

Teaming up for safety



The Seven Lakes Lions Club has teamed up with Seven Lakes EMS, to provide fifty free reflective address markers for Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and West End area homes. Lion Rick Rizzo and EMS Chief Eddie Thomas encourage residents who need a sign to visit the EMS building on Seven Lakes Drive on sign-up day, March 21. See story on page 21 for details.

Passing banned on Longleaf Drive

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



New double striping on Longleaf Drive — and a rules revision — will eliminate the possibility of drivers passing to get around slower vehicles on Seven Lakes West's main thoroughfare. Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman explained during the Thursday, February 26 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] board meeting that recent road striping included placing a double line all the way around Longleaf.

Pierman also asked the Board to approve a rules change that would eliminate

from current Rule 3.3.2 the phrase "or passing another vehicle in an unsafe manner," to make clear that passing will no longer be allowed under any circumstance on Longleaf.

"Our old rules allowed you to go ahead and pass," Pierman said. "It's a double now. You are not allowed to pass The state laws say the enforcement will occur the same as on public roads." The NC General Assembly approved a local bill in 2001 that made state highway laws applicable on the streets of Seven Lakes West.

The Board unanimously approved the recommended rules revision on first reading; (See "Westside," p. 27)

Concept High School

Helping students explore their future

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



For folks old enough to remember the term, "vocational school" leaps to mind when thinking about Moore County's proposed "concept high school."

And it will be that: a place where students who may not be college bound can get a head start on a career by earning certifications that qualify them as, for example, certified nursing assistants or veterinary technicians.

But it's clearly much more than that, as Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy explained to *The Times* during a public input session on the new school

held at Pinecrest High School on Monday night, February 23. Additional input sessions are scheduled for March 10 at Union Pines and March 16 at North Moore.

Multiple careers, multiple jobs

"One of the things that the research tells us is that kids will have multiple careers, multiple jobs," Kennedy told *The Times*, when asked whether it makes sense to set sixteen year-olds on a career path.

"As we think about the multiple opportunities that they may have, we want them — in high school — to begin to start exploring those different careers. And they

(See "Concept," p. 25)

Fence fix fails in tie vote

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



After months of sometimes heated debate and political maneuvering that led to the resigna-

tion of one director, a plan to replace the split-rail and electric fence that surrounds the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] horse pasture failed to win the approval of the Board of Directors dur-

ing the Monday, March 2 Open Meeting.

The \$42,000 project would have replaced the entire existing fence with a non-electrified, round post, round rail wooden fence.

The motion to approve the project split the Board three-to-three, and therefore failed to pass. President Bob Racine, along with Directors Steve Ritter and Mary Farley, voted against the proposal; Chuck Leach, Sandy Sackmann, and David Hill voted in favor.

The SLLA Board has operated one member short of its full seven-member complement since the resignation of Bill Hirsch in October.

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

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Foxfire Village tax rate may have to rise

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Foxfire Village may have to raise the property tax rate next year, just to stay even.

Moore County's state-mandated revaluation of property is expected to reduce the overall value of Foxfire Village real estate by one or two percent, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco explained during the Council's Thursday, February 26 Work Session.

If the tax base declines, the tax rate will have to increase in order to generate the same amount of revenue,

she said. Property taxes are the single largest source of Village revenues, accounting for just under half of this year's \$1.1 million total.

Frusco said twelve new homes constructed in the Village in the last year will add about \$3 million to the tax base. Without the revaluation, the Council could have expected about \$554,000 in property tax revenues.

With the revaluation, they can expect about \$540,000.

"One cent would make up this difference and more," Frusco said.

Foxfire's current tax rate is 35 cents per hundred dollars of valuation. One cent on the tax rate produces roughly \$15,000 in additional tax revenue for the Village. A one cent increase in the tax rate would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home \$20

more per year.

"A one cent increase is negligible," Frusco said.

She noted that other municipalities are talking about keeping the tax rate "revenue neutral" in the wake of the revaluation — that is, changing the tax rate in such a way that the municipality's revenues remain unchanged from the previous year.

"Depending on how the valuations affect every other municipality," she said, "I don't think we are going to be the only ones having this discussion about how we may have to raise the tax rate. But, in reality, if everyone's property values went down, they are going to be paying the equivalent of what they were paying before."

"That's not going to work out one hundred percent for everybody," she added, "because different properties

are going to have different adjustments to them."

Zoning in Grande Pines

Planning & Zoning Committee Chair Mary Gilroy briefed the Council on options for zoning twenty-one parcels in the Grande Pines subdivision that were annexed by the Village in September. The existing zoning on the parcels automatically expired ninety days after the annexation.

Gilroy explained that most of the parcels are approximately 2.5 acres in size, and developer Pete Mace has set that acreage as the minimum

lot size he will use when subdividing any of the larger parcels.

She recommended creating a new zoning district — Rural Residential — to reflect the larger lot size, as compared to the typical one-acre residential lot in the core village. The bulk of the Village core is zoned RS-40, which, Gilroy explained, limits landowners to a single outbuilding no greater than 250 square feet in size. She said that may be too restrictive for a much larger parcel, whose owners might want a larger outbuilding.

(See "Foxfire," p. 23)

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

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Proposal could raise Seven Lakes fire taxes

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Seven Lakerers could see a significant increase in their fire tax rate, if a plan to unify Moore County's sixteen separate fire tax districts is approved by the county's Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners set the process in motion during their regular Tuesday, March 3 meeting, calling for a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 21 on the proposal to create a countywide fire service district. If the district is created, the Commissioners would then create a single fire tax rate that would apply to all unincorporated areas of the County.

Incorporated towns and villages handle their own fire protection, sometimes by creating a municipal fire department, as is the case for Pinehurst, and sometimes contracting with a neighboring fire district, as is the case with the Village of Foxfire and West End Fire and Rescue.

If the plan moves forward,

Commissioner Nick Picerno told *The Times*, a unified fire tax rate would likely be in the range of 7.2 or 7.3 cents per hundred dollars of valuation. Currently, those who live in the Seven Lakes Fire District — which includes all of Seven Lakes North and South and half of Seven Lakes West — pay the lowest fire tax rate in the county, at 4.0 cents per hundred.

In other words, someone who owns a \$200,000 home in Seven Lakes would now pay \$80 per year in fire taxes. If that rate were raised to 7.2 cents, the homeowners would pay \$144 — an increase of 80 percent.

"We think it is a more fair way of doing it," Commissioner Nick Picerno told *The Times* after the meeting. "Because if you are in Seven Lakes and need fire protection service, it's not just the Seven Lakes Fire Department responding."

In fact, fires anywhere in the unincorporated areas of Moore County — particularly a major structure fire — often bring units from several neighboring districts. Units from Seven Lakes, West End,

Eagle Springs, and possibly even further away could be expected to respond to a fire in Seven Lakes.

"We think it is a good idea — but it may not be," Picerno said, adding that he was very interested in having the public weigh in on the issue, including responding to telephone calls and emails from citizens.

The fire tax rates for the districts surrounding Seven Lakes vary, but are closer to the projected countywide rate. The West End fire tax rate is 6.9 cents; Eagle Springs is 7.5 cents, Eastwood is seven cents. The highest rate in the county is 11.1 cents, in the Crains Creek Fire District.

"I'm not sure how many people comprehend that we have all these different rates," Picerno said during the meeting.

"We are trying to simplify. Right now, to a call in Seven Lakes, we would have four departments responding. The taxpayer is paying the Seven Lakes rate, but is getting a coordinated Moore County response."

Though the fire tax rate

paid by those in the Seven Lakes Fire District is bound to rise under the singled-district, single-tax-rate plan there's one additional complexity that could blunt the impact of that rate hike.

A revaluation of the County's real estate is underway by the tax department, and, in many cases, property values may have actually gone down since the last revaluation, eight years ago.

Lower values, even when combined with a higher rate, could mean that the actual dollar amount paid in property and fire taxes, for some Seven Lakerers, will not change all that much.

Building County reserves

Also during their Tuesday, March 3 meeting, the Commissioners transferred \$7,615,944 in excess fund balance into capital reserve funds. The County's financial policy limits the amount of undesignated fund balance — the county's regular savings account, so to speak — to no more than fifteen percent of annual expenditures. The excess is transferred into capital funds for use in major projects, for example, building a new jail or new schools.

Based on a previous funding formula worked out between the County and Sandhills Community College,

(See "Commissioners," p. 23)

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Joy Smith – Bringing together a changing

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Joy Smith's recent move to Seven Lakes is really a return to her North Carolina roots.

Smith told *The Times* that she and her twin sister, Penney, attended Moore County's Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School before their father's job transfer took them to Charlotte, where they attended high school.

As they both considered retirement, "we talked about where's the nicest place to raise children." Penney had adopted two young girls, now aged 8 and 12.

They thought of returning to North Carolina. With an aunt and uncle already living in Seven Lakes, the community was a natural choice. Home shopping online from California, they found a lake-front home on Cardinal. Penney passed away last year; Smith, with the help of her family, is raising her nieces.

Talking about the first time she entered her Seven Lakes home, even with its circa 1970s, worn, green carpet, Smith said, "I looked out that window, and I thought, 'I've moved to heaven' . . . It's more than we could have asked for. It just meets every single need."

Smith told *The Times* that

she has never held an elected office; she is relying on experience gained in her twenty years on the police force of Los Angeles — many spent in community policing, interacting with community groups.

Living for the first time in a gated community, Smith said she appreciates the way that neighbors look out for each other. "The neighbors know when to say 'Can we help?' and when to just wave and keep going."

Helping the community gel

Given her background in law enforcement, Smith said the easiest Board assignment for her might be Security or

Judicial.

"But where I am most comfortable might not be the best job for me," she added. "The one where I feel I might most learn from might be the best spot for me."

"I might be more interested in recreational things —

because I've never seen a barn dance out here, one where we could start with maybe a four o'clock start so the little, little kids could dance, and then six to eight for the big kids, and eight to ten for the adults and teenagers. There's things here that I know we could do that would gel this community. I think Recreation would be a great adventure. I would love that.

Another option might be finance. "I'm pretty strict on finances," Smith said. "I don't like to overspend. I'm frugal and I like to know where everything is going — so that it benefits everyone."

"If we're going to spend money on a bocce ball court, then we need to have bocce ball lessons for the younger



Joy Smith

(Continued on page 5)

The Times interviews SLLA Board Candidates

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Six candidates are seeking a seat on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association

Board of Directors, in an election that will be concluded at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 22.

The names of Lawton Baker, Mark Gyure, David Hill, Greg Lishawa, Bob Racine, and Joy Smith appear on ballots that were mailed

the week of March 2.

Four directors — a majority of the Board — will be chosen in the balloting. Seats currently held by Hill, Racine, and Steve Ritter are in contention, as well as a currently empty slot.

The Times interviewed each of the candidates in person, with the exception of Hill, with whom we were unable to arrange an interview.

These informal conversations ranged widely over issues of current interest to the Association, including

how to weigh aesthetics versus cost in infrastructure projects, how changing demographics are affecting the association, and whether the Board should look beyond the gates to the wider community.

You'll find reports on each of those conversations in the pages that follow.

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community, while holding down costs

(Continued from page 4)

kids. Because there's kids that have no idea what bocce ball is . . . These are things that we could do to gel this community."

Smith said the value of an amenity is not always just what you see on the surface. "Everybody drives by and says, 'Oh look at the horses aren't they pretty.' But no. Those horses are used. Think about the 12, 13, 14 year olds — those are tough ages — and they go to the stables and find something that they love, a place they can volunteer. Those horses are so much more a benefit than a takeaway."

Looking for stability

The changing demographics of Seven Lakes presents an opportunity, but also suggests caution on the financial front, Smith said.

"There is an imbalance on the North Side right now," she explained. "We have older folks who are moving on to other situations, and we have plenty of houses that are for sale or are rentals. We are not bringing in the money on the North Side to be stable."

"We have put money into aesthetics things when we really need to look at this entire thing again and matrix exactly what we are spending," Smith said.

"I respect the fact that the pool is thirty years old. But can we not wait on the repairs to the pool until we are stable on the North Side before we spend that kind of money? I don't know who was thinking about putting grass around the pool, but putting grass around the pool is put-

ting grass in the pool."

"The horse pasture fence is a safety issue," she said. "We need to put the money in safety issues to keep the lawsuits down and keep the horses safe."

The costs of outsourcing

"I find it completely inappropriate to outsource our maintenance," Smith said. "It would be better to hire from the inside and pay salary and benefits than to hire an outside company from Raleigh that sees Seven Lakes as an extension of Pinehurst and thinks we are rolling in the money."

"The outsourcing of a lot of things we do here is too much money. I would rather have a group of men and

women that are hired here for specific duties."

"What I'd love to see in terms of security — I don't know one single security person here," she said. "I know they are very nice and they wave when I pass through the gate. But I've never had a security person drive by my house, never had one stop and say 'Hey, you're new here. Here's what we do and what we can't do.' I've never been contacted."

"Because we do outsource it, who knows what they do?" she asked "Exactly what kind of manpower do we pay for? Who knows what their job description is? Who knows who's here?"

"And the same goes for the marine patrol on the big lake,"

she added. "If we are paying that kind of money, I want to know who you are, what time you are here, and who you yelled at to slow down . . . If you polled one hundred people in here, they would not know the name of one security person and what their job title is."

"Maybe we do need to create our own security here, with a security supervisor that's fully in charge."

"We outsource this, and we outsource this, and we outsource this, and now we have to pay for it."

Maintaining the spirit of Seven Lakes

"For me, to keep it going, the love and the family that you feel here, I just want to keep it going," Smith said. "It starts at the gate and you feel it all the way in here."

"And, if there are other people who feel the same way that I do — and I know there are — then we will be fine. This community will be fine."

"There is a lot of growth, and a lot of linking, and a lot of acceptance of each other that is happening right now. And it's nice to see."

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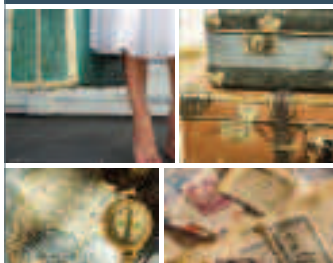
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Bob Racine – Controlling spending and

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Bob Racine, who currently serves as President of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, fits the definition of what used to be called, in East Coast retiree circles, a “halfback.” The New Hampshire native retired to Florida, lived there for fifteen years, and then moved halfway back to settle in North Carolina.

Racine told *The Times* his move halfway back came when his daughter, a physician, bought a home in McLendon Hills. In Seven Lakes North, “We’re close, but not too close,” he said.

The tall pine trees, the lakes, and the small town feel remind Racine of Bristol, NH, where he had a law practice and served as the town moderator for ten years.

In classic New England governance, the town moderator’s job is to preside over a town hall meeting that can bring together hundreds of residents intent on sharing their views.

“You listen to people. You hear their point of view,” Racine explained. “You try to find a common thread that can bring people together.”

Insisting on transparency, encouraging input

Racine has carried that experience into moderating meetings of the SLLA. When he first ran for the Board four years ago, transparency and community input were key issues, he explained.

“We weren’t allowed to ask questions, make statements. The Board’s attitude was ‘We’re here; don’t bother us.’”

“Now people are encouraged to speak at the Open Session and the Work Session,” Racine said. “That ran into a lot of resistance, including some resistance from management.”

“I was told: ‘You get a small minority who show up at meetings to speak and they don’t necessarily represent the whole community.’ But at least they are there voicing their opinion!”

“I was elected to represent everybody,” Racine said. “I’m going to present or let them present their side of the story.”

Excessive spending

One of Racine’s key concerns is “excessive spending,” which he believes is driven by a desire to turn Seven Lakes into a “showplace community,” rather than a com-

fortable neighborhood of middle class retirees and working families.

“My wife and I did not move here because we want to have a showplace community,” Racine said. “We want to feel comfortable — like home. This is our home. We don’t want to feel like we have to put on airs to go to the pool. We weren’t brought up that way. And most of the people

who moved here weren’t brought up that way.”

“We hear: ‘That’s what will get people to move here.’ But that’s not what convinced most of the people who are here to move here. They moved to Seven Lakes.”

“Let’s keep Seven Lakes, Seven Lakes.”

Carrying that philosophy into specifics, Racine points to a plan for refurbishing the

pool and pool deck, first floated last February, that was projected to cost \$200,000. It resurfaced in October, Racine said, as something supposedly approved by the Board, even though it had never been discussed or voted on.

“I will fight that,” Racine said.

(Continued on page 7)



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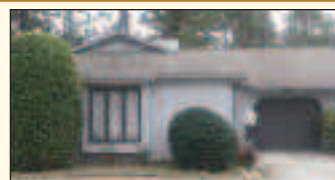
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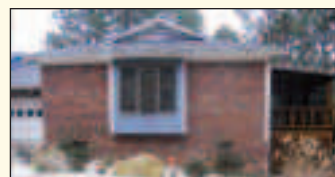
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(Continued from page 6)

Functioning committees

Another campaign promise that Racine and his fellow candidates made four years ago was to reestablish the SLLA's committee structure, which had been largely vitiated by pervious boards.

That has been done, but Racine said the work is not complete.

"There needs to be more cooperation among committees," he told *The Times*. "Committees have to be functioning more — and they have to be more of an advisory nature."

"Let's say you have something that needs input from three different committees," Racine said. "I want the input from each of those committees to come back to the Board — not of all of that input to be funneled back to the Board through one committee — so that the Board can then decide."

"The committees are there to give input to the Board," he explained. "You have seven people on the Board. Let's say you have ten people on each of three committees. You have input from 25 or thirty more people — and then they get into the community. This is where you get your feedback — not just from one committee."

"This is one thing that I will fight for," Racine said of ensuring that committees are included and their recommendations are heard. "You will see it now in the meetings. Every item that comes up, I have a list of committees. Has it gone to this committee? Has it gone to that committee. If not, it goes back."

Involving families

Racine said it is important to involve young families in

community affairs — but added that those families need to make an effort to become involved, as well.

"We have to attempt to involve them," he said. "We hear that 'You meet at night, when we're involved with the family.' But that's one night a month."

"It would be good if they could get involved in a committee. Committees meet during the day, but some would be willing to adjust their schedule to get new people involved."

"The young families include also renters," Racine said. "We should not exclude them. They have ideas. Maybe if we involve them, there would be fewer problems."

"If parents want something for the kids to do, the need to get involved in organizing it. Put a notice up, get a

group together some evening. We did that for the swim team a couple of years ago."

"Bocce is a good example. Les Sommers pushed the idea. He got together a group, started it, pushed it. Now it's taking off. Why can't younger people do that?"

"Why can't Jim and Mary



Bob Racine



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and Susie get together and say, 'We need this for our kids?' Why not get together to discuss it?"

"Put a notice up. I will work with any group to help broadcast it. Get a small group together. Small groups becomes bigger. That's how you get the Board's attention."

"We are not going to get young families involved by standing up and saying 'We need to involve younger people in our activities!' We're not going to draw them in just by talking about it."

"The question is: 'What do kids want?' Not 'What do adults want? What does the Board want? What does man-

agement want that's going to cost thousands and thousands of dollars and look beautiful?' They are kids. They don't need a Cadillac. They can use — I'll show my age — a Ford Falcon."

"If it takes off, then we can spend more money. If bocce had failed, what would we have spent? 1,600 bucks."

Representing everyone

"People know me," Racine said. "I will try to represent everybody, no matter who they are or what their thoughts are."

"I will represent them, to make sure they have a voice. That's the major thing. To make sure they have a voice."

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Greg Lishawa – Planning & keeping up the

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Greg Lishawa has a thirty-year history with Seven Lakes, having first visited the area as a guest of John and Sandy Sackmann when Sandy's mother was building a home in the community. It was that same house that Lishawa purchased in 2006. "We fell in love with everything that Seven Lakes has to offer," he told *The Times*. "A lot of places don't have near the amenities that we have."

"We both play a lot of golf, and we wanted to live on the lake," Lishawa said. "A friend of mine came down, and he described this best: 'You guys are on vacation all year round — and you never have to leave your house!' I don't know of a better place."

At home in Security

Lishawa hasn't previously held elected office, but, during his career in law enforcement, he served as a union representative, negotiating contracts and representing officers who had disciplinary problems.

Given his background, it's not surprising that Lishawa feels he could best serve the community as Security Director. He told *The Times* that he has served on the Security Committee, which is made up of retired police officers,

for several years. Director Steve Ritter, who currently heads that committee, is leaving the Board in March.

"People need to realize that our security officers are not police officers," Lishawa said. "People will call security when they really need a police officer."

"We have a terrific rapport with the Moore County Sheriff's department," he said, noting the recent appointment of Deputy Forrest Kirk as the community policing

officer for the Seven Lakes-West End area. "He's going to enforce the traffic laws. He's going to do his job."

Keeping the place up

Lishawa said he believes aesthetics is an important consideration when updating Seven Lakes' aging infrastructure.

"It's important to keep the aesthetics up here. If we have a strong master plan that keeps the community looking good, then we will continue

to bring people in."

During the recent debate over the best approach to replacing the pasture fence, Lishawa contacted his own veterinarian — an equine

expert — and found the vet was not in favor of electro-braid fencing.

"We need to build the strongest and best fence we could build," he said. "I am glad the board is headed in that direction. Do I like spending \$45,000? No."

"But the way I look at it is that there was never a master plan, thirty years ago. The last three or four Boards have gotten stuck with fixing things. And I know that there is still a long list of things that need to be fixed, but a lot of them are not as expensive as, say, the pool our the fences for the pasture."

"Once everything is done," Lishawa said, "if a master plan is put in place that we,

(Continued on page 9)



Greg Lishawa

Paint for the Pantry

West End United Methodist Church will be hosting a "Paint for the Pantry" event on Saturday, March 14, from 2 pm - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Come out to the fundraiser. Proceeds benefit WEUMC Food Pantry.

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refreshments with your friends. Participants go home with a completed painting. Cost to attend is \$35 per person (includes supplies and light refreshments).

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aesthetics to attract new home buyers

(Continued from page 8)

say, start looking at roofs . . . do everything so that, in fifteen years, maybe you have one roof that's bad. At eighteen years, you have another roof that's bad — so that you're not getting hit with all the expenses at one time."

"The whole thing is balancing it. I remember reading in the paper about Moore County. They said they are in the 'need' mode, not the 'want' mode. I think we are in the 'need' mode. We can handle a few wants, but we need to fix what we have and maintain it — especially our lakes and dams."

"It's all a balancing act," Lishawa said. "We have to figure out what is important to the community and the Board has to decide how to get things done. My big thing is financial responsibility. All my life, I don't buy something until I have the money to

pay for it."

"Financially, I think we are okay — not super okay, but able to balance things. Once these other things get fixed, that strain will be off."

Getting information out and people involved

Lishawa said that he was talking with another Seven Lakes resident a couple of years ago, when the conversation turned to the horses and Seven Lakes stables.

"It turned out, she didn't know the horses were ours!" he said.

"Are we not doing a good enough job getting the information out there? We need people to get the word out: How we have these wonderful amenities. There's card clubs, there's water aerobics, there are a lot of things for people to do."

"I don't want to hear 'My kids have nothing to do.' Get

involved with the swimming or the stables or the basketball courts. There's plenty of things to do out there. It's a matter of getting the kids involved."

"I think we need to do more to get the message out about what a wonderful place Seven Lakes is, and try to do more to attract more people."

"We are going through a change with more families in here. We have to accommodate that, but we also have to accommodate the older people. We have to find a balance. But people have to come forward and say 'This is what I think.' Why aren't their more people at the meetings — or are they happy with everything?"

"As a Board Member, I would welcome anybody's ideas, suggestions, and help. If I don't know the answer, then I will say I don't and go out and dig for the answer."

That's what I did as a detective."

"It's our community. We

have to keep everything up and all work together."

Methodist Spaghetti Supper

The West End United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Supper on Friday, March 20, from 5 – 7 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$8 each and include salad, spaghetti, desert and a drink. Takeout is also available.

Tickets can be purchased from anyone in the United Methodist Men's Group or at the door. Proceeds support local Scout Troops.



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Mark Gyure – Planning & taking the bias

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Connecticut native Mark Gyure found several things to like about Seven Lakes when he retired from a career with the US Air Force that took him all over the United States.

An avid golfer, he was naturally attracted to the Sandhills, with its large number of courses.

The climate suited him. "It's not the warmest place in the nation, but it's not the coldest," he told *The Times*.

The fiscal climate suited him — "As retired military, you're exempt from paying tax on your retirement" — as did the political climate: "The state seemed more friendly, more in line with the Constitution and protecting some of the freedoms we have."

Though he hasn't held elected office, Gyure served on a number of councils promotions board, rules and regulations boards, and was even "tasked to provide some input to folks on the Hill" during his military career. He served as a deacon for his church in Maryland and was recently named deacon at his family's current church near Carthage.

Professionally, he said, "as facilities manager or chief of ops, part of your responsibility is housing, so I am not unfamiliar with the pains

and anguish that [Community Manager] Ray [Sohl] and the Board face here.

Applying discipline to spending decisions

Given that background, Gyure said he felt the Architectural Review Board or Facilities would be good fits, if he is elected. He currently serves on the finance committee and noted his business degree included a minor in finance.

"As chief of ops, you deal with millions of taxpayer dollars, Gyure said. "I'm not afraid of numbers, budget, crunching things."

Gyure said he likes how Director Chuck Leach is currently handling Facilities, "Identifying and bringing long range plans to the table, to give people a peek at the future."

He believes Board decision making about facilities and amenities could be well-served by incorporating some of the civil engineering disciplines that were common practice in military decision making and serve to "take the bias out of the consideration."

Essentially, he said, the Board needs to look at the cost of creating or maintaining a particular amenity against the number of landowners who are interested in making use of it.

For example, a basketball court is relatively inexpensive

to maintain, so, even if only ten percent of the membership uses the court, it may be worth the investment. The pool, tennis courts, and stables, on the other hand, are bigger ticket items.

"If you have only ten percent using one of those, then you probably aren't getting the best bang for your buck," Gyure said.

He suggested using surveys, open forums, and personal interviews to gauge interest and usage of a any particular amenity.

"A Board will have it's own particular bias, or agenda, or leaning," Gyure said. In order to serve the community at large, the board needs a system to take that natural and unavoidable bias out of decision making.

Another technique from his military days that Gyure believes would benefit the SLLA is a "base recovery plan" — something that would identify, in advance, what you address first, in the case of, for example, a natural disaster.

"In my mind, it would be the very largest dam holding back the very largest body of water that would cause

the greatest property damage or loss of life if compromised," he said. Making those judgment calls in advance takes

bias out of the equation, Gyure explained.

More planning needed

Gyure said that he would like to see the community develop a master plan that projects what it wants to be twenty years from now.

Noting that Seven Lakes was originally a development of summer and retirement homes, that has now become home to many more families with children, Gyure said those families 'may want more playgrounds, or basketball courts or skateboard parks versus what we might want: the tennis courts or the shuffleboard courts. You

(Continued on page 11)



Mark Gyure

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out of big ticket infrastructure decisions

(Continued from page 10)

have to be sensitive to that, and the only way to do that is by projecting long range."

The other advantage of long range planning is that "you have less pain in any one fiscal year," Gyure said. For example, had the Seven Lakes Drive portion of the pasture fence been replaced fifteen years ago, the community wouldn't be looking at replacing the entire fence now.

"That's the kind of things that I bring to the table," Gyure said. "The best example I have is that, if you have twenty buildings, you can't replace twenty air conditioners all at once."

Defining the role of committees

The SLLA's Committee structure could use a better definition of the functions of the committees, and the way that proposals are routed through them, Gyure said.

For example, when the Facilities Committee generates a proposal, "they should shave their scope or statement of work fairly finalized," he said. "If it touches aesthetics, then it needs to go through ARB. If recreation needs to look at it, it goes there. When it comes down to dollars and cents, it comes to Finance."

"It should be a cycle, and we don't have that down yet."

Making room for families

Looking at ways that the Board might better respond to the presence of more families in the community, Gyure noted that the SLLA Candidates' Night was held a dinner time on a school night.

"We might have to move Board meetings to a Saturday," he said, "or have two a month. Some of those working parents can only attend on a Saturday. Right now we are excluding them and that's doing the community and them a disservice."

A key concern, Gyure said, is "how does the Board do a better job of reaching the community? We are not an island. It might be Facebook,

it might be Twitter, it might be the webpage, once it is stood up."

"As a Director, you are only two eyes, two ears, and one mouth," Gyure said. "The Board is going to function

better if it is getting feedback from the entire membership.

When it comes to feedback from the community, "the important this is: don't leave them hanging," he added. "Just acknowledge it, so that

they know it is being read and heard."

Looking beyond the gates

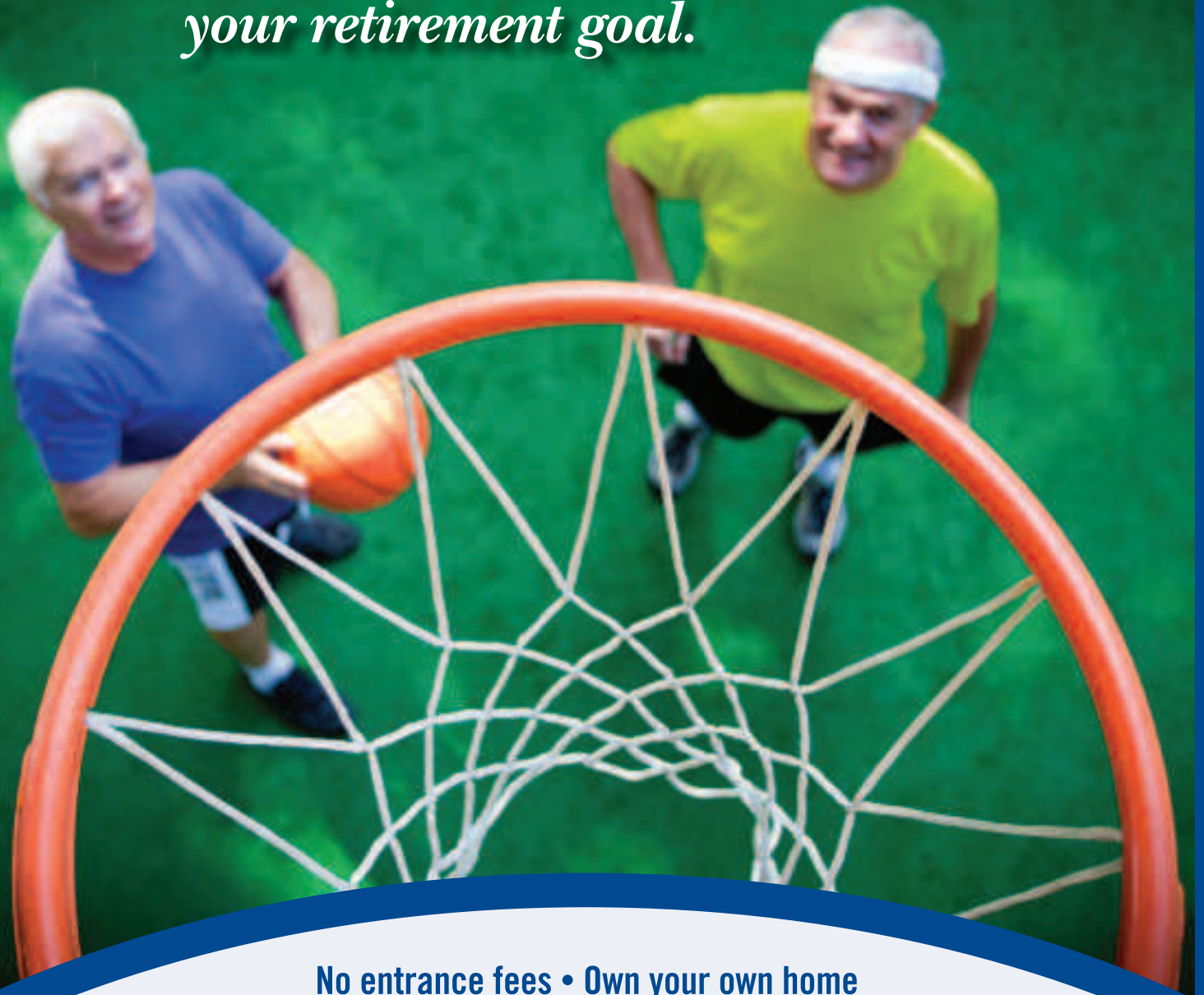
Gyure said it's important that he Board build relationships with the other organi-

zations in the greater Seven Lakes-West End area.

"If you are looking to attract people into even a gated community, what does the community around you look like?"

(See "Gyure," p. 12)

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Lawton Baker – Buy it, or build it, to last –

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Lawton Baker was a newlywed when he moved to Seven Lakes. Friends he had known in Lumberton had settled in Seven Lakes North and encouraged the Bakers to join them in the community. They purchased their home in a foreclosure auction and have since done considerable work on the house and its landscaping.

Asked whether he had previously held elected office or served on a board of directors, Baker said, "this is my first time at the dance."

Creative Finance

The Times interviewed Baker the morning after SLLA Candidates' Night, and he had been doing some creative thinking on one question that had been posed by a member of the evening's audience, namely, whether the Association should borrow money to repave all SLLA streets at once, in order to avoid further deterioration which would ultimately lead to more expensive repairs.

"What we need," Baker said, "is some creative financing. I am not in favor of taking

on debt. However, what if we could do a bond issue for the residents here, just offer it to people who live here? You set it up so that it pays them more interest than the bank pays, but costs the Association less interest than the bank charges."

"You will get a better price if you do the whole road project at the same time," he said. "So, we could have a Seven Lakes bond issue."

Jack of all trades

Asked what position on the Board of Directors would best suit him, Baker suggested that a reporter, sitting at the Baker's dining room table, look behind him at the imposing bulk of Longleaf Dam, which towers above the home.

"I have a great deal of interest in that dam," Baker said.

On a more serious note, Baker said he is "a jack of all trades and master of none, but very able to learn on the job and willing to take on whatever task Board members felt would best suit him."

Buy it, or build it, to last

"I've always been proponent of, when you buy something, you buy something good, that's going to last," Baker said, when asked about the trade-off between cost and quality or aesthetics. "You get something cheap and that's what you've got. It doesn't last."

"Somewhere in between you have to make your compromise and either do smaller projects in a prime way or multiple projects in a half-

hearted way. I lean toward doing the smaller project in a prime way. You do it in a dependable way, so that it's not going to be there for two years and tear up."

"Committees should make their recommendations, and the then decision made based on needs and finance.

"It always comes back to finance," Baker said. If you don't have the money, you have to put it on hold."

"Of course certain things, that involve safety, can't be put on hold. They have to

be addressed. But, if it's discretionary, those things have to be prioritized."

"During my career with the telephone company, I was responsible for the exchange for Lumberton and Rowan. We had to monitor the growth and the fill of all the network out there and plan our relief and extensions in order to keep it within the budget — and that wasn't always easy."

"During the last four of five years, I was shepherding about five different contrac-

(Continued on page 13)



Lawton Baker

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Gyure

(Continued from page 11)

he asked.

"What are you doing to reach back in? Even though you are taking care of your own gated community, what are you doing to help out the rest of the larger West End area?"

"You really need to seek outside. Just because you can get in with a barcode doesn't negate what's outside. We ourselves still have to drive by it."

"We have driven by the closed [Stanley Furniture] factory and wonder why it can't be utilized, even as a public flea market or an antique market that comes in once a year — anything to make it more palatable than it is right now."

and ensure that the rules are enforced

(Continued from page 12)

tors to do the drafting and fill work for me. I had to monitor the materials ordering and workforce schedules."

"There are certain things that need to be done, certain things that can be done and certain things that we would like to be done," Baker said. "But I'm not sure where each of them falls. I know that infrastructure and upkeep are things that must be done."

"One of my pet peeves is the lake," Baker said. I get out every Summer and rake the leaves and pine straw out of my cove. It's filling up. We need to do something about that. But I'm not sure it would be a priority."

"I wish the dam would be mowed more often. The lake is an asset for the whole community. That is a need, but I don't know where it would rank as a priority."

Enforcing rules, taking pride in community

"I notice in the bylaws about maintaining your property and not parking your boats and trailers in the yard," Baker said. "But no one seems to care. I don't know that it does any harm, but, if it's on the books, they need to take it out or enforce it."

"I do know that I live one large drink away from McDonald's, because I find the empty cups in the yard. I appreciate the fellows keeping their car clean, I just wish they wouldn't leave it for me."

"You talk about the pasture fence. Well, they just passed a rule that the only kind of fence that is acceptable in Seven Lakes is a split rail. So they can't put a rope fence out there. They made the decision that a split rail is the only thing that is acceptable — so they need to abide by their own rules."

[Baker made that same point during the Association's Monday, March 2 Open Meeting. During that same meeting, the Board approved new fence guidelines that make both split rail and the round post fence proposed for the pasture fence acceptable. — GH]

The wider community

Asked whether the SLLA Board should involve itself in the wider community beyond the gates, Baker said: "When we first moved up here, they were talking about incorporating. That has bounced around and never come to fruition."

"I have mixed emotions about it. I'd hate to see us dawdle around until we are taken in by somebody else, but if you do incorporate, that's another tax — so what do you do? Do you keep the gates or not. There are so many things that go into that."

Irish Songs @ Chapel

Join the Chapel Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, March 11 at noon, as Bruce Macdonald will play guitar and sing some Irish songs and some old chestnuts visitors may recognize, but don't hear much anymore. Preview on Macdonald's music at brucetunes.com

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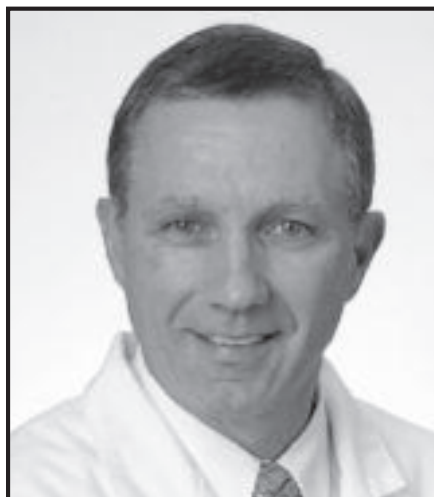
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FirstHealth is pleased to welcome James R. Liffbrig, M.D., to FirstHealth Family Medicine in Seven Lakes.

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Liffbrig spent 19 years as a physician in the United States Army. He started his career at Fort Bragg and spent time in Washington state and Kansas before returning to Fort Bragg, where he eventually served as chief of the Department of Family Medicine. Since retiring from the U.S. Army, he has been in family practice at Riverbend Family Medicine Clinic in Fuquay-Varina.

Dr. Liffbrig joins Amanda Martin, ANP, and Dan Matthew, PA-C, in the practice.

All providers are currently accepting new patients.

53-110-14



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FAMILY MEDICINE

David Hill – Fostering teamwork

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Times was unable to arrange an interview with incumbent Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Director David Hill, who was appointed to the Board last year and currently handles Lakes & Dams. In lieu of an interview, we have reprinted a summary of Hill's opening statement from the Candidates' Night on Wednesday, February 4.

Hill is a native of Knoxville, TN, but grew up in Hickory. After a brief stint at factory work, he enlisted in the Army at age 18.

"It helped me grow up, taught me the nature of the world, other cultures, and so on," Hill said.

Hill's last duty station was as an infantryman with the 101st Airborne. He served in Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Afghanistan, and other operations. He said

he realized that the military "was where I belonged," citing the close community among those in service.

Hill retired from the military after 23 years and enrolled in nursing school at the University of Tennessee. He worked at the VA hospital in Asheville for seven years, retiring after 30 years of government service.

Hill has two adult children and three grandchildren, who he said enjoy the community

when they visit.

When he was ready to retire, Hill said, "I looked, and I looked, and I looked, for two years. When I got to Seven Lakes, I didn't need to look anymore. I found everything here I needed as a retired person."

Hill called Bob Racine "his mentor." "Bob knew I wanted to be involved in the community," Hill said, "and I did. I feel like that is my next step in life. I am retired, this is my home, and you are my family, just like when I was in the military."

Hill joined the Board in August, taking over as Lakes & Dams Director.

Hill said he offers leader-

ships skills and skills in teamwork. "We need leaders and we need community participation. I think that I can do that for you."



David Hill

Hodding Carter at ESU

The Wednesday, March 11 meeting of the English-Speaking Union will feature guest speaker Hodding Carter III with "Is the Past, Past?"

Carter is a distinguished journalist, statesman, educator and long-time civil rights leader. He was active in the presidential campaigns of Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter, serving as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs during President Carter's administration. Nationally, he is best known as the spokesman for the State Department during the Iran hostage crisis in the late 1970s.

Carter is a four-time Emmy Award winner and recipient of the Edward R. Murrow award for broadcast journalism. He is past President and CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and recently retired as the

Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at UNC.

His presentation will focus on leadership in the public sector.

The meeting dinner is held at Pinehurst Country Club, 6 pm, Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres; 7 pm, Dinner, (costs

\$46 per person, inclusive of tax and service charge). Membership in E-SU is open to the public. For information about E-SU programs and membership, visit www.esuus.org or contact Hope Price at (910)-692-7727, hopewp@aol.com



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Deacon



Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Communion - 9:30 am

Children's Chapel - 9:45 am

Adult Christian Education - 10:45 am

Tuesday Mornings

Intercessory Prayer

& Healing Service - 11:00 am

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Homebound seniors all over Moore County depend on the kindness of volunteers to deliver a hot meal and a bit of cheer.

It only takes one to two hours to make a difference in someone's life. Can you help? Volunteers are needed in the Robbins area now.

Contact Kathie Lewis, Moore County Department of Aging at 910-464-3544.

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Help Wanted! Part-Time Reporter

The **Seven Lakes Times** is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings, write feature stories, and photograph events.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. Actual reporting experience is strongly preferred. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The time commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are required, and deadlines are firm.

Interested?

Please **email** cover letter, resumé, and writing samples to mail@sevenlaketimes.net

In memory of . . .

Violet Lillian Everhart, 90, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, March 1, at Elmcroft Assisted Living, Southern Pines.

Born in Rockwood, Pennsylvania she was the daughter to the late Elmer and Pearl Hooper. She was a graduate from Robertsdale High School.

She married Donald G. Everhart in 1946. After their marriage they resided in Huntingdon, PA for thirty years. Mrs. Everhart enjoyed many activities throughout the years to include, card games, being a girl scout

leader, sewing, knitting, ceramics and other crafts. She was a champion golfer at the Huntingdon Country Club and was both women's champion and husband and wife champion for several years.

Mrs. Everhart owned and operated the "Sugar and

Spice Candy Store" in Huntingdon.

In 1977, she and her husband Donald moved to Seven Lakes, where she was active in tennis, played on championship teams on both the regional and national level.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death

by her husband Donald. In August of 2011, she moved to Elmcroft Assisted Living in Southern Pines.

Survivors include her daughter, Barbara K. Lipkin of Lakewood, CO; two grandchildren, Jeff and wife Alaina, and Andrea both of Denver, CO; and her great-grandson,

Trevor.

Services will be Private.

Memorial donations may be made to West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Hwy 73, West End, NC 27376.

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

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women from one hundred and seventy countries who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

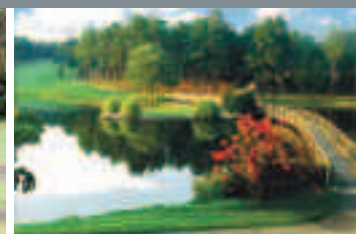
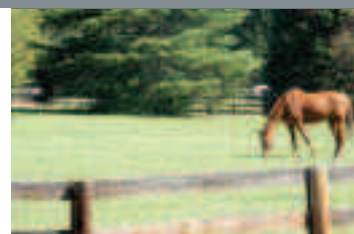
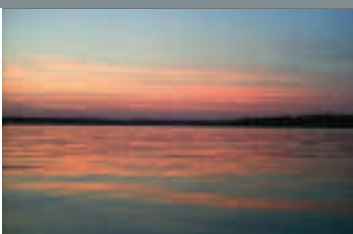
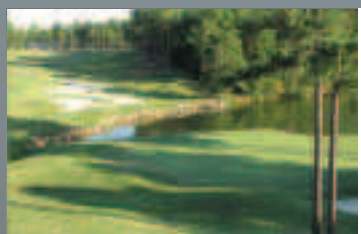
The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." Through participation in the World Day of Prayer, they affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

Each year the women of a selected nation are called on to establish a theme and a scriptural basis for the celebration.

This year the women of the Bahamas have chosen John 13:1-17. In these verses Jesus washes his disciples feet and asks, "Do you understand what I have done for you?"

On Friday, March 6, from 9 am to 12:00 the Chapel in the Pines will open its sanctuary doors for a time of prayer to celebrate the World Day of Prayer.

The gathering is informal and each person may come and go. Men and women from all faith traditions are welcome.



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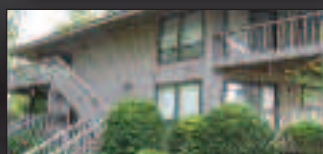
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MLS# 161537 \$264,900



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3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 3000+sqft
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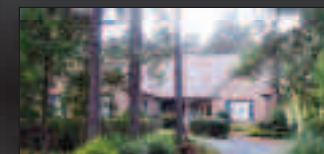
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FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- **World Day of Prayer at Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am to 12:00, the Chapel will open its sanctuary doors for a time of prayer to celebrate. Gathering is informal and each person may come and go, spending as much time as each has available. All faith traditions and denominational backgrounds, are welcome.
- **"Covered in Camouflage"** – 10 am, (*For Wee Ones*) What's a great way for animals to hide from predators? Read a book, play some games, and make a craft. Activities for 3 to 5 year-olds for parents to do with children. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. So. Pines 692-2167 visitweymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov
- **Pursuing Your Best Life** – 11 am - 12 pm, A monthly program to help people pursue a happier, more fulfilled life. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End. Reserve your seat (910) 215-0900.
- **"Mystery Animals of the Evening"** – 7 pm (*Moonlight Hike*). Discover nature by moonlight. Listen to the sounds of the night as you walk along the trail. Children must be accompanied by adult. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. So. Pines, 692-2167. weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- **United Men's Breakfast** –

8 am, Men at West End United Methodist Church will meet and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast and a time of fellowship. After breakfast, a brief devotional

tion by Yuri Grigorovich. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The*

Imitation Game, During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Stars:

Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines, 692-3611.

- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. Learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth from 6 – 6:30 pm. Children's ministry, explore God's Word through scripture, crafts, games. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

• **West End Presbyterian Church Youth Group** – (6th grade – 12th grade) from 6 pm to 8 pm.

- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room. Open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades. Fellowship, study and a meal. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End.



What's When

and the men discuss projects to assist both the church and the community. Any man of the church or our community is welcome to attend.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am service. 275 Knox Lane, West End, 673-4341.
- **Bolshoi Ballet of Romeo & Juliette at the Sunrise** – 1 pm, Romeo and Juliet one of the most frequently performed plays in the world. This spring the Bolshoi is presenting the premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's famous ballet in a produc-

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Moore County Board of Education Regular meeting** – Central Office, 6 pm - Closed Session; 6:30 pm - Open Session.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 pm, at the Hannah Center Theater, The O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Guest speaker will be Vinny Colucci. He will be speaking on "Building Your Image Through the View Finder." Colucci is a presenter and award-winning photographer. www.sandhillsphtoclub.org. Guests welcome.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Imitation Game*, During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, *free* class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 catered by Goldie's Gourmet, meeting begins at 12:05. **New meeting location, Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in the Pines*. Visitors are welcome.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Moore County Schools Concept High School Community Forum** – 6 - 7:30 pm at Union Pines High School. MCS staff will provide a brief overview of the current draft of the academic plan and seek feedback from the audience. Audience participants are encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions.
- **Foxfire Village Council Work Session** – 6:30 pm, meeting. At Foxfire Village Hall.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 2:30 and 7:30 pm, *The Imitation Game*, During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- **Covenant Preparatory School** – 8 am, Open House serving K-12th grades on campus. www.covenantprep.com
- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Legal Aid of NC conducting a Will Fair** – 10 am to 2 pm, individuals can have their wills created or revised for free. Must call 919 542-0475 or 1-800-672-5834 to reserve seat. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Irish Songs and Music at Chapel Lunch Bunch** – at noon, after lunch, Bruce Macdonald will play guitar and sing some Irish songs and some old chestnuts visitors may recognize, but don't hear much anymore. Preview on Macdonald's music at brucetunes.com Attend Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall. No cost for the lunch; reservations are appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed. For a reservation for lunch or request transportation, call the Chapel office 9 am to 1 pm at 673-2156.

- **St. Joseph of the Pines Lenten Lecture** – 5:30 - 6:45 pm, Ecumenical Lenten Lecture Series. Held every Wednesday during Lent (*except Holy Week*). Supper of soup and bread after the lecture. *Free*. St. Joseph of the Pines, 100 Gossman Drive, Southern Pines.
- **English-Speaking Union** – speaker Hodding Carter III with "Is the Past, Past?" A distinguished journalist, statesman, educator and long-time civil rights leader and is currently the Professor of Leadership and Public Policy at UNC. His presentation will focus on leadership in the public sector. Meeting and dinner at Pinehurst Country Club, 6 pm, Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres; 7 pm, Dinner, (costs \$46 per person, inclusive of tax and service charge). Membership in E-SU is open to the public. For information about E-SU programs and membership contact Hope Price at (910)-692-7727, hopewp@aol.com
- **AWANA Youth Group** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.

- **West End United Methodist Church Lenten Worship Service** – 7 pm, with Holy Communion. Join the church for a time of fellowship and devotion.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Imitation Game*, During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Mag-

dalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **Civil War Talk** – 2 pm - 4 pm, Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, "The Greatest Little Man I Ever Met." Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End. Call to reserve your seat (910) 215-0900.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 2 pm, Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive. Meeting will concentrate on plant propagation techniques. Master Gardeners, Larry and Barbara Cohen, will demonstrate inexpensive and easy ways to make new plants from plants you already have. Club will be collecting empty plastic plant pots and garden books at this meeting for the Weymouth Center Dirt Gardener's plant sale and White Elephant sale, if members would like to donate. Free plant for each attendee. Door prize, and free raffle. Bring your enthusiasm, questions, & neighbors. Novice to experts - all are welcome.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

- **SunFlix Movies at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Imitation Game*, During World War II, mathematician Alan Turing tries to crack the enigma code with help from fellow mathematicians. Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- **SL Baptist Church Indoor Yard Sale** – 9 am to 2 pm, \$25 per booth, table included. Proceeds benefit Seven Lakes Baptist Church Youth Group trips. Call 673-4656 to reserve.
- **Paint for the Pantry at West End United Methodist Church** – 2 pm - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds benefit WEUMC Food Pantry. No skills need, just come and enjoy the fun and refreshments with your friends. Participants go home with a completed painting. Cost to attend \$35 per person. To register contact Elizabeth Anne Batchelor at (910)400-5300, socialart.com

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Using running to build self-esteem in girls

by Leah Thiel
Times Reporter

With the goal of helping young girl overcome low self esteem through physical and mental fitness, Kelly Kilgore and Annie Blewett are campaigning to launch a Moore County branch of a program called "Girls on the Run."

The mission of the group, based in Charlotte, is to culture health, confidence, and individual strength through running. Girls on the Run teachers and volunteers hope to help the girls who participate find, achieve, and explore their dreams.

As a young girl, Kelly Kilgore experienced low self-esteem and a lack of confidence. Her struggle to overcome those challenges — as well as raising two girls of her own — helped her recognize the need for girl-focused groups.

Girls on the Run helps children recognize that, though they will face countless challenges in life, they can foster strength and self confidence in themselves and others.

"Personally, as a young girl, I was influenced by everyone else's opinion," Kilgore said. "Because of that, my confidence was never strong."

"Cross country was where I began to build my self-esteem," she said. "Running a race made me feel strong. Young girls are easily influenced by their surroundings on a day-to-day basis, and I want each opportunity to be a positive one. Girls on the Run puts these ideas together."

Annie Blewett's work with non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity acquainted her with the challenges faced by children struggling through school, often because of the impact of poverty.

That sparked the idea to

work with Kelly to establish a Girls on the Run outpost in Moore County.

"The most sustainable

change people can make is through non-profit work," Blewett said.

Blewett and Kilgore are



Kelly Kilgore & Annie Blewett hope to use running to build self-esteem in Moore County girls

using crowd-funding to raise the capital needed to bring Girls on the Run to Moore County. They need to raise \$7,500 by March 15 for the start-up fees, which includes training for the educators and leaders. They are currently only one-third of the way to meeting that goal.

Once the program has the financial support and approval from Girls on the Run International, Kelly and Annie will be able to offer programs for girls in grades 3-5 and 6-8.

The cost of the 10-week program is nominal, and scholarships are available for girls who do not have the financial ability to join otherwise.

With support from Moore County residents, Girls on the Run will allow any girl from any walk of life to realize their potential.

Learn more at Girls on the Run's website: www.girlsontherun.org.

Donations can be made at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-us-bring-girls-on-the-run-to-moore-county-nc>.

There is need for more than financial support; Kilgore is looking for adult role models to help by sharing their time and talent as the project moves forward.

Kilgore welcomes questions and help and can be reached at either 912-224-7144 or kellyekilgore@yahoo.com.

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Dance the night away to benefit Prancing Horse

by Claudia Watson
for Prancing Horse

Grab your favorite jeans, hat and put on your dancing boots. It's time to enjoy the annual Spring Barn Dance, hosted by Prancing Horse, Inc., on Thursday, March 26, from 6 pm to 10 pm at the Fair Barn, Pinehurst.

This year the evening will celebrate the stars and accomplishments of Prancing Horse's medically approved and accredited therapeutic horseback-riding program.

Prancing Horse gives adults and children with special needs a safe environment for

therapeutic horseback riding. The students challenge themselves both physically and emotionally through a series of stimulating exercises for their bodies, as well as their minds.

This year's Barn Dance includes dinner, as well as wine, beer and sodas. Local favorite, DJ King Curtiss, will provide a variety of music including new and traditional country, oldies, rock n' roll, and bluegrass to make it an enjoyable evening for couples and singles. In addition, to the dancing and dinner, the evening features a silent auc-

tion.

A limited number of tickets are available for the event and early registration is recommended. Guests are encouraged to reserve tables for eight to ten people to enjoy the unique evening with friends.

Tickets are \$50 per person and available at Sandhills Winery, Seven Lakes; Cabin Branch and Moore Equine, Southern Pines; A Bit Used Tack Shop, Vass; Lady Bedford's, Pinehurst; or at www.prancing-horse.org

For more information call 910-246-3202.



Rider Skyler McMillan loves to ride his horse, Funny, who makes learning new skills fun. Prancing Horse volunteers are Janet Baron, Kak Johnson, and Sandi Johannsen

Lunch with Legends

In celebration of Women's History Month, the League of Women Voters of Moore County will present their Seventh Annual 'Lunch with Legends' at the Pinehurst Country Club on Tuesday, March 17 at 11:30 am.

Lunch with Legends is a program of live portrayals of historic women.

The 'legends' this year will be Nellie Bly, a ground breaking reporter, and Sally Ride, an astronaut.

Nellie Bly was the pen name of American journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochrane. She was a ground-breaking reporter known for a record-breaking trip around the

world in 72 days, and an exposé in which she faked insanity to study a mental institution from within.

Sally Kristen Ride was an American physicist and astronaut. Born in Los Angeles, Ride joined NASA in 1978 and, at the age of 32, became the first American woman in space.

Tickets for the lunch and program are \$30 and are available by calling Carol Wurster at 910-295-1935, or email carolee@embarq-mail.com

All tickets will be sold in advance. Doors and cash bar open at 11:30 am with lunch served at noon.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from front page)

Ritter was the first to raise questions about the fence proposal during the March 2 meeting.

Noting that the posts supporting the current fence are largely made of cast concrete, Ritter asked why they needed to be replaced. Community Manager Ray Sohl replied that the posts are old and have become brittle.

Given other big ticket projects on the Association's agenda, including an \$70,000 repair to the swimming pool, Ritter asked whether it was necessary to repair the fence this fiscal year. Sohl replied that the Association has \$487,000 in its unrestricted reserves, with another \$180,000 slated to be deposited into that account next year.

In addition, the reserve account restricted for use on roads and dams stands at \$418,000, with an additional \$200,000 expected in the next fiscal year.

"For the projects that are on the books and being planned, you have sufficient funds to address those things," Sohl said.

The manager added that one of the contractors bidding on the new fence installation said the existing fence was "one of the most unsafe fences he had seen ever on a county road." Because the Board has discussed that in open session, Sohl added, not to replace the fence would expose the Association to considerable liability.

Racine picked up the conversation, saying he had an epiphany at 4:12 am.

"As I recall, the only time that we have had horses get out is when we have had a broken rail," Racine said. "We have replaced all the bad rails, and we have had no escapes in the past two months. For years, we had very few escapes."

Racine asked whether the wiser course might be better maintenance of the existing fence, including having the stable manager inspect the perimeter every other week, and perhaps upgrading the existing electric fence that

runs inside of the split rails.

Director Leach argued that the existing fence, at 36-40 years old, has outlived its useful life, and noted that the proposed new fence is expected to last just as long. By comparison he said, the Association spends \$20,000 each year for lifeguards, for only five months of the year.

"You can't keep kicking the can on down the road," Leach said.

One resident suggested that, before spending \$42,000 on a pasture fence, the Board should determine what percentage of the membership is actually interested in having stables as an amenity.

Leach replied that current residents moved to Seven Lakes based on an existing set of amenities, and, as long as the Association can afford to maintain them, those amenities should remain in place.

With that, Racine called for a vote, and the fence proposal failed based on the tie that resulted.

Plenty of projects; little progress

During his committee report, Director Leach noted that a 2014 Plan for infrastructure repair and enhancements included seventeen items, only two of which have thus far been completed: the renovation of the lighthouse and the installation of new, energy efficient lighting in the mailhouses. Two others — repairs to the pool and construction of bocce courts — are underway. And the sealing of reflective cracks in SLLA roadways will soon begin.

Twelve projects have not been addressed, and the Infrastructure Committee expects to bring six of those to the Board in March or April: refurbishing the Landowners Office break room, refurbishing the North Clubhouse kitchen, ADA bathroom facilities at the stables, a plastic surround and mulch for the playground, refurbishing the front steps and sidewalks at the Landowners Office, and

replacing roofs at the North and South gatehouses and Longleaf Pavilion.

Leach said planning had already begun for the Clubhouse kitchen project and added that he welcomed input from interested parties.

Committee recommends Ramapo engineering study

David Hill reported that the Lakes & Dams committee had unanimously recommended to the Board an engineering study of Lake Ramapo and its dam that aims to determine whether the spillway and emergency spillway are capable of handling a 50- or 100-year flood. The projected cost of the study is roughly \$10,000.

The committee is working on a policy for the removal of abandoned boats and trailers and has a meeting sched-

uled with Universal Protection Services to discuss the Lake Security Patrol for the upcoming boating season.

Voting the proxies

The SLLA Annual Meeting ballot allows landowners to assign their proxy to another landowner or to the Board of Directors. In addition, the Association owns 37 lots within the community, each of which is entitled to one vote.

After some discussion and input from the audience, the Board decided that they will vote the proxies, but will not cast votes on behalf of the Association owned lots.

President's report

During his report, President Racine thanked the six candidates who have stepped forward to run for seats on

(See "SLLA," p. 21)



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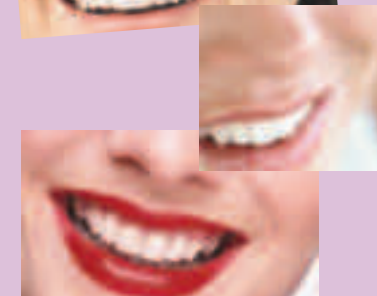
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Lions, EMS offer free reflective address signs

by Rick Rizzo
Seven Lakes Lions Club

The Seven Lakes Lions Club has teamed up with the Seven Lakes EMS, to provide fifty free Reflective Address Markers for Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and West End area homes.

In an emergency the EMS,

Fire and the Sheriff Department's need to locate individual homes quickly and safely. Without the reflective signs the emergency personnel have to focus their lights on small street signs trying to locate your address which causes the loss of precious time needed to help save

lives.

With Reflective Address Markers placed near the road, the signs can help eliminate this problem.

The first fifty individuals to sign up at the SL EMS building, located at 714 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes for the markers, will receive them

at no cost (one per household).

The Reflective Address sign-up day is Saturday, March 21, between 9 am and 3 pm. This is a part of the Seven Lakes Lions Club serving the community for 75 years. Their motto is "We Serve."

If you are an individual

that is interested in serving the community, please consider joining the Seven Lakes Lions Club. They meet every first and third Thursday of the month at the Chapel in the Pines at 6 pm or contact Bill Seldomridge at 910-690-9500 or Rick Rizzo at 910-400-5222.

SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 20)
the Board.

He suggested that, once their respective Boards are seated, he would like to have the Directors of the SLLA and the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association meet for an informal luncheon.

"We talk about having differences between us and the West Side," Racine said. "Maybe this would be a way to bridge those differences. It would not be a formal meeting; there would be no agenda. It would be a way to get together and get to know the other people."

Treasurer's report

Along with an extensive

list of items covered by the Finance Committee in its last meeting, Treasurer Sackmann reported that spending on removal of material from the yard debris site is down sharply when compared to last year.

If the trend continues, she said, the Association can expect to spend \$20,000 less this year than last year on that function.

Recreation

Director Farley reported that plenty of tables have been rented by crafters for the Saturday, March 14 Arts and Crafts Fair in the North Clubhouse.

The Annual Easter Egg

hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4. Volunteers are needed to help stuff prizes into eggs at 9:00 am on Friday, April 3.

Other Business

In other business during the Monday, March 2 Open Meeting, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Heard from Manager Sohl that repairs to the swimming pool are about ninety-five percent complete.
- Heard from Sohl that the new SLLA website should be up and running by Friday, March 6.
- Approved an \$18,000 contract with the engineering firm S&ME to provide plan-

ning, bid evaluation, and construction oversight for the repaving of 3.3 miles of SLLA roadways this Summer.

- Approved a \$7,339 contract with Atlantic Pyrotechnics for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display.
- Approved a contract for pool maintenance during the swim season.
- Approved a \$150 per month increase in the security contract with Universal Protective Services to cover the health insurance cost for one full time guard.
- Approved new guidelines for the construction of docks and fences within

the community.

- Authorized the recombination of lots 956 with already combined lots 954 and 955.
- Learned that Les Sommers had joined the Finance Committee.

Need a Friend?



Tigger is a super cat with bright green eyes and a flashy blaze on his nose. He came to the Animal Center when his owner could no longer keep him. He is outgoing and curious and is ALREADY NEUTERED!! Tigger is only about 3 years old and wants to spend the rest of his life with his soul-human.

To meet Tigger or find out more, please visit the Moore County Animal Center at 5235 Hwy 15/501 in Carthage or call 910-947-2858.



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Time to vote!

It's election time in Seven Lakes, and the Nominating Committees on either side of NC Highway 211 deserve a vote of thanks from the members of their associations.

Both the Seven Lakes and Seven Lakes West Nominating Committees produced outstanding slates of candidates — and, at the same time, provided a sufficient number of candidates to offer members a real choice when they complete their ballots.

Also working effectively this year was the alternative petition process that allows a

candidate to seek a spot on the ballot based on collecting signatures of members, rather than through the nominations process.

In the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] the Nominating Committee serves primarily a recruitment function, beating the bushes for candidates and encouraging members to run for the Board.

The Seven Lakes West [SLWLA] Nominating Committee does the same, but it

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

also screens candidates in order, in part, to determine their fitness for office. The fact that the Westside com-

mittee rejected a candidate who later won a spot on the ballot through the petition process caused some members to question whether that screening function is appropriate.

It's a fair question, and it should be openly discussed by members of the Westside Association and its Board of Directors soon after the new Board is seated.

We have six candidates competing for four seats — a Board majority — on the SLLA Board and six compet-

ing for three seats on the West Side.

It's now up to the voters.

Both Associations have hosted well-attended candidates nights which were covered in this newspaper, and *The Times* has independently interviewed the candidates.

You will find our interviews with SLLA candidates in this edition and you can find our earlier interviews and candidates' night reports for both Associations on our website at sevenlaketimestimes.com.

Praise for Seven Lakes PT

Dear Editor:

In the spirit of supporting new business ventures in Seven Lakes, I would like to offer the following testimony:

Ever so often a new business or service comes upon the scene worth publicizing. Since my total knee replacement surgery on January 20, I have experienced no less than seven different physical therapists; and there is a big difference among them.

After in-hospital (three sessions) and in-home (nine ses-

sions), I had the choice of many different physical therapy service providers.

I selected Seven Lakes Physical Therapy for the convenience (they are located between Subway and the Karate school), knowing I could change easily.

There, I met Mike Dobre (PT, MSPT), and his wife Danielle. Mike is Rumanian, has been a physical therapist for about twelve years, and was head-and-shoulders the best physical therapist I've experienced.

Because they are relatively

new to Seven Lakes area (they opened October 2014), the practice still has capacity for new patients. He also does "dry needling," which I understand from my wife Elaine is quite effective for rapidly relieving "trigger points."

I have now gone to Mike six times, and the results in gaining flexion and extension have been quite remarkable. He wastes no time; he is hands-on; he is attentive to pain; and he is superb at dispersing the scar tissue from surgery, which is critical, so I have learned.

Even if you aren't recovering from surgery or other specific event, he also is available for massage therapy. He was able to calm my lower-back spasms inflamed by my overuse of my good leg; he pointed out the effects of the many years of abuse to my calves from handball, racquetball, etc., and offered additional relief.

I suggest that if you need physical therapy that you give Mike Dobre a try at 910-466-9123.

John Hoffmann
Seven Lakes West

Landowners only on committees

Dear Editor:

In an answer to Greg Hankins' "long time renters" article, it must be remembered that we are named "Seven Lakes Landowners Association."

"Landowners" being the operative word.

I've never believed in anyone but landowners making decisions for landowners. Renters can pack up and leave at any time, they have no money tied up in real estate, and I do not think

they should be making policy for me or anyone else who is a property owner.

I applaud President Bob Racine and the other directors for their decision in this matter.

I hope the future directors will only have landowners on their committees.

If any renter wants to serve on committees, then they should buy property and become a landowner.

Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes North

Thanks from Chapel

Dear Editor:

A big thank you to the members of the New Horizon Band that preformed for the Annual Community Valentine Party on February 13 at the Chapel in the Pines.

Thirty-four members of the band entertained folk to a variety of music that brought back many memories. The smiles on the faces of those in attendance along with the toe tapping and swaying to the music said it all.

Thank you for the joy you

provided to so many that afternoon.

We are so fortunate to be living in a community that has folks like each band member that enjoys sharing their talents and giving of their time to bring joy to others.

Thank you for all you do for so many living in our community and beyond.

Fran Stark
Associate Pastor
Seven Lakes
Chapel in the Pines

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LAKES TIMES

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 2)

ing, or more than one.

The new district, as Gilroy described it, would not allow homeowners to keep animals, other than domestic pets, and would allow either paved or unpaved streets.

"I am skeptical of adding another zoning district," Councilman Mick McCue objected. "This is spot zoning . . . so we have to have a really good rationale for having it."

Other council members echoed McCue's concerns and asked whether, instead, the property could be zoned RS-40 and the restrictions on accessory buildings in that zoning district could be varied by lot size.

Frusco reminded the Council that Village Attorney Michael Brough has previously warned against having differing standards in one zoning district.

They asked Gilroy to consult with Brough to see whether it would be possible to vary accessory building restrictions within RS-40 based on lot size.

Big projects in the expense budget

Frusco had asked Council members to bring to the Work Session any big ticket projects that they would like to see funded in the 2015-2016 budget. Those included:

- The purchase of a new police vehicle. Councilman McCue noted that the department had hired a new part-time officer.
- Councilman Jon Sedlak

said the Village water system is beginning to experience some rust in the water, due to deteriorating well casings. He said he would like to use a relatively new process to line the inside of the casings with a protective coating, at a cost of \$3,500 to \$4,000 per well.

- Frusco said the budget will include a \$86,900 decrease in fund balance to make a payment on the Woodland Circle Extension loan. She said the Village had accumulated sufficient fund balance to make three years worth of payments.

Though he didn't suggest it as a budget item, Mayor Steve Durham noted that the building that houses the Village offices is currently for sale, and wondered what options the Village would have if it sold to a buyer who had no interest in continuing to rent space to the Village.

Frusco noted that there is no alternative commercial rental property in the Village, and added that the best option might be to expand the current Village Hall — an addition for which plans already exist.

Inspecting new homes

Mayor Durham presented a draft ordinance that would limit the Village's inspections of new homes until the very end of the process, when construction is complete, prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.

The Village has previously contracted with the Village

of Pinehurst to provide inspection services at various points within the construction process. Durham explained that Pinehurst no longer wishes to provide these services to the Village.

The amended ordinance would "eliminate any need to use Pinehurst as our inspectors," Durham said.

But other Council members expressed skepticism that inspections could be left to the last minute.

"There are some things that you can rectify on the final," Frusco said. "But things like foundation coverings . . . you can't just go after a building is already up and slap some brick on it."

The Council agreed that they should explore alternative ways of having inspections performed during the building process.

Other items

Other items discussed during the Thursday, February 26 Foxfire Village Council Work Session included:

- Planning & Zoning Chair Mary Gilroy and committee member Don Boito briefed the Council on the difference between a comprehensive village plan, on the one hand, and a land use plan, on the other. Council members agreed that they wanted the committee to draft a land use plan.

- Councilman McCue reported that he is in negotiations to determine whether West End Fire and Rescue might be willing to take over utility bills for the Foxfire Village fire station in exchange for the Village covering the cost of installing a kitchenette in the facility.
- Councilman Vic Koos told the Council that he would like to do some paving work at the east side entrance in this fiscal year, at a cost of \$28,540. That will require moving about \$4,000 from another streets and maintenance related line item.
- Mayor Durham presented

(See "Foxfire," p. 24)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 3)

\$502,043 of the \$7.6 million total went into accounts designated for college capital projects and debt service.

Major vehicle replacement approved

The Board approved \$1,270,560 for the purchase of new vehicles, including twenty-six vehicles for the Sheriff's Department, three for the Department of Social Services, and two for environmental health. Other purchases include a boom lift for Property Management and a Track Loader for Solid Waste Management.

County Manager Wayne Vest explained that the County had, for a number of years, delayed replacing vehicles well past the end of their normal useful life, in order to cut costs. By making a major purchase now, he said, the Administration is moving toward a plan, to be implemented in FY 2017-2018, to replace 7.0 to 7.5 percent of the county's fleet each year.

US Motto on County buildings

The Commissioners heard a presentation from Rick Lanier, Vice Chairman of the US Motto Action Committee, which would like to put aluminum letters spelling out the official motto of the United States, "In God We Trust," on one or more County buildings, at no charge to the County.

Chairman Picerno asked county manager Wayne Vest, County Attorney Misty Leland, and Property Manager Bobby Lake to work through

the details and bring the Commissioners a proposed course of action for their March 17 meeting.

Other Business

In other business during their regular Tuesday, March 3 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Heard a presentation on the new County library planned for Aberdeen and asked Attorney Leland to draft a resolution expressing support for the drive to build a new library.
- Agreed to renew banking agreements with First Bank and a merchant services agreement with Bank of America. Chairman Picerno noted that First Bank is providing the County with a 1.5 percent interest rate on the first \$5 million in deposits.
- Approved a \$55,499 Moore County Airport grant application for the use of federal funds to plan a runway approach clearing project.

- Called a public hearing on the residential rezoning of two properties, one in West End, that are being used as residences, but have commercial zoning.
- Called a public hearing on a number of modifications to the County's Unified Development Ordinance. Chairman Picerno noted that Planning Director Debra Ensminger has been asked to review the UDO with an eye to making it simpler and more concise.
- Approved a new County communications policy that provides staff with guidelines for interacting with members of the press, as well as use of the county website and social media like Facebook and Twitter.
- Made a number of appointments, including:
 - Priscilla Beck, Teresa Heller, and Chyrie Barbary Moore to the Nursing and Adult Care Community Advisory Committee.
 - Larry Caddell, Travis

Greene, and James Tepatti to the Recreation Advisory Board.

- Seven Lakes Fire Chief Steve Melone to the Fire Commission.
- Mary Jo Morris to the Animal Operations Advisory Board.
- Mike Rowland to the Vol-

untary Agricultural District Board.

- Susan Adams and Bruce Yarrington to the Tax Board of Equalization and Review and Jim McNiff as Chairman for the 2015-2016 session.

Acoustic Music Circle

The Acoustic Music Circle of McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will meet on Sunday, March 15, from 4 - 6 pm in the church's fellowship hall. They will celebrate the upcoming St. Patrick's Day with some Irish songs and tunes. Tra-

ditional folk musicians of all performance levels are warmly invited to join in, plus anyone who just likes to listen. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, (off Linden Road from Pinehurst). Call Jill McCloy at 692-5094 for information.



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Foxfire

(Continued from page 23)

a zoning ordinance amendment that clarifies the materials that are permitted on the visible exterior surface of foundations.

- The Council discussed whether the Appearance Committee should be disbanded. McCue will draft an ordinance describing the Committee's responsibilities.

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Concept High School

(Continued from front page)

might find that they are on a particular pathway, in the eleventh grade, and decide it's not for them. Perhaps they have done an internship in the community, and discovered that that's not what they want to do."

"We don't want them to figure that out in their third year of college," Kennedy said. "We want them to figure that out right away . . . We want them to have a goal when they graduate from high school. Don't just graduate and not know what you are going to do. We want them to know what they are going to do."

"We want them to pursue their passion and we want

to provide the avenue for them to pursue their passion," she said.

So, the concept high school will aim to serve students who are dead set on embarking on a specific career right out of high school, while also providing the opportunity for others to explore potentially attractive career options, in order to decide which of those options might be a good fit.

Big savings on college tuition

For those who have their career path all staked out, the concept high school will offer the opportunity to obtain college credits for free, by taking Sandhills Community College classes while enrolled

in high school.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter explained to the four dozen or so students, parents, teachers, and interested citizens who attended the public input session at Pinecrest that six Sandhills courses, taken while in high school, is worth \$1,287 in community college tuition.

Porter said a student who accumulates enough credits to enter college as a second semester sophomore will save his or her family \$28,141 in college costs.

MCS students already have the opportunity to enroll in and gain college credit from SCC courses, through a state program called "NC College and Career Promise." Pathways are available for students who plan to enter a four-year university to pursue a bachelor's degree, as well as those who plan to pursue a career or additional technical education after high school.

Grimesey explained that MCS staff last year decided to make an effort to increase the marketing of that dual-enrollment opportunity to high school students.

As a result, more than 300

MCS students dual-enrolled at Sandhills — a tripling of the number from the year prior.

"I have never seen an increase in dual-enrollment like that," Grimesey said.

Porter noted that "the concept high school will maximize the opportunity" for dual enrollment.

Three objectives

Kicking off the input session at Pinecrest, Dr. Grimesey said the concept high school has a threefold purpose:

- "To provide a platform for coursework that expands on the curriculum available at the home site . . . to offer those courses we might not otherwise be able to offer, particularly courses

where there might not be enough student interest at any one school."

- "We are overcrowded in two of our three high schools," Grimesey said, explaining that planned expansions at Pinecrest and Union Pines will simply allow MCS to keep pace with projected growth on those campuses. "We won't be any better off, but we won't be any worse off," when the expansions are completed in 2017, he said.
- "A particular focus on college credits, postgraduate industrial certifications, and professional licenses" is another goal for the concept high school.

That last objective is why it makes particular sense for

(See "Concept," p. 26)

7 Lakes Garden Club

Seven Lakes Garden Club will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

The meeting will concentrate on plant propagation techniques.

Master Gardeners, Larry and Barbara Cohen, will demonstrate inexpensive and easy ways to make new plants from plants you already have.

The club will also be collecting empty plastic plant pots and garden books at this meeting for the Weymouth Center Dirt Gardener's plant sale and White Elephant sale, if members would like to donate.

Free plant for each attendee. Door prize, and free raffle. Bring your enthusiasm, questions, & neighbors. Novice to experts - All are welcome.



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Concept High School

(Continued from page 25)

MCS to be seeking a partnership with Sandhills Community College, Grimesey said. It is through NC College and Career Promise, which is linked to community colleges, that high school students can take college courses — and earn college credits — at no charge.

“The conversation that you have heard about this school being located on or near Sandhills Community College . . . just makes sense,” Grimesey said. “If this is going to be a close partnership between the community college and the public school district, then it makes sense that it would be somewhere in the vicinity of the community college.”

Grimesey said MCS had recently learned that the state will reimburse the local district for transportation from all three high schools to Sandhills Community College — and MCS students will be able to take advantage of that opportunity beginning next year, well before the concept high school is a reality.

Public input

MCS has identified four different “academies” into

which course offerings at the concept high school could be grouped. Those include academies of agriculture; life and health sciences; design and production; and hospitality and culinary arts.

Kennedy and Dr. Melanie

Hamblin presented the various disciplines that would be included in those academies, and detailed some of the certifications and careers to which those might lead.

Members of the public attending the meeting were

asked to gather in small groups and provide feedback on the four academies, as well as on academies, certifications, or career paths that might be missing from the list.

Once all three public input

sessions are complete, the information gathered will be compiled and presented to the Board of Education to help inform their decision about the courses eventually offered at the concept high school.



Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy & Wound Healing at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital

FirstHealth Wound Care & Hyperbarics offers the latest treatment and technology for hard-to-heal wounds in a convenient outpatient setting. Treatment options include hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), which uses pure oxygen under high pressure to enhance the body's

natural ability to heal. It is particularly helpful in healing diabetic foot wounds and wounds from radiation treatments.

Ask your doctor if HBOT or other specialized care is right for you. **For more information, call (910) 715-5901.**

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Kelly Cup Golf Tournament

The 17th Annual Kelly Cup Golf Tournament, to benefit Sandhills Children's Center, is a Best Ball of 4 Full Handicap tournament to be held Wednesday, March 18 at the Pinehurst #8 course.

Food, beverages and entertainment will be provided.

Cost is \$200 per player. For further details and to register go to the Special Events section of the website www.sandhillsschil-drenscenter.org

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Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)

it will need to be approved in a second vote to be finalized.

But, based on state law, the passing prohibition is already in effect.

Pond dam donated to Association

The SLWLA now owns the dam that impounds the first Longleaf pond, a gift to made the Association by Elaine

Yow Girgis and her daughter Edwina Yow.

Treasurer Mercedes Herdrich announced the gift during the Work Session, explaining that work by the CSI Committee — and, in particular, John Goodman, had made it possible.

Director Pierman explained that the Association discovered that the dam was not Association property during the process of upgrading the

Carriage Park pond dam, which was upgraded with a walkway beside the street and a guardrail. The plan was to do the same to the first pond, until the Association's lack of ownership emerged.

"The CSI Committee is tasked with the goal of looking at all of our borders," Herdrich said, "to see if there are places that the safety and security of the commu-

nity could be enhanced — or where the beauty could be enhanced. They found some tracts of land that are inside the community, but do not belong to the Association — and this is one of those."

"Elaine Yow has always been a friend to this community," Herdrich added.

Pierman said the dam would be upgraded with a walkway and guardrail when

that can be worked into the Association's infrastructure budget.

Year 1 of road repaving complete

Director Pierman said the first year of the road repaving plan is now complete. He noted that the onsite reclamation process used had completed the bulk of the repaving in nine to ten days,

(See "Westside," p. 28)



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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 27)

rather than the thirty to forty-five days that would have been required using the standard process.

Pierman said he was very pleased with the work performed by Riley Paving and LKC Engineering. The Paving Team recommended that both firms be retained for the 1.8 miles of paving planned for Summer 2015, without sending the work out for competitive bids, based on the quality of work performed this year. No Board member objected to that plan.

Back-out driveways prohibited

The Board voted unanimously to give final approval of an amendment to Architectural Review Committee [ARC] Standard 7-09 to ensure that no driveway is built in such a way that a resident is required to back out into the street.

The new rules requires that every garage should have a back out turn around area. Previously, such designs were strongly encouraged but not required.

Director Dan Blue said that the previous language hasn't been successful in persuading homeowners and builders to incorporate turnaround areas. He noted that the three most recent homes approved by ARC have not had driveway turnarounds, adding that the ARC can't enforce a standard that simply "dis-

courages" a design element, rather than prohibiting it.

Blue also noted that homes without turn arounds often do not have sufficient parking for guests — or even family members, in some cases.

Blue said a few smaller lots are configured in a way that it may be impossible to provide a turn around. Owners of those lots would need to seek a variance.

The Board unanimously approved on second reading a change to ARC Standard 7-12 to include the sentence: "Docks may not be located less than fifteen feet from the property line."

Blue said that change simply brings the ARC standards in line with other already existing rules and regulations.

Blue reported that there are currently twelve new construction projects underway, as well as thirty-one other projects.

He recommended, and the Board unanimously approved to recombination of Lot 6083 and 6084.

Changing payment options

During her Treasurer's report, Herdrich said January was a disappointing month in terms of aged accounts, with the total outstanding increasing by almost \$3,000, to \$70,738.

\$1,000 of that increase was in late fees and another \$1,000 was in attorney's fees, Herdrich said, noting that both should ultimately be recoverable. She said the Association's new collections attorneys have collected more than \$8,500 in past due accounts through January.

About \$5,700 has been written off.

Herdrich said that all 76 of those on the aged accounts list were all members who had elected to pay monthly dues through their bill pay services. Twenty-one of the 76 are at the attorneys.

"That leaves 55 who make mistakes," Herdrich said. "They forget to pay for the month, they write the wrong amount, they pay later than they should."

She said the Finance Com-

mittee is hopeful that by eliminating the option of monthly payments through bill pay services effective May 1, "we can eliminate most of these nuisance problems and concentrate solely on the real abuses."

"To ensure that all members understand their responsibility when it comes to paying dues," Herdrich asked that the Board add to the rules and regulations a new Chapter 9, reading as follows:

9.1 Payment of Annual Assessments

9.1.1 Annual assessment (also referred to as "annual dues") must be paid in full at the commencement of each new fiscal year, using only the payment methodology approved by the Board.

9.1.2 The Association, through action of its Board of Directors, may offer the option of monthly payment of dues as an accommodation to the Membership. Such monthly dues payments shall be made in accordance with the payment methodology approved by the Board.


President Bruce Keyser said the Board had discussed the proposed rule over the past week and, as a result "had toned it down quite a bit." Keyser said he wasn't clear why the language needed to be added to the Rules and Regulations since, the covenants give the Association the right to collect dues and that a vote of the Board had already laid out the options.

(See "Westside," p. 29)

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 28)

Herdrich said she felt it was necessary because the Finance Committee and CAS staff had spent a lot of time over the past six months trying to clean up accounts that are overdue based on negligence or mistakes. She said she felt adding the language to the rules and regulations provided "something very definitive that the member can turn to or that we can turn to in terms of trying to enforce what these payment requirements are going to be."

"I don't understand why 55 out of 76 people can't understand that it is a monthly due and that it is the same amount every month," Herdrich said. If the Finance Committee does not succeed in communicating that message, she added, then the Association may have to return allowing only annual dues payments of the full amount.

Directors Mandy Goodman and Chuck Watkins both suggested that Association members with a question about their payment options are more likely to consult the rules and regulations than the covenants or min-

utes of previous Board meetings, when payment policies were changed.

The proposed rules were approved on first reading in a six to one vote, with Keyser opposed. They will need to be approved in a second Board vote before taking effect.

Thanks from the President

Presiding over his last regular meeting, President Keyser thanked his fellow Directors, CAS Staff, and the members of the Association.

"It has been a very successful year, and I appreciate the hard work and support that they have given to this Association, to each other, and to me this past eleven months."

Other Business

In other business during the Thursday, February 26 meeting of the SLWLA Board of Directors:

- The Board unanimously approved on second reading two major amendments to the rules and regulations [Sections 3.11 and 3.12] that provide guidelines on Association and landowner responsibility for landscaping, utilities, and structures

placed in the right of way along Westside streets — as well as erosion control in and maintenance of the right of way.

- Director Bob Fewkes reported that a new Emergency Action Plan for Lake Auman Dam had been submitted to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources thanks to work by Mary Anne Fewkes.
- Community Manager Jeanette Mendence announced that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt would be cancelled because no volunteers have stepped forward to organize the event.

- Mendence said the front entrance exit road had been painted with directional markings and asked that residents pay attention to those markings — as well as the arrows around the mailhouse that indicate the one-way traffic flow.
- Roads have been sanded three times and plowed once, taking the Association over budget in those line items.
- Work on a gazebo in the pool area has been started and should be completed by Memorial Day, Mendence reported.
- The next event in the Winter Concert Series is sched-

uled for Saturday, March 14, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, featuring Eric Smallwood.

- All events for the upcoming year have been added to the calendar on the website.
- Mandy Goodman said her committee will have a brief presentation for the annual meeting highlighting the Association website.

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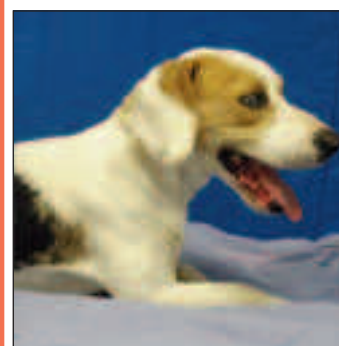
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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TREE SERVICE — ALLEN & SON TREE SERVICE. Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). *tfn*

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NEW & USED PONTOONS AND SKI BOATS – Call Seven Lakes Marine. 673-1440.

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DONATE YOUR BOAT TO THE NONPROFIT MATTAMUSKEET FOUNDATION – Tax deduction for market value. Support the organization’s educational mission. Contact Lewis Forrest, 252-341-7882.

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Outstanding Lake Auman Lots

McLendon Hills Waterfront Lot



630 McLendon Hills Dr \$335,000

Beautiful waterfront property in a gated equestrian community. Your dream home will overlook spring fed Lake Troy Douglas where you will enjoy swimming, boating, & fishing. Private docks, canoes, kayaks, row-boats, and electric boats permitted.



101 Butterfly Court \$585,000

This gorgeous lot combines 2.5 lots into one unbelievable property with 1.68 acres and over 200 feet of water frontage. Over \$200,000 of improvements include bulkhead, electric boat lift, outdoor kitchen with pergola, granite countertop, stove, and prep island. Cleared homesite, driveway, stone balcony, brick staircases.



126 Simmons Drive \$199,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



128 Simmons Drive \$199,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



126 Swaringen Drive \$395,000

Gorgeous wide water views — eastern exposure for optimum enjoyment of your late afternoon entertainment — one of the best lots on the lake! (.67 Acres)



128 Swaringen Drive \$375,000

Spectacular, wide-open water views. Site is perfect for walk out level. Eastern orientation for beautiful sunrises and cool shaded evenings on your deck! (.64 Acres)



107 Butterfly Court \$395,000

Enjoy wide water views from this wonderful waterfront lot on Lake Auman! Cul-de-sac location! The perfect spot to build your dream home!



Seven Lakes West \$519,000
Gorgeous water front
3 BA / 2 BA
143 Vanore Road



Seven Lakes West \$249,000
Great house with upstairs bonus room
3 BR / 2.5 BA
541 Longleaf Drive



Foxfire \$174,900
Lovely updated home on cul-de-sac
3 BR / 2 BA
3 Pine Ridge Court



Seven Lakes North \$199,000
Lovely lakefront home w/great updates!
3 BR / 2 BA
110 Fox Run Court



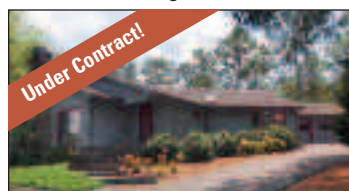
Seven Lakes West \$199,000
Open floor plan w/ large wooded lot
3BR / 2 BA
111 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$440,000
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
109 Timber Ridge Court



Seven Lakes West \$279,000
Lovely Home built by Bolton Builders
4 BR / 3 BA
335 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$224,500
Custom home w/stunning lake views!
3 BR / 2 BA
108 Sunrise Point



Seven Lakes South \$189,900
Sun-filled home on well-landscaped lot!
3 BR / 2.5 BA
106 Somerset Lane



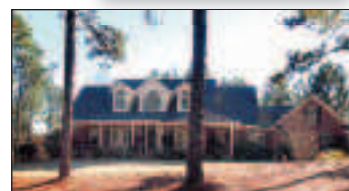
Seven Lakes North \$139,000
Spotless and move in ready
3BR / 2BA
128 Edgewater Drive



Seven Lakes West \$246,000
Immaculate, cozy golf front cottage
3 BR / 2 BA
214 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$299,900
Beautiful golf front home overlooking pond
4 BR / 3 BA
230 Finch Gate Drive



Seven Lakes West \$499,000
Gorgeous custom home on almost 6 acres!
3 BR / 3.5 BA
364 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$499,000
Custom home on hill overlooking Lake
4 BR / 4 BA
140 James Drive



West End \$149,900
Cute and affordable in popular Pinesage
3 BR / 2 BA
106 Oakcrest Court



Seven Lakes West \$249,000
Recently renovated w/expansive lake views!
3 BR / 3 BA
106 Sunrise Point



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4 BR / 3 BA
103 Vanore Rd.



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