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Volume 22 Number 23

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

September 14, 2007

Input wanted on Area A plan



Area A Steering Committee Chairman Dave Kinney briefed Seven Lakes Kiwanis on the Small Area Planning process at a recent meeting. A public meeting aimed at gathering input on the plan is scheduled for this Tuesday, September 18, at 6:00 pm at West End Elementary. (See story on page 2.)

Board stiffens ARC Standards

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westside landowners and their builders will face some stiffer oversight from the Architectural Review Committee [ARC] of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] as a result of revised Architectural Standards approved by the Board of Directors during their Tuesday morning, September 11 Work Session.

ARC member Bud Sales highlighted key revisions of the Standards for Board members, noting major changes in four areas:

- The Association must now issue a Certificate of Completion before the homeowner can occupy a new home.

West Side Landowners Meeting

9/11

"We have never, ever had ability to go in a do a builder's checkoff or punch list on new construction," Sales told the Board. Under the new rules, ARC members will use a Final

(See "Westside" p.40)

Village calls for conservation

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Citing a letter received from North Carolina Governor Michael Easley requesting immediate compliance, the Foxfire Village Mayor and Council imposed mandatory water restrictions during their regular Tuesday, September 11 meeting.

Easley's letter reported the entire state is facing a serious drought, with ninety-three of one hundred counties experiencing

exceptional to severe conditions, and called on all local governments and municipalities to

Foxfire Council Meeting

9/11

implement water shortage response plans.

"We're the only ones in Moore

County not already on restrictions," said Mayor George Erickson.

The Foxfire Water Shortage Response Plan Ordinance includes three phases, with Foxfire now under Phase I mandatory restrictions:

Outdoor water use: irrigation water must be applied slowly to achieve deep penetration and prevent water run-off.

Automatic watering by spray (See "Foxfire," p. 36)

Water restrictions could get tougher

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Though there's a chance of rain in the weekend forecast, Seven Lakes and the rest of the Moore County water system still faces the possibility of Stage III mandatory water restrictions.

Persistent drought and high levels of water usage have depleted the reservoir of groundwater that supplies most of Moore County's drinking water, County Public Works Director Dennis

Brobst told *The Times* on Wednesday. If the static water level in the Middendorf aquifer falls much further, "We'll have no choice but to implement Stage III," Brobst said.

Voluntary water conservation measures were implemented in Seven Lakes on May 30, and then pushed up to Stage II Mandatory restrictions on June 8. Stage III Conservation requirements are much stricter, forbidding all watering of lawns, land-

(See "Water," p. 33)

In this issue

SLLA.	4	Obituaries.	8	Letters to the Editor	26
County Commissioners	5	Churches	17	Laura's Learning Curve	27
Schools.	10	What's When	21	Mason's Musings	28
People	12	Opinion.	26	Classifieds	42

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Area A public input session is Tuesday

On Tuesday, September 18, Moore County Planners and the Area A Small Area Plan Steering Committee will host a public input session at the West End Elementary School Media Center.

The goal of the meeting will be to brief the public on the work the Steering Committee has done over the past ten months and to

take away public input that can be incorporated into the final draft of the Area A Plan.

The session is scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm, but the format has been designed to accommodate those who drop in after attending other events — like Meet the Merchants or the West End Elementary PTO meeting — scheduled for the same evening.

Planners and committee members will man several tables, each dealing with one aspect of the small area plan — infrastructure, or preservation, for example.

A newly-developed Future Land Use Map [FLUM] will also be available for review. The FLUM lays out a vision of what

the ideal zoning would be for the parcels in Area A.

Area A is a 100-mile chunk of the County that centers on West End and Seven Lakes. It stretches all the way to the Montgomery County line and brushes up against Foxfire and Pinewild.

The Small Area Planning

process is a method of involving the public in developing a vision for the future of that area and principles that can help guide planners, Planning Board members, and County Commissioners as they make decisions about zoning and new developments proposed for the area.

Kinney at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn

Southsider Dave Kinney, Chairman of the Small Planning Area A Committee and member of the county Planning Board, addressed the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club at their regular meeting held on September 4.

Kinney brought the Club up-to-date regarding the on-going work to develop better ordinances within the Area A limits as they pertain especially to the development of new subdivisions and communities. The work involves the protection of our natural resources, especially the water supply.

Meet the Merchants Tuesday

The Annual Meet the Merchants night hosted by the Seven Lakes West End Area Business Guild is scheduled for Tuesday Night, September 18, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Seven Lakes Business Village Commons.

The McKenzie Brothers Band will provide entertainment and many area merchants will have booths offering refreshments, giveaways, registration for door prizes, and plenty of helpful information about their prod-

ucts and services.

The event is always well-attended and is a great way for new residents in particular to learn about the businesses that serve Seven Lakes and the surrounding community.

Long-time residents often find there are new businesses that

they hadn't yet discovered.

Slightly cooler weather in the forecast should make for a pleasant evening.

Should rain force postponement of the event, it will be held on a week later, on September 25.

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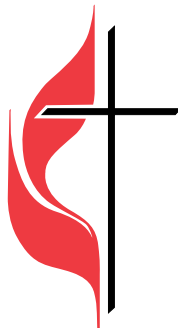
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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Sept 28	Sept 21
Oct 12	Oct 5
Oct 26	Oct 19
Nov 9	Nov 2
Nov 21*	Nov 15*
Dec 7	Nov 30
Dec 21	Dec 14

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.



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#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000
#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

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#1004/05 - Two/wet - \$6,900
#2475 - Really Nice - \$21,500
#2483 - SOLD! - \$20,000
#2495 - Private - \$20,000
#2510/11/12/13 -
Under Contract - \$39,000
#2545 - Cul-de-sac - \$15,000
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Directors debate skateboards on streets

Should skateboards be allowed on the streets of Seven Lakes North and South?

Members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board debated that question during the Board's Wednesday, September 26 Work Session.

The Board previously banned skateboarding on all Association property, except for the basketball court near the Landowners office. That ban included community streets. Director Laura Douglass in August proposed

is likely to be located in Eastwood, Douglass said Seven Lakes needs to be seen as a family-friendly community in order to preserve property values.

Director Nuti said that he remembered growing up in Brooklyn skating and playing stickball in the streets. "The cars stopped for us," Nuti said.

"There has to be a place for kids to do skateboarding and rollerblading," Director Stephan said. But, on the other hand, she noted, many older Seven Lakes residents are uncertain drivers.

"We can't complain about kids getting into trouble

if we don't give them anyplace positive to direct their energies," Director Zielsdorf said. He suggested that skateboarding might be allowed on the streets but only during certain hours.

President Truesdell asked that the proposed rules change be placed on the agenda of the September 26 General Meeting for a vote.

Cove dredging

Ed Nuti told his fellow Directors that he had heard from several lakefront lot owners concerned that the coves on which their properties front had filled in over the years, leaving them with beach in front of their bulkheads and difficulty accessing their property by boat. [See Nuti's article on this on page 9.]

He shared photos of a number of problem coves with the Board and suggested that the Board develop estimates of the cost of dredging the coves.

President Truesdell, who also heads the Lakes and Dams Committee, said the issue is on that Committee's agenda and contractors have already been contacted in order to obtain cost estimates. "It's a problem that is not going to be resolved quickly," Truesdell said.

Trail rides

Nuti also shared pictures of erosion created along the front of some lots on Edgewater that lie on the path taken by trail riders from the Seven Lakes Stables. He asked whether the route could be changed in order to alleviate the problem.

Assistant Manager Chad Beane provided the Board with a new proposed route that would utilize ten-foot buffer strip that the Association owns along the perimeter of the community. Beane said utilizing that strip for trail rides would require some clearing, and, more importantly, a survey prior to any clearing.

"We need to make sure we are on Association property," Beane said. Truesdell asked him to have an estimate of the cost of a survey ready for the September 26 General Meeting.

Boat and trailer storage

Director Zielsdorf told the Board that his Community Standards Committee is interested in

finding ways to reduce the number of boats that are visible in neighborhood yards. He asked whether directors would support adding more boat slips or, perhaps, fencing the boat storage yard at Sequoia Point and charging for storage in that area.

Truesdell said he would be in

(See "SLLA," p. 35)

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

9/12

a rules revision that would ban skateboarding in Association parking lots and near community buildings, but lift the ban on the use of skateboards on the streets. Director Nuti included that revision in his update of the SLLA Rules and Regulation, and the issue came up for discussion in Wednesday night's meeting.

Treasurer Steve Hudson said he was opposed to the change, citing advice from the Association's insurance carrier obtained when the original skateboard ban was enacted. "Our insurance carrier simply stated that it only increases the liability risk and jeopardizes the insurance policy," Hudson said. "Streets are for cars, not for kids," Hudson said. Southern Pines, Aberdeen, and Pinehurst had all banned skateboards on their streets.

Douglass said that, in fact, Pinehurst banned skateboards on sidewalks but not on streets, only requiring that boarders wear helmets when on the streets. The UNC campuses consider skateboards a "mode of transportation," she added.

Douglass said the Board banned skateboarding on the streets not because of liability concerns, but as a "heavy-handed reaction to delinquent vandalism" in the area around the Landowners Office and North Clubhouse. Kids riding a skateboard to the bus stop pose no more of a liability risk than those walking or riding their bikes to the same destination, she said.

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Commissioners put bonds on the ballot

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

[This article was published on The Seven Lakes Times web-site on September 5.]

The Moore County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night, September 4, took the final steps necessary to place two bond referenda on the November ballot: \$54 million for Moore County Public Schools and \$15.5 million for Sandhills Community College.

The Commissioners held a public hearing on the bonds and then adopted the bond orders and a resolution calling for the referenda. Several citizens spoke during the public hearing — all in support of the bonds.

The \$54 million public school bond will fund the first phase of Moore County Public Schools' twelve-year Facilities Master plan. Phase 1 includes the construction of a new middle school and a new elementary school, as well as renovations and expansions at seven other schools.

The \$15.5 million bond for Sandhills Community College will support the construction of a new classroom building, a new emergency services training facility, a new maintenance and warehouse facility, a conservatory, and a variety of other projects.

County Property Declared Smoke-Free

After considerable discussion in both an afternoon work session and Tuesday night's regular meeting, Commissioners approved a new policy banning smoking on all county-owned property. The ban will take effect on January 1, 2008.

The Moore County Board of Health asked for the ban back in December, but Commissioners had delayed acting on it until Monday night. County Health Director Robert Widman, speaking as the Secretary for the Board of Health, urged Commissioners to support the ban both to promote healthy habits among county employees and to set an example for other area employers. He noted that FirstHealth had successfully implemented a campus-wide smoking ban last year.

Interim Personnel Director Lee Ann Purvis asked Commissioners

to delay their decision until more employees could be involved in considering the policy. She suggested forming a committee of department heads and employees to examine the proposed policy and make a recommen-

dation to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton noted that he had successfully implemented a smoking ban at his place of business and spoke in support of the proposed coun-

ty ban. Commissioner Larry Cad-dell, while expressing support for the proposed policy, said he was concerned that a ban on smoking on county property would simply move smokers onto municipal sidewalks and

private property within the town of Carthage.

Commissioner Tim Lea said that is exactly what happened when FirstHealth implemented its smoking ban — smokers moved (See "Commissioners" p. 34)

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Transfer tax will be used for capital projects

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

[This article was published on The Seven Lakes Times web-site on September 5.]

A new Moore County land transfer tax — if voters approve it — is likely to be used to meet pressing county capital needs: new buildings and improvements on the campuses of Moore County public schools and Sandhills Community College, new facilities to house county staff, new offices for the Sheriff's Department, a new jail, and, possibly, an expansion of the county's wastewater treatment plant.

Voters will be asked to approve the transfer tax on Election Day in November. It would be levied only on transfers of real property and not on transfers of motor vehicles or other personal property. It would not be levied on gifts or inherited property.

Commissioners Larry Caddell and Jimmy Melton expressed strong support for the idea of dedicating any proceeds from a transfer tax to capital projects during a Tuesday, September 4 work session. Chairman Colin McKenzie asked County Manager Cary McSwain and staff to develop an ordinance or resolution reserving the funds for capital needs. (Neither Commissioner Tim Lea nor Com-

missioner Cindy Morgan were able to attend the work session.) McSwain said he would have the language ready for consideration during the Commissioners' September 17 regular meeting.

A summary document prepared by County Finance Director Lisa Hughes showed county capital needs that exceed \$157 million, including \$54.5 million for public schools, \$15.5 million for the college, \$16.5 million for a new government center, \$20-26 million for a new jail, \$45 million for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, as well as an unknown amount for the courts facility renovation.

The county currently has \$44.8 million in issued debt, with debt service in the current fiscal year expected to total just over \$6 million, of which approximately \$4 million is paying for previous borrowing on public schools projects. If the land transfer tax passes, it will generate an estimated \$3.2 million annually.

"A land transfer tax that generates \$3.2 million is barely going to make a dent in the debt service that we need," Hughes told Commissioners, noting that increases in property taxes will be necessary even if the transfer tax is approved by voters.

Hughes strongly recommended

reserving land transfer tax revenues for capital projects, though she noted that no such designation can be actually placed on the ballot presented to voters in November. She said the Moore County Summit, an ad hoc committee comprised of government officials from across the county, had originally advocated the transfer tax as a means of funding capital needs.

When McSwain asked Commissioners whether they wanted to allocate transfer tax funds, Commissioner Caddell responded: "Absolutely. I thought that was the idea in the first place."

"Being on the same referendum for the school bonds," Commissioner Melton added, "if we can specify that it is going to be used to service that debt, then that's the way we want to go."

Public relations

While the Commissioners

seem eager to help voters understand the proposed tax and the way its proceeds will be used, they were more wary of mounting an aggressive public relations campaign urging voters to vote yes for the transfer tax — a strategy being used in some other counties. McKenzie provided an example of presentation from Chatham County that he felt went too far in that direction.

"I'm not saying that it is our job to sell this thing to the public," McKenzie said. "How much selling we are going to do . . . I'm more inclined to just tell the people the facts — if everyone tells the truth that should be enough." Referring to potential opposition to the new tax from home builders and the real estate community, McKenzie noted that the standard 6 percent real estate commission is 15 times the proposed 0.4 percent land transfer tax.

Commissioner Caddell said

he ran for his seat in order to address long-neglected infrastructure needs: "You have the schools, you have the jail, the court system — we should have done this ten years ago. Somehow, someday, we have to fix these things . . . We have to fix the jail, we have to fix the court-

(See "Transfer tax" p. 39)

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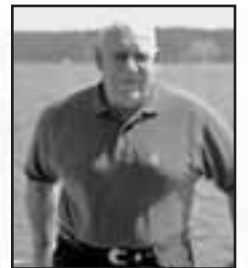
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Directors to be dropped from lawsuit

The names of four Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Directors will be dropped from a suit filed against them, the Association, and Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC], lead plaintiff Alan Shaw told *The Times* on Tuesday.

Shaw, a Southside resident and one of Seven Lakes original developers, filed suit in August to block an agreement between the Association and the Club that could result in a patio-home development on the current SLCC driving range. He was joined in the suit by SLLA Treasurer Steve Hudson and his wife Mary, as well as Southsiders, Chuck and Jane Leach and Tom and Roberta Robinson.

Shaw told *The Times* that the plaintiffs will file a voluntary dismissal of the complaint against the four board members named in the suit: Laura Douglass, Ed Nuti, Don Truesdell, and Randy Zielsdorf — the four who voted to approve the agreement with the Club.

"We never intended to seek any damages from individual directors," Shaw told *The Times*.

"We named them individually in the suit simply to get their attention."

The complaint does not in fact seek damages, but rather asks the court to prevent either side from implementing the agreement.

The complaint argues that the driving range was shown as open space on the original plats used to market Southside lots and so must remain undeveloped.

The Club's property is subject to Southside covenants, the plaintiffs claim, contending that the SLLA Board lacks the authority to waive the Southside covenants for the Club and also lacks the authority to allow the Club to subdivide the driving range.

Seven Lakes Country Club is currently building a new driving range on a parcel that lies inside the curve of East Devonshire Avenue where it intersects with Sandham and Sherwood. The Club is moving the range for safety reasons. Balls hit from the existing range have often hit cars on Seven Lakes Drive

and Devonshire Avenue.

The Club hopes to sell the roughly five-acre property to a developer; Club leaders have estimated its value in excess of \$200,000.

Shaw recently offered to give the Club two residential lots near its new driving range if it would sell the existing driving

range to the Landowners Association for not more than \$50,000 — and the SLLA Board would agree to preserve the property as open space in perpetuity.

Members of the SLLA Board have announced that, on advice of counsel, they will make no public comment about the ongoing lawsuit.

Shaw told *The Times* that legal papers accomplishing the voluntary dismissal of the suit against the four SLLA Directors would be filed in Carthage by week's end.

Neither the Association nor the Club has filed an answer to the suit. Delays are common in civil proceedings.

Brobst no longer 'Interim' Director

Westsider Dennis Brobst has been named Public Works Director for Moore County, removing the "Interim" that has preceded his title for the past seven months. County manager Cary McSwain made the decision on August 27, but the county's announcement of the appointment was made after the Labor Day holiday.

Brobst, who moved to Seven Lakes West in March of 2006, served as Moore County Director of Public Utilities from March of 2000 to December of 2004, before leaving to serve in the same capacity for the Village of Pinehurst. At the time, it looked as though Pinehurst would be purchasing its portion of the County water system. That deal ultimately fell through when the Village Council and County Commissioners could not finalize the agreement.

Brobst told *The Times* that his goal as Public Works Director is

to complete many of the projects started during his previous tenure with the County — chief among them, finding new sources of water for the county. A new study of possible sources is expected to be complete this month, he told *The Times*.

Brobst said his "personal nightmare" is a failure of the series of wastewater lift stations that ring Lake Pinehurst. A solution to that problem is in the design phase.

Brobst has a long history managing water and wastewater systems.

He spent fifteen years in Calvert County Maryland as a Division Chief for five wastewater treatment sanitary districts and seventeen water systems.

He held various positions with the Maryland State Environmental Services over thirteen years, all in the water and wastewater field.

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In memory of . . .

Larry Lee Vredenburg, 52, of West End, died Friday, August 31.

Mr. Vredenburg was born in Moore County. He was the son of the late Harvey Lincoln and Grace Jean Black Vredenburg. He enjoyed martial arts and won many trophies.

He is survived by a son, Jeremy Vredenburg, of Vass; a brother, W. Harvey Vredenburg of West End. A graveside service was held Saturday, September 8, at Culdee Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Earl Henderson officiated.

Memorials may be made to Sherry Locklear, 7028 Beulah Hill Church Road, West End, N.C., 27376.

Crumpler Funeral Home in Pinebluff served the family.

Christine Margaret McDermott, 60, of the Spies community, died Sunday, September 2, at her residence.

Ms. McDermott was born in Fort Bragg, and was a daughter of the late Margaret Presthofer McDermott and Col. Gregory

McDermott. She lived in Southern Pines during her early years and later in Carmel, California, Tokyo, Japan, and New Castle County, Delaware.

She received her education at Alexis I duPont High School, the University of Delaware, and the Dickinson School of Law.

As a retiree in North Carolina, she taught part-time at Randolph County Community College and soon returned to full-time employment at the Randolph Family Crisis Center, where she was executive director until the spring of 2007.

She attended West End Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Moore County Choral Society.

As Westmoore precinct chair, she sat on the Executive Committee of the Moore County Dem-

ocratic Party.

Ms. McDermott is survived by two daughters Dr. Cynthia Harker of Shady Side, Maryland, and Beth Harker, of New York City; three sisters Carolyn McDermott, MaryAlice McDermott of Spies, and Ellen McDermott, of Greenwood, Delaware; a brother Hank McDermott, of Lahaina, Hawaii.

A memorial service was held Thursday, September 6, at West End Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Larry Lyon officiated.

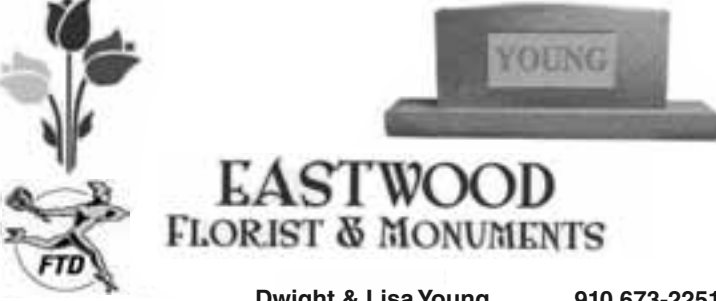
Memorials may be made to the West End Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 13, West End, NC 27376, or to Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, P.O. Box 7306, Wilmington DE 19803.

Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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Northside coves need Board’s attention

Recently a resident of the North Side brought to the attention of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors, a situation that needs remediation.

Residents with homesites in the many coves of our lakes

system have long complained of losing their ability to use their boats because the water levels in the coves have fallen appreciably. Formerly acceptable water levels have now retreated into what at best can be described as a deplorable condition. Boats

cannot even be floated alongside the boat docks, in some cases. Areas of sand have now replaced the water in front of the bulkheads.

To be sure, the current lack of rainfall has contributed to the condition. However, even the

normal levels, when they return in the coming months, will still be far short of acceptable for these residents.

If dredging the coves is what it takes, then let’s develop some cost figures for us to consider. It is unacceptable and unfair to these lakeside residents for us to ignore their plight any longer. It was created through no fault of

Real estate pros unite to form Frontgate Properties

There is a new and different real estate company serving Moore County and the Seven Lakes and Foxfire communities. FrontGate Properties is owned by Rebecca Cummings, Peggy Floyd, Mike Hardinger, Tammy Lyne, and Kim Stout.

These owner/agents are a highly motivated, professional and successful group dedicated to growing real estate careers and improving the community, as are the thirteen other agents who have joined the group since the doors opened in mid June of this year.

FrontGate agents share a common set of values that form the core beliefs of their new company. Among these beliefs is the fact that most clients choose their agents because of the individual agent, not the company represented by that agent.

For this reason, FrontGate provides the most up to date training, education, and technology to allow each agent to give their clients the best service possible.

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is teamwork. There is a supportive atmosphere of "help each agent with whatever it takes to best serve each client." All strive toward the goal of client satisfaction beyond the expectations of that client. And, for the team, FrontGate will have a company profit sharing program for every agent and employee.


FrontGate Properties is a full service real estate company located in Southern Pines.

Several agents live in the Seven Lakes area, and all can be reached at 692-5553, or by visiting www.FrontGatePinehurst.com

What is needed is a firm commitment by our Board to study the problem thoroughly and to adopt a cove rehabilitation strategy so the coves can be restored to their previous condition, and then our Lakes and Dam Committee will begin a program of continuing maintenance going forward.

their own. We cannot allow lakefront property to deteriorate into lakefront mud holes.

Our by-laws impose duties on the Board to manage, repair, and improve the Common Areas of the Association. Let's all resolve to get behind this initiative and seek the answers to re-beautifying our lakes.




MEMO:

Board Notes

Ed Nuti
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

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To our friends and neighbors in Seven Lakes West and members of Moore Humane and Animal Advocates for their kindness and support as we searched for "Baby." He is now safe at home after three days missing.

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Schools

Student population up at West Pine, West End

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

West Pine Middle School experienced an unexpected increase in its student population this year, reported Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent, Dr. Susan Purser, when the ten-day enrollment numbers were presented to the Board of Education at their Monthly Business Meeting held on Monday, September 10.

"A rapid increase was noticed [at West Pine] but is still within reason," said Purser.

West Pine Middle, along with the two other schools, West End Elementary and Pinecrest High School, which serve the West End, Jackson Springs, Eagle Springs, and Foxfire communities, has experienced a steady and relentless student population increase and is now overcapacity – two years sooner than anticipated.

A facility built for 792, West Pine had a projected enrollment of 762 students for this year, but is actually now serving 811 students. This represents a 5.6 percent population increase over the past year.

West End Elementary, a facility built for 502 students, gained an additional thirty students above last year's population, bringing the school to 579 students.

Pinecrest High School remains considerably overcapacity with 2,017 students in a facility built for 1,606. However, this year's actual enrollment numbers were nearly fifty students less than projections.

The Moore County Public School system includes twenty-two schools serving 12,334 students.

Budget

MCS Chief Financial Officer Michael C. Griffin presented a complete budget report and request for adjustment to compensate for the half million dollar reduction to the original proposal sent to the Moore County Board of Commissioners. The original budget proposal of \$24.1 million, was reduced to \$23.6 million.

Several key initiatives identified in the 2007-2008 budget process were maintained in Griffin's final

proposal, including increases for assistant principals, EC teachers and services, athletics, nursing program, English as a Second Language [ESL], Information Technology [IT] support, and extended employment for certain data managers, instruction specialists, and media specialists.

Several other initiatives will be funded but at a reduced rate, including IT training specialist, middle school alternative program, Ready-Set-Go program for Kindergarten readiness, academic competition sponsorship, and additional funding for the Graduation Project.

Initiatives deferred pending monies received through funding sources, including Federal Impact Aid, Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding, Student Accountability Funding, and others, include Fast Forward program, Book Refresh, increases in overall school main-

tenance, increases in janitorial supplies, and Middle Years IB program.

Griffin said he expects that Moore County is eligible to receive approximately \$300,000 in Federal Impact Aid, which is funding available to schools where enrolled students have parents and/or guardians working for the Federal government including the military.

Staffing Update

Citing only a handful of vacancies that were still open as school began this year, Dr. Anita Alpenfels, Executive Director for Human Resources, reported "This year we hired 134 new employees but have continued to struggle with hiring more minority employees."

Moore County Schools, with 1,916 employees, is the second largest employer in the county.

The State Public School Fund

provides funding for teacher salaries based on the projected number of students. This year, the state allotted 579 positions.

MCS, like most other school systems, uses additional county and federal funding to supplement the total number of positions. This year the roster of licensed teachers includes 310 Elementary, 114 Middle School, 236 High School, 228 Special Subject [including PE, ESL, Arts], and 185 non-teaching Licensed [guidance counselors, administrators, media specialists].

Dr. Larry Upchurch, Deputy Superintendent, said, "There are additional teacher positions funded through federal funding, in addition to the state funding [allotment]."

Transportation Update

In an effort to reduce ride
(See "School board," p. 32)



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Purser named 'Superintendent of Year'

Moore County Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser has been named the Sandhills Region Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Jim Simeon, Consultative Director of the Sandhills

Regional Education Consortium (SREC), made the announcement at the Sept. 10 Moore County Schools Board of Education meeting.

Purser is one of eight region-

al Superintendents of the Year who will now go on to compete for the state honor. The competition is sponsored by the N.C. Association of School Administrators (NCASA). The state win-

ner will compete for the National Superintendent of the Year honor.

In his comments, Simeon said, "What she says and does in her daily actions makes it obvious that she wants the very best for every child just as she does for her two special grandchildren."

"I really don't deserve the credit," Purser said. "We have a great set of educators here and a community who are all constantly reaching for the very best. I am honored to work in Moore County and honored to do anything I can do to represent the outstanding work that takes place our school district."

Purser came to Moore County Schools in July 2004. During her three years as Superintendent of the local school system, she has initiated a 12-year Facilities Master Plan; organized task forces to study alternative programs, reading, and high schools which have generated several new educational

initiatives; and organized a collaborative community/school district athletic study to produce recommendations for improved support of middle and high school athletics.

Purser has fostered a close working relationship between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners; instituted a Summer Academy for staff development; and established various initiatives for improved communication with both employees and the public.

In Moore County, she serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, formerly a member of the United Way Board of Directors, the Ruth Pauley Lecture Series Board of Directors, the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, the FirstHealth Board and the Moore County Public Education Foundation.

County SAT scores rise

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Moore County students increased their average SAT scores again this year and maintained an average score higher than both the state and national averages.

SAT tests were conducted at each of the three county high schools with an average gain of ten points over last year – to 1,554. In North Carolina, the average SAT score is almost seventy points lower at 1,486. The national average is 1,511.

Participation rates are also gaining, reported Dr. Susan Purser, Superintendent of Schools, noting an increase over last year

of ten percent.

"We are very pleased to see more students taking the SAT," said Purser. "We want to encourage students who have any kind of post-secondary plans to take the SAT – even if they are planning to attend a community college – as often plans change."

The SAT Reasoning Test is a standardized test for college admission. The test is administered over the course of three hours and forty-five minutes and includes three main sections in math, critical reading, and writing, as well as several other subsections.

In previous years, the test consisted of only the math and

verbal [critical reading] portions, with a maximum score of 1,600. Two years ago the writing portion was added, bringing the maximum possible score up to 2,400.

"It is imperative that we prepare our students well so that they are successful when they move into the college or university experience," Purser said.

"SAT results indicate we are doing a better job of meeting that challenge each year. However, there is always room for improvement," she continued, "and, not only do we want to see our scores improve, we want to see the participation rate constantly increase, too."

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Softball Tourney benefits little Noah Jones

Despite temperatures as low as thirty degrees, last Fall ten teams competed in the first Co-Ed Softball Tournament and Home Run Derby to benefit Noah Jones. Traveling from as far away as Hamlet, Rockingham, and Siler City, the event raised over \$8,000.

This year's tournament and derby will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 21-22 at the West End Elementary baseball field. Event organizers and sponsor Matt McNeill of Jubilee Screen Print expect an even greater turnout and, to keep things interesting, will be playing with a different set of rules that will level the playing field between regular ball players and those that just want to help out the Jones Family.

Noah was born on April 17, 2006, with a severe neurological disorder that causes seizures and developmental delays. Noah began life having fifty-five plus seizures a day. After experi-

menting with four or five anti-convulsants in a matter of months, Noah was scheduled to undergo brain surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland in August 2006. The hope was for the seizures to stop after a procedure of disconnecting the two halves of his brain.

Unfortunately, at four months of age, Noah's surgery was not a complete success as the neurosurgeon removed about one tenth of his brain. Over the course of the next seven months, Noah made progress with his motor functions. He lagged behind other babies his age but began to make leaps and bounds compared to what had been seen prior to surgery. He was also thought to be seizure free during this period of time.

As Noah was slowly weaned off one of his medications in March 2007, he began to show signs of less severe seizures. These occurred every few days

or so. After multiple tests were performed, it was decided that Noah was, indeed, having approximately forty seizures a day that were not being seen. Only a handful of these seizures were escaping on the outside.

In an attempt to completely cure Noah of his seizures, he underwent a second brain surgery at Johns Hopkins for an anatomical hemispherectomy this past August 30. In this procedure, the neurosurgeon removed the entire left side of Noah's brain with the exception of a couple of small portions that were surrounded by blood vessels. This is the only chance the little boy has at living a relatively normal life.

Noah's grandfather, Westsider Harold Jones, told *The Times* on Wednesday that Noah and his parents were expected to return (See "Noah," p. 39)



Noah Jones recovers after brain surgery at Johns Hopkins.

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Is your home safe for your children?

by Jason Joyce

Quality Care Pharmacy

Summer is slowly fading away, and the cool fall mornings are just around the corner. The yellow school buses are back on the road and our schools are filled with the excitement of new beginnings and anticipation of things to come.

There is also anxiety in the air of concerned parents who worry about the safety and security of their most precious possessions. It is natural to worry about our children, but often parents and grandparents overlook some of the most dangerous risks to their children's safety in our own homes.

Our own homes can often provide the most dangerous scenarios that our children will face.

Is your home Poison Proof?

There are more than 2.5 million phone calls to the Poison Control Centers each year. This is up from 900,000 calls back in 1985. These phone calls range from informational to true emergencies.

Ninety-seven percent of poisonings occur in the home, but not always the child's home. If you don't have children, chances are you've had grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighborhood children, or children of friends visit your home in the past year. There are several precautions we can take to ensure we create an environment where poisonings are least likely to occur.

*Keep medicines or household chemicals, cleaning agents, pesticides, and paints in a locked cabinet or closet and completely out of reach for little hands

*Keep medicines or chemicals in their original containers; never store chemicals in drink bottles or food containers; be sure stored chemicals and medicines are properly labeled

*Always read caution and instruction labels thoroughly

*Call medicine their proper name; never call medicine candy

*Use products with child resistant packaging

*Inspect and clean out medicine cabinets at least yearly

*Keep emergency numbers posted to your doctor, pharmacy, poison control center, and hospital; teach children and family members the use of 911

Children are curious in nature

and will put almost anything in their mouths. If you suspect a child has swallowed a poison, try to stay calm and act quickly. Your doctor and/or Poison Control Center [1-800-222-1222] will want to know:

- what was swallowed,
- the time it was swallowed,
- the amount swallowed,
- name and number,
- child's name, age, and weight,
- any medical conditions of the child, and

- any medicine the child is taking.

It is important that you do not use syrup of ipecac or make the child vomit because it may cause more damage. EMS or hospital personnel may use other

medications to block the absorption of the poison into the body.

If a child gets poison on the skin, remove any clothes, and rinse the skin with water for at least fifteen minutes, and call

(See "Poison," p. 32)

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Watering restrictions? Try 'Xeriscaping'

A severe drought combined with a lengthy period of water rationing left many withered lawns in the Denver, Colorado, area in the early 1980's. Homeowners needed something new and xeriscape emerged as a drought-tolerant style of landscape design. Xeriscape, from the Greek word xeros, meaning dry, has water conservation ethics at its core.

Using native species and careful planning, a xeriscaped yard will require minimal supplemental water, once established, and is

ideally-suited to many diverse regions including the Sandhills.

According to the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, "North Carolina is home to more native plant species than possibly any other state, in fact, North Carolina has more plant species than all of Europe."

Many of these native species are very tolerant of seasonal dry conditions and will usually do better during dry periods than exotic or hybrid species.

Marisa Back, a Master Gardener and twelve-year resident of Seven Lakes West, is an expert in xeriscape and has used its principals to beautify her own property as well as consult and assist with landscaping the Pinehurst Greenway Wildlife Habitat Trail.

"When I moved here, I brought plants from my home in Akron, Ohio," Back said. "Of course they all died!"

Back said she expected things would be different but did not know anything about soil acidity in this region or how it would affect her garden.

"In Ohio, you plant it and it grows," exclaimed Back.

Back said she was pleased when her new neighbor, former Westsider Nancy Stein, now of Quail Haven, "took me under her wing," said Back. "She got me interested in the Master Gardener program where I learned from the ground up why soil is so important."

The year Back arrived was very dry so she began using the xeriscape method of water conservation and plant selection almost immediately.

The Back's yard, which contains no sod, has many distinct flower and plant beds – and according to the principals of xeriscape, plants with similar water needs are grouped together.

Those needing more frequent watering are conveniently placed closest to the house.

"I also feed sixty varieties of birds and have received the National Wildlife Federation's 'Backyard Habitat' designation. To be NWF certified, a property must include food, water, cover, nesting or safe places for wildlife to raise young, and use sustainable gardening methods.

Back suggested that homeowners interested in attracting birds and butterflies, and xeriscape design should begin by taking several soil samples to the NC Cooperative Extension Office in Carthage. This is a free service. The samples should be taken from different parts of the yard. Back said it is very common for the tests to reveal lime deficient soil.

"It's amazing how acidic the soil is, and if the soil has too much acid no matter how much fertilizer you put down it won't be absorbed by the plants," said Back.

She also recommends starting with several easy-to-grow xeriscape plants and shrubs, such as; Wax myrtle, Crepe myrtle, cone flower, ice plant, asters, native zinnia, sunflower family, butterfly bush, serviceberry tree, American beauty tree, and blueberry bush.

"When selecting other plants for use in a xeriscape garden, you want to look for a plant that grows close to the ground with a thick leaf," said Back.

Back said she purchases native species from Dale's Nursery in Sanford and also recom-

(See "Xeriscaping," p. 15)



Veteran xeriscaper — and Master Gardener — Marisa Back

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Xeriscaping

(Continued from page 14)

mends Niche Gardens in Chapel Hill, as a valuable source. Catalogs are available at www.nichegardens.com

Many native ornamental grasses are appropriate in a xeriscape yard but traditional large swaths of sod are not encouraged. Small green grass areas may be planted, preferably on level land, and for this Back recommends Centipede grass.

"Centipede goes dormant and brown in the winter, but during the summer only one or two rains will green it up," said Back.

She also stressed the need to manage irrigation systems.

"If irrigated water is draining off your property, into the street, than it is not being applied well," said Back.

A general recommendation for lawn irrigation is one inch per week. Back suggests placing a shallow wide receptacle, such as a tuna can, out when irrigating so you can monitor your use.

Regulating your irrigation system for proper function and appropriate output is one of the seven principles of xeriscape design.

Other basic tenets include:

Plan your landscape and create different water zones. Allocate water use where it will most directly contribute to the beauty of comfort of your home.

Design practical turf areas. Limit the size and use of native

grasses as much as possible.

Use appropriate plants and place with others with similar water needs.

Improve the soil. Add organic matter and compost.

Use mulches. Mulching helps retain moisture and capture rain-

water.

There are many excellent sources of information for xeriscape design available and written specifically for the North Carolina homeowner. For more information, contact the NC Cooperative Extension Office in

Carthage at 947-3188, or visit www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/summer/

www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/CIL/WRRI/uwc/xeriscape.pdf

www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Water_Conservation/xeriscaping.php



Co-Ed Softball Tournament & Home Run Derby To Benefit Noah Jones

When: September 21-22, 2007
(23rd if necessary)

Where: West End Ballfield

Entry Fee: \$150 per team

To keep things interesting, we will be playing by a different set of rules. This will also help even the score between regular ball players and those that just want to help out the Jones Family.

1st Inning: Both teams will bat through the entire lineup once. It doesn't matter if you have one out or twelve, everybody hits!

2nd Inning: Normal

3rd Inning: Everyone must run the bases backwards. This means Third to First, not physically backwards!

4th Inning: Normal

5th Inning: All runs count as 2.

6th Inning: Normal

7th Inning: Instead of being pitched to, you may pay \$1 and either throw the ball up and hit it or just throw the ball in play.

One out may be purchased during each inning before the 3rd out is made for \$5.

Make checks payable to: West End Presbyterian Church

For More Information & Registration,

Please Contact:

Matt McNeill or Kim Tew 673-4240



Moore Issues Moore Focus

A public symposium sponsored by Sandhills Community College [SCC], The Moore County Chamber of Commerce, and *The Pilot*, will be held on Thursday, September 20, beginning at 8:30 am at Sandhills Community College. The symposium focus is on issues shaping our community, and features sessions conducted by county leaders throughout the day.

Session include: Roads and Transportation; Water and Sewer; Schools; Rural Issues; Pineneedles Development; Real Estate issues; Effect of BRAC; Economic Growth; Job Creation and Higher Education.

For details or tickets, contact Patrick Coughlin at 692-

Drought confuses Kowalczyk's pear tree

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A few weeks ago, Westsider John Kowalczyk, read an article suggesting that drought stress could kill trees. Trying to comply with county water restrictions, he had been conserving water but now was especially concerned because one of his Bradford pear trees had lost almost all of its leaves over the span of just a few days.

"I thought, oh boy, I better water it!" said Kowalczyk. "So I watered it for two days: a pretty good watering."

"A week later," Kowalczyk continued, "my wife asked if we were getting flowers on that pear tree. I went out and sure enough the blooms were there."

"Wow," said Kowalczyk, "I thought this poor tree is really mixed up!"

The Kowalczyk's have two Bradford pear trees on their property and only one has undergone this out-of-season transformation. Both trees are part of the original landscaping included when the home was built over five years ago. Kowalczyk believes the other pear tree has

not exhibited the same stress perhaps due to its proximity to the septic field.

"It could be getting moisture from underground," he said.

Agricultural Extension Agent Taylor Williams of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Office in Carthage has a different theory.

"Drought stress is made worse by soil problems. If you have plants showing stress, this is a great opportunity to take a soil test," said Williams.

"Bring the sample to us. This

is a free test. It takes some time," said Williams, "but is invaluable information."

According to Williams, members of the rose family, which includes apple and pear trees, will bloom after defoliation.

(See "Pear tree," p. 32)



John Kowalczyk with his precocious Bradford pear tree.



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7 Lakes Baptist hosts Children of the World

Children of the World International Children's Choir, comprised of orphaned and disadvantaged children from several different countries, will be performing at Seven Lakes Baptist Church on Sunday, September 16, 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

Their high energy and inspiring program will feature several songs, in both English and native dialects, as well as stirring personal testimonies.

The children have performed in such venues as Focus on the Family, Brooklyn Tabernacle, Crystal Cathedral and Disney World.

Children of the World represents millions of innocent hurting children who are suffering needlessly as a result of the AIDS pandemic in Africa. Their purpose is to generate compassion and inspire individuals to get involved in helping over 15 million children who have been orphaned and their lives drastically impacted by AIDS. A special video presentation will take you into the heart of the crisis and show you how to make a difference.

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Pauley Lecture Series

The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series celebrates its twenty-first anniversary with five lectures dealing with mental health, leadership, ecology, civil rights, and voter participation.

Washington Post reporter and best-selling author **Pete Earley** will discuss his book *Crazy: A Father's Search through America's Mental Health Madness* on September 29.

Earley's book chronicles a year inside Florida's Dade County Jail seeing the treatment mentally ill prisoners receive. The author was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for this work.

His book, *Family Spies* about the John Walker spy ring was made into a CBS miniseries. This lecture is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness for Moore County [NAMI-MC].

Frances Hesselbein, former chief executive of the Girl Scouts of the USA, Chairman of the Leader to Leader Institute, and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom will speak on October 16. Her topic will be *Leaders of the Future: Imperatives of Leadership*.

Environmentalist **Orrin Pilkey** will discuss *Rising Seas, Shifting Shores: The Future of the World's Barrier Islands* on November 8. An author with over 250 articles and books, Pilkey is the James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Geology, Earth, and Oceans at Duke University.

All Ruth Pauley Lectures will be held in the Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus in Pinehurst. Lectures begin at 7:30 pm and are open to the public. The lectures are free and no tickets are required.

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103 Sunset Point – Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, all brick lakefront home, hardwood floors in the foyer, kitchen & Carolina room. Tile in the baths & utility room.

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177 Morris Drive – 3BR, 3.5BA, this home offers a rec. room, exercise room, Carolina room, screened in porch, plus a spectacular view of Lake Auman.

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Dust & Ashes to perform at Chapel in Pines

The Chapel in the Pines will host Dust & Ashes, featuring Tom Page and Mary Lou Troutman, for a special concert to be held on Sunday, September 30 at 9:00 am.

A music ministry, Dust & Ashes began at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Page, an ordained United Methodist minister, is a founding

member of the group. For seventeen years, Page also worked as an associate editor for the Upper Room in Nashville.

Today, Page and Troutman, who are husband and wife, travel fulltime nationwide, using their music to reveal glimpses of God's will for all God's people. Drawing on a wide range of music [folk, country, and other popular styles],

Dust & Ashes continue to write much of their own music: songs

based on scripture, songs based on personal experience, songs

that paint pictures of how God created our world to be.



Dust & Ashes — Mary Lou Troutman and Tom Page will sing at The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines on September 30.

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Lot 5445 — Seven Lakes West. Large .74 acre homesite - BEAUTIFUL! — \$59,500

Lot 7017 — Carriage Park, SL West
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Church offers Seminar on Middle East

On Sunday, September 23, the Adult Academy, an adult learning joint venture of the West End Presbyterian Church and The Chapel in the Pines, will present Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, in a seminar on the Middle East. The seminar will be held from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Crawford Center at the West End Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Abu-Akel is a Palestinian Christian. Born in Kuffer-Yassif, Galilee, Israel, Dr. Abu-Akel became a citizen of the United States in 1981. He received a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He served as Moderator of the 214th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 2002-03, and is Founder and Executive Director of Atlanta Ministry with International Students, Inc.

Dr. Abu-Akel will preach at the morning worship service at Chapel in the Pines at 9:00 am, and at the West End Presbyterian Church at 11:00 am on September 23.

The three hour seminar program will feature discussion of issues surrounding the Middle East to include: A History of the Middle East; A History of the Palestine/Israel Conflict, and

Four Options for Peace between the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian Arabs.

The program is broken into three sessions with a light din-

ner served between sessions two and three. The public is invited to attend and there is no fee for the program. Some churches in the area will have a sign-

up sheet, or you can call the office at West End Presbyterian Church (673-4341) to reserve a seat.

Peace in the Middle East would

go a long way in lessening conflict around the world. Please join in this important opportunity to further your education on the Middle East.

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Methodists Ready for Fall Smorgasbord

The West End United Methodist Church Women will host their annual UMW Fall Smorgasbord on Friday, October 5, at 6:00 pm. Proceeds from the dinner benefit mission projects undertaken by the UMW.

Tickets for adults are \$8.00 and children twelve years and under are \$4.00.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, as no tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets are available from UMW members or from Kitty Slazas, who can be reached at 673-3827.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- **Seven Lakes Scrapbook Club** – 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center. A scrapbook crop session for everyone, come for an hour or all night. Work on your albums or drop by to pick up supplies. For more information, call Tracy Stromberg at 673-5839.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- **Weymouth Woods: Bird Walk** – 8 am, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Join a park ranger for a two miles hike to look for southbound Fall migrant birds. Bring binoculars and bug spray. Meet at the park office. Information 692-2167.
- **Annual All-Breed Dog Shows, Obedience & Rally Trials** – 8 am - 4 pm, Pinehurst Harness Track and Polo Field. There is a parking fee of \$3.00 per vehicle but no charge per person. Bring your own lawn chair. Pet supplies, goodies, and food will be available for sale. Microchip Clinic and Rabies Clinic offered. Event continues on Sunday, September 16. Nona Burrell 295-3909, Janet Dalton 692-9341.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- **Weymouth Woods: Discovery Walk** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. While it may be hot and sticky outside there are still some very cool plants and animals that may be seen here in the Sandhills. Join a park ranger for a leisurely two miles hike to discover a few of them. Meet at the park office. Information 692-2167.

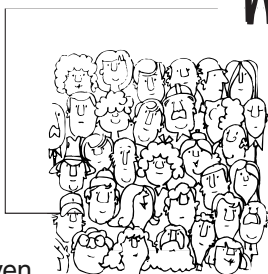
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- **County Commissioners Meeting** – 6 pm, Historic Courthouse in Carthage. Open to the public.
- **Get Off the Porch and Play Golf with the Big Dogs Tournament** – Shotgun start, Little River Golf Club. Sponsored by the Moore County Kennel Club, proceeds benefit scholarship program. The \$80.00 per person fee includes range balls, greens fee,

cart, lunch, and prizes. Chairman Bill Pace 295-2251.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- **Meet the Merchants Night** – 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Seven Lakes Business Guild invites the



Seven Lakes community to meet their local merchants and civic organizations of the Seven Lakes/West End area. Entertainment provided by the McKenzie Brothers. Held at the Seven Lakes Business Village Common area.

- **League of Women Voters Luncheon** – 11:45 am, Paddock Restaurant at Longleaf Country Club, Southern Pines. Featured speaker, Ron Woodard, director of NCListen, a non-profit immigration reform organization will discuss immigration issues. Public is invited to attend; paid reservations are required. Charlotte Gallagher 944-

9611. Lunch is \$12, inclusive. Checks made payable to LWVMC. League President Jo Nicholas 673-3064.

- **Container Gardening with Moore County Master Gardener Terry Lenahan** – 10 am - 11:30

am, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15/501 is located

What's When Calendar

two miles north of the Pinehurst Traffic Circle. Information and tips on growing healthy plants in pots and containers. Reservation 215-0900.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1 pm – 6 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club. No longer an upper age limit. Donors must be at least 17 and weigh at least 110 pounds. Appointment 673-4931.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **SCC Symposium: Moore Focus** – 8:30 am – 3:15 pm, Sandhills Community

College. A public symposium focused on the issues shaping our community featuring multiple sessions with county leaders. Patrick Coughlin 692-3926.

- **MOCARS Meeting** – 7 pm, Moore County Emergency Operations Center in Carthage. The Moore County Amateur Radio Society [MOCARS] welcomes new members. You do not need to have an amateur radio license, only an interest.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **Co-Ed Softball Tournament & Home Run Derby** – West End Elementary baseball field. Two days of softball, concessions, raffles, and fun to benefit

Noah Jones. Entry fee of \$150 per team, or \$10 for individual. Event is sponsored by Jubilee Screen Print w/donations accepted through West End Presbyterian Church. Tournament continues Saturday, Sep 22. Kim Tew 673-4240.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- **Kids Tennis Carnival** – 12:30 pm - 2 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club Tennis Center. Under the direction of SLCC Tennis Pro Bruce Adams, members of the Moore Tennis Association, along with members of the Country Club Tennis Center. Carnival will feature a pizza and soda pop lunch, followed by tennis instruction, some fun games, face



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painting, and a free "Can of Goodies." Open to the first forty boys and girls from 1st through 8th who sign up. Tennis Center 673-1096.

- **Walking and Wagging 3K** – 9 am – 2 pm, Cannon Park, Pinehurst. Sponsored by Moore County Humane Society and the Village of Pinehurst, join dogs and their owners for a fun day at the park. Hotdog's provided by the Boy Scouts, w/water and dog biscuits for the canines. Vendors on site with all sorts of products for pets, artists, games, music. Rain date Sept 23.
- **Great Value Wines: Wine Tasting** – Kitchen Essence, 905 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Free event with delicious nibbles from the kitchen of Elliott's on Linden. Sample six different types of wines. All bottles retail under \$15/bottle. Tad Braun 255-0665.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- **Adult Academy: Middle East Seminar** – 3 pm – 7 pm, Crawford Center at WEPC. West End Presbyterian Church and The Chapel in the Pines present Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, in a seminar on the Middle East. Three hour seminar broken into three sessions and includes a light dinner. Program issues include A History of the Middle East; History of the Palestine/Israel Conflict, and Four Options for Peace between the Israeli Jews and the Palestinian Arabs. Public is invited to attend. No fee for the program. Reservations 673-4341.
- **Weymouth Woods: Snakes in the Sandhills** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Throughout history the snake has been a symbol of evil. Program is designed to dispel the myths and tell the true story about the lives of one of nature's unique groups of animals. Program will begin in the auditorium. Information 692-2167.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- **Breast Cancer Awareness Golf Tournament** – Beacon Ridge Country Club. Sponsored by Beacon Ridge

Ladies Golf Association, a nine-hole tournament followed by lunch. Limited to forty-four Beacon Ridge lady members w/handicaps, entry fee is \$15 donation to Susan G. Komen Foundation. Non-golfers are welcome to attend the lunch. Ellen Leslie 673-5475.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, West Side Community Park Building. Open to the public.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to the public.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- **Depression: Not a Normal Part of Aging** – 1 pm – 2 pm, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15/501 is located two miles north of the Pinehurst Traffic Circle. Polly King, Licensed Clinical Social Worker with FirstHealth Behavioral Services, will address myths about depression, aging and explore psychological,

environmental & health factors. Reservations 215-0900.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- **Weymouth Woods: Bird Walk** – 8 am, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Join a park ranger for a 2 miles hike to look for southbound Fall migrant birds. Bring binoculars & bug spray. Meet at park office. Information 692-2167.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series: Author Pete Earley** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. Washington Post reporter and best-selling author Pete Earley will discuss his book *Crazy: A Father's Search through America's Mental Health Madness*. Lecture is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness for Moore County [NAMI-MC]. Free and open to the public. 245-3132, after 6 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- **Dust & Ashes Concert** – 9 am, The Chapel in the Pines. Tom Page and Mary Lou Troutman special service music program.



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Don't miss Walking and Wagging Festival

Moore Humane Society [MHS] and the Village of Pinehurst Parks and Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the first annual dog walk-a-thon and festival on Saturday, September 22, in Cannon Park off Route 211 and Rattlesnake Trail in Pinehurst.

The Walking and Wagging Festival promises to be a fun-filled event for families and their canines! Scheduled activities include a 3K dog walk, Frisbee dog demonstration, sheep herding demonstration, dog costume and talent contest, pick-a-prize auction donated by area merchants and more. Local busi-

nesses will also set up exhibit booths.

Kids will enjoy arts & crafts, face painting, and having their photos taken with their canines.

Gary Kunce, President of Moore Humane stated the non-profit organization has made special arrangements with Animal Health Center to provide at the event, low cost rabies vaccinations and micro-chipping for owner's pets.

Micro-chipping greatly increases the odds of being united with a lost pet and once the animal is chipped, it is registered for life. If your pet is found, it can be scanned by a vet, warden, res-

cue home, or a number of other outlets and they will be able to trace the microchip number back to you within minutes and your pet can be safely home within an hour! The tiny injectable "chip" contains a one-of-a-kind identification number and is recognized worldwide.

Great food, cold ice cream treats, snacks, and drinks will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds being donated to Moore Humane Society.

Admission to the event is free; however there is a \$15 registration fee to participate in the walk-a-thon. The first 100 walk-

ers registered will receive a walk-a-thon t-shirt and goody bag filled with items donated from area merchants. Walkers are encouraged to collect additional pledges from their friends and family, but it is not required. The top three pledge earners will receive a prize!

Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the walk-a-thon will begin at 10:00 am. Pre-registration is available by downloading the forms from the website at www.moorehumane.org or you may pick up registration forms from First Casualty Insurance Group at 190-A Turner Street, Yadkin Park in Southern Pines.

The following corporate sponsors have made special contributions towards this event: Aberdeen Coca-Cola, First Casu-

alty Insurance Group, First Citizens Bank, RBC Centura, Sanstar Realty, Weichert Realtors, Larose & Company, Hobbs, Upchurch & Assoc., Dog's Best Friend, Cabin Branch Tack Shop, May Street Market, Five Points Pet Resort, McDevitt Sotheby's Realty, McDonald Brothers, McNeil Oil Co., Cin-Lar Kennels, First Bank and The Care for Canine & Cats.

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, forms may be downloaded from the website or by contacting Gary Kunce either by phone at 692-8303 or by email harker1080@earthlink.net.

Be sure to come out and enjoy a great day in the park and help us to raise funds to benefit the homeless dogs and cats at Moore Humane Society.

Urgent need for blood

The American Red Cross reports that blood types O Positive, A Positive, B Positive, O Negative, and B Negative are all at Emergency status. The overall inventory is also reported at Emergency status.

The oppressive summer heat across our area is keeping blood donors away from their scheduled donations.

The Red Cross needs the public's help to increase our community blood supply so that they can continue to provide hospitals with the lifesaving blood products people need every day.

The need for blood is ongoing — every two seconds someone in America needs a blood transfusion.

"Even when the temperature rises, caring volunteer donors are still essential," said Robert F. Fechner, CEO, American Red Cross Carolinas Blood Services Region. "Emergencies and other health issues don't go away when the weather gets hot, and we encourage our donors to keep up their lifesaving efforts at all times of the year."

The Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross has scheduled the following Blood Drives in September.

Monday, September 17 — 1:30 pm — 6:00 pm, Moore ARC Chapter House in Southern Pines. For appointment, call 692-8571.

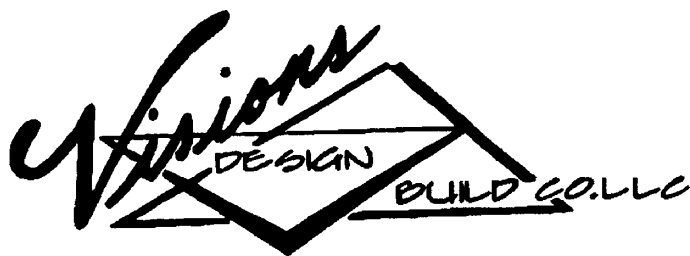
Wednesday, September 19 — 1:00 pm — 6:00 pm, Seven Lakes

North Clubhouse. For appointment, call 673-4931.

Thursday, September 20 — 10:00 am — 2:30 pm, First Health Center for Health & Fitness in Pinehurst. For appointment, call 715-1478.

There is no longer an upper age limit. Donors must be at least seventeen years of age and weigh at least 110 pounds. To reach a Donor Counselor, call 866-562-7156.

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When all else fails . . . Amateur Radio

by James D. Johnson

The Moore County Amateur Radio Society [MOCARS] recently concluded a very successful Field Day. Field Day gives every ham radio club the opportunity to set up and operate a self-

contained emergency radio communications facility, such as would be necessary in the event of a disaster. MOCARS had emergency power, several transceivers on various frequencies operating, and made contact

with more than 200 hams nationwide. "All Else" are all of the sophisticated communications systems that we rely on every day. The vast majority of the time they are, indeed, very reliable, so

much so that we miss them even more when they are not available. It is easy to forget that cell-phones and e-mail are recent developments. It is also easy to forget that what make them work are incredibly complex, insane-

ly expensive infrastructures. The club meets at the Moore County Emergency Operations Center in Carthage at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of each month. New members are always welcome.

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How long does it take to fill up a lake?

The announcement that the water level in Lake Auman will need to be lowered by as much as five feet in the Fall of 2008 led immediately to the obvious question: "How long will it take the lake to refill?"

The most accurate answer to that question may be the one Mary Anne Fewkes gave in the Tuesday August 28 meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA]: "I'm not God . . ." followed by the idea that how quickly the lake refills will depend largely on rainfall.

There is data

From January of 1989 through April of 1994, *The Seven Lakes Times* carried each month measurements of the lake level taken by Westside resident Peter Nutter, who moved down from Needham, MA, and built a home on Standish Point. When Nutter began his measurements in November of 1988, the lake level was at 50 feet. By January, when the first record appears in *The Times*, the lake was already up 11 inches.

From then on, residents and non-resident lot owners alike were able to track the filling of the lake to its 80 foot target depth in each month's issue of *The Times*. In May of 1994, *The Times* ran the banner headline "Lake Auman is full!"

Westsider Gerhard Hergen-hahn ferreted Nutter's records out of *The Times*' archives sev-

eral years ago, and Editor Greg Hankins redundantly repeated that exercise last week, providing the data to SLWLA Infrastructure Director Ray MacKay.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



Both Hergen-hahn and MacKay shared with *The Times* what they see in the data.

Sixteen months to full?

In January of 1993, Nutter reported a lake level of 75 feet one inch, approximately five feet below full pond. So, it took roughly 16 months — January 1993 to May 1994 — to fill the last five feet of the lake.

But the rise in lake level was not a straight line progression, as the graph at right illustrates. Lake Auman rose nearly three feet in the Spring of 1993, then leveled off and lost almost all that gain by the end of summer. A rapid uptick in October won back the gains of Spring and, after a couple of months, it was onward and upward to full pond.

In addition to tracking the Lake Auman water level, *The Times* during those years also report-

ed rainfall recorded by Dr. Bob Monroe of Seven Lakes North, including both the month's rainfall and a five-year average for each month that Dr. Monroe computed.

After looking at the Nutter's lake level data alongside Monroe's rainfall records MacKay noted that rainfall during

the spring of 1993, when the lake was rapidly on the rise was about four inches above normal. Later in the Summer, rainfall was about 8 inches below normal, and the lake lost water. But during the entire period from October 1993 to full pond in May 1994, rainfall was slightly below normal.

MacKay's conclusion? "Near normal rainfall during Fall, Winter and Spring months can restore the top five feet of water in Lake Auman; however, below normal rainfall, particularly during our hot Summer months, like we have just experienced, can double the time it takes for the lake to fill."

Many factors at work

But Hergen-hahn, in an email he shared with *The Times*, cautions against linking too closely seasonal rainfall variations and the rise and fall of the lake. Many factors influence the lake level, including but not limited to: rainfall, evaporation, water temperature, air temperature, surface inflow, subsurface inflow, sub-

surface loss into groundwater, loss by dam seepage, golf and lake front lot sprinklers, and loss by opening the dam valve (to meet minimum flow requirements into the creek below the dam).

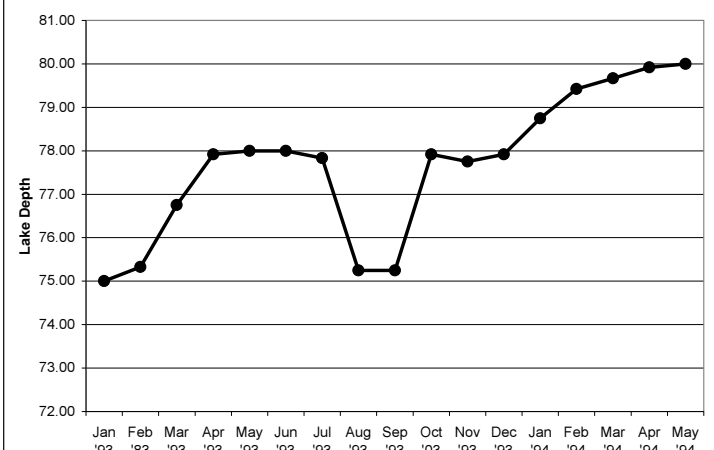
He points out that the largest contributor to the lake level is the flow from groundwater — the underwater springs that feed the lake. Rainfall is the ultimate source of the water that flows from these springs, but it can take months for rainfall to percolate through the ground and

the rise in lake level during the last three full calendar years in which the lake was filling, he found that the overall rise in lake level in a year is just about equal to the rainfall in that year. The average yearly rainfall, over a forty-year period, is four feet two inches. So, "Our lake level gain is about 4.2' in the average year," Hergen-hahn concluded.

Conclusions

Looking at the available data, it seems likely that it will take more than a year to refill the top

Filling Lake Auman's Last Five Feet



The last five feet — Pete Nutter's recorded the last 30-feet of the filling of Lake Auman. This graph shows the last five feet.

become groundwater.

Because of the complex interaction of these factors, Hergen-hahn told *The Times*, and because the refilling of the lake is likely to take more than twelve months, it makes more sense to think about the impact of rainfall over the course of a year.

After looking at rainfall and

five feet of Lake Auman, unless the West Side is blessed with an unusually wet 2008-2009. On the other hand, it seems unlikely to take more than 24 months, even with below normal rainfall.

With luck, then, there is some hope that only the 2009 boating season will be impacted by the lowering of the lake level.

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC by Seven Lakes Times, LLC, P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376 910-673-0111 • 910-673-0210 (fax) • thetimes@ac.net

Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins, Publishers

Greg Hankins, Editor • Marcy Hankins, Layout & Design

Laura Douglass, Reporter

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.

J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,

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Why the rush to close dam?

Dear Editor:

While I fully agree with the need to close Longleaf Drive over the [Lake Auman] dam, and the long term reasons for it, I disagree with the timing.

Closing the road over the dam on September 13 will overlap the repaving of Lakeway Drive,

which requires closing the main exit. We have been told the repaving of Lakeway will only take approximately three weeks.

With that in mind, I don't see how delaying the closing of the dam road for three or four more weeks could possible cause any measurable further damage to

the dam.

I was told, "it's the price of progress." I'm all for progress, but with the application of a little common sense.

Sam Demme
Seven Lakes West

Feeling the powerful pull of the pigskin

I sense something new in the air, and to quote a dead rock star, "it smells like teen spirit."

Lately I have been surprisingly inspired by football – a sport I am not particularly fond of and generally avoid. Other than occasional Super Bowl parties with their lure of snacks, suds, and those million dollar commercials, I'll go years at a time having not watched a single game.

upstate New York metropolis, Gouverneur, population 7,000 [not including cows], that my darling hubby calls home.

Along with the denizens of this tiny slice of American dairy land, we have cheered Leonard's every success: in high school, college, and now the NFL. My in-laws, like other Gouverneur families, are planning their Fall vacation around the Rams season schedule: this after four years

of vacationing to New Jersey for Rutgers University games. And now each and every day, it seems, I hear another

aged and freshman football players. Also on the field were the school's marching band, color guard, and cheerleaders.

Even for a disinterested non-fan, like me, football is starting to shine.

I will go out on a limb and suggest that my disdain for all things pigskin is securely underpinned by my complete and utter ignorance of the rules and strategies of the sport.

I ask you, what woman – other than Condoleezza Rice – really does get it?

A childhood spent living abroad and attending eight schools in twelve years, a modest statistic among military brats, surely stunted my interest in team sports and certainly did not allow time to develop school spirit.

That said, I always coveted the sense of ownership and excitement felt by locals when

their team or athlete does well.

Having kept residence in the Sandhills now for over five years – a new lifetime record – I find myself, for perhaps the very first time, sharing in that hometown pride.

So today, here and now, I vow to uphold the timeless American tradition of cheering on my very own local high school football team. Go Patriots!



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Sporting events on an average day mean one thing to me: time to take a nap. Hmm, since we're discussing football, perhaps I should rephrase that and say "time to take a down."

This year is different.

I was thrilled when Appalachian State capped their fifteen-game winning streak with their Cinderella story upset at Michigan. And no, I didn't actually watch any of their games. But I did read all about it.

Here in the Douglass encampment I have been following any and all news of Brian Leonard: the youthful running back for the St. Louis Rams. Leonard hails from the same thriving

good thing about Moore County's own new superhero – Chris Metzger.

In just a few short months, Coach Metzger revived the flagging football program at Pinecrest High School from a team whose very existence was on the budget chopping block, just a year ago, to a reckoning force of strength and talent.

Equally impressive is how Metzger stretches that energy well beyond the visible varsity squad, illustrated beautifully when he included over 300 students in a recent junior varsity pre-game event. The undefeated JV team emerged onto the gridiron to join with over 150 middle school-

Thanks for looking after Auman dam

Dear Editor:

We want to applaud the SLWLA board for addressing the unpopular and controversial issue of closing the dam to road traffic.

We are now aware the dam is in need of repair and have the finances to cover costs. We would be negligent if a significant event occurred because we failed to take action.

Why delay the inevitable?

Stand by the board we elected. They are trying to preserve the integrity of this community. A minor inconvenience is a small price to pay.

Sally Siegfried
Betty Fichman
Nancy Shereda
Carol Greenberg
Seven Lakes West

You Matter to Us . . .

By GARY C. KUNCE
First Casualty Insurance Group



— Protect Your Assets —

In the Seven Lakes on-line bulletin board, notice has been given regarding our limited water reserves citing Stage Three may become mandatory with fines of \$550 per incident. There are many water miser techniques you can employ, however small, can accumulate into providing the much needed water usage reduction by each household. Here are a few tips my wife and I practice each day and you would be surprised at just how much water goes down the drain:

- Wash clothes only when you have a full load, use liquid over powder as it's easier to dissolve, and reduce the amount of soap by one third to one half and eliminate the additional rinse cycle. Manufacturers always suggest using more so you'll buy more.
- Keep a large bowl or container in the kitchen sink and instead of dumping ice, tea, coffee, water down the drain, accumulate in the container to pour on outside plants
- Using the same container, when you are washing your hands or rinsing dishes, do so over the container and collect the water to use outside
- Shower with a bucket...we keep a five gallon bucket in the shower to catch the running water waiting for the hot water to kick in and shower water. We end up with two five gallon buckets that my wife pours on her trees, bushes and potted plants. We're just a household of two...imagine what a larger family can accumulate.
- When you shower, reduce the water flow, get wet, then turn off the water to lather up and then a final rinse. (Method used during our

sailboat years!)

- Run your dishwasher only when you have a full load and refrain from rinsing your dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Manufacturers state that when you rinse clean your dishes before placing them in the machine, can actually hinder the cleaning action. Scrape clean but don't rinse and let the machine clean your dishes again reducing water usage.
- Keep a bucket at your air-conditioning drain hole to accumulate the condensation run-out...you'll be surprised at how much water can accumulate that you can use to water your outside plants.

These are but a few tips and however small you may think they are, multiply this by the number of households in all of Seven Lakes and it will make a difference. Just as with recycling, we must learn to conserve our resources and step up to take action before Stage Three arrives.

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County leaders wasting taxpayer dollars?

Dear Editor:

Tax increase?

Was it necessary? I don't think so, but I will leave it up to you to decide, as you elected the commissioners that approved it. Previously, after reevaluation, the tax rate decreased from three to five cents per \$100. Our new tax rate increased not by just one cent, but from four to six cents considering past history.

Did you know?

That county employees have the most expensive self-insured

health plan: nearly \$8,000 per employee, plus a Wellness Center. That the commissioners were aware for comparable coverage through the First Carolina Care Insurance Company, they could save \$1,300,000 per year.

That they cancelled a \$242,000 debt by the Airport Authority to the county, and with all their liquidity, approved \$100,000 in the current budget.

That the county is only fiscally responsible for capital expenditures [buildings] and the main-

tenance thereof.

That, based on student population, the state authorizes the number of teachers and administrators, and pays their salaries. That we have many more teachers and administrators beyond those authorized, that the county pays their salaries, supplements, and benefits: \$7,789,861.

That the Moore County Schools budget calls for \$255,680 for new blackboards that are computer terminals and called Smart Classrooms. These

will not make the students any smarter but are an expensive teaching tool [a luxury].

That more than 150 out-of-county students are attending our schools. How many classrooms is that, teachers, and administrators?

Of twenty-two schools, four didn't have assistant principals. Rather than moving them where and when needed, we are paying \$294,000 plus benefits.

The Board of Education was so confident of budget approval, they didn't have an alternate plan.

That the commissioners, less Tim Lea, purchased twenty-one

acres for the new County Office Complex, paying \$1,510,000 for land appraised for \$692,800, or a premium of \$840,130. Wow, at \$68,181 per acre. Do we need twenty-one acres? Now we need to see the extravagances for the new complex.

One cent in taxes is over \$1,000,000 in revenue. I have identified \$10,721,671 or 10.7 cents in tax reductions that could have been considered.

I warned you, this is our liberals in action along with the manager.

They aren't done yet.

Elton Turner
Vass, North Carolina

Facing the challenges

We're all faced with challenges over much of our lifetimes. Since we're human, most of us don't quite meet them all for one reason or another. We mean well, but the swift pace of the modern world sometimes forces us to "postpone" — a word that shoots to the sur-

face on too many occasions, leaving in its wake those gratifying memos on the refrigerator door: the "to do" items.

Balance of mind, body, and

spirit has a nice ring to it. But it's a bit more complex challenge than reminding oneself to put out the garbage. Perhaps one road to achieving such a balance of living is to approach it bit by bit, but consistently. The most realistic approach might be to try to do the best that you've been taught while being realistic about the inevitable hurdles that can enter every life. Not getting feverish about trying to achieve everything in a sin-

gle gulp but simply keeping the door open and letting the fresh air filter in.

Reconvening with our spiritual side and taking the time to give

thanks for the memories we cherish, like the tiniest of kindnesses that brought new life to someone's faltering zeal, or that day when you and a foreign acquaintance enjoyed extracting the commonness of the world's cultures despite some distinct differences but with both of you on the same page of seeking to join hands. Isn't helping others, regardless of their origin or standing, in times of travail, or anguish, or loss of life, something of a tonic for both parties?

Inside us all the world over is a God-given spirit that can help relight the spark that may sometimes languish.

Yes, challenges will always be there. But they need to be jumped upon. Prioritized. Put into action.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

face on too many occasions, leaving in its wake those gratifying memos on the refrigerator door: the "to do" items.

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Real Estate

By SANDY STEWART

REALTOR

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. . . A quality home exterior paint job lasts from 6 to 8 years? Bright colors may fade faster and need more frequent painting.

. . . At least 6 inches of insulation in the attic and under floors is recommended? Weather stripping and caulking around windows will also help make your home air-tight and save fuel.

. . . First impressions can sell a home. A bad first impression may send prospects

scurrying away to look elsewhere. Investing some time in manicuring the lawn and painting the exterior will add to its curbside appeal — and help you sell the home sooner and more profitably.

. . . In real estate, a binder is the written offer from the buyer to the seller. It is also known as the "offer to purchase."

• • •

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Time to make lemonade on West Side

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday evening, August 28, my husband and I attended the General Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association. We rarely miss these monthly meetings, attending even when there isn't a hot issue on the agenda. However, Tuesday evening there was a hot issue to be dealt with. . . the closing of Longleaf Drive over Lake Auman Dam.

Many landowners spoke regarding the topic; some calm, rational, and reasonable, some not. It is amazing how quickly news spreads! The Board of Directors had approved the closing of the dam no more than nine hours prior to the evening meeting and more chairs had to be set up to accommodate the influx of landowners at the 7:30 pm General Meeting.

After Lake and Environment

Director Mary Ann Fewkes explained quite clearly the problem with the dam, and the recommendation of the dam engineer, many questions were raised.

One question was "why the closing wasn't put to a vote?" To put this issue to a vote would only delay any vital and timely decision regarding the needed repair. That is why we have a Board of Directors.

These people were elected in a recent "landslide" election and now their judgment is being questioned. They spend countless hours each week in a thankless job and now their judgment is being challenged. Not fair.

I realize I am decades older than most of those standing to voice an opinion. Perhaps I've experienced a little more of life as it exists in the real world, but you know what, stuff happens. In my life, I've cleared much higher hurdles than coming to grips with the closing of the Lake Auman Dam.

In 1982, we lived in suburban Wilmington, Delaware. Our elementary age youngest son was entering Fourth grade. Due to court ordered busing for racial equality, he was put on a school bus and bussed into the city of

Wilmington to attend school for Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade. Instead of a two-block walk to our neighborhood school, he and his classmates had a forty to sixty minute ride, one way, each school day.

None of us liked the situation. It was a gross inconvenience. We were given lemons. . . we made lemonade. . . we all survived!

The closing of the dam will be a major inconvenience for many people, that is a given. But sometimes we must put up with being removed from our comfort zone in order to make something better.

We live on Longleaf Drive, not far from the dam, and we use the East gate to enter and exit the community more than we use the West gate. We will adjust. We will leave the house ten to fifteen minutes earlier to get where we want to go.

Someone stated the possibility of property values being devalued while the lake level is down. Any Realtor® worth her salt will explain why the lake level is down and that it will fill again.

FYI, the dam was constructed in the 1970's. While the lake was just an ugly, dry hole, ninety percent of the lakefront lots

were sold prior to the lake even beginning to fill. It took from 1986 to 1994 for the lake to fill.

All of this means that a great many people had a great deal of faith that Lake Auman would indeed become a reality. After repairs are made, there is no doubt in my mind that the crown jewel of Seven Lakes West will indeed fill again and will be enjoyed by all residents.

In the meantime the "down time" may well prove to be beneficial. The coves can be cleaned out and bulkheads repaired, if necessary.

About the fear expressed that emergency vehicles will enter the front gate and "make a wrong turn" and that our children will get

injured or even killed because of all the traffic on Rt. 211 at the elementary school – this just isn't going to happen folks.

Let's not turn into alarmists. If you are so inclined, pray about this situation. I believe prayers are heard and often bring peace of mind.

And lastly, please, please, let us all look at the closing of the dam as an inconvenience, to be sure, but it is a very necessary step to make the needed repairs and uphold the integrity of dam. Let us all support our Board of Directors and look at this situation as our glass being half full and not half empty.

Joanne Lentz
Seven Lakes West

September

by Betty Stemmer
Seven Lakes North

September "You are cool"

Your mornings are a delight – so bright and inviting, after such dreamy and sleep-filled nights. School bells chime and to some of us, they are real if only in memory.

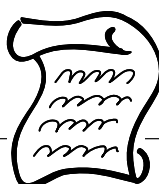
Laughing faces of children renewing friendships with chums, perhaps not seen since summer began. Another year of learning with dedication to futures as yet unknown.

College days and more new faces and friends waiting in the wings. Such promises you hold, dear September, in the twinkling of an eye.

Daylight fades, somewhat, as it is bound to do, in the autumn, and we rustle through fallen leaves and listen to the crackling notes of music under our feet and saying, "hurry back," September, we have enjoyed you immensely.

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Letters to the Editor



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More cash for the Club, but at what cost?

Dear Editor:

At What Cost?

Upon reading the article "Driving range development's a good idea" by Terry McPheeters, I could not help but wonder why certain issues were omitted from it. Then it came to me. Had they been included perhaps the development of the driving range might not appear to be such a stellar idea.

Monetary gain was set forth as the golden draw for the proposed housing units. Money has, and sadly probably always will be a blinding force when such decisions are being made. No matter that the serenity and

beauty of the entrance to Seven Lakes South will be irrevocably altered. One wonders if the housing unit proposal will include the destruction of the beautiful Bradford Pear trees that grace the border of Seven Lakes Drive. Further, will the "increased annual revenues for the

SLLA" provide the visual splendor that those trees provide each season? For my part, the answer to that question is no.

No, for my money the housing units will not be as visually appealing as the current area is, and could be sans driving range.

Visuals aside, the proposed housing units present the SLLA

with another issue that was left out of the pro-development article. That being a greater drain on an already seriously taxed water supply. It is simple logic that more residents mean less water to go around. How will the "increased annual revenues for SLLA" compensate for current, as well as potential water shortages?

Will the estimated "investment \$3,000,000 in this community" allow the residents of this community to water lawns, shrubbery, and flowers during times of drought, such as we have been

experiencing all summer, with no end in sight. Furthermore, will that investment ensure that the residents of the community have enough water to perform essential tasks of daily living, now and in the future. Let us not forget that investment can not buy rain. That when the end of a water supply has come, no amount of money can buy it back.

Call me an alarmist, but I keep current with the news, and there are areas of our country, including our state, that are in serious trouble regarding water shortages. Hopefully, the residents

of Seven Lakes will have the foresight to safeguard our water supply as much as possible by keeping the demand on our water supply within logical parameters, and not be blinded by the lure of "increased annual revenues."

Money should not be the driving force behind an irrevocable decision. I ask you, at what cost do we sell the beauty of nature and our water supply? The answer being, at the cost of losing both.

Margaret Gottlieb
Seven Lakes South & North

Letters to the Editor

Cat trapping

Dear Editor:

It has come to my attention that some folks believe that most of the cats Sandhills Animal Rescue League has trapped in the Seven Lakes Business Village area have been rereleased to the business area.

This is not true – only four were rereleased there and they are females, spayed and vaccinated adults, of which two sadly have been killed on Highway 211 by traffic. Most of the animals rescued were kittens aged 2 to 4 months who were socialized and adopted to forever homes. There are ten kittens who have not been adopted and are in foster homes in several different locations. Sandhills Animal Rescue League (SARL) has trapped eight additional kittens and two adults over the summer months. The two adults are still being socialized and only two of those kittens remain in foster homes. Several adults cats that were too feral are in a feral colony at my house and are doing great.

The cats that people see coming and going in the Business Village are new ones coming out of Seven Lakes North, who were abandoned by owners or are descendants of some of the cats we have trapped and we have not been able to capture in

our have-a-heart trap.

When Sandhills Animal Rescue League traps an adult cat and it is not adoptable then the funds for treating, spaying or neutering and vaccines are never recovered and come from the League's pocket. SARL needs donations to help with the spaying and neutering. At this time, we are not trapping because of a shortage of funds to perform vet work. The average cost for each cat is \$80 to \$90.

Please remember that the feral cats keep the rat and mouse population down in the business area and snakes at bay; and when you remove all of a colony, another colony moves into the area.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Food Lion Shop and Share Program. Tax deductible donations are also accepted in any amount and appreciated. Sandhills Animal Rescue League is a 501c 3 organization. We hope to see everyone at Meet the Merchants Night on Tuesday, September 18, 5:30-8:30 pm. Come see our pets for adoption and register for a \$50 gift certificate compliments of PetsMart.

Sincerely,
Lou Atkins, President
SARL, Inc.

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—Jerry Parrish Trinity, NC

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Limits needed on watering from the lakes

Dear Editor,

Recently, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board reviewed a proposal to restrict Lake Water usage when the county has issued a mandatory water restriction. I understand this has caused quite a commotion from many residents both for and against this restriction.

I live on a small lake on the North Side and I fully support this proposed restriction.

Grass does not need to be watered every single day. The county restriction calls for watering no more than twice a week, which is adequate and fair.

I do not have a lake water irrigation system. My grass survives on rain water, and there is very little difference between my grass

and the grass that has been routinely irrigated.

The proposed water restriction for lake water usage is requested only when the County has issued a mandatory water restriction for our area. Why wouldn't the residents of our community support this proposal?

We need to use common sense when using lake water to irrigate! The lakes are not here for the sole purpose to maintain green grass and pretty plants! These lakes are here for everyone to enjoy!

Common sense would tell the average person to monitor their grass and plants, and to use water sparingly. Common sense would tell the average person to

reduce their normal water schedule. But some people lack common sense, that is why water restrictions are needed to begin with!

Our lakes are our greatest asset. Without our lakes, this community would just be any other ordinary community. We need to protect our lakes!

Using lake water for irrigation a couple of times a week during a mandatory county-issued water restriction is okay and fair. Abusing lake water for excessive irrigation is not okay or fair . . . to anyone in this community.

We need the Lake Water Restriction Proposal to pass! Again, this proposal to restrict lake

water usage is *only* when the county has issued a mandatory water restriction!

Please contact our Board members and tell them we need to protect our lakes! Please pass the Lakes Water Usage Restriction! Please use common sense!

A. Keller
Seven Lakes North

Training for literacy volunteers

The Moore County Literacy Council will be offering volunteer training for the Fall on the following dates:

A one-hour Orientation Session will be held on Tuesday, October 2 and Monday, October 22 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

A twelve-hour Tutor Training classes will commence Tuesdays, October 16 and October 23 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Classes continue Fridays, October 26, November 2, 9, & 12, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Orientation and Tutor Training will be held at the Emmanuel Episcopal Youth House on the corner of South Ridge Street and Indiana Avenue in Southern Pines. Orientation must be completed prior to Tutor Training.

Donations are accepted to help cover the cost of materials and refreshments.

Reservations may be made by

phone, (910) 692-5954) or by e-mail: pammclc@nc.rr.com.

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Poison

(Continued from page 13)

the doctor and/or the Poison Control center.

If a child gets poison in the eye, hold the eyelid open, and run a steady stream of water into the inner corner. Flush the eye for at

least fifteen minutes, and call the doctor and/or Poison Control center.

If a child is exposed to fumes or gases, get the child into fresh air right away, and contact the doctor and/or Poison Control

center. Poisonous fumes can come from several sources including a car running in a closed garage; leaky gas vents from space heaters, ovens, stoves, or hot water heaters; and wood, coal, or kerosene

stoves that are not working properly.

I challenge you to inspect your homes to ensure our most precious possessions are kept safe. Please visit us at Quality Care Pharmacy to receive a free Poi-

son Control phone sticker, Poison Prevention coloring book, and to discuss other safety issues.

Jason Joyce may be reached at Quality care Pharmacy: 673-3784.

Pear tree

(Continued from page 16)

"However," he said, "next Spring they [Kowalczyk's] can expect their tree to bloom lightly, if at all."

Bradford pear trees are a popular ornamental Spring-flowering tree that can grow to thirty-to fifty-feet tall. A rapid grower, the tree has a short to moderate life span of only twenty-five to thirty years. The narrow branching

angles of its canopy cause severe branch splitting, especially in trees over fifteen years old.

While Bradford pear trees are tolerant of most soil conditions, and frequently used in urban settings because they are tolerant of pollution, Williams explained that a tree under stress will go into survival mode.

"During the severe drought of

2002 we saw this [blooming pear trees]. It was fairly common and wide-spread. Trees need water but with restrictions it's hard to say what's best," said Williams.

Williams suggested that if you are going to water your trees, they will need a deep root watering preferably with a soaking-style hose and that you add mulch

around the surface.

"Don't do a sprinkler watering on the surface. And mulch needs to be a minimum of three inches deep," said Williams.

He also said that it is important to keep grass away from trees, particularly young ones.

"Grass should be at least three feet, but five feet away from the tree is better," recommended

Williams.

For more information on soil sample testing or questions regarding water conservation around your yard, Williams can be reached at the NC Cooperative Extension Office at 947-3188.

School board

(Continued from page 10)

times, two additional buses were added this year, specifically to transport Exceptional Children [EC]; one to Union Pines High School, and the other will serve West Pine Middle, Academy Heights, and Pinehurst Elementary.

The average ride time in the morning is thirty minutes, and thirty-seven minutes in the afternoon. The earliest scheduled pick-up in the county is at 6:08 am, for a Pinecrest-bound bus in the Eagle Springs /Jackson Springs area.

Moore County covers a large geographic area and each day the mileage totals 10,294 representing 403 driving hours to complete the routes.

Child Nutrition

On July 13, there were 1,667 students certified to participate in the free lunch program. MCS reported, as of September 2, that 2,443 students qualify for the free lunch program with 447 more certified for reduced benefits.

Many of the twenty-one cafeterias serving Moore County students will no longer be serving fried foods. This is new step undertaken this year as the Child Nutrition program strives to adhere to guidelines set by the North Carolina Standards and the School Meals Initiative, a national program which regulates and issues policies that address

nutrient standards for school meals. The Initiative is also focused on motivating children to make healthy choices. The North Carolina Standards require weekly menu items such as whole grains, deep green and/or orange fruits, vegetables, and

legumes.

The Child Nutrition report listed a sixty-five percent participation rate in the school lunch program, and twenty-three percent of students also eat breakfast at school.



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Water

(Continued from front page)

scapes, and gardens. Currently, under Stage II, watering is allowed twice a week in the evening hours.

More than three-quarters of the water in the County's system is groundwater pumped from a network of wells, Brobst told *The Times*. So Public Works keeps a close watch on the state of the aquifer — the natural underground reservoir of water than those wells tap. The static water level — the distance from the top of the well casing to the water below — is measured regularly.

In mid-March, that level stood

as high as the County has ever measured it, at 46.6 feet. Since then, it has dropped 2.2 feet. "If it drops three feet, we'll have no choice but to go to Stage III," Brobst told *The Times*.

Public Works measures rainfall in both Pinehurst and Seven Lakes on a daily basis. For the year, Seven Lakes rainfall is currently 8.4 inches below normal, while Pinehurst is short 10.4 inches.

According to the State Climate Office in Raleigh, October, November, and December are three of the five driest months of the year in Moore County.

Brobst says he can only hope

that the Autumn weather pattern this year will reflect the pattern at the end of the 2002 drought: "It started raining in October, and just kept raining. It rained for weeks."

Even then, recharging the aquifer will take time, Brobst

said, noting that it takes about 90 days for rain to filter down into the groundwater supply. Abundant rainfall and cooler weather should cut down on the amount of water citizens are using for irrigation.

As the graph below suggests, Seven Lakes' efforts to meet the

Stage II conservation goal of a thirty percent reduction in water usage has met with mixed results.

The average usage over the past 14 days has been 624,000 gallons, significantly higher than the Stage II target of 577,000 gallons.

Annual All-Breed Dog Shows

Annual All-Breed Dog Shows, Obedience & Rally Trials will be held on Saturday, September 15, 8 am - 4 pm, at the Pinehurst Harness Track and Polo Field. There is a parking fee of \$3.00 per vehicle but no charge per person. Bring your own lawn chair. Pet supplies, goodies, and food will be available for sale. Microchip Clinic and Rabies Clinic offered. Event continues on Sunday, September 16. Nona Burrell 295-3909, Janet Dalton 692-9341.

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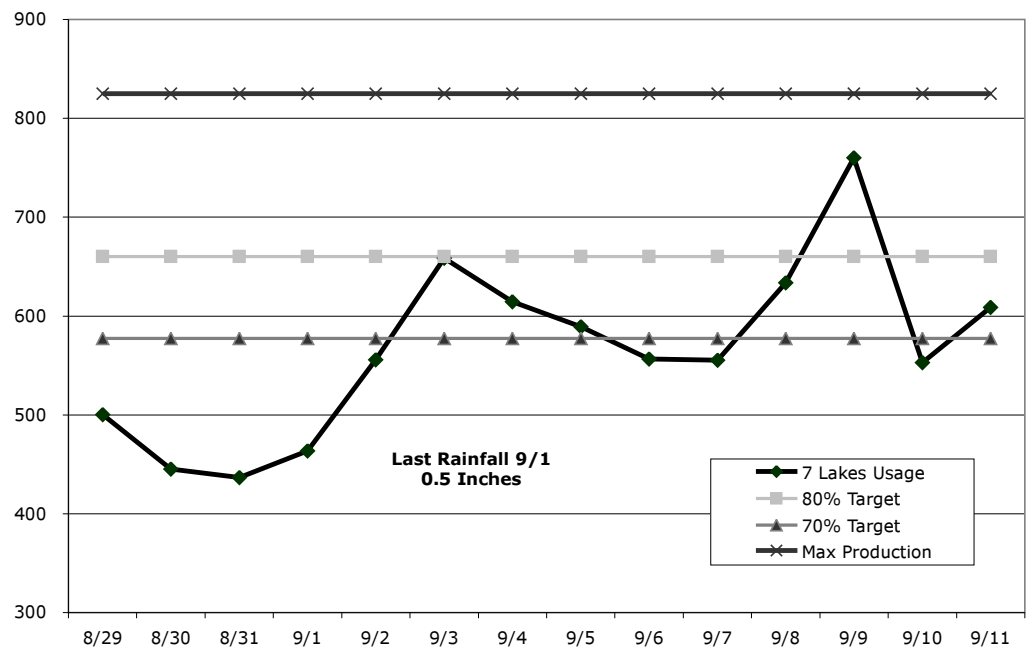


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Seven Lakes Water Usage



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

off FirstHealth property and onto neighboring private properties, one of which is owned by Lea. "You can go down there now and see literally thousands of cigarette butts in that parking lot," Lea said, noting that litter from smokers eating their lunch on the property is also a problem. Lea said that his family had traditionally farmed tobacco in Eastwood but also that his Mother had died of cancer at age 59. "It would be hard for me not to support this policy," he said.

The measure was approved unanimously.

Meeting time changed

Less unanimous was the three-to-two decision to change the time of one of the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Commissioners have traditionally held their meeting on the first Monday of the month at 2:00 pm and their meeting on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Melton, a small-business owner, suggested moving the 2:00 pm meeting until 6:00 pm, noting both the inconvenience of an afternoon meeting for working people and suggesting that the afternoon meeting often attracts fewer citizens than the evening meeting.

The idea was discussed in a work session last month, with Commissioners divided on the proposal. Melton asked to have it placed on Tuesday night's agenda for a vote. During the agenda meeting late last week, Commissioner Caddell and Chairman Colin McKenzie cooked up a compromise: moving the 2:00 pm meeting to 4:00 pm.

Both Commissioner Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan opposed the move, noting that the county has many senior citizens — many of whom are wary of driving after dark. Even a 4:00 pm meeting, in the winter months, would likely end after dark, Morgan said.

After some debate, Melton made a motion to shift the 2:00 pm meeting to 4:00 pm, which Caddell seconded. Lea then read a prepared statement, noting that Commissioners knew the regular meeting times when

they ran for office. "Please help me understand why the convenience of five Commissioners is more important than the residents of Moore County who pay the taxes and elect us?" Lea asked.

Lea's statement did not appear to sit well with Chairman McKenzie, who, up until that point, had expressed no preference for one meeting time over another. The Chairman called for a vote and voted with Melton and Caddell for the change to 4:00 on the first Monday of the month. Lea and Morgan voted against the move.

Road Projects Approved

NC Department of Transportation [NCDOT] Engineer Chuck Dumas presented plans for more than \$3 million in Secondary Road improvements in the county during the current fiscal year. Those projects include pavement improvements on Roseland Road from its intersection with Hoffman Road to SR 1113, and the widening of Linden Road from 18 to 22 feet.

The paving of a number of

small stretches of unpaved roads are also part of NCDOT's plan for this year. Commissioners approved the project list.

Hearing on Subdivision Ordinance Set

The Commissioners called a joint public hearing with the Moore County Planning Board for Thursday, September 20, to consider changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations related to the Planned Unit Development Ordinance and conservation subdivision design standards.

This is the ordinance rewrite that the Planning Staff and consultant Land Design have been working on over the Summer. If the hearing results in approval of the new ordinances, Commissioners are likely to lift the de facto moratorium on new subdivisions in Area A — the planning area surrounding West End and Seven Lakes.

Other Business

In other business, the Board of Commissioners:

- Approved a three-year \$377,000 contract with CompuCom to outfit county computers with Microsoft software, including Windows and the Microsoft Office Suite, to ensure that all software licenses are up to date, and to provide training for both the Information Technology staff and end users.
- Approved the movement of funds for two such projects from the previous budget year into the current budget year to allow for the completion of two projects.
- Approved the \$119,500 purchase of a boom truck used by

Public Works staff for the removal of submersible pumps.

- Approved a \$49,000 addendum to a Public Works contract for water tank maintenance in order to refurbish the Vass water tank.
- Re-appointed Judge James Webb to the Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board.
- Called a public hearing for Monday, September 17, on the naming of a number of new roads, including twelve in the new Sinclair subdivision in the southeastern section of the county and three in McLendon Hills: Buckboard Court, Saddle Ridge, and Vista Drive.

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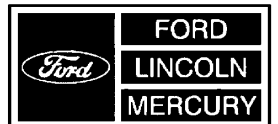
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SLLA

(Continued from page 4)

favor of expanding the number of boat slips, if the demand for them can be determined. A proposed rule would require a \$50 deposit of those adding their name to the waiting list for slips. Truesdell said the number of secured deposits would provide an good indication of the demand for additional boat slips.

Both Douglass and Stephan expressed concerns about the appearance of a fence at the existing boat and trailer storage area. Zielsdorf's committee will study the options and bring its ideas back to the Board.

New regulations

The Board slated several other proposed rules changes for a vote on September 26:

- Director Stephan suggested new rules governing the clearing and clean-up of vacant lots, requiring a permit for major clearing, limiting the removal of native trees, and requiring approval of the Architectural Review Board for the cutting of larger trees.

- Stephan offered new rules establishing a \$1,500 refundable performance bond that must be placed with the Association before construction of a new home can begin.

- Also up for a vote on September 26 will be a proposal for voluntary restrictions on taking irrigation water from the community's lakes during water shortages. Lakefront owners would be encouraged to observe the same restrictions placed on those who rely on the county water system for irrigation. Michael Florence was the only Director who expressed reservations about this proposal when it was raised during the Association's August 29 General Meeting; Florence was not in attendance at the September 12 Work Session.

Other Business

In other business, the SLLA Board:

- Reviewed a request from Moore County Public Utilities for an easement that would allow a waterline to be extended from a section of McLendon Hills to Pineneedle Drive, in order to improve hydraulic flows to both areas. If the final drawings and documents are available, the Board will vote on the request during the September 26 General Meeting. Truesdell asked that the agreement with the

County require that the road surface — if it is disturbed during construction — be restored to its initial condition, and that shut off valves be installed at each intersection of water mains.

- Referred to Michael Florence, recently appointed Chairman of the new Personnel Committee, a review of the updated Policy and Procedure Manual

prepared by Director Nuti's Rules Committee.

- Reviewed key changes in the newly-revised Rules and Regulations prepared by Nuti's committee.

- Rescheduled the Board's October meetings to October 10 and 24 to avoid meeting on Halloween.

- Decided to hold one addi-

tional meeting per quarter which will be closed to landowners and held around a conference room table. No votes will be taken during the closed meeting.

- Heard from Truesdell a comparison of the cost of using Association trucks and personnel to haul away yard debris versus contracting out that service. He found the outside vendor's


price more cost-effective, largely due to the small capacity of the SLLA dump truck.

- Heard from Truesdell that the Work Session agenda would include a public comment segment at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers must be placed on the agenda the Friday before the meeting.



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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

irrigation systems shall be permitted between midnight and 10:00 am. Properties with odd numbered addresses may water only on Mondays and Thursdays; even numbered addresses may water only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Watering by hose-end sprinklers is permitted between 6:00 am and 10:00 am, and also between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Properties with odd numbered addresses may water only on Mondays and Thursdays; even numbered addresses may water only on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Hand-held hose watering is permitted between 6:00 am and 10:00 am, and also between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Properties with odd numbered addresses may water only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; even numbered addresses may water only on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Low-volume drip irrigation is permitted at any time.

Village water restrictions do not apply to properties using non-

potable [gray] water – such as the irrigation system used at the golf course, and to private well owners.

"The restrictions are on homes using municipally-supplied water but we do ask that those on wells respect the same restrictions," said Councilman Ed Lauer.

An email with additional information and a Code Red announcement will be sent to notify Foxfire residents of the new mandatory restrictions and the fee structure for violations.

Violations will be charged as follows: first offense is a \$200 citation, second offense is a \$1,000 citation, and third-time offenders may have their water turned off.

"We'll also give notice to builders that we are under restrictions," said Lauer.

He noted that builders and homes with new large landscaping may apply for a free, forty-five day permit allowing extra watering periods to help establish the new plantings.

"Builders will be limited to watering from 5:00 am to 10:00

am," said Lauer.

Pools are not affected under Phase I restrictions and, for sanitation purposes, existing pool owners may add water as necessary. New and under construction pools already approved will also be allowed to be filled.

Lauer also proposed a \$10 fee for additional water meter reading requests. Complaining that residents were burdening the water department with nuisance reading requests, Lauer said the fee would not be assessed if the water meter had, in fact, been over read.

"There's an easy way for folks to determine if they have a water problem. When running no water in the house, go outside and check to see if the meter is moving," said Lauer. "If it's still moving, that could indicate a leak in the house."

"If you have a problem [with your water bill], please go to the village office. But if it's a nuisance reading you will be charged the \$10 fee," said Lauer.

Lauer explained that this is not a new ordinance, just one that

has never been enforced.

"Water is probably the hottest issue in Moore County, even in the state," said Lauer. "The only above ground water source of any significance is in northern Moore, and all the population is in south and west."

Lauer suggested that it is inevitable that a county-wide water system will be constructed.

"We may not give up ours but we will be interconnected, eventually as Moore County is going to have to find a large solution," said Lauer.

Mayor Erickson agreed saying, "We have about a five year window before we can expect to be in a county-wide water system."

Future Water Needs

Foxfire residents used on average – before the recent well closings due to radium findings – about sixty-seven percent of capacity on average. During peak times, such as drought conditions, average used increased to eighty to ninety

percent of capacity.

Water regulations stipulate that each house must have 400 gallons of water available.

Councilman Lauer said the village may need to consider Impact Fees be assessed on all new development.

"All of these issues are avalanching down – we've reached a stage where you feel you have a window and that window was closed when we received the letter from Governor Easley."

Noting that the average water bill for Foxfire village homes runs around \$35 dollars, Lauer said that resident water usage is about half of the 400 gallons each day.

"For the most part, people in our community are fine. Our concern is future needs," said Lauer.

"We're going to have to look at water needs before the approval of any new major development," said Lauer, "to ensure ourselves that we can provide each house with 400 gallons a day. If we

(See "Village water," p. 38)

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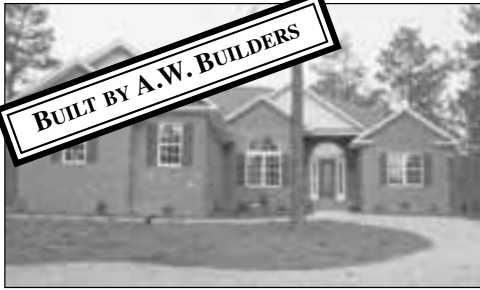
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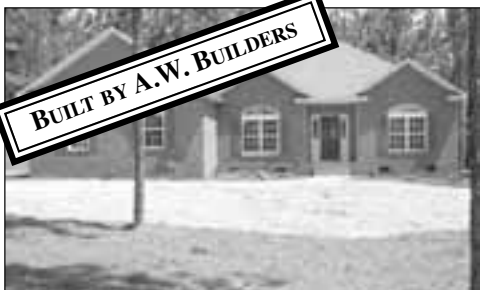
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Village water

(Continued from page 36)

can't give them the water then they can't build the home."

Lauer said the Foxfire is being confronted with unexpected growth but is still not experiencing the growth seen in other areas.

"Fifty houses here is a huge impact on a community our size," said Lauer.

However, emphasized Lauer, "You can't stop growth! To finance a community you have to have growth. If you said no one could ever move or build in Foxfire again – your tax rate would go up fifty percent." Lauer continued, "Services don't go away. It's a Catch-22, every year taxes would go up exponentially just to maintain what you have now."

Lauer said growth is necessary and should be done intelligently.

"The scenario is not all gloom and doom. We won't have a drought every year and we'll work through it – it may cost money but all of Moore County has to take it seriously."

Planning & Zoning Report

Foxfire Village Planning and Zoning Administrator Mimi Ainsworth reported two plans approved for accessory buildings, and that approval was granted for five new homes. Plans were also submitted and approved for the addition of a swimming pool and fence to a home currently under construction.

Grande Pines developer, Pete Mace, was granted conditional approval by the Mayor and Council to commence Phase II of Grande Pines, a 24.96 acre section. Mace must comply with

five minor conditions cited by the Planning Committee including notes on the plat identifying the common area park under ownership of the Grande Pines Landowners Association, and verification that all fees have been paid.

Phase II includes a park area and walking trail along a common area leading to the park. The smallest lot is 2.6 acres, and all homes in Grande Pines have a 2,800 foot minimum square footage requirement. New homes must also be approved by an architectural review committee.

Finance Report

Foxfire Village books were given a clean audit, reported Councilman Wally Peckitt.

"The auditor took exception that we do not have enough internal control, and I agree with that. Fortunately we have honest people working here."

The final audit will be available for review at the village offices.

Peckitt expressed concern during the finance report that budget expenditures are \$11,900 over revenue.

"We are under a tight and economical basis, with a current cash balance of \$356,000.

Peckitt cited the increased

water infrastructure costs for well mitigation, including funding needs of at least \$350,000, to purchase land, drill three test wells, conduct a gamma log of three wells tested for radium.

"The water department fund has a cash balance of \$257,000," said Peckitt. "We may be required to ask for assistance from the bank to borrow money to make this cash flow work."

Councilman Lauer said, "We did not expect to have the radium and the different things that we have to mitigate. We're going to have to take these aggressive actions and that's what we're looking at right now." Lauer continued, "We deliberately underestimated our [water fund] budget this year for revenue. Our revenue intake may be more over the year and it may not be as bad as it looks."

Peckitt said there has been a lot of growth in Foxfire and "that growth that has to be accounted for not only in taxes but also with physical assets such as water."

"I am very concerned," said Peckitt, "that we are exhibiting great strides of growth but we have to provide for that growth. We have held the tax rate the same as last year even though

appraisal rates went up."

Peckitt continued, "We don't seem to be able to move around with cash. We're strapped – and we'll continue to be strapped! It's up to the Council to make prudent decisions."

Public Safety Report

Councilman Carl Munro said the village was a little delayed in getting the newly hired patrolman, "He is going through two final tests including a pistol competency test." Munro expects the patrolman to begin work on October 1.

Munro reported that he regularly conducts a village review and that this past month he was very impressed.

"I saw very few violations and in comparison with previous reviews, all violations noted could

be handled quickly," said Munro.

"We issued one citation which has been paid," said Munro, mentioning that in general the village tries to avoid citations. This was only the second citation issued in the last four years.

Munro said he did notice two things he would like to see addressed in the future: a maximum grass-length ordinance, and frequency that developers turn property over to realtor but still have pallets, bricks, etc on the property.

"I am asking the Appearance Committee to look at these two issues and come back with recommendations," said Munro.

Councilman Lauer suggested that the Appearance Committee should also look into and make recommendations regard-

(See "Foxfire," p. 39)



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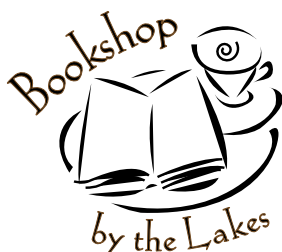
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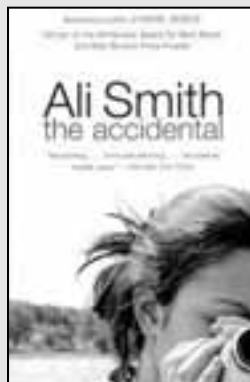
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Foxfire

ing clear cutting of lots, by builders.

Mayor Erickson stated that while gated communities can set requirements that prevent clear cut, municipalities have reduced options for controlling this problem.

Mayor Erickson suggested the Appearance Committee should work with the Zoning Administrator on the issue.

Munro expressed frustration that the village ordinance language on noise is not strong enough to enforce nuisances such as barking dogs.

"We have two cases now of incessant barking – and there is nothing in ordinances that says

we can do much about it," said Munro. "In both cases, it's not one dog but two or three."

Munro said the ordinance needs to define "continuous" before a violation can be written.

"How can you fine someone for a violation that you can't even define?" said Munro. "The language needs to be more precise in the ordinance."

CERTS Team

During the Public Safety report, Councilman Munro said during a recent reunion of the fourteen-member Community Emergency Rescue Team [CERTS], it was determined that the village would be better served with the

addition of a second team.

"Often we have CERTS members away and may only be able to gather only six or seven in an emergency," said Munro. "A second team will give us good coverage."

Calling the CERTS team the final piece in the hazard mitigation team, Munro said the village has a volunteer group that will clear trees from roads, a group that can communicate electronically, and a group that

is positioned for an immediate search of about half the village.

"The CERTS part is the most critical because these are the people trained to help the injured."

Public Comment

A resident suggested that with all the new building and the high volume of trucks and school buses running up and down village roads, whether the 35 mph speed limit in the village was appropriate.

Munro responded that many village roads have a lower limit of 25 mph.

Munro also said that the Moore County Sheriff's Department has been spending considerable time issuing tickets within the village limits.

Councilman Gene Petrie commented that the school buses were being driven way too fast – "They come through here like a bat out of hell!"

Transfer tax

(Continued from page 6)

house. We've got to figure out a way to pay for this."

Reflecting on the alternative, Caddell said, "If our purpose here is to keep the taxes low and never do anything, then tell me now so I can go home."

"The problem that we are facing to day is the result of doing nothing in the past," Commissioner Melton said. "We've had a lot of patchwork and just getting along. We are about playing catch-up now."

"I'm in business and a conservative, and I hate taxes more than anyone does," Melton

added. "I hate to do what we have to do. But we have to be progressive and stay on top of things."

Melton noted that Moore County's tax rate is among the lowest in the state.

McKenzie said he would like for one or two commissioners, along with the County Manager, to meet with the home builders and Realtors® and try to explain to them our situation."

McSwain said he and his staff would attempt to develop a factual presentation concerning the proposed tax that could be shared with the public.

Noah

(Continued from page 12)

to Seven lakes on Thursday.

"We're really delighted with his progress," Jones said.

Noah is the son of Chris and Jennifer Jones of Pinehurst and the grandson of Harold and Joanie Jones of Seven Lakes West. His father, Chris, is a Moore County native who grew up in Seven Lakes. He now works for FirstHealth of the Carolinas. His grandfather, Harold, is the Postmaster at West End.

Even with health insurance benefits, the extraordinary care Noah requires has left the family with a mountain of medical, transportation, and lodging bills. The Co-Ed Softball Tournament and Home Run Derby events will help defray those costs. The entry fee for the tournament is

\$150 per team or \$10 per individual. Spectators are welcome and the concession stand will be open. Raffles and other activities will be on-going during the entire tournament.

For more information, please contact Matt McNeill or Kim Tew at 673-4240.

Folks who would like to make contributions to the family can make checks payable to West End Presbyterian Church, indicating that they are for the Noah Jones Fund. The church's address is P.O. Box 13, West End, NC 27376.

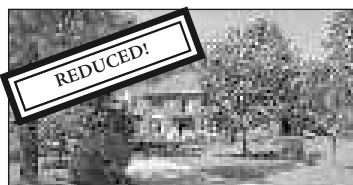
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Westside

(Continued from front page)

Inspection Approval report to make sure construction and landscaping were completed as approved — and to make sure the site has been cleaned up and any impact on Association or other adjacent private property has been remedied. A homeowner who moves in before the Certificate of Completion is issued faces a fine of \$100 per day — and the builder "may have trouble getting any further permits" in Seven Lakes West, Sales said.

- A second major change allows the ARC to issue a "stop work" order. On the authority of the chairman of the ARC committee, when an inspection shows that a builder is violating construction requirements, work on the project may be halted until the violations are addressed. Violation of a stop work order would subject the builder to \$100 per day fines, which can be deducted from the builder's \$1,500 compliance deposit with the Association.
- Another major change is the expansion of rules governing the clearing of lots, which Sales said were aimed at limiting the amount of vegetation that can be removed. The new rules specify the types and sizes of trees that may and may not be removed, requiring ARC approval for trees with a diameter of four inches or more. Clear cutting of lots

is strictly prohibited and "will result in the permanent banning of the contractor . . . from the community," the new rules read. "This is essentially a wooded, semi-rural community, and we would like to keep it that way," Sales told the Board.

- The fourth major change in the standards is the expansion of landscaping requirements for new homes to require at least two levels of landscaping on the side or sides that face the street, and the same for the side or sides that face the lake or golf course, in the case of lakefront or golf front homes. The language for this section was taken "almost verbatim" from the architectural standards of the Pinewild subdivisions, Sales said.

In fact, the ARC's process for developing the new guidelines involved collecting architectural standards from a number of local communities, Sales told Board members, including Pinewild, Country Club of North

Carolina, Mid-South, the National, and Forest Creek. Sales said the committee selected "the best of the crop" from among those examples.

Sales noted several other key changes in the Westside standards during Tuesday's work session, including:

- Making clear that the owner of the building lot is the party ultimately responsible for ensuring that the standards are met.
- A clearer definition of the ARC and its powers and responsibilities.
- An expansion of the information required on the site plan provided by the builder or lot owner.
- A section describing the compliance fee required of builders and the fees and fines that can result in the forfeiture of all or part of that fee.
- A requirement that a lot owner notify the ARC if he or she switches builders during the construction process.

- A new \$1,000 compliance fee required of any landowners who plans to install a swimming pool. "If you put water in the pool before the pool fence is up, the you lose the fee," Sales said.

The SLWLA Board gave the new Standards a provisional rather than final approval.

Apparently some issues remain to be worked out with the Westside developer; the Board did not discuss these in the open portion of the work session, but apparently had that discussion in an earlier closed session.

As a result, Director Jo Nicholas' motion for approval authorized the ARC to "implement the technical and procedural standards" while delaying final ratification until those undisclosed details can be worked out with the developer. Nicholas' motion was approved unanimously by the Directors in attendance. Both Mary Ann Fewkes and Blaine Rowland were unable to attend the meeting.

Mail Delivery

The other major issue discussed (See "Mail delivery," p. 41)

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Mail delivery

(Continued from page 40)

cussed during Tuesday's SLWLA work session was mail delivery. The West Side has been wrestling for a number of years with the question of whether to build a new mailhouse — or perhaps multiple mailhouses — or to rely on delivery to streetside mailboxes. The US Postal Service has thus far expressed no willingness to offer streetside delivery in the community.

President Jim Haggard opened the meeting by saying he felt it was time to get the Board — and the community — talking about the issue in order to move toward a resolution.

Ray MacKay, who has served longer on the Board than Haggard, told the President that previous Boards had discussed the issue and had received presentations from the Long Range Planning Committee on both options. "We decided to pursue home delivery to a point that we knew whether it was viable or not," MacKay said. He said a straw poll of the membership taken two years ago showed a

preponderance of residents preferred home delivery.

"The question has always been, is it really available to us?" MacKay added. "And how much time do we spend finding out?"

"I personally think it is my Constitutional right to have my mail delivered to my house," Director Nicholas said. "We are letting the US Postal Service [USPS] dictate to us based on some decision made years ago [i.e., to have a central mailhouse], when this really was a more rural area."

"My major concern is, looking at the existing location of mailhouse, that is a potentially hazardous area," Director Bill Mamel said. Development in the area has made it a four-way intersection, he added. "Do we or do we not decentralize? Now we're starting to talk dollars." Mamel noted that the competition created by package delivery services and electronic mail may ultimately force the USPS to cut back on the frequency and reach of home delivery.

"The Board is handicapped

in terms of long-range planning as long as this decision is not made," Mamel said.

"So far, the Board has not taken any position on mail delivery," Hugh Beckwith noted. "In your slot delivery is significantly unlikely," which leaves street delivery or one or more mailhouses. "There are real flaws with both approaches — legal and financial," Beckwith said.

"We're down to where the rubber meets the road," President Haggard said. "I don't see this Board being able to not take a position on it."

Noting that opinion on the issues is divided within the Long Range Planning Committee, and suggesting that residents may not have had complete information when they voted in the straw poll on the issue, Haggard suggested appointing a "champion" for each option who would be charged with gathering all the relevant information and producing "a very detailed report of what their approach would represent, including their best estimate of cost." That information could

then be presented to the Board and the community.

MacKay noted that former Director Mike Finney had made some progress toward laying out that sort of information before resigning from the Board. Haggard said he would speak with Finney and collect whatever information he might have compiled and would then bring the issue back to the Board.

Other Business

During the Tuesday, September 11 Work Session, the SLWLA Board also:

- Deferred a request from a Morgan Wood resident to have his lot zoned for equestrian use. The authority to rezone the lot lies with Morgan Wood developer GS Communities; Beckwith and MacKay will explore with GS whether the company might be ready to assign its developer rights to the Association.
- After some discussion, ratified a decision by the ARC to approve a landowner's request to clear debris out of Douglas

Cove. The ARC gave approval without realizing that an action by a previous Board has reserved to the Board of Directors the sole right to approve any dredging of coves.

- Deferred action on a proposed Open Burning ban because of the absence of Director Blaine Rowland, who has been working on the issue. The Board received information from landowner Gene Lentz that suggests state regulations may make burning for land clearing impossible in all but a very small area of Morgan Wood.
- Heard from Director MacKay that the widening and repaving of the lower portion of the Lakeway Drive entrance lane is expected to begin the week of September 17, as scheduled.

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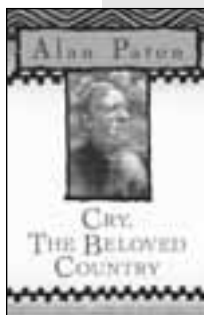
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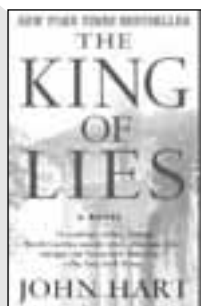
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129 VANORE ROAD • \$819,500

Elegance and comfort! Lake Auman water front, three bedroom, 3.5 bath with lots of additional space on lower level; perfect for in law suite. Workshop, huge kitchen, formal dining room, two fireplaces, oversized garage.



WHISPERING PINES • \$285,000

Three Bedroom, Two Baths with bonus room. Hardwoods, vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, oversized garage, huge yard. A must see.

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**YOUR 7 LAKES NEIGHBOR
LINDA CRISWELL
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HOMESITES

134 Pine Valley Lane, West End
Waterfront in Pine Valley **\$15,000**

TBD Lamplighter Lane, Seven Lakes West
Motivated Seller **\$45,000**

TBD Woodriver Rd, Eastwood
5 acres **\$55,110**

TBD Woodriver Rd, Eastwood
6 acres, Backs up to Little River **\$66,330**

TBD Richmond Rd, Foxfire
Golf Front **\$59,500**

**TBD Beacon Ridge Drive,
Seven Lakes West**
Fabulous Golf Front **\$63,000**
121 Harwich, Seven Lakes South
Golf Front **\$69,900**



13 WILDWOOD LN, FOXFIRE • \$365,000
Gorgeous New Construction! Golf Front 3Bd/2.5Ba on the 9th tee box. Formal dining room, great room, large master, hardwoods, granite & rear concrete patio. Large lot on quiet cul-de-sac. Completed by end of Sept 07. Excellent floor plan!



120 SMATHERS DRIVE • \$385,000
New Construction, Move in Ready. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath, AND bonus room. Open floor plan and high ceilings throughout. Hardwoods, tile, & granite. Level lot & screened porch.



232 BERTIE RD, EASTWOOD • \$141,500
1994 manufactured home on approx 2.5 acres. Just 10 mins from Pinehurst. Two detached carports, garage with workshop. Large Carolina room overlooks woods with stream. Interior recently painted & recent appliances.



186 FIRETREE LANE • \$249,900
Charming! Completely renovated 3 BR, 2 BA home with new hardwoods, tile, and carpet throughout. Brand new kitchen and baths offers new cabinetry, appliances, and granite. Sunroom overlooks private back yard. Motivated seller!

**DROP BY THE PRUDENTIAL BOOTH TO SAY HELLO
at MEET THE MERCHANTS, SEPT 18TH
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MORTGAGE MINUTE

BUYERS, DON'T HESITATE!

THERE WAS A TIME when buying a home involved getting into bidding wars and having to offer more than the original asking price for a home.

Buyers hardly had a chance to look over the property before they had to make a bid to buy anything.

Presently, however, buyers can take advantage of a new window of opportunity. Right now, we have an abundance of homes on the market vying for

your attention. With continuing low interest rates, several mortgage programs to choose from, and sellers willing to listen to bids lower than their asking price, now is a perfect time to jump into the market and buy your dream home.

Compared to other types of investments, real estate has proven to be one of the safest and most lucrative forms of investments available. Over the past 10 years homes nationwide have increased more

than 88%! How many stocks do you own that have made that kind of profit?

So if you are thinking of buying a new home any time soon, take advantage of this rare window, and make the leap!

For a free consultation to discuss which type of mortgage loan will work best for you, **call Victoria Spannaus at Wachovia Mortgage Corp. at (800) 741-7813 or 910-692-6225.**



**VICTORIA SPANNAUS
WACHOVIA MORTGAGE
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