.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, January 3 meeting included:

- County Manager Cary McSwain proposed a calendar for developing the 2012-2013 budget, asking that the public hearing for the budget be held on Tuesday, May 15. The calendar was approved by the Board, but is subject to change.

- The Board approved a Triangle J Mileage Reimbursement for travel incurred by Commissioner Lea for the remainder of the fiscal year at a total cost of \$834.

- The Commissioners will host a Board Retreat on Thursday, January 19 and Friday January 20. Commissioner Picerno asked that an update on water alternatives be brought to the Board by Public Works Director Randy Gould.

- Commissioner Picerno asked that the Board consider

finding a way to limit the role of the federal Department of Education and the state Department of Public Instruction in Moore County Schools. "The money is just not getting to the need — and that is the teacher and the classroom," said Picerno. "We're sending lots of dollars to Washington, DC and to Raleigh for education, and we're getting very few dollars back."

- Chairman Caddell requested that Picerno remain on the Review Committee for the County Budget as a representative of the Board, an assignment that was approved by the other Commissioners.

- County Employee Service Awards were presented by Dee Ann Purvis.

- The Library Trustee of the Year Award was tabled by the Board until the Commissioner's January 17 meeting.

- The Board tabled for further review a budget amendments that involved the proposed use of procurement card rebates from Bank of America by the Finance Department for additional banking services and travel and training related to professional certifications for department employees.

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S.O.S presents 'Green Growth Toolbox'

On Thursday, January 26, Save Our Sandhills will host Brenda Johnson, a specialist in ecology and wildlife, to describe why The Green Growth Toolbox, a cooperative, non-regulatory effort developed by the Wildlife Diversity Program of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, is so important to North Carolina in general, and Moore County in particular.

By its own definition, "Green Growth is a nature-friendly way of developing communities. It means conserving habitat and biological diversity while building homes, businesses and shopping centers." Its tools consist of a handbook, GIS data package, and a website.

This project was conceived because of the unprecedented population growth fueled in North Carolina in recent years, along with projections that over the next 20 years, 3 million additional people would move to North Carolina, threatening the environment, public health, and quality of life.

Therefore, in 2005, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission developed the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, which identified sprawling patterns of land development as a top threat to wildlife resources. Since land use in North Carolina is regulated at the local government level, where officials often do not

have sufficient knowledge concerning risks to wildlife while they develop policies concerning growth, The Green Growth Toolbox concept gained traction.

Green Growth helps to bridge the gap between scientists and local decision makers by offering wildlife data and important wildlife conservation principles, so that well-informed decisions can be made. While planning for growth, communities learn how to protect important species and habitats by locating their important natural resources and determine how best to conserve them through land use planning. Habitats support much more than wildlife. They also sustain healthy ecosystems, healthy economies, healthy communities, and a high quality of life. This is why The Green Growth Toolbox emphasizes 10 benefits to communities:

1. Better health all around,
2. Economic return,
3. Environmental safeguards,
4. Avoid environmental conflicts,
5. Attract new economy businesses,
6. Increase prosperity,
7. Generate tourist income,
8. Reduce costs to taxpayers and local government,
9. Respond to public demand,
10. Improve quality of life.

In North Carolina, 45 local governments (including counties and municipalities) have

received Green Growth Toolbox training at 11 workshops which targeted jurisdictions that are experiencing signif-

icant habitat conversion to development. Twenty-one local governments have received technical guidance on 31 land use planning projects. Locally, both Moore and Harnett County planning



Nature-friendly planning

staffs attended Green Growth Toolbox Workshops and received follow-up technical guidance, including one that took place at Weymouth

Woods Nature Preserve Auditorium in mid-2010. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has been working in

partnership with regional organizations, including Sustainable Sandhills, the Coastal Land Trust, and Land of Sky Regional Council. In Moore County, The Green Growth Toolbox has been used to provide recommendations to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) that is currently under revision by the Planning

Board. UDO's are the rule-books for how building and development occur in a community, and thus can have heavy impacts on wildlife habitat. Most Green Growth recommendations to the Moore County UDO were made to the Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Subdivision Ordinances, since these usually impact large tracts of land at a time. The UDO process is currently ongoing, and work continues to see Green Growth recommendations adopted.

Johnson has worked with Sustainable Sandhills for two years as their Green Growth Planner. Sustainable Sandhills, a nonprofit dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the eight-county region surrounding Fort Bragg, concentrates on four main program areas: Green Business Certification, Green Schools, Green Growth, and Local Food.

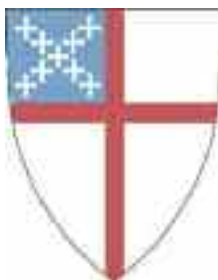
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Foxfire year in review

(Continued from front page)

project from regular ad valorem tax revenues.

Western Connector

The other major road project — most commonly known as the "Western Connector" or "Western Bypass" — exists only in a most basic conceptual form, it has been on-and-off the NC Department of Transportation's [NCDOT] discussion table for years.

Discussion of the proposed bypass was renewed in September by the Moore County Transportation Committee [MCTC], which resolved to do major transportation planning at the local level rather than wait for NCDOT to step in and make decisions on the county's behalf.

Intended as a four-lane thoroughfare that would connect NC Highway 211 near West End to the commercial

district in Aberdeen — thereby reducing congestion at the Pinehurst traffic circle and along NC Highway 5 — proposed options include doing nothing, constructing a new road through undeveloped farm and forest land, or improving existing roads.

It is that last option that is of primary concern to the Foxfire Village Council, as it could mean widening Hoffman Road into a multi-lane boulevard directly through the center of the Village.

In November, seven charettes, or community workshops, were scheduled to gather public input. Area residents had the opportunity to recommend their preferred route or routes through a team-exercise called "Ribbons and Strings." Players were also asked to consider the costs and impact of two additional projects: a US 1 Bypass of Southern Pines and an NC Highway 24/27 Bypass of Carthage.

Heading into 2012, each

of these three proposed NC DOT projects remains under active discussion. A meeting including both NCDOT and the MCTC are scheduled for later this month.

Former police chief killed

2011 ended on a somber note for Villagers with the tragic shooting death of former Foxfire Police Chief Rick Rhyne. He will be long remembered by the community for his friendly demeanor and generous spirit.

Rhyne served as chief of the Foxfire Police Department for twenty-six years, from 1981 to 2007. He began his law enforcement career with a seven-year stint in the Village of Pinehurst before heading up the public safety force for Foxfire, and later serving part-time as a deputy for Moore County.

According to a news release from Sheriff Lane Carter, Rhyne was shot on Thursday afternoon, December 8, in the Lobelia community while

attempting to arrest Martin Abel Poynter, 33, who then took his own life.

Board appointments

In July, Councilman Vic Koos reluctantly announced his resignation, citing health concerns and changing demands on his family. Elected into office in November 2007, Koos looked after streets and parks interests before heading up public safety concerns.

Edward M. (Mick) McCue, a retired Marine Corps Brigadier General, who chaired the Long Range Planning Committee and the Village's Planning & Zoning Committee, was appointed to fill the seat in August.

Running unopposed in the November municipal election, incumbent Councilman McCue retained his seat alongside incumbent Councilman John Eltschalger, who was appointed to the Council in August 2010, following

(See "Foxfire," p. 14)

Foxfire Council meetings will have earlier start time

Beginning in January, the Foxfire Village Council will convene a half-hour earlier for regular monthly meetings held in Town Hall.

The first meeting of the New Year will be held Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm, and will include a Public Hearing for input on pro-

posed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

In addition, the Council will meet in Work Session on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm and for a daylong annual retreat on Thursday, January 26, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at Belle Meade.



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Foxfire year in review

(Continued from page 13)

Page Coker's resignation. Both will serve out the remaining two years of those unexpired terms.

Residents also re-elected Mayor George Erickson to a full four-year term on the Council, where he has served since 2003. Also seated for a four-year term was Councilman Steven Durham, who took a seat vacated when Councilman Ed Lauer did not seek re-election.

2010 Census data

According to official census data reported in March 2011, Foxfire Village experienced the largest percentage of population growth in Moore County over the last decade. The Village grew from 474 to 902 residents between 2000 and 2010 — a 90% increase.

Zoning concerns

Updates and proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance — particularly those related to the minimum equestrian lot size requirement and the definition and enforcement of single family residential use — generated substantial Council discussion in late 2011.

A single family home that was being used as a six-man dormitory by a local business prompted the Village Council to seek legal counsel in November. Village Attorney Michael Brough determined the existing ordinance did prohibit such use, but recommended that updated language should be adopted before the Village took any enforcement action. A proposed amended ordinance will be presented for Council consideration during a Public Hearing on January 10, 2012.

The question over what size lot is most appropriate for equestrian zoning in Foxfire Village was initiated by a housekeeping issue. In the Fall of 2005, the Council adopted a resolution increasing the requirement from six to ten acres; however, the amendment was never codified into the ordinance book.

When that omission was

brought up for discussion, two local professionals in the building and real estate industries recommended that the ten-acre minimum was not in keeping with other communities in Moore County and could impact sales and marketability of equestrian property in Foxfire.

Late in the year, the Planning & Zoning Committee recommended that the Village retain the ten-acre minimum. Discussion of the issue continues at the Council level.

Finance

Foxfire maintains the second-lowest tax rate in Moore County — currently set at thirty-two cents per hundred dollars of valuation. That may explain the fact that the annual budgeting process attracted little public input or participation in 2011.

In June, Finance Director Leslie Frusco presented the estimated real property and motor vehicle total valuation at \$157,900,000 — which was a \$1.1 million increase over FY 2010-2011. Additional

anticipated revenue of \$882,100 was expected from sales taxes, permits and fees, assessments, and shared state revenue from Powell Bill funds.

Debt service remains a high priority concern for the Council. The Village incurs annual loan payments for three major capital improvement projects; the Woodland Circle extension, the Village Green Park, and new water lines and wells.

In July, annual bank loan payments of \$26,966 for the Village Green Park and \$41,144 for water improvements were paid. Anticipating the eventual donation of land related to the Woodland Circle assessments, Finance Director Leslie Frusco took the proactive step of securing a two-year period of interest-only loan payments. In April 2012, payment of \$81,167 is due on the Woodland Circle Extension project loan.

Public Safety

The three-man, one-dog Foxfire Police Department is

led by Chief Mike Campbell, who is assisted by Sgt. Chad Shue and his K9 "Ruger" and Officer Scott Patterson, a part-time member of the force hired in late 2010.

In September, time began to catch up with six-year-old "Ruger" as a leg injury slowed him down. A Czech shepherd purchased for the bargain price of \$500, including equipment, from a Sheriff's office in the Midwest, Ruger is quickly approaching the natural retirement age for a working dog.

In December, the Council unanimously approved an exchange of property with a local military and police dog training contractor — trading an unused Foxfire Police vehicle for a young trained K9.

Earlier in the year, the Village also received two new Automated External Defibrillator [AED] devices from

Moore County. These newer models are fully-automated systems that accommodate both children and adults. AED devices are maintained in all Foxfire Police vehicles, at the community pool, and Town Hall.

Streets

In response to several traffic fatalities in 2010, Foxfire Village asked NCDOT to perform traffic studies at several key intersections.

A reduced speed limit or lighted fixture were not recommended at the Hoffman and Richmond Road intersection; however, a larger stop sign was installed. Painted safety striping that would act as rumble strips were considered, but rejected because of noise concerns.

A traffic study at the Foxfire and Hoffman Roads intersection (See "Foxfire," p. 15)



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Foxfire year in review

(Continued from page 14)

section recommended moving a bricked-in sign, but a second inspection of the area showed no need for such action.

Also discussed but not acted on this year was a proposal to install a stop sign in place of a yield sign at the corner of Tie and Foxfire Roads, as well as a recommendation to reduce the overall Village speed limit.

Concern was also raised over vehicles parked haphazardly and the overall generally unkempt appearance of the parking in front of the condo area.

Water

Moore County remained under moderate to severe drought conditions throughout the year, and Foxfire Village maintained voluntary water restrictions.

An unexpected piece of state legislation — NC Senate Bill 676 — that prevents counties and local municipalities from banning potable water wells, negated an existing Village ban and was met with scorn from Council members.

Ultimately, the Council adopted a hefty new fee schedule aimed at discouraging well-drilling in the Village and also developed a policy to allow equestrian lots greater than five acres to dig irrigation wells.

Long Range Planning

Data collected from focus group meetings was used to develop a detailed long range planning survey that was distributed to Foxfire residents in August.

Aimed at gauging resident interest on a number of issues, results from the community survey will be folded into a formal Long Range Plan that is under development.

Recreation

Fencing around the Village Center swimming pool was no longer in compliance with new state regulations and was replaced with a new six-foot white picket fence.

A grant application request

for substantial improvements to the community pool and central park area was submitted and rejected for the sixth straight year by the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund [PARTF]. As developed over several years, the plan included a five-year \$1,593,196 Capital Improvement Plan [CIP] which would have prioritized pool improvements,

with later work anticipated at the Village Green Park, Lake McKenzie and the old beach property, in addition to a new playground and community center.

Foxfire recognitions

The North Carolina League of Municipalities recognized Wally Peckitt and Dick Christman, both now deceased, for their significant and lasting

contributions to the Foxfire community.

During his twenty-three year tenure on the Council, Peckitt served as mayor pro tem, overseeing streets and also finance. Christman was honored for his seventeen years of faithful service as water superintendent to the Village.

The 2011 Steiner Stempel Awards were presented to Craig Ramey, Betty Worst, and the late Dick Christman.

Ramey was recognized for his leadership in planning & zoning, notably during the high growth period late in the 2000s, and for laying the groundwork that allowed the billion-dollar Stonehill Pines development project to move forward.

Christman served as the

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

Betty Worst was honored as the "epitome of what the Steiner Stempel Award stands for," as an active volunteer and leader in the community, with many years of service to the Garden Club, Welcome Committee, and Women's Association. In addition, she is responsible for decorating the community Christmas tree and helped create the Village Green memorial garden.

Welcome to Medicare: Senior Center seminar

Medicare related decisions can be overwhelming and confusing. On Wednesday, January 11 at 3 pm, Jill Sherman and Jeanette Peterson from the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will help you sort through the Medicare options available to those turning 65.

Learn about Medicare Part A and Part B, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare drug plans. Find out about help that is available for

qualified Medicare beneficiaries who are unable to pay the high cost of their prescriptions.

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) offers free and unbiased information regarding Medicare health care products. Since the program's creation in 1986,

SHIIP has become a role model for other states and has received two national awards for "innovative" and "exemplary" service. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

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Westside year in review

(Continued from front page)

Planning Committee took feedback from the community — as well as the United States Postal Service [USPS] — and recommended that one mail house should be built on the West Side.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of that recommendation.

The estimated \$310,000 cost of a new mailhouse will be finalized after a traffic analysis determines the most favorable location for the facility. That appears likely to be near the Westside Park Community Center [WSPCC]. The structure is expected to be 1800 square feet, with larger mail boxes and room to grow as more families move into the community.

The decision to build a new mailhouse meant the SLWLA Board finally abandoned the idea of curbside mail delivery in the community. That decision was based both on a refusal by the USPS to consider such an option, and lukewarm interest in curbside delivery among Westside residents.

Treasure Don Freiert assured the community that there are sufficient capital reserves available to pay for the project, without increasing member dues.

The SLWLA Board faces a deadline for getting the new facility, planned, bid, and in place. A legal settlement obligates the Association to move the front gate and guardhouse from their current location by 2015, and the plan is to put the new gate where the current mailhouse is located.

Dues Increase?

2011 began with a proposed dues increase, and the issue was once again on the agenda at the end of the year.

Treasurer Freiert informed the Board at its last meeting in December that dues are going to have to rise in order to pay for a projected \$94,000 increase in operating expenses.

The stiffest hike will be felt by the owners of empty lots, who will see a six percent increase, from \$624 to \$726

per year. Developed lots would receive a two percent increase, from \$912 to \$930 a year.

Balancing the 2012-2013 budget will also require a \$42,000 decrease in the Association's contribution to capital projects and capital reserves. The proposed budget envisions \$178,000 in spending on roads and related infrastructure and \$279,500 on other capital projects, including the mailhouse and entryways.

At year end, the Board had yet to give Freiert's plan final approval. Residents were invited to weigh in on the topic at a town hall meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 4. Once the budget is approved by the Board of Directors, members will be asked to vote on it as part of the Annual Meeting process.

Lake Auman

Early in 2011, prior to the beginning of the boating season, the Board considered proposals by the Buoy and Boating Rules Revision Committee that would have redrawn the map of Lake Auman, eliminating a transition zone between the No Wake Zone and the Ski Area was withdrawn.

But a number of boaters objected that the proposed rules left no place for folks who simply want to cruise around the lake at a moderate speed in their pontoon

or deck boats.

After much debate and community feedback, the Board decided that the only thing that should change on the Lake was a rearrangement of buoys to increase the size of the ski area.

A boat patrol was added to Lake Auman during the Summer months, along with a gate guard at the entrance to Johnson Point, checking for member IDs. By the end of June, Lake & Dam Director Adam Wimberley was ready to call both programs a success.

Failure to comply with lakes rules cost offenders a ticket and fines ranging from \$25 to \$100. Tickets were also issued for those who did not register or place a registration sticker on their boat.

Another change to lake rules and regulations increased maximum dock length to 23 feet. The change was recommended by the Architectural Review Committee [ARC], which said it would increase the safety on Lake Auman, since the largest boats allowed on the water are 22.8 feet long.

Late in the year, the Board determined that a study needed to be scheduled to take a look at the health of Lake Auman — something that hasn't been done in over six years. The study will look at vegetation, fish, and water quality.

Repairs to the docks at Johnson Point and to the

swim platform were discussed throughout the year, but the Board never reached a decision on how best to proceed with the work — a decision that is likely to become more pressing in the Spring as the boating and swim season near.

New peizometers — which measure the water level inside the Lake Auman dam — were installed this year at a cost of \$47,000.

Safety & Security

Newly-elected Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy hit the ground running with a number of proposals, including:

- Installing an exit gate at Bainbridge Drive;

- Adding a four way stop at the intersection of Longleaf and Otter Drive, at the entrance to West Side Park;

- Issuing one free barcode per household;

- Installing speed humps as a means of speed control in the community; and

- Adding remote control locks to the gates on both ends of the road over Lake Auman.

Unfortunately for McCarthy, he was unable to convince his fellow Directors to approve any of those projects. But he did find some common ground with the rest of the Board by bringing in officers to enforcement speed limits in the community.

(See "Westside," p. 20)



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- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Young Adult* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson. Everyone gets old. Not everyone grows up. Soon after her divorce, a fiction writer returns to her home in small-town Minnesota, looking to rekindle a romance with her ex-boyfriend, who is now married with kids. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.3611.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Young Adult* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson. Everyone gets old. Not everyone grows up. 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. 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, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Young Adult* – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

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.

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Young Adult* – 7:30 pm, Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson.. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – *New Year, New Time, New Topic* - Social Networking – 7 pm (**Note New Time**) at the Seven Lakes North Game Room. Lori Williams from Sandhills Community College, will speak about Facebook,

Twitter and mention some of the other social networks. This topic will be of interest to all age groups.

New members are always welcome. Try out the new time for the meeting.

- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7:30 pm, meeting. At Foxfire Village Hall. Open to community and public.

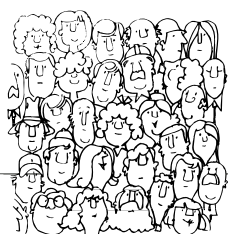
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **'Met Opera Encore of Faust' at the Sunrise** – 1 pm to 5:20 pm, Two intermissions. Individual tickets \$25. Good seats available. Call 910-692-8501. Jonas Kaufmann in the title role, René Pape as the devil, and Angela Gheorghiu as Marguerite, Gounod's classic retelling of the Faust legend couldn't be better served. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **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

What's When Calendar



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,
- **Country Royalty at Temple Theatre** - Hank Williams and Patsy Cline were the two biggest names country music has ever seen. Their lives were both fascinating and tragic. The legacy they left is still felt to this very day. All of the big hits will be covered. Showtimes: January 12 through 29 – Thursday at 2 pm and 7 pm January 12, 19 and 26; Friday at 8 pm January 13, 20 and 27; Saturday at 8 pm January 21, 10 and 28; Sunday

at 2 pm January 22, 11 and 29. Tickets: \$22 Adults, \$12 Full Time Students with ID. \$18 Groups 10+. Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage Street, Sanford, Administrative Office 919-774-4512, Box Office 919-774-4155 www.templeshows.com

- **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 Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Women of the Sixth Floor*. (Comedy, in French with subtitles.) Paris, in the early 1960s. Jean - Louis Joubert is a serious but uptight stockbroker, married to Suzanne, a starchy class-conscious woman and father of two arrogant teenage boys, currently in a boarding school. The affluent man lives a steady yet boring life. At least until, due to a fortuitous circumstances, Maria, the charming new maid at the service of Jean - Louis' family, makes him discover the servants' quarter on the sixth floor of the luxury

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Women of the Sixth Floor*. (Comedy, in French with subtitles.) Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Women of the Sixth Floor*. (Comedy, in French with subtitles.) 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 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 15

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Women of the Sixth Floor*. (Comedy, in French with subtitles.) Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Harpeth Rising* 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.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **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.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Women of the Sixth Floor*. (Comedy, in French with subtitles.) Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

- **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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

- **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 benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League

who are dedicated to the rescue and rehab of stray and abandoned pets. 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 22

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

- **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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling,

bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly).

erly). 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.
- **Art Open House at St. Mary Magdalene** – 7 to 9 pm, featuring local artist, Magda Sonderfan, with a wine and cheese reception. Sonderfan will be available to discuss her works of art. A self taught artist who has had several shows in the area. Sonderfan's works include black and white, landscapes, and watercolor. St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838.



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Westside year in review

(Continued from page 16)

In October, SLWLA security vendor SFI merged with Universal Forces, bringing with the merger some staff changes.

Financial Strategy

The Board last year approved an Investment Strategy proposed by Treasurer Freiert that included three financial policy goals:

- First, to preserve principal or the safety of invested funds.
- Second, to allow the Association ready access to funds that are needed on a short term basis.
- Third, to attain the highest yield possible on invested funds.

Freiert said those goals can be met by having both long and short term strategies. To meet short term needs, Freiert proposed having enough money in a checking or money market account to meet three months-worth of operating expenses — approximately \$225,000.

For the long term, the Association's funds would be distributed into three categories: Safety, Liquidity, and Yield Maximization.

Freiert reports to the Board on upcoming financial needs, investments, and reinvestments of available funds every three months.

The Board made two changes to the financial policy that would give functional directors the ability to make approvals for general expenses and budgeted items up to \$25,000. Any unbudgeted item or Capital Improvement Project costing \$5,000 or more will still need Board approval.

Freiert also proposed a check signing policy that would allow management company CAS to sign checks of \$1,000 or less. Checks from \$1,000 to \$5,000 would need to bear the signature of only one officer of the association for all previously approved expenditures. Any check over \$5,000 would require two officers' signatures.

Communication

After revamping the SLWLA website, Secretary Sessler was able to persuade more than 600 Westsiders to register for full access to the website and weekly email news bulletins.

The community newsletter has also been moved onto the website, but still remains available in print form. At the end of May 2012, the CAS team will take over the day-to-day operations of the website.

Due to the success of the website as a vehicle for getting information out the community and pulling feedback into the Board, Sessler announced that role of the Area Reps will change, so that they become more of an information source to new residents of Seven Lakes West.

Capital Projects

Under the leadership of Infrastructure Director John Goodman, culverts were repaired throughout the community from February through September. The poor condition of culverts repaired early in the process persuaded the Board to accelerate the repair schedule.

Thirteen culverts carrying water under Longleaf Drive were repaired throughout the year at an average cost of \$25,000 a piece. Goodman also headed an effort to patch roads throughout the community where culverts had been repaired.

In October, Goodman received Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks' plans for rehabilitating the overflow pipe system at the lower Lakeway Mall pond.

The overall plan for the project include a guardrail system on Longleaf across the pond dam that would separate pedestrians from traffic. Some members have questioned the added expense, but Goodman has argued that the guardrails will enhance the safety in the area.

A fifty foot easement from lot #3209 located off of Lakeway Mall was obtained by the Association in order to

It's Time To Say THANKS!



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a New Year, we
wanted to let you
know that we loved
every minute of
serving you last
year, and look
forward to seeing
you again in 2012.*



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Happy New Year!

Westside year in review

(Continued from page 20)

keep the continuity of the landscaping when entering the community.

Legal Matters

Legal Director Jack Stevens withdrew a proposed Lot Recombination Resolution that would have placed a deadline of December 31 to divide previously combined lots in Seven Lakes. The resolution was intended to spell out the specifics of the lot combination process in the community — something that is not clear in the current rules and regulations.

The digital archiving association documents was put on the back burner in 2011; Stevens asked the Board to consider including the cost of the process in next year's budget.

After a decade of behind the scenes work, led principally by Gerhard Hergen-hahn, new flood maps were annotated to indicate that Lake Auman lots do not lie in a flood zone, saving those lot owners the added expense of purchasing mandatory flood insurance.

The annexation of Stonegate subdivision was completed in February, and that twelve-home development near the back gate wound up back on the Board's agenda in mid-December, when developer Ron Myers requested a variance that would reduce the minimum size of the homes from 2,000 to 1,600 square feet. A quick decision by the ARC to approve the variance generated significant public input, and a decision by ARC Director John Hoffmann to take the matter back to that panel to ascertain whether the developer had established sufficient grounds for the variance.

Architectural Review

The ARC committee worked at developing "friendlier" compliance letters, as well as addressing the six most common violations in the community, which ranged from parking in common area easements for excessive time periods, to building and land-

scaping projects without an ARC permit.

By placing ARC information on the website, the Committee was able to shorten the time between application submission and approval. Secretary Sessler said the success of the ARC committee can be attributed to the fact that information pertinent to the community has been placed on the association's website, making it more accessible.

The ARC committee updated a number of standards this year, gaining approval from the Board for the changes.

Three New Directors Elected

The SLWLA welcomed three new directors to the board in March 2011. Jim Ferguson became the Association's Events Director, Jim McCarthy took over the role of Safety and Security Director, and Jack Stevens became the Legal Director.

Mick Herdrich was elected President of the SLWLA and John Hoffmann retained the role of Vice President. Jane Sessler was elected Secretary of the Board.

At the close of 2011, three new candidates were announced as nominees for the March 2012 Annual Meeting elections, including Jim Pierman, Don Blue, and Bruce Keyser, Sr.

Current Directors Adam Wimberly, John Goodman and John Hoffman will be retiring from the Board after serving three-year terms.

Volunteers Honored

Three top community volunteers were recognized during the 2011 Annual Meeting as the first recipients of the Joe Fellingham Community Service Award: Betsy Mikula, Gerhard Hergen-hahn, and Bud Sales.

Mikula was recognized for putting together the community newsletter and for adding the association to the world wide web.

Hergen-hahn was recognized for being involved in every land planning activity in Seven Lakes West and in the County along with having a vast array of knowledge of the Association's legal history.

A former Director and one of the architects of the merger

of the Westside Associations, Sales was recognized for being a Community Advocate in recent years.

Other 2011 News

Other notable Westside news in 2011 included:

- A Lake Auman Dam Road Committee continues to look for future possibilities of a by-pass road around the dam.
- A Committee to oversee amenities in the community was developed and will be chaired by Nancy Workman. The main objective of the committee is to develop guidelines to optimize and protect the use of various community amenities, including the pool, Johnson Point, and WSPCC.

- The West Side's swim season was extended through October at the request of Events Director Jim Ferguson.
- In order to comply with new state standards the Board approved a \$4,000 upgrade to the WSPCC pool.
- A new security system was installed in the Community Center.
- Ed Silberhorn replaced Bud Sales as the Community Advocate after Sales stepped down from the position.
- After five years of service Charlie Merial stepped down from the Judicial Panel.

Happy New Year!



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Hopping with the crows, maybe?

Four, three, two, one . . . Happy New Year!

And with that announcement, folks across the nation popped open their champagne bottles and rang in 2012.

I wasn't one of them.

Though I could hear the fireworks and cheers from a few more hardy souls out in the Winter night, I stayed snuggled up tight in bed and blanket.

I tried though. I even made it to eleven o'clock before crashing and burning — which is pretty much in keeping with my standard success rate: close but not quite there.

In life, I may not be a

turkey, but I'm not soaring with the eagles either, if you know what I mean.

For example, I give you my daily diet fail.

Each morning starts with an 'A' for effort.

I have a simple cup of coffee — no sugar

— and a handful of raw almonds and dried fruit. Sometimes I'll get crazy and munch down a multi-vitamin, too.

By lunchtime I'm sinking into 'B' grade territory and

forego healthy food in favor of a reasonably-sized portion of leftovers or a peanut butter & jelly sandwich. It's not par-

Laura's Learning Curve
Laura Douglass



ticularly nutritious, but it could be worse.

And "worse," I know well. We made our acquaintance way back in college.

Hungry by dinnertime, I am firmly rooted in the

province of 'C' as I serve either something the kids cheer for — taco night — or something they jeer — beef stew. Though it makes little difference to me since, by now, my metabolism is screaming for vengeance and I heap a steaming portion of whatever on my plate.

Coasting toward bedtime I finally arrive at my happy place in my home country of 'D,' where everyone is warm, content and calories don't count. I throw caution to the wind — and any hope of losing those five extra-annoying pounds — and pry open a frosty brew or two.

So, you can imagine with

this amazing daily track record of repeated food fail, that I am a strict adherent to my New Years' resolutions.

Last year, I had one resolution: one! And I sort of stuck to it for awhile but not really. Oh heck, you're right. I didn't keep it!

Undeterred, this year I have resurrected that same resolution and, for good measure, adopted two more.

Why do when you can overdo? And why fail on only one front?

If I'm going down in flames anyway, I figured I may as well bring along some company this year.

Cheers!

Debtor, trespasser, sinner . . . take your pick

Question: I grew up in the Presbyterian Church. When we prayed The Lord's Prayer we said: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Recently, I have been attending a church of a different denomination and they say: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Why are they different, and why can't churches agree on what Jesus taught us to pray?

Response: I grew up a Methodist. So, I was a "tres-

passer" until I began to serve as Pastor of a Presbyterian Church. My wife, a former Episcopalian "trespasser," and I discovered every Sunday that we were "debtors."

I am sure that this is confusing to many people in this ecumenical age, when they find themselves praying the prayer in a church different from their own.

We must always remember that Jesus spoke Aramaic, and that his words were translated into Greek when Matthew, Mark, Luke and John quoted them in the four

New Testament Gospels. When we read from English translations of the Bible we are not reading the exact words Jesus spoke, but a third generation translation of Jesus' words.

In the first English translation of the Bible, John Wycliffe translated Matthew's Greek words as "debts" and "debtors." In 1611, under the orders of

King James IV of Scotland and King James I of England (the same man) the translation

Ask the 'Rev'
Rev. Don Welch



tors followed Wycliffe's use of the word "debts."

When William Tyndale translated the New Testament into English in 1526, he used the word "trespasses." This translation found its way into the Great Bible and the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*.

Consequently, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Methodists, and those denominations who have their antecedents in the Church of England use "trespasses." Presbyterians and other Reform denominations followed the King James Version and used "debts."

Albert Hay Malotte composed a popular musical setting for The Lord's Prayer in

1935 and found it easier to fit "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" into his music.

I have heard singers try to force the words "as we forgive those who trespass against us" into the score, and it just doesn't work. Those who only hear the "Our Father" sung, and never actually pray the words are most familiar with "debts."

Many non-denominational and interdenominational churches have solved the dilemma by praying: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

Let's all remember that the emphasis is on forgiveness, transformation, and reconciliation — and a world full of debtors, trespassers, and sinners stands in need of all three.

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

His sermons can be found on the website: sevenlakeschapelinthepines.com

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FirstHealth offers range of Support Groups

Because the effects of anesthesia were playing tricks on his short-term memory at the time, David Seiberling never quite got the name of the Zipper Club member who slipped into his hospital room after his triple bypass nearly five years ago.

He has no trouble recalling his visitor's message, though.

"He talked to me in a very positive way about getting through this (open-heart experience)," Seiberling says. "He talked about the importance of a positive attitude in allowing yourself to go for-

ward."

Eventually, Seiberling started visiting with open-heart patients himself. He now spends a part of every Sunday with men and women who have just had surgery and, like his own visitor in March 2007, he shares a story of common experience and hope.

"It's kind of a lift to see someone standing there who has gone through this, getting them to understand that once they go home they can have a much better life than they had before surgery," Seiberling says. "That's the reason the Zipper Club works. I've been there. When I tell people that, and they see me standing there with a little color in my face, it makes everything a little more valid."

Each of the 14 groups that meet regularly at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital tries to make shared experiences "a little more valid" by offering education as well as support. They reach people with a variety of medical conditions.

In addition to the Zipper Club, a group for people who have had open-heart surgery, there's FirstQuit, for tobacco-cessation, as well as groups for stroke, post-polio, fibromyalgia and cancer, even breast-feeding mothers.

A Behavioral Services group serves veterans of military operations dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to Ashley Atkinson, of FirstHealth Corporate

Education, people who attend support groups meet peers who have traveled the same medical journey and have similar medical goals. Some also seek and find a "sounding board" for their thoughts and concerns.

Each group is special in its own way, Atkinson says – not only in the disease- or condition-specific information that is shared, but also in the way participants react and respond to each other.

"They come together in a common desire for support and education," she says.

People dealing with grief and loss find support and solace in groups, too, and the Grief Resource & Counseling Center at FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care has offered many support groups throughout the years. According to Tina Gibbs, associate director of FirstHealth Hospice, some offer information provided in a single session while others meet continuously, on a monthly or semi-monthly basis, over an extended period of time.

Groups help people who have experienced similar losses work their way through different stages of the grief process, says Gibbs. Some target specific groups of people – men only, for example, or children or teens.

"These groups give people an opportunity to come together who share a common situation," says Gibbs. "They have suffered a loss

and are looking for information and support to help them cope with the changes they are going through."

All support groups, those focused on specific diseases as well as those dealing with grief and loss, allow their participants to develop bonds.

Discussing common experiences is "very healthy for them," he says. "It makes them feel much more alive

to be able to connect with somebody."

For more information on the disease- or condition-specific support groups offered by FirstHealth of the Carolinas, call 715-5266. For more information on the groups currently being offered by the Grief Resource & Counseling Center at FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, call 715-6000.

FirstHealth Support Groups

FirstHealth of the Carolinas hosts 14 different support groups that meet regularly on the campus of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital or at nearby locations. Their names and meeting dates, times and locations, along with contact information, follow.

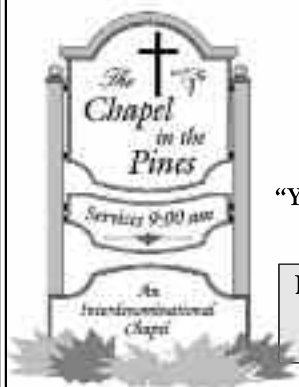
For information on the various grief and loss support groups sponsored by FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, call 715-6000.

Bariatric – 255-3690.
Better Breathers – 692-9103 or 715-5266.
Breast Cancer – 715-5266.
Cancer – 715-5266.
Cancer Survivors – 715-2298.
CODA – 715-5266.
Fibromyalgia – 715-5266.

FirstQuit (tobacco cessation) – 295-8047.
Lupus – 715-5266.
NAMI-MC (National Alliance on Mental Illness-Moore County) – 295-1053.
Post-Deployment Group – 715-1535 or 715-3370.
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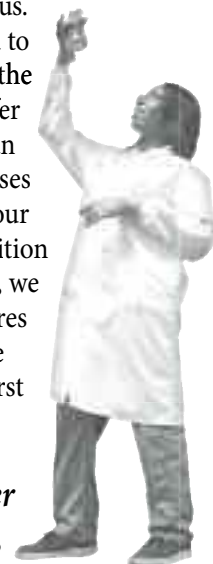
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SLLA year in review

(Continued from front page)

sourcing landscape maintenance was initiated in 2009 and then tabled, in order to allow Talis Management to evaluate the capabilities and ongoing costs of an in-house maintenance and grounds department. The outsourcing discussion resumed in Fall 2010, and was in keeping with decisions over the past few years to outsource security services and community management.

Without the support of its Finance Committee, the SLLA Board voted four-to-two in February to award a \$146,000 mowing contract to Davenport Landscaping. However, the Board stopped short of approving a recommended \$11,980 optional contract for additional plantings.

In spite of the rancor, Davenport quickly gained public favor through excellent service and attractive landscaping projects — particularly at highly visible areas at the gates and mailhouses.

In April, newly elected SLLA President Bob Darr noted that Davenport Landscaping was doing an excellent job.

"I have not seen this place look better in my eight and a half years as a resident," said Darr. "It looks better, and I never doubted that it would [with the contract]. My concern from the get-go was money — and we will be monitoring that closely."

While the attractive new plantings were well-received by the community, questions were raised later in the year over how much they cost and who had authorized the expenditure. In response, a new detailed financial policy was developed, outlining signature authority and competitive bid processes.

Election and outcome

Resigning only weeks prior to the annual election in March, Treasurer Denny Galford stepped down to protest what he viewed as an unfair criticism of Board members related to another controversial decision made early in 2011: amending the agreement between SLLA and

Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] over future development of the old driving range.

His absence left four seats up for grabs during the annual election in March — a majority of the Board.

Voters were in an anti-incumbent mood and cast their ballots overwhelmingly in favor of four newcomers: Conrad Meyer, Don Fentzlaff, Bob Racine, and Bob Darr.

The newly elected directors quickly filled many of the executive officer positions, with Darr as President, Racine as Secretary, and Meyer as Treasurer. During the rather bumpy organizational meeting, Director Melinda Scott was appointed Vice President; however, both she and fellow Director Chuck Mims unexpectedly resigned the following day. As the only other midterm director at the table, Bud Shaver opted to weather the storm and held onto his seat.

This political upheaval left SLLA President Darr scarcely forty-eight hours into his term and on the hunt for two replacement Board members. Though passed over by the voters, incumbent Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. was seated back at the table in April, with a firm nod of support from his fellow directors. Later in May, newcomer Andy Lowe was appointed to fill

the remaining open seat.

In fits and starts through the year, the Board considered various options to improve the election process. Steps taken include a revision to the By-laws that clarifies exactly who is to preside over the first meeting of the new Board, commonly known as the organizational meeting. Another revision to the By-laws would require any incumbent director running for re-election to recuse themselves from voting in the proxy ballot. Also approved was an amendment to the rules that clarified how a quorum is determined and a set of procedures to follow in the event of a tie for the last open seat of the Board. In addition, the Judicial Committee is now responsible for the annual task of counting and validating the ballots.

Communication

Improved communication between the Board and the community was a top priority for Darr in 2011. While the goal of developing a Communications Committee went unrealized, the Board actively encouraged open dialogue during public meetings.

A well-attended Town Hall Meeting, held in June, seemed to mark a turn towards good humor and constructive commentary, as

the Board successfully restored order and a sense of calm camaraderie that prevailed for the remainder of the year.

Reserve Study

Formally accepted in January, the "Reserve Study" was developed by an outside consultant as a long range planning and financial tool, offering a comprehensive evaluation of all community assets and infrastructure and making funding recommendations for the next thirty years.

Perhaps the most significant recommendation is that substantial annual increases to the reserve funds will be necessary over the next five years. Through incremental increases beginning in 2012, the Reserve Study recommends quickly amassing

reserves that are well beyond the capabilities of current dues levels.

Unfortunately, the alarming figures presented and the voluminous amount of information in the document can easily overwhelm any casual review.

Attempting to break the study down into a more manageable document, Director Shaver and Treasurer Conrad Meyer compiled an extract of information and simplified the study's recommendations into two categories: road repaving and everything else.

"Everything else" includes four primary areas — dams, pool, buildings, and other capital expenses. At replacement cost estimates ranging from \$500,000 to \$600,000 each, these are considered costly, but manageable challenges.

(See "SLLA," p. 25)




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SLLA

(Continued from page 24)

lenges.

Repaving the community's twenty-seven miles of roads is an entirely different story, with an anticipated price tag of a whopping \$4.3 million.

In an attempt to better map out actual costs and to prioritize problem areas, engineering firm S&ME was hired to inspect, evaluate, and develop specifications for the eventual repair and resurfacing work of the entire road network. The final report is scheduled for completion in early 2012.

One major question that must still be resolved is whether paving work will be completed piecemeal, as current reserves allow, or if it will be more cost-effective pave all at once using borrowed funds.

In related discussions, Shaver recommended a cluster approach: initially paving the secondary roads in a given area, then the primary roads, which would prevent unnecessary damage to the main arteries as different areas were improved. Also under consideration is a total realignment of the front entrance gates and incorporation of dedicated turn lanes at each exit.

Finance

Early in the year, the Board approved a \$1.37 million FY 2012 Budget that included the in-house maintenance staff. In late April, the newly seated Board unanimously re-approved the FY 2012 Budget after making an adjustment to compensate for the controversial Davenport Landscaping contract.

There was no increase in dues, which remained at \$900 for homeowners, \$570 for lots, \$397 for multiple lot owners, \$410 for renters, and \$230 for owners of the rental property. Homeowners' dues include \$100 in restricted reserve funds to roads and state-mandated dam repairs.

Membership forms were updated based on a recommendation by the Finance Committee to separate vehicle (See "SLLA," p. 26)



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LOT #5433 - \$22,500
LOT #2552 - \$24,900
LOT#2550 - \$26,000

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SLLA year in review

(Continued from page 25)

registration from the dues billing process. However, that change, coupled with a delay in printing, left many residents confused. In response, an ad hoc committee was formed to assess the various needs and recommend a more streamlined process that would be more user-friendly for both members and SLLA office staff.

Internal lot audit

Standard maps in use for the community were not entirely accurate. Treasurer Conrad Meyer discovered during a comprehensive audit of lots.

Based on information collected during the audit, it was also determined that the number of combined lots was higher than had previously been thought. Meyer found that the process for combining and un-combining lots was not as formally codified as many believed.

Perhaps the most surprising result of the lot audit was the discovery that only one of four former well sites in the community, abandoned by Moore County, has been properly deeded back to the Association.

These abandoned well sites were a major point of concern in 2009, when a new Bylaw was approved which placed the community's four largest recreational common areas — the stables, soccer field, Northside Park around the offices and clubhouse, and Sequoia Point — under deed restrictions that prevent the Board from selling the land except by a super majority vote of six of seven directors.

The lot audit also raised questions about voting rights and how Association members are defined. Late in the year, the Board approved several amendments to the rules related to these concerns, specifically identifying a member as a single entity with the right to cast one vote.

SLLA-SLCC agreement

A closed-door discussion on amending the agreement with Seven Lakes Country

Club [SLCC] over future use and development on the old driving range property concluded in Spring 2011 with updated language and approval of a related ten-foot buffer easement and newly developed covenants on Club property.

Executed in July 2007, the agreement was put back on the table for discussion in Summer 2010, when the Club objected to what it saw as vague language in bullet point five of the original document. As written, that section restricted future development of the driving range to no more than fourteen homes and stated the SLLA would work with any developer of the property in an open and cooperative manner.

After several months of slow progress and attorney consultations, key members representing the Club and the Association met in January 2011 and reached a compromise. The amended bullet point no longer restricts the number of potential homes by a set figure, but rather subjects future development of the property to Moore County ordinances and standards imposed by the South Side Covenants.

Former SLLA President Zeilsdorf said the original 2007 agreement between the Seven Lakes Country Club

[SLCC] and SLLA was a good faith effort by members of both boards, but, not being drafted by someone with legal expertise, contained language "that is nebulous at best and contradictory at its worst."

Those contradictions are most prominent between bullet point one — which states that all Club property is limited to the operations of a golf course — and bullet point four — which states that, upon the sale of any Club property for residential purposes, such properties will be subject to the South Side Covenants.

After the amended agreement was accepted, former SLCC President Steve Ritter announced the Club had entered a contract to sell the 5.42 acre tract to Rufty Homes, a Raleigh-based development company. By year-end, however, the property had not changed hands, there had been no observable progress toward developing it, and the Club had made no further announcement concerning a sale.

Recreation

Beautiful parks, multiple lakes and beach areas, and an active recreational program are strong community assets; however, ongoing petty vandalism strained the Board's patience and caused unanticipated budget expen-

ditures in 2011.

Of particular concern were problems with graffiti and damaged picnic tables at common areas and shelters; broken overhead lights; the verbal assault of an Association staff member; defacing of the Landowners Office building; and a fire set in the ladies restroom near the pool area.

On the bright side, the SLLA recreation committee hosted several outstanding and highly popular events, beginning with an Easter Egg Hunt that included a jumping castle and other fun activities in the Spring. Summer brought a reactivated Seven Lakes Stingrays Swim Team, extended pool hours, water aerobics classes, and both Day and Horse Camps for kids, in addition to a delayed but nonetheless well-received fireworks display on the Fourth of July. The warm season ended with a Dog Day of Summer at the pool and

a beachfront S'Mores Party at Sequoia Point. Ghosts and goblins of all ages haunted the Halloween Party, and even Santa Claus himself couldn't help dropping by the Christmas Mingle & Jingle.

Debris Site

Chronic misuse and excessive costs kept the Debris Site a top concern of the Board in 2011. By mid-year, motion detector cameras were in place and promises made to prosecute violators under standard Judicial Committee procedures.

In addition, written notification is now distributed to all commercial landscape firms entering the gates, stating that community rules strictly prohibit use of the yard waste facility to landowners and limit the size and type of materials that can be dumped at the site. Contractors may not use the

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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SLLA year in review

(Continued from page 26)

facility, with the exception of resident professional landscapers disposing of their own yard waste.

Sequoia Point

Parking along Firetree Lane near Sequoia Point and a cluttered boat storage area adjacent to the marina have been ongoing concerns for the last few years.

Especially during busy holiday weekends, the parking problem creates a highly hazardous condition. When "No Parking" signs proved to be ineffective, posts and steel cables were added along the roadside to further discourage illegal parking.

Some additional parking could be realized if the boat storage yard or Association-owned lot across the street were cleared and, or least, de-cluttered. Through inspections and notification, most of the boats on-and-off the lake were identified and work is ongoing to resolve the storage issue.

There was also some discussion but, thus far, no action on a proposed alcohol ban at Sequoia Point. While Seven Lakes North has several recreational beach areas, alcohol consumption is a more prominent problem at this heavily used park.

Security

Speeding and petty vandalism are two chronic issues that this year's Board also worked to resolve.

In November, a new annual security contract was awarded to The Budd Group, a Charlotte-based firm. And while the contract did offer a reduced rate overall, SLLA President Bob Darr said cost was not the primary motivation for the change.

Dams

A newly reconstituted Lakes & Dams Committee held its inaugural meeting in May, just in time to deal with two priority issues related to dam maintenance.

Early in 2011, four of five routine high-hazard dam inspections indicated no apparent problems; but, infor-

mation collected at Little Juniper raised alarm. Though the seepage problem noted has been a longstanding issue — dating back to at least 2008 — the report filed by S&ME recommended that corrective action should be taken sooner rather than later.

In addition, a second toe drain at Sequoia Dam was recommended to reduce pressure and improve long term maintenance of the dam.

The other major issue was murky water emanating from the foot of Echo Dam. Early inspections indicated the problem was minor and mostly cosmetic, though that report was upgraded to a more serious concern in August, following results gleaned from water testing. Additional stability tests confirmed the dam is stable and there was no danger of sections sloughing on the face of the dam. Repair work was completed at a much lower price tag than originally anticipated.

Also in 2011, the Board approved an update to the five high hazard dams Emergency Action Plans [EAP] to a new, more user-friendly format adopted by the State. Originally drafted in 2008, each EAP identifies emergency conditions at the dam, specifies preplanned actions to be followed should those

conditions occur, and lays out procedures to assist the dam owner in issuing warning to downstream emergency management authorities. The new version also included updates to the inundation flood zone maps.

Lakes

Reckless boating and impaired operators — not speeding — are the primary concerns on Lake Sequoia, the community's largest body of water.

Looking to improve lake safety issues, the SLLA Board invited Sergeant Mark Dutton and Officer Gary Caulk of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission [NCWRC] to a special community forum to discuss North Carolina laws and safe boating practices in January. Then, in April, NC Wildlife officers presented a daylong safety education course that is required for all boat operators under the age of twenty-six.

In addition, the Board approved a fast-track system to handle any violations deemed dangerous enough to warrant immediate action by the Judicial Committee.

Other lake-related concerns included the identification and notification of all boat owners not displaying proper or current registration stickers. And the Board approved

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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SLLA year in review

(Continued from page 27)

continuing a state-permitted program to control the Canada geese population by identifying nests located on common areas of the Association and then oiling or adding the eggs.

The Lakes & Dams Committee is also developing a plan of how to maintain water levels evenly across the community using existing pumps and interconnecting lines.

Lastly, following a months-long effort by Director Lowe to locate paperwork and contact last known owners, three abandoned boats will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner.

ARB appeal process

Most committees serve in an advisory function to the Board of Directors but others, such as Architectural Review Board [ARB] and Judicial

Committee, are empowered to make independent decisions.

As such, former ARB Director Melinda Scott recommended early in the year that an established, formal process for appeals should be drafted.

As approved in February, an amendment to the rules provides a thirty-day period to submit an appeal to the Board following a rejection by ARB. The appeal must include all materials that were submitted for original ARB consideration and a written statement identifying the basis for the appeal. If complete and accepted, all documents will be reviewed and proceedings will be held in open session. The Board's decision is final.

Community Standards

Building on an tracking system developed by former

Director Kent Droppers, the Community Standards Committee under the direction of Director Bob Racine created a new, more user-friendly inspection form to help speed up the reporting process. In addition, the grace period to correct alleged violations was increased from seven to fourteen days.

One notable change was a return to a courtesy telephone call from the office as first contact following a reported violation.

As approved later in the year, the comprehensive process begins with telephone call notifying the homeowner. If no contact is made by telephone, a letter is sent. If the property is occupied by a renter, both the renter and the landowner will be contacted.

After fourteen days from the first contact, the property will be re-inspected and, if

still in violation, a letter will be sent advising the resident that they have fourteen days in which to comply or the concern will be forwarded to the Judicial Committee.

At any point during this process, the landowner may submit a written request for consideration of additional

time to correct the violation.

If the concern is brought before Judicial Committee, the landowner will be contacted with the outcome of the hearing within seven days, and have fifteen days to appeal the decision to the Board of Directors.

Doctor offers thoughts on the death of Stonewall Jackson

Matt Farina, a member of the Rufus Barringer Civil War Round Table, will present a program on "Stonewall" Jackson at the Senior Enrichment Center on Thursday, January 12 at 3:30 pm. Farina's interest in the Civil War began at age 10 when he visited Gettysburg, and was rekindled 20 years ago. Farina is a retired pediatric cardiologist and professor of pediatrics at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY.

Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was one of the most famous and successful Confederate generals of the American Civil War. He was shot May 2, 1863, at the battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia, after leading his army in a surprise attack that destroyed the entire right flank of the Union army.

Jackson's medical director, a Dr. McGuire, controlled the hemorrhage from Jackson's wounds, helped evac-

uate the general from the battlefield, amputated the general's badly injured left arm, and diligently cared for Jackson until the general's death. Jackson's death was a direct result of his wounds. The wounding and death of

Jackson had a profound effect on the fate of the Confederate cause in the American Civil War since the Confederacy lost one of its best generals. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

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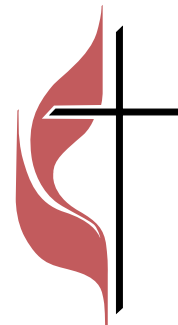
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SEVEN LAKES NORTH



115 SHERWOOD \$150,000
3 Bd/2 Ba MLS#146022

7 LAKES SOUTH TOWNHOME



104 SANDHAM CT \$139,900
3Bd/2Ba MLS#145072

SEVEN LAKES NORTH



102 SANDY RIDGE RD \$159,000
3Bd/2Ba MLS#144689

SEVEN LAKES NORTH



119 TIMBER DRIVE \$135,000
2Bd/2Ba MLS#144630

SEVEN LAKES WEST



178 BAKER CIRCLE \$249,000
4Bd/2.5 Ba MLS#143803

SL WEST GOLF FRONT



188 PAULA COURT \$354,900
3Bd/2.5Ba MLS#142444

FOXFIRE VILLAGE EAST



12 WILDWOOD LANE \$214,900
3Bd/2.5Ba MLS#139085

LOTS AVAILABLE!

Seven Lakes West

#144798 - 123 James Dr. - \$25,000
#142895 - 103 Davenport Ct - \$25,000
#142897 - 105 Davenport Ct - \$27,000
#139058 - 173 Grace Ct - \$27,000
#139124 - Finch Gate Dr - \$32,500
#141789 - 112 Simmons Dr - \$50,000
#144215 - 109 Longleaf Dr - \$55,000

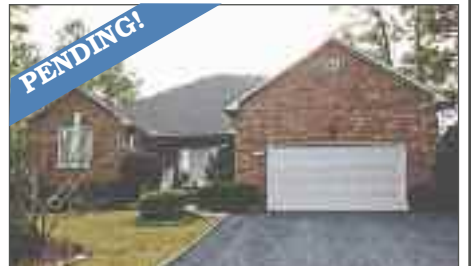
Seven Lakes West

#145646 - 156 Paula Ct. - \$25,000
#144210 - 161 James Dr - \$284,900

Foxfire

#144943 - 1 Ridge Rd - \$45,000
Land/Acerage
#139113 - Morrow Tr - \$429,000

5 Spur Place, Pinehurst



With Pool!

\$249,000 3 Bd/2 Ba

Well maintained all brick home with split BR plan, formal dining/living room, large eat-in kitchen, and spacious family room. Enjoy outdoor entertainment at its best with concrete patio/pool with great waterfall feature. Aggressively priced for quick sale.



LINDA CRISWELL
BROKER/REALTOR®

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lccriswell@earthlink.net
www.lindacriswell.com
Your 7 Lakes Neighbor!

One Buckhorn - Foxfire



Golf Front Cul-de-Sac!
\$170,000 2 Bd/2 Ba

Serene & private golf front living spacious & airy split floor plan for entertaining relaxation, and separation between master and second bedroom. Large master BR includes bath and walk-in closet. Carolina and living rooms overlook fairway.



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Jim Leach/Agent

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Located 1/4 Mile West of Olmsted Village. On Hwy. 211 West