

Happy 20th, Cal!



Seven Lakes Fire Chief Cal Loy is celebrating twenty years with the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. [See story on page 2.]

Land Panel grows by three

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The Land Use Plan Steering Committee grew by three members during the Moore

County Board of Commissioners Tuesday, February 21 meeting, with the addition of one voting and two ex officio members.

During Public Comment, O'Linda Gillis of the Moore

County NAACP asked that the Commissioners appoint someone of color to the Steering Committee. In response, Commissioner Jimmy Melton appointed Bobby Phillips to the panel as a voting member.

Non-voting members appointed included John Parker, suggested by Commissioner Tim Lea, and William Cochrane, presented as an expert on United Nations Agenda 21 and suggested by Commissioner Nick Picerno. The Board adopted a resolution in opposition to Agenda 21 — which has implications for land use planning — during its February 7 meeting.

The addition brings the
(See "Commissioners," p. 28)

SLLA candidates lay out priorities

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



More an introduction than a traditional electoral debate, the Candidates' Night hosted by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] on Wednesday, February 22 gave landowners an opportunity to learn more about the three candidates nominated for three open seats on the Board of Directors.

The forum provided an opportunity for the candidates to address key issues facing the community. Moderator Greg Hankins, publisher of *The Times*, was assisted by Brenda Massimo,

Bill Yarish, and Laurie Werner.

Using a format developed by the Seven Lakes Civic Group, each candidate was offered six minutes to introduce themselves, share information about their background, explain what they see as the key challenges facing the community, and explain how their skills and experience would contribute to the work of the Board in addressing those challenges. In addition, each candidate was asked to prepare an answer to a question related to the Reserve Study and the role of Long Range Planning in decision-making. And, finally, they answered

(See "SLLA," p. 25)

Board wants options on gate replacement

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Wary of a replacement that could cost \$10,000, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors, during their Tuesday, February 28 meeting, asked Community Manager Joan Frost to explore more options for dealing with a broken entry gate at the boat and trailer storage area.

Replacing the current gate with an electronically-activated gate would cost an estimated \$10,000 plus a \$125 monthly equipment fee from Time Warner Cable.

Alternatives suggested by Board members included making the gate wider, plac-

ing a chain across the entrance, or installing a swinging gate.

"So what we want to do then is look at this where safety and security isn't necessarily the number one priority?" asked Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly. "We want to look at cost?"

Events Director Rosemary Weber suggested keeping the gate open during the day and having security personnel lock it in the evenings — similar to the practice at Johnson Point — and that idea seemed popular among Board members.

"I think that was an excellent idea to at least try before we go spending money on a new gate," said President Mick Herdrich.

Wimberly said the Board
(See "West Side," p. 20)

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Chief Cal Loy celebrates 20th Anniversary

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Celebrating his twentieth anniversary with the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Chief Cal Loy was the guest of honor for a formal dinner in January in recognition of his service to the community.

Encouraged to join the department by his son-in-law soon after settling in Seven Lakes North, Loy said it was a total change of pace from his previous thirty-five

year career with the DuPont company in Delaware.

"It was a whole new experience and a whole new lifestyle," he said. "Firefighting is like a brotherhood. We all look out for each other and care about each other."

After becoming a certified firefighter, Loy was promoted to Deputy Chief in the late 90's and then succeeded Don Thomas as Chief in 2002.

In addition to answering emergency calls, Loy described the typical day of a Fire Chief as setting the work schedule for the daily crew, taking care of paperwork, and attending county meetings when needed. The firehouse on Seven Lakes Drive is staffed five days a week, and members are on call 24/7.

"We're here to help the residents in our fire district with whatever problems, related to emergencies, that we can help them with," Loy said. "If they need a battery replaced in a smoke alarm, we'll do that. But I urge everyone to call 911 if you have an emergency."

"Don't call the gate house.

Don't call the firehouse. Call 911, in an emergency," Loy said.

He also encouraged residents to attend the annual open house held each October at the fire station to receive up-to-date safety information on how to protect your home.

With a staff of thirty-two volunteer members, including a mix of unpaid and salaried professionals, and eight firefighting vehicles, Loy said the department has grown significantly over the years — and so has the volume of emergency calls.

This year, the department qualified for three different firefighting and rescue grants, and that funding was used to purchase additional equipment.

Volunteers are always welcome to join. Training classes are held at Sandhills Community College and community colleges in surrounding counties. Some courses are available online. Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department also offers a junior firefighter program for youth between sixteen and

seventeen years of age.

"We take them in and begin training," Loy said. "They can attend meetings, and, when they become eighteen [eligible to be certified], they already have a lot of training under their belt."

Reflecting on his twenty years as a firefighter, Loy said he is pleased: "I have thoroughly enjoyed what I've done and the accomplishments I've made."

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Mar 9	Mar 16
Mar 23	Mar 30
Apr 6	Apr 13
Apr 20	Apr 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
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Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
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Nov 2	Nov 9
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Dec 14	Dec 21
Dec 28	Jan 4

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County may cover towns' VIPER costs

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



If the money can be found, it appears Moore County will fund the purchase of new VIPER communications equipment needed to integrate municipal police, fire, and emergency medical services into the County's new narrowband emergency communications system.

The Moore County Board of Commissioners held a second Special Meeting on the transition to the State Highway Patrol's VIPER Communications system on Tuesday, February 21.

After an hour-long review of the VIPER system, the Board addressed the sole reason so many of Moore County first responders had gathered for the meeting: will the County fund the municipality portion to implement the VIPER system?

Sheriff's Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey presented the VIPER review, detailing the results of system testing throughout the county, as well as

responding to criticisms of the Commissioners' selection of the VIPER system over other narrowband options.

But Southern Pines Fire Chief Hampton Williams was more interested in the bottom line.

"I have to say I am amazed and surprised that a simple request for funding turned into beating a dead horse again," Williams told the Commissioners. "This whole thing started about asking you to fund the municipalities. I hope we don't lose too much focus here."

The shift to a narrowband emergency communications system, mandated by the Federal Communications Commission, must be made by January 1, 2013, giving Moore County first responders ten months to implement the system — which would need to include training time.

"We've got ten months to put a program in order," said Williams, "We need this thing implemented. We need time to train, practice, and use it."

Godfrey mentioned in his presentation that one radio

vendor critical of the VIPER system had suggested the county hire a consulting engineer to study VIPER and other options.

"I hope you don't consider hiring a consultant and wasting valuable time that we could use putting this system into order," Williams told the Board, "Training on it; identifying its weaknesses; if there are some, fixing those weaknesses; and being ready January 1 to switch."

Commissioner Tim Lea said he did not agree with hiring a consultant, and the idea was quickly removed from the table.

Though no formal motion was made or vote taken, the Commissioners left little doubt that they would agree to cover the cost of radios and other VIPER equipment for the municipalities.

"If, in fact, everything plays out the way its been laid out on the table for us, then my vote would be for the County to fund this," said Commis-

sioner Lea.

One way to fund the system — without raising taxes — would be to shift .75 cents from the Advanced Life Support [ALS] tax to the property tax. That would be a tax increase rate of "zero," explained Commissioner Nick Picerno, who co-authored the idea with Commissioner Lea.

"No tax increase for the citizens," said Picerno. "The [tax] bill would be the same. It would just simply be in different pots of money."

Commissioner Picerno told *The Times* that money from the ALS tax fund can only be used for specific items. If a portion of that money is transferred — through a revision of the tax rates — to the property tax fund, it could be used in multiple ways, including the implementation of the VIPER system.

Picerno told *The Times* that, by reducing the 2 cent ALS tax by .75 cents and increasing the property tax by that

same amount, approximately \$900,000 would be added to the General Fund each year.

Assistant County Manager Ken Larking briefed the Commissioners on options for paying for VIPER — options that covered only \$2.2 million of the \$5.1 million projected cost of the transition. Over the course of three years, Picerno and Lea's ALS tax plan would cover the bulk of the \$2.9 million shortfall.

According to Larking's presentation, two grants have been received: one for \$27,000 for the Sheriff's Department and one for \$46,000 for EMS. It is possible that additional grants may be received to help pay for the transition.

Godfrey explained that a key advantage of VIPER is increasing the ability of county and municipal law enforcement, fire, and EMS to communicate with each other and with their counterparts in neighboring counties.

(See "VIPER," p. 29)

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5 Lentil Soup ♥	6 Split Pea with Ham Soup	7 Tomato Basil Soup ♥	8 Vegetable Soup ♥	9 Shrimp & Corn Soup
Shepherd's Pie Dinner	Chicken Paprikash Dinner	Pork with Apples Dinner ♥	Basil Shrimp Dinner ♥	Beef Stroganoff Dinner
12 Navy Bean Soup ♥	13 Potato Leek Soup	14 Chicken Florentine Soup ♥	15 Mexican Meatball Soup ♥	16 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥
Italian Meatloaf Dinner	Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	Smothered Pork Chops Dinner
19 Curried Carrot Soup ♥	20 Chicken Brunswick Stew	21 Broccoli Cheddar Soup	22 Beef Barley Soup ♥	23 CLOSED
Chinese Peppersteak Dinner ♥	Chicken Parmesan Dinner	Pot Roast Dinner	Herb Salmon Dinner ♥ CLOSING AT 3 PM!	
26 Tomato Tortellini Soup	27 Goldie's Chili	28 Chicken & Dumpling Soup	29 Butternut Bisque ♥	30 New England Clam Chowder
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Colquhoun aims for financial empowerment

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Most folks manage their household finances under at least an informal budgeting system. Others balance out their day-to-day expenses and income using complex software and spreadsheets.

However, all too often, for young adults and single women — especially women who are older or divorced — there is a gap in fundamental financial planning.

“Over 75% of our nation’s poor are elderly women, because they don’t save for themselves,” said Hollis Colquhoun. “They focus

on their families and their children’s education before they save for their own future. I want to try to counteract that effect.”

“I want to set a foundation for people to have a good financial education,” she continued. “That is, understanding their assets and liabilities, how to set up a budget, and how to manage a savings plan, so they will have money in their retirement to survive on.”

Colquhoun, who recently settled in Seven Lakes West and is the daughter of long-time resident Grace Kirkpatrick, spent twenty-five years working on Wall Street, before taking a break to spend more time with her family. After reentering the workforce as a financial credit counselor with a non-profit agency, she said she was surprised at the number of people, from all across the country, who were in deep trouble, primarily because of debt.

“Most of my clients were women who were going through a divorce or had been widowed — and had no

idea how to manage their finances,” she said.

Co-written with a fellow credit counselor, Colquhoun’s *Financial Survival Guide* offers basic tools to calculate financial worth and create a budget, along with exercises that lead to sound financial planning. Available for purchase on Amazon, the guide won a national independent book award in 2011.

She is currently editing the manuscript for her new book, *Financial Success with BS*, which is geared to late teens to young adults — to help raise their financial awareness now rather than later.

“They have so much access to credit cards, and so many students are taking on student loan debt,” Colquhoun explained. “By the time they graduate from school they are thousands and thousands in debt.”

“They use their credit cards as an extra bank account; and, because they have zero interest, it is like free money,” she said. “Only then, the promotion stops. They get charged 20% plus on interest; and now, not only are they in debt, but they start ruining their credit.”

Colquhoun said studies have shown that most young adults learn what they know about finances from their parents. And there is little financial education offered at the high school level. As a result, many young adults leave college in debt, and then become further burdened when a background check — to secure a car, an apartment, or even a job — reveals their diminished credit.

“They are in a bad situation,” Colquhoun said. “I am

trying to get to them early on — as early as I can, in fact — so they can understand how to deal with debt and credit reports, and so they will be able to support themselves going forward

and have a career.”

“I am trying to fill that gap in a somewhat cool way: the book is not 300 pages of boring stuff. Instead, I have tried to make it more relatable to their lives, more entertaining,

and more accessible.”

Colquhoun recently collaborated on another book, contributing a chapter to 35 *Winning Strategies from Today’s Leading Entrepreneurs*, and (See “Colquhoun,” p. 16)



Hollis Colquhoun

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An Eden for diners in Downtown Robbins

by **Laura Douglass**
Times Reporter

Eden's Garden Café in downtown Robbins offers a unique dining alternative with a refreshing menu that features locally-grown organic produce and hand-crafted cheeses, along with free-range poultry and pork and grass-fed beef.

Located on East Salisbury Street — right on NC Highway 705 — this cozy restaurant is a short twenty-minute country drive away. Lunch options include salads & sandwiches, soups and loaded baked potatoes with most menu items ranging from \$4 to \$9. Dinner is served on white linen and includes prime rib, vegetable lasagna, chicken cordon bleu, and other favorites, from \$8 to \$17. Lighter fare is also available in the evenings and wine — from North Carolina vintners — is served by the glass.

What is most unique is the dedication to quality, local ingredients without the use of high fructose corn syrup, chemicals, pesticides, growth hormones, or genetically-modified foods.

"We are a greaseless kitchen and we are as green as we possibly can be," explained café owner, Terri Holt. "Our menu is very eclectic, and everything we serve is fresh or baked. Nothing is ever fried. There is a misconception about organic foods. They assume we're serving grilled tofu and soybeans, but it's really just a fancier style of home-cooking."

Head chef Eric Bishop, Jr. agreed.

"Anything we can do to promote community and local products, we do it," he said. "Local loyalty is huge, and we don't think there is enough of it these days. But here, it is our bread and butter."

Bishop — who has extensive experience in fine kitchens throughout the area, including Elliott's on Linden, the Magnolia Inn, and Pinehurst Resort — said transitioning to cooking with more

natural ingredients has been a learning process, especially when eliminating convenience

foods like refined white sugar in favor of cane sugar.

"It really has required

tweaking almost every recipe — or even starting from scratch," Bishop said. "But I wouldn't go back now. This has become a way of life."

Eden's Garden Café is also a family business. Holt said her mother grew up in the Robbins area. Holt returned to the area after the birth of her daughter, Eden, after many years living near Washington, DC. A year ago, the family purchased the Garden Café building and totally ren-

ovated the structure top to bottom — while carefully preserving the original mouldings and historical character.

The café's dining room shows that attention to detail with a quaint mishmash of country tables scattered among photographs of family-raised chickens and displays of local pottery and jams.

Daily specials are based on seasonal produce options,

(See "Eden," p. 6)



Terri Holt, Chef Eric Bishop, Jr., and the rest of the crew at Eden's Garden Café provide a great excuse for a pleasant drive up to Robbins.

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Duke's stories come from his struggles with severe bipolar condition. While the condition is serious, his stories include humor — "Bi-Polar Exploration." This inspirational presentation is for people who suffer with a brain illness, their families and friends, and for mental health professionals.

"Ed 'Moose' Duke is my kind of liar," wrote Jim Dodson. "When characters like Ed Duke speak, I pull up a chair and listen." Duke has performed extensively for audiences throughout the region and State.

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Sportswriter John Derr at 7 Lakes Kiwanis

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Noted sports writer and author, John Derr, entertained the Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes on Tuesday, February 7 at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Derr, a Pinehurst resident, is truly a sports icon in every sense of the word. As a reporter, radio broadcaster, and telecaster covering more than 62 years, he has interviewed Nobel prize winners, Presidents, world leaders, and ordinary people from all walks of life. Now, 94 years of age in good health, his energy level is amazing as denoted by a hole-in-one he made at Arnold Palmer's Mid-South Club two weeks before his 92nd birthday.

Derr began his journalism career fresh out of high school in 1934 during the great depression. When asked what he anticipated to earn

during these hard times, he sought \$6/week. The paper's publisher said they usually paid their reporters \$20. However, even though Derr

didn't have any reporting background, they would put him "on" at the regular payroll price, but would charge him back an amount of \$14/week

for teaching him the business. To no ones surprise, his earnings netted out to \$6 weekly.

During WW II, Derr worked on "The Roundup," the official paper for the China-Burma-India theater, in New Delhi. The newspaper's local Indian printer had a young man working there named Devadas Ghandi, the son of India's famous Mahatma Ghandi. Through this connection, Derr met and became a friend of the great man, himself.

After the war, he became a sports reporter spending much time in the arena of golf. "I'm pleased to tell you that I spent 22 years in the CBS Tower on the 15th hole for the Masters tournament at Augusta," he said. Besides worldwide reporting on golf tours during his CBS career, he also reported on a host of other major sporting

events: Baseball's World Series, Football's Bowl Games, and the International Olympic Games, to name a few.

Derr has acquired a degree of esteem on his own behalf. He is a member of several halls of fame and the winner of the 2007 Masters Major Achievement award. During WW II, he earned the Bronze Star Medal for heroism. He served as the first Executive Director of the Golf Hall of Fame and is the author of five books. His latest, "My Place at the Table," is a collection of musings and vignettes of his personal interaction with a host of world famous leaders, sports figures, and show-business personalities.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets 11:30 on Tuesdays at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Visitors are welcome.



John Derr

Eden

(Continued from page 6)

Bishop said, and the menu is constantly evolving. Dessert options include a coconut ball with homemade ice cream and a house-specialty chocolate tuxedo cake that is not to be missed.

Eden's Garden Café is located at 121 East Salisbury Street in Robbins. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 am to 7:30 pm. Reservations are recommended, especially on Thursday & Fridays, and see *The Times* for 20 percent off coupons. For more information or reservations, call (910) 948-9976.

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SCC students will help Stop Hunger Now

The Fourth Annual Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event will be on Saturday, March 10 at Sandhills Community College, from 9 am until 2 pm, volunteers will work in the Dempsey Student Center.

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief

organization that coordinates the distribution of food and other lifesaving aid around the world. The organization is driven by a vision to end world hunger in our lifetime and a mission to provide food and lifesaving aid to the world's most destitute and hungry in the most sustain-

able, efficient and effective manner.

The Sandhills Rotary, the SCC Student Government Association, SCC Rotaract Club and SCC Staff Council will be cosponsoring this special event.

Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program provides

volunteers the opportunity to package dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world. This is an excellent opportunity for Church groups, youth groups and civic organizations to do good work with a global impact.

The event has been held on the college campus the past three years. Last year, volunteers packed 80,000 meals, far exceeding the

60,000 goal. Organizers are again this year seeking monetary donations and volunteers.

The bulk food for each meal costs 25 cents and each meal will feed five people. The more money raised, the more meals will be packaged.

The 2012 goal is to package 60,000 meals.

If an individual, school, church or civic organization would like to raise funds and/or help package meals please contact Dan Askins at DanAskins@gmail.com or 910-528-7003.



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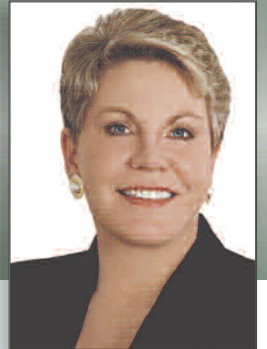


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Why won't my dog come when called?

Fido, Fido, Fidoooo, FIDOOOOO, FIDO! – You better come to me right now!

Fido is thinking many different thoughts, but, obviously, not the thought you want him to be thinking.

You're running late for an appointment, so why doesn't Fido know that he needs to come right away? Why doesn't Fido come NOW?

Why doesn't Fido come when called? Let's put it into human terms.

Imagine that you are relaxing on your porch reading a book, or maybe sitting on your comfy couch watching your favorite movie. You're doing something that you love to do.

Then, in comes your spouse to tell you that you have to jump up right now and get in the car, because they had a last-minute opening at the dentist.

Ouch! You are going to do your best to ignore that "command."

Now, let's put that scenario in Fido's world.

Fido is playing and running, outside in the fresh air with one of his favorite toys. When you call him to come, he has learned that this means he's going to be left alone in the house, or hauled off to the vet or the groomer. That doesn't happen every time Fido comes, but it's risky. So, maybe he'll just ignore that command.

There are two rules for asking your dog to come.

First, when you say "Fido, Come!" we want Fido to think: "Wow, I should go to my owner, since I'll get a treat and a pet — and I could still keep having fun." So, the first rule is to do just that: Every time your dog responds to your command, you say "Good Dog," give a reward (make the treat one highly valued by your dog), and send it back to play. Once this is ingrained, you will

have a dog that is willing to come to you each and every time.

Rule Number Two is to never, ever ask your dog to come to you for something that it deems unpleasant, whether that is a visit

Always keep good thoughts surrounding the "come" command. It sounds simple, but it is not. It is one of the hardest behaviors to achieve consistently.

It takes a lot of work on your part; but, if you follow the rules, you and Fido can do it. And you will then have a dog that can be safe off-leash, getting the exercise that he needs, and a dog that responds to you no matter what distractions are surrounding your dog. What a relief!



Purely Positive Pet Advice

Abby Ganin-Toporek

to the vet, cutting its nails, a bath, a visit to the groomer, etc.

Instead, go to your dog with his leash and a treat, so the association is still a positive one.

Abby Ganin-Toporek is the owner of Sandhills Dog Training. She welcomes questions about your dog. Email her at sandhillsdog-training@gmail.com or call 910-673-0074.

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Cash Donations accepted at the door. Silent Auction.

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Learn to Make Perfect Compost with Seven Lakes Garden Club

After learning how to prepare everyone's garden for Spring last month, the Seven Lakes Garden Club will have a program on composting.

The Garden Club will host Alice Romans-Hess on Thursday, March 8 in the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Romans-Hess will share her knowledge of how to make the perfect compost. There will be a lovely door prize. Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend, but the Club invites you to become member.

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Business Guild names officers for 2012



The Seven Lakes-West End Area Business Guild has begun its 2012 season with two well-attended meetings, one at Sandhills Winery and the other at Lake House Bar & Grill.

Officers for 2012, pictured at left, include Vice President Karen Simmons Milligan of Karen Simmons Design, President Sherri Adams of CommunityOne Bank, Treasurer Vann Joyce of Quality Care Pharmacy, and Secretary Cheryl Ann Darwell of Cruise-Planners.

Membership in the Guild is open to area brick and mortar businesses, as well as home-base entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations.

The Guild invests in the upkeep of the Seven Lakes Business Village and sponsors several community events each year.

For information on joining, contact any officer at their place of business: Adams at 910-400-5182; Milligan at 910-603-5750; Darwell at 910-673-7245; or Joyce at 910-673-3784.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Mar. 5th – Italian Wine Class #2

The Piedmonte - Sign Up NOW! • 6:00 pm

Thursday, Mar. 8th – Italian Wines Tasting

Wines Paired with Lasagne • 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Monday, Mar. 12th – Italian Wine Class #3

The Lombardia Region - Sign Up NOW! • 6:00 pm



Wednesday, Mar. 14th – BUNCO Night

Girls' Night Out! • 6:00 pm

Thursday, Mar. 15th – Napa Wines under \$20

California's Best Bargains! • 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Thursday, Mar. 22nd – No Wine Tasting

Thursday, Mar. 29th – Rhone Valley Varietals

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In memory of . . .

Frances Ruth Leach, 98, died February 25, in Pinehurst.

She was born in McBain, MI. She graduated from Englewood School of Nursing in Englewood, NJ and married Joseph A. Leach. They raised two children in Tenafly, NJ where she also served as the school nurse for various elementary schools. After retirement from nursing, she moved to Kemah Lake, in Sussex Co, NJ where she volunteered for Hospice and other service related activities until she relocated to Seven Lakes.

A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held at Fox Hollow Senior Living Facility at 10:30 am on March 5 and in New Jersey in April. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Liberty Home Care and Hospice 300 W. Pennsylvania Ave, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

She is preceded in death by her husband Joseph A. Leach, three brothers, and one sister.

Survivors include her two children; Charles Leach and his wife Jane of Seven Lakes;

and Nancy Suglia and her husband John, of Hilton Head Island, SC, four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Kenneth Donald Hodge, 90, died Wednesday, February 15, after a courageous battle with cancer, at River Landing at Sandy Ridge.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 2:30 pm, at River Landing at Sandy Ridge, with military honors provided for by the Randolph County Honor Guard.

He was the son of Everett and Harriett (Zimmer) Hodge.

Mr. Hodge was a graduate of Hornell High School, NY. He continued his education at Buffalo State Teacher's College earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree, and furthered his studies at the University of Virginia, receiving a Master's Degree in counseling and administration.

He was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving his country during W.W.II as a commissioned

torpedo control officer.

Mr. Hodge was a former teacher at Kenmore East High School, NY. He was an accomplished artist in wood-working, photography, film and videographer, winning awards for his artistic achievements.

After retirement, he and his wife, Kay relocated to Seven Lakes and eventually moved to River Landing at Sandy Ridge.

Mr. Hodge was an active member of West End Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Hodge was preceded in death by two brothers, Preston and Wesley Hodge; and his sister, Elizabeth Church.

He is survived by his wife Katherine "Kay" (Rhodes) Hodge; son, Jeffrey Hodge; daughter, Judith Hodge; five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the River Landing Foundation, 1575 John Knox Dr., Colfax, NC 27235, or to a charity of your choice.

Arrangements by Cumby Family Funeral Service, High Point.

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Call 673-0111

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Feeling Good is the Fun of It!

West Pine Middle students perform 'Willy Wonka'

A new business coming to Moore County? Well, sort of.

Willy Wonka and his candy-making factory will make a brief appearance at Pinehurst Elementary School, as students from West Pine Middle School perform the classic musical "Willy Wonka Jr." on Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17 at 7 pm.

Auditions for the play were held in January, and cast members, stage crew, and the set builders have worked diligently to prepare for the special production.

According to Mrs. Marci Houseman, Music Teacher at West Pine Middle and faculty director for the play, the

show provides the cast members with tools they'll use well after the show ends.

"I think the most important skill gained from being in a theatrical production is self-confidence. Regardless of the number of scenes they are in, when this show is over, students will know that they can stand in front of people with confidence," said Houseman. "These students are also learning to collaborate and create – two essential skills for school as well as life," she added.

Reserved seating tickets for the show cost \$7 each and can be purchased at the West Pine Middle School lobby before and after normal

school hours March 12-16.

Proceeds from ticket sales fund the West Pine Middle School Chorus, Drum, and Theater programs. "Those coming to the show should be prepared to purchase candy from our very own Wonka store. A lucky few

will find their own golden tickets and will win a private backstage tour following the show!"

Several area individuals and businesses have become show sponsors, donating money to defray the cost of sheet music, set materials,

lighting and sound, and costumes. Sponsors include: Dr. Rick Saunders, Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Egbe, Russell B. Stokes, The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Dr. Jennifer Massey, the Mann family, and the Pinehurst Area Swim Team.



The cast for West Pine Middle School's production of *Willy Wonka Jr.* pauses from rehearsals for a group photo. The play will run for two nights, March 16-17, at Pinehurst Elementary School. Tickets are \$7 each for reserved seats and will be available at West Pine Middle School lobby from 12-16 March before and after normal school hours.

West End Elementary PTA Golf Tournament

Join West End Elementary on Saturday, March 17 at Seven Lakes Country Club for their PTA Golf Tournament and fundraiser.

Lunch will be available beginning at noon with a 1:30 shotgun start.

Format is Captains Choice. The cost is \$75 per person that includes cart, greens fee, lunch. Register as individual or as team of four (\$300).

There will be great prizes, food, and fun!

Closing date is for sign up is Friday, March 9. For more information please contact Lori Copper 639-7273 or Cristy Hunt 783-7995 to register.

All proceeds from the WEE Golf tournament will benefit the students by purchasing classroom materials or facility improvements.

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Beaver Patrol advances

by Henry Harvey
Troop 98 Scout Leader

The Beaver Patrol from Boy Scout Troop 98, West End, met for their final gathering as the Beaver Patrol.

Most of these young men have been meeting together since they started first grade. For five and a half years, first as Cub Scouts and now as Boy Scouts they have traveled together, camped and learned scouting skills.

On Saturday, January 21 they were welcomed at Seven

Lakes Health and Fitness where they used the indoor pool to review one of their last requirements for Second Class rank. They learned the life saving mantra "Reach, Throw, Row and Go," and also practiced "Reach and Throw" at pool side.

Then the Beavers and their families met at the Seven Lakes Snack Shack where the boys and their families filled the dining room and celebrated their time together. The sandwiches and ice

cream were spot on. It was a great evening. The Scouts will now be members of two different patrols at Troop 98 and will be working more independently on advancement in Scouting.

Pictured at right are Beaver Patrol members Adam Robins, Grayson Oldham, Everette Parsons, Justin Joyce, Devan Kreigar, and Taylor McGuire, with Patrol Leader Russell Harvey kneeling on the pool deck.

Adult leaders include: Henry Harvey, Greg Oldham, Chris Kreigar, Darrell Parsons, and Jason Joyce



Troop 98's Beaver Patrol are about to embark on a new chapter in their scouting adventure.

Night & Low Light Photos

Sandhills Photography Club will host Photographer Johnny Horne to speak on "Night & Low Light Photography" on Monday, March 12, 7 to 9 pm.

Horne is the photo editor for the Fayetteville Observer, where he has worked since 1972. He has been an amateur astronomer since age 10 and is a contributing editor for Sky and Telescope magazine, led astronomical expeditions for the magazine to Mexico, Africa, the Caribbean and Iceland. In 2004, the International Astronomical Union recognized his work by naming asteroid (11132) Horne in

his honor. For his work as the photo editor of the Fayetteville Observer and author of the monthly column Backyard Universe, for amateur astronomers, Horne has won numerous awards and is recognized as one of the top "astro-photographers" in the country.

Horne's "Astronomical Images" convey the mystery and majesty of the night sky.

The meeting will be held at Christ Fellowship Church, Midland & Pee Dee Roads, Southern Pines. For information, visit www.sandhillsphotoclub.org



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Seminar: Why is end of life planning important?

by Rev. Fran Stark

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines

As minister of Outreach at the Seven Lakes Chapel the Pines, I am always surprised by the number of folks I talk with that have not given much thought to preparing for their death.

I have seen many families struggle when a loved one dies trying to make decisions not knowing what their loved one would have wanted done.

I must admit that it took my husband and myself a long time to realize that these

were decisions we needed to make for our family. Once we made an appointment with our attorney and began the work of preparing our Advance Directives, Health Care Power of Attorney and our Last Will and Testament, we quickly discovered it was not a difficult task at all.

In fact, when all the documents were completed we felt a great sense of relief that all was in good order and all that we had to do was update our documents yearly with our attorney and

to make sure that our family knew where our end of life documents were located. It wasn't until the death of my husband, that I really learned that he gave me a wonderful last gift in having his wishes prepared in advance for me to carry out.

I invite everyone to come on Monday, March 19 at 4 pm to The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and listen to speaker Jennifer Garner, Attorney with Garner and Hayes, PLLC, Pinehurst. She will have a presentation for

the entire community on the importance of end of life planning. She also will speak about the changes in North Carolina laws for 2012.

No reservations are needed. If you have any questions please contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

Free Zumba Classes

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Friday, from 8:30 – 9:30 am, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will be teaching.

This is a Free class. Questions? Call the church at 673-4656. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Taste of the Town

The Women of Seven Lakes will be holding its annual "Taste of the Town" on Monday, March 26, at the Crawford Center, West End Presbyterian Church, from 5 to 7 pm.

Several restaurants, including some community favorites as Coldstone Creamery, Dog Nation Grill, Lady Bedford's Tea Parlour, Little River Golf & Resort, Seven Lakes Snack Shop, Table on the Green, Thai Basil, Basco Catering, The Flavor Exchange, Le Coffee & Moore, Lake House Bar & Grill, Market Place, Mulligan's on 18, Rita's Italian Ice, Swordfish Grill, White Rabbit Catering will feature their culinary specialties this year.

A raffle will be held with gift certificates from area restaurants throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available by calling Ginger Finney at 673-1330 and at Sandhills Winery. Wine, beer, and coffee are included in the ticket price.

Another sellout crowd is expected, be sure and get your tickets early.

Proceeds from the event will benefit West End Methodist Food Pantry and Friend to Friend.

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SCC offers smorgasbord of March classes

March — in like a lion, out like a lamb; the Ides of March; March Madness; St. Patrick's Day; Purim. Whatever you associate with the month of March, consider enjoying the month by taking a class at Sandhills Community College. Community Enrichment and The Center for Creative Retirement will have many intriguing classes being held in March.

Community Enrichment

"Intermediate Conversation Italian" is a continuation of the "Beginning Conversation" class. It will be from 6 until 8 pm on Tuesdays from March 6 until April 24. Students will continue to develop vocabulary and dialogue skills while learning about Italian culture and customs.

Chinese native Tina Maisano will teach two **"Secrets of Stir Fry Cooking"** classes. The first on Tuesday, March 13 and another on March 27. Fresh, local ingredients will be used and all recipes will be shared with students plus a delicious dinner including an appetizer and three-course meal will be enjoyed at the end of each class. Participants can take one or both classes (each have a registration fee). Both classes will be from 4 until 6:30 pm in the Russell Dining Room demonstration kitchen in Little Hall.

The Center for Creative Retirement

There are many Center for Creative Retirement classes beginning in March. All are free to those 65 and older. Those younger than 65, are welcome to take the Center for Creative Retirement classes for a nominal fee.

Part of the Road Scholar Lecture series, sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council, will be **"The Changing South: Who's Benefitting & Who's Losing?"** Over the last 40 years, the South has experienced social and economic change at a dizzying pace, transforming from a poor region to a golden "go-go" region on

the move, home to large corporations and banks, a thriving high technology industry, expanding suburbs and shopping centers, and some of the best colleges and universities in the country. Explore the costs and benefits and examine some remedies offered to help the areas and people left behind. This class will be on Thursday, March 1 from 1 until 2:30 pm.

Bible passages from Genesis to Revelation contain gemstone references. Join a retired professional gemologist, who has taught gemology and has an interest in the history and psychology of gems, for **"Biblical Gems: Mystery or Message?"** This class will be on Wednesdays March 7 and 14 from 2 until 3:30 pm. The class will consider the significance of Biblical passages and will allude to the history and literature of other cultures. Explore gem properties and why they

have been so highly valued since the earliest times.

Experience an exciting journey through our nation's legal system and the maze of the most recent high profile criminal cases in **"America and the Courts."** Landmark US Supreme Court decisions impacting the political process and the criminal justice system will be discussed. A Federal criminal trial attorney and the former Chief of Staff to Arkansas and New York Attorneys General will lead this class which will be on Thursdays March 8 and 22 from 1 until 3 pm.

"Seniors Sing!" is the perfect first course for seniors who want to sing or study voice and the ideal follow-up for experienced singers to get back into vocal shape! Participants will learn the basics of singing and vocal production, repertoire, and the emotional power of the human voice and will sing a

variety of styles from classical to opera, folk songs, American standards, and musical theatre. The instructor, Jennifer Thomas, is a professional opera singer, private voice teacher, and choir director at the college. The class will be on Mondays March 12 through April 2 from 4 until 6 pm.

More to choose from

These are only a few of the Spring course offerings in The Center for Creative Retirement; many more may be found on the Sandhills Community College website.

The dates, times, cost, instructor, class locations

and complete course descriptions for all Continuing Education classes can be found on the college's web site or in the print schedule mailed to all households in December. If textbooks are required, they are available in the Logan Bookstore located in the Dempsey Student Center.

Walk-in registration is at the Continuing Education office located on the first floor of Van Dusen Hall during scheduled hours of operation. Phone-in registration, (910) 695-3980, requires payment with Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

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FirstHealth offers colorectal cancer trial

FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital is partnering with UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center on a clinical trial to test a new option for metastatic colorectal cancer (cancer that has spread).

This is a clinical trial of a new drug, regorafenib. Research data from other studies indicates that this drug is helping some patients whose cancer hasn't responded to the usual treatments.

This drug uses a new strategy for targeting metastatic colorectal cancer in patients who have a certain genetic mutation that blocks other newer treatments from killing their cancer cells.

"We are very optimistic

about the potential of regorafenib, which is important for these patients who have run out of treatment options," said Todd Moore, M.D., the



Todd Moore, M.D.

trial's principal investigator at FirstHealth. "We are pleased that we can now offer the treatment to patients who qualify for the clinical trial."

In cancer, clinical trials do not compare a new treatment to no treatment, which is the common definition of a "placebo." Instead, they compare the new treatment being tested with the usual treatment, or standard of care, for the particular type of cancer a patient has.

The current study is randomized and placebo-controlled, with twice as many patients receiving the experimental treatment as the control treatment of standard chemotherapy for metastatic

colorectal cancer. The trial began in March 2011 and will enroll a total of 240 patients at FirstHealth and UNC and at academic and community sites throughout North Carolina and the eastern United States.

The study is sponsored by UNC Lineberger and financially supported by Bayer

HealthCare AG, which will provide study medication free of charge to patients enrolled on the trial.

For more information on clinical trials available at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, call (910) 715-2200 or visit FirstHealth's website at www.firsthealth.org/clinicaltrials.

Colquhoun

(Continued from page 4)

she also created a five-step program especially for divorcing women that incorporates one-on-one counseling, audio tapes, and a workbook, called *Design your New Life Before your Divorce*.

A mother of three young adult daughters, Colquhoun said she has always been about empowerment — both financial and personal.

A Black belt in two different martial art disciplines, she said she was first drawn to the sport as a rehabilitation exercise following lower back surgery.

"I found that karate is one of the best ways to strengthen your body and be more flexible," she explained. "Every piece of your body is involved."

"The first time I walked into a dojo [karate school], I was forty years old. I knew absolutely nothing and I was surrounded by these teenaged boys in their brown and red and purple belts. Here I was, this older woman in a white belt. But, after a month, I was hooked and have kept at it every since."

She earned her first Black belt in karate six years later, but was forced to change direction when that dojo closed. Finding the right

teacher with the attitude of mind, body, spirit, that she sought, Colquhoun spent the next seven years earning another Black Belt — though, this time around, in Tae Kwon Do. Over the course of those years, she also endured another four operations and, altogether, has had seven major surgeries in her lifetime.

"I was lucky moving to Seven Lakes that I found a great dojo basically across

the street," she said.

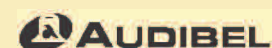
"Coming off another serious operation, I've really enjoyed working with Sensei Frankie at Goshin Dojo. I can see and feel the difference."

For more information about financial education, Hollis Colquhoun can be reached at womenempoweringthemselves@gmail.com, or visit www.hollisc.com.



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MARCH ACTION

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LOT #5433 - REDUCED -
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LOT #2550 - \$26,000

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

- **Casual Friday** – at SLCC 5-9 pm, \$10 (all inclusive). Beef Stew, salad, rolls & dessert. Preordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable available for \$16.
- **Weymouth Fundraiser with The Red Clay Ramblers** – 7:30 pm, at Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities, Southern Pines. A Tony Award-winning musical group and North Carolina string band. Musical roots in old-time mountain music as well as bluegrass, country, rock, New Orleans jazz, gospel, and the American musical. Weymouth 692-6261. Seating is limited.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

- **Weymouth Fundraiser with The Red Clay Ramblers** – 7:30 pm, at Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities, Southern Pines. A Tony Award-winning musical group and North Carolina string band. Musical roots in old-time mountain music as well as bluegrass, country, rock, New Orleans jazz, gospel, and the American musical. Weymouth 692-6261. Seating is limited.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

- **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. *Red June* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group

leader Rachel Carr.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 6 pm, #2 *-Italian Wine Class The Piedmonte*. Sign Up Now! 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com



- **Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 966** – 7 pm, meets the first Monday of each month at Seven Lakes Westside Park Community Center, Seven Lakes West. Membership is open to all Vietnam-era veterans who served honorably and associate membership is open to anyone who has an interest in supporting the activities of the organization. Visitors are welcome. Contact Chapter President Mike Pusillo (910) 400-3056 or Membership Chairman Laud Pitt (910) 673-5521.
- **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) -Moore County** – 7 pm, invites everyone to an evening of home humor while educating about brain illnesses. Ed "Moose" Duke, a local professional storyteller, will

present "I Knew I Wasn't Normal" in the Community Room of FirstHealth Moore Regional Specialty Clinic, at the corner of Page Road and Memorial Drive, Pinehurst. This presentation is Free and open to the public. 295-1053 www.nami-moorecounty.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

- **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.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 3 pm, *Special Meeting on Water* at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Democrat Party Meeting** – 7 pm, Seven Lakes Democrat precinct meeting in the conference room of the Seven Lakes Firehouse, Seven Lakes Drive. All registered Democrats are welcome to attend. For information contact Ed Squire at (910) 783-4692.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Lenten Supper & Devotional** – 6 pm, everyone is invited to join in for a special meal followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. Nursery available during the service. There will be no charge for the supper, donations are welcome as contribution toward the cost of the meal. Questions, contact Don Allen at 295-0460 or the church office at 673-1371. Join the church for this time of fellowship and devotion.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm.

Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **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** – 7:30 pm, Alice Romans-Hess will give a talk on how to compost. Meeting held at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Please join the garden club for a interesting evening.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm. Doris Buffett, philanthropist, sister of financier Warren Buffett, and subject of Giving It All Away by Michael Zitz will be the guest speaker. Buffett's "Sunshine Lady Foundation" has given over \$100 million to businesses, medicine, research, and



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the arts. In Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College campus, Pinehurst. Program is open to the public. Free, no tickets required. 910-245-3132.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, \$10 (all inclusive). Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad & rolls. Pre-ordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable available for \$15 (inclusive). Food Games & socializing.
- **"Life is So Good"** – 7 pm, an inspiring play about the coming of Civil Rights to be performed, at Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities. The play is second in this season's Arts & Humanities Committee programs. It's the story of 103-year-old George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learns to read at age 98, and his teacher, Richard Glaubman. Tickets are \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. 692-6261. Seating is limited.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

- **Hands-On History: The Civil War** – 11 am to 4 pm, sponsored by Museum of the Cape Fear. In recognition of the Civil War, Sesquicentennial, Activities to include setting up a company street, drilling with a re-enactors, a dress-up area, a bullet-molding demonstration, and using the Myers flag signaling system to send and receive messages. Performance times are 2 and 3 pm. Admission is free. 910-486-1330 www.museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

- **Girl Scout Sunday** – 8:30 am and 11:00 am worship services. West End United Methodist Church will celebrate the contributions of the local Girl Scout Programs. Please join the church for this special service led by the Girl Scouts.
- **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. *Get Right Band, Underhill Rose* in concert tonight. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks accepted at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

- **Congregational Church of Pinehurst UCC** – 7 pm, documentary film "The Economics of Happiness" examines the economic, cultural, environmental and spiritual problems caused by globalization. Free of charge and everyone is welcome to view the films and join in the discussion. Pinehurst Congregational Church, 895 Linden Road, across from Elliott's. Information, church office (910) 295-2243 or contact John Arnold (910) 295-2456 or by email at jarno@nc.rr.com

MONDAY, MARCH 12

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room. Open to all landowners.
- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

- **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.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County Annual Lunch with Legends** – "Guests": Lucy Stone, abolitionist and feminist who helped initiate the first Women's Rights Initiative; Deborah Sampson, the first female soldier who was

honorably discharged from the Revolutionary Army when her gender was realized; and Lou Henry Hoover, a First Lady, a geologist, former president of the Girl Scouts of America and the only first lady to this day to speak an Asian language. Little River Golf and Country Club, 12 noon, Tickets \$30. Call Ginger Finney, 910-673-1330 for tickets.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Lenten Supper & Devotional** - 6 pm, everyone is invited to join in for a special meal followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. Nursery available during service. No charge for supper, donations welcome as contributions. Questions: contact Don Allen at 295-0460 or the church office at 673-1371. Join the church for this time of fellowship and devotion.

- **English Speaking Union** – "Working IX to V in Ancient Times" at Country Club of North Carolina. Vicki Leon will address the English Speaking Union. Her topic is Working IX to V. English Speaking Union welcomes new members. For information call 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 Leon's fascinating program.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, *Italian Wine Tasting*. 1057 Seven

Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, \$10. Herb Baked chicken, roasted potatoes, & vegetable. Pre-ordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable \$15. Food, games & socializing.
- **"Willy Wonka Jr."** – 7 pm, Willy Wonka and his candy-making factory will make an appearance at Pinehurst Elementary School, as students from West Pine Middle School perform the classic musical. Reserved tickets \$7 each purchased at West Pine Middle School lobby before and after normal school hours March 12-16. Proceeds will fund West Pine Middle School Chorus, Drum, and Theater programs.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

- **West End Elementary Golf Tournament** – at Seven Lakes Country Club. Lunch at noon, 1:30 shotgun start. Captains Choice. Cost \$75/person includes cart, greens fee, lunch. Lori Copper 639-7273 or Cristy Hunt 783-7995 to register.

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West Side

(Continued from front page)

made a decision last year to charge the same price for boat and trailer storage at the smaller Johnson Point lot as at the fenced Longleaf boat and trailer storage area.

"Johnson Point storage is wide open and any one can get in there any time of the day," said Wimberly.

The gate at the Longleaf storage area has been damaged many times and is often not locked up properly by individuals leaving the lot.

Johnson Point Docks

Dock repairs at Johnson Point are complete, reported Wimberly, who reminded the community that all boats need to be tied up properly at the docks.

After spending \$73,000 to repair and upgrade the docks, Wimberly said, there is now a "baseline of quality," and any damage done to a boat slip will incur a fee for those repairs.

The Lake and Dam Committee has sent out information on how to properly tie up boats at the dock, he noted.

Westsider Charlie Flinchum said, as Dock Manager at the Marina, he will make sure every boat in the marina is properly moored. If not, he will tie it up properly and charge \$20 for the rope, to ensure that the docks are

maintained.

The Board approved hiring Jamie Cagle to resurface the swim platform for \$2500. Flinchum offered to donate a ladder for the platform to help defray the cost of the repairs.

Architectural Review

According to Architectural Review [ARC] Director John Hoffmann, three types of compliance violations are constantly being reported: boats and trailers being kept at a homeowners property instead of at the storage area, HVAC systems and tanks not screened from public view, and vehicles parked on the pine straw in someone's yard.

"People believe that, if they have to follow those rules and regulations, they would appreciate everyone else following those rules and regulations," said Hoffmann.

Hoffmann asked that homeowners contemplating tree removal ask ARC or refer to the rules and regulations for guidelines. If a tree is "sick" or "encroaching" on a home, he said, ARC will not "fight" the homeowner if they want to remove it — and it will not incur a fee.

ARC "strongly" suggests using a licensed and bonded vendor to remove the tree, Hoffmann added. The removal of healthy trees is discour-

aged. "We want to preserve trees in our neighborhood to the greatest extent possible," he explained.

Hoffmann reminded the Community that there are still two more weeks to make comments on the proposed changes to the variance application procedure and the form, which are part of the ARC standards. The proposed changes are posted on the Community website and in the mailhouse; the Board is expected to take up the proposed changes at their next Work Session.

Update on Mailhouse

Working as the interim project manager, Hoffmann gave an update on the mailhouse project, which involves not just the mailhouse, but also a new guard house, and the designing of each. The project also includes potentially redesigning the back gate.

The Association has sent a Request For Proposal [RFP] on the project to three vendors, who have until March 14 to submit their proposals.

According to Hoffmann, if everything goes as scheduled,

a bid for construction on the mailhouse should be ready by early July. The mailhouse will be located in the "vicinity" of the West Side Park Community Center, said Hoffmann.

Sessler said updates on the mailhouse process will be posted on the Community website.

Treasurer's Report

A review by the Association's Insurance Committee, has determined the newly installed guardrails at the lower Lakeway Pond are sufficient to meet safety needs in the area, Treasurer Don Freiert reported.

The Committee will "reevaluate" the guardrail on the upstream side of Lake Auman

after the proposed dam work by the Long Range Planning Committee is complete.

Freiert also reported that the Association has paid \$169,400 to the Aberdeen Carolina Western Railroad [ACWR] per the contract agreement for the upgrade of the Lakeway Drive rail crossing.

With the completion of work at the lower Lakeway Drive pond dam, the final payment of \$91,500 has also been made. The total cost of the project was \$221,000, said Freiert, who complimented the newly designed area as "fabulous" work. Secretary Jane Sessler said the Board has received many emails with positive feedback about

(See "West Side," p. 21)

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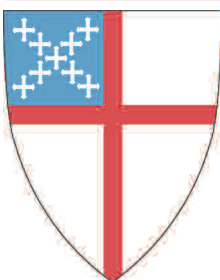
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Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes - 7:00 pm



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West Side

(Continued from page 7)

the work done in the area.

The Johnson Point dock resurfacing is also complete, with a final payment of \$36,300 being paid to Hussey's Home Improvement, bringing the total project cost to \$73,000.

Turning to investments, Freiert said the Association has sold one callable CD. Merrill Lynch has recommended retaining two other CDs until they mature in 2019.

SLWLA Signage

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to study the cost to replace and install consistent signage throughout the Community.

The Board began discussing this issue after the Association was asked to fund the \$1,000 replacement cost of a sign stolen from the entrance to Morgan Wood. There are believed to be sixteen signs of this type sprinkled throughout the West Side.

Amenities Policies

Another two weeks remain in the comment period for proposed changes to policies governing the Association's amenities. The proposed changes are posted on the SLWLA website and in the mailhouse, Sessler reported.

Infrastructure Report

Bids on adding guard rails and a walking path along Longleaf ponds number 2 and number 3 have been received and are "well below budget," Infrastructure Director John Goodman reported.

Goodman will meet with Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks on that project, and Wimberly will meet with Marks on data from the new peziometers and the overall health of the Lake Auman Dam.

Goodman said he is still pursuing a quote on installing a metal building for Association storage, and awaiting quotes for repaving the top of the dam. Cagle Landscaping can begin work on curbs at the dam in two weeks, contingent on the weather.

Other News

Other business conducted by the SLWLA Board during their February 28 meeting included:

- After a hunter's tree stand was found on a landowners property, Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy

reiterated that hunting is prohibited in Seven Lakes West.

- New rules for access into the community are posted on the Association's website and in the mailhouse for Community review and input, McCarthy said.
- Due to "fiscal constraint"

an event to recognize volunteers in the community will be postponed until next year, Sessler reported. Volunteers will still be recognized at this year's annual event.

- The Board's next work session will be held on March 13 at 9:00 am, with the

Annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 pm. The Board will not hold a second work session for the month of March.

- Legal Director Jack Stevens was absent from Tuesday night's meeting.

Corrections

In an article on the Lake-way Drive rail crossing that appeared in the February 17 edition of *The Times*, we reported that Elaine Yow Girgis had declined the opportunity to contribute financially to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association's agreement with the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company.

SLWLA President Mick Herdrich asked that *The Times* print the following

clarification: "Elaine Yow Girgis was unavailable to participate in discussions with ACWR concerning their payment demands and expressed that she had other alternatives which did not require accessing the crossing."

Also in our February 17 edition, *The Times* attributed a comment during the SLWLA's February 14 meeting to Joel Martin, who was not present at that meeting. We regret the error.

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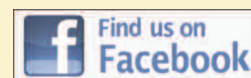
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Parenting, Star Wars style

Because I'm a nerd girl living in a geek world, I could not resist last week's headline, "Management lessons to learn from Star Wars — a case study in how to not run a Galactic Empire."

It was catchy and entertaining, but I found most of the article's tips were not applicable to my daily suburban slog of laundry, pet maintenance, occupational procrastination and — most importantly — the care and feeding of two kids.

So instead, I'd like to offer my own list of life lessons gleaned from that galaxy far, far away.

Let's call it, "Practical Parenting Advice Star Wars Style" — or maybe, "How to raise a

Padawan in a Perilous World."

Lesson 1 - *Do or do not, there is no "try."*

Poor grammar aside; the Sith, Yoda, and the Douglass



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

house operate in absolutes. In homework, chores, and allowances, there are only two possible outcomes. Those who have and have, and those who do not and have not.

Lesson 2 - *"I find your lack*

of faith disturbing."

Ah, there it is. Let me translate for Darth Vader: "Because I'm your mother, and I said so." That age-old

parenting stand-by to justify things that are best left unsaid, or when I'm too busy to answer.

Lesson 2, Part B - *"What I told you was true . . . from a certain point of view."*

Now, since most bright-eyed youth, especially my own, will not accept Lesson 2 on the first reading, I use Part B to clear things right

up. As Obi-Wan wisely explained, the truth we cling to frequently depends on our point of view. In daily usage, this is most often phrased as, "I don't care who started it. I'm going to finish it!"

Lesson 3 - *"Keep your distance, but don't try to look like you're keeping your distance."*

I don't know: fly casual. Sharing living space with two 'tweens, I ricochet between my mad desire to hover and protect — aka helicopter parenting — and that strong and natural gravitational pull to let the cookie crumble — aka tough love. What I've discovered along the way is a little bit of both usually balances out the force.

Lesson 4 - *"Look, good against the remotes is one thing. Good against the living, that's something else."*

Okay, so you hold the World Record on MarioCart 8. That's awesome but, hello?, you still haven't taken out the garbage or finished your spelling assignment.

Lesson 5 - *"Perhaps I can find new ways to motivate them."*

While I don't have super-human powers that allow me to snatch a miscreant from across the room, like most mommies, I have a few other tricks at my disposal.

So yes, my little darlings, I do have eyes in the back of my head and I do, in fact, know everything!

What's the Christian view of cremation?

Question: We read in *The Seven Lakes Times* your article in response to the question "why should I plan my own funeral?" I'd like to continue the subject of funeral planning with the following question: "What is the stand of the Christian Church on cremation versus full body burial? We've been hearing about more people being cremated today.

Response: At the Interdenominational Christian Church where I am the minister, I have conducted dozens of funerals and memorial services over the past five and one half years. I can count on one hand the number of people who chose to have their body embalmed and buried rather than cremated. We, like most mainline protestant churches, believe that it is a matter of

choice based on the congregation's beliefs and the family and faith traditions from which they come. To accommodate this choice we own and operate a cemetery with

mandates cremation as a sacred ritual which ushers the soul into the next life.

Eastern Orthodox churches prohibit cremation as a departure from the belief in

the resurrection of the body. Although there was no dogma against it, the Roman Catholic Church for

centuries opposed cremation. But, in the 1960s, canon law was relaxed to allow it.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) strongly supports full body burial, but allows cremation in cultures where it is customary.

The Bible gives us few instructions on this matter, but when a man hesitated in following Jesus because he had to bury his father, Jesus' response was: "Let the dead bury the dead." The disposal of the body appar-

ently had a low priority in the early Jesus movement. We are now in the season of Lent, and those who received ashes on Ash Wednesday heard the Biblical words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." In my mind, cremation simply hastens the process. I intend to be cremated, but not for any religious reason. I find the high cost of burial and funeral services is often a great financial burden to the surviving family. Direct cremation without embalming is much less expensive, and it allows the survivors much more freedom in memorializing the one they love and in disposing of the cremains. Most Christian churches will honor your choice, and one can treat the dead with sacred respect in either case.

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



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

both gravesites and columbarium niches.

Over the past centuries, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam have frowned on cremation. Islam instructs its followers to bury their dead as quickly as possible. Orthodox and Conservative Jews adamantly oppose cremation. Reform and Reconstructionist Jews support cremation as an option, but the historic memory of the Nazi cremation of Jews during the Holocaust greatly influences the choices even secular Jews. Hinduism

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Thanks from 7 Lakes EMS

Dear Editor:

"Heartfelt Thanks to All"

The Seven Lakes EMS says "Thanks" to all who donated to the New Ambulance Fund Drive.

We are pleased to report that the EMS has paid off the \$109,000 note in three years utilizing the community's generosity. The Seven Lakes EMS could not have

achieved this goal without community support.

The EMS is now equipped with up-to-date emergency vehicles to respond quickly to whatever emergency you may have, and will continue to update the unit with the newest techniques and procedures for emergency response and care.

The overall response time

to calls within the Seven Lakes district is less than five minutes.

Our next fundraiser is our Annual Chicken Dinner to be held on Friday, April 20.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you,
Tim Bouchelle, Chief
Seven Lakes EMS

Praise for McNeill Oil

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our praise for one of Moore County's businesses, McNeill Oil and Propane of Aberdeen, who rescued us in January from the throes of a local vendor we had used for propane needs for four years.

In December, our former provider (owned by an out of state corporation) charged

us an exorbitant rate per gallon for LP gas. Three weeks later my wife and I began using the services of McNeill, a locally owned and operated business, and McNeill provides us with propane for 65 cents less per gallon.

McNeill has not had a price increase in propane since 2010!

Thank you McNeill

Propane, for meeting the needs of the retired, the elderly, and the many individuals and families on fixed incomes in Moore County and surrounding areas, and thank you for doing so at a reasonable price.

Bob Hancock
Pam Martin
Seven Lakes West

Thanks for a great party!

Dear Editor:

As the Outreach Minister at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, I want to thank the The New Horizon's Band. Thirty two of their members provided beautiful musical entertainment for our annual Chapel Community Valentine Party. The New Horizon's Band is terrific! Their music brought many smiles, much swaying back and forth and yes hand and toe tapping!

Approximately 150 people living in Seven Lakes attended. What a joy it was to see the community joining together to celebrate a special day.

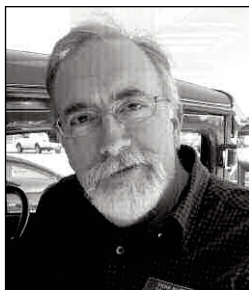
I also want to thank Pat Truesdell and Lucy Ingram who helped me organize the

party. Thank you to everyone that provided goodies. They were enjoyed by all. Thank you also to those that provided transportation for the guests.

It is a joy for the Seven Lakes Chapel and the Pines

Outreach Ministry to serve the entire Seven Lakes Community in any way we can.

Fran Stark
Minister of Visitation
The Seven Lakes
Chapel in the Pines



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Girl Scouts say thanks for 'Get Moving' help

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Junior Girl Scout Troop 1301, we would like to thank the members of the Seven Lakes Country Club for allowing our girls to conduct an energy audit

of your facility. Thank you for your hospitality and for making the girls feel welcome even when our work interrupted your busy dinner service. The lemonade and sweet treats were an especially nice

surprise.

As part of a yearlong 'Get Moving' Journey badge program, the girls studied various types and uses of energy, which culminated in a comprehensive inspection of a commercial building. In particular, we would like to thank Kathy Mokricky for her assistance.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Conrad Meyer for mentoring the girls through this project.

Using his expertise as a volunteer engineer with Waste Reduction Partners and a few hands-on props, he

helped the scouts to identify common sources of energy waste in ways that were both fun and meaningful.

Jeanene Wolf, Leader
Laura Douglass, Co-Leader
GS Troop 1301

Don't forget to vote!

Dear Editor:

Just a reminder to the members of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association to mark and return your ballot, especially for the budget.

Remember a non-vote is

counted as a yes vote. So be sure to vote – either yea or nay, but return your ballot so it reflects how you want it to be counted.

Joe Gavala
Seven Lakes West

Bernard named to Round Table

Michael J. Bernard, a Modern Woodmen of Amer-



Michael J. Bernard

ica managing partner, of West End, has earned membership in the organization's 2011 Managing Partner Round Table - Inner Circle.

The prestigious Inner Circle includes top managing partners in Modern Woodmen's Managing Partner Round Table. The Round Table recognizes outstanding leadership and is based on high achievement in life insurance sales.

For more information about Modern Woodmen, Bernard can be contacted at 125 West Plaza Drive, Seven Lakes or call 910-315-2378.

Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached.

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The length limit for letters is 300 words. Longer letters will be returned to the author or edited for length.



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SLLA Candidates

(Continued from front page)

questions submitted in writing by audience members.

Steve Ritter

"I think it is critical for our community to stay in step with what is going on around us," said Steve Ritter, a resident of Seven Lakes South for a little more than two years. "People need to see a vibrant community."

A college graduate with a



Steve Ritter

business degree, Ritter was commissioned in the U.S. Army and continued his service with the Army National Guard, eventually retiring at the rank of Major. He worked briefly in wholesale distribution before changing careers to law enforcement. Over the course of thirty years in service, he worked in vice, narcotics, and also as a detective in the juvenile division.

Ritter retired to the Pinehurst area several years ago to take care of his elderly parents, he explained; and, during that time, he fell in love with Seven Lakes. He and his wife built a home on the 15th fairway of Seven Lakes Country Club; and he quickly became very active with the Club's Board of Directors, serving two years as President.

"A lot of people come through our community to play golf," Ritter said, explaining that appearances are very important in attracting potential new residents. "I

would love to see more money put towards the paving project. I think our roads need updating — but because most of our residents are retirees, we need to do what we can do to keep our dues at the lowest possible level."

"That may mean not doing everything we want to do. We need to gather input and have our committees meet to determine what are our priorities."

Chuck Leach

"The current Board has done an excellent job of identifying capital infrastructure needs. We must now prioritize those needs," said Chuck Leach, a full time resident of Seven Lakes South since 2005, though his history with the community dates back twenty-five years, with extended visits beginning in 1987.

"The new Board will find that the costs to address capital expenditures and operations will exceed rev-

enue with our current dues structure," Leach warned. "Finding a path will be a major challenge of the Board over the next two years."

Leach has a Masters degree in school administration and spent the majority of his professional career in New Jersey, as a teacher, a principal, and assistant to superintendent. He was recognized for his service at the local, state, and national levels,



Chuck Leach

and developed a model program to reduce drug and alcohol use by youth. Leach retired in 1998, after thirty-three years of service.

His experience in staff evaluations, grant-writing, and extensive work with budgets — including cutting budgets — will serve him well on the Board, Leach explained. He said the SLLA Board must continue to evaluate the management company and, at the same time, reassess how the Board functions within that management structure.

"Board members should not be involved in day-to-day operations," Leach said. "The Board should establish policy and oversee the implementation — and should be involved in evaluating management to ensure the growth, success, and future of our community."

Dave Buckingham

"From what I've heard and from what I've read, roads

(See "SLLA," p. 26)



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SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 25)

are the priority," said Dave Buckingham, a resident of Seven Lakes North. "They are in poor repair and, I think, will take more than two years to repair or resurface. I don't think we have



Dave Buckingham

the necessary funding to repair the roads, so I recommend an incremental approach with prioritized areas."

Buckingham and his wife of forty years moved to North Carolina in 2006, and found their home in Seven Lakes in 2010.

A father of four, Buckingham served in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard. He retired from a thirty-four year career with Kodak, beginning as a machinist and rising through the ranks to programming, computer and software integration, research, and eventually heading up the internal information technology support department and operations management.

Reserve Study & LRP

Each of the three candidates was given up to four minutes to answer a lengthy question, prepared in advance, that asked how they see balancing the comprehensive Reserve Study recommendations with competing needs prioritized by committees; and what role will the Board and Long Range Planning Committee play in making those decisions. In addition, candidates were asked to address the very critical point that, at current revenue levels, meet-

ing those recommendations will require a dues increase, cutting of services, or deferring projects.

Chuck Leach: "We have a general agreement that we have aging infrastructure," said Leach. "We have made some progress, but most needs have been pushed down the road for others to solve."

Leach said he would not support a dues increase until the community truly believes the Board has done everything possible to reduce operational costs.

"The Board should conduct a thorough analysis of expenditures, and that information should be presented to the community," he said, adding that the Board should explore the opportunity for any grant funding. "Any dues increase — and how high an increase — can only be determined once these steps are completed and the Long Range Planning Committee has been given a chance for their input."

Reducing services should only be considered once all other cost-cutting measures have been implemented and the community has rejected a dues increase, Leach said.

"This is not the time to determine what amenities should go, because we do not have enough information to make that decision," he said. "And putting off maintenance of community assets is not an option."

Leach commended the current Board for their openness, transparency, and willingness to listen to all points of view prior to making any decisions.

"This must continue," he said. "However, once we have obtained all the input, the final decision rests with the Board."

Dave Buckingham: "My main goal in joining the Board is to bring fiscal responsibility and to keep our dues reasonable," Buckingham said. "But, we need to maintain a high standard to make people want to live here."

He recommended looking at low cost alternatives as part of the regular decision-making process and said he was interested in getting involved in long term planning and the Reserve Study.

Steve Ritter: "Fiscal responsibility starts with the Board, and it is critical for them to continue what they have been doing," said Ritter, explaining that he was in full agreement with Leach's assessment.

"Long Range Planning is the place where work needs to be done — and gathering input from residents," he added. "It is not for me to say we want to cut this or this. It is up to you [the residents] to decide what you want, and then it is up to the Board to prioritize and take that input from members."

"If we [the Board] have to play hardball, then that is what we have bought in for:

to make those kinds of decisions based on the good for the many," he said.

Ritter said roads and keeping the dues level as low as possible are his priorities.

"We are working and competing to keep people moving here, but we are starting to show our age," he said.

In addition, Ritter said the community website must be updated and revamped, as it is a critical marketing tool that can attract new residents.

"We need something out there on the Internet that sells us better than what we have."

Audience questions

Moving into the less formal portion of the forum, each of the candidates responded to written questions from the audience.

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

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SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 26)

Question 1: Do you feel the Seven Lakes Country Club is a vital part of the Seven Lakes community?

"SLCC is a very vital asset and runs step-in-step with what the entire community has to offer," said Steve Ritter. "This year we had 28,000 rounds of golf and, of those, 18,000 were visitors.

"They are coming here to play golf, and they come back and bring back their friends to play," he continued, noting that SLCC has received the Sandhills Course of the Year award for the last three consecutive years.

"It is a gem that brings a lot of people here. What is good for SLCC is good for the community," Ritter said. We need to strengthen each other and work in conjunction to make the entire community a showplace."

Dave Buckingham said he was impressed that SLCC has won the award for multiple years.

"SLCC is a vital asset especially because of our location to the golf mecca of the East Coast," he said.

Chuck Leach said he was a member of SLCC for twenty-three years and said the course is both beautiful and increases the property values of homes in the community.

Question 2: As a candidate, how do you serve or how have you contributed to the community? Do you serve on any SLLA committees?

Dave Buckingham said he is not on any committees, but that he does attend Board meetings whenever he can.

"The more I find out the more I have wanted to get involved," he said.

Steve Ritter has served on the SLCC Board of Directors for three years, including two years as President.

"At present I am spending a lot of time golfing and bowling, but I am looking forward to getting actively involved with the landowners," he said.

Chuck Leach is also a former SLCC board member and said his personal time was limited because he was assisting his elderly mother, but that he is now looking forward to being actively involved with the Association.

Question 3: Should we be more proactive in terms of raising revenue?

"We really have a problem ahead of us in coming up with money for these projects," said Chuck Leach.

He suggested looking to other communities for inspiration, such as Hilton Head, where road usage fees are charged to commercial vehi-

cles.

"Some might think this is a terrible idea, but we do need to think of creative ways to raise revenue," Leach said.

"I am amazed at how much prices have gone up," said Steve Ritter. "I think it is hard for a potential Board member to say it is inevitable that dues will also go up; but, I think we have to do more with less."

"Maybe we can't be everything to everybody. We have to look at what we can do without," Ritter said. "We need to have the community give us input to tell us what those things are. I do think we can trim some of our expenses and should lean towards that route before we say it is time to raise dues."

Dave Buckingham said he does not want to raise dues.

"Incomes aren't going up, but [the cost of] everything else is. I think we do have to look at other ways to cut where we can," Buckingham said. "We may have to do without some projects and just work on high priority ones."

Question 4: On grants, in most states, it is easier for a municipality than a gated pri-

vate community to get grants. Should the Board consider the benefits of incorporation based on the availability of grants?

"Those who know me, know that I was not in favor of incorporation," said Steve Ritter, though he agreed it is worth looking into whether the Association would be eligible for any grant funds.

"I believe the cost to incorporate would be astronomically high," he said.

In direct opposition of that stance, Chuck Leach said he does support incorporation "if you look at our community, its age and what is happening with infrastructure. In the report on the roads, there are many things in there and a tremendous amount of money attached to them. I see we have a long road ahead."

Dave Buckingham said he does not have enough background information on various issues related to incorporation to determine whether it is a good idea or not, but noted he was aware of the strong opposition mounted by some residents of Pinewild when the Village of Pinehurst forcibly annexed that gated community.

Question 5: Seven Lakes is an interesting town because it is composed of three gated communities and a small business district. Over the years, the community and its demographics have changed. It feels bigger, and it is bigger than it was, but it also feels less like one community now. Is that important? And is it important that we be one Seven Lakes community, recognizing that actions you take as Board members can affect that outcome?

"I always thought of this as one community when I moved here, but I have since found out that it is two communities," said Dave Buckingham. "I am gaining knowledge, but I'm not sure if it is important [to be one]. North and South seem to have all the amenities we need, so maybe it really is not important."

Steve Ritter said he had the chance to remain in Pinehurst after he relocated to North Carolina, but that he found the community too big.

"One of the reasons we came to Seven Lakes is it is quaint and small and you

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

number of voting members on the panel to eighteen and the number of non-voting members to nine.

The Board tabled a mission statement for the Steering Committee drafted by Planning Director Debra Ensinger, asking that she review input that the Commissioners had received on her draft and present a revised draft at a later meeting.

Airport Projects Approved

Voting four-to-one, the Commissioners adopted several project ordinances for upgrades to the Moore County Airport.

The Airport Authority is drawing on five separate grants to pay for the upgrades; the project ordinances allocates those monies to specific projects. The Coun-

ty's \$345,000 contribution will come from a portion of the lodging tax, a levy which is also used to fund the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Upgrades will include clearing obstructions to the runway, making runway safety improvements, and extending the runway.

Commissioner Tim Lea, who cast the dissenting vote, questioned whether twenty-two acres of adjacent property recently acquired by the Airport should have been deeded to the County instead of to the Airport. Chairman Larry Caddell said he would personally get to the bottom of that question.

Airport Director Ron Maness told Lea that the Airport Authority Board had the land deed on its Tuesday, February 14 agenda, but took no action on the matter.

Lea asked that the matter

be brought before the Commissioners at a meeting in March. He also asked that the Airport Authority began submitting the minutes of their monthly board meeting to the Commissioners for review, a request that Lea said had been made more than a year ago and had yet to be honored.

Public Works

At the request of Public Works Director Randy Gould, the Commissioners approved an application to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] for State Emergency Loan funds for a interceptor sewer repair located near the Pinehurst traffic circle. An eighteen inch pipe within the interceptor collapsed roughly two months ago.

The State Emergency Loan

fund has \$2.5 million available to lend; a study by the engineering firm Hydrostructures put the estimated cost of the interceptor repairs at \$1.3 million.

The Board also approved Gould's request to amend a contract with Matchpoint Inc for \$54,700 for the radio read water meters project, adding 293 meters to the project.

Carthage Tower Upgrade

The Board approved Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips' request for a sole source agreement with Radio Communications Company of Cary to upgrade equipment

on the Carthage communications tower to meet Federal Communications Commission [FCC] requirements. The Carthage tower is the primary hub of emergency communications for Moore County.

This is the second phase of the County's FCC-mandated move to narrowband emergency communications. The first phase involved similar upgrades to the Southern Pines tower; phase three includes upgrades to the Robbins tower, which should be complete in June 2012.

The \$109,00 cost of the project will be drawn from (See "Commissioners," p. 29)

SLLA Candidates

(Continued from page 27)

get to know your neighbors," he said. "Yes, each community gravitates to its own and, yes, there is this flap about access, but I don't see these as big issues."

"They [Seven Lakes West] are who they are and we are who we are," Ritter said. "It is important to work together, and it is good to be in step with them, and I would go that route every opportunity."

Chuck Leach noted that Seven Lakes, as a single community, comprises a huge tax base within Moore County.

"If we were not pointing fingers at one another, and instead working as one unit we could have significant

clout in ensuring services from the county would be effective here," Leach said.

"It is very important that we work together as one com-

munity. It is important to resolve the gates [access issues] and continue working together as one community."



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

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147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

E-911 funds. An agreement reached with the NC State Highway Patrol to share space in their storm-proof tower building will result in a savings of \$62,500.

Emergency Planning

The Board approved an update to the County's emergency operation plan, presented by Phillips. The plan provides a pre-written template that can be used in the case of a local emergency to request that the Governor declare a state of emergency. Additional pre-written resolutions include those prohibiting price gouging during a state of emergency and rescinding a state of emergency.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board of Com-

missioners' Tuesday, February 21 meeting included:

- The Board approved a request by Seven Lakes Boy Scout Russell Harvey to use lands next to the Senior Enrichment Center to create a nature trail and an outdoor seating area for the Sandhills Children's Center, in an effort to obtain his Eagle Scout Badge. The Board's approval is for a temporary, revocable public easement and is contingent upon the approval of Moore County Aging Director Terri Prots, whose department has responsibility for the Senior Enrichment Center.
- The Board approved a FY2012-2013 grant application for Moore County Youth Services as requested by Director Janet Parris. The grant funds will come

from: The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention/Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for \$104,000, a \$5,000 cash match from the County, \$250 in fundraising dollars, and \$41,000 from in kind contributions.

- At the request of Commissioner Nick Picerno, County Attorney Misty Leland drew up a resolution that requests the "elimination of governmental waste and substantial bureaucracy in the United States Department of Education and North Carolina Department of Public Instruction by redirecting funding to the local school boards for direct use in the classrooms." The Board approved the resolution and directed that it be sent to state and federal public

officials.

- The Board received Moore County Cooperative Extension's 2011 Annual Report.
- The Board called a public hearing for Tuesday, March 6 to consider adding one new road — Whitetail Path, which is off of Lineberry Road — to the Moore County Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance.
- The Board approved a property donation of three lots totaling .52 acre located in the Pine View Manor Estates subdivision from Robert Edwin Merrell and Gail Merrell, heirs of E.M. Merrell and Lillian W. Merrell who are now deceased.
- The Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on

Tuesday, March 6 at 3:00 pm to discuss water options for the County.

Appointments

The Board made the following appointments during their Tuesday, February 21 meeting:

- Jim Thomas and Bruce Yarrington to the Tax Equalization and Review Board for three year terms, and Jim McNiff as Chairman of that Board for the FY2012-2013 session.
- Robert Williams as the industry representative to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a three year term.

VIPER

(Continued from page 3)

VIPER radio coverage in Moore County will be provided by tower sites in Carthage, Southern Pines, Tramway, Sprout Springs, McCain, Ellerbe, Biscoe, Siler City, and Coleridge.

The VIPER radio testing in Robbins has shown the radio coverage as "good" reported Godfrey.

One area in which VIPER

coverage is substandard is the Lobelia area in the southern portion of the County. Godfrey said he hopes this will be corrected with the activation of the Southern Pines tower and possible adjustments to the Carthage Tower.

Godfrey told the Board: "I still believe that the VIPER system is the best long term solution for Moore County."

Currently, there are 64,000 radio users on the VIPER system; 260 emergency agencies in North Carolina use the system.

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MOVING SALE – March 16 & 17 and March 23 & 24, 9am to 4pm. 117 Shenandoah West. Most household effects to be sold including an Ethan Allen dining room set, bedroom set, living room furniture, kitchen appliances and freezer, Lennox dinnerware set, Lladro figurines, some clothing. Items too numerous to list.

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