

Proposed Westside gate policy proves controversial

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

For years, residents of Seven Lakes West have enjoyed what might be called “most-favored nation” status at the gates of Seven Lakes North and South, being waived though by the gate guards simply because their windshield bore the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] sticker.

And residents of Seven Lakes North and South have enjoyed that same easy access to Seven Lakes West, waived through by the guard on the basis of their Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] sticker.

All of that may be about to change.

Conversation at the Wednesday, January 25 SLLA Open Meeting revealed that Seven Lakes West is planning a change to its access policies that will eliminate automatic entry to the community for vehicles bearing SLLA stickers. And it appears that the SLLA Board may respond in kind.

SLWLA President Mick Herdrich told *The Times* that, while an ad hoc access control committee has in fact proposed changes, the proposed policy has not been formally presented to the Westside Board, let alone approved.

And it appears that the release of a unfortunately-worded draft document on SLWLA letterhead may have

fueled suspicions that the new policy is aimed directly at North and South-siders — something that Herdrich is quick to deny.

New Westside Policy Surfaces at SLLA Meeting

News of a new policy at the Westside gates was reported by Security Director Andy Lowe during the Wednesday, January 25 SLLA Open Meeting. Lowe told his fellow Board members that, effective May 1, 2012, SLLA windshield stickers will no longer be recognized for access to Seven Lakes West.

Instead, SLLA members would be required to stop at the gatehouse and be signed in as the guest of a member
(See “Gates,” p. 27)

Girl Scout Cookie Time



It's Girl Scout Cookie time, and Junior Scout Delylah Thomas, along with the other members of Troop 1301 of Seven Lakes, will be out and about taking orders for the best cookies on the planet. [See page 2 for details.]

Water still top goal for County

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Obtaining a long term solution for the future water needs of Moore County was the number one goal set by the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their

retreat held Thursday and Friday, January 19 and 20.

Developing the local economy through jobs, entrepreneurship, and tourism was also among the Board's top goals, as were decreasing the Advanced Life Support [ALS] tax and mapping out capital improvement projects in for the next twenty years.

Robbins is preferred source

Public Works Director Randy Gould presented seven options for increasing the supply of water available for Moore County Public Utilities Customers, and the Commissioners appeared to lean heavily towards working out a deal with the Town of Robbins.

“As Moore County Commissioners, I would think we would put a little weight into helping people that live within our County,” said Commissioner Nick Picerno. “I’m not an isolationist, but I would say: before I would go spend money in a Harnett County plant and make sure Harnett County citizens have water, I would want to go and see if there is a workable deal and exhaust that with Robbins.”

(See “Commissioners,” p. 10)

West Side near deal on crossing

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



As *The Times* went to press on Wednesday, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] was inches away from completing an agreement with the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company that will protect the community's front entrance, making the Lakeway Drive rail crossing a permanent, public crossing with gate arms and signals. Members of the SLWLA

Board, the railroad, and other affected businesses and landowners have been negotiating behind the scenes for weeks to complete the agreement.

Absent a deal, it is possible that the crossing could be permanently closed.

The SLWLA Board was scheduled to host a public meeting on Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 pm to present details of the crossing agreement to the membership, take public comment, and vote on the agreement. A final meeting of the various

(See “Crossing,” p. 26)

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Kiwanis dish up famous pancakes Saturday

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held this Saturday, February 4. This event will be held at West End Elementary School cafeteria, from 7 am until 11 am with eat-in or take-out service available.

This important Kiwanis fund-raiser will benefit local school classes with cash and

computers for an exciting new reading program to include third graders. Last year's proceeds contributed towards this initiative entitled the Reading Diagnostic Assessment. This year's goal is to add a substantial sum to fully augment expansion throughout the Third Grade.

This program, supported

by the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Teachers Academy, is designed to impact student learning. Unfortunately, with the state's current economic problems, the financing for this project must be underwritten by organizations outside of government sources.

The Kiwanis would like to

encourage all Seven Lakes neighbors to wholeheartedly support this year's Pancake Breakfast to assist the students that will benefit from the breakfast.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis was chartered in 1983 and held its first Pancake Breakfast in 1984. This effort, along with the sponsorship of the local twice-monthly bingo

games at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, are the major sources of income for the club.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis organization is always seeking new members – both men and women.

They meet on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time

It's Girl Scout cookie time! Don't miss out on this once-a-year chance to stock up on all your favorite flavors. Girl Scouts throughout Moore County are going door-to-door and staffing cookie booths at convenient locations to serve you. Thin

Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties and many other popular flavors are available again this year. Cookies are priced at \$3.50 per box, or customers can choose to make a donation to Operation Cookie Drop. Now in its eighth year, this

program has delivered over 415,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to our military servicemen and women deployed overseas.

For more information about Girl Scouting or to locate a cookie booth in your area, visit www.nccoastalpin.es.org

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline
due to holiday.



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6 White Bean Chicken Chili ♥ Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	7 Split Pea with Ham Soup Chicken Parmesan Dinner	8 Tomato Tortellini Soup Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner	9 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner	10 New England Clam Chowder Beef Enchiladas Dinner ♥
13 German Cabbage Soup Salisbury Steak Dinner	14 Broccoli Spinach Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	15 Chicken Brunswick Stew Eggplant Parmesan Dinner	16 Butternut Bisque ♥ Bourbon Salmon Dinner ♥	17 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner
20 Potato Bacon Soup Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	21 Black Bean Soup Chicken Marsala Dinner ♥	22 Curried Chicken Soup ♥ Pot Roast Dinner	23 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	24 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Soup Swiss Steak Dinner
27 Corn Chowder Two-Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	28 Goldie's Chili Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	29 Chicken & Dumpling Soup Walnut Pork with Cranberry Merlot	Mar. 1 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Apricot Salmon Dinner ♥	Mar. 2 Mushroom & Wild Rice Soup Baked Spaghetti Dinner

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SLLA Board votes to eliminate renters dues

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Following the advice of legal counsel, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] is no longer in the business of charging renter's dues.

With a unanimous nod of support during the Open Meeting held on Wednesday, January 25, the SLLA Board of Directors eliminated that long-held policy in favor of assessing an administrative fee in its place.

Offering a quick review of the math, Treasurer Conrad Meyer explained that homeowners are billed \$900 in annual dues. If that residence is occupied by a renter, there was an additional charge of \$410 in so-called renter's dues, of which half was rebated to the property owner once the amount was paid in full.

Currently, there are roughly ninety rental properties within the community, which net the Association approximately \$20,000 in annual revenue.

While the move to an administrative fee was approved, the actual dollar amount was not finalized. Meyer recommended \$100 and said the final figure should be set somewhere between \$0 and \$200.

Contractual concerns — not dollars and cents — were the primary motivation for the policy change, said SLLA President Bob Darr.

"As an Association we have membership and that is made up of people who own property," he explained. "We do not have a contract with renters. The contract [between SLLA and its members] is tied to the purchase of property. We have no business in the rental business."

One interesting point that emerged during the discussion was that renting a home in Seven Lakes does not automatically provide the renter with access to the community's amenities.

"The landlord owns the right to the amenities," said Director Bud Shaver. "The landlord must decide if the renters will get [member-

guest] cards for access or not. It is their choice and their responsibility."

Landlords weigh in

During member comments, Westsider Ron Zwart argued in favor of keeping renter's dues as is, but was opposed to how the policy requires owners of multiple properties to pay multiple dues.

"I have three houses [rental properties] currently," he said, "and I shouldn't have to pay for amenities three times."

Zwart said that many renters have no vested interest in the community. To counter that, he suggested that, instead of a \$200

administrative fee, the Association should maintain the current \$410 dollar renter's dues, but place the \$205 that is now rebated to the landlord in a separate account.

"If they buy a house, that amount could then be put towards their dues," Zwart said.

Over the years, he has owned more than a dozen homes, Zwart explained. He told the Board that having landlords buy, remodel, and rent older properties is ultimately more beneficial to the community than seeing the homes sold to people who are unwilling or financially unable to renovate and

upgrade the properties.

Zwart also expressed frustration that the Association — and Talis Management — had been lax in pursuing renters who were delinquent in their dues payments.

Treasurer Meyer agreed and responded that that concern was one of the reasons that a new formal dues collection policy was developed and approved last year.

Southsider Tom Zaleski asked the Board when the renter's dues policy was originally established.

Going around the table, it was clear that no one could nail down a particular date; however, Community Manager Alina Cochran said there

are references to renter's dues in meeting minutes dating back to the 1980's.

Guest access hang-tags

A new procedure at the gatehouses will eliminate the use of hang tags to identify guest vehicles. Instead, hang tags will only be offered to guests visiting the community for extended periods. Daily visitors — including golfers — will simply be required to stop at the gates and be cleared as a scheduled guest.

During a brief discussion period, Darr and Cochran both spoke to the high cost of the hang-tags, estimated at \$5,000 per year, versus

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

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Westsidiers meet the Board candidates

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



With fifty members in attendance at the Tuesday, January 25 Seven Lakes

West Landowners Association [SLWLA] meeting, Secretary Jane Sessler introduced the three candidates that are running for seats on the Board of Directors: Jim Pierman, Bruce Keyser Sr., and Dan Blue.

Sessler said she was "very happy and very gratified to have three very well-qualified candidates to run for the Board." The candidates introduced themselves during the meeting.

Pierman, who has lived on the Westside for four years, said "It's hard to express how neat this community is. It is really a super, super place to be." He added, "I think about where I could have retired, and I think I hit the right spot."

Having worked with the Lake Auman Sports Club and volunteering at First-Health Moore Regional Hospital, Pierman said "I really feel great that I am going to have an opportunity to go ahead and work here in the community — right in Seven Lakes West."

Keyser, who has lived in the Seven Lakes area for thirty-one years, said he agreed to run after being approached by the Nominating Committee. "I understand it has been difficult to get members of this community to say 'yes' to participation and being a Board member," he said.

Keyser said the SLWLA Board has done "a wonderful job" and that, as a result, "we are a wonderful community." Addressing his approach to Board service, Keyser said he plans to listen to the members of the community and then make his decisions on issues as they arise.

Blue was also asked to serve by the Nominating Committee. Blue has owned a Westside lot since 1988, but does not own a home in

Seven Lakes West. Blue told members: "I am the lot owner; I don't live here, so I guess I am the token."

Blue and his wife live thirty minutes away, but visit Seven Lakes on the weekends. "I look forward to being of service to you," he said.

The Nominating Committee "cast a very wide net" in its search for candidates, Sessler said, adding that committee members spoke with fifty potential candidates.

"I want you to know we spent a lot of time," she said, "and we are absolutely thrilled that these three men have stepped forward. Each one of them brings a unique perspective to our Board for next year."

SLWLA members will have an opportunity to vote for the three new candidates at the annual meeting in March. Current Board members John Hoffmann, Adam Wimberly, and John Goodman will be leaving the Board after serving three-year terms.

Volunteer Recognition

The SLWLA Board, during Tuesday's Work Session, approved a request for an annual event to be held that would honor volunteers who serve throughout the community.

"We would like them to be recognized," said Sessler,

who proposed the annual event. "It's time for us to do this."

Former SLWLA President Ron Shephard said that the number of hours that are put in by Westside volunteers amounts to a million dollars worth of labor savings.

The Joe Fellingham award for volunteerism will be presented at the Annual Meeting in March.

Infrastructure

Curb and gutter work at the intersection of Longleaf and Lakeway Mall should be completed by January 25, reported Infrastructure Director John Goodman. Then new asphalt will be laid, and a sample guardrail and five foot wide walking path will be installed, in order to gather community feedback.

If that feedback is positive, the guardrail will be left in place, Goodman said. However, if it does not work at Longleaf and Lakeway, it will be placed at the second pond dam on Longleaf between the front entrance and Beacon Ridge Country Club.

During member comments, Westsider Phil Mayer asked about the cost of the project and whether it was on budget. Goodman said it was on schedule, for the most part, at a cost of \$200,000.

Goodman reported that two

lot owners have given the association easements to allow for enhancement projects. Molly Watts, who owns property at the Longleaf-Lakeway intersection, has agreed to have the trees thinned in order to restore the view of the Lake. After the thinning, grass will be planted and benches installed on the dam. The lower Lakeway Mall pond will then be refilled.

The Lake Auman dam road,

with a two foot cut of uneven and bumpy gravel and a sixty-foot unpaved area in the middle, needs to be repaired, reported Goodman. To patch the entire top of the dam and remove the curbs would cost \$20,000, he said.

"I would classify this as something that we need to do — the sooner the better," said Goodman. "I wouldn't classify this as an emergency."

(See "Westside," p. 15)

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Council retreat focuses on Village's future

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Sizing up both their goals and challenges for the upcoming year, the Foxfire Village Council met in a daylong retreat on Thursday, January 26.

"The five of us: I see us as a real leadership group. We each have our strengths," said Mayor George Erickson. However, their ability to resolve problems will be duly tested, as he laid out a hefty list of pressing concerns.

"We are facing some big challenges. We have some things to deal with," Erickson said.

Erickson placed debt service on the Woodland Circle Extension project loan as a top priority, but also drew attention to the proposed Western Connector road, the condition of the community-owned tennis courts, the future of the bank-owned country club, and the ongoing maintenance needs of the Village's interior roads.

Woodland Circle

Completed in Spring 2011, the Woodland Circle Extension added 54,000 square feet of new roadway to Foxfire Village; unfortunately, the project also added a \$2 mil-

lion debt load to the town when one major property owner opted to donate his 160 acre parcel in lieu of paying the assessment.

After several area land trust and conservancy groups declined interest, the undeveloped tract remains on the market for sale.

But Finance Director Leslie Frusco is looking down the road at options. "We need to anticipate what we will do if it doesn't sell in one year, as one big unit," she warned.

Frusco suggested a brainstorming session with the listing agent to discuss alternative marketing ideas, such as carving off twenty or so single-acre lots with road frontage for quicker sales. In addition, she reported her intention to speak with BB&T on available options on loan payments. Currently, the Village is in the second year of an interest-only payment agreement.

Frusco said she is developing a proposal for Council review that recommends using all principal payments from assessments to pay down the principal on the loan, while using Village funds to cover any remaining interest amount left unpaid.

"We know, for the next four years, we will be collecting assessment payments, but my real concern is what hap-

pens if it is not sold," Frusco said. "What will happen after those four years?"

Councilman Steven Durham also put the Woodland Circle project at the top of his priority list and said it was important to keep the issue at the forefront.

"I know we don't have answers, but I want to make sure our residents know it is a priority for us," he said.

Durham suggested a special meeting or Town Hall should be conducted for the express purpose of discussing the issue, and Councilman Mick McCue also recommended that a detailed administrative record should be maintained of each step in the decision-making process.

However, Frusco reminded the Council that, even if Woodland Circle is taken out of the financial mix, the Village still lacks the resources to do the type of projects recommended in the proposed Long Range Plan.

"If we have to raise taxes, people will say it is because of Woodland Circle," she said, "but that would be only partially true."

Long Range Plan

Two and a half years in the making, the proposed Long Range Plan [LRP] for Foxfire Village lays out a series of recommendations and goals over a five-year period.

"We're not going to get all this done. We will need to make adjustments," McCue said.

Instead, he suggested opening a dialogue with residents, focusing on what is affordable, versus what the majority agree should be done.

"If we based everything on money, this would be a half-page plan," he said. "You have to make a plan of what you would like to do and then decide what you can afford."

The plan's overarching goal statement is for Foxfire Village to be the most preferred small residential community in Moore County by the Summer of 2014. Specific actions call for improved communication with residents, updated ordinances, improved drainage and road maintenance, connectivity with the golf course, and developing a positive public relations image.

As priorities for Year One [2012], the plan recommends exploring how technology could be used to improve interactive communication with residents, as well as a thorough review of ordinances.

McCue noted that a survey (See "Foxfire," p. 13)

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LA firm will develop Pine Forest golf resort

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Pine Forest — the golf resort and gated community proposed for 1700 acres between NC Highway 211 and NC Highway 73 near West End — has its first developer.

Robert Sonnenblick of Los Angeles-based Sonnenblick Development will take charge of 400 acres of the site, building an 18-hole golf course and a 300-room five-star resort hotel, Moore County Planning Director Debra Ensinger told *The Times* on Tuesday, January 31.

Conversation between Ensinger and Commissioners during the Board of Commissioners' Annual Budget Retreat on Thursday, January 19 suggested that Pine Forest had a "new owner," a development *The Times* reported online and to our email subscribers.

But MHK, Inc. remains the development's owner, Ensinger said, adding that she and other county staff will meet with Sonnenblick on February 20 to learn more about the developer's plans.

The resort hotel and golf course have been within the plans for Pine Forest from the start, and should fit within the PUD Hamlet rezoning the Commissioners approved in July 2011. However, Ensinger added, agreements concerning a proposed private wastewater treatment plant and the source of water for the development must be finalized before any part of the Pine Forest project can move forward.

Commissioners surprised by news

The Commissioners, during their retreat, were clearly surprised by the news of a new developer.

"We thought that the developer who was developing this was going to go forward," said Commissioner Tim Lea, who voted against Pine Forest rezoning.

"Now, we found out that Pine Forest has been sold to another developer. Are we going to have another developer the next time we get ready to make a decision on this?"

"Why would a new owner buy?" Commissioner Nick Picerno asked. "We have not approved any water or sewer."

It took more than two years for Florida-based MHK, Inc. to win approval for the rezoning.

Sonnenblick Development's website details Robert Sonnenblick's substantial background in the financing of commercial real estate projects valued in the tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sonnenblick Development lists among its projects a Waldorf Astoria Resort in Boca Raton and a Ritz Carlton Resort in Park City, UT, along with shopping centers and public buildings.

Relocating the Waste Water Treatment Facility

Though the Pine Forest rezoning was approved, the Commissioners have not finalized agreements to bring county water to the property — or related agreements that would bring wastewater from another MHK development

(See "Pine Forest," p. 16)

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Sherri Adams is new Biz Guild President

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

"We do so much more than potholes!" exclaimed, Sherri Adams, the newly elected President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild.

"We want people to find out what is here and also make the area more attractive



Sherri Adams

to newcomers and for people living in our community," she explained.

As branch manager of CommunityOne Bank, which is located smack dab in the middle of the business district, Adams has been an active member of the Business Guild and is excited to introduce some new ideas and re-energize interest in the group.

Also serving in officer positions this year are Vice Pres-

ident Karen Milligan of Karen Simmons Designs and Art Clay Studio, Treasurer Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy, and Secretary Cheryl Ann Darwell of Cruise Planners & Land Specialists.

Communications are at the heart of several planned initiatives this year, and Adams hopes to broaden interest in the group through an updated website, plus developing a Facebook presence and an online community calendar.

Currently, the Business Guild is updating member email addresses and planning the annual Chili Cook Off and Meet the Merchants events. In addition, Adams said, the group is considering a village-wide "open house" day.

To encourage more business networking and socializing time for guild members, Adams said she is changing the format and timing of regular meetings to allow more open discussion time. Membership in the Seven Lakes Business Guild is open to traditional "brick and mortar" merchants and also home-

based businesses, as well as area non-profit and church groups.

"It can only help your business to join," Adams said. "We're not just looking for financially invested members

[business owners], but also for people in the community with ideas and time to volunteer. This is a huge group effort and that is exactly how we want it to be."

For more information on

the Seven Lakes Business Guild, drop by and see Sherri Adams at CommunityOne Bank, Vann Joyce at Quality Care Pharmacy, or contact Cheryl Darwell at cdarwell@cruiseplanners.com

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Keyser, Blue and Pierman seek seats on

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Three candidates have been nominated for election to the three open seats on the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors: Bruce Keyser, Sr.; Jim Pierman; and Dan Blue. *The Times* interviewed each of them last week to ask why they are running for the Board what they hope to accomplish during their three year term of office.

Bruce Keyser Sr.

Having lived in the Seven Lakes area for over thirty years Bruce Keyser Sr. told *The Times*, that he would like to increase the "camaraderie" between the Seven Lakes North, South, and West.

"I feel one of the reasons I want to get on the Board is that I want to make people more aware of the communality of the three sides," explained Keyser, "rather than looking at them as three separate communities."

Keyser's son lives on the North Side (and serves on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors, and Keyser owns property on the South Side, in

addition to his home on the West Side. As a result, Keyser said, "I am very often on all three sides of the fence."

Keyser said he would like to see communication increased between the two Seven Lakes landowners



Bruce Keyser, Sr.

associations, in part, to improve the overall approach to security.

"I think there should be good communication between North and South and West as far as security issues," he told *The Times*.

One way to improve security throughout Seven Lakes, Keyser said, would be to implement a single barcode system between the three

communities. Keyser said the barcode system will ensure that access is confined to people who have a right to be in the community.

"I think access to all sides should be available to anyone who is a member, with the notation that we are a gated community," explained Keyser. "As a gated community the people within that community have a right to want security."

Keyser said he hopes he can lend some expertise by serving as the Westside's Lake and Dam Director. Having moved to the Westside because of the "big lake," Keyser told *The Times* that he has volunteered on the Lake and Dam Committee and currently is in charge of monitoring the dock repairs at Johnson Point.

Over the three years of his term, Keyser said he would like to see two projects in

particular completed: the reconfiguration of the front entrance and the repair of the crest of the dam, which still bears the scars left by the rebuilding of its core.

"[The dam is] going to be a priority definitely in the next three years," said Keyser "both beautification-wise and the continued look at whether a road can be added over there."

The possibility of building a by-pass road around the dam is not something Keyser believes is "cost effective," though "it doesn't mean I'm not open to somebody presenting something and allowing the community to make the decision."

Aside from his interesting the dam, Keyser told *The Times* that he feels he can

(Continued on page 9)

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Seven Lakes West Board of Directors

(Continued from page 8)

lend a hand to Long Range Planning for the community as well, having helped his church doing similar work.

"I feel CAS and the current board are doing an excellent job of managing the community," Keyser said. "I hope the new board members, myself included, will continue to improve on the framework of this and past boards."

Jim Pierman

Jim Pierman always felt he should run for the SLWLA Board, and the opportunity presented itself when he was asked by the Nominating Committee to stand for election.

"I want to serve," Pierman told *The Times*. "I think Seven Lakes in general — but the West Side, especially — is

tor John Goodman on the plans for resurfacing the thirty-two miles of Westside roads.

Infrastructure planning is critical, Pierman told *The Times*, in order "to maintain our infrastructure and maintain the way the community looks and functions."

Asked how he would approach decision making as a Board members, Pierman told *The Times* that he took an analytical approach and looked at all of the facts in order to come up with "a solid reason for doing things."

From an analytical standpoint Pierman would like to understand the cost, maintenance, downside, and upside of adding a bypass road around the dam. "The dam is one of the reasons why we are all here," said Pierman.

Whether or not a bypass is built, Pierman feels that the emergency access over the dam was "handled really well" and would refrain from changing it, for example, to incorporate electronic locks. "The more complex you get, the more chance of failures you have," he told *The Times*.

"Right now the least chance of having a failure is to be able to unlock the gates manually."

Above all Pierman is impressed with the level of volunteerism in Seven Lakes West. He said that is one of the reasons he ran for the Board, feeling it is "a responsibility" as a member of the community.

With over a million dollars in volunteer hours provided to the community a year and a two million dollar budget, Pierman said, Seven Lakes West is "really a super example of America. Here you have unpaid people trying to go ahead and maintain a community the size that we have."

Asked about the SLWLA Board's recent work to increase communication with the membership, Pierman said is happy with the "diversity" of opinions that are being expressed. "The diversity is very good in our community," he told *The Times*. "I think it makes a community better."

No matter what Board responsibility comes his way, Pierman said he feels that service is his responsibility

as a landowners. Among the benefits of board service, he expects is "learning something. I love to learn things."

Pierman is a member of the Lake Auman Sports Club and publishes their newsletter "Sports Line."

Dan Blue

Dan Blue is unique among this year's candidates — and may be unique in the history of the Association — as a lot owner rather than a homeowner. Blue told *The*

(See "Candidates," p. 17)



Dan Blue



Jim Pierman

such a neat place to live, and has so much for everybody. I would like to contribute to that. I feel that I should — as a resident."

During his twenty-nine year career with the Ford Motor Company in Michigan, Pierman acquired plenty of managerial and planning experience. If elected to the Board, he would like to put that use as Infrastructure Director.

"It is now getting to the point that infrastructure has to be replaced — has to be repaired," said Pierman. "The docks are getting repaired; the roads, the dams are getting repaired."

Pierman is working with current Infrastructure Direc-

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Commissioners retreat

(Continued from front page)

Picerno was referring to an option that would have Moore County pay for an expansion of Harnett County's water treatment plant on the Cape Fear River, at a cost of \$25 million. The County's current agreement with Harnett County allows it to purchase up to two million gallons per day [GPD] from that source. Buying into the plant expansion would give the County access to an additional two million gallons per day.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton agreed with Picerno: "We owe it to our County and Robbins," he said. "If we are going to do an in-house thing, this is the first option we need to pursue . . . I think our number one option should be doing this thing with Robbins."

Gould presented ten- and thirty-year plans for bringing Robbins' water to the County system. Supplying 1.5 MGD from the Robbins reservoir on Bear Creek will require a new treatment plant, a new tank, booster pump station, and a twenty inch main. That is estimated to cost \$20 million, which includes \$6.7 million in funding for Phase 1 of the Northwest Moore Water District, which would bring County water to rural residents around Robbins.

The town of Robbins would use 400,000 gallons per day, leaving 1.1 million for county

water customers.

But residents have been slow to sign up for the NWMWD, and that could make it a poor vehicle for the expansion — even though it comes with voter approval to borrow up to \$16 million. Gould said, in order for the project to move forward, the county would "need to have more customer sign ups."

"I thought Northwest was the way to go because there's money there — there's a bond," said Picerno. "But you can borrow money."

Gould's thirty-year plan for Robbins would produce an additional 2.2 million GPD, bringing water from Deep River, and would cost an additional \$17 million, bringing the total cost of the Robbins option to \$37 million.

Commissioner Craig Kennedy, who lives near Robbins, was in favor of that option. "Anywhere you have sewer you are going to have growth and potential for jobs and industry," explained Kennedy. Robbins has an underutilized wastewater treatment plant that was built to service industry. They are missing that key component of the water," Kennedy said. "You have to look at the long term economic effect: Robbins will grow."

Kennedy asked that the Robbins plan be "tweaked" to include "no build out of NWMWD."

Seven Water Options

Gould began his presentation with a projection of the demand for water in the County system. "[We're] Looking at ten years, looking at thirty years — and what is best for our future," he explained.

In thirty years, Gould's analysis projects, County water customers will need a maximum of 7.9 million gallons of water per day. That's 3.1 million GPD more than the current maximum demand of 4.8 million GPD. Ten year out, maximum demand is projected to total 5.8 million GPD.

The current maximum daily demand for water in Seven Lakes is 881,000 GPD. In ten years that number is expected to increase to 1.0 million GPD, and, in thirty years, to 1.4 million GPD.

Drawing water from all its current sources, running its wells 24 hours per day, Moore County Public Utilities can produce a maximum of 6.7 million gallons per day.

In addition to the Robbins and Harnett County options described above, Gould presented five other possibilities for increasing the supply of

water available to Moore County customers:

- Sanford: Could supply 3 million GPD for \$33 million.
- Asheboro: Could supply at least 3 million GPD for \$29 million.
- Laurinburg: Could supply a 1 million GPD projected surplus from their existing wells at a cost of \$13 million, but only for the next ten years.
- Wagram: This intake at a former textile plant on the Lumber River could supply 7 million GPD of raw water for processing at the Southern Pines water treatment

plant. Moore County would need to partner with other water users — perhaps Southern Pines, Aberdeen, or other towns — who could use the excess 4 million GPD.

- New Wells: Digging new wells in Moore County — one well every other year — could produce 158,000 Gallons Per Day [GPD] of water and would cost \$375,000 per well. However, a comprehensive groundwater study would have to be conducted to locate well sites. Four potential sites have been
- (See "Commissioners," p. 11)

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Commissioners retreat

(Continued from page 10)

identified.

This year, two new wells — 3A and 6A — will be completed, producing 130 gallons of water per minute. However Gould expressed concern about the County's aging wells, which are subject to pollution from radium and gasoline additives, lost capacity, and aging. Blending the water from multiple wells has helped with these issues.

"One thing we cannot do; is nothing," said Chairman Larry Caddell. The Board plans to hold a special meeting to further discuss the water options presented to them during the retreat.

VIPER

Turning to other matters during their retreat, the Board of Commissioners discussed how to pay for an upgrade of the County's emergency communications system mandated by the Federal Communications Commission. The county has selected the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders [VIPER] system created and maintained by the State Highway Patrol.

It was clear that the Commissioners have no plans to increase the fire tax to pay

for the system, and will instead ask that each municipality cover its own costs for the upgrade.

No federal funding is available to pay for the \$4.5 million upgrade to VIPER, which will be used by all emergency operations in Moore County.

One of the Board's goals for the year is to reduce the Advanced Life Support [ALS] tax by one half cent. However, the payment structure planned for the VIPER installation includes \$1 million from the ALS fund.

"ALS seems to be running a half a cent surplus each year," said Commissioner Picerno. "We ought to be able to . . . reduce that [tax] by half a cent."

Commissioner Melton said he understood the need for a tax reduction, but feared that might not be a wise move in an uncertain economy, particularly if combined with another proposal to use a portion of the County's reserve funds to pay off debt.

"Before we make a decision on that [ALS tax reduction]," Melton said, "we need to look at what the town and municipalities are going come back and agree to pay, before we cut that half a cent."

"I agree with Jimmy," said Commissioner Kennedy, "We need to proceed with caution. We are still in that range of uncertainty."

The Board of Commissioners has scheduled a special meeting to discuss VIPER with the County's municipalities for Tuesday, February 7 at 3:00 pm.

Moore County's Economy

Partners in Progress Director Pat Corso presented the Board with a summary of the current economic picture in Moore County, focusing on real estate, retail and restaurants, and the need to add a cultural component to the area's other attractions.

In order to continue to attract retirees to Moore County, Corso said, the real estate community needs to "cast a wider net." He explained that the retiree boom of the nineties may go away if nothing is done.

"We can't just sit here like

we do right now and wait for them to walk in the door, because it's not going to work," said Corso, "We have to take our message out: This is a great place to retire."

"We've never done anything as it relates to trying to recruit retail in here," Corso contended. "What we have become is a retail hub by accident."

Being a "retail hub" is great, according to Corso, until a decision has to be made as to whether a particular retailer is desirable for the County. "We have no say because we're not proactive," he explained.

With a newly-appointed Steering Committee set to update the County's decade-old Land Use Plan, Corso said "This is perfect timing for an opportunity to create community norms — which is, as a community, we say what we want and where we want it."

Corso told the Board that, with this approach, the Plan-

ning Department could guide where retail and manufacturers are set up throughout the County.

"Culture is the third leg on our stool," Corso told the Commissioners, explaining that Moore County has tourism and medical assets, but lacks a strong cultural draw, like a performing arts center.

Tourism

Tourism rebounded in 2010 to approach levels last seen prior to the economic downturn in 2008, the Convention and Visitors Bureau's Caleb Miles told the Commissioners.

When asked by Commissioner Picerno how important tourism is to Moore County's economy, Miles replied: "All you have to do is go to the counties around us, and take a look at their economy, how their economy operates and what drives it."

The Visitors' Bureau is trying (See "County," p. 12)

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County

(Continued from page 11)

ing to market Moore County by emphasizing several key areas:

- Focus on sports such as the US Opens in 2014 and the 2011 World Series Dixie Youth Baseball Championship.
- Continue with the Airport Partnership to make the necessary upgrades to the facility.
- Improve communication between restaurants.
- Future development of tourism products, restaurants, and retail stores.

Currently, a portion of the Convention and Visitors' Bureau tax is being diverted to help pay for upgrades to the Moore County airport, in part to prepare for the 2014 US Opens.

According to Miles "restaurants are overbuilt right now," and this needs to be addressed. Just last year four major chains: Cracker Barrel, Dickey's, Ledo's Pizza, and Mellow Mushroom moved into Moore County.

Corso announced that the old Blockbusters Video building on US 1 in Aberdeen will be converted into a Dunkin' Doughnuts.

Budget & Taxes

The Moore County tax department has collected 91 percent of the projected taxes for the year. The department has met a 99 percent tax collection rate for the last twenty years.

"It is an awesome accomplishment," said County Manager Cary McSwain, "And a credit to the citizens of the County."

The County plans to re-evaluate real property values in 2015. Vest predicts that most county properties will retain their value, with the exception of those valued at more than \$500,000.

Finance Director Carrie Neal gave the Board an overview of the proposed County budget for the year. A public hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, May 15.

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Foxfire retreat

(Continued from page 5)

of Villagers found a strong interest in compliance, oversight, and enforcement.

Also in the first year, the Long Range Plan recommends a needs assessment analysis of water department infrastructure and water sources. In addition, the plan encourages development of a thorough and comprehensive maintenance plan for roadside drainage and streets.

One area specifically noted for its sturdy current status was public safety.

"People are happy and like it the way it is," reported McCue.

On the other hand, two areas found lacking were the deteriorating tennis courts and pool house. Attempts to secure major grant funding to renovate those facilities were unsuccessful, and Councilman John Eltschlager estimated the cost to replace the courts alone would range between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

"By 2014, we either want them gone, or we will need to rebuild before then," Frusco said. "The tennis courts are more of a deterrent as they exist right now . . . Real-estate has told us it is an eyesore. It is in the middle of the Village, and it is ugly."

McCue agreed and said the concern goes well beyond the question of whether or not the surface is playable.

"This goes to appearance and our goal of being a preferred community," he said.

In Year Two [2013], the Plan focuses on public relations and how to "sell the community," and also opens discussion of adding a town manager.

McCue noted survey results opposed to a town manager were primarily based on financial concerns; though Durham reminded the Council such concerns must be balanced against a job description that would satisfy ongoing tasks such as zoning and compliance.

In years Three to Five [2014-2016], the Plan provides additional time to complete long-term projects, including updating the ordi-

nances, developing a road maintenance plan, reviewing public safety needs, implementing a beautification plan, and distributing surveys and compiling information for a new Long Range Plan for the next five years.

"Each year builds on what was done in the previous year," explained McCue, "and we will continue to develop progress reports and analysis."

Foxfire Resort & Golf

Developing a strong working relationship with the Foxfire Resort & Golf Club is another goal included in the proposed Long Range Plan.

Last year, the club declared bankruptcy. It is currently owned by the bank and is operated by a contracted golf management company.

Durham reported that survey results from residents demonstrated strong interest and support of the club from within the community.

"The Village has been very willing to work with the club and their situation," said Finance Director Frusco. "It is vitally important to have a relationship with them. We want to play ball with them, but we also have a respon-

sibility to our residents."

Of priority concern is a massive debris heap at the club's maintenance area, which continues to grow in size and is an enforcement concern as well as an eyesore.

Western Connector

Describing the proposed Western Connector as a contentious issue for the entire county, Mayor Erickson said he was immensely disappointed at the recent Moore County Transportation Committee meeting.

"We are the guinea pig on this whole transportation thing," he said. "In the past, they would bring people together and have a meeting and make a decision. In this case, we've been going on 'ad nauseum' for meeting after meeting."

Proposed as a connection between West End and the commercial district of Aberdeen — and to alleviate traffic on Hwy 5 and the Pinehurst traffic circle — potential options for the bypass include improving and widening existing roads, constructing an entirely new path through undeveloped farm and forestland, or doing nothing.

In December 2011, the Council approved a formal resolution detailing their opposition to the proposed road and, instead, recommended a regional approach will be necessary to achieve the plan's stated goals.

"The challenge for us is to keep it out of Foxfire Village — at least not through the center of town," said Erickson.

Councilman Durham suggested that Foxfire should partner with neighboring communities to help protect their mutual interests.

"If we're going to ally, for us it would be best to work

with Pinehurst and Aberdeen rather than Southern Pines," Erickson said, noting that Southern Pines is already steeped in battle with NC Department of Transportation over another proposed strategic corridor project.

"If Seven Lakes was incorporated, we could partner with them, but they are not," Erickson said.

VIPER

Based on a federally-mandated move to narrow band frequencies for emergency communications, Moore County's Board of Commis-

(See "Foxfire," p. 14)



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Foxfire retreat

(Continued from page 13)

sioners have selected the VIPER [Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders] system, managed by the State Highway Patrol, for all emergency communications in the county.

Currently, Foxfire Police Department is in compliance with a Federal requirement to use narrow band equipment. However, since all county emergency agencies are coordinated through the 911 system, given the County's move to the VIPER system, Foxfire will be forced to purchase compatible equipment.

Chief Mike Campbell reported that he is researching exactly what that expense would entail for the Village. In addition, he has been in contact with other area police and fire agencies to explore possible alternatives.

Public Safety

In other discussion of fire and police concerns, Chief Campbell thanked everyone for their kind words on the tragic death of former Police Chief Rick Rhyne.

Campbell suggested a Village memorial commemorating Rhyne's long and dedicated service.

Looking ahead, Campbell said he is quickly outgrowing the physical space for evidence storage and that it

also should be stored in a separate and secure area. In addition, he recommended a security camera installed at the pool area would be beneficial.

He thanked the Council for funding a part-time officer position and recognized Officer Scott Patterson for a new program he initiated called Senior Touch, a voluntary program of regular visits to the homes of elderly residents.

"He has been a great asset to the Department," said Campbell.

Sgt. Chad Shue reported that he is very pleased with his new K9 partner, Bu-Bo.

Originally tested and chosen to train as a military special forces K9, the dog has a much quieter demeanor than his predecessor, Ruger, but has so far proved to be just as hard-working.

"We train every day, whether I am working or not," Shue explained. "This is a passion for me and something I have always wanted to do, but it takes a lot of work and effort."

Water

Water is a major issue for Foxfire, Councilman Durham said, recommending a proactive approach to planning.

"Now is the time to look forward in terms of water: How much we consume. How

much we spend on infrastructure," he said, recommending that a needs assessment should be conducted this year. "We will try to identify where want to be in five or ten years down the road. I want to analyze the infrastructure and start looking at what are the benefits of owning our own system and what are the alternatives."

Durham said, at this point, there is no reason to believe that Foxfire needs another new well — though funding is currently set aside if that need should arise. But a needs assessment would also help pin down that information as well.

"We need to look beyond tomorrow," he said.

Water Superintendent John Sedlak said he was particularly pleased that several small, yet elusive, leaks were pinpointed and repaired this year; and several fire hydrants were replaced in 2011. He said he is comfortable that the Village has overcome any radon problems and said that ongoing testing will be reduced to once every three years.

Looking ahead, Sedlak recommended replacing supply

lines that are leaking rather than repair them; and also using a unidirectional method for flushing the lines. He estimated that task, to be conducted once a year, would require assistance from three people.

Regarding private wells and new state legislation, Sedlak suggested compiling an inventory of all private wells in the Village and developing an inspection program.

Village Attorney Michael Brough told the Council that he was skeptical they would be able to enforce provisions in the current ordinance that require disconnecting owners of private potable water wells from the town water system. Instead, he recommended that private well users could be required to install a back-

flow device that would eliminate any concerns of contamination — that is, mixing of regulated city water and unregulated private water in the lines.

Clarifying the state law, Brough explained that municipalities cannot prohibit residents from installing water supply wells, and the wording of that new law does not distinguish between irrigation or potable wells.

Door-to-door solicitation

In another legal discussion, Attorney Brough recommended the proposed door-to-door solicitation permit should be limited to commercial solicitors, with exceptions for non-profit and youth, sports and scouting organizations.

(See "Foxfire," p. 15)

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 5)

But we need to do this to stop the erosion of the dam and to seal the dam — and this will do both.”

Foxfire

(Continued from page 14)

The administrator for permits will be the Chief of Police. Permits will be issued for a period not to exceed sixty days; and, based on a recommendation by McCue, the hours for this activity will be limited to 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, including weekends.

“We should have had a solicitation ordinance long before now,” said McCue. “I want to have the law before we have a problem . . . It is nice to have an ordinance that our police can use lawfully and with cause to see what people are doing running around our Village.”

Pinehurst zoning services

As new construction slowed in response to the lagging economy, the staff position of a Zoning Administrator was left vacant, with Mayor Erickson often filling in the role, as needed.

Currently the Council is developing an agreement with the Village of Pinehurst zoning office to provide services either on a flat fee basis or at a per hour rate.

Other business

In other discussion during the daylong retreat:

- Town Clerk Lisa Kivett reported that administrative file space is cramped and that efforts to remove unnecessary and duplicate paperwork clutter are ongoing. The Village website will be updated to include more interactive features and a library of information and meeting minutes.

- Councilman Eltschager reported that an inventory of street signs has been conducted; that several problem drainage areas have been corrected; and that he will be inspecting the roads for potential crack sealing work.

The current SLWLA budget does not include funding for those repairs; Treasurer Don Freiert will present funding options to the Board at their February 14 meeting.

Manager's Report

Community Manager Joan Frost said that most of the CAS staff's time this month has been consumed by Annual Meeting preparations. Notices for the meeting were sent out on January 31.

Frost announced that preparation for boat registration, assigning boat slips,

and boat and trailer storage registration has begun. Stickers for boats have been ordered and will be available at registration time.

Boat registration letters will be sent out on February 2.

In the future, Frost said, registration will begin on March 1 and any lack of compliance by May 1 will incur fines.

CAS has been working with the Safety and Security Committee to develop a proposal for access control, a task that has included many staff

hours researching guard services and security software.

On January 23, a NC House Select Committee held a public hearing on Homeowners Associations. A summary of the meeting can be found in the CAS office.

Other business presented by Frost included:

- Staff continues to monitor the replacement of the decking at the Johnson Point boat slips.
- Frost anticipates a \$1,300 refund for copier services in the Community Center.
- CAS is now taking meeting

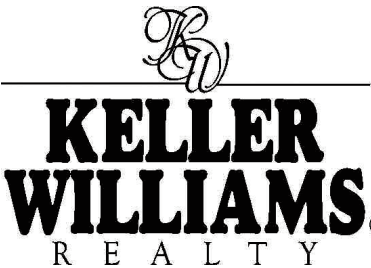


notes for the Legal Committee.

Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Committee [ARC] has developed an application procedure for variances that will be presented to the Board during their next regular meeting, Director John Hoffmann reported.

A builder who had been “non-compliant in many different ways,” has paid all fines — a total of \$4,500 — due to the Association, Hoffmann said.

(See “Westside,” p. 16)


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<p>105 DOUGLAS DR • 7LW</p>  <p>ANOTHER HOME UNDER CONTRACT!</p> <p>3BR+BONUS, DBL LOT \$275,000</p>	<p>123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW</p>  <p>AMAZING WATERFRONT - \$750,000</p>	<p>230 FINCH GATE • 7LW</p>  <p>GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! - \$330,000</p>	<p>119 ANDREWS DR • LAKE AUMAN</p>  <p>CUSTOM WATERFRONT IN MINT CONDITION! \$879,000</p>
<p>251 FIRETREE • 7LN</p>  <p>2500 Sq Ft, MANY UPGRADES - \$190,000</p>	<p>108 SMATHERS • 7LW</p>  <p>CLOSE TO MARINA! MANY UPGRADES! \$290,000</p>	<p>105 PINENEEDLE • 7LN</p>  <p>ALL-BRICK, 3/2 MANY UPDATES! - \$165,000</p>	<p>155 HASTINGS • 7LS</p>  <p>GOLF FRONT, MINT CONDITION! - \$225,000</p>
<p>110 DORSET DR • 7LS</p>  <p>STORAGE GALORE! - \$182,500</p>	<p>221 LONGLEAF • 7LW</p>  <p>4BR+BONUS, OPEN LAYOUT - \$275,000</p>	<p>168 SIMMONS DR • LAKE AUMAN</p>  <p>3 BR, ALL BRICK, NEW KITCHEN - \$684,000</p>	<p>120 FOREST SQ CIR • 7LW</p>  <p>315 FT. GOLF FRONT - \$339,000</p>

Westside meeting

(Continued from page 15)

Communications

Secretary Jane Sessler thanked Betsy Mekula and the newsletter staff for a "wonderful run of newsletters." The SLWLA website has increased its membership and "still continues to grow," Sessler said.

The Area Reps are now being called "Community Reps," Sessler reported, and will be a welcoming commit-

tee for new residents. The CAS staff will be integrated into the committee, which should be up and running in February. A newcomers reception will take place in April.

Finance

The net cash position of the Association continues to be monitored and is "doing well," reported Treasurer Don Freiert.

The Finance Committee continues to work on their remaining objectives for the year, which include an inventory and capital replacement study. Freiert said he is "not sure" if a formalized study should be done, because Infrastructure Director John Goodman is planning an inventory and capital replacement study of community roads, which represent the majority of the Association's

future replacement costs.

The Finance Committee will evaluate the rest of the assets from the Association's tax records and make a recommendation to the Board.

Noting that the financial reports posted online for members to review include a substantial amount of detail, Freiert said. "[I] want to find ways to simplify the financial reporting." The Finance Committee will develop a recommendation for the Board.

Due in part to the sluggish economy, Freiert reported an "increase in delinquencies in dues and assessments." The Association is now "sitting on" a two percent delinquency on annual dues collections, he said.

The Finance Committee is looking at aged accounts receivable, write-offs, and future policies to approach the situation more effectively.

(See "Westside," p. 17)

Pine Forest

(Continued from page 6)

— the Dormie Club on NC Highway 73 — for processing at the private wastewater treatment plant proposed for Pine Forest.

And it's no longer clear how that transfer of wastewater from one development to the other will work. In December, MHK met with Ensminger to discuss the possible relocation of the proposed wastewater treatment facility to the Dormie Club.

"The Dormie Club site does not permit the use of public utilities," Ensminger told the Commissioners. In other words, the Dormie Club's current zoning would not allow a wastewater treatment plant on the property. "We would have to do a text amendment to the zoning ordinance and go through the process with that."

Commissioner Craig Kennedy said he was under the impression that the treatment facility would be moved further away from Nick's Creek.

"Are we going to have the new owner of Pine Forest come back and ask to put a treatment facility on Pine Forest?" asked Lea. "I don't know what the Board's position is, but I don't think we want two wastewater treatment plants right there across the road from each other."

Ensminger said two wastewater treatment facilities — one at Pine Forest and the other at the Dormie Club — is not what is being proposed.

Even if that were the plan, County Manager Cary McSwain said, "I don't believe either one of them [Pine Forest or Dormie Club] alone could support the capital cost of two plants."

The construction of a privately owned waste water treatment facility by a developer, no matter where it is located, would be a first in Moore County.

The rezoning of Pine Forest was approved by the Board of Commissioners in July 2011 in a three to one vote with Commissioner Larry

Caddell recused and Commissioner Tim Lea casting the dissenting vote.

The Pine Forest PUD, as originally approved, was to include a maximum of 710 residential units, commercial/retail development, two eighteen hole golf courses, and one nine hole golf course.

The 1,000 acre Dormie Club Development is expected to include only 218 high-end homes arrayed around a 377-acre golf course, which is already complete.

During the approval process for that development, MHK acknowledged that the soils on the property were unsuited for individual septic systems, making access to wastewater treatment essential to the success of the development.

Times Editor Greg Hankins contributed reporting to this story.

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 16)

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to work on the Future Vision and Master Planning of the community Friert reported, with an expected completion date in mid-2013.

"We need to really step back and say: 'What do we want the next thirty [years] to look like,'" said Friert. More information will be provided to the community on the long term planning project as the work develops.

Other Business

In other business conducted at the Tuesday, January 24 SLWLA Work Session:

- The Board decided to add Wednesdays from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm to the Yard Waste schedule for the remainder of the Winter.
- The Amenities Committee will present a report at the Board's next meeting on February 14.
- On February 17, a Chocolate, Cheese, and Wine Event will be held in the West Side Park Community

Center's great room. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in the CAS office.

- Redocking on one of the docks at Johnson Point is complete and the other is almost finished, Manager Frost reported. The next step is for cleats and bumpers to be installed.
- Westsider Phil Mayer asked that the Board continue to hold evening meetings so that those who work can attend.
- Rearranging the speed humps at the back gate of

the community has helped with vehicles tailgating through the entrance, reported Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy.

- The Board agreed that lots 5199 and 5200 can be

combined, contingent upon lot 5200 being purchased by the owner of 5199.

- Directors Adam Wimberly and Jim Ferguson were absent from the Board's meeting.

Candidates

(Continued from page 9)

Times he bought his property on Lake Auman in 1988. When the Nominating Committee asked him to run for the Board, Blue said he felt that it was time to "put up or shut up."

Every weekend Blue and his wife Jean "Skippy" Blue visit Lake Auman. With Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly set to retire from the Board this year, Blue feels that this may be a role that he could fill.

With a background in computers, Blue says, "I think I have a diverse enough skill set that I could provide benefits to some diverse areas."

As a lot owner rather than a homeowner, Blue is experiencing firsthand the impact of the SLWLA Board's decision to equalize annual dues across all members — to achieve "dues parity." Asked how he felt about the policy, Blue said he can argue either side.

"I am of two minds," he said. "As a lot owner, I am obviously not happy with a greater increase. As a community participant, I have to recognize the fact that, even though I don't live on the lake or in the community, all dues paid benefit the community."

The money paid for dues goes towards improving infrastructure throughout the community — something that Blue said must be addressed "given the growth" of the

West Side. Although the roads have held up "pretty well," according to Blue, a plan for upgrading them needs to be developed.

Allowing all Seven Lakes residents — North, South, and West — easy access into each community is not an issue as far as Blue is concerned.

"Is it that big of a deal? I don't think so," said Blue. "It's never been an issue for me."

Facilitating reciprocity at

the gates would be helped by some type of "visible identifier" on the vehicle, Blue said.

Above all, looking forward to his service on the Board, Blue says "I'm not bringing any agenda to the table."

Blue is a member of the Lake Auman Sailing Club.

Elections for the SLWLA Board will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 18.

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128 Vanore Road, SL West – Lot 4207 Sec. Blackwood

Large sloping timbered lot across the street from Lake Auman. Lot near front gate entrance.

Call Ann Benton . . . \$59,000

102 Donnell Pt – Lot 4283, Seven Lakes

Large corner lot at Dennis and Donnell Pt. with large water views.

Call Ann Benton . . . \$62,500

111 Dubose Drive Seven Lakes West, Lot 5161 Westwood Sec

Wonderful building lot on cul-de-sac surrounded by beautiful homes. Lot slopes away from the street lending itself to a walk-out lower level.

Call Ann Benton . . . \$34,000

124 Vanore Rd – Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West

Large sloping timbered lot across the street from Lake Auman. Lot near front gate entrance.

Call Ann Benton . . . \$42,000

147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173

Good building lot across the street from Lake Auman. Located near the recreation facilities and the main gate.

Call Pete Garner . . . \$27,500

122 Lawrence Overlook - Seven Lakes West Lot 4188

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- **SL Kiwanis Annual Pancake Breakfast** – 7 am until 11 am, at West End Elementary School cafeteria, with eat-in or take-out service available. Proceeds benefit local school classes with cash and computers for an exciting new reading program to include third graders.
- **SLCC Winterfest** – Everyone's invited to a "Winterfest" dinner/dance, at Seven Lakes Country Club. Cocktails 5:30 pm, Buffet 6:30 pm. Music provided by DJ Glenn Davis 7 pm. Members \$20 and non-members \$25 inclusive.
- **Heart of Carolina Jazz** – 8 pm, The Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra Salutes America's Black Big Bands. \$15 Adults & \$10 Students and Children. Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage Street, Sanford. Box Office (919)-774-4155.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

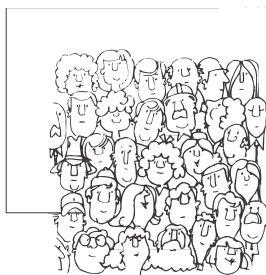
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **Moore Republican Women's Club Luncheon** – at the Pinehurst Country Club. Registration at 11:30 am, Lunch served at 12 noon. Reservations call Emily 695-0016. Guest speaker Dan Forest. Forest is a candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina.
- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966** – meeting 7 pm, at Westside Park Community Center, Seven Lakes West. Visitors welcome. Chapter President Mike Pusillo (910) 400-3056 or Membership Chairman Laud Pitt (910) 673-5521
- **Early Valentine's Movie**

Music Soiree – 7 pm, Pinehurst Pops Series, Owen's Auditorium, Pinecrest High School. Carolina Philharmonic presents an "Early Valentine's Movie Music Soiree." Maestro David Michael Wolff. Tickets \$25/general; \$40 priority reserved; \$10 student.

- **NAMI-Moore County National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-MC)** – 7 pm, meeting, Community Room of



FirstHealth Specialty Center. Mia Lorenz, will present on "Estate Planning With Your Disabled Loved One in Mind." 295-1053.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **How To Eat Local** – 10 to 11 am, Jan Leitschuh of Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative will be at the Senior Enrichment Center. She will talk about the importance of supporting local farmers and producers. 215-0900. 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Epis-

copal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10 am to 3 pm, at SL North Clubhouse. February is make a blanket for EMS month. The group has new fleece and supplies to make

blankets. If you would like to purchase your own fleece as a donation, Questions, call Pat Weber 673-1457 or weberconsult@nc.rr.com. Support the EMS, help make blankets for children in need in Moore County.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **English Speaking Union** – at Country Club of North Carolina, Music! Music! Dr. John Turner will address the group. His topic is the History of Rock n' Roll. Martha O'Connor at 235-0635 or email Ron Fick at ESU@nc.rr.com. Cocktails at 6 pm, dinner

at 7 pm, followed by program.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Bearfoot* in concert tonight. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **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.
- **Family to Family Course** – The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Moore County is offering their signature 12-session Family-to-Family Course free to family members of close relatives with mental illness. Every Saturday 10 am to 1 pm and Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 9 pm for six weeks. at First Baptist Church of Southern Pines. Pre-register 910-246-6231 nami-moorecounty.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

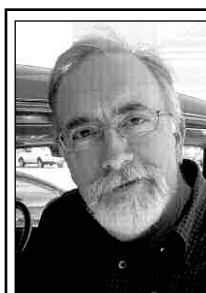
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the eld-

erly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided \$5.

- **Weymouth Concert** – Pianist Lynn Fonseca will perform for a luncheon at noon, Weymouth Center for Arts & Humanities, Southern Pines. \$20. For reservations, 692-6261.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunrise Theater** – 2 pm, presents National Theatre Live in HD featuring *Travelling Light*. Encore performance at 7 p.m. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Tickets 910-692-3611.
- **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
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – at 7:30 pm, meet in the Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. Guest speaker Shawna Smith, a Master Gardener, speaking on pruning & preparing your garden for Spring. Meeting is open to all.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- **Know Your Numbers** - 8 -11 am, Free Blood Pressure Screenings at Reid Heart Center. 120 Page Road North, Pinehurst. 715-1489 or 800-213-3284.
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** –



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **7th Annual Cut Out Cancer Crop** – 9 am - 9 pm. Pine Needles Resort, Southern Pines Scrapbooking event to benefit the Cancer CARE Fund of the Moore Regional Hospital Foundation. \$50 per person and includes workspace, snacks and meals. Register at cutoutcancercrop.com.
- **Moore County Amateur Radio Society (MOCARS)** – 9 am-12 pm, offering amateur radio licensing courses to all interested residents. Moore County Health Department, 705 Pinehurst Ave, Carthage, for five (5) weeks. Charles Wackerman, President 910-947-2707 or James Johnson, 910-400-3019.
- **Chocolate Festival** – 10 am to 4 pm at Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Free and open to the public. Proceeds benefit local charities www.pinehurstchocolatefestival.vpweb.com or 910 215-4559.
- **My Valentine: The Piano** – 10 am, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center will host a gathering of senior pianists for an early Valentine's Day celebration. Call 215-0900. 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Project Linus Workshop**, – FirstHealth Hospital, MRH Conference Room B, 10 am to 2 pm. MRH Build-

ing on the corner of Hwy. 211 East and Page Road. Making fleece blankets and giving crochet instructions. Questions, call Pat Weber 673-1457 or weberconsult@nc.rr.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Malcolm Holcomb* in concert tonight. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – monthly meeting, 10:30 am, Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. George or Julina LeVander (910) 895-9657; Sheila Lang (910) 448-0704, or Rose (Lin) Heimrick, (910) 295-4090.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 to 9 pm. Digital competition on the topic of "Still Life." Christ Fel-

lowship Church, Midland & Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **Valentine's Day**
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Annual Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine's Party** – 2 pm, at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Chapel Outreach ministry invites any one to come, especially those living in the community that are alone or shut-in. Horizons band will provide music. If transportation is needed or information Fran Stark 673-5493.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

- **Seven Lakes Blood Drive** – 2:30 to 7 pm, sponsored by the SL Kiwanis Club and Women of Seven Lakes, at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Blood donations are desperately needed. Over 17 years and over 110 pounds, call 673-4931 to reserve a time for your "Gift of Life." Walk-ins are always welcome and needed.
- **Know Your Numbers** - 2 -4:30 pm, Free Blood Pressure Screenings at Reid Heart Center. 120 Page Road North, Pinehurst. 715-1489 or 800-213-3284 for more information.
- **Your Retirement Income** – 3 pm, Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, Financial Advisors from Raymond James & Associates will be at the Senior Enrichment Center. 215-0900 to reserve a seat. 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes
- **Bible Study on Lectionary Readings** – Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong, West End United Methodist Church will lead a Bible Study on Lectionary Readings Wednes-

day evening at 7 pm in the church Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Temple Theatre: The Odd Couple** – shows are February 16 through March 4. Tickets: \$22 Adults and \$12 . Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage Street, Sanford. Box Office 919-774-4155. www.templeshows.com

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- **Wine, Chocolate and Cheese Tasting** - 7 pm to 9 pm, Seven Lakes West Community Center. Music by Ryan Book. Tickets \$10 available at SL West Community Center. (*Seven Lakes West Residents only.*)

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Feb. 5th – Reverend Welch
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Feb. 12th – Reverend Welch
"Can You Keep a Secret?" (Mark 1:40-45)
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SLLA open meeting

(Continued from page 3)

their low value for security control. The gate guards already record license plate numbers of visiting vehicles, and those plate numbers are the preferred method of identifying vehicles, when necessary.

Residents should continue to contact the gatehouse whenever a guest is expected.

2012 Election

The ballot for the 2012 SLLA Board elections was approved, with candidates Steve Ritter, Chuck Leach, and David Buckingham; however, concerns were raised over the necessity — and, more importantly the fiscal impact — of holding an uncontested election.

"We have three openings, and we have three people running," Darr said. "Based on our covenants, we must have an election, and we will incur some costs with mailings and ballots. It is what we have to do."

Treasurer Meyer explained that the election ballot will be sent in a separate mailing from the annual dues packet, which reflects a policy developed last year to improve and streamline the annual registration process.

Making the case that every election is important, Director

Bob Racine recommended that no procedural changes should be made, regardless of the number of candidates. He also spoke in favor of continuing the tradition of a Candidates' Night event to allow prospective directors to meet the community and address questions.

Boat and Trailer Storage

Twenty-three boat trailers will be relocated to the Yard Debris Site as part of a comprehensive plan to clean up and improve parking and boat storage at Sequoia Point.

As presented during the January 9 Work Session, only boat trailers with boats on them will continue to be stored near the marina. Initially, these boats will be moved to the front of the parking lot, as drainage, grading and erosion control work is completed in the back area. Boats will then be moved towards the rear of the lot, in order to provide ample additional parking that is convenient to Sequoia Point for daytime users.

Letters were sent to boat trailer owners notifying them of the change, Darr reported.

"We caught a lot of hell because some said it [Yard Debris Site] would be too muddy, some wanted more lighting, and some wanted

a key to the Debris Site," he said. "But, frankly, this is a better situation overall. That area is actually more secure, with fencing and a lock. And the Debris Site is open enough hours every day for anyone to make arrangements [to pull their trailer]."

Lot Combination Policy

For many years, the SLLA has allowed landowners the option of combining two or more lots, if desired.

Similarly, landowners also had the option to later uncombine those same lots, with the understanding that any back dues would be paid in full. But that policy, while well-established and widely-known, was never formally codified.

"We see many references to it in the files, but there is not a place where we can find a formal policy written down," explained Treasurer Meyer.

Noting that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] is taking steps to eliminate the option of combining lots, Darr said the SLLA Board will also be discussing a new policy during the February Work Session.

During a brief discussion, Darr indicated that previously combined lots would be grandfathered, if the deed was properly recorded in

Carthage.

Communication

A new volunteer is needed to take over the job of updating the bulletin boards that are located near the North and Southside gates.

Dennis Mueller has faithfully served the community in that task for several years and will be greatly missed, said Darr.

"We really appreciate his hard work," said Cochran. "He has been out there through cold, rain, and heat."

Any interested volunteer or volunteers should contact the SLLA office for more information.

Addressing a different communication concern, Darr said he received a five-page, handwritten letter from a resident; however, the letter was anonymous.

"There is some wonderful stuff in there, and some complaints on various issues," said Darr. "What aggravates me is that it was not signed."

Over the past year, the SLLA Board has worked hard to open up communication, and Darr said he was also willing to meet with residents privately, if that is what they preferred.

"These meetings are wide open," he said. "If you have an issue, bring it to us. We won't criticize, we will listen."

(See "SLLA," p. 21)

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SLLA open meeting

(Continued from page 20)

Come and tell us what is going on and we'll deal with it. But I cannot respond to unsigned stuff."

Finance

December financial statements include new formatting which should provide better clarity on the restricted and unrestricted reserve accounts, reported Meyer.

Beginning next month, another separate section will detail capital expenses related to roads, dams, and other projects recommended in the Reserve Study.

Meyer also reported that all landowner registration information was loaded on the Jenark system, as of December 31.

In reviewing the annual audit, Meyer drew attention to a \$15,000 legal settlement that was included in the last fiscal year instead of the current one — a change he said the committee opposed but, ultimately, agreed not to chal-

lenge — and also a \$39,000 in "very old debt" that was written down.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget was presented to the community by the Finance Committee on January 31; and a final Board review and discussion is anticipated at the February 13 Work Session.

"The biggest unknown areas, at this point in the process, remain the road paving plan and any other capital expenses related to the dams and other reserve study expenses," said Meyer.

Darr agreed and encouraged residents to stay informed about financial concerns and how it will impact future decisions.

"Expenses are going up and up and up," he said. "We will have to look at ways to get more revenue in order to continue doing what we are doing. We had some conversation about increasing amenity fees, and that was rejected in our last Work Ses-

sion. But we must look forward and know that we cannot keep doing what we have been doing unless we increase dues."

Lakes & Dams

Volunteers are still needed to join the Lakes & Dams Committee, particularly lake-front property owners from Echo, Ramapo, Dogwood, and Longleaf.

"We want representation from every lake," Director Don Fentzlaff explained, noting that the committee recently welcomed two new members.

One major task this year is developing a comprehensive pumping plan to equally and fairly distribute water among the community's lakes. As part of this program, volunteers will take regular measurements of depth gauges.

Other business

In other business during the Wednesday, January 25 meeting of the SLLA Board:

- Talis employee Stephanie Cook was introduced as the new assistant manager for SLLA.

- Director Bud Shaver said engineering firm S&ME did a "marvelous job" with the recent road paving report. Using that report, he condensed the data into a five-page summary which will be discussed in depth at the upcoming SLLA Work Session.

- Community Standards Committee reviewed 48 outstanding cases in January, reported Director Racine. Of those, 24 were resolved and 28 remain outstanding. In addition, approximately 14 new cases were reported.

- Recreation Committee members held a town hall-style open meeting on Wednesday, February 1, to gather public input and concerns. Director Racine said more volunteers are needed on the committee and to help develop new ideas and programs that will appeal to var-

ious age groups. The next regular Recreation Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 8 at 9:30 am at the SLLA office. Any interested residents are welcome to participate.

- The Architectural Review Board [ARB] approved an addition and deck, reported Director Don Fentzlaff, and three other requests were declined due to insufficient information. Fentzlaff encouraged residents to carefully review the submittal sheets and compile necessary documentation prior to requesting ARB approval. "We want to get your projects going without any delay," he said. "All the information and requirements we need were culled directly from our rules and regulations."

- A chipper may be added to the Yard Debris Site, reported Darr, though a trial run demonstrated that pine cones jammed the machinery and would have to be separated out by hand.



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In search of Winter

I hate to throw in the towel so soon, but I'm really just not feeling overly optimistic. For snow, that is.

Actually any form of wintry weather mix would be welcome at this point, because there are frogs in my yard.

Yes, I said frogs.

Normally, these little hopping and croaking creatures are no cause for alarm . . . say, in June. Yet, here we are — in the middle of this so-called Winter — and I have frogs singing in my creek and flowers blooming near my shrubbery.

Desperate for some frosty flakes, Darling Hubby and I packed up our little snow bunnies and headed for the

mountains last weekend.

Five hours of high speed highway travel later and guess what? There's no snow in wild and wonderful West-By-Golly-Virginia either: no natural snow, anyway.

Luckily, a well-positioned pond and a small army of snow-blowing machines were deployed along the ski slopes to correct this cosmic oversight.

Dressed in every single layer of warm clothes that he owns, my son had no trou-

ble picking up the sport and spent the day fearlessly roaring down the mountain.

My daughter had a slightly different reaction — maybe it



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

would be better described as a series of reactions.

Here are few accurately recalled quotes, in this precise order:

"I'm so excited.

"Do I have to take a lesson?"

"Ski school is boring."

"This is so hard."

"I'm hot!"

"I'm hungry!"

"I hate skiing!"

"Okay, this is a little fun."

"I can't do this."

"I have to do this."

"I can't do this."

"I have to do this."

"I did it!"

"I like skiing."

"I love skiing."

"Can we do this again tomorrow?"

As Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Man has will, but woman has her way."

Jack had merely willed himself down the slopes,

careening and crashing at first, then later cruising along just a bit short of control-ishness.

On the other side of the gene pool, Lindsay was an emotional roller coaster at full throttle for three straight hours, keeping me on my toes — or should I say, my ski tips — as she pitched violently back and forth between love and loathing.

I think I can safely say she managed to do it 'her way' as she perfectly channeled her feminine prerogative straight down that mountainside.

After all, a girl can change her mind, right?

What's wrong with women preachers?

Question: I recently began attending a church of a denomination different from the one that my wife and I have attended since our marriage. After a few Sundays, my wife stopped going to this new church. Her reason was this: "I cannot worship in a church which does not allow women as ministers or even as Sunday School teachers of a mixed class of men and women." Are there many churches like this? Why do

they have this kind of rule in any church?

Response: Churches who believe that it is wrong for a woman to preach or teach to a mixed audience draw their authority for this from several passages in the Bible, beginning with the story of Adam and Eve. Since the story has Eve being created from the rib of Adam; and, consequently created after Adam, some churches

use this to support a belief that women are actually inferior to men.

These same churches often turn to a passage in Paul's letter to Christians in Corinth (First Corinthians 14:34-35) which reads: "Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted unto them to speak, for they are commanded to be under obedience, as also

saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home, for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." (KJV)

The stoniest prohibition comes from a letter Paul purportedly wrote to his young disciple, Timothy. (First Timothy 2:11-13) "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But, I do not allow a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed; then Eve." (KJV)

If you believe that every word in the Bible is the inerrant word of God; and you are willing to take these words out of context and interpret them according to your own bias, then your

rather than Paul, when the two of them disagree. It was Jesus who had dozens of women among his followers. It was Jesus who praised, not condemned, the woman who broke open an alabaster jar and anointed him. It was Jesus who first appeared as the resurrected Christ to Mary Magdalene. And it was that same Mary who announced the resurrection to the male disciples, who doubted the whole thing.

I know hundreds of capable women clergy and many more effective women teachers. If I were the arbitrator between you and your wife, I would have to come down on your wife's side. I pray that you will find a church where you can both worship together.

Don Welch, the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel I the Pines, welcomes questions and comments. He can be reached at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com His sermons can be heard at: seven-lakeschapelinthepines.com



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Foxfire Planners object to smaller equestrian lots

Dear Editor:

Your coverage of the Foxfire Village Council meetings is very detailed. It mentions that the Council has overturned the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee to make the minimum equestrian lot size six acres rather than the existing ten acres. The Planning and Zoning Committee has thoroughly researched this matter on different occasions, but it appears to be insufficient to the Council members.

My purpose of this letter is using your medium to encourage residents of Foxfire to protest this decision through letters and attendance at public hearings. This is an issue that will influence the Village in the future.

This following is an excellent letter from a member of the the Planning and Zoning Committee expressing the sentiments of the Committee.

"After reading the article in The Seven Lakes Times about the work session and the discussion of equestrian zoning, I have several points I would like to make.

1. It is odd that Ms. Frusco

had the time to do her own research on the lot size issue, but did not have the time to share that research with the Planning Board or to attend the Planning Board meeting to hear their research.

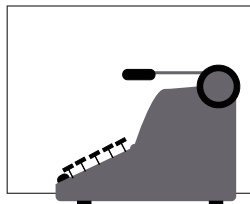
2. It appears that it was said that the lot size in equestrian areas was only about "aesthetics." I was under the impression that a lot of planning and zoning was about aesthetics. I guess I must have been incorrectly laboring under the impression that aesthetics were important for the last eight years as we have have considered this and many other issues.

3. It appears that this is another case where the council had already made up its mind before involving the planning board. This would appear true since The Times reported that the council had engaged the attorneys to work on rewriting the zoning language before the matter was sent to the planning board. If this is true,

it would seem to be just another case of that, since that has happened multiple

Your Turn

Stephen W. Sparks
Chairman, Foxfire
Planning & Zoning



time since I have been serving on the planning board. We do have better things to do than waste time on things that have already been decided.

4. While I am sure that equestrian zoning can work with lots smaller than ten acres (and anyone who came to the planning board meeting would know that we discussed this in detail) it was decided that the overall community, including non-horse owning persons, would be better served and the community as a whole

would look better, if larger lot sizes were maintained. By cramming houses, barns, fences and run-in sheds into smaller areas, you will lose the spacious feeling of pasture and fields that has made the Southern Pines horse country so popular and such a valuable asset to the community. It will look more like more like a horse paddock area less like open horse country. If that is what the Council wants, so be it. We had this one chance to continue on a path that I personally

was hoping would make the Foxfire equestrian community one of the real diamonds in this area. With no required common horse areas or community riding trails required as a part of this smaller zoning, I am afraid Foxfire will lose this opportunity.

You and the council ultimately have to make this decision. I hope you are making it for the right reasons, for the good of the entire community."

Steve Martin
Foxfire

SL Chapel Valentines P arty

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

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Meaning of Westside 'dues parity' has changed

Dear Editor:

After reading Jack Lattin's letter to the editor regarding the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board's position of eventually having improved and unimproved lots pay the same amount of dues, I was surprised to see my name associated with the current

increase referencing "dues parity."

When I spoke of the goal of attaining "dues parity," I was referring to fulfilling terms of the 2003 merger agreement between Beacon Ridge, Pinnacles and the rest of Seven Lakes West — when all improved lots, whether in Morganwood or Beacon Ridge

or any other part of Seven Lakes West, would pay the same dues, and that all unimproved lots would also have a dues structure that was equal for that type of lot across the community.

This is very different from the current discussions of having all lot types paying the same amount annually.

First, a little history: prior to 2003, Beacon Ridge and Pinnacles had a different dues structure and covenants from the rest of Seven Lakes West. This inequality occurred because of how the community was developed and the way the developer determined the assessments at that time.

In 2003, a merger agreement was signed, so that Seven Lakes West could really become a single community with (eventually) an equal dues structure based on the type of lot. When we reached parity (in budget year 2009-2010), improved lots were assessed at one level and unimproved lots were charged a lesser amount.

This was what I was addressing when referring to attaining "dues parity." I was not implying the start of a "secret plan" on the part of the Board to eventually charge equal amounts for all lot types.

Kathy Kirst
Seven Lakes West
(Former SLWA Treasurer)

What is going on in Seven Lakes West?

Dear Editor:

My husband and I read an article in *The Times* by John Lattin of Lansing, MI and one by Jack Stone, Boston, MA. These individuals are lot owners as are we. We feel that lot owners are now subsidizing the people who are permanent residents. We are

paying higher and higher association dues, but do not contribute to the maintenance requirements associated with any of the facilities.

The West Side Board seems to demand more and more money for things we feel, in many cases, are not necessary nor do they contribute

to the value of the properties. The restrictions, i.e., forbidding "For Sale" signs on private lots is unfair and only serves to drive prospective buyers into local real estate offices.

When we contemplated retirement, we bought our lot in Seven Lakes, because we liked the area and the management actually seemed to listen to the residents. Over the years, we have learned to dislike the politics of the area so much that we relocated to Michigan. The continual spend and assess method of operating is a big turn off.

We have had our lot listed for sale for the last three years at reasonable and now almost sacrificial prices and still no sale. We are paying

Moore County taxes that reflect the lot value 3 years ago and Moore County will not reduce the taxes to reflect today's value. In the meantime we read of crime on the rise, board members resigning and the continual backbiting among current directors. What is going on in Seven Lakes West?

Phil & Jane Boettjer
SLW Lot Owners
Rockford, Michigan

Some kudos for Carolina Car Care

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Carolina Car Care. I just want everyone to know that Kathy looks out for her customers. The other day while doing some errands in Seven Lakes, she noticed that my brake light on my driver's side was out.

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Crossing

(Continued from front page)

parties to the agreement was scheduled for earlier in the day on February 2, SLWLA Legal Director Jack Stevens told *The Times*.

While it is clear that the agreement will include payments from the Association and, possibly, other affected parties to the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway [ACWR], the size of the payments and the identity of the other parties to the agreement have not been released, pending completion of the negotiations.

Wasn't this a done deal?

SLWLA members and regular readers of *The Times* may be surprised to learn that a crossing agreement is necessary — particularly one that involves payments from the Association to the ACWR.

Over the past several years, *The Times* has reported on plans by the NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] to upgrade the crossing, using federal rail safety funds to install lights and gate arms, while closing two lower-volume crossings in West End. That plan, the subject of considerable public debate, appeared to be finalized in January 2011, when *The Times* reported that the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Federal Highway Administration had signed off on the environmental review required for the project, clearing the way for the release of \$650,000 in funding.

At that time, NCDOT Railway Engineer Nancy Horne told *The Times* that she expected construction to begin in late Spring or early Summer 2011. But Spring and Summer came and went.

In August, Horne explained that the crossing upgrade could not move forward until the ACWR signed a permanent easement that would make the Lakeway Drive crossing a public crossing, rather than a private crossing. And the railroad seemed to be in no hurry to sign the agreement. Horne expected construction would be delayed until Winter 2011.

Precedent for payments to railroad

In October 2011, ACWR management requested a closed session meeting with members of the SLWLA Board of Directors, and, during that meeting, asked for a sizable lump sum payment to help defray the 20-year cost of maintaining the Lakeway Drive crossing after the NCDOT upgrades are in place.

"Frankly, we were astounded," SLWLA Legal Director Stevens told *The Times*.

After the meeting, Stevens and the Association's outside counsel scrambled to research the history of the railroad's relationship with the Association and the various Westside developers, as well as to find any agreements related to the crossing.

"There were various agreements," Stevens told *The Times*, though those agreements apparently were

between the railroad and the various developers of Seven Lakes West, rather than the railroad and the Association. "All had specific time periods and different payments," Stevens said. "At some point, some payments to the railroad weren't cashed. Eventually, the developer stopped sending checks."

Stevens told *The Times* that what appears to be the last valid agreement governing the rail crossing dates to GS Communities' time as developer, which ended in 2005.

'An unprecedented opportunity'

Recognizing that a precedent existed for payments to the railroad related to the crossing, an ad hoc committee comprised of Stevens, SLWLA President Mick Herdrich, and Secretary Jane Sessler began negotiating in earnest with the ACWR and other property owners who would be impacted by the

possible closing of the crossing.

Stevens noted that a closure of the front gate of Seven Lakes West would affect not only the residents who live behind that gate, but the entire Seven Lakes business community.

"We have the East Gate," he noted. "But people exiting that gate would most likely turn right on 211, instead of turning left" to shop in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

As the negotiating team approached their task, Stevens said, "We realized that we have an unprecedented opportunity to make this problem go away forever."

He said the Board felt the Association should take the lead in the negotiations, not only because Westsiders would be most directly affected, but also because the Association owns Lakeway Drive.

Possible loss of funding

Adding pressure to the negotiations was a threat by NCDOT to withdraw the \$650,000 in federal rail safety funds that would pay for the crossing upgrade if the easement agreement requested from ACWR was not signed by December 31.

NCDOT's Horne told *The Times* that she received notice on December 30 that the easement agreement had been signed. From NCDOT's perspective, that means the project can move forward. However, the Department is not involved in the negotiations between the railroad, the Association, and other affected parties.

Horne said NCDOT's next steps are to give Lakeway Drive at the crossing a state route number and forward plans to the ACWR, so that the railroad can design the relays and other electrical systems that will allow the

(See "Crossing," p. 26)

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Gates

(Continued from front page)

— just like any other visitor to the Westside.

Alternatively, frequent visitors to Seven Lakes West would be able to secure a barcode, if a sponsoring Westside resident completes paperwork taking responsibility for that visitor. The “visitor barcode” would cost

\$20 per year.

Lowe and SLLA President Bob Darr learned of the proposed changes in a January 11 meeting attended by SLWLA President Herdrich, Security Director Jim McCarthy, and Community Manager Joan Frost.

During that meeting, the Westside representatives distributed a draft “Reciprocal Access” agreement — on Seven Lakes West letterhead — that cast the new Westside policies in a negative light.

Herdrich told *The Times* on Saturday, January 28 that he did not realize that document had been distributed, that he had not seen it prior to the January 11 meeting, that it had not been approved by the SLWLA Board, and that it created the inaccurate perception that the new policy was somehow directed against North and Southsiders.

Herdrich: Proposed policy not aimed at SLLA members

Herdrich told *The Times* that his Board had hoped the two Associations could work out complementary access systems and policies before the proposed changes on the Westside were announced. The SLWLA Board is expected to take up the matter during its February 14 Work Session.

Perhaps more importantly, Herdrich positioned the change in access for North and Southsiders as a small part of a complete overhaul of the policies and technology governing access through the Westside gates.

The proposal does in fact mean that North and Southsiders — or anyone else who wants to pass through the gates without interfacing with a gate guard — will need to acquire a barcode through the sponsorship of a SLWLA member. Herdrich said whether that barcode should

cost \$20 per year or be subject to a \$20 fee for the life of the vehicle has yet to be decided. He added that it may be possible to simply code the SLWLA system to recognize an existing SLLA barcode, so that frequent visitors need not have two barcodes on their vehicle.

Currently, SLWLA barcodes are available only to SLWLA members, who must purchase them, at a cost of \$20.

Unlike Seven Lakes West, the SLLA continues to issue windshield stickers at no charge to all members. They may choose to purchase a

barcode sticker for a one-time cost of \$15. In addition, SLLA members may purchase a guest barcode sticker for a \$15 annual fee.

Westside plans overhaul of access policies, technology

Herdrich told *The Times* that an ad hoc committee had been convened in the Spring 2011 “to look at the whole access concept,” under the leadership of newly-appointed Safety and Security Director McCarthy. Concerns about access control have been a perennial topic of con-

(See “Gates,” p. 28)

Crossing

(Continued from page 26)

crossing signals to communicate with the traffic signals at the intersection of NC Highway 211, Seven Lakes Drive, and Lakeway Drive.

Horne said low volume crossings at Mode Road and Edgewood Terrace in West End will be closed as part of the overall safety improvements — but only after the NC Highway 73 crossing in West End is upgraded. And that work has been rolled in to the overall upgrade of NC Highway 211 from two lanes to four from West End to Pinehurst.

A Matter of Significant Interest?

Stevens told *The Times* that the SLWLA Board had debated whether to designate the pending crossing agreement a “matter of significant interest” to the community, which would trigger an extended public comment period before any decision could be made.

“We struggled with that question,” Stevens said. But the sensitive nature of the negotiations, the involvement of various private businesses and property owners, and the threatened withdrawal of funding all made that an unworkable option, he explained.

Instead, with negotiations nearly complete, the Board scheduled a public meeting during which the agreement can be explained, the membership can offer input, and the Board can make its decision. All of that was expected to occur on the evening of Thursday, February 2, at 7:00 pm in the Great Room of West Side Park Community Center.



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Gates

(Continued from page 27)

versation for the Westside Board and concern among some Westside residents.

"The first focus that came out of those meetings," Herdrich told *The Times*, "was that the membership — the individual member — should control who comes into our community."

Herdrich noted that a new policy of checking membership cards at the Johnson Point recreation area — implemented in Summer 2011 — found a number of unauthorized users on the Point. The Board responded by hiring guards to check IDs at the entrance to the Point.

"The feedback we got from our members was 'Why are we paying money for this?'" Herdrich told *The Times*. "They said: 'We should be fixing this at the front gate. If you control access there, you don't have to worry about who is in here.'"

The focus on giving individual members the power to control access led to a search for improved access technology, including a barcode-driven computer system that promises to streamline operations at the gate while making it simpler for Association members to warn the gate that guests are expected.

Herdrich explained that, while no purchase decision had been made, the Access

Committee had previewed one or more of the newer barcode-driven systems. Among their features is the ability for an SLWLA member, using a unique personal identification number, to email the gate computer information about expected guests. The system will then print out a hangtag specifically for that guest's visit. Landowners will continue to be able to call the gate to arrange for guest and vendor visits, as well.

The system can then track not only which vehicles and persons are authorized to be in the community, but which member authorized that access.

Barcodes vs. Stickers

Seven Lakes West moved to a barcode-only access system several years ago, dispensing with windshield stickers, requiring landowners to pay for the barcode, and insisting that SLWLA office staff actually affix the barcode to the landowners vehicle.

Dispensing with stickers resulted in a bit of a snafu when Westsiders who frequent the North or South Side reminded the Board that the absence of stickers meant the SLLA gate guards could no longer identify SLWLA vehicles.

The Board responded by printing and issuing special SLWLA stickers to those who needed them for SLLA access.

The stickers cost five dollars, and Herdrich said about twelve percent of their membership has these stickers, which would be eliminated under the new access policy.

Herdrich said it is important to understand that the West Side's interest in better access control is not in any way directed at restricting access by SLLA members. "This affects anyone from outside our community," he told *The Times*. "It is similar to the systems used in any other gated community in the country."

As the Access Committee began to develop its member-controlled barcode access concept, Herdrich told *The Times*, he met with SLLA President Bob Darr in October to fill him in on those plans. Herdrich said Darr expressed support for the idea and hoped that the SLLA could move to a barcode-only system — though he added that he wasn't sure he had the full support of his Board in that regard.

But after the January 11 meeting, "We got a different reaction," Herdrich said, "as though they thought the West

Side was snobs, wanting to keep them out. I explained that this is an overall security policy — not something directed toward the North and South Sides."

SLLA Members React Negatively to New Policy

The proposed change in SLWLA policies in fact raised hackles at the SLLA Open meeting, in part because the change was laid out in stark language in a draft document that Herdrich says should never have been circulated.

"This is one community. It is a shame that it has degraded to this," responded Southsider Chuck Leach, who is one of three candidates vying for a seat on the SLLA Board this year.

Responding to Leach's suggestion that the proposed policy should be renegotiated, SLLA President Bob Darr said, in his opinion, the Westside Board is firm in their decision and that there is not much room for further discussion.

"I've heard that when we had instances like this in the past, the North and South sides took the high road," Darr said. "We wanted to

keep our neighborhood open. My feelings — in terms of my meeting [with SLWLA representatives] and this policy — is, I am not interested in taking the high road. I think we will go down the same road."

Director Lowe also expressed frustration and was more pointed in his remarks, describing the attitude of SLWLA representatives during the January 11 meeting as "elitist."

"They don't want our residents in their community and indicated that most of their problems are caused by North and Southside visitors," said Lowe.

Southsider Brenda Massimo quickly raised the question about access for regularly scheduled meetings of various groups: "There are organizations in this community like Kiwanis and the Women of Seven Lakes. This [policy] will make it so we have meet outside of the gates! Have they even thought about that?"

Northsider Les Sommers also expressed concern how the proposed change would affect golfing access and ques-

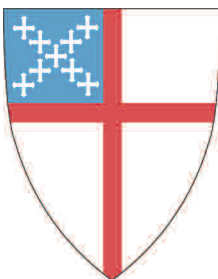
(See "Gates," p. 29)

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Gates

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tioned if Beacon Ridge members would have to purchase a \$20 barcode.

Speaking in support of a more aggressive stance, Northsider Chuck Stephenson recommended a proactive approach to the negotiation process could be beneficial.

"I suggest a 'tit for tat' to give them a taste of what is to come," he said, suggesting that SLLA adopt the same restrictions and put the policy in place before May 1.

"I think we're being run over by this and I don't like it," Darr concluded.

Darr: Impact on clubs is concern

Speaking to *The Times* following the SLLA meeting, President Darr said his immediate concern is how policy changes at the gates might negatively impact the various

clubs and organizations that draw membership from both Associations.

"We have a hell of a lot of Westside folks who use our amenities and we have no access to theirs," Darr said. "So the attitude is, 'Why should we give them something for free?' But then we get calls that if we close down our access. Then people are concerned we're going to kill off the Women of Seven Lakes, and Lions Club, and the country clubs and the fitness center," he explained. "I don't want it to go this way."

Except for the Women of Seven Lakes, which alternates meeting places each month between the North Clubhouse and Westside Park Community Center, Darr noted that most other area clubs and groups meet exclusively in SLLA facilities. In particular,

he said he knows the Lions Club was forced to seek out a new meeting space after facility fees at Westside Park Community Center were increased beyond what the group could afford.

"You've got the Bloodmobile, and Lions Club, and Kiwanis Bingo, and pinochle and bridge players and more. These clubs are important to our community — they are our community," said Darr. "We host all of these groups in our facilities — our amenities. They don't."

Darr also expressed frustration that gate access is an issue again this year.

"I thought when we had the windshield stickers resolved that we had an agreement that would allow their people to have ready access through our gates," he said. "As part of the current discussion, they have decided they will no longer sell those windshield stickers [to their own members]. They want to get rid of windshield stickers altogether and will not recognize our [SLLA] windshield stickers."

Reviewing various options moving forward, Darr said

the SLLA could distribute special windshield stickers to Westside members, upon their request for access and for a set fee; or, SLWLA members could request their barcode sticker to be coded into the SLLA system for a set fee; or, they could purchase a new SLLA barcode sticker.

The least expensive option would be for a SLLA member to call them into the gates as a guest; however, Darr argued that option is "horribly restrictive" and creates unnecessary traffic and long lines at the gates.

Times Editor Greg Hankins contributed reporting to this story.

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#139124 - Finch Gate Dr - \$32,500
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