

## SLLA Directors may eliminate 'renters dues'

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter



For as long as anyone can remember -- and at least as far back as 1980 in the files of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] files -- rental properties have been assessed a higher rate of dues than owner-occupied resident homes.

At the suggestion of the Association's legal counsel, the question of whether that arrangement is fair and enforceable was brought to the table during the Board

of Directors Work Session on Monday, January 9.

"Seven Lakes is unique," President Bob Darr said. "We can't find anyone else who charges additional dues to renters."

Simply explained, an SLLA homeowner pays \$900 per year in dues. If that home is rented, the Association bills the renter for an additional \$410 in dues. Once the renter's dues are paid, the SLLA office then reimburses the property owner for \$205 -- half of the renter dues.

The net total of \$1,105

dues paid on a rental property is, therefore, more than the rate charged to resident owners. With approximately 90 rental properties in the community, Community Manager Alina Cochran estimated those additional dues will contribute nearly \$20,000 to 2012 revenues.

Trying to find a way to eliminate the SLLA's unique "renter's dues" arrangement, while preserving the \$20,000 in revenues it produces for the Association, the Board appeared to favor the notion of charging renters an admin-

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

## Board approves budget

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors

unanimously approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 annual budget on a second reading during their Tuesday, January 10 Work Session.

"At this point, we have

had minimal feedback from folks that are concerned with the budget," said Treasurer Don Freiart. The Board has used a variety of communication channels to get information about the budget out to membership, including: the Weekly E-blast, the SLWLA Newsletter, postings in the West Side Park Community Center and Mailhouse, and reporting in *The Seven Lakes Times*.

During Tuesday's meeting,

Freiart said a total of twelve comments about the budget have been posted on the community website, dealing either with dues parity for developed and undeveloped lots or with adding a fourth CAS staff

(See "Westside," p. 24)

## On patrol



Sgt. Chad Shue of the Foxfire Police Department and his new K9 partner 'Bu-Bo.'

## What is a 'family,' anyway?

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter



Residents packed Foxfire's Town Hall for a public hearing on proposed revisions to single family zoning ordinances on Tuesday, January 10. But the Village Council tabled the matter after questions were raised about enforcement and Councilman Mick McCue expressed concern that the convoluted language still needed work.

"The law allows municipalities to govern use of property: that is why we have zoning," explained McCue. "The law that allows a single family to occupy a single family residence has been codified since we developed our ordinances. Our definition of 'family' in the [existing] ordinance is far too restrictive. We must change it to a broader encompassing definition of 'family' to include a modern view of the functional description of family. But, if you allow people who are not families to occupy

homes, then we have all these concerns."

As proposed, the revised ordinance defined "family" as an individual or two or more people related by blood, marriage, adoption, or another legally-recognized care arrangement, living together as a single housekeeping unit, that does not include more than four persons who are not related to the other persons of the household.

McCue said that the proposed definition would allow a large family of six or more

(See "Foxfire," p. 16)

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# Tangram Media is finalist for Chamber Award

Seven Lakes' Tangram Media, owned by Sven and Carmen Schaefer of Seven Lakes North, is a finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year award presented by the Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

The award winner will be named at the Chamber's annual banquet on Thursday, February 2.

In the Entrepreneur category — for businesses with fewer than 50 employees,

Tangram is up against Railhouse Brewery.

Finalists in the Small Business (more than 50 employees) category include Biz Tools One Website Design, Morgan Miller, and Town Center Pharmacy.

Tangram is an integrated marketing firm that creates strategies that span the web, social media, mobile information, and video production to help businesses connect with and engage their customers.

In addition to serving clients across the country, the Schaeferes have also worked with several local businesses, including TempControl, The Italian Table, Seven Lakes Massage & Body Therapies, Whelan Realty, and Sandhills Winery.

According to Chamber Chairman Dick Higginbotham, "The Chamber was looking for a business that despite facing tremendous adversity would do it all over again, and whose fervor for running a business is rivaled only by

their willingness to serve the community."

The criteria for both the Small Business and Entrepreneur awards included innovation, response to adversity and community involvement.

For more information on Tangram Media, call 877-426-8880 or visit [www.TangramMedia.com](http://www.TangramMedia.com).

For more information on the Chamber and its annual banquet, visit [www.moorecountychamber.com](http://www.moorecountychamber.com) or call (910) 692-3926.

## 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@sevenlakes-times.net](mailto:mail@sevenlakes-times.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 27	Feb 3
Feb 10	Feb 17
Feb 24	Mar 2
Mar 9	Mar 16
Mar 23	Mar 30
Apr 6	Apr 13
Apr 20	Apr 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
Aug 10	Aug 17
Aug 24	Aug 31
Sep 7	Sep 14
Sep 21	Sep 28
Oct 5	Oct 12
Oct 19	Oct 26
Nov 2	Nov 9
Nov 16	Nov 23
Nov 30	Dec 7
Dec 14	Dec 21
Dec 28	Jan 4

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

## Kiwanis name top Holiday decorators

The Seven Lakes homes of Dan Petrucelli & Mary Ann Greco (West side), (sisters) Chris and Carol Armstrong (South side), and Sandy and John Sackmann (North side) were chosen as winners of the December 2011 Christmas decoration contest. Each home received a \$65 gift certificate for their efforts.

This is the 17th year of this event, that is sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

Three teams of judges toured the community prior

to Christmas to select the winners. The favorable weather this season brought out many beautiful displays. It is noteworthy that all three of the winners have earned these prizes in prior years! Congratulations. Keep up the good work.

The Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes dedicates their energies toward uplifting the community and its children. Potential new members are invited to attend Kiwanis meetings on Tuesdays at 11:30 am for lunch at Seven Lakes Country Club.

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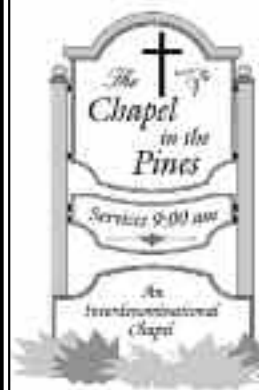
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## Celebrate Valentine's Day with Wine, Chocolate & Cheese

Don't miss the Wine, Chocolate and Cheese Tasting on Friday, February 17, 7 pm to 9 pm, at the West Side Park Community Center. Music Provided by Ryan Book for your listening pleasure

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# Commissioners approve airport funding

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter



The Moore County Airport Authority will receive federal grants totaling \$3.1 million

and county funding totaling \$344,000 for improvements at the airport after approval was obtained from the Moore County Board of Commissioners in a three to one vote during their Tuesday, January 17 meeting.

With Chairman Larry Cad-dell absent from Tuesday night's meeting, the dissenting vote was cast by Commissioner Tim Lea, who suggested the airport would be back for more county money in the future.

"We understand the positive economic impact the airport has," explained Lea. "[But] the next time FAA changes its requirements or the state changes its requirements, it will be back on the table."

Representing the Airport Authority was Ron Maness, who defended the upgrades that will be funded with the federal and local grants, saying they are "improvements to your [County] assets from a community perspective and a safety perspective."

## Lea questions spending, future airport expansion

Earlier in Tuesday night's meeting Lea questioned the airport's recent decision to purchase a Cessna 162 aircraft for \$130,000. Lea told Maness he was under the impression that "every dime" in the airport's bank account was needed for upgrades to

the airport's physical plant.

"This is a revenue generating piece of equipment," Maness replied, explaining that the airport authority "re-prioritized" certain equipment upgrades in order to pay for the new aircraft.

"The [Airport] Authority looked at this from an economic standpoint," he said.

The Airport recently spent an additional \$14,000 expense to provide Aircraft Maintenance in-house, as well.

Commissioner Lea asked whether FAA regulations require that "red line" airports such as Moore County's have a runway length of 6500 feet. The Airport Authority is currently planning to increase the runway to 5900 feet — 600 feet less than the FAA requirement.

"We are looking at somewhere down the road extending the runway again?" asked Lea. Maness emphasized that the current runway had not been extended in twenty to thirty years.

Maness' responses did not persuade Commissioner Lea, who, in the end, voted against the grant resolution. He explained that he was concerned not only about the possible need for additional runway expansion in the future, but also that the airport may begin to encroach upon Sandhills Community College and surrounding neighborhoods.

During the Board's public comment period Dave Korb from the organization Tax-payers to Stop Airport Waste told the Commissioners that the upgrades to the airport

were an example of "wasteful government spending."

Korb asked that the Commissioners to "postpone any action on grants earmarked for Moore County Airport expansion," adding: "This is

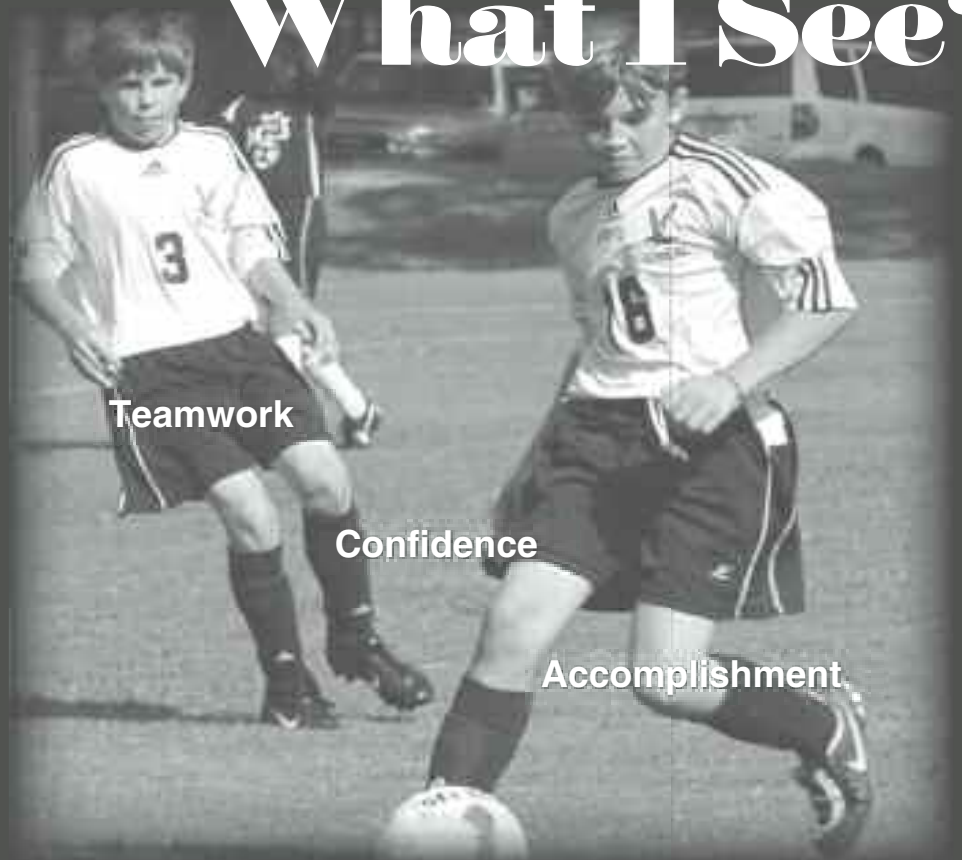
something that the County doesn't need and the citizens do not want".

The \$344,000 in local funding for the Airport improvements is being diverted from a lodging tax that funds the

county's Convention and Visitors Bureau. Commissioner Nick Picerno developed that funding mechanism last year, in an effort to provide money for the airport for upgrades

(See "Commissioners," p. 11)

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## Chapel Valentine Party

The Annual Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine's Party will be held on Tuesday, February 14, at 2 pm, at the Seven Lakes North Club-house.

The Chapel Outreach ministry invites any one to come, especially those living

in the community that are alone or shut-in.

The New Horizons band will provide music for everyone's enjoyment.

If transportation is needed or for more information please contact Fran Stark at 673-5493.



# Ingrams celebrate their 60th Anniversary

Clint and Lucy Ingram are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, January 19, with close friends and family by their side.

Longtime residents of Seven Lakes South, the couple met at Guilford College, where both received teaching degrees. They were wed in a simple, informal ceremony in South Carolina in 1952. Lucy described the wedding as "quick and easy," with a short honeymoon weekend in Charlotte, before she returned to school to resume studies.

As a young wife, Lucy taught for a few years and then stayed home to raise their two sons. Clint continued teaching and later served for twenty

years as the recreation director for the City of Thomasville.

Meanwhile, Lucy returned to college for a Masters

and, eventually, settled here permanently in March 1985.

Clint then took on the role of recreation director for Seven Lakes, a position he held for twelve years, and Lucy worked in local real estate.

"We were here the day when the [Seven Lakes] Country Club

first opened on July 4, 1976!" Ingram exclaimed. "We were very fortunate. We retired young, and we liked it here so much."

With their much-loved Southside house on the market, the Ingrams are looking forward to relocating to River Landing at Sandy Ridge, near Colfax.

degree and worked as a middle school guidance counselor for eleven years.

The Ingrams were Seven Lakes pioneers, purchasing a lot in the brand-new community in 1975. Over the years, they vacationed in Seven Lakes frequently,



## Dancing Sandhills Stars

An evening of Dancing with the Sandhills Stars in the Grand Ballroom of the Carolina Hotel. Please join in as local leaders compete for your vote on the dance floor to raise awareness of mentoring and the impact it has on helping children reach their potential and become successful in school and life.

This evening of dining, dancing and fabulous fun will benefit two mentoring programs – Communities In Schools and Moore Buddies. Both are local nonprofit United Way agencies and are vital to the welfare of young people who are in

need of a little extra help to succeed, stay in school and be better prepared for life.

To check out the daring couples, reserve your seat and to vote, visit the web site today at [www.sandhillsstars.com](http://www.sandhillsstars.com) or call Cynthia Bradley at 910-295-1072.

Dancing with the Stars will be held on January 29 at The Grand Ballroom, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. The evening begins at 5 pm with Cocktails, 5:45 pm Dinner Seating, and at 7 pm the show begins.

Dress for the occasion will be Festive Party Attire.


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# Creating a 'home' for those with dementia

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

More like a home than a specialized dementia facility, Sandhills Memory Care offers local families a safe and nurturing environment for their loved ones.

Located on MacDougall Drive in Seven Lakes Business Village, the sixty-bed facility underwent a total renovation in 2010. New floor coverings, paint, ceilings, furnishings, and a secure private courtyard are just a few of the more noticeable improvements. Other changes, such as a new commercial kitchen, activity and dayrooms, and a living room lounge also helped completely transform the former facility from blah to beautiful.

But it is the personal touch that makes Sandhills Memory Care special.

"We are striving to make this a home," explained Executive Director Lu Honeycutt. There are several facilities in the area that may have more amenities, but we want this to be a home."

Creating community also means working with the community, and Sandhills Memory Care residents made lollipop ghost treats and holiday centerpieces for recent recreational events in Seven Lakes. In addition, the facility has partnered with Reverend Fran Stark and the Outreach Ministry of The Chapel in the Pines.

Music is very popular at the facility, with a music center providing entertainment and staff members encouraging residents to help fill in the words to well-loved show tunes that are sung throughout the day.

Music figured prominently in a holiday party this past year, but Honeycutt said the party lacked one thing: dancing. When a resident asked to dance with his wife, it pulled on Honeycutt's heart strings, and she quickly began organizing a new event.

On January 25, Sandhills Memory Care will host their first-ever "Snowflake Ball." Honeycutt expects everyone will enjoy dancing and tap-

ping their toes along with the DJ, who will be spinning Big Band, swing, and beach music.

Since many residents no longer own proper party attire, donations of formal clothing, make-up, and hair-styling assistance are most welcome.

"We are dealing with people that were very dignified in life," Honeycutt said, "and we want to make sure that

their last days are filled with dignity and respect."

Other homey touches at Sandhills Memory Care include a live-in dog that provides constant companionship for residents, along with other visiting dogs and therapy pets. There's a "baby center" that allows residents to cuddle, dress, and care for doll babies. Items are being collected to create other living centers for folding laun-

dry, shining shoes, and, hopefully, equipment to create an indoor golf putting area.

"A lot of residents can remember activities from long ago," Honeycutt explained. "We do a lot of reminiscent therapy — that is we'll engage residents in conversations about old photos they may have in their rooms or other personal things. We are always developing new activities and ideas to keep them busy — anything we can do to help increase the quality of life."

Regular personal services offered include three balanced meals and three snacks each day, toileting and bathing assistance, transportation to doctor appointments, medical administration, and monitored outings and recreational activities. On-site staffing includes licensed health and nursing professionals, a recreation director, plus dietary and maintenance staff. In addition, an electronic med-

ication database system ensures accuracy, so that each patient receives the correct medicine and proper dosage, at the appropriate time.

"In the South, it has been frowned upon in some circumstances to put 'Mom and Dad' away," Honeycutt said. "But we are here to help, and let families know that often the very best environment is a safe and secure environment. Dementia residents run the gamut on emotional issues and can be very difficult for families to care for."

With a professional background in geriatric nursing and administration, Honeycutt told *The Times* that she always has held a special place in her heart for the elderly. But only recently did the painful decisions children must sometimes make hit home, as she cared for her own aging father and struggled with the decision to place

(See "Memory," p. 21)



Lu Honeycutt, Executive Director of Sandhills Memory Care



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# Council takes on to-do list at Work Session

by Laura Dougalss  
Times Reporter



Attempting to tie up a blanket's worth of loose threads before their upcoming annual retreat, the Foxfire Village Council offered recommendations on several ongoing agenda items during a lengthy Work Session on Monday, January 16.

Resolving zoning concerns and amending the Village's ordinances were the primary points of discussion; however, the Council also considered several outstanding issues related to appearance and public nuisance factors.

## Single family zoning

Still unsatisfied with changes to the definition of "family" made in the wake of a recent Public Hearing, Councilman Mick McCue took pencil to paper and personally edited the proposed revision to the Village zoning ordinance.

"The amended language from our attorney still allows for four unrelated individuals and a family to occupy a home," McCue argued. I don't think that is what we want."

Instead he recommended adhering to language contained in the Village of Pinehurst ordinances that

restricts the number of unrelated individuals to three. But, after going around the table, his suggestion was overruled, and the proposed ordinance still allows for four.

Finance Director Leslie Frusco, who favored the higher figure, also expressed concern over the proposed wording and noted there was a big difference depending how the words "and" and "or" were applied.

"But whether we say four, or three, or two, we still come back to the enforcement standpoint," she said.

Dismissing the idea that Foxfire Police would be knocking on doors to check for compliance, Frusco said the proposed regulation will offer a guideline for residents and a starting point to address any future problems.

The revised definition and ordinance were developed over the past few months in response to a single family home that was rented by a business as dormitory-style housing for six individuals. As of early January, that rental agreement had expired.

In a related discussion, McCue argued in favor of amending the proposed ordinance to restrict the total number of days, per year, that a home could be rented on a short-term basis. The distinction between long and

short-term rentals was developed as a compromise that would allow for golf and vacation rentals. Long-term rental agreements are restricted to those satisfying the "family" definition, with no such restrictions on short-term rentals.

However, without an annual limit on the number of days that a home can be rented on a short-term basis, a home could potentially be turned into a timeshare-type business, said McCue, with a revolving door of renters.

He recommended a sixty to ninety day annual limit. Frusco favored a broader 180 day limit. After going around the table, a compromise figure of 120 days was tentatively agreed upon.

"Our purpose is to play the tape forward . . . to anticipate possible outcomes and adjust the ordinances to what we want for the community," McCue said. "It is the character of the neighborhoods that we are trying to build."

## Equestrian Zoning

Delving into another zoning concern that has been on-and-off the table for months,

Frusco asked her fellow council members to revisit the Planning & Zoning Committee's recommendation to maintain the ten acre minimum size for equestrian lots.

Last year, an ordinance review found that a resolution increasing the minimum equestrian lot from six to ten acres, adopted in 2005, was never properly codified. Rather than simply fix the document, the Council decided to hold a new Public Hearing and collect input.

A local developer and a local real estate professional both argued in favor of the less restrictive six acre minimum, suggesting the smaller size was more marketable in today's economy. When the issue was put before the Plan-

ning & Zoning Committee, that group also sought professional guidance from an area veterinarian and an animal control officer.

Another concern raised was over "grandfathering" and how the original revised ordinance affected property owners — such as those in Grande Pines — who purchased six acre lots, perhaps with the intention of keeping a horse.

Opening the discussion, Frusco reported that she had conducted her own independent research into the matter; and, based on those findings, she recommended that six acres was adequate for proper horse care, that two horses should be allowed on a plot

(See "Foxfire," p. 13)

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# No academic advantage to year-round school

by Stacy Naughton  
Times Reporter



When it comes to year-round schooling versus a traditional calendar, "It's not how long kids are in a classroom. It's about how engaged they are when they are in that classroom," explained School Board member, Charles Lambert, who has been reviewing research on the benefits and drawbacks of year-round programs.

Lambert presented his research to the Moore County Board of Education on Monday, January 9.

"There is no correlation between the length of school days or year and academic achievement," Lambert said. "What they did find in the research is that how the time in the classroom is spent is incredibly important."

Lambert said he found it interesting that most schools outside of the United States have a summer vacation time of seven consecutive weeks. In Moore County that number is almost doubled, with thirteen consecutive weeks of summer vacation.

Lambert suggested finding a "happy medium," or shortening summer vacations to seven weeks, saying it "would not only help in achievement, but also, in a global situation, it may help."

The research presented by Lambert looked at two key questions: How does a year-round program affect aca-

ademic achievement, and how does it impact building utilization.

The research showed that schools offering year-round programs increase building capacity utilization by thirty-three percent.

However, when it comes to increasing student achievement Lambert said, "There is no real evidence one way or another."

Board member Dr. Lorna Clack spoke in favor of year-round programs, saying, "A plus for year-round school is that the fallout is so much less in children's memory, their retention, vocabulary and comprehensive. It is such a great program."

Moore County Schools [MCS] is hosting a series of meetings throughout the month of January focusing on year-round programs.

Before former Superintendent Dr. Susan Purer retired, she formed a Year-Round Task Force, aimed in part at raising public awareness about the year-round programs currently offered in Moore County.

The Task Force's public meetings were scheduled from January 11 - 26 and will be followed up by a Connect Ed survey of parents, explained Board of Education Chair Kathy Farren.

Once the surveys are complete, those findings will be compiled to gauge parent interest in year-round programs.

Farren said one common misconception is that stu-

dents in a year-round program go to school 365 days a year. But both traditional and year-round school calendars consist of 185 days of instruction.

According to Farren, the point of the Task Force meetings is to answer clear up similar myths, answer questions, and gather feedback from parents.

Currently, Moore County offers year-round programs at four locations: Pinehurst Elementary and Southern Pines Primary, which serve Kindergarten through Second Grade, and Southern Pines Elementary and West Pine Elementary, which offer Third through Fifth Grade.

During Monday night's meeting the Board unanimously approved a request by Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brian Phillips that students who reside in the attendance area of either Pinehurst Elementary or West Pine Elementary be allowed to attend

the Year-Round program at either school for the 2012-2013 school year. This approval is subject to attendance guidelines which are posted on the MCS website.

More information about year-round programs in Moore County is available by contacting Dr. Phillips at 910-947-2976 or on the MCS website at [www.ncmcs.org](http://www.ncmcs.org)

**West End Elementary  
Teacher Recognized**

Brad Thomson of West End Elementary was recognized with a Growing to Greatness Award by the Moore County Board of Education during its Monday, January 9 meeting.

Thomson, who teaches fifth grade, was recognized for being a part of the school's Green Team, Garden Committee, School Improvement Team, and Community Involvement Committee.

(See "School Board," p. 15)

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This is an eight-week program held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. Space is limited.

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# Wounded Warriors treated to quail hunt

On Saturday, December 10, the Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club sponsored a Wounded Warrior Upland Game Bird Hunt at their club grounds in Jackson Springs.

Five participants with the Wounded Warrior Project based out of Fayetteville were hosted for a full day quail hunt. They spent all day enjoying the outdoors and the hospitality of the club, its members, and their pointing dogs.

According to the participants they had "An Awesome Day."

In addition to the full day hunt, each Wounded Warrior received raffle prizes as part of the event. The big prize was a weekend getaway to River Ridge Mountain Cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains, donated by Lynn and David

Fass of Apex. Tri-Tronics, SportDog, and Groomer's Choice also donated items for the event. Ammunitions for the event were donated by Scott Rothenberg of Waxhaw, from Remington. Several Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club members and their dogs volunteered to serve as hunting guides for the participants.

A delicious hot lunch was donated and arranged by the local American Legion Post 72 in Aberdeen. Granny's Donuts and Hardee's of Pinehurst Place, both in Aberdeen, donated a wonderful breakfast. Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club members also donated plenty of baked goodies and snacks for the event.

Overall, more than \$2,250 was raised for the event and

the Wounded Warrior Project.

In coordination with the event, the club also dedicated a new flag pole in front of their clubhouse. The first

flag flown was donated by NC Representative Jamie Boles.

Several club officers and club members participated in the ceremony along with

special speaker General Samuel S. Walker (retired). The American Legion rider's club also made a stop at the club grounds for the dedication ceremony.



The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club recently hosted wounded warriors for a day of quail hunting.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside! WSL Winter Social Mixer

'Baby, it's cold outside,' so warm up with friends and neighbors at the Winter Social Mixer on Sunday, January 29, at 4 pm in the Northside Clubhouse.

Sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes, this popular event is BYOB and hot hors

d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are \$5 per person and all proceeds are used to purchase new ribbons and holiday garland to decorate the gates and community buildings. Info or tickets, call Laura Douglass at 673-1817.

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# In memory of . . .

**Gloria M. Ball**, 86, died Sunday, January 15, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She was preceded in death by her son Allan D. Ball.

She is survived by her husband, N. James "Jim" Ball; son James D. Ball and wife Michele of Cortland, NY; sister Margery Lemon of Endwell, NY; daughter-in-law Nancy Ball of Homer, NY; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

**Daniel Alvin Witmer**, 64, of Seven Lakes died Wednesday, January 11, surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with cancer.

A celebration of life ceremony will take place in Columbus, OH at a later date.

He was born in Toledo, OH son of Russ and Eleanor Witmer. As a young man, he joined the U.S. Navy Reserve and served as a Naval Seabee in the DongHa and DaNang regions of Vietnam. He later graduated from Ohio Dominican College in Columbus, OH and pursued a successful career in Hospital Systems Consulting.

Mr. Witmer is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marcia, daughters Kerry Kopelcheck and husband, David, of Dublin, OH and Stephanie Halas and husband, Michael, of Canton, OH; his five grandchildren; his brother, David Witmer, of Littleton, CO, and his sister Sue Parker, of Adrian, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or Our Lady of the Americas Poor Box Fund, PO Box 519, Candor, NC 27229.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Joan Marie Doyle**, formerly

of Seven Lakes, died in Tucson, AZ, on Thursday, January 5.

She was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. Mrs. Doyle had a wonderful life and will be missed. Her greatest gift to her children was to make them feel everyday of their lives that they were her

proudest accomplishment. She was married to William J. Doyle for 28 years.

She was preceded in death by her youngest son, Kenneth Doyle of Haledon, NJ.

She is survived by Bill Doyle of Woodstock, CT, Tim Doyle of Clifton, NJ, Rita Doyle of Hereford, AZ, Patty

Doyle of Wantage, NJ, and three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## Gallery Open House showcases Sonderfan

The Art Gallery of Seven Lakes will have an Open House on Wednesday, January 25, 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.

Sonderfan resides at Seven Lakes South. She was born in South Africa.

She is a self taught artist who has had several shows in the area at the West End

United Methodist Church, and the Vass Library. Her show at West End United Methodist was used to raise money for tornado victims of North Carolina and Alabama.

Sonderfan's works include black and white, landscapes, and watercolor.

The show and open house will be at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838.

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## Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

without raising property taxes.

The remaining \$3.1 million is coming from FAA funds which are generated by fees imposed on the price of a plane ticket, Maness explained.

Improvements that will be funded by the grants include:

- FAA-mandated Airfield Improvements, paid for with \$150,000 in grant funds from the FAA and \$16,700 in local funds.
- Runway 5/23 safety area improvements — to remove and relocate an antenna — funded through two FAA grants — one for \$150,000 the other for \$1 million — along with \$127,700 in local funds.
- The Runway 23 Extension project will receive state grants totaling \$1.75 million, with local matches totaling \$196,700.

The Board of Commissioners' approval clears the way for the Airport Authority to proceed with the projects.

Currently, bids are being taken to clear obstructions within the airport's Runway Protection Zone [RPZ], work that is scheduled to begin in early-to-mid-Spring.

Design and field work are currently being performed for the runway safety area and runway extension. Construction for the runway 23 extension is scheduled for completion in June.

### Moore County Audit Report

An audit of the County finances for the past year

showed "Overall a clean report with no findings," reported Crystal Waddell from Martin, Starnes and Associates, the company that audited the County's books. The Board approved the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report [CAFR] for the 2011 year.

The report showed the County's number one source of revenue is property tax, followed by sales tax and restricted intergovernmental funds.

Property tax receipts increased last year by \$400,000, but this did not reflect an increase in the tax rate. "I don't want anyone to think we changed their tax rate," said Commissioner Picerno, "because we did not."

Sales tax receipts also increased last year — by \$800,000. However, intergovernmental funds and grant money received from the state or federal government dropped by \$200,000.

The report showed the number one expense in the County is education, accounting for thirty-seven percent of the County's \$82 million dollar General Fund. Next in line are Human Services, at twenty-one percent, and Public Safety, at thirteen percent of the general fund.

### Planning Department

After holding public hearings on each item, the Board approved the following requests from the Moore County Planning Department:

(See "Commissioners," p. 12)

## Natural plant arranging

On Tuesday, January 31, the Sandhills Horticultural Society will host a workshop - Aldena Frye's Flower Arranging with Natural Materials. Held at the Ball Visitors Center at Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, a flower arranging demonstration by Aldena Frye using natural plant materials from your yard.

The program starts at 10 am. Cost: \$10 horticultural society members and \$15 for non-members. Participants will make a heart from natural materials to take home for Valentine's Day. Space is limited. Contact Tricia Mabe to register 695-3882. Pre-payment required to secure your registration.

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## Commissioners

- A rezoning request to amend a portion of the Moore County Zoning Map from Residential Agricultural RA-20 to Highway Commercial B-2 at the request of petitioner Von Allen. The 3.5 acre property is located at the corner of Savannah Lane and US Highway 1 between Southern Pines and Vass.
- A request by Planning Director Debra Ensminger to close out the \$300,000 River Bend Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] that was used to make repairs to the River Bend Community after Tropical Storm Hanna.
- Another request by Ensminger to close out the Capacity Building CDBG that allowed Moore County to partner with the Northern Moore Family Resource Center to develop an Individual Development Account [IDA] program. The IDA teaches first time low income home buyers about homeownership skills. Both the Center and the County provided \$15,000 in matching funds for the program.

In another planning-related matter, the Commissioners approved a request by Ensminger to apply for a \$75,000 grant from the Urgent Repair Program of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

The last time the County used such a grant it provided new roofs, ramps, and heating and cooling systems to sixteen low-income households. Almost every homeowner was over the age of sixty-two, with Social Security as their sole source of income. The state grant requires a \$5,000 local match, which will need to be allocated in the FY 2012-2013 County Budget.

### Transportation Services

After a public hearing, the Commissioners approved a request made by Moore County Transportation Services Manager Tawanna Williams to apply for a \$579,000 state grant that will fund both administrative and capital costs for the

County's transportation services. A required \$67,000 local match will be met by user fees.

The Board also approved a request by Williams to apply for a state Target Transit Assistance Grant Agreement [TTAP]. The grant will give \$64,000 for Capital and \$95,000 for Operating expenses for the program. The local match of \$54,000 will be met with user fees.

### Space allocation

The Commissioners approved a proposal by Moore County Property Manager Rich Smith to bid out a study that would develop a comprehensive vision for space allocation in the County for the next twenty to fifty years.

"Generally I disdain from using taxpayer dollars for a study," said Commissioner Picerno. "But this one, I believe, is very valuable."

### Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board of Commissioner's Tuesday, January

17 meeting included:

- The Library Trustee of the Year Award was presented to Pete Madsen by the NC Public Library Directors Association.
- Further review of the Land Use Plan Steering Committee was tabled as requested by Commissioner Lea. The League of Women Voters of Moore County's President Jo Nicholas asked that the Board consider adding a member of the League to the committee saying, "[I] hope you reconsider your selection for this list."
- Neil Johnson spoke during public comment asking the Commissioners to address the issue of loose animals in the Robbins area.
- The Board approved a list of earmark dates for the County budget, with a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, May 15 for community input on the budget.
- The Board legally adopted the Moore County Residency Districts for the

Board of Commissioners.

- The Board tabled the finance budget amendment for Procurement Card Rebates until the next meeting.

### Appointments

- The Board appointed

Jimmy Calflinch, Archie Kelly, and Jody Hall to a three year term on the Recreation Advisory Board.

- The Board appointed John Barringer and Pricilla Beck to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.

## GOP Women meet 2/6

The Moore Republican Women's Luncheon will be held at the Pinehurst Country Club on Monday, February 6.

Registration starts at 11:30 am and lunch will be served at 12 noon. Valet parking available. Reservations may be made by calling Emily at 695-0016 by February 1.

The guest speaker will be Dan Forest, a candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina. Forest has over 23 years of experience as a business leader, architect

and entrepreneur. He is a former Senior Partner with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting — having served as President of the firm's Durham office.

Forest also holds two undergraduate degrees from UNC Charlotte and is a graduate of UNC Charlotte College of Architecture.

He is the founder of the Triangle Leadership Forum, serves on the board of The Faith Driven Consumer and is a former chairman of the board of Wake Forest Pregnancy Support Services.

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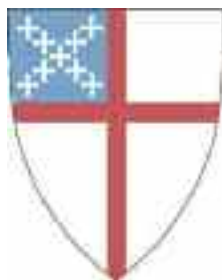
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## Foxfire work session

(Continued from page 6)

that size, since the animals prefer to live in herds, and that six acres was preferable to encourage future growth in the Village.

Councilman McCue, who participated in the Planning & Zoning Committee meetings, agreed with her assessment.

"Ten acres does give a better probability that you will have a nicer-looking horse farm, but it does not guarantee it," he said. "Also, it doesn't guarantee that the horses would be better taken care of."

Councilman Steven Durham also favored the six acre minimum requirement, but questioned how Planning & Zoning Committee members might react if the Council dismissed their recommendation.

Mayor George Erickson said he hoped the Committee would understand the Council's view and said he would personally speak with their

chairman, Steve Sparks.

### Ordinance book

With zoning discussions and issues frequently on the agenda, McCue recommended that, rather than correcting and updating the Ordinance Book piecemeal, a total rewrite should be considered.

But estimated legal fees totaling \$30,000 for just the zoning ordinances led to a quick rejection of McCue's recommendation.

"I guess that ends the discussion, but this is something we'll need to address," McCue said. "Every time we open the book, we get smacked in the face."

Frusco recommended staying the current course — that is, addressing problems or inconsistencies on a case-by-case basis as they appear.

"There will always be issues . . . and we will need to make changes appropriately. Change is inevitable," she said.

However, Councilman Durham argued in favor of a more proactive approach.

"We need to look at the ordinances," he said, "and, if we see a problem, we should fix it."

Mayor Erickson said the Council must rely on volunteer talents of people like McCue, a retired JAG attorney, to help make changes.

### Unfinished homes on Foxtail Lane

"This has been a problem for a long time," Councilwoman Frusco said. "People complain, and nothing happens. It is kind of like a big elephant."

The problem she referred to are three concrete foundations — with depths ranging from two to ten feet — that were left open and basically abandoned by a developer over the course of the economic building slump. A state law that prevented municipalities from forcing developers to finish projects

offered a three-year moratorium; however, that grace period has now expired.

Frusco said the foundations are a public nuisance, as a safety hazard and an eyesore.

"It is time to make a decision," she argued. "Either we are going to work with the developer or give him a pass."

In discussion, Councilman Durham raised concerns about liability, and Erickson said he would personally con-

tact the developer to try to resolve the problem.

### Golf Course maintenance area

Addressing yet another problem that won't go away — and is actually increasing in size — the Council kicked around ideas on how to best address the landscaping debris dump maintained by the Foxfire Golf & Country Club.

Hauling away the debris  
(See "Foxfire," p. 14)



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## Foxfire work session

(Continued from page 13)

is one option: albeit an expensive one. The other option is to allow the Club to conduct a controlled burn or a series of burns to reduce the pile; however, West End Fire Rescue has recommended against such action, citing concerns over smoke and radiant heat to a nearby building.

"We don't want to become difficult with the golf course," said Frusco, "but my concern is we talk about enforcement and responding to citizen complaints. So we need to make a decision. Are we not going to do anything about it, because the golf course is too important, or do we do something?"

McCue suggested the Council could limit the burn permits to a twelve-month period; but Councilman John Eltschlager argued that it was not the Village's job to resolve the course's maintenance problems.

Instead, he recommended the Club should be given a time limit to develop a plan of action, including various alternative solutions.

"Of course the cheapest thing is burning. If we say no, they need to come up with another plan — even a five year plan — as long as they are showing progress towards what will they will do with it," he said.

Mayor Erickson agreed, noting there must be consistency. That is, the Council cannot enforce compliance in one area — say the developer of the abandoned foundations — and not on the Club.

A complicating factor is that the previous owner of the Club filed for bankruptcy, so the operation is currently owned by a bank.

McCue volunteered to draft a letter to the bank, with a copy to the contracted golf management company, which expresses the Council's concern that the debris pile is a safety hazard and is in violation of appearance ordinances.

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land Circle loan is a priority concern, especially since the \$1.4 million, 160-acre tract that was donated in lieu of paying the assessment remains listed for sale and is contributing nothing toward the loan repayment.

"We need to look seriously at taking a different approach, and start to look at getting some principal paid down at that note," cautioned Frusco.

She recommended that any portion of assessments earmarked toward principal should be allocated that way, and that any remaining interest fees not paid through assessments should be taken from the General Fund.

"At this point in time, we're only postponing the future payment of principal on the note. And the longer we postpone, the more interest we incur," she said.

In related discussion, Councilman Durham suggested the Council meet with the listing agent to ensure the property is being actively marketed.

### Other business

In other business during the Foxfire Village Council's Monday, January 16, Work Session:

- The Council discussed A

required solicitation permit for door-to-door sales in the Village limits. The permit includes restricted hours for such activities, and is not required for traditional fundraising — such as Girl Scout cookie sales or students raising money for sports teams or clubs.

- Members reviewed an outline of responsibilities and potential projects that a MPA intern from the UNC School of Government could perform.

- The Council talked over a proposed scope of zoning inspection services that Foxfire Village would contract the Pinehurst Planning Department to perform. Such services include inspecting setbacks, building heights, and that construction matches approved plans.

- A proposed update of the Personnel Policy that includes a slight modification to vacation and sick leave policies, though the total number of leave days offered will remain unchanged.

- The median area in front of condo buildings near the golf course continues to be an appearance issue, with haphazardly parked vehicles and ill-kempt grass. McCue said resolving the problem has been difficult since there

(See "Foxfire," p. 15)

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## School Board

(Continued from page 7)

He has also established a school-wide recycling campaign that has encouraged students to recognize how they can make a positive impact in the world.

Thomson has woven a "Culture Pathway" from the

schools mission statement into the school's garden. He spearheaded a project to plant heirloom seeds from around the world in the school garden, so that it now represents all the various cultures represented in the school.

West End Elementary student Caroline Hilliard lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the Board meeting, and the Story of Inspiration was presented by West End student Kendall Hilliard.

### Military Child Support Program

The Military Child Student Transition Support Team Program (S2S) was highlighted during the School Board's January 9 in a presentation by Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy and four Moore County School students: Hayden Rudd and Ale Snyder from Pinecrest High School, along with Kate McDannold and Ryan Riley of Union Pines.

The S2S program is designed to help students new to Moore County become familiar with their campus and community. The two high schools participating in the program — Union Pines and Pinecrest High — were specifically chosen by the US military to participate in the program, due to the high number of military students in the area said Kennedy. The program is open to anyone moving into Moore County.

• Some grant funding may be available through the US Tennis Association to help with the rehabilitation of the tennis courts, Eltschlager reported. He recommended the Council consider funding improvements and seeking a grant in 2013, which would allow the facility to be renovated prior to the US Open in 2014.

• Volunteers are needed to fill open seats on the Parks and Recreation Committee and also the Appearance Committee.

### Other News

In other business during the Board of Education's January 9 meeting"

- The Board approved "selective cutting," of trees with care to maintain the Longleaf Pines at Pinecrest High School. As part of this tree removal project, Pinecrest High has entered into a Safe Harbor agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the habitat of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker at the school.
- Member Bruce Cunningham presented the Board with two facility expansions: A cafeteria expansion at Union Pines and a cafeteria expansion and auxiliary gym remodel at Pinecrest High.
- The Board approved a resolution presented by Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin that will change the way ten-month school employees are paid. Instead of

(See "School," p. 16)

## Foxfire Work Session

(Continued from page 14)

are multiple owners and landowners associations involved.

• Councilman Durham reconfirmed with Frusco that any new construction homes will be charged an installation fee on both the primary and secondary irrigation meter; however, only a single availability fee will apply.

• Members discussed a golf-front home in the Village that is in violation of an ordinance prohibiting outdoor washing and drying. Laundry is being hung to dry in a screened-in porch; however, the Council agreed this use falls under restrictions against using railings or porches.

• The Council agreed it

would be beneficial to Foxfire Village to schedule regular meetings with state Representative Jamie Boles to discuss local concerns over big issues — such as the Western Connector and hydrofracking.

• All new and replacement street signs must meet new Federal regulations on sizing and reflectivity. Councilman Eltschlager reported that standard street sign lettering is 3" in the Village, though the actual signs are 6" tall — the new required size for lettering. Purchased at a total cost of \$65,000, the posts and signs have been expensive to replace when damaged by accidents, Eltschlager said, estimating those costs at \$1,000 each.



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## Foxfire Council

(Continued from front page)

to live together, while sharing their home with four additional non-relatives.

He also expressed concern over another ordinance revision that would impose a thirty-day limit on short-term rentals, arguing that it could create a timeshare type of situation with revolving sets of renters.

### 'Dormitory' house ignited the issue

The Council's discussion of single family residential zoning rules began in earnest in late 2011, in response to a local business renting a home for use as dormitory-style housing for six employees. [As of early January, the rental agreement expired, and the home is no longer occupied by those individu-

als.]

While the existing Village Zoning Ordinance does prohibit such use, no punitive action was taken. Instead,

families on a short-term basis -- a compromise developed to address golf and vacation rentals. The proposed language was slightly modified

munity.

"My house is my biggest investment, and this ordinance is a positive step," said Mark Stores, a Village resident who lives next door to the rental home that ignited the controversy.

Longtime resident Carlotta Young also spoke in favor of the ordinance.

"There was always an understanding, if you rented, that it would be to a single family," she said. "We all bought property and purchased homes for our retirement. We would hope that our savings are secure in our investment."

Young said she supported stricter rules and enforcement. "If not, you will have a hodgepodge of people coming in and out. This ordinance

is in the best interest of Foxfire."

Others raised concerns over the excessive number of parked cars and the volume of trash generated by many people sharing a single home; though some residents, including Lloyd and Vilma Geisert, cautioned against too prohibitive an ordinance.

"How will this be vetted? How is compliance going to be enforced?" Vilma asked. "Would this preclude college or exchange students who may need housing for only one semester -- or students under cultural visas? Does this eliminate those possibilities?"

Resident Ed Spaulding said that, while he would not want a rental next door to his own

(See "Foxfire," p. 17)

*"Are you going to knock on doors and ask if they are related?"*

— Foxfire Realtor Lynn Williams

based on a recommendation by the Village Attorney, a revised regulation and definition of "family" was drafted.

Specifically, the proposed changes include new definitions and clarification that a provide for a single family dwelling unit to be renter-occupied by families on a long-term basis, and by non-

by the Foxfire Planning & Zoning Committee and will now undergo a final "tweaking" before it returns to the Council table for final discussion and approval.

What the original ordinance and the proposed revised ordinance both appear to have in common, is the majority support of the com-

## School Board

(Continued from page 15)

- being paid for a full month in August and receiving no paycheck in June, those employees will be paid for two weeks in August and two weeks in June. The MCS website includes a podcast explaining the change, which will take effect in August 2012.
- The Growing to Greatness Strategic Plan Update was presented to the Board by Dr. Brian Phillips. The interactive design can be viewed on the MCS website. Board member Laura Lang said, "Making our website more interactive and useful is always great."
- As interim Superintendent, Mike Griffin reported that he attended an economic meeting in which the consensus was that the national economy is recovering but "very slightly." Griffin is set to attend another economic meeting with the NC Department of Instruction that will

focus more specifically on North Carolina and school funding.

- Griffin presented the Board with the annual independent audit of MCS finances.
- Board of Education Chair Kathy Farren approved Board Committee Assignments for the 2012 year, which may be found on the Board's section of the MCS website.

- Board Member Ed Dennison updated the Board on an outreach program aimed at increasing MCS visibility in the community. The most recent meeting was held on Wednesday, January 10 with the Sandhills Rotary Club.
- Dr. Clack announced that the Board is working on putting together a Dr. Susan Purser Arboretum.

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## Foxfire

(Continued from page 16)

home, it is still important to leave the option of renting a home open.

"We need to make sure that we cover all paths," he said.

Lynn Williams, a local real estate professional, told the Council the ordinance was a good compromise, but warned it would be difficult to enforce.

"Are you going to knock on doors and ask if they are related?" Williams said, in questioning the proposed definition of "family."

Mary Gilroy agreed that enforcement was a problem and expressed concern about what punitive action could or would be taken, and whether such regulations could give Foxfire a black eye.

"Can we enforce this in a way that Foxfire will not be viewed as an unfriendly village?" asked Gilroy. "And, how far do you go? Do you evict the tenant? Do you go to the homeowner and tell them to evict the tenant?"

Councilman Steven Durham concurred that oversight will be an issue, but said that concern should not derail the process.

"I am very confident that the Council over the next several years will embark on a thorough review of all our ordinances," he said. "And I expect oversight will be an issue with many -- but that should not stand in the way of passing ordinances."

In a related discussion, concerns were raised over another home in the Village that is frequently used as a rental. Correcting an often repeated misconception that the large house was built specifically as a rental property, Finance Director Leslie Frusco explained the house was built and is used as a vacation property for a large family, who also allow short-term rentals.

### Western Connector

Making the case that none of the three options under consideration for the Western Connector roadway will meet the stated objectives, the

(See "Foxfire," p. 20)



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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**

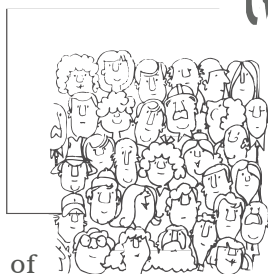
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm, \$10 (all inclusive), Fried Chicken, Mashed potatoes w/gravy & coleslaw. Food, games & socializing.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Take Shelter*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21**

- **'Met Opera - The Enchanted Island'** – at 1 pm, one intermission. Individual tickets \$25. Good seats available. To purchase tickets call 910-692-8501. Glorious music of the Baroque masters, and a story drawn from Shakespeare. The work showcases arias and ensembles by Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau, and others, and a new libretto by Jeremy Sams. Eminent conductor William Christie leads an all-star cast with David Daniels (Prospero) and Joyce DiDonato (Sycorax) as the formidable foes, Plácido Domingo as Neptune, Danielle de Niese as Ariel, and Luca Pisaroni as Caliban. Lisette Oropesa and Anthony Roth Costanzo play Miranda and Ferdinand. 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 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.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Take Shelter*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Take Shelter*, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm. 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. *Jamie Laval* 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.



Nature series on PBS, this film depicts the true story of Joe Hutto's experience hand raising a group of wild turkey hatchlings to adulthood. Visitors Welcome. 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – *Take Shelter*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**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**

- **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 show 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.

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Bible Study on Lectionary Readings** – Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong of West End United Methodist Church will lead a Bible Study on Lectionary Readings every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Each session will last around one and a half hours. This Bible Study is about the texts that he will preach on each Sunday. It will deepen ones understanding of the Bible, the rich meaning of the texts and its practical implication to us.
- **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). 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,
- **All About Shoulders at the Senior Enrichment Center** – 4 pm, Karen Backall, PT, with Appalachian Physical Therapy in Pinehurst, will discuss various shoulder problems, the causes, and what can be done to prevent them from occurring. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **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](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Save Our Sandhills Speaker Explains "Green Growth Toolbox"** – 7 pm, Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening as Brenda Johnson, a specialist in ecology and wildlife, describes 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. Refreshments served.

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### FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

- **Casual Friday** – at SLCC 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm, \$10 (all inclusive). Freshly made Pizza & salad. Food, games & socializing.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

- **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 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 29

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Guest Speaker, Bruce Stanley, President of Methodist Home for Children. He will preach at both worship services (8:30 am and 11:00 am). During the Sunday School hour, the congregation will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation on the ministry provided by the Methodist Home for Children, followed by a question and answer session. Everyone is invited to come and hear Mr. Stanley speak.
- **WSL Winter Social Mixer 'Baby, it's cold outside'** – 4 pm, warm up with friends and neighbors at the Winter Social Mixer in the Seven Lakes North Club House. Sponsored by the Women of Seven Lakes, this popular event is BYOB and hot hors d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are \$5 per person and all proceeds are used to purchase new ribbons and holiday garland

to decorate the gates and community buildings. Info or tickets, call Laura Douglass at 673-1817.

- **Dancing With The Sandhills Stars** – 5 pm to 9 pm, to benefit Communities In Schools of Moore County & Moore Buddies at The Grand Ballroom, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. sandhillsstars.com
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Pierce Pettis & Grace Pettis* 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 30

- **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 31

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society** – hosting a workshop, at 10 am. Aldena Frye's Flower Arranging with Natural Materials. Held at the Ball Visitors Center at Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. Flower arranging demonstration using natural plant materials from your yard. Cost: \$10 horticultural society members and \$15 for non-members. Participants will make a heart from natural materials to take home for Valentines Day. Space is limited. Contact Tricia Mabe to register 695-3882. Pre-payment required to secure your registration.
- **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.
- **Women of Seven Lakes**

**Happy Hour** – 4 pm, at the Sandhills Winery. Come out of the winter cold - join the Women of Seven Lakes, relax, and visit with friends. Everyone is welcome. Snacks will be provided and beverages will be available for purchase.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator is Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Country Club. Come join the Women of Seven Lakes as "Cupid" (Chef Richard Bullard) shows everyone how to prepare some scandalously delicious treats for your own Valentine! Sampling all the yummys will follow.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- **SLCC Winterfest** – Everyone's invited to a "Winterfest" dinner/dance, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

– Festivities begin with Cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Buffet at 6:30 pm. Music provided by DJ Glenn Davis at 7 pm. The all-inclusive price for members is \$20 and non-members \$25 inclusive. Reservation 673-1100.. You do not have to be a member to attend.

- **Heart of Carolina Jazz** – 8 pm, The Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra Salutes America's Black Big Bands featuring guest vocalist and narrator Pam Saulsby. Tickets: \$15 Adults & \$10 Students and Children. Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage Street, Sanford. Box Office 919-774-4155 www.templeshows.com

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **Moore Republican Women's Club Luncheon** – at the Pinehurst Country Club. Registration at 11:30 am, Lunch served at 12 noon. Valet parking available. Reservations may be made by calling Emily at 695-0016 by February 1. The guest speaker will be Dan Forest. Forest is a candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina.

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## Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 17)

Council unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the proposed bypass.

An on and off topic of discussion at the county and state level for many years, the possibility of building a Western Bypass of Pinehurst was resurrected in mid-2011, when the Moore County Transportation Committee put all possible options back on the table, including do nothing, improving existing roads, or cutting an entirely new roadway somewhere in the vicinity of West End and Foxfire.

The goal of the bypass is to carry traffic -- long-haul trucks and shoppers bound for the shopping centers in Aberdeen -- from NC Highway 211 to US 1 -- without routing them down NC Highway 5 or through the Pinehurst Traffic Circle.

Horried at the possibility that Hoffman Road -- a state route that cuts through the middle of Foxfire Village -- could potentially be widened to a divided, multi-lane boulevard; the Council's resolution states that a bypass using Hoffman Road would "unduly harm and destroy the sense of community within Foxfire."

In addition, the resolution argues that any roadway constructed wholly within Moore County will not be able to meet the stated purpose of the bypass.

Instead, the Council's resolution formally requests that NC Department of Transportation broaden its planning process and scope to explore creating a regional solution to the problem and permanently remove from consideration any improvements that would bisect the Foxfire Village community.

### Long Range Planning

Two years in the making, the long-awaited Long Range Plan was distributed to the Foxfire Council for their review and approval by Councilman McCue.

"Yes, the LRP Committee spent two years to get to this point," he said, "but the hard part will start once it is

approved and we begin trying to implement it."

### Finance

Property tax bills were due January 6, reported Finance Director Frusco, and nearly 88% of anticipated tax revenue has already been collected.

The General Fund stood

at \$857,205 in unrestricted accounts, with an additional \$104,423 in restricted funds, including prepayment towards the Woodland Circle account, capital reserves, and money set aside for Stonehill Pines. The Water Fund was reported at \$300,854, with an additional \$591 in prepayment towards

the Woodland Circle fund and \$135,000 held in escrow for a new well.

An interest-only loan payment for the Woodland Circle Extension project is due in April 2012, with \$75,810 from the General Fund and \$5,357 from Water. Annual debt service also includes annual payments in July towards the Village Green Park fund and for water improvements.

Frusco reported that the Village received a second payment of \$19,476 in state Powell Bill funds, bringing this year's total to \$38,952. These state funds are restricted to paving, drainage repairs, mowing along the shoulders, and other road maintenance

needs.

### MPA internship

Hoping to secure a ten-week Master of Public Administration [MPA] graduate student intern, Frusco and Councilman McCue volunteered to participate in an upcoming interview process at the UNC School of Government.

Frusco explained that each student in the two-year program must complete an internship in government.

"Many of the students want to go to bigger venues -- like DC or Charlotte -- but a smaller municipality can offer a much broader experience," she said. "They would have

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

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## Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 20)

the opportunity to work in multiple departments."

Quickly spinning out a few possible scenarios, Frusco said a graduate student could assist Foxfire with grant-writing, developing a Human Resources policy manual, or improving the website and other communications with residents.

### Water

Water leaks are not a rare occurrence in the Village, reported Councilman Durham. In fact, sometimes they are a daily occurrence.

However, leaks are primarily on the service lines -- not the main lines -- and Durham suggested it may be more cost-effective over the long term to replace the leaking lines rather than repair them.

Durham also recommended that fencing damaged by fallen tree limbs around the water tower should be repaired, and brush cut back.

In another water-related discussion, Durham asked whether there was a set policy on irrigation meters and if they were charged an availability rate in addition to the primary house meter.

A state law enacted in 2009 requires new construction to install a separate irrigation meter alongside the house meter; and, currently, there are no accounts in the Foxfire Water system with the dual meter. During discussion, Town Clerk Lisa Kivett and Finance Director Frusco seemed to agree the availability charge -- if and when applied -- will be a single fee on the account and will apply to both meters.

### Streets

The deadline for a Federally-mandated street sign replacement program has been temporarily suspended; however, any new signs installed must meet the new standards imposed for sizing and reflectivity.

Of particular concern are a few Village signs, such as for golf crossings, that can be very difficult to see at night.

Councilman John Eltschlager said a sign inventory has been conducted and that he is putting together a replacement list with anticipated costs.

In a brief discussion about the possibility of lowered speed limits, he explained that the overall Village speed limit must remain at 35 mph unless otherwise posted, per state law.

Turning attention to the major traffic arteries, Mayor George Erickson said in his tenure with the Council [since 2003], the Village has asked the state to reduce the 40 mph speed limit on three separate occasions -- and each time the request has been denied.

### Stonehill Pines

In 2009, the Foxfire Village Council approved a twenty-

year agreement with Stonehill Pines -- a massive planned development of homes, a hotel, two golf courses, and commercial areas.

Erickson reported that the agreement requires construction to commence by the end of 2012. He said that he had learned in a recent conversation with the Stonehill Pines attorney, that the developer intends to move forward with

the project.

"They still want the project, and they are working towards the end of year deadline," said Erickson.

### Other business

In other business on Tuesday, January 10, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Tabled discussion on a proposed ordinance that would require door-to-door solic-

itors to apply for a permit before conducting business in the Village.

- Accepted for review an appeal by CABT [Coalition Against Bigger Trucks], a group opposed to Federal legislation that would allow longer and heavier trucks to operate on U.S. roads, to draft a formal letter supporting a continued ban on such vehicles.

## Memory

(Continued from page 5)

him in a care facility.

Sandhills Memory Care can provide an assessment of a potential resident and also offer counseling to the family, so they know what to expect.

"I know what these families are going through," Honeycutt said, "and we work very hard to help them with the transition. Dementia is far more difficult on the family than it is the patient. I know what

it is like to visit a person that outwardly is your mom or dad, but internally is not the same person that you know and love."

"If you look at taking care of someone for twenty-four hours a day, that is a strong commitment," she added. "At home, they could wander away at night, or turn on a stove, or get to the car keys and drive. Here they do not. We have around the clock

supervision and families know that all of their medications and health care needs are being met."

Sandhills Memory Care welcomes men and women -- even couples -- and accepts Medicaid as well as private-pay residents. Facility tours are welcome, by appointment. For more information, contact Sandhills Memory Care at 910-673-2045.

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# OPINION

## The hunt for large, hairy, manlike creatures

Today I'm going to break a rule — a self-imposed bylaw, if you will.

Not that this will be a surprise to anyone who has ever met me. Even casual strangers in the grocery produce aisle could probably figure out I'm not exactly a toe-the-line kind of gal.

What can I say? I grew up in the 1970s, which I am fairly sure automatically qualifies me for a lifetime free pass on conventional living. Raised on a cultural landscape of Chatty Cathy dolls, Charlie's Angels, oil crises, and The Carpenter's, my generation reflects the groovy effects of Baby Booming post-hippy relaxed parenting.

Can you dig it? I knew that

you could.

As a result my adult attitude falls more often to the pirate than the predictable. You know, I'll stick to the code, but those are really more like guidelines anyway.



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

So to get back to the point — not that we ever got there to start with — today, I'm breaking my own rule. I am going to use my column to sell you on a commercial

product. Though "product" and "commercial" are terms I'm using loosely here. It's actually a television program.

You've heard that two wrongs don't make a right? Well, that old axiom doesn't ring true in this case because *Finding Bigfoot* on the Animal Planet channel is so awful that it's

awesome.

A campy reality show chockfull of linguistic misdemeanors and pseudo-science crimes, *Finding Bigfoot* each week features its four-

man research team scouring a new location, looking for conclusive evidence that Bigfoots exist. And yes, they actually pluralize the noun to "Bigfoots."

Armed with night vision cameras, parabolic microphones, and heat-seeking missiles [Okay, I was kidding on that last one — but they did borrow a baboon once], this merry band of adventurers take their quest for Sasquatch very seriously.

Investigating squatchy territories — basically any rural area with farms, forests and a resident population of deer — they collect hard evidence like snapped sticks and muddy footprints, while making peculiar calls and throw-

ing stones. These are well-documented 'squatch' behaviors, they assure me, along with other highly indicative signs — like the sound of children playing in the distance and ducks calling out in alarm.

Preposterous, ludicrous, ridiculous, and at least a few more descriptive 'ous' words that I can't think of right now, this program is an hour's worth of rule-breaking elevated to an art form.

In fact, the only undeniable fact each and every week is that I simply, positively, absolutely cannot stop watching it.

## What's an 'Evangelical?'

**Question:** How would you define an "Evangelical?"

**Response:** On the surface your question would appear to call for a simple, straightforward answer. The word "evangelical" comes from the Greek word *euangelion*, which means "good news."

In Christianity's second century, the word became attached to the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The men whose names were associated with these

gospels became known as the four evangelists because Christians believed that the story they told about Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection was good news for the world.

In the 16th century, Lutheran and Reform Churches in Germany and Switzerland that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church were called Evangelical churches. Soon, in many European countries,

the members of all Protestant churches were called "Evangelicals."

Over the last century, in North America, the word has often been associated with fundamentalism, a movement organized in the early 20th century to "defend" orthodox Protestant Christianity against the perceived challenge of theological liberalism, scholarly criticism of the Bible, evolution, and other modernisms judged to be a threat to "true" Christian doctrine.

Fundamentalism emphasizes certain fundamental doctrines such as the inerrancy of the scriptures, the virgin birth of Jesus, substitutionary atonement (a sinless Jesus offering up himself for sinful human beings who deserve death for their sins), the bodily resurrection of Jesus, and the expectation of the imminent return of Christ to earth.

Many of these fundamentalist evangelicals refer to themselves as "born-again" and use a metaphor found

in the Gospel of John to describe a conversion experience by which one enters into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



### Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

from Fundamentalism over 60 years ago, I have continued to see myself as an Evangelical Christian. Otherwise, I would not stand up Sunday

after Sunday and tell the Jesus story with all the passion that is within me. Nor would I continue to stress what many funda-

mentalist evangelicals seem to ignore: that Jesus was a radical teacher, and that if any person, church, or nation would begin to live by his teachings, their lives and our world would be surprisingly transformed.

So, if you believe that what Jesus says is not only true but is good news for all who hear it, and if you are willing to share that good news with others, then you, too, are an Evangelical. Don't let anyone take the word away from you.

Don Welch is the minister of the Chapel in the Pines.  
dwelch1@nc.rr.com

## SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# It's the old bait and switch on the West Side

Dear Editor:

It shouldn't come as any surprise that the turnout to the Town Hall meeting on the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association budget was small. Consider the following:

1. This "dues parity" was divulged by former Treasurer Kathy Kirst over three years ago and has been in the works since then. The power brokers just had to get a few things in place in order to make it happen:

First, was to remove the previous Treasurer, since he

was a thorn in their side.

2. The developer needed to be out of the picture.

3. The Architectural Review Committee needed to increase building fees and make building more difficult to discourage new owners.

4. The Board, which controls who can run for the for the Board, needed to make sure that only people who agreed with their plan are on the Board, so as not to get any push back.

5. Knowing that once the Board votes that it is virtually impossible to overturn a

budget. As one former Board officer stated: "Get used to it, because we can do what ever we want, and there isn't thing one you can do about it."

The long range plan appears to be to keep the Westside population at its current size, but enjoy the full dues payment from every lot owner, so the Board can spend like the Washington politicians instead of living within their means. Apparently, the previous Board lied to us when we purchased our lot and they told us about

the dues structure for unimproved versus improved lots. I guess we can only construe that it is the bait and switch plan. Draw them in with the lower dues plan, then stick it to them once they are in no position to do anything about it.

I asked the current treasurer several questions, which he carefully avoided answering: How many lot owners are on the board? When was the covenant changed so that it only recognized one type of member?

Knowing that the majority of lot owners live out of the area makes it real simple to stick it to them with no repercussions. Clearly, the current residents will be glad to have their hands in the lot owners'

pockets to be able to spend more money on things like fireworks, pool expenses, Johnson point, etc. — when most lot owners do not enjoy any of it.

I will say this again. I do not drive on the roads, swim in the pool, use the community rooms, use the mailhouse — but you want me to pay for it. This is indeed a sad day for Seven Lakes West.

We have been duped in to thinking this was a great place to live, but I guess the facts speak for themselves.

We just want your money, but stay where you are!

John Lattin

Disappointed lot owner  
Lansing, Michigan

## Board taking unfair advantage

Dear Editor:

As the owner of a lot on in Seven Lakes West, I find interesting the Westside Board's position in charging us a higher percentage of dues increase based on the possibility of facilities usage, maintaining roads, the dam, and other costs.

Let's not try to fool anyone here. What is the real wear and tear or usage from a lot owner on roads and other parts of the community? Very low, compared to someone with a home driving there every day.

What this increase is really about is taking advantage of someone who cannot build and move there because of the economy.

What I feel the board is really saying is, "We have these people by the short hairs. What are they going to do now that their property is worth half of what they paid, so that they couldn't get out if they wanted to? And they are not here to stand in my office to complain."

The percentage increase should be the same. There is no way a lot owners is putting more cost on the area.

Just go ahead and kick us when we are down with this increase. Or at least have the guts to call it what it is: Taking advantage of lot owners who can't defend themselves or have no options.

How many lot owners are on the Board, by the way?

Thank you very much for taking advantage of us lot owners.

Jack Stone

Seven Lakes West

Lot Owner

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## Westside work session

(Continued from front page)

member to the Association office.

Defending the need for an additional CAS staff member, President Mick Herdrich said, "I don't think most people realize how much stuff has been transferred from the Board to CAS. I see that just continuing."

"At the Town Hall meeting, we had fairly low attendance," Freiert told the Board, "No position was taken whatsoever for or against the budget at that meeting."

The budget was initially approved by the Board on December 13. Tuesday's approval on the second reading clears the way for the budget to be forwarded to the membership, which will vote to approve or disapprove it during the Annual Meeting in March.

### A second gate arm at East entrance?

More than two months ago, Safety and Security Director, Jim McCarthy proposed adding an additional gate arm to the entry lane of the West Side's back gate. When that suggestion failed to win support, McCarthy withdrew it; but he placed it back on the table during Tuesday's Work Session.

The additional arm at the gate would "stop tailgating immediately," McCarthy said, "and probably stop the crime -- because most of the crime that happens in here comes through that back gate."

"If we spend a little money, we can solve the problem," he added. The additional gate

arm mechanism is estimated to cost \$3,000.

Some of McCarthy's fellow Directors responded to his renewed proposal by calling for a more "permanent" fix.

"What happens is we end up doing these half-steps," said Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly, "spending all this money on a little bit here and a little bit there -- and what ends up happening is that people get frustrated."

"If we have a legitimate security issue at that back gate, let's not spend time and resources and money on little half-steps. Let's say, 'We have a problem at the back gate,' and man it."

Herdrich echoed Wimberly's point: "Maybe it's a double arm, maybe it's a guard out there. But we've got to resolve this permanently."

Infrastructure Director John Goodman reminded the Board that it has already commissioned a redesign of the entire back entrance, and, while the concept drawings are in hand, detailed plans have yet to be drawn. Goodman suggested using the same firm that is designing the mailhouse and front gate to put together plans

for the back gate.

"I'm not saying [we should] build it yet," said Goodman. "With that [design] in hand, when we bid out the other two, you can bid out the back

gate as an alternate. Then the Board can decide whether or not to award it."

*"If we have a legitimate security issue at that back gate, let's not spend time and resources and money on little half-steps. Let's say, 'We have a problem at the back gate,' and man it."*

— SLWLA Director Adam Wimberly

Not happy with the prospect of a lengthy design and bidding process, McCarthy said: "The problem is now. If you guys are looking into the future, it's not going to be solved in three years."

Goodman said the designs are set to be finished in two months and estimated construction could begin within the next year.

During member comments, Westsider Dale Erickson said, "[I] like the idea of the Long Range Plan John [Goodman]

does make it aesthetically pleasing, and I think it will solve our problems."

Erickson also said that an interim fix is "acceptable" until the long term fix can be implemented.

"This same thing has been discussed for three years," said Wimberly. "There is a reality in this community: it is growing, and the front gate

is getting more and more congested."

Legal Director Jack Stevens mentioned other advantages of improving the back gate, including: relieving traffic pressure at the front gate, routing delivery vehicles through the back gate, and the possibility of building a parking lot for carpooling.

Hoffmann said there are three to four thousand entries and exits at the front gate of the community on a daily basis.

President Herdrich asked McCarthy to put together a committee to look into solving the back gate issues.

The Board took no formal action on McCarthy's suggestion during Tuesday's meeting. However, Director Goodman will obtain a price for the redesign of the East entrance, while McCarthy will convene a committee to refine his security proposal for the back gate.

(See "Westside," p. 25)

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## Westside work session

(Continued from page 24)

### Architectural Review

Variances from SLWLA architectural standards "are going to be very, very difficult to come by in the future," reported ARC Director Hoffmann.

A new variance procedure will require that all requests be submitted in writing, Hoffmann said. The change will allow the ARC to guide the application process when a variance is being sought.

Hoffmann told the Board that thorough research on the question of variances reveals that there is a "ton of case law -- and it clearly favors existing communities' or municipalities' covenants and other declarations. To vary or provide or allow variance from those regulations, the burden falls clearly on the person requesting the variance."

According to Hoffman, in order to receive a variance a person must demonstrate hardship.

"If your property is rendered valueless or close to valueless," he explained, "then a variance may be granted so that you can do something with your property . . . Show us [ARC] that, without that variance, you can't do the intended purpose of that

property -- such as a residential building."

The new variance request procedure was developed after an initial ARC approval of a variance for the Stonegate subdivision was rescinded. "We are at ground zero with regard to any kind of variance with Stonegate," said Hoffmann.

### Solar Energy Installations

Photovoltaic energy panels installed in the community have Hoffmann "so impressed with the installation," that he asked Ken Bonville from Sandhills Energy Systems, Inc. to give an information presentation to the community during the Board's next meeting on Tuesday, January 24 at 7 pm.

Westsider Dale Erickson said he "would use caution in having a vendor come in to talk about a particular item . . . My only concern would be that it would be perceived as setting a precedent."

Erickson suggested the alternative of hosting a technology fair in the community.

"It is very general in nature, and I think it would attract a lot of attention and a lot of interest," Erickson said. Secretary Jane Sessler volunteered to contact Erickson

to help set up such a fair.

### Other ARC Matters

Hoffmann reports that ARC had resolved two longstanding compliance issues, both involving unfinished new home construction. A home that was left unfinished for three years has now been

curb and gutter work is underway at the lower Lakeway Mall pond dam and should, weather permitting, be completed within the week. All storm drainage in the area is now underground.

The next step in the project is to install a walking path. The guardrails initially pro-

posed for the area, to separate pedestrian from vehicular traffic, may or may not be installed, Goodman said. If not installed at the Lakeway Pond Dam, he added, guardrails will be installed at the ponds further west on Longleaf, an area that is subject to icing.

posed for the area, to separate pedestrian from vehicular traffic, may or may not be installed, Goodman said. If not installed at the Lakeway Pond Dam, he added, guardrails will be installed at the ponds further west on Longleaf, an area that is subject to icing.

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*"We are at ground zero with regard to any kind of variance with Stonegate."*

— SLWLA Director John Hoffmann

### Nominating Committee

The three candidates nominated to run for Board seats will address the community during the SLWLA Work Session on Tuesday, January 24, Secretary Jane Sessler reported.

The nominating committee will also be seeing some changes.

"We have voted to become a year-round committee," Sessler explained. "We are going to work all year to identify folks in the community who might be interested in helping on any committees the Board may need -- and be able to identify people for

(See "Westside," p. 26)

### Lake and Dam

Dock repairs are currently underway at Johnson Point, reported Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly. Currently, Dock "A" is complete, and Dock "B" is being

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director John Goodman said that

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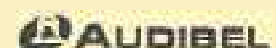
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## Westside work session

(Continued from page 25)  
future use."

Wimberly asked if the Nominating Committee has discussed moving from a three-year term for Board members to a two-year term.

"It's hard enough to get people to run," Wimberly said. "One of the ways to get people to run is not having three year terms. In terms of keeping energy levels up and sharp, I think it's something worth looking at."

In an effort to help with Board member "fatigue," Sessler said the Nominating Committee is trying to "help with the learning curve coming in," for new Board members.

"Part of it has to be with strengthening our committee system," she explained, "so that not as much lays on the Board members themselves."

### Board considers eliminating evening meetings

Given low attendance at Board meetings, Sessler has requested that the Board consider moving its end-of-month evening meeting to the morning hours.

"We originally had set those up to afford people two choices to come," she said, "but we're just not seeing any attendance. Instead of one morning and one evening meeting each month, there would be two morning Work Sessions."

Director Stevens said moving the Board's evening work session to the morning would be "more efficient and cost effective." However, Stevens asked that certain issues still be presented to the community through "topic specific" Town Hall meetings in the evening.

In an effort to explain the lack of attendance, during member comments Westsider Bernadette York said, "People want to know what's going on when it effects their wallet and the aesthetics of the community."

President Herdrich told the Board that, "I think we have a problem sometimes with saying, 'Just because nobody says anything or gives us input they aren't happy'. . . it's probably the opposite."

Stevens also suggested videotaping the Board's meetings and placing the recordings on the website for review by members unable to attend the meetings.

Sessler told *The Times* that the proposal to move the evening meeting will be placed before the community for feedback before any decision is made, likely sometime before the next fiscal year begins in May.

### Amenities Committee

The new Amenities Committee expects to make recommendations to the Board within the next two weeks,

reported Sessler.

"They have been meeting quite a bit, and it's pretty amazing," she added. The committee is focusing on marina slip reservations, temporary RV storage, pool use, Johnson Point reservations, and improvements to the Community Center.

Sessler said the committee is chaired by Nancy Workman and has split into three sub-committees: West Side Park Community Center, Pool, and Johnson Point.

### Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, January 10 SLWLA meeting:

- On behalf of Community Manager Joan Frost, who was unusable to attend Tuesday's meeting, CAS staff member Lucy Hadlock presented the Manager's report. Currently, the CAS staff is preparing for the annual meeting, billing for boat slips and boat storage, counting ballots, and preparing bills for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. In her report, Frost thanked the Board and all of the Seven Lakes West membership for a good year. "It feels good to have helped the

Board accomplish so many useful and necessary tasks in 2011," she wrote. "We look forward to 2012 being even better."

- The next community event will be "Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate" on Friday, Feb-

ruary 17 at the Community Center from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, reported Event's Director Jim Ferguson. The event will cost \$10 per person. The event will have music by Guitarist, Ryan Book.

## Medicare Assistance

Those who have Medicare Part A or Part B and have limited income and resources may qualify for a federal assistance program called Extra Help- Low-Income Subsidy (LIS).

Individuals who make less than \$1,361 per month may qualify (married couples less than \$1,838). To be eligible your resources must

be limited to \$12,640 for individuals or \$25,260 for married couples.

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will hold an LIS application clinic at the Senior Enrichment Center on Tuesday, January 24, by appointment. Call 215-0900 to make an appointment with a counselor.



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## SLLA work session

(Continued from front page)

istrative fee in lieu of the additional dues.

A proposed fee of \$200, all retained by the SLLA, would preserve the revenue stream. It would, however, eliminate the current \$205 rebate paid to owners of rental property, potentially increasing their costs and effective dues rate.

In a related discussion, the Board seemed to agree that membership cards and guest cards should only be issued to one entity -- that is, either the renter or the owner could use the community amenities, but not both. Currently, both landlords and renters are able to use the amenities.

The proposed change in fees will be considered for approval during the January 25 Open Meeting.

### Long Range Planning

Based on the recent completion of a road evaluation report by the engineering firm S&ME, and with last year's Reserve Study in hand, the Board took steps, during Monday's Work Session, toward developing a Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee.

But before the committee convenes, the first order of business is to determine exactly what tasks that group will be given.

SLLA President Darr spoke in favor of creating two distinct committees: one focusing specifically on road paving issues, and the other looking at all other long range and infrastructure planning needs.

"We have set aside dollars allocated to roads and state-mandated dam repairs," Darr said. "That has been pulled away and is in a separate section of the Reserve Study. I think a LRP committee should be formed to look at how we are going to approach the rest of the Reserve Study."

Darr's recommendation was respectfully opposed by SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer and Director Bud Shaver, who both suggested that a single committee would be preferable, so that all potential major expenditures would

be considered within a comprehensive decision-making process.

"We all know the potential projects ahead of us are far in excess of the funds available to us," noted Meyer. "The committee will mostly wrestle with a prioritization

process of what will be done. Others will either be deferred, or they will come to a point when we decide to go out and borrow money to accomplish a project."

Community Manager Cochran reminded the Board that this year, the Association

is fully funding the reserve level as recommended by the Study; however, the proposed 2013 Budget will not satisfy the incremental increase that was suggested.

Meyer and Shaver both commented that -- while well done -- the Reserve Study is

simply a set of recommendations.

"It does not mean this is what has to be done or this is what will be done," Shaver said. "I want to see this put together in the hands of a committee to assure continuation."  
(See "SLLA," p. 28)



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## SLLA work session

(Continued from page 27)

nunity. We need a committee that puts it all together and says to the Board: These are things we recommend."

Darr responded that his primary concern is time and that he does not want to progress on road repaving to be bogged down in committee.

With members of the Finance Committee already expressing interest in joining the LRP Committee, as well as a few others, Shaver and Meyer argued that progress would not be delayed by including roads with other infrastructure in their discussions.

In addition, Shaver noted the Reserve Study recommendations are almost exclusively related to road paving improvements until 2015, which would allow the committee to focus on road paving initially.

Directors Bruce Keyser, Jr. and Andy Lowe agreed with that assessment, leading Darr to relinquish his idea of two committees and agree that a single Long Range Plan Committee would be organized.

### Lighting versus park closing

Frustrated by ongoing vandalism at the community's common areas, the Board is considering closing the parks and beaches earlier than the current 11:00 pm curfew -- possibly resetting the operational hours back to 9:00 pm, or even dusk.

Before taking such drastic action, the Board is exploring whether enhanced outdoor lighting and motion-activated cameras can curb the vandalism problem.

Director Racine noted that the pool and restroom facilities at Northside Park are both well-lit, and argued that the extra lighting has not been effective in preventing litter issues -- particularly around the soda machines and baby pool.

"Will lights alone solve the problem?" asked Racine.

Responding to a concern raised by Director Lowe about the overhead lights being left

on when the tennis courts are not in use, Community Manager Cochran said it was more economical to leave lights burning in a public area -- that is, the cost of wasted energy is less than the cost of repairing damage

### Usage fees for amenities?

All residents have access to the lakes and beaches; however, using a boat on those waters requires a separate registration process that includes a small fee for an annual sticker.

*"Those original amenities are essentially what we all bought into."*

— SLLA Director Bruce Keyser, Jr.

done by vandals.

Director Fentzlaff recommended tabling the discussion until the newly contracted security firm, The Budd Group, had appropriate time to evaluate the community's needs and issues.

After going around the table, Darr agreed to leave the 11:00 pm curfew in place, but was clearly disappointed with what he called a 'holding pattern.'

"It drives me crazy that we have problems with this place and issues just keep getting put back," he said.

"Is that fair?" Darr asked during Monday's Work Session.

He said he has difficulty justifying the fact that user fees apply to some amenities, but not to others. For example, Darr explained, a portion of every resident's dues is used to maintain the stables and pool -- even though not everyone will use them.

"In a meeting, not long ago, we were talking about rebuilding the bulkhead on the [Lake Sequoia] island," Darr continued. "One resident

said that he never used the lake or island -- so why should he be charged?"

"He said, 'It benefits them not me,'" Darr recalled, adding that, while he didn't necessarily agree with that point of view, it was a valid point for discussion.

Director Racine said that any additional amenity fees -- such as the existing dock fees -- should be collected and allocated strictly to maintain and repair that amenity.

Director Keyser responded that the \$900 annual landowners dues is the usage fee for Association amenities. He cautioned that any additional fees -- for example, to swim at the pool -- would likely only encourage more use of the lakes.

"The pool would sit half empty, and the Association would still have the issue of having to maintain the pool," Keyser said.

"Those original amenities are essentially what we all bought into," Keyser argued.

Taking a different tack, Treasurer Meyer said the Board was not looking to eliminate any amenities, but rather taking a closer look

at revenue.

Using the stables as an example, Meyer noted that the Association currently owns eight horses and three ponies.

"Is that the right number for the usage?" he asked. "Before we go into a discussion of 'let's start charging,' we owe it to the community to determine that we have right-sized the amenities."


Director Shaver agreed and noted that he conducted a study several years back that calculated the per day costs for individual amenities, as well as other Association services, such as the daily cost for the in-house maintenance staff.

### Lot Combination

Looking to set a firm written policy on combining lots, Darr said the issue must be resolved.

"We have a number of lots that are combined," Darr said. "Some are combined in such a way that they are recorded in Carthage [with the Moore County Register of Deeds], and some are not. Some were combined with [Board] approval, but were

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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## SLLA work session

(Continued from page 28)

not properly recorded. And there are some that have indications in the files that if they are ever uncombined, they would be subject to back dues. But, what we have is an absolute mess as it relates to this whole issue."

Darr said, in his personal opinion, that the Association should not allow lot combinations, though he recognized that a prohibition would require a decision on grandfathering any lots already combined.

Treasurer Meyer argued in favor of adding new language after honoring the "path of least resistance."

That is, Meyer suggested building on the long-established and accepted -- but apparently unwritten -- policy that back dues will be owed if and when a combined lot is ever re-divided by a property owner. He also suggested that the owners of any unrecorded combined lots be given a grace period to correct the issue, with the proviso that they would not receive a dues reduction until the lot combination is properly recorded in Carthage.

Director Racine also suggested the Board consider whether the policy should differ in the cases where two non-contiguous lots are combined.

After going around the table, the Board agreed that a new formal policy will be developed -- and that owners of currently combined, but as yet unrecorded, lots will be given adequate notice that further action is required.

### Sequoia Point boat storage

Distributing a proposed layout, Darr said that more parking and an expanded and improved boat storage area could be realized at Sequoia Point by utilizing the Yard Debris Site to store boat trailers.

"Security concerns are not as great for trailers as for people with boats on trailers, and by rearranging the storage yard we can provide better utilization, especially in the Summer," Darr said.

Specifically, he recommended that boats on trailers be moved closer to Firetree Lane, which would allow in-house maintenance staff access to the back area of the storage lot for leveling and necessary

drainage work.

"Eventually, we might want to think about enclosing the area with fencing to make it more secure for boats," Darr said, "but the first part is to clean it up by just moving the trailers."

One potential problem with parking trailers in the Yard Debris Site, Darr noted, is that the area is locked for twelve-hours each day, potentially causing a problem if a boat owner needs to pull their trailer during off-hours.

"Though trailers are rarely moved, it could be an inconvenience if someone did want to move their trailer," he said.

Responding to a question by Keyser on the anticipated costs to fix the drainage

issues at the Sequoia Point lot, Cochran estimated the materials cost at \$3,000 and said the work could be done using the Association's backhoe and in-house staffing.

Keyser cautioned the Board that only recently it was recommended that another part-time maintenance staff employee was needed to manage the existing workload -- and that this project was in addition to that.

In a related discussion, the Board also recommended that boat trailers -- in addition to the boats themselves -- should display a current registration sticker. Most seemed

to agree that a set three-year registration schedule would be adequate for trailers.

### Budget input

A draft copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget was provided to the Finance Committee for their review on January 6, reported Treasurer Meyer, and will be presented to the community during a special presentation on Tuesday, January 31 at 7 pm.

The SLLA Board will then review the draft budget during the February 13 Work Session and is expected to adopt the budget during the February 29 Open Meeting.

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Sandhills Animal Rescue League, Inc needs your help with tax deductible donations to continue our rescue and rehoming of abandoned and unwanted cats and dogs in the Seven Lakes and surrounding area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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#141789 - 112 Simmons Dr - \$50,000  
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