

Board debates gate policy

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

 Taking one last look at several unresolved issues prior to the election of three new Directors later this month, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors met in Work Session on Monday, March 12. Perhaps the thorniest issue is what to do about providing Westsiders with access through the North and Southside gates, in light of a new Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] policy that eliminates windshield stickers and no longer provides SLLA members with automatic access through the Westside gates.

"We have a major issue on access to our community," said SLLA President Bob Darr. "What they have done will cause us a problem, in that we will have no way to identify their residents at the gate . . . but it seems to me, we, like them, need to assure that people coming in to our community are people that we allow. We need to know who they are and where they are going. We need to take some of their good ideas and decide what to do here."

Darr expressed concern about how decisions will impact traffic at the gate, due to the large number of Westside visitors who frequent the North Clubhouse area for club activities and

card games.

"How will this relate to the Fitness Center and bridge players?" asked Darr "Are we going to have to call in every single person who comes in for Project Linus?"

In addition, he told the Board he was looking for input on improving the current barcode policy for SLLA members. Currently, windshield stickers are automatically distributed to members in good standing during the annual registration process; however, barcodes must be purchased. SLLA members are charged a one-time fee of \$15 and Seven Lakes West residents may purchase an SLLA barcode for a \$20 annual fee.

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

John Hoffmann will anchor mailhouse, entries project

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The Westside Board unanimously appointed outgoing Director John Hoffmann to serve as project manager on the new mailhouse and guardhouse, after

meeting in closed session at the conclusion of its Tuesday, March 13 Work Session.

Hoffmann told *The Times* that three architectural firms have received a Request For Proposal [RFP] from the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] for a design of the new mailhouse and a new guardhouse to be

built as part of the reconfiguration of the front entrance to the community.

Those RFP's were due back to the Board on Wednesday, March 14, at which point interviews will be conducted.

Hoffmann said he anticipates a contract to be awarded to one of the companies by March 23.

The contract will include work on the mailhouse, guardhouse, and, potentially, a redesign of the back gate. Designs and their associated cost estimates will include any necessary infrastructure such as roads, curbs, drainage, and septic, Hoffmann told *The Times*.

Hoffman said the goal is to have the new mailhouse completed by year-end 2012; the entryway and guardhouse, by year-end 2013.

(See "Westside," p. 15)

Lauer, Koos honored



Former Foxfire Councilmen Ed Lauer and Vic Koos were recognized for their service to the Village at a recent meeting of the Foxfire Council. Mayor George Erickson made the presentations.

County looks to Robbins for water

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Robbins remains the Moore County Board of Commissioners' preferred long-term source for bringing more water to the expanding customer base served by Moore County Public Utilities.

During a Tuesday, March 3 special meeting, a majority of the Board agreed that a long-term water solution is needed -- and the most likely source for that would be from the Town of Robbins.

Public Works Director Randy Gould presented the Board with options to meet both ten year and thirty-year

demand projections, explaining that the County will need an additional one million gallons per day in ten years to meet peak demand, and two million gallons per day on top of that to meet the projected demand in thirty years.

The three primary short-term strategies include: tapping Robbins' reservoir on Bear Creek, drilling more wells, or buying more water from Harnett County -- already an important source of purchased water for the County. Longer term, Gould presented two options: tapping the Deep River near Robbins, or drilling more than twenty new wells in the Pinehurst area.

(See "Water," p. 26)

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by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

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ideas and increase your marketing potential.

For more information contact Cheryl Darwell at 910-673-7245.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Correction

In our March 2 profile of Hollis Colquhoun, we referred to a financial guidebook she co-authored as "*Financial Survival Guide*." The full title of the book is "*Women Empowering Themselves: A Financial Survival Guide - For Women at Risk of Drowning Financially Before, During and After Divorce*."

AARP Safe Driver Course

An AARP Driver Safety class will be offered at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center on Thursday, March 29 from 10 am to 3 pm by AARP instructor Bruce Robson. The fee for the class is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non members. Call 910-215-0900 to register. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.



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Elections & Annual Meetings

Both the Seven Lakes and the Seven Lakes West Landowners Associations hold their Annual meetings in March. The Westsiders are scheduled to gather at 2:00 pm on this Sunday, March 18, while the SLLA will meet at 3:00 pm a week later.

Both Associations have nominated three candidates to fill three open seats on their respective Boards of Directors.

SLLA Nominees include David Buckingham, Chuck Leach, and Steve Ritter, who will replace Bud Shaver, Bruce Keyser, Jr., and Andy Lowe.

SLWLA nominees include Dan Blue, Jim Pierman, and Bruce Keyser, Sr., who will replace John Goodman, John Hoffmann, and Adam Wimberley on the Westside Board.

Westsiders will also be asked to vote on the Board's proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget during the annual meeting. This year's budget includes a more sizable dues increase for the owners of undeveloped lots than for homeowners.

Because the SLLA budget includes no dues increase, North and Southsiders will not be asked to vote on the FY 2013 budget.

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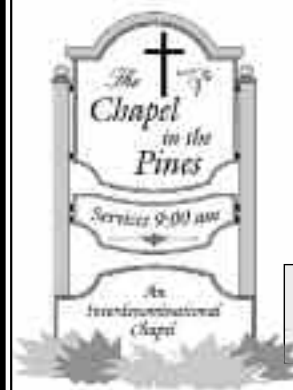
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Council approves principal payment

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Lack of serious buyer interest in the Village-owned 160-acre parcel at Woodland Circle — and how that will impact debt service — prompted Foxfire Village Finance Director Leslie Frusco to recommend taking \$112,000 from the fund balance to pay down principal on the nearly \$2 million loan.

"We have a two-year agreement with the bank for interest-only payments, but that is really impractical to do," she explained during the Foxfire Village Council meeting on Tuesday, March 13. "In the long run, it will cost the Village more. By making a substantial principal payment — and our analysis is the General Fund can stand it — it would significantly reduce the overall interest and put the Village in a position to more easily handle future payments."

In addition, Frusco said, she is looking at re-amortizing the loan to add five years of payments but reduce the year-to-year note due. And the bank is also lowering the interest rate on the loan to a 15-year municipal rate.

The large undeveloped tract was donated to Foxfire last year in lieu of a \$1.4 million assessment, a figure which represented the lion's share of costs towards the development and paving of the Woodland Circle Extension project.

Offering an update on the property listing, Mayor George Erickson said he met with Realtor Robert Edwards this week and invited him to address the Village Council during a special budget-related work session.

"There has been interest in the property," Erickson said, "but no offers have been made."

The \$112,000 transfer from the fund balance was approved unanimously.

Planning and Zoning

Taking the opportunity to publicly address last month's tense debate over minimum lot size requirements in the equestrian zoning district, Councilman Mick McCue apologized to Planning & Zoning Chairman Steve Sparks.

"My words and tone at last month's meeting were inappropriate," he said.

And though the Council did not reengage in discussion over six acres versus ten acres, resident MaryAnn Lauer did tackle the subject during public comment. She said that while George Worst's recommendation to maintain the 10-acre minimum was well-educated, she disagreed with his comparison of Foxfire and Middleburg, Virginia.

"We are not Middleburg," she said. "We do not have their lot sizes, and we do not need to live up to those standards."

In another discussion related to Planning & Zoning, Sparks said the committee would be reviewing draft language recommended by the Village Attorney to revise the "clothes line" ordinance.

The Council unanimously approved a zoning inspection services agreement with the Village of Pinehurst. The agreement provides for Pinehurst planning staff to inspect setbacks and other zoning-related services, for a set fee and using Foxfire Village ordinances as guidelines.

Rental guidelines approved

In a quick up-and-down motion, without discussion, the Council unanimously approved a new ordinance related to single family residential zoning.

Last discussed during the January work session, the revised definition and ordinance were developed in response to a single family home that was rented by a business and used as dormitory-style housing for six unrelated men. As of Janu-

(See "Foxfire," p. 24)

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Lake House – something for everyone

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

It's a place for everyone: families, kids, retirees, sports nuts.

Since opening Lake House Bar and Grill in December, owners Danny and Will Bowers have worked hard to make their restaurant just that: a place for everyone.

The father and son team decided to open their bar and grill — located on Grant Street in the Business Village — after noticing that Seven Lakes didn't have a place to stop and grab a burger and a cold drink after a long day on the lake.

"We've worked real hard to make this place pretty much the same for kids or for the older people and everybody in-between," Danny Bowers told *The Times*: "A place where someone can come in and sit in and watch the game, or just sit around and talk — and they can get good food."

The initial menu focused on classic sports bar offerings; hamburgers, hot dogs, Reubens and other specialty sandwiches, along with a full complement of appetizers, ranging from fried pickles to chili cheese fries.

But the Bowers are expanding that menu to include blackened tuna steak, pork loin, vegetable medley, blackened chicken salad, and

house salads. The forty-two seat restaurant also boasts a full bar, with draft beer, a wine list, and mixed drinks.

Expanding the menu is just another way of "listening to our customers," said Will Bowers. "We really take that to heart."

Lake House regulars can join the "Mug Club," buying an over-sized eighteen ounce beer mug that is kept chilled at the bar filled with beer anytime it is requested. So far sixteen people have signed up for this service.

The "Mug Club" is all about "trying to build kinship or ownership," explained Bowers, "so that people understand that this is their place."

Adding to the laid back atmosphere at the Lake House is guitarist, Steven Argereow, who performs every Friday.

Five big screen televisions located throughout the space mean there is always something interesting to watch, with a focus, of course, on sports. Lake House has access to all the top televised sports packages, including NFL Full Ticket, ESPN Full Court NCAA basketball, and all the NASCAR races. There's even free wi-fi for those who like to bring along their laptop or tablet.

"We have stuff lined up for everybody," said Bowers, "not just specific age groups."

Later this Spring, the action will move outside the restaurant, as Lake House launches an outside concert series called "Seven Lakes After Five."

Every second Wednesday of the month, from April to September, a different band will perform in the parking lot from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The admission fee is a non-perishable food item that will be donated to the Back Pack Pals Program in Moore County.

"We have been here three months and have appreciated everyone who walks in the door," said Danny, "We'll bend over backwards to make their experience here good."

Lake House Bar and Grill can accommodate parties of twelve and offers lunch delivery throughout the Seven Lakes Business Village. Hours are Monday through

Saturday from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Closing times may be delayed until the game is over, of course.

Reach the Lake House at 910-673-3737; the address is 200 Grant Street.



Will and Danny Bowers are the son and father team behind the helm at Lake House Bar & Grill.

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SLLA Board approves FY 2013 Budget

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



The Fiscal Year 2013 Budget, along with two changes to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] fee structure, won unanimous approval from the Board of Directors during the SLLA February 29 Open Meeting.

The approved budget anticipates \$1.37 million in revenues, balanced against \$1.08 million in expenses, plus a \$294,400 transfer to reserves.

The Association will begin the year with \$500,000 in restricted reserves — set aside for road paving projects and state-mandated dam repairs — in addition to \$427,000 in unrestricted reserves, of which \$236,000 is set aside for emergencies.

Based on recommendations gleaned from the Reserve Study, anticipated capital projects for the coming year include installation of a toe drain at Sequoia Dam, exterior renovation at the stables, replacement of the bulkhead

at Sequoia Island, and repairs and mechanical updates to the pool. However, SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer quickly pointed out the individual capital projects have not yet been approved by the Board and would exceed the available unrestricted reserve funding, if all were completed at their estimated costs.

"These projects were copied and pasted straight out of the Reserve Study," Meyer said. "We now have the Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee and they are working on what is the right order of projects. We left them in [the budget] as placeholders. Any

of those projects, going forward, will have input from the LRP and be voted on by the Board."

Income up slightly

During a brief summary of income anticipated in the FY 2013 Budget, Meyer said historically low interest rates will continue to have a negative impact on income from investments. A \$12,000 budgeted increase in dues income is largely the result of a recent decision to no longer charge renter's dues; thus, landlords will no longer receive a rebate on half of those dues. In a related motion later in the

meeting, the Board unanimously approved an annual \$100 administrative fee that will be assessed on renters.

In a second fee-related motion, the Board approved an amendment to Rule 8.5.3, moving the due date for marina slip fees from April 1 to May 1.

Turning attention to anticipated expenditures, Meyer's noted a slight increase in administration and salaries, with some funding set aside for potential two percent merit raises — and also for an additional half-time position in the maintenance department.

"We recognize that we do need to spend some more money on maintenance," he said, "but we are also looking at all areas for possible reductions."

Under recreation, Meyer said horse feed expenses were up \$3,000; and, under security, the Association will save approximately \$5,000 next year due to the recently approved security contract with The Budd Group.

The Yard Debris Site was singled out as an expense problem area.

"We are way over-spending
(See "SLLA," p. 16)



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Board approves Land Use Plan Vision Statement

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The Vision Statement for Moore County's 2012 Land Use Planning Steering Committee will be:

"Establish a consensus which uses the Community input process to develop a Land Use Plan which meets the needs of today's citizens and future generations, and acknowledges the diverse areas within the County. The Land Use Plan shall be User Friendly, Business Friendly, Concise and Reduce Regulations."

The Board of Commissioners approved the statement, prepared by Planning Director Debra Ensminger, during their Tuesday, March 7 regular meeting.

Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter, who will also chair the Steering Committee, told the Commissioners he is ready to get the process moving: "[I'm] appreciative of this moment to kick this off," he said. "I am ready to go to work."

VIPER Decision Tabled

After hearing a presentation from Assistant County Manager Ken Larking pertaining to VIPER funding, the Commissioners tabled the proposal until it can be reviewed by the Emergency System Advisory Committee [ESAC] at their Thursday, March 29 meeting.

The Board has held two special meetings aimed at finding a way that the County can defray the estimated \$5 million that new radios and other equipment will cost. The county has selected the VIPER system, developed and maintained by the State Highway Patrol, in order to meet a Federal Communication Commission requirement that emergency communications be migrated to a narrowband radio system.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Neil Godfrey told the Board that waiting for the ESAC review should not affect municipal budget planning.

Chairman Caddell said he

wants to make sure each municipality is getting what is needed. "Make sure it's fair to every everybody," said Caddell, "looking at necessities, and not the wants."

County Manager Cary McSwain told the Board that additional grant funding may be found to help pay for the transition. As additional grant money comes in, Larking said, it will be deducted from the overall cost of the project.

Road Work

The Commissioners approved a request by Planner Robert Farrell to close a 0.82 mile portion of Airport Road -- the remainder of the right-of-way left over when Airport Road and NC Highway 22 were realigned, creating the traffic circle near the Moore County Airport. This portion of the road is no longer paved, and all adjacent landowners have signed a petition in favor of the closure.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] notified Moore County in November 2011 that the road has been deleted from the state maintenance system. Once the road has been closed, the property will be deeded to the property owners adjacent to the road.

The Commissioners approved a petition to ask NCDOT to add a 0.205 mile section of Riverbend and Autumn Drives to the state maintenance system. The petition will now move forward to the NCDOT.

In other planning business, the Board voted to allow the County Manager and Community Development Planner, instead of the Commissioners Chairman, to sign documents related to Community Development Block Grants [CDBG]. In some instances it is more efficient and expedient to have multiple persons authorized to sign off on the

documents.

Public Works

The Board approved Solid Waste Division Manager Chad Beane's application for a \$100,000 NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant. The grant would pay for the construction of a recyclable materials transfer station.

The grant application requires a match of \$17,800 in local funds. Beane told the Board that he is asking the Village of Pinehurst to help meet the local match. If an agreement can't be reached between the Village and County -- the two largest contributors of recyclable material -- then the appli-

cation will be withdrawn.

Currently, recyclables are shipped out of the County to be processed. Beane said a local facility would "consolidate loads and save on freight."

Other Business

Other Business during the Commissioners' Tuesday, March 6 meeting included:

- Employee Service Awards were presented by Human Resources Director Denise Brook.

- The Board approved the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, as requested by Wendy Russell and Susan Holmes.

- The Commissioners accepted the Sandhills Center (See "Commissioners," p. 26)

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In memory of . . .

William F. Piela, 84, of Seven Lakes, died Thursday, March 1.

A Mass of the Resurrection was conducted on Thursday, March 8, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinehurst.

Mr. Piela was born in Syracuse, NY to the late Walter and Emily Pelc Piela. He served in the US Navy during W.W.II, and was one of the few remaining members of the Happy Hearts Club of Syracuse. He studied to become a Printing Pressman and was employed by the Syracuse University Press and the Post Standard newspaper before he and his family relocated to Rochester, NY, in 1962. He was then employed by the Gannett Company as a Printing Pressman for the Democrat and Chronicle for 28 years.

He and his wife Wava, retired to Seven Lakes where they have resided for 15 years.

He is survived by his wife

of 59 years, Wava Wheatley Piela of the home; two daughters, Susan Neumann of Seven Lakes and Dr. Diane Piela of Menifee, CA; two sisters, Charlotte Pryzbyl of Syracuse, NY and Dolores Hoyt of Georgetown, TX; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Russell-Marks Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Rockingham, NC assisted the family.

Eugene Edward Morgan, 81, of Seven Lakes, died Friday, March 9, at his home in Seven Lakes.

A funeral mass was held Tuesday, March 13, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. The Rev. Gregory Anatuanya officiated.

Mr. Morgan was born in Lyndhurst, NJ, to the late Edward Morgan and Anna Hill Morgan. He was a veteran of his country and served in the United States Army dur-

ing the Korean War. He retired after 30 years as Vice President of the fragrance division at Dragoco Inc., in Totowa, NJ.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Anna Graf and Katherine Greer; and his

brother, Robert Morgan.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-seven years, Patricia [Maguire] Morgan, of Seven Lakes; children, Kevin Morgan, of Hermosa Beach, CA; Michele Morgan, of Sparta, NJ; Deborah Morgan, of Verona, NJ; Paul Morgan, of

New York, NY; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions be made to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

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Spence seeks no increase in local funding

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The Moore County Board of Education School Board will request no increase in county funding for Fiscal Year 2013, if its members accept the recommendation of new Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence.

Spence advised the Moore County Board of Education during their Monday, March 12 meeting against requesting additional local funding for the coming year, instead seeking the same \$25 million the County provided for the current year.

"In times where the state revenues decreased, in times of recession, and in times where the Federal government felt it needed to step in — it is important for us to recognize and value the support of our Commissioners in providing us with level funding," explained Dr. Spence. "These have been difficult revenue times, and they have stepped up to the plate."

As proposed, the Superintendent's budget will meet three "top priorities" including: closing the achievement gap, focusing on literacy in K-12, and ensuring students are ready for the future.

Spence also recommended no further cuts in the number of MCS employees, whose ranks have been thinned by 170 positions over the past four years, due to state cut-backs in school funding.

Spence told the Board that he expects additional state cuts in the coming year, but those costs should not affect the number of school employees.

Among the changes that Spence is recommending for next year is the elimination of "combination classes" that put two grades into one classroom. He also proposes providing teacher assistants in every kindergarten and first grade classroom to help meet literacy goals.

And, while there is currently no funding available

for the effort, Spence asked the Board to consider creating a vision to incorporate more technology into the schools.

"This is not about computers for computers sake," he said. "Our students learn this way."

The proposed budget won praise from School Board members during Monday night's meeting.

"I think you listened to us and the community and you are right on target," said Dr. Lorna Clack.

Other items that Spence said he expects to address after additional research include: year-round schools, school start times, school safety, and support for the common core and essential standards.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the proposed MCS budget on Monday, April 2. The School Board will present the budget to the County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 17.

Career and College Promise

Board members were briefed on the Career and College Promise program by Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy and Dr. Eric Porter. The program allows MCS high school juniors and seniors to enroll in community college, tuition free, to gain college credits.

Students can use the program to earn up to 30 college credits before graduating from high school. Sandhills

Community College [SCC] is working with MCS on the dual enrollment initiative.

Currently, 105 students are enrolled in the program, which requires a 3.0 GPA. Six career paths currently available include: Civil Engineering, Collision and Refinishing, Criminal Justice, Digital Media Technology, Culinary Arts, and Emergency Medical Science.

For students whose plans include enrolling in a four-year college, SCC has the

following available: Business and Economics, Engineering and Mathematics, Humanities and Social Science, Life and Health Science.

More information regarding the Career and College Promise is available on the MCS website.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the School Board's Monday, March 12 meeting included:

(See "Schools," p. 9)

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Landowners ask about impact of UDO

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



A second set of notification letters regarding the proposed Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] drew a small crowd to the Moore County Planning Board meeting on Thursday, March 8.

However, few in the room accepted Chairman Robert Hayter's invitation to speak; instead, most simply nodded their heads in agreement that the information presented on rezoning changes in the proposed UDO had satisfied their concerns.

Developed and discussed at length over the last year, the UDO aims to is to unify the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and flood damage prevention ordinance into a single, user-friendly document, Hayter explained. As part of the revisions, approximately 249 properties will be rezoned into more established categories.

For example, the vast majority of rezoned properties, representing 178 of the parcels, will change from Rural Business to Neighborhood Business, with all current uses still permitted.

Other rezonings include 22 parcels changing from Rural Agricultural-30 to either RA-40 or RA-20, depending on size and location, and 23 Heavy Industrial and 22 Light Industrial parcels rezoned into a single category. Again, there will be no additional restrictions created as a result of these changes.

"We have tried to simplify and make these three ordinances into one user-friendly document that can be read and understood and will protect your property rights in doing so," Hayter said.

Public Comment

Westsider Phil Bare, a manager with Perdue Farms Inc., was among those in attendance who did address the

Planning Board, asking how the rezoning changes would affect height regulations on commercial structures and the ability of area farmers to add poultry houses to their properties.

Planner Tim Garner responded that the maximum structure height is fifty-six feet in the industrial district and that the ordinance does not regulate the type of livestock or agricultural business.

Noting that it would be constructive to learn more about the process necessary to construct new commercial poultry facilities, Bare accepted Hayter's request to meet with Planning staff at a later date.

Jeff Marcus asked how the

UDO would affect drinking water or wildlife habitat concerns, with Garner responding that there are no regulations added that would affect either of those issues.

"From a philosophical standpoint, our intent is, to the fullest extent possible, to comply with all existing regulations," Hayer explained. "It is not our intent to harm the land."

Chad Nelson asked if the revised UDO would make it any easier or any harder to expand an existing business. An owner of an automotive repair shop located near the

northern county line, Nelson said there had been a lot of confusion when he opened his business.

"One said one thing, and another one said something different," he said. "It was a headache."

Hayter apologized to Nelson for his previous experience with the Planning Department and said that, as long as his property meets the size and setback requirements of the ordinance, expansion of the business would not be a problem.

A local Moore County passer (See "Planning," p. 11)

Schools

(Continued from page 8)

- Board member Laura Lang presented West Pine Middle School teacher Becky Oldham with a Growing to Greatness Award.
- Lang also presented ten state athletic championship awards to students at both Union Pines and Pinecrest High School.
- The School Board will attend the National School Board Association meeting in Boston and will present the Growing to Greatness theme, reported Board member Bruce Cunningham.
- Principal Heather Seawell from Robbins Elementary was recognized in a "Superintendent's Salute" video by Dr. Spence.



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Call Ann Benton . . . \$59,000



102 Donnell Pt - Lot 4283, Seven Lakes
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111 Dubose Drive Seven Lakes West, Lot 5161 Westwood Sec
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124 Vanore Rd - Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West
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147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West - Lot 4173
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'Alice in Wonderland' Flower Show March 29-31

A fabulous Flower Show, the first of its kind in the area, is coming to the Weymouth Center.

"Alice In Wonderland" is the theme for the flower show presented by the North Carolina State Florist Association and Weymouth Center. Billed as a smaller version of the famous Philadelphia Flower Show, the event will bring together many highly qualified and respected floral designers from all over the state. A fun and educational weekend for all ages, the event will benefit Weymouth Center and the North Carolina State Florist Association and their accredited Floral School and educational design program.

Festivities will start off with a Preview party on Thursday, March 29, from 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm. There will be a preview of the Floral Displays along with Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and Musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased at Weymouth Center or Botanicals Flower Shop. The NCSFA Designer of the Year and Treadaway Cup Winner, plus many of the other designers, will be on hand for all to meet at the Preview.

Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31, the floral happening will be open to the public from 10 am until 4 pm. Exhibits both outside

in the gardens around the Boyd House, as well as in the house itself will be on display each day. At 1 pm on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 educational design programs will be presented in the Great Room of Weymouth's Boyd House.

The Friday and Saturday tickets, to "Alice In Wonderland" are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, also available at Weymouth Center and Botanicals. Weymouth Center is located at 555 E Connecticut Ave. and Botanicals at 155 E. Pennsylvania Ave. both in Southern Pines.

Call Carol Dowd at (910) 692-3800 for information.

SOS hosts Palustris events

Join Save Our Sandhills on Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm at Southern Pines Civic Club for a full day of activities.

9:30 am – 11 am: Wild North Carolina. Author Michael Schafale and nature photographer David Blevins will discuss their book *Wild North Carolina*, illuminating our state's natural communities and highlighting the reasons plant and animals are found where they are, with a special focus on the Sandhills.

11 am – 12:30 pm: "Eating Wild." Terry Sharpe, a wildlife biologist and forester, will describe the joys of reconnecting with a more natural way of life. Considering the great outdoors to be one big dinner plate, he will discuss favorites on his menu, provide guidelines on finding and preparing them, and bring samples to taste.

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm: Traditional bluegrass music by Joe and Abby and Friends. Refreshments will be served.

1:30 pm – 3 pm: Looking for Longleaf. Lawrence Earley, former editor of *Wildlife* in North Carolina magazine, and a writer and photogra-

pher, will discuss his book *Looking for Longleaf*, explaining how the longleaf pine ecosystem was exploited and the renewed commitment needed to help this biodiverse ecosystem thrive.

3 pm – 4:30 pm: "Photographing Nature." David Blevins, a nature photographer and forest ecologist, will describe how patterns

in landscapes help people to see familiar places in a new way and new places with a sense of familiarity.

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Traditional bluegrass music by Joe and Abby and Friends. Refreshments served.

Refreshments courtesy of The Fresh Market and Nature's Own, both of Southern Pines



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Edna and John Henrich cut their wedding cake in 1952.

Henrichs celebrate 60th

John Henrich and Edna Fessler Henrich, currently of Seven Lakes West, were married March 15, 1952 at Kenmore Baptist Church, Kenmore, NY. They spent their honeymoon in the Pinehurst area.

John was a golf professional at Elma Meadows Country Club in Elma, NY for over 30 years. He also opened his own golf store, called Woods to Wedges for retailing and golf club repair where his wife Edna also worked.

John taught golf club repair classes for the PGA in their apprentice program.

The Henrich's have two daughters and two grandsons.

Planning

(Continued from page 9)

tor also quizzed the Board if height restrictions in the revised UDO would restrict the addition of a steeple to his church facility.

Planner Tim Garner responded that steeples and antennas on a building are exempt and do not count when a building's overall height is determined.

Despite repeated invitations by Chairman Hayter for other residents in attendance to speak, there were no further public comments.

Hayter immediately offered

a similar invitation for any Board members to offer their thoughts.

Todd Williams described the UDO revision as a long process that included additional meetings and plenty of opportunity for public input.

"It is a finished document. It is a good document. It has taken out a lot of gray area, and we have made it more user-friendly for staff and the public," Williams said. "I would like to think that it will be in place for a number of years before it will need to be revised again."

A Public Hearing will be scheduled on April 5 before the UDO is recommended for final approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Other business

In other business during the Thursday, March 8 meet-

ing, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Unanimously approved a request by the Board of Education to amend an existing Conditional Use Permit at West Pine Middle School to allow for placement of an accessory structure near the baseball field.
- Heard from Planning Director Debra Ensminger that progress continues on revising the proposed Working Lands Protection Plan.
- Heard from Ensminger that the Land Use Plan Steering Committee membership has been finalized and the first meeting is scheduled for March 19. Planning Board Chairman Hayter will also oversee this group, and he invited his fellow Planning Board members to attend the meeting.

Welcome to Medicare Seminar

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program is offering a free "Welcome to Medicare" seminar for those who are turning 65.

This program will be held at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center on Tuesday, March 20 from 2 to 3:30 pm.

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Luck made Ed Stancik a Duke cheerleader

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Sometimes one little letter can change the course of your life.

At least, that was the case for longtime Southsider Ed Stancik, who recently attended a special reunion of cheer-

leaders at Duke University.

"Because my last name starts with the letter S, that is how I ended up at Duke," he explained.

But how he became a cheerleader for his alma mater is another story entirely.

It was back in high school in Indiana that Stancik first cheered. A natural athlete and accomplished gymnast, his favorite event was performing giant swings on the high bar. However, his career aspirations — like so many others at the time — were forever altered with the onset of World War II.

Stancik volunteered for the Marine Corps and was sent to boot camp on the West Coast, where he later applied for the V12 program in preparation for Officer Candidacy School.

"I was very lucky. I was picked," he said.

The V12 program was conducted in two-year stints at colleges and universities across the country — with students divided up depending on the first letter of their last name. Stancik, with the first letter of his name toward the latter part of the alphabet, was enrolled at Duke University.

As part of the military's rigorous physical program of strength testing, he first attracted the attention of his V12 instructors and was invited to teach gymnastics

and, shortly thereafter, he also caught the attention of the cheerleading coach.

The Duke cheerleading team consisted of four men

(See "Duke," p. 14)



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Seven Lakes Art Gallery and WEE team up

I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for.

— Georgia O'Keeffe

Talented local artists – both young and old – will be featured at three unique events this Spring.

On Thursday, March 22, an Open House event will be held at West End Elementary School. All classrooms will be open with student projects on display, including Art Teacher Caitlyn O'Brien's showcase of art featuring works from Kindergarten

through 5th graders.

Caitlyn O'Brien is also the featured artist for a new show, March 14 through mid-April, at The Gallery at Seven Lakes.

Later in the Spring, a Kids Art Show featuring both O'Brien and the creative works of many West End Elementary students will be on display at The Gallery, with two special Open House events scheduled for Friday, April 20 from 7 pm – 9 pm, and Saturday, April 21, from 10 am – 1 pm.

"We're very excited about working with Caitlyn for these

new art shows. The Gallery is part of our outreach to the community and in bringing the Kids Art Show here, we have the chance to expose the community to the talent of our young residents," said Paula Hill, publicity chair for St. Mary Magdalene.

"The arts in general are a way for not only adults, but especially for children to learn to express themselves."

The Gallery at Seven Lakes is located at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church building on Seven Lakes Drive and is open Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 pm to 4 pm.

Taste of the Town is March 26

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.

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.

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

Duke

(Continued from page 13)

and three women in 1943 and 1944, and Stancik introduced tumbling into the sport during his tenure.

In May 1945, he was commissioned and shipped to the Pacific Theatre.

"Fortunately, the War was ending when I got there," he told *The Times*. "Otherwise, I would not be sitting here talking to you."

He returned to Duke and completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees, in 1948 and 1949, respectively, and later was called back to active duty to serve during the Korean Conflict.

By the late 1970's he was working as a consultant when his son, who had a dual career as a minister and a builder, met the daughter of Seven Lakes developer, Fred Lawrence.

Glen Stancik settled in the area and built the Fitness Center, the first expansion to The Chapel in the Pines, and various other commercial and office buildings in Seven Lakes. By 1985, his parents joined him in the community.

"You could say we've been here since the beginning," Stancik said.

Sadly, Stancik lost his wife in 2007, but has found love again with Robin Tabor, a retired teacher and former resident of Seven Lakes West,

who was also widowed.

"She is an addicted bridge player: that's how we met," Stancik recalled. "And I took a quick shine to her. We have a lot in common. We both have Master's degrees from Duke; and we have a much loved and expansive family of children, and grandchil-

dren and great-grandchildren."

Reflecting on his healthy and active lifestyle, Tabor said what truly sets Stancik apart is his attitude.

"He is happy and upbeat all the time!" she exclaimed.

Stancik simply describes himself as lucky.

"I am a champion horse-shoe pitcher; an accomplished bowler; an average golfer; and, having been a gymnast, I maintain a pretty rigid exercise routine," he

said. "I'm at the point that I'm trying to maintain that level."



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Westside Work Session

(Continued from front page)

Infrastructure

Infrastructure Director John Goodman reported that he continues to move forward several projects, including work at Longleaf pond number 2, mapping out all the culverts on side roads throughout the community, installing a metal storage building, removing curbs at Lake Auman, and patching Longleaf Drive over the dam.

Two items that will have to wait until next year due to budget constraints include the repair of side road culverts and work on Longleaf pond number 3, which will require the installation of a spillway pipe due to "significant seepage," which has caused sink holes to form, and the second to repair culverts.

To date, half of the side-road culverts on side-roads have been mapped out, Goodman said. "Of those, two need to be replaced.

The remainder of the culverts will be mapped out and a price for repairs brought to the Board at a later date.

Noting the large number of infrastructure upgrades recently completed throughout the community, ARC Director Hoffmann told the Board, "We raised the dues significantly a couple of years ago, and one of the main reasons is we knew we had a crumbling infrastructure . . . I think it bears out that those increases were necessary . . . to keep the community safe, secure, and attractive."

Lake and Dam

Recounting a recent meeting with Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks, Lake and Dam Director Adam Wimberly reported that the "dam is in the best shape it's ever been in."

A recent surprise inspection by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] noted two minor issues, Wimberly said, including erosion at a sub-drain outlet and excessive embankment seepage—which proved to be only rain water.

Marks will be issuing a certificate of completion for the work done at the lower pond dam, Wimberly added.

In other Lake and Dam news, Secretary Jane Sessler asked Wimberly to address track marks from an ATV on the terraces of the dam which have caused damage to that area.

Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy said he has some leads on who is driving over the terraces—something that is prohibited, as is any use of ATV's on the roads in Seven Lakes.

Wimberly will pen a letter that will be sent to the Morris Drive and Bainbridge, area as well as to Morgan Wood, to gather additional information. Those responsible for the damages will be fined accordingly to recoup costs borne by the SLWLA.

Treasurer's Report

Cash disbursements for the month of February were \$367,400, reported Treasurer Don Friert. "Significant" disbursements for the month included: \$169,000 for the railroad crossing, \$42,000

to Hussey Construction for work on the Johnson Point boat slips, \$7,000 to Marks Enterprises for engineering services, and \$91,500 to Atkinson Infrastructure for work at the lower pond dam.

During February a CD was called by Harris Bank for \$100,000; the funds have been reinvested in a step-up program at Wells Fargo Bank, Friert reported. Another callable CD for \$100,000 has also been called as of the beginning of March and will be reinvested in a step-up program at Harris Bank.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the SLWLA on Tuesday, March 13 included:

- The Board unanimously approved revisions to Chapter 6 of the rules and regulations as first proposed by Sessler on behalf of the Amenities Committee on February 14.
- The Board approved the new variance process and application as first proposed on February 14 by ARC Director John Hoffmann.

(See "Westside," p. 16)



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\$229,000

105 DOUGLAS DR • 7LW



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

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LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT ~\$299,000

104 BIRCHWOOD • 7LN



UNDER CONTRACT!

\$125,000

123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW



AMAZING WATERFRONT ~ \$750,000

119 ANDREWS DR • LAKE AUMAN



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129 HARRELL RD • 7LW



3 BED + DEN, SPACIOUS, GREAT VIEWS! ~\$548,500

108 SMATHERS • 7LW



CLOSE TO MARINA! MANY UPGRADES! \$290,000

230 FINCH GATE • 7LW



GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! ~\$330,000

155 HASTINGS • 7LS



REDUCED!

GOLF FRONT, MINT CONDITION! ~\$219,000

110 DORSET DR • 7LS



STORAGE GALORE! ~\$172,000

221 LONGLEAF • 7LW



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

168 SIMMONS DR • LAKE AUMAN



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

120 FOREST SQ CIR • 7LW



315 FT. GOLF FRONT ~\$339,000

SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

our budget on that, for a variety of reasons," Meyer explained, "but we believe we are getting the best bang for our buck. We may need to recognize that it may take \$40,000 to get rid of [acceptable yard materials], but please do not throw construction debris or plastic there. It costs us huge amounts of money to get rid of it."

Under management expenses, Meyer noted this is the third year of the Talis Management Group contract, and the budget includes an anticipated \$5,000 increase per the original agreement.

However, with inflation up and homeowner's dues for operational expenses at a stagnant level since 2006 — that is, not including the

\$100 dues increase specifically reserved for road paving and state-mandated dam repairs — Meyer projected transferring approximately \$71,000 to reserves in FY 2014 versus this year's anticipated transfer of \$160,000.

"That is the bad news on this," he said.

Outsourcing questioned

"Are we paying too much dues or are we spending too much? And do we have a management system in place that can service the community?"

During public comment, Southsider William Lindsay quizzed the Board on these two questions and cast a skeptical eye at previous decision-making that moved the Association away from in-house management and

maintenance staffing in favor of outsourced contracts.

Reviewing the past few years, Lindsay noted the Community Manager was forced to resign, and given a payout of \$75,000 in consulting fees, in favor of a management company and an outsourced maintenance contract. Arguing that this decision placed Talis as the "middle man" and "the one that was making money," he recommended returning to an independent manager who would personally oversee an in-house administrative and maintenance staff.

"Let's get back our old management system that will give us a manager that will follow our direction," he said. "We need a system that works. I see work that needs to be done; and, the way we are

now, we don't have a system to do it."

SLLA President Bob Darr responded that there are various committees looking into many of the issues Lindsay raised.

"The Board before us made decisions and Boards to follow us will have to make decisions," Darr said. "But many of the things you brought up we are looking at. There are

(See "SLLA," p. 17)

Westside Work Session

(Continued from page 15)

- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31, reported Events Director Rosemary Weber.
- The Board approved the combination of lots 5224R and 5225R.
- Hoffmann reminded the Board that any structure not attached to a home is not permitted in Seven Lakes.
- The Board approved changes to the rules and regulations implementing

the new access policy proposed by McCarthy.

- As of May 1, Seven Lakes West will have a new security company, US Securities. McCarthy reminded residents that barcodes should be in place on their vehicles before May 1.
- During member comments, Dale Erickson encouraged fellow residents to go in to BB&T and thank them for helping out with funding for the RR crossing. "It was a good business decision for them," said Erikson,

"but it was a great display of community spirit."

- Erickson also asked that the American flag be brought into the downstairs meeting room, so that Board Work Sessions can begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.


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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 16)

a number of things you've said that I don't agree with and some other things that I do agree with. But, overall, one of the functions of the Board is finding the best solutions, and that is an ongoing process."

In particular, Darr thanked Lindsay for his input and encouraged the community to do likewise.

"We would like to hear from all of you," he said. "We may not always agree, but we want to hear input from the community."

Director Bud Shaver also responded to Lindsay's comments and offered some background into the past Board's deliberations.

"Did we make the right decision on the former Community Manager?" Shaver asked rhetorically. "Yes."

Recalling that he ran for the Board for the express purpose of removing previous manager Dalton Fulcher, from his position and to improve the maintenance department, Shaver said the consulting fee was offered to avoid an age-discrimination lawsuit.

Regarding maintenance decisions, Shaver said he was opposed to outsourcing, but said he is pleased that several former Association employees are working for Davenport Landscaping and, in his opinion, are better off now.

In response to Lindsay's concern about finances, Shaver said the Association has not had a dues increase used to pay operational expenses since 2006.

"You are still paying what you paid then for the same services," Shaver explained. "The Board has done everything we can to cut down costs. Many things you said are true, but other things need clarification."

Lot combination policy

Codifying a long-held but never formally established policy, the Board unanimously approved language that would clearly define the criteria and procedures for combining residential lots. The

policy also clarifies how dues will be assessed if a property owner opts to un-combine those lots at some future date.

"Essentially this policy is what has been historically known around here, but not written down," explained Treasurer Meyer.

Owners of lots that were previously approved for combination but have never been properly recorded with Moore County will be given a grace period to complete that transaction. Failure to do so within the ninety-day grace period will result in dues being assessed for the second lot.

Election & Annual Meeting

The SLLA Annual Meeting and election of the Board of Directors will be held Sunday, March 25 at 3:00 pm, at West End Elementary. All landowners are encouraged to attend and also to vote in the upcoming Board election.

"When people vote it shows that they care about what is going on around here," said Darr.

The meeting has been revised slightly, with Directors providing summary reports and heavy emphasis placed on volunteer recognition.

"This has been a great year of people volunteering to help us do what we need to do

on this Board and working in committees," Darr said. "We want the Annual Meeting to be a chance to thank all of these folks."

Finance

The goal of the SLLA Finance Committee is to improve some area of Association finances each month, and. SLLA Treasurer Meyer reported, the panel has made significant progress on a wide variety of issues.

On annual billing procedures, he said, the team dis-

covered a software glitch that prevented them from preprinting all of the desired information on the registration form, which will require property owners to fill in some data by hand.

The Finance Committee is also finalizing a few tasks associated with the recently completed annual audit; and Meyer reported that a new auditing firm has been hired for next year — at a lower fee.

"Now that the budget has (See "See SLLA," p. 20)

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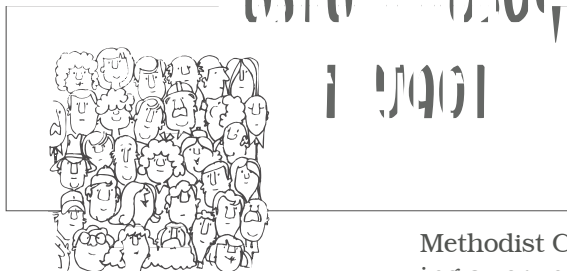
FRIDAY, MARCH 16

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, \$10 (all inclusive). Herb Baked chicken, roasted potatoes, & vegetable. Pre-ordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable available for \$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 seating tickets for the show \$7 each, purchased at West Pine Middle School lobby before and after normal school hours March 12-16. Proceeds to fund West Pine Middle School Chorus, Drum, and Theater programs.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

- **St. Patrick's Day**
- **West End Elementary Golf Tournament** – at Seven Lakes Country Club. Lunch at noon; 1:30 pm shotgun start. Format: Captains Choice. Cost \$75 per person includes cart, greens fee, lunch. Register as individual or as team of 4. Great prizes, food, and fun! Contact Lori Copper 639-7273 or Cristy Hunt 783-7995 to register.
- **SCC Art in the Gardens** – Sculptures by artists from North Carolina will be displayed in the beautiful garden setting of Sandhills Horticultural Gardens of Sandhills Community College. Sculptures will be for sale. Exhibit on display through May 26.
- **St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party & Silent Auction** – 6 pm to 8 pm. At Our Lady of the Americas Roman Catholic Church, 298 Farmers Market Road, Candor. Advance Ticket Sales Only (no tickets at the door). Traditional Irish dinner fare. \$15 per ticket, (Take outs available). Irish music, photo tour of Ireland, Irish trivia and Silent Auction. 910-974-3051 or 910-673-6208.
- **"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 seating \$7 each, purchased at the West Pine Middle School lobby before and after normal school hours March 12-16.



- **Little Roy Lewis & Lizzie Long** – 7 pm, in concert at the James Garner Center, 210 Burnette Street, Troy. They received the 2010 GMA Dove Awards Bluegrass Song of the Year with "When we fly." Tickets: 704-985-6987 or jbranch205@windstream.net for \$20 reserved, \$15 at Door. Presented by West Montgomery Lions Club.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 2 pm, Annual Meeting. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.
- **Artifacts from Blackbeard's ship on exhibit** – A case exhibit of artifacts from the wreck Queen Anne's Revenge (QAR), (www.qaronline.org) Blackbeard's flagship, will be on display at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex from now through May 31. Admission is free. 910-486-1330 museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

- **Dr. Mary Walker: The Little Lady in Pants** – at 2 pm, What was it like to be the only female doctor in the Union Army? Find out when Dr. Matt Farina presents Dr. Mary Walker: Admission is free. Please call 910-486-1330 museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

- **Luminaria Service** – 4 pm, at West End United

Methodist Church is hosting a very special community wide service. A luminaria service to lift up all friends, neighbors, family and coworkers who have battled any form of cancer. Service will involve testimonies of survivors, prayer, special music and lighting of a candle in celebration of our survivors and in honor of those whose struggle is over.

- **Congregational Church of Pinehurst UCC** – 7 pm, documentary film - "Hot Coffee" examines the true story behind the McDonald's coffee court case and an examination of tort reform in general. Film is free of charge and everyone is welcome 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 19

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **End Of Life Planning** – 4 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel

in the Pines. Come listen to speaker Jennifer Garner, Attorney with Garner and Hayes, PLLC, Pinehurst. 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. Fran Stark Minister of Outreach Services 673-5493.

- **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 20

- **Spring Begins**
- **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** – lunch meeting. 'What and why do we need to Learn about Privatization?' Reagan D. Parsons, the Southern Pines Manager, and David R. White, Assistant Town Manager, will discuss what services that Southern Pines chose to contract out to private providers. At Table on the Green Restaurant, inside Midland Country Club, 2205 Midland Road, Southern Pines. Check-in 11:30 am, meet-

ing at 11:45 am. Open to the public. Meal catered, reservation required. Charlotte Gallagher. 910-944-9611. Cost is \$12; a check payable to LWVMC is the preferred payment.

- **Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program** – 2 to 3:30 pm, is offering a free "Welcome to Medicare" seminar for those who are turning 65. Program will be held at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. 910-215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Hwy. 15-501, Pinehurst.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

- **2012 Kelly Cup Championship** – presented by Sandhills Children's Center, Pinehurst Resort and Outback Steakhouse. At Pinehurst No. 8. Entry fee \$200 per player or \$1,000 for a team of 4 and a Hole Sponsorship. Teresa Copper 910-692-3323 www.SandhillsChildrensCenter.org
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Alternative Investments** – 3 to 4 pm, at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Financial Advisors Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon of Raymond James and Associates will explain investment options

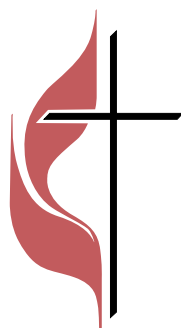
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- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Dr. Solomon to Present Stroke 101, Causes, Prevention and Treatment** – 5 to 6 pm, Pinehurst neurologist Bruce Solomon, DO, will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to discuss the types of strokes, the symptoms, the causes, risk factors, and treatments. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Peggy Seeger* in concert tonight. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, \$10 (all inclusive) Pepper Steak over rice, salad, rolls & dessert. Pre-ordered Lenten special of Fish, potatoes & vegetable available for \$15 Food, games & socializing.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Brother Sun* 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, 673-3838.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 3 pm, Annual Meeting. Seven West End Elementary School. Open to all landowners.
- **Weymouth Woods Old Growth Hike** – 3 pm, Meet At Weymouth Woods Visitor Center, (Car pool 4 miles to the Boyd Tract). Park ranger will lead the hike to the worlds oldest known Longleaf Pine tree. Bring water, bug spray, and wear comfortable shoes. Call 910-692-2167 for more information.
- **Congregational Church of Pinehurst UCC** – 7 pm, documentary film - "I Am" deals with a noted filmmaker as he searches for personal answers to the overwhelming questions, "What's wrong with the world?" and "How can we fix it?" The discussion centers on the idea of competition vs. cooperation. Interviews with Bishop Tutu, medical professionals and psychologists, the writings of Darwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Emerson, St. Francis, and the Dalai Lama, Free of charge and everyone welcome. Pinehurst Congregational Church, 895 Linden Road, across from Elliott's. Information, (910) 295-2243 or John Arnold, (910) 295-2456 jarno@nc.rr.com

MONDAY, MARCH 26

- **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.
- **Taste Of The Town** – 5 to 7 pm, Women of Seven Lakes host their annual "Taste of the Town" in the Crawford Center, at West End Presbyterian Church.

Tickets \$20 each, available from Ginger Finney at 673-1330 and Sandhills Winery on Seven Lakes Drive. All proceeds will benefit West End Methodist Food Pantry and Friend to Friend.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting, 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Invasive Plants in the Sandhills: Join Tracy Rush from the Sandhills Weed Management Area in a discussion about her work in the Sandhills of North Carolina. Visitors Welcome! Call 910-692-2167 for more information or at www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

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

Seven Lakes.

- **Who was Russell Sage?** – 3:30 pm, Civil War buff Matt Farina will be at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center to tell this a fascinating, fun and little known story of this man. Call 910-215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **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 29

- **AARP Driver Safety Class** – 10 am to 3 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center by AARP instructor Bruce Robson. Fee is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non members. Call 910-215-0900 to register. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Hwy 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** –

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

- **"Why Do I Hurt All Over?"** – 4 pm, Karen Backall, PT, with Appalachian Physical Therapy will explain body mechanics at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. 910-215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Hwy 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, *Rhone Valley Wines*. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, \$10 (all inclusive). Chicken & Spinach alfredo pasta casserole, salad, rolls & dessert. Pre-ordered Lenten for \$15. Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

- **Seven Lakes West Easter Egg Hunt Hop** – at Seven Lakes West Community Center. 9am Children must be accompanied by an adult. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for pictures, hugs and handshakes. Admission: Free.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 17)

been completed, we will turn much of our attention to looking for ways to reduce our costs," said Meyer. "If anyone has any ideas, please contact me, [Community Manager] Alina [Cochran], or one of the other Finance Committee members."

Also addressing financial issues, Cochran said the current budget is on target with the exception of two weeks of security services charges for January that will be reflected in the February financial statement, as well as some extra supply expenditures under Maintenance that are related to work at the boat storage area.

Surplus auction

A pick-up truck, a sailboat, and several boat trailers are among the list of surplus items being auctioned by the Association.

All items may be viewed at the Yard Debris Site in Seven Lakes North and are being

sold "as is." Bids must be received by April 2, offers should be mailed to SLLA, Attention Alina Cochran, 501 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

Sequoia Island bulkhead

Reiterating the unanimous recommendation of the Lakes & Dams Committee that the the entire bulkhead at Sequoia Island should be repaired, Director Don Fentzloff requested the Board's blessing on the project.

In previous discussions, questions have been raised over the anticipated costs for the work, with some suggesting that repairs were only needed at specific areas on the bulkhead. However, Fentzloff has consistently maintained that the entire bulkhead should be replaced — and sooner rather than later.

"We took a close look and determined that the area that looks good is in pretty bad shape," he said. "There has been quite a bit more damage

that is apparent from just four months ago [when bulkhead inspected previously]. The Lakes & Dams opinion is the whole thing should be repaired."

SLLA President Darr agreed with his assessment.

"A month ago, I said I don't think we should replace the whole thing, Darr said. "When we went out and inspected it, I was amazed. Quite frankly, I had to change my opinion."

Darr noted that planks are bowing out from the island and anticipated that, within a short period of time, the bulkhead would fail entirely.

"It will be gone, and we'll start to lose the island," Darr said. "The rest of it [bulkhead] is going and it is going quickly."

Responding to questions about the value of the island, Fentzloff noted it was heavily used in the Summer by recreational boaters, and Darr

said the island and its light-house were, historically, a signature landmark frequently included in marketing materials for the community.

Darr also said the bulkhead discussion was a good example of how capital expenditure decisions will be handled in the future.

"One of the things we have been talking about is that a committee's recommendation will come before LRP," Darr explained. "They will have a discussion and come to the Board with their recommendation. We'll see how that goes."

Lakes and Dams

All of the pumps that are being used to evenly distribute water between the various community lakes are operational, reported Fentzloff. In addition, boards to gauge exact lake levels have been installed.

"From that figure, we will

be able to calculate how many hours or days we'll need to pump to bring the level back up," he explained, though he noted that lakes with a fire department pick-up line have a predetermined minimum level that must be maintained.

In addition, water testing will be conducted on each lake to establish base line numbers for oxygen saturation, e coli, chemical analysis, clarity, and temperature. The frequency of the tests will vary according to the type of test and need.

Community Standards

As of the end of March, there are fifty outstanding cases under review by the Community Standards Committee, reported Director Bob Racine.

"We are trying to clean up some past cases, and we are getting some resistance from [chronic] violators," he said.

(See "SLLA," p. 21)



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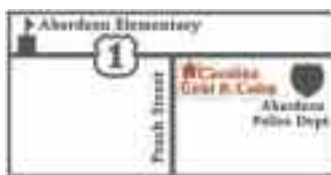
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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 20)

"When we bring an issue to their attention, they are getting unfriendly, but we will continue to enforce standards as best we can to make this community as best we can — without being persnickety."

Recreation

With only a handful of active committee volunteers and a poorly attended Town Hall meeting held in February to discuss events and programming, Director Racine described the current state of the Recreation Committee as disgusting.

"Nobody wants to help," he said. "We are discussing major activities planned for the coming year, and we need volunteers to make it happen. If people don't want to get involved, we won't be able to have the activities."

The Recreation Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am. All interested residents are invited to participate. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to volunteer for activities, please contact Bob Racine.

The annual Easter Egg

Hunt and party will be held Saturday, April 7. Volunteers are needed to help stuff candy eggs on Thursday, April 5 at the SLLA offices, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and also to assist with games and refreshments from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Architectural Review

The Architectural Review Board approved three new roof projects, a concrete walkway, two screened-in porches, and a two-story room addition, reported Director Fentzlauff. The committee also denied one application.

"We are considering some changes in regards to rules on pumping sewage from one property to a remote location to make it a little stricter and also more readily visible [in the rules book]," he said.

Reserve Study

With three new candidates joining the Board of Directors in March, Director Shaver requested the outgoing members should turn over their copies of the Reserve Study.

"They will then have the same report as the rest of the Board when they take office," he said. "I have done

all that I can."

Looking ahead, he recommended the areas of roadway identified for fatigue and tree root damage may need more than one contractor to accomplish the work.

"What is important is we need to know what the contractor will use to replace what he digs up and make sure it meets the standards we're going to need," Shaver explained.

Security

GPS tracking devices are now installed at various locations throughout the community — including the mailhouses, debris site, and Northside Clubhouse — and will be used to log the rounds of roving security patrols.

"Instead of just a written report, we now have a means to know that they have looked at an area," Director Andy Lowe explained.

In other security discussions, Lowe reported there was an issue with the DVR recording device but the motion-sensitive camera is now back in operation at the Yard Debris Site.

Northsider Les Sommers questioned the Board about

reciprocal gate access Seven Lakes West, and Darr responded that the issue would be discussed at the upcoming March Work Session.

Other business

In other business on Wednesday, February 29, the SLLA Board:

- Approved the use of Lake Echo for the 2012 NC Open Water Swim, to be held June 1-2.
- Heard a report from Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. that grounds are being well-maintained by Davenport Landscaping. Keyser said the addition of a half-time employee to the maintenance department will help out tremendously.
- Heard a recommendation from Director Shaver for the LRP to investigate the

previous Board's suggestion to relocate the swimming beach at Sequoia Point to the opposite side, a location which would provide a safer recreation area and additional space for an expanded marina. In a related discussion, it was suggested that the horseshoe pits should also be located further away from the beach areas.

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This is war, people!

Is your head screwed on straight?

I'm not always convinced about my own. But ninety-nine percent of the time I could probably say with some measure of sort-of kind-of-pretty-darn-sure assurance that I would lean towards a "Yes" answer here.

It's the meager one or two percent that misses the mark that worries me.

That was this week.

My head was spinning, and I don't mean in a good way.

Stuck staggering around like a tipsy drunkard or simply holed up in my bedroom dazed and confused for days on end, my malady goes by a single ominous name: ver-

tigo.

More precisely it is known as peripheral vertigo; but, no matter what you call it, this



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

is bad juju and symptomatic of a massive, secretive plot of epic proportions.

It's true. I know for a fact that those blooming trees and those conniving bees have conspired to control our minds and gain world dom-

ination.

The X-Files were way ahead of their time, I see that now. They just got the alien DNA part wrong.

It's not little green men from another planet that we need to worry about. It's those little

green spiky balls of pollen in our yard that are the real villains.

Forget weapons of mass destruction or anything with the word "improvised" attached to it, what we're talking about here is pure

biological warfare. That gorgeous profusion of blossoms in your yard is a poker hand in disguise and — trust me — Mother Nature controls the chips, and she just went all in.

And how do we defend ourselves against this malevolent opponent?

Pills are the answer. And, at least in my case, a prescription nasal spray.

I am not alone.

Hundreds of thousands of my fellow Americans are spending millions of dollars to share this hazy cloud of medicated relief. Benadryl, allavert, hydroxyzine, ceterizine, meclizine — plus a few more 'zines — are our battle

shields and armor.

But it hardly matters. The trees and bees are still winning.

As fast as we can unwrap and swallow a pill, Mother Nature unleashes a billion more spores into the atmosphere.

Soon the landscape will be coated in that sticky, yellow pine soot, and her victory will be complete: world domination.

Though, usually, we just call it "Spring."

And, yes, my head is screwed on straight. Again. I think.

Can we heal the division in Seven Lakes?

Question: My wife and I have been considering a move to Seven Lakes in the next year or two. We have been reading *The Seven Lakes Times* and enjoy your column. We believe that if we do make the move, we will enjoy worshipping at the Chapel in the Pines. Recently, we have become concerned about what appears to be a division between Seven Lakes West and the rest of the community. Can you enlighten

us and advise us on this?

Response: Many of us throughout all three areas of Seven Lakes (North, South and West) share your concern. We believe that growing tension and distrust discourages good people like you from moving here and actually deflates property values in all parts of the community.

The problem appears to be twofold. Apparently, there is a small group of Seven Lakes

West citizens who want to stop the free-flow of visitors between the areas.

Consequently, they are establishing regulations that will make it more difficult for people from the North and

South sides to get through the West side gates, unless they are especially invited and cleared by a Westside resident who will sponsor the visitor and assume responsibility for the visitor's behavior while on the property. Regular visitors may purchase a barcode if they are sponsored and their good behavior is guaranteed.

Human nature being what it is, this has caused members of the land owners' board on the North/South side to consider retaliation by instituting similar regulations.

All of this is driving a wedge between the two boards and subsequently creating bad

feelings in the entire community.

The Chapel in the Pines strives to serve the entire



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

community, with members and congregants living in every section. Easy egress and communication is crucial for our ministries of pastoral care and outreach. The same is true for other churches whose ministers live in one of the Seven Lakes communities.

Incorporation of all three communities and the business area into one town has been floated as an idea, without much positive response. The rising cost of roads and infrastructure in all areas and the prospect of claiming \$2 million a year in sales tax and fee revenues may hasten the reconsideration of this

possibility. But, since effective incorporation would require opening up all the roads, it would take a small miracle to bring it about at this time.

In my past life, I was also a registered mediator, and I have seen mediation bring people together to resolve what appeared to be irresolvable problems. I propose that the two landowners' boards or their authorized representatives sit down with a mediator, air their concerns and reach a solution that will heal any past wounds and reunite the Seven Lakes community.

If we do not do this, I fear that property values will continue to fall and the dream of a strong and united Seven Lakes will fade into fear and oblivion.

I do hope and pray that you will decide to come and help us unite.

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

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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West Side's dues 'parity' unfair to lot owners

Dear Editor:

This is a letter sent to Seven Lakes West Landowners Association President Mick Herdrich.

Dear Mr. Herdrich:

My wife and I have been following with interest the debate regarding the intent to equalize lot assessments between vacant lots and those with homes constructed on them. This letter shall serve to place our objection to the proposal on the record.

We purchased our first lot in Seven Lakes West in April, 1980 and purchased an adjacent lot in the 1990's. Our intention was to eventually retire to Seven Lakes and build a home on one of the lots. We have watched (often with dismay) as the community as promised when we first purchased our lot evolved from one unified entity to two separate and distinct neighborhoods divided by

the highway. It certainly is not the same concept which first attracted our attention and caused us to recommend Seven Lakes to a number of our friends who moved there over the years.

Several times after we purchased our lots we paid special assessments for road paving and other work as developers came and went and we did so without question since those items clearly improved the community as a whole and increased the value of our land. Between the two lots we have paid close to 50 years worth of monthly assessments, but have used the roads in Seven Lakes West perhaps two dozen times and have never had the opportunity to use any of the non-infrastructure services enjoyed by homeowners. Yet, we are now being asked to pay the same amount in monthly assessments as those who drive

the roads everyday, use Johnson Point, West Side Park, recreation activities, and security gates on a regular basis.

In a recent issue of *The Times*, the statement was made that vacant lots should be built up and it is not unusual for communities to require owners to build within two years. Had this been the rule when we purchased our first lot there never would have been a West Side as it took many more than two years for the dam to be constructed, the lake filled, and the roads completed. Frankly, if you conducted a survey I'm quite certain that the majority of owners would

agree that having some vacant lots spread throughout the community actually makes it a nicer place to live than having a home on every single lot.

We recognize that those who own lots without homes have become the minority. It is unfortunate that those who are now in the majority (or at least those in control of the Board) seem to have decided that it is now time to pass off some of the costs of their full time enjoyment of Seven Lakes West to others who are not able to enjoy those same benefits at this time, but have willingly paid a fair portion of the community costs over the years.

If you are honestly concerned because the governing documents do not provide for a bifurcated dues structure despite more than 30 years of use of such a structure, then we suggest you propose an amendment to the governing documents to be voted upon by the membership. Such a bifurcated structure is not at all unusual in a community such as Seven Lakes West and such a change would not be the first time the governing documents were revised.

Very truly yours,
John C. Phillips
Seven Lakes West
Lot Owner
Berkeley Heights, NJ

Thanks to good friends

Dear Friends:

A dictionary definition of the word "friend" does not come close to identifying the Seven Lakes residents who came forward to support me and my family since the passing of our loved one.

There was a continual supply of food for the family and even medical help from a neighbor enabling me to recover from a "bug" so that I could attend the Memorial Service. An attempt was

made by family members present to keep a list of all of you who brought food.

However, I know that it is incomplete, and so I am taking this way of contacting all of you who have been so kind and thoughtful. Your cards, phone calls, food contributions, and prayers were so appreciated.

Thank you,
Shirley Jaeger
Seven Lakes South

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Strokes 101 at the Senior Center

On Thursday, March 22 from 5 to 6 pm, Pinehurst neurologist Bruce Solomon, DO, will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to discuss the types of strokes, the symptoms, the causes, risk factors, and treatments.

Dr. Solomon is fellowship trained in neuro-rehabilitation and for 17 years has been the director of the Inpatient Rehabilitation Center at FirstHealth Moore

Regional Hospital. Pinehurst Neurology also directs the stroke program at Moore Regional Hospital where doctors work aggressively with patients to prevent a second stroke after the first one has occurred.

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

ary, the lease on the short-term rental had expired.

As approved, the new ordinance offers more substantial guidance for property owners who opt to rent their home. Specifically, the ordinance limits the total number of unrelated individuals that may occupy a home; place a 120-day restriction on the total number of days, per year, that a home can be rented on a short-term basis by non-family groups; and restricts long-term rentals to those satisfying the new definition of "family."

A complete copy of the revised ordinance is available at the Foxfire Village office and will be posted on the community website.

Long Range Planning

With the newly-approved Long Range Plan [LRP] in hand, the Long Range Planning Committee is actively forming additional subcommittees to develop and implement plans to meet stated objectives, reported McCue.

"For example, looking at some of the objectives for the first year, we have a group looking at water supply and water lines, and another group looking at developing a public relations strategy," he explained.

Councilman Steve Durham said members of the LRP Committee are enthused and have a good grasp on what is required to move forward.

"This will be an effective planning tool," he said.

In a related discussion on planning, McCue said he is

also concerned about the Village's outdated Land Use Plan.

"This was originally adopted in 1980. I am concerned the plan is too old and not doing what we need it to do," he said, noting the law requires any municipal planning to be consistent with the adopted Land Use Plan.

Commercial solicitation

A lengthy discussion over a proposed commercial solicitation ordinance resulted in a chaotic series of motions during Tuesday's meeting; however, in the end, the Council unanimously approved a new ordinance regulating door-to-door solicitors.

As approved, commercial solicitors must have a permit issued by Foxfire Village and are restricted to daylight hours — specifically, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm or not later than fifteen minutes after sunset, whichever is later. In addition, as part of the permitting process, solicitors will undergo a brief background check to be performed by Foxfire Police Chief Mike Campbell.

The new ordinance will not infringe on student, youth group, or church-related soliciting, as non-profit organizations are exempt from these requirements.

During discussion, Council members asked whether the Village would have any liability if a background check were conducted and a permit approved, but later the solicitor caused problems.

Chief Campbell cautioned

the Council and residents that a soliciting permit should not offer a false sense of security.

"I am limited to certain information in the database system," Campbell explained. "I am not allowed to do a full background check, unless a person is arrested or we are hiring them. If people see the permit, they will think we must have checked to make sure it is a viable business. We can't guarantee anything; but, at least, I feel we have done our part to run our own checks to make sure they are okay."

Upon Frusco's recommendation, the Council also unanimously approved a \$25 fee to obtain the commercial solicitation permit.

Finance

Ninety-eight percent of budgeted Ad Valorem taxes have been collected, and diligent effort is ongoing to continue the collection process, reported Finance Director Leslie Frusco.

The Council also unanimously approved a \$1,200 budget amendment from the contingency fund to purchase necessary materials for a drop ceiling at the Foxfire Fire station. Labor for the project will be provided by West End Fire Rescue members, who expect that the new lowered ceiling height in the living quarters area will reduce energy consumption.

Water

Councilman Durham reiterated that, if a private well


is requested and approved by permit, the house will be disconnected from the Foxfire Water Department, since North Carolina law specifically prohibits any cross-connection between private and publicly-regulated water.

Speaking to *The Times* following the meeting, he further clarified that a backflow prevention device will be required for all homes with an irrigation system that utilizes the Village water supply. The ban on private wells is still enforced, except where otherwise permitted by North Carolina law, Durham report-

ed. He added that he supports steps taken by former Director Ed Lauer to draft an exemption that would allow irrigation wells in the equestrian zoned district. A proposed amendment will be reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Committee before it is brought back to the Council for approval.

Also during the water report, the Council unanimously approved a \$2,300 write-off in unpaid water bills for Foxfire Resort & Golf Club, covering May 2010 to May 2011, when the club was

(See "Foxfire," p. 25)



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 24)

undergoing bankruptcy proceedings.

Durham and Frusco agreed that pursuing the debt legally would incur more cost than could be retrieved.

Public Safety

The Council unanimously approved the new Senior Touch Program, which was developed by the Foxfire Police Department to assist elderly residents, and those living alone. West End Fire Rescue personnel have also volunteered to assist with the program.

Foxfire residents who enroll in the program, which is targeted to those who are elderly or live alone, can expect a monthly visit from a uniformed police officer, who will help ensure their emergency information and medical card for first responders is up-to-date; conduct a home safety and security survey; and provide information on available social services. For more information, please contact Foxfire Police at 295-5959.

Finance Director Frusco commended Chief Campbell and the department for developing the Senior Touch Program. "We are a unique community and, as such, our residents have some unique requirements," she said.

As a reminder linked to Daylight Savings Time, McCue recommended residents check or replace the batteries in their smoke detectors and review their fire insurance policy. Foxfire Village is classified as Category 6 for fire protection.

Streets

A proposed contract for street sign and post replacement work drew concern from Frusco and was ultimately tabled for further discussion at the upcoming budget work session. At issue was a \$7,842 low bid by Sandhills Sign to perform replacement work.

The project itself stems from a federally-mandated program of replacing old or insufficient signs to meet new standards.

Councilman John Eltschlager explained the proposed contract included both new signs and posts, which he felt was more cost-effective than reusing the posts.

"It is the most economical way to do it," he said. "If they have to come in and cut the bolts off the post, there may be rust. Also we do not know the condition of the post below ground."

Another advantage of new posts is they would be a uniform material — an eight foot wooden post — and would allow all signs to be installed at the same height.

Mayor Erickson made the motion to table approval of the contract for additional discussion at the work session.

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, March 13, the Foxfire Village Council:

- Recognized 2nd Lt. Robert Hoyle Upchurch for his heroism and service. A

World War II pilot killed in action, his remains were returned to Moore County in 2005, and a delegation from China will join local officials on April 7 to dedicate a memorial to honor him.

- Unanimously approved several changes to the fee schedule. Frusco explained that fee levels are determined by the actual costs to the Village. Specifically discussed was a change to zoning request fees to allow for pass-through costs of any legal expenses associated with the request.

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Water

(Continued from front page)

Short Term: More Wells, or Purchased Water?

In the short term, the quickest and cheapest options are drilling more wells or bringing more water from Harnett County to a pump station on NC Highway 73 - which would supply the Seven Lakes area.

Gould pegged the cost of seven new wells and related infrastructure at \$5.1 million. Bringing more water from

Harnett County will require \$1.5 million in infrastructure upgrades. By contrast, tapping into Robbins' Bear Creek reservoir is expected to cost nearly \$15 million.

The cost differential seemed to persuade Commissioner Tim Lea that wells and-or Harnett County water might be the best short-term option.

"There's absolutely no way I am going to indebt the rate payer in this County at a cost of three times what it

would cost to go and buy a million gallons a day," said Lea.

However, Chairman Larry Caddell expressed doubts about relying on more wells for the County's water needs.

"One of the things we talked about all along is being diverse," Caddell said. "My problem with all the wells is if you put all your eggs in one basket. It's cheaper, it would be cheaper on the people, but is it the smartest thing to do?"

"Sometimes the cheapest option ain't the best way to go," said Chairman Caddell. "I am looking for a long-term solution -- not the cheapest."

Commissioner Nick Picerno agreed: "My vision -- and I have said it from day one -- we need multiple sources of water."

Gould explained that user rates would increase from \$7 to \$12 per month to pay for any combination of the three projects presented. The current average water and sewer bill (for customers who have sewer) is \$53.51 per month, Gould said.

Buying Water from Harnett

Under current agreements, the County can simply purchase up to one million gallons per day in additional water from Harnett County, though using that water will require some upgrades to the County's system. The extra water could be pumped to a booster pump station on NC Highway 73 to service the Seven Lakes area, Gould

explained.

Currently, almost all of Seven Lakes' water is delivered through a water main that runs along NC Highway 211 from Pinehurst, passing through a booster station near West Pine Middle School. A new NC Highway 73 line would bring water to Seven Lakes from two directions.

"All the developments that we think are going to take place are between Seven Lakes and Pinehurst," Gould said, explaining the rationale for supplying additional capacity in that section of the County.

The idea of using Harnett County water as the short-term solution seemed to appeal to Commissioners Jimmy Melton, Craig Kennedy, and Tim Lea.

Robbins in the long term

Longer term, the Commis-

sioners appeared to favor working out a water deal with Robbins, since it would provide an in-County source for water -- and could fuel economic growth in northern Moore County. According to Gould, it would likely take five years to get the Robbins options up and running, at a ten-year cost of nearly \$15 million. The thirty-year project of adding a water intake on the Deep River would add another \$15 million to the total cost.

"Any investments we make in the northern end of the County, I think we will see growth -- be it businesses, be it residential developments popping up," said Commissioner Kennedy, "So you need to weigh that in the factor. So you spend money, but you're going to increase property values, increase invest-

(See "Water," p. 27)

Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)

Quarterly Fiscal Report as presented by Carrie Neal.

- At the request of Planning Director Ensminger, the Commissioners directed planning to offer to increase the watershed area allocated to each of the County's municipalities, based on their growth since the initial watershed allocations in 1993.

- The Board approved a request by Tommy Kennedy of Sheffield Township, which includes the Town of Robbins, to place on the May 8 Primary ballot a Township ABC Referendum to permit the "off-premises" sale of malt beverages. Holding a separate election on the matter was estimated to cost \$6,000, making adding it to the primary ballot a more economical choice. "If the people don't want, it they won't vote for it," said Chairman Caddell.

- Commissioners have agreed to entertain an offer from Taylortown to purchase the former Academy Heights Elementary School. Commissioner Lea asked that the town be allowed to obtain the building "at no cost" due to the historical value it has for the town and the fact that it might possibly be used for their government offices. Demolishing the building would cost the County an estimated to cost \$150,000.

- At the request of the State Highway Patrol, The Board approved the dedication of Craines Creek Bridge on US Highway 1 in memory

of Patrolman H.A. Hight, who died in the line of duty on May 31, 1962.

- Chairman Caddell and Vice Chairman Jimmy Melton are scheduled to meet with the Moore County Airport Authority to discuss the transfer of twenty acres near the airport to the Authority, to determine whether the property should be deeded to the County.

Appointments

- The Board approved the removal of Kay Thomas from the Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board due to lack of attendance and replaced her with Teri Williams to fulfill the remainder of the term which expires in June 2013.

- The Board approved the reappointment of Hampton Williams to the Emergency Services Advisory Committee [ESAC] for a three year term expiring February 2015.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

"Should we demand that residents purchase them?" Darr asked. "If so, should we charge for them? Or should we give them to residents? We need to come up with a plan to handle it."

Director Bud Shaver agreed that gate access was an important issue but suggested the discussion should be continued by the incoming Board of Directors, following the Annual Meeting.

"Regardless of what Seven Lakes West does, we need to look at what is best for our own community," Shaver said. "I agree with Bob, we need to decide what needs to be done, so we can straighten out some of this stuff that is loose."

Directors Don Fentzlauff and Bruce Keyser, Jr. both spoke in favor of a policy that would require barcodes for members.

"I see a significant cost savings if we go to barcode only

and getting rid of window stickers," Keyser said. "Plus the barcodes give us more ability to track who is coming in and out."

He also recommended that SLLA should adopt the West-side policy of having administrative office staff physically attach the barcodes to the corresponding vehicles, so there is no possibility of misuse.

Turning to visitor access for meetings and clubs, Director Bob Racine suggested that gate security maintain a roster for each club, which was the procedure at a Florida gated community in which he previously lived.

"They kept lists," Racine said. "That would narrow down the number of names [called in] and save time at the gate."

SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer suggested the Board should table the discussion in favor of allowing the new Security Director and his committee to make a recommendation.

"We should not be creating

policy in a Work Session," Meyer said. "This kind of discussion and recommendation should come from the committee level."

Darr agreed with Meyer, but said he did not want to keep kicking the issue down the road.

"We need to start making some well-thought out positions as it relates to this stuff," he said

Lot combination requests

Several property owners recently submitted requests for lot combination approval, reported Darr.

Most included all necessary paperwork, but one request drew particular interest because the lot has already been combined once before.

"They are now requesting to add a third lot, and our new policy does not allow that," Darr said.

SLLA Treasurer Meyer recommended the lot combination should be approved because the required survey was dated to December 2011.

"It is clear to me this activity

was going on well before we put this policy in place," Meyer said. "It's not like they put this in progress in the last two weeks. It is the fair thing to allow this one."

Responding to Darr's assertion that the new policy does not allow multiple lot combinations, Meyer suggested that a revision to the language of the policy may need to be added to clarify that point. He also suggested adding language that lot combinations will only be approved for SLLA members in good standing.

"The new policy just says the lots must be contiguous or adjacent," he explained.

Community Manager Alina Cochran agreed that combinations should be limited to no more than two contiguous lots, and said it was her understanding the new policy included that restriction.

Meyer reminded the Board that, during a recent lot audit, he discovered several lot com-

binations that were approved in the past but the deed was never registered in Carthage. Owners of such combined lots will be notified and given a grace period to finalize the action; failure to do so will result in the second lot being billed for annual dues.

However, Board candidate Dave Buckingham asked whether combined lots should be assessed a higher dues rate, noting that such action decreases anticipated revenue.

"Doesn't the tax rate go up for the larger lot? So shouldn't we be charging more dues?" he asked.

Director Andy Lowe responded that dues are not based on the tax rate or the property value. Both Treasurer Meyer and President Darr agreed with Buckingham's point about losing revenue.

"We have wrestled with that, but based upon what

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

Water

(Continued from page 26)

ment and capital in the County, so those factors have to weigh in also."

Picerno asked the Board to not be "short sighted" when looking at a possible deal with Robbins.

"Robbins needs some help and they are in Moore County," said Picerno, "If some of this is developed, how will that affect the total economics of Moore County?"

"If you want the water, none of these options are going to be free," explained Picerno, "What we need to do -- hopefully as a Board -- is take the time to explore further with Robbins how we might integrate their system into our system -- how we may come up with some creative ways to pay for it in a different way."

The Board made no formal decision during Tuesday's special meeting, but did express the intention to hold talks with Robbins on water issues.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)

we've done historically, how do you change it?" Darr asked.

Sequoia Island bulkhead

Director Don Fentzlauff reported that three bids have been received to replace the bulkhead at Lake Sequoia island, including one bid that included the option to replace the cabling system that secures the bulkhead — though at an additional cost.

Fentzlauff explained that the current cable is not a single piece, but a series of sections with turnbuckles that can be tightened and adjusted as needed.

"It would be an additional amount of money," he said, "but, in the overall picture, we need to keep in mind that the cost of bulk cable is considerably less."

The total length of the bulkhead is over 500 feet, which is the tipping point for a reduction in price on bulk cable. In addition, the cost of cable varies based on whether it is galvanized or stainless steel.

Fentzlauff anticipated the project would take two to three weeks to complete and recommended approving the project now, so the work would be complete before the Summer boating season.

However, President Darr said, while the work itself is necessary, he disagrees with making any hurried decisions involving capital projects.

"We have to put the issue in front of LRP and we will do that," Darr said. "The issue is whether or not that group agrees that we need to do it now, and how it will fit into the discussion of overall expenditures. We don't need to slam dunk this thing in a fast fashion . . . there is still time to get this decision before the LRP."

Notification to landlords of rental dues policy

Property owners of rental houses will be notified in writing of the newly approved policy of charging \$100 in annual rental fees.

Director Bud Shaver recommended that the notice

should include a reminder to landlords that renters' use of amenities is not an automatic right.

"That is a decision the rental owner has to make — and whether or not they want to charge additional for that," said Shaver.

The \$100 renter fee is strictly an administrative fee, it has nothing to do with amenities, he clarified.

The Board discussed how to control access if both the landlord and the renter have membership cards, including a suggestion by Dave Buckingham to issue a differently colored pass for renters, but Darr emphasized that restricting access to one or the other would be very difficult to enforce.

"It has been brought up as a problem," Darr said, "but I think we're making a hell of a big issue out of something that isn't a big issue."

S&ME paving contract

Trying to stay on track with already approved paving work, the Board called a Special Open Meeting immediately following the Work Session to approve a \$5,500 contract to S&ME for expanded engineering work.

Specifically, the contract includes marking those pavement areas already identified as fatigued or with tree root issues and providing specifications for a cement mixture to the underlying subsoil at those locations before any overlay work is done.

"Yes, these are the priority areas, but they didn't define the concrete mix in the [original] contract," explained Director Shaver. "That is what this does. We need to make sure we understand what they will replace those soils with. It is a clarification, because we didn't want to leave that decision up to the contractor but, instead, we tell them what we want there."

Director Lowe spoke in favor of the additional work.

"This is a pay me now or pay me later," he said. "If we put blacktop over poor soil, then we will just have to go back later and redo the work."

When the contract was called for a vote, Racine opposed the motion, stating he was in favor of the contract but did not agree with the procedure of calling a Special Open Meeting to approve the request.

Other business

In other business on Monday, March 12, the SLLA Board:

- Discussed a new ADA regulation that may require the Association to install handicap lifts at Northside Pool — at an estimated cost of \$11,000. At issue is whether the lifts are only required if the facility is used for competitive swim meets, which Racine noted is currently being

researched. However, Meyer noted the lifts may be necessary, regardless of the swim meet question, if a handicapped resident requests or needs such access.

- Learned that Assistant Community Manager Stephanie Cook will be

revamping the SLLA website. Darr said a committee will be formed to assist her in developing the project.

- Heard from Northsider Peg Anderson a request to install signs on each of the community dams reminding pet owners to clean up after their dogs.

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

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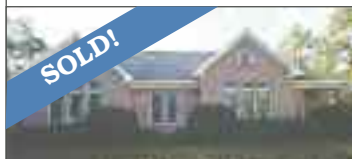
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