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Volume 23 Number 5

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

January 11, 2008

Board approves 'do nothing' revenue budget

Much to the chagrin of its Treasurer and Finance Committee members, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors voted in a work session on Tuesday morning, January 8, to ask for no dues increase from former members of the Morgan Wood and West Side Landowners Associations [WSLA], while levying on Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle residents the twelve percent increase called for by a 2002 agreement that merged all of the Westside associations,

creating the SLWLA.

The twelve percent increase for Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle landowners is automatic as a result of the merger agreement. Consequently, the revenue plan ultimately adopted by the Board was labeled the "Do Nothing" plan.

Finance Committee proposal

Deciding to "Do Nothing" represented a substantial departure from the proposal forward-
(See "Do nothing," p. 30)

Auman Dam repair options selected

The Lakes and Dams Committee along with engineers from Marks Enterprises, have selected two options for the repair of the Lake Auman dam to present to the state, Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board members learned in a Tuesday, January 8 Work Session.

Lake Director Mary Annn Fewkes said the Committee, along with President Jim Haggard, had met with engineer Sam Strickland and, by conference call, with engineer Dan Marks, to consider ten different

strategies for correcting the seepage that is affecting the top portion of the dam.

The options were evaluated in terms of cost, impact on use of the lake, effectiveness, and risk, Fewkes said. Also considered was the "quality of remediation." "We want a repair that is going to last," Fewkes explained, "not one that will have the be redone in 10-20 years."

Though ten options were evaluated, Fewkes said, only two were really viable once all fac-
(See "Dam," p. 29)

Eagle Scout Project



Scout Brandon Bonner, shown here with Foxfire Mayor George Erickson, will identify and mark native trees in the Village Green Municipal Park. (Story on page 4.)

SLLA Board votes for 'do-over' on nominations

Ed Nuti was removed as chairman of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Nominating Committee in a contentious Special Open Meeting on Monday, January 7, called by Directors Michael Florence and Steve Hudson.

Florence, Hudson, and oth-

ers argued that Nuti had failed to establish a proper committee as called for in the SLLA Bylaws, leaving the nominations open to challenge. Nuti, Director Randy Zielsdorf, and President Don Truesdell defended the process Nuti had used to attract a slate that includes nine

candidates for three possible seats.

Ultimately, a four-to-three vote of the Board removed Nuti as Chairman, after which Director Laura Douglass was named to head up a new committee which would revalidate each of the
(See "Nominating," p. 32)

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Input sought on Area A Small Area Plan

Residents of Moore County's Area A have a last chance to provide input into the Small Area Planning process before the finishing touches are put on a final draft that will be taken to the Planning Board and Moore County Board of Commissioners for approval.

The first of four public input sessions was held on Tuesday, January 8 at West Pine Middle School, while another was scheduled for Thursday, January 10, at the Eagle Spring Fire Department from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Seven Lakers may want to plan to attend the Tuesday, January 15 session scheduled from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at West End Elementary school.

A fourth session will be held at Jackson Springs Community Center, on Thursday, January 17, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

The Small Area Plan, once approved by the Commissioners, will serve as a guide and yardstick for use when rezoning requests, conditional use permits, and development proposals come before the Planning Staff, Planning Board, and Commissioners for consideration.

The Steering Committee, headed by Southsider and Seven Lakes Civic Group President Dave Kinney, set for itself the following mission:

Based upon input from the citizens of Area A and modeled on a 20-year horizon, the mission of the Steering Committee was to create a plan which:

- Preserves and conserves the natural environment and cultural features that describe our heritage and which we highly value,
- Manages inevitable growth to achieve the kind that we want, where we want it, and
- Identifies, as a minimum, infrastructure needs to assure a viable plan.

After research, discussion, and public input, the group laid out a set of principles "that we couldn't live without." They are:

1. Conserve wetlands.

2. Create open space in both commercial and residential developments.
3. Conserve water resources.
4. Preserve farmland.
5. Preserve working forests.
6. Promote economic development.

7. Sustainable growth.
 8. Manage cultural resources.
- The input sessions this week and next will give Area A residents an opportunity to weigh in on these principles, and on a Future Land Use Map the committee has developed to help

guide growth in the area over the next twenty to thirty years.

For more information on the Small Area Planning process or on the public input sessions, contact the Moore County Planning Department at 947-5010.

Red Cross Babysitting Class

The American Red Cross Moore County Chapter will offer a six-hour babysitting class to be taught on Saturday, February 9, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The class is open to boys and girls ages eleven to fifteen years. The class will be held at the American Red Cross Moore County Chapter House at 244 SW Broad Street in Southern Pines. Students are asked to

bring a sack lunch. The class will also be repeated on Saturday, March 29.

The course includes instruction and hands-on training in babysitter responsibilities; communicating with children; feeding, diapering, and dressing children and infants; safety and security factors; basic first aid for problems with breathing, choking, bleeding, various injuries, and

other emergency situations.

The \$25 fee for the course is due in advance. Cash, check, or credit cards are accepted. Register by calling 692-8571 or mail payment to the American Red Cross at P.O. Box 407, Southern Pines NC 28388.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 910-673-0210, or e-mailed to mail@sevenlakes-times.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE


Issue	Deadline
January 25	January 18
February 8	February 1
February 22	February 15
March 7	February 29
March 21	March 14
April 4	March 28
April 18	April 11
May 2	April 25
May 16	May 9
May 30	May 23
June 13	June 6
June 27	June 20
July 11	July 3*
July 25	July 18
August 8	August 1
August 22	August 15
Sept 5	August 29
Sept 19	Sept 12
October 3	Sept 26
October 17	October 10
October 31	October 24
Nov 14	Nov 7
Nov 26*	Nov 20*
Dec 12	Dec 5
Dec 23*	Dec 18*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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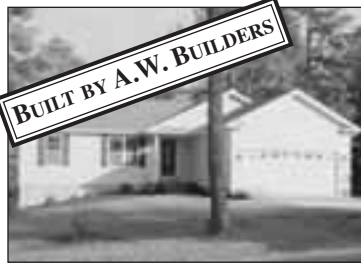
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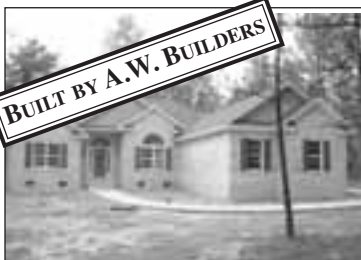
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Villagers pitching in to conserve water

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Acknowledging the substantial water conservation efforts made by the residents of Foxfire Village, Councilman Ed Lauer complimented the community during the Regular Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, January 8.

"While many communities around the state are not meeting the restriction goals," said Lauer, "our community is and I am very pleased." He continued, "Foxfire has responded admirably."

Lauer also thanked a resident who provided him with a twenty year report on daily rainfall and precipitation.

Noting that the data confirms

Foxfire is 7.1 inches below average rainfall this year, Lauer said what was particularly interesting was information in the report demonstrating that Foxfire has been below average for twelve out of the last twenty years.

"Where we live is a coastal desert and what we're going

Spring hopefully we'll have more rain and that will be very telling."

Lauer continued his report stating a water budget shortfall this year is due to the unexpected, but required, work to remediate radium levels in the village water system.

"The new well is about ready to run raw water to the SH1 Well which will remediate the radium and improve our production by about forty-five gallons a minute."

Lauer also said the water line extending to Grande Pines is almost complete and the costs for this work will be assessed to the development's affected property owners.

Foxfire Council Meeting

1/8

through is not unusual," said Lauer. "We are doing what we need to do and as a community we are not in dire straights. This

Finance

Councilman Wally Peckitt presented the Finance Report; \$600,000 in cash with \$400,000 assigned to the General Fund, \$172,000 to Water Fund, and \$14,000 to Police Fund.

Peckitt reported \$76,000 in budget shortfalls this year primarily due to \$60,000 in additional expenditures above revenue for the water system.

"The budget itself looks good," said Peckitt but cautioned the council to be judicious with spending. "All in all in we are in pretty good shape and we need to hold the line for the next six months."

Public Safety

Responding to an unlawful hunter with a drawn weapon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Officer William Dutton requested backup from the Foxfire Police Department. Dutton, a Foxfire resident, sent a letter to the Council thanking the officers and praising the professionalism of Chief Campbell and his officers for going above and beyond the call of duty to assist him.

Councilwoman Page Coker also reported Foxfire Police assisted in a recent sobriety checkpoint and no arrests were made.

(See "Foxfire," p.25)

Scout will ID Park trees

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Brandon Bonner, a Boy Scout with Troop 98 in West End, and a resident of Foxfire, presented the Village Council with his plan to identify and mark twenty-four native plants and trees along the fitness trail at Village Green Park, as his Leadership Project towards the rank of Eagle Scout.

"There are over 10,000 people in the Foxfire - Seven Lakes areas. This project would provide educational opportunities as well as recreational," said Bonner.

Bonner will be responsible for all labor and materials necessary to construct and place twenty-four 2" x 3" plaques on 4 x 4 posts. He stated he will solicit donations of material from local businesses but asked the village to cover additional costs.

Councilman Peckitt made the motion and the council approved funding up to \$350 in materials, as needed.

Mayor Erickson asked Bonner to coordinate his work with the

Park Committee and to place the signs in a safe manner, far enough off the trail to allow for emergency vehicle and mowing access.



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And not the calm or the strife.

— Ella Wheeler Wilcox

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Hudson to tighten purse on attorneys' fees

Treasurer Steve Hudson will move to control mounting legal expenses for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] by notifying the Association's attorneys that no payment will be made for legal services rendered without approval of the full Board.

Hudson makes the announcement in the letter printed at right.

For FY 2007-2008, through the end of November, SLLA expenses for professional services expenses totaled \$15,853, compared to \$7,700 for the same period last year, Hudson writes.

Hudson attempted to bring up the issue during a Monday, January 7 Special Open Meeting that he and Secretary Michael Florence called to deal with issues involving the nominating committee. But he was unsuccessful in persuading President Don Truesdell to allow the addition of the item to the agenda.

"If a Board member needs to speak with an attorney it must be cleared by a board vote," Hudson writes.

Interviewed by *The Times* on

Tuesday, Hudson said he believed the responsibilities assigned to the Treasurer in the

SLLA Bylaws give him the power to make the policy change unilaterally, without a vote of the

Board. The duties of the Treasurer, as described in Bylaw 6.11.6 include: "The Treasurer shall have

custody of all funds and securities belonging to the Association (See "Hudson," p. 6)

Attorneys' fees must be limited

I tried to get some information out to the landowners at the "special open meeting" that Michael Florence and I called on Monday January 7. Our President shut it out — but as I told him, "It will be in *The Times*."

This concerns our money. As your Treasurer, I have always attempted to look after our money. As of November 30, 2006, we had \$7,700 in professional service expenses for the year so far. Now, as of November 30, 2007, we have \$15,853 in professional service expenses — and none of these expenses had to do with the Shaw law suit!

I tried to let the President know that as the Treasurer, I was shutting the attorney calls, e-mails, and meetings down!

There is no excuse for running up bills to that extent!

We as a community should not tolerate this type of abuse. This is simply disgusting!

We still have five months left

be cleared by a board vote. I will then e-mail the attorney verifying that the board has authorized the expenditure. The bill will then be paid for that one time.

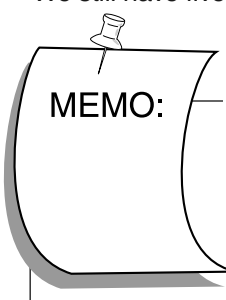
Again, the \$15,853 that we have paid out to date does not include anything with the

Seven Lakes Country Club for lunch. The expense was \$40.01. Please reimburse me. Thanks, Don"

This was then initialed as approved by Dalton Fulcher and paid. We paid for their lunch! Why? We are a not-for-profit community. Again, this type of action is disgusting!

We need to remember, "consent of the governed" means that power rests with the people. The reason those elected can govern is because the members say they can. All members are equal — the president does not have more power than any other member!

How does our President stack up? Isn't it about time for him to resign?



Board Notes

Steve Hudson
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

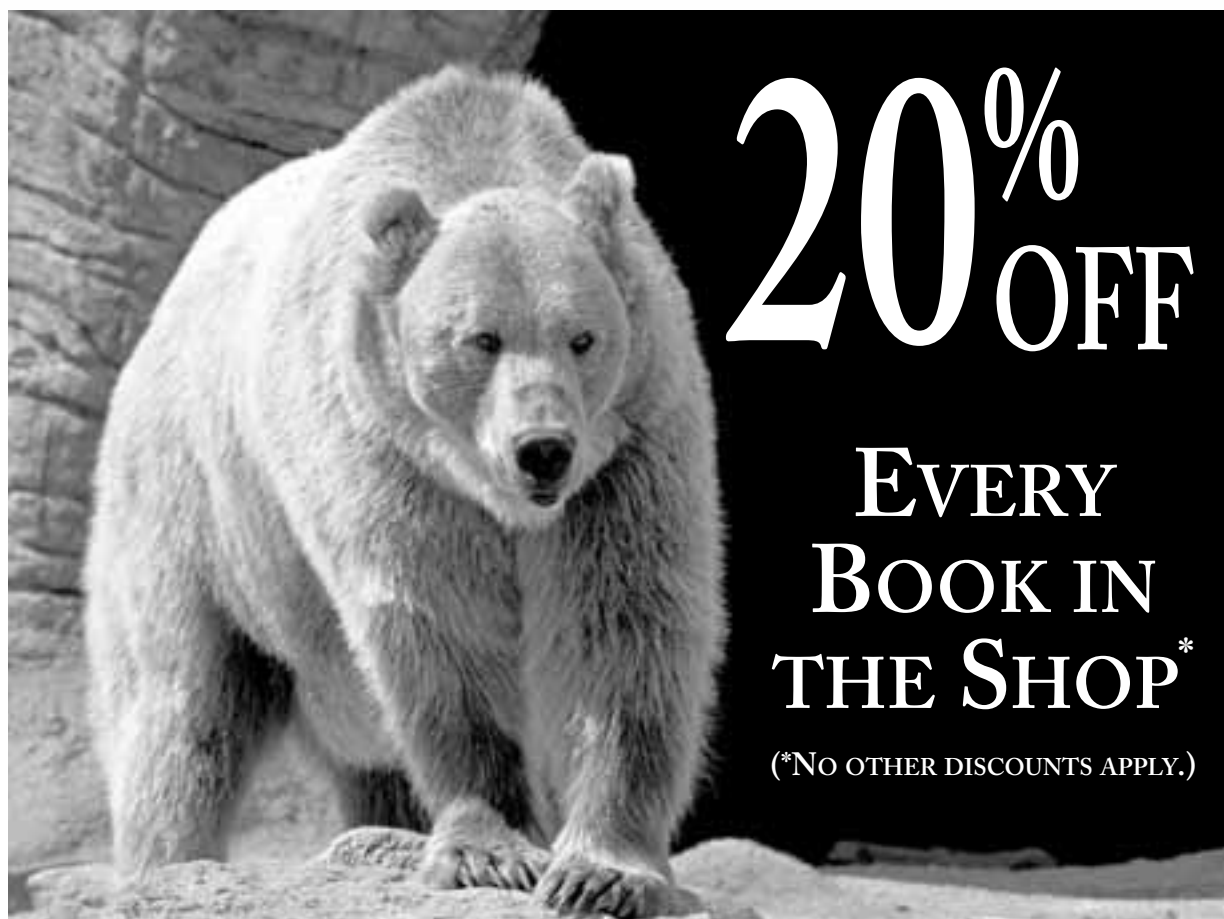
in our fiscal year, and, for that reason the attorneys will be notified that no payments will be made to them from this date forward.

If a board member needs to speak with an attorney it must

Shaw law suit.

I would also like for you to ask your president, Don Truesdell, why he sent an e-mail to Vicky Strider on September 4, 2007 that states, "On August 20, 2007, I took Dalton and Ed to the

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Additional SLLA candidates welcome

As I take the reins as Chair of the Nominating Committee, I would like to acknowledge the work of Ed Nuti and thank him for his good faith effort in attracting candidates for the upcoming Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board elections. Through appeals at recent meetings, phone calls, and written solicitations in *The Times*, Director Nuti successfully assembled a slate of nine qualified candidates: one of the largest pools in Seven Lakes history.

Three former SLLA directors have graciously accepted my invitation to serve on the Nominating Committee: Noreen

Sawyer, JoAn Moses, and Jack Fathauer. Each has been tasked

Jeff Hermann.

While the current slate of candidates will provide voters with a broad range of experience and interests, there are no female candidates

this year. "We are also looking for a few good women!" exclaimed

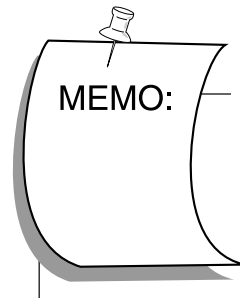
Moses upon examining the list of candidates. The committee also reports that one or more additional Southside candidates would be optimal to balance representation from all subdivisions within the community.

The Nominating Committee encourages and will be happy to assist any community member who may still be interested in running for the board.

To be included on the ballot at this time, potential candidates

who meet the eligibility requirements will need to present a petition signed by at least fifty residents in good standing at, or before, the Open Meeting on Wednesday, January 30.

If you would like more information on the nominating process or requirements, running for the board, or serving on a committee, please feel free to call. My home telephone is 673-1817, or email at lauradouglass@hotmail.com



Board Notes

Laura Douglass
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

with validating the eligibility of the nine candidates for the three vacant seats. The candidates are: Michael Florence, Steve Hudson, Ed Nuti, Gary Caulk, Bud Shaver, Ron Erskine, Mike Roscoe, Denny Galford, and

Hudson

(Continued from page 5)

and shall receive, deposit, or disburse them under the direction of the Board of Directors."

He noted that, looking at December expenses, the total bill for professional service appears to have taken another jump, to \$17,000. President Don Truesdell noted in the Monday special meeting that he had obtained from attorney Henry Jones an opinion on the nominating committee issue that would cost the SLLA another \$1,000.

Hudson's move to clamp down on legal expenses, if successful, would appear to place the Association in the position of having its access to legal counsel

under the control of a Treasurer who is at the same time suing the Association.

While that defense is being principally handled by attorneys retained and paid for by the Association's insurer, SLLA Attorney Hunter Stovall has also participated in the defense, with his fees covered by the Association.

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Needed: Code of Ethics for Directors

Very few homeowner documents that I'm aware of, mention any form of ethical principles to which their Board of Directors is held accountable. Self-policing appears to be the only process

to create and uphold any ethical standards. Most state statutes, including our NCGS §55A-8-30, address standards such as what a board member must do in good faith, or what a prudent

person would do in a like situation, or how they act if they reasonably believe they are acting in the best interests of the community. Specific egregious acts (such as embezzlement) are

often addressed separately.

For our volunteer board, there is a strong need for ethical standards and codes of conduct, especially

serving property values, safety, fairness and respect.

Finally, while there is a difference between a code of ethics and rules of conduct, both need to be considered

in a policy resolution. Ethics detail how the board makes decisions. Conduct

deals with behavior to facilitate effective decisions.

For these reasons, I am proposing that the attached Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct be adopted by the Seven Lakes Landowners' Association for its Board of Directors.

I will present this at the January 16 work session for discussion.

Proposed Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct

Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowners' Association has the obligation and duty to make decisions for the entire community and is responsible to set a standard and a tone for behavior that is conducive to the best interests of the entire community. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the following code of ethics and code of conduct that are applicable to all elected and appointed Board members serving the community:

1. The Board of Directors will use its best efforts at all times to make decisions that are consistent with high principles, and to protect and enhance the safety and prop-

erty value of the residents.

2. No gifts of any type will be accepted by any Board member from any resident, contractor, or supplier.

3. No promise of anything can be made to any subcontractor, supplier, or contractor during negotiations, unless approved by the Board as a whole.

4. The abuse of drugs, alcohol, or any other substance, will not be tolerated.

5. Any Board member convicted of a felony will voluntarily resign from his/her position.

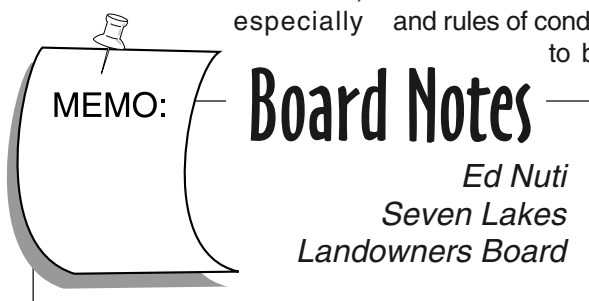
6. Language at Board meetings will be kept professional. Personal attacks against residents and/or Board members

are prohibited and are not consistent with the best interest of the community.

7. It is understood that differences of opinion will exist. They should be expressed in a clear and business-like fashion.

8. Proper parliamentary procedure should be followed to have such dissenting positions stated clearly within the official records of the Association.

This resolution was adopted this _____ day of _____, at an open Board meeting where a quorum of the Board was present and will become effective immediately. Upon approval, each new Board member will be required to agree to this code of ethics and rules of conduct.



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In memory of . . .

William Junior "Dub" Saunders, 75, of Eagle Springs, died Tuesday, December 18, at his residence.

Mr. Saunders was a native of Montgomery County, the son of the late Worth and Carrie Campbell Saunders. He retired from the manufactured housing industry, where he was a production manager for over thirty years.

Mr. Saunders was preceded in death by two brothers, Dee Saunders and Hiram Saunders.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia Williams Saunders, of the home; two sons, Tony Saunders, of Eagle Springs, and Randy Saunders, of Seagrove; two sisters, Carlene Hicks, of Biscoe, and Alley Key, of Candor; a brother, Bobby Saunders, of Biscoe; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 21, at Parsons Grove United Methodist Church. Doyle Calloway officiated. Interment followed in McCallum Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to

FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst NC 28374.

Briggs Funeral Home of Candor is assisted the family.

John A. Person Jr., 56, of Eagle Springs, died Thursday, December 20, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the late John and Agnes Person.

Mr. Person is survived by two sisters, Agnes L. Person, of Grandview, MO, and Jessie Person, of Eagle Springs; and five brothers, James Person, of Louisville, KY, Bobby Person, of Norman, David Person and Adam Person, and Robert Kennedy, all of Eagle Springs.

A funeral service was held Thursday, December 27, at Zion

Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Eagle Springs. The Rev. Linda Brewer officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Person Funeral Home of Robins is assisted the family.

Helen Steiner Straayer, of Satellite Beach, Florida, died Saturday, December 22, at her home.

A private memorial service for family only will be held at The Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes at a date yet to be determined.

Mrs. Straayer was born and

raised in Muskegon, MI, where she attended college and lived until moving to Detroit, and then to Maplewood, NJ. She was active in the Maplewood Women's Club, serving a term as president, Morrow Memorial Methodist Church and the Maplewood Country Club.

She was the wife of the late George Straayer, who preceded her in death in 1998. The Straayers spent their retirement in Seven Lakes, where she was active at The Chapel in the Pines and Seven Lakes Country Club.

She is survived by a son,

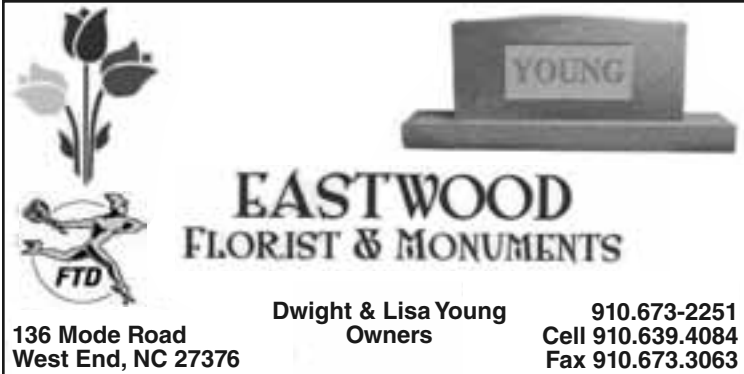
James Straayer, of Satellite Beach; three daughters, Joan S. Jones, of Satellite Beach, Marianne Barrelli, of La Costa, CA, and Lynn Pfeifer, of Southport; a sister, Mary Seifert, of Muskegon, MI.; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Wuesthoff Brevard Hospice and Palliative Care, 110 Longwood Ave., Rockledge, FL 32955.

Beach Funeral Home East Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

(Continued on page 9)

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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Peggy Ann Nelson, 70, of Fayetteville, died Monday, December 24, at her residence.

Mrs. Nelson was the daughter of the late Robert and Ida Sanders, of Lee County. She

was a retiree and pioneer of Carolina Sprint Telephone Company for over forty years. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a volunteer for the Friends of the Cancer Center.

She is survived by her husband of forty-eight years, Troy Nelson Sr., of Fayetteville; two sons, Troy W. Nelson Jr., of Rhinebeck, NY, and Jerry N. Nelson of West End; a brother, Ronald Sanders of Ocala, FL, three sisters, Mil-

dred Hall, of Sanford, Laura Lewis, of Williamville, NY, and Nancy Bertini, of Fayetteville; two grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Saturday, December 29, at Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville.

Timothy Blake officiated.

Memorials may be sent to Friends of the Cancer Center, Cape Fear Valley Medical, 1638 Owen Drive, Fayetteville NC, 28304.

(Continued on page 10)



Debbie Miriello-Stewart
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LAKEFRONT ON BIG JUNIPER LAKE - This new listing has a great view of the lake and includes a large Carolina room, split bedroom, vaulted ceilings and more. Call us for an appointment. . . . **\$249,900**



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113 Winsford Circle - Under Contract
113 Sandham Court - New Listing
111 Oxford - New Listing

In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 9)

Wilber Jackson Reed, 89, died Thursday, January 3, at the Inn at Quail Haven in Pinehurst.

Mr. Reed was a retired marketing executive with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Washington D.C. Employed for thirty-seven years at Westinghouse, his last position was director of eastern operations-defense.

He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and the U.S. Naval Academy Post Graduate School at Annapolis. During World War II, he served in the south Pacific on the USS Columbia for two years and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He retired from the Naval Reserve as a Commander in 1958, and received the U.S. Navy Meritorious Public Service Award from the Secretary of the Navy for serving as National Treasurer of the Navy League of the United States.

Mr. Reed was a member of Kenwood Golf and Country Club, Congressional Country Club, Burning Tree Club, and Foxfire Golf and Country Club. He moved to Foxfire Village in 1982, where he served on the town council as mayor pro-tem.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-seven years, Jane F. Reed; two daughters, Ann Reed Effer, of Potomac, MD, Betsy Reed Hutson, of Southern Pines; a son, John Reed, of Raleigh; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Sunday, January 6, at Boles Funeral Home Chapel in Pinehurst. The Rev. John Tampa officiated. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Foundation, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374, or to the Inn at Quail Haven, 155 Blake Blvd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Arrangements were by Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst.

Helen Elizabeth Hodde, 74, died Sunday January 7, at her home.

Born in Passic, New Jersey, she was the daughter of the late John J. and Helen Ryall Hughes. She graduated from Fairlawn High School in Fairlawn, NJ.

Mrs. Hodde worked as an assistant bank manager for fifteen years in New Jersey. She enjoyed golfing and was a member of the Foxfire Ladies Golf Association.

Survivors include her husband John J. Hodde of Jackson Springs; a daughter, Dawn Hodde of Jackson Springs; a son, John Ryall Hodde of Stafford, VA; a brother; Wesley Hughes of Swansboro, NC; and

two grandchildren.

Burial will be at a later date. Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Mart Hoogerland, 75, of Seven Lakes, died on Tuesday, January 8 at his home.

Mr. Hoogerland was born in Grand Rapids, MI. The family moved to Seven Lakes ten years ago.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to: First Tee of the Sandhills, Attn.: Robert Burwell, 192 Persimmon Drive, Pinebluff, NC 28373, .

Survivors include his wife Cenda, eight grandchildren and seventeen grandchildren.

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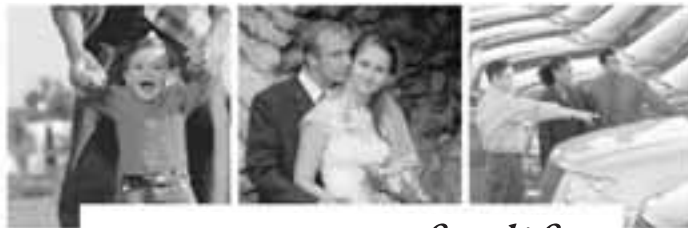
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AARP's Tax-Aide Program is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service. This year the program expects to significantly increase the number of customers assisted in Moore County.

To do this, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are needed to assist with one-on-one counseling and tax return preparation.

You will be comprehensively trained and required to pass a competency test to become IRS Certified as a Tax Counselor. Volunteer training will be

conducted in Pinehurst during January 2008. Volunteers who become IRS Certified are asked to give a minimum commitment of forty hours over the ten-week filing season from February 1 to April 15, 2008.

To volunteer, or for more information about becoming a local AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, contact the local AARP Tax-Aide Coordinator, Bill Roberson at 673-1452. You may also visit the national AARP website at www.aarp.org/taxaide or call the national AARP Tax-Aide toll free number: 888-AARP-NOW [1-888-227-7669].

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Wagler, Duncan join The Property Center



Larry Duncan & Angel Wagler of the Property Center

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The Property Center welcomed two new realtors this past Fall. Larry Duncan and Angel Wagler bring a wealth of personal experience in the real estate field and look forward to working with the community.

Duncan and his wife moved to their Westside home full-time last January after twenty years of vacationing, renting, selling, and owning multiple properties in and around Seven Lakes.

Following a successful career in commercial real estate and insurance in Florida, and a veteran of six years in the U.S. Navy, Duncan said he enjoys working closely with prospective buyers, focusing his energy on their needs.

"I am able to listen to what people want and am willing to spend as much time as needed with them. I am geared towards answering their needs and guiding them in the direction that will best suit their requirements."

With his background in real

estate and working with developers, as well as his own experience in buying and selling homes, Duncan is well-qualified for his new career.

"I know what buyers are going through and I can answer their questions. I live here, I represent the community, and I am very interested in being involved with and investing in the people."

Larry Duncan can be reached at The Property Center or direct at 913-908-9892.

Angel Wagler, also of Seven Lakes West, left a career in healthcare as a respiratory therapist to follow her passion for real estate and design.

"I have built three custom homes and really enjoy the design process," said Wagler. Noting that not all buyers have made a firm decision on style or location, she said she is comfortable helping to guide them at a comfortable pace.

"I can take that knowledge of design and use it to assist buyers with identifying their wants and needs as far as a floor plan,

and then put them into a house that best suits their requirements."

Wagler, the mother of two young children enrolled at West End Elementary, said her personal interest and experience in real estate drew attention from friends and family.

"People would always come up to me at sports events or around school and consult me with real estate questions. I decided it made sense to make my hobby official."

Angel Wagler can be reached at The Property Center main number or direct at 423-552-1434.

The Property Center, located in front of the Seven Lakes West Plaza, specializes in Seven Lakes real estate.

However, note both Duncan and Wagler, "We are happy to assist clients with finding or selling homes and land anywhere in the area as it will best meets their needs."

The main office may be reached at 673-1724.

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Bright Meadow expands to serve two-year-olds

Bright Meadow Christian Preschool is pleased to announce their expansion with the opening of a new Half-Day Preschool program for two year olds. The new class is tentatively scheduled to open on Monday, January 14.

The Two-year old program will operate on the same schedule as the Three-year old and Four-

year old programs with four hours each morning from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Students may enroll on a three-day schedule [Mon – Wed], a two-day schedule [Thurs – Fri], or a five-day per week schedule [Mon – Fri].

The five-day programs prove to be the most beneficial for all ages with consistent exposure to

academics and social environment, especially for successful kindergarten preparation. As an added benefit, parents are free in the mornings for four hours to work at home or office, run errands, etc., and still have their children home for lunch and quality family time in the afternoon!

Bright Meadow offers private Christian education with very fun, yet structured, academics and small class sizes.

"Our creative approach is unique, combining traditional curriculum with multi-sensory and neurodevelopmental methods for greater memory retention and fine motor skills for handwriting," explained Director Shirley Ptak. "Academic assessments are given regularly to keep parents informed of their child's progress. Many children in the Four-year old program graduate from Bright Meadow with a

mastery of basic phonics and early reading skills."

Openings are available now for the new Two-year old class, or you may register for all classes for the coming 2008-2009 school

year. Bright Meadow is located at 4139 NC Hwy 211 in Seven Lakes, just two doors down from Dollar General. Please call Shirley Ptak, Director, at 673-6789 for information.

Brenda Farah joins Massey's practice

Dr. Jennifer Massey is pleased to announce that Brenda Farah has joined her Family Dental Practice as a Registered Dental Hygienist. Farah

has over twenty years experience in dental hygiene.

A North Carolina native, Farah obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following graduation, she lived and worked in Nags Head for fifteen years. She then lived in Chapel Hill, where she worked at the UNC School of Dentistry as a dental hygienist in the Dental Faculty Practice for several years.

Farah has recently relocated to Seven Lakes and is glad to now call Moore County home.

New patients are currently being accepted. Please call 673-6030 to schedule an appointment.



Brenda Farah



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Mad Hatter's Ball

Everyone is invited to the Seven Lakes Country Club's Mad Hatter's Ball to be held Saturday, February 9. The gala event will feature a fabulous menu along with a variety of music provide by Glen Davis.

Wear your favorite hat and have a chance to win a prize. Hats will be judged in the following categories; Most Glamorous or Distinguished, Ugliest, and Most Creative.

The buffet dinner will feature Caesar salad, chicken cacciatore, fettuccine Alfredo, cheese tortelli-

ni, in vodka pink sauce, garlic bread and rolls, topped off with a sherbet bar. The all-inclusive price for members is \$22.00; and \$27.00 for non-members.

Reservations for members will be taken in person on January 21, 10:30 am -11:30 am. Call in reservations after 11:30 am. Non-members may call the club at 673-1100, starting January 28.

Hosts for the Mad Hatter's Ball are Lois and Tony Rocco and Marge and Randy Randolph.

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Laker opens new heating and air firm

Founded on the principal of offering quality service at a reasonable price, Matt Bialer opened TempControl for business in November. Specializing in HVAC and electrical contracting for residential, commercial, and light industrial customers, Bialer is a licensed electrician and licensed mechanical contractor with a strong work ethic and thirteen years of heating and air experience.

"I am looking forward to helping people in any way with their heating and cooling needs," said Bialer. "I have been working hard to meet people and am happy to give free estimates and can sit down to discuss what they have and how I could help them."

To demonstrate his commitment to good service and growing his business, Bialer said he offers technical advice by phone twenty-four hour a day at no charge.

"Right now, TempControl is just me, but I will be hiring some employees the first of year," explained Bialer noting that he has developed a very strict hir-

ing process, with both drug screening and background checks.

An authorized Bryant dealer, Bialer can perform factory warranty work on Payne, Carrier, Bryant, Goodman, and other brands. He is NATE certified [North American Technician of Excellence Certified] and EPA Recovery Universal Certified. In addition to Bryant products, TempControl offers a full line of indoor air quality systems including humidifiers, heat pumps, air purifiers, ventilators and UV lights.

"I've been dealing with Bryant for eleven years and have one installed at my house. In fact, I have a gas furnace and a heat pump, called a dual-fuel system and also known as hybrid-heat," said Bialer. "The advantage is heat p u m p s

become inefficient when it gets really cold outside and a gallon of propane is cheaper than a kilowatt when the heat strips are running."

Homeowners should consider installing a humidifier, suggested Bialer, if they intend to use

gas logs or a fireplace for long periods of time for heat as both will dry a house out.

Bialer laughed when he admitted that in addition to a humidifier, electronic air cleaner, UV lights, and four heat zones he's created inside his own home, he also added a Bryant system to his garage just for poker games. Residents of Seven Lakes North for four and half years, Bialer and his wife Sharon have three young sons.

"It's important to have your systems checked at least once a year and to maintain the filters,"

said Bialer. "It's been very dry lately and a lot of dust gets into the outdoor units and that kills the efficiency."

Bialer said the best approach, however, is to have your system checked twice a year; once in the Spring before you turn on your air conditioning and once in the Fall before heating.

Explaining how TempControl policy is to stress repair over replacement, Bialer said he offers service contracts which include two annual maintenance checks at six-month intervals as well as priority access to 24 emer-

gency service at no additional charge, and a fifty percent discount on repairs.

"Lack of maintenance is a common issue for homeowners," said Bialer. "Many people have systems that may not be running properly even though it appears they are." He continued, "Money could be saved as the system is not running as efficiently as possible."

TempControl can be reached at 295-TEMP [8367], or you may contact Matt Bialer directly at his cellular number 690-TEMP [8367].



Matt Bialer

Hey buddy!

Need a Friend?

Kittens and cats from Sandhills Animal Rescue League will be featured all month long for adoption at PetSmart in Aberdeen.



Why not stop by and find yourself a new pal?

You can help Sandhills Animal Rescue League continue to provide excellent vet care and good nutrition, and to buy supplies that are needed on a daily basis by sending a tax deductible donation to the address below. Sandhills Animal Rescue League [SARL] is a no kill shelter, 501(c)3 organization operating since January 2002.

Sandhills Animal Rescue League
396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs, NC 27281
910-974-4468



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Kiwanis recognize top Holiday decorators

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club happily reports the best decorations for 2007. The winners and recipients of \$65.00 gift certificates are:

North – Ben Wilson of 109 Thistle Lane

South – Gordon and Sue Zeller of 116 Cambridge Lane

West – tie; John and Sonja Calderara of 126 Carrington Square, Steve and Claire Czupryna of 106 Douglas Drive

Please note the Westside had two homes in a tie. This happening is a first in the thirteen years of Kiwanis sponsorship of this contest. As noted in prior years, the judges are having more and more difficulty in selecting winners due to both the increased participation and the added elegance of the displays.

While inflatable snowmen and Santa have been around for a couple of years, new modifica-

tions to this theme were added in 2007. A group of Firetree residents on the Northside have discovered the availability of rope lights on the internet and integrated them into their displays.

Special recognition goes to all the homeowners who choose to place their emphasis on decorations around the lake portions of their property. Also an extra 'thumbs up' to several neighborhoods that co-opted to

decorate multiple dwellings including those of absentee owners. Truly, Seven Lakes is a special place in which to live.

Though it is outside of Seven Lakes, the Love Grove Church Road community must be placed

high on the list of neighborhoods with the Holiday spirit.

Their exuberant displays bring joy to hundreds who take an evening drive through the neighborhood during the Christmas Season.

Featured Homes

TPC

The Property Center

125 West Plaza Drive, Seven Lakes, North Carolina



NEW HOME

149 Longleaf Dr. – Three bedroom, 2.5 baths, side entry garage, dual sided fireplace, deck, concrete driveway, many extras.

Call Norma!\$269,500



WATERFRONT HOME

177 Morris Dr. – 3BR, 3.5BA, beautiful waterfront home, spectacular view of Lake Auman, rec. rm, exercise rm, Carolina room, screened porch, much more.

Call Phil!\$785,000



NEARLY NEW

227 Longleaf Dr. – Split BR with upstairs bonus & full bath. Custom kitchen with upgraded appliances & surround sound. Built-Ins in Living & Carolina room.

Call Tom\$299,900



GOLF FRONT HOME

266 Longleaf Drive – 3BR, 2BA, tiled patio, lower level workshop, hardwood, tile & carpet in this like new home with its many upgrades.

Call Tom!\$316,000



OUTSTANDING LAKE VIEW

147 Andrews Drive – 4BR, 3.5BA, new construction, spacious home with over 4000 SF of upscale living areas, 2 decks, patio, gourmet kitchen & much more.

Call Judy\$492,000



BEAUTIFUL VIEW

104 Sunrise Pt. – 4BR, 3.5BA, gorgeous home with Lake Auman view. Spacious rooms with a unique guest suite. Rec. & Media room on lower level. A must see.

Call Angel!\$659,000



BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME

420 Longleaf Dr – 3BR, 2.5BA, charming home, many extras, vaulted & tray ceilings, custom cabinetry, granite counters, hardwood, tile, & carpet throughout.

Call Phil!\$409,000



CUSTOM BUILT HOME

109 Rector Dr. – 3BR, 2.5BA, You owe yourself a look at this new home with many extras. Charming front porch, side entry garage. Many special upgrades.

Call Judy\$299,900



MOVE IN CONDITION

135 E Devonshire – 3BR, 2BA, nearly new and in mint condition. Seven Lakes CC, Large Lot with golf course view. Hardwood floors & many upgrades.

Call Larry!\$299,000

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January Blood Drives

Here's a list of this month's Red Cross Blood Drives:

Friday, January 11 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Sandhills Cycle Center in Pinehurst. Appointment 692-8571.

Wednesday, January 16 – 10 am – 3 pm, Sandhills Community College. No appointment needed.

Tuesday, January 22 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Moore County Red Cross in Southern Pines. Appointment: 692-8571.

Wednesday, January 30 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines. Appointment: 692-8571.

Eligible donors must be at least seventeen years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in general good health. Most blood donors can donate every fifty-six days.

For more information call 692-8571 or go to the Moore County website at www.red-crossmoorenc.org.

Jackson steps down as EMS Captain

The holiday season is over and the new year has begun. Resolutions are being made and many changes are happening.

The big change this year at Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services is that our faithful captain of many years, T. Ray Jackson retired as captain on January 1. He will continue to respond to medical calls as a regular member of the team.

Jackson has been a member for twenty-five years and was instrumental in organizing Seven Lakes EMS in 1983. He served as captain for many of those years. We are grateful to him for his efforts over the years and thank him for his contributions to the benefit of Seven Lakes.

I have been elected captain to succeed T. Ray and realize that this will be a class act to follow.

Seven Lakes EMS will also be saying farewell to Art and Doreen Smith who will be leaving Seven Lakes sometime this spring. Doreen has been the chairlady of the Seven Lakes Telephone Book Committee and we will miss her dedicated service. Art has supported her with his computer graphics skills by formatting advertisements for printing.

We are presently searching for residents of the community to step up and replace Art and Doreen. Anyone interested can contact me, Bob Haan at 673-8001.

Seven Lakes EMS ran its first emergency call shortly after being certified by the State of North Carolina on July 1, 1983. They are observing their twenty-fifth anniversary this year.

Looking back at 2007, Seven Lakes EMS responded as follows.

Total calls responded: 562
Ambulance responses: 226
Ambulance transports: 40
Average response time: 6.2 minutes

In order to put the above numbers into perspective, you need to know that Moore County uses a two-tier dispatch system where they simultaneously dispatch a Moore County Advanced Life Support Unit with two employed paramedics on board along with Seven Lakes EMS which is staffed with volunteers. The volunteers often respond as first responders and go directly to

the patient in their personal vehicle. It is important to get a trained EMT to the patient as soon as possible to treat immediate life threatening conditions. Often one of the volunteers will bring

determined that the patient can adequately be transported with basic life support procedures, the patient will be transported by Seven Lakes EMS. This keeps the advanced life support unit free to respond to advanced life support situations.

One of the goals of Seven Lakes EMS for the year 2008 is to increase the number of

ambulance responses and transports. Indirectly, this saves money for the county taxpayers.

Thank you to all of you who remembered Seven Lakes EMS with your holiday contributions.

Our safety observation for this month is that there are many walkers on the roads of Seven

Lakes. With the shorter days, many of them are walking in the dark. My personal observation is that approximately fifty percent of them are walking on the wrong side of the road and are not facing traffic. Remember, walk to the left side of the road so you can see the bumpers, grills, and

fenders coming your way and wear light-colored clothing.

On behalf of Seven Lakes EMS, we wish you all a happy and prosperous new year and hope that you join us in celebrating this twenty fifth year of service.



Standing Watch

Robert L. Haan

the Seven Lakes Ambulance.

If the condition of the patient requires advanced life support procedures, the Moore County Ambulance will transport. If the patient condition is critical, Seven Lakes EMS Volunteers will ride to the hospital with the paramedics to assist them. If it is

Wine Values Around the World

Values from Around the World is the theme for this year's Third Annual Wine Tasting event to be held Friday, February 8 at 7:00 pm at the West Side Park Community Center.

Robyn Anne James of The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room in Southern Pines will present eight wines from eight countries, all valued at \$15.00 per bottle or less. Tickets are \$10.00 at the Community Center Office or by calling Janet Baker at 673-644.



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HOMES SOLD IN 2007

Neighborhood	Sold	Sale Price Range	Median Price
7 Lakes North Interior	32 Homes	\$130,000 - \$285,567	\$171,125
7 Lakes North Lakefront	15 Homes	\$150,000 - \$425,000	\$299,000
7 Lakes South	26 Homes	\$145,000 - \$308,400	\$217,000
7 Lakes West Interior & Golf	58 Homes	\$130,000 - \$520,000	\$338,500
7 Lakes West Lakefront	9 Homes	\$565,000 - \$1,087,500	\$720,000

LOTS SOLD IN 2007

Neighborhood	Sold	Sale Price Range	Median Price
7 Lakes North	5 Lots	\$20,500 - \$70,000	\$37,000
7 Lakes South	21 Lots	\$16,000 - \$39,000	\$21,500
7 Lakes West Interior & Acreage	43 Lots	\$10,000 - \$250,000	\$50,000
7 Lakes West Lakefront	8 Lots	\$106,000 - \$482,500	\$336,500

*Pinehurst Southern Pines Association of Realtors MLS data as of 1/4/08.
Information compiled by:



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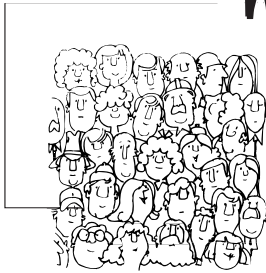
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

- **Mixed Paper Recycling Drive** – 9 am - 3 pm, Kangaroo Station in the Fresh Market Shopping Center, Southern Pines. Sponsored by Keep Moore County Beautiful. Acceptable items: anything paper including paper grocery bags, flattened boxes, telephone books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, flattened corrugated cardboard, office paper, and newspapers. Also accepting any type of household batteries and Inkjet, Laser, and Toner cartridges, and cell phones.
- **Christmas Tree Recycling** – 9 am – 3 pm, corner of Hwy 15-501 and Murray Hill Road beside Tripps Restaurant, Southern Pines. Christmas trees will be mulched on site. Keep Moore County Beautiful will provide bags for taking free mulch home. Contact Joan Neal at 947-3478 or jneal@moorecountync.gov

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

- **Moore County Board of Education Business Meeting** – 7 pm, MCS Central Office in Carthage.

- **Moore County Literacy Council Volunteer Orientation** – 3 - 4 pm, Emmanuel Youth House, 385 E Indiana, Southern Pines. Two hours of your time a week will help someone learn to read, read better, or speak English. Tutor training will commence January 28 and 30, 9am to 4pm at the American Red Cross Building, 244 SW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Volunteers are required to attend Orientation prior to training. Registration 692-5954.



What's When Calendar

- **NARFE Meeting** – 10:30 am, Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St. Southern Pines. The guest speaker will be Jeff Collehon discussing financial and tax issues concerning seniors. Chapter 1895 welcomes all

Federal [including USPS] active employees, retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to monthly meetings. Information Vilma Geisert 215-5898, or George Sandoval 246-9881.

- **Sandhills Photography Club Meeting** – 7 pm,

Christ Fellowship Church, corner of Midland Road & Pee Dee Road, Southern Pines. Feature will be

competition rules and procedures. Guests are welcome to attend. Information, www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

- **League of Women Voters Meeting** – 11:30 am, Club at Longleaf in Southern Pines. Robert Wittmann, Health Director of Moore County Health Department will discuss The State of Health in Moore County. Luncheon \$12, payable by check. Reservations Charlotte Gallagher at 944-9611, by January 11.
- **Small Area A Planning Com-**

mittee Presentation – 6 pm – 8 pm, Cafeteria at West End Elementary School. An opportunity for residents to review and comment on the proposed land use plan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

- **Silent Auction & Raffle** – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Elliot's on Linden. The Sandhills Jewish Congregation invites the community to attend a silent auction and raffle featuring a wine and beer tasting and delicious hor d'oeuvres. Auction items include a catered cocktail party for twenty, a private suite for twelve at the San Francisco Giants, designer evening gown; golf; restaurant meals; and more. Information 246-0964.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center. Dr. Paul Hardin, Chancellor Emeritus, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will present the topic entitled "College Athletics: Are They Out of Control?" All residents of Seven Lakes and their guests are welcome to attend. Information, Don Welch 673-6701, or Bill Mamel 673-8970.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

- **Temple Theater: Bluebirds in My Belfry** – 7 pm, 120 Carthage Street in downtown San-

Richard S. Pasko, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.

SEVEN LAKES CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

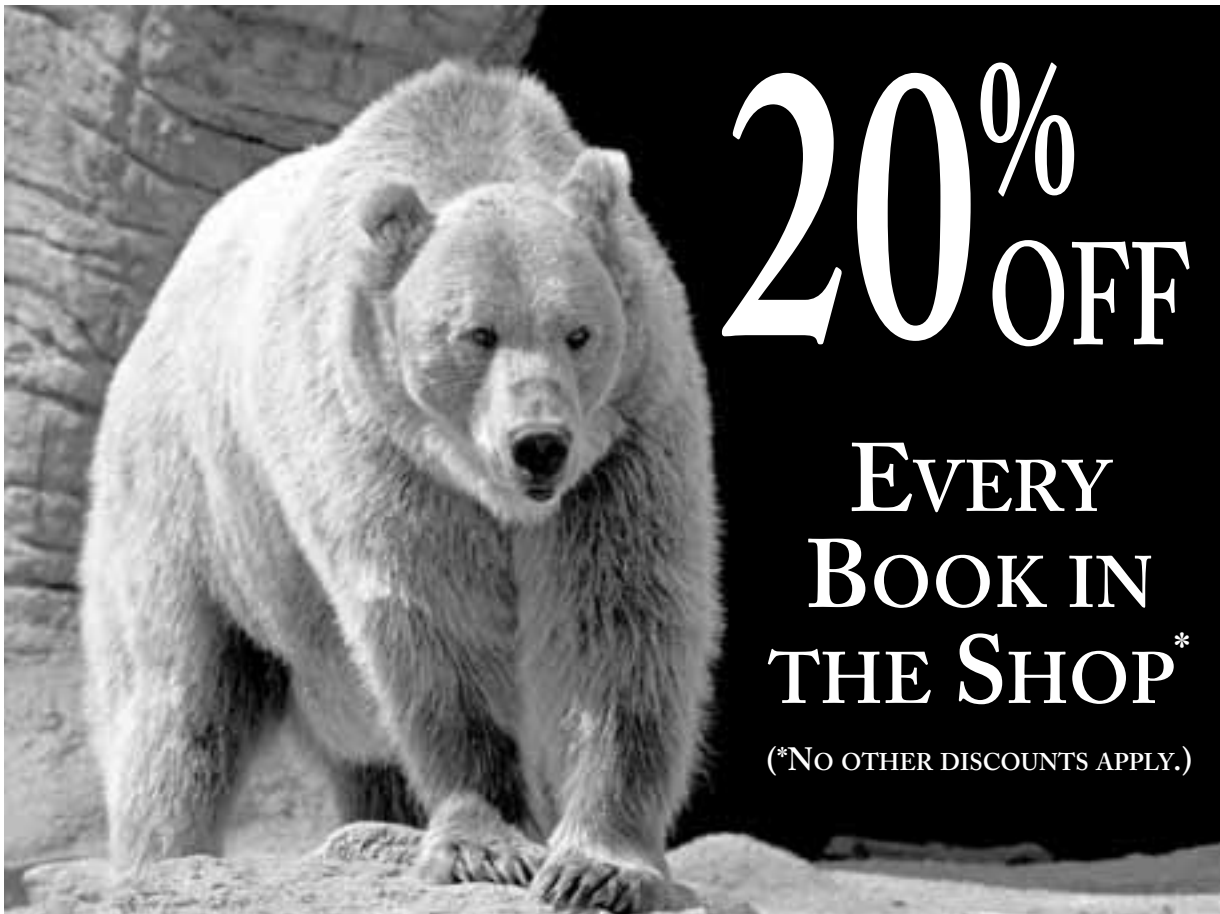
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JANUARY 14 – 19

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ford. The story of Betty Hutton, show continues Jan 20, 22. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the Temple Theatre Box Office Monday-Friday, 2 - 6 pm, and one hour prior to show times. Information 919-774-4155 and www.templeshows.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

- **Cut Out Cancer Crop** - 9 am - 9 pm, Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. All day fun, activities, shopping, and scrap booking to benefit the Cancer CARE Fund. Special room discounts available and there is a \$50 registration fee. www.cutout-cancercrop.com or 295-4064.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners Meeting** - 6 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** - 7:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Newcomers Open House** - 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. Women of Seven Lakes sponsor an open house featuring many organizations and groups in the area, their activities, and volunteer opportunities. All Seven Lakers, new and old, are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

- **MOPS Parenting Lecture** - 7 pm, Pinecrest High School Auditorium. Sponsored by MOPS, Family psychologist, author and popular parenting speaker John K. Rosemond will address "Assuming the Power of Parenthood." Advance tickets are \$15, and \$18 at the door. Information www.sand-hillsmops.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

- **Cooking with Carmela and Marjorie: Soup and more Soup** - 1 pm - 3 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Fee is \$10. Registration must be made at Seven Lakes West Community Center beginning Thursday, January 17. Call 673-5314.
- **MOPS Parenting Lecture** - 10 am, Pinecrest High School Auditorium. Sponsored by MOPS, Family psychologist, author and popular parenting speaker John K. Rosemond will address "Bringing Out the Best in Your Child." Advance tickets are \$15, and \$18 at the door. Information www.sand-hillsmops.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

- **Lap-Band Information Session** - 6 pm - 7:30 pm, Monroe Auditorium at Moore Regional Hospital. Raymond Washington, M.D., a general and bariatric surgeon with FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital and Pinehurst Surgical, will conduct an infor-

mation session on the Lap-Band Adjustable Gastric Banding System, the only adjustable surgical treatment for morbid obesity. Program is free.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association General Meeting** - 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

- **Bookgroup by the Lakes** - 7:00 pm, Join the conversation about Richard Ford's *Lay of the Land* at Bookshop by the Lakes.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- **Temple Theater: Super Sounds of the 70's** - 8 pm, 120 Carthage Street in downtown Sanford. Opening night with champagne toast and chance to meet performers and designers. Show continues through February 17. Tickets \$20 adults; \$16 for groups, Thursday evening performances, active military personnel, and Lee County Educators;

and \$10 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office Monday through Friday 2 - 6 pm and one hour prior to show times. (919) 774-4155 and www.templeshows.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Sunrise Silent Movie** - 2:30 and 7:30 pm. 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. *The Black Pirate*, the forerunner of all great pirate pictures, Douglas Fairbanks stars in the film. Dave Drazin of Chicago will dazzle audiences with his skill on the piano as he provides accompaniment for the film. Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 children. Info 692-8501.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners Meeting** - 4 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Moore County Planning Board Meeting** - 6 pm, Carthage.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Third Annual Wine Tasting Event** - 7 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by Seven Lakes West Recreation Committee, Values from Around the World is the theme as Robyne Anne James from The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room will present samples of eight wines from eight countries, all valued at \$15 per bottle or less. Tickets are \$10 and available at the West Side Park Community Center Office or by calling Janet Baker at 673-644.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **Wilderness First Aid Class** - 8 am - 5 pm, Weymouth Woods Nature Center in Southern Pines. Sponsored by the American Red Cross, a 16 hour course covers basic and urgent first aid. Preregistration required, the fee is \$120. Class continues on Saturday, February 16. Information 692-8571.

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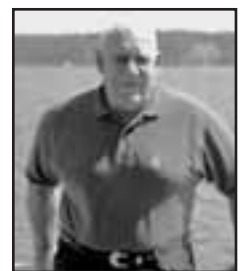
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138 Carrington Square	...7 Lakes West (Golf Front)\$55,000
193 Longleaf Drive7 Lakes West (Lake View)\$55,900
106 Brendell Court7 Lakes West (Cul-de-sac)\$65,000
159 Swaringen Drive7 Lakes West (Lake View)\$69,000
111 Beacon Ridge Drive	...7 Lakes West (Golf Front)\$69,000
124 Vanore Road7 Lakes West (Lake View)\$69,000
130 Vanore Road7 Lakes West (Lake View)\$69,000
101 Pittman Drive7 Lakes West (Lake View)\$96,000
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Carriage Park Drive .Quiet wooded street with 3/4+ acre lots\$75,000
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8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039

Carriage Park Drive .Quiet wooded street with 1+ acre lots\$85,000
Lot #'s 8031, 8035

Acreage Lot 3EGelding Gap Lane, Carolina Equestrian\$10,000
Arbor Creek Off Hoffman Road .5-10 Acre lots\$78,750 to \$235,000

Westsiders donate boat to Mattamuskeet

Ray and Betsy Brezinski of Seven Lakes West donated their 20' Sweetwater pontoon boat and two outboard motors to the Mattamuskeet Foundation.

Dr. Lewis Forrest, executive director of the nonprofit organization, indicated that the foundation will sell the donated items and use the proceeds to fund educational projects.

The mission of the Mattamuskeet Foundation is to engage in research and educational activities to preserve and interpret the rich history of Lake Mattamuskeet and the surrounding areas of eastern North Carolina.

Lake Mattamuskeet is the largest natural lake in North Carolina. It is a shallow fresh water wetlands lake in Hyde County

near the coast. Most of Hyde County is on the mainland, but Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks is also in Hyde. Annually, about 250,000 migratory swans, geese, and ducks winter on Lake Mattamuskeet and it is a favorite destination for birders, nature lovers, and hunters.

In 2006, the Mattamuskeet Foundation released a wildlife video entitled "A Winter Day – Lake Mattamuskeet" featuring the wildlife on the lake in their natural setting. During 2007, the foundation received eight inter-

national awards in independent film competitions for this video.

In the 1920s, the private owners of the shallow 50,000-acre lake drained and farmed it part of America's most famous pump-supported land reclamation project. The pumps that removed the water from Lake Mattamuskeet had the greatest capacity of any pumping installation in the world, and were capable of removing the water from the lake at the rate of 1.2 million gallons per minute. The drainage efforts ended in 1932 and the pri-

vate owners sold the lake to the United States government. In 1934, the lake became the dominant feature of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge.

The history of Lake Mattamuskeet can be found at www.mattamuskeet.org. For more information about the Mattamuskeet Foundation and its programs, contact Dr. Forrest at 252-746-4221 or by email at mat-lake@coastalnet.com.



Ray and Betsy Brezinski of Seven Lakes West.

League to hear Health Director

Robert Wittmann, Director of Moore County Health Department is the featured speaker for the League of Women Voters at their monthly luncheon meeting on Tuesday, January 15.

His topic will be "The State of Health in Moore County" and the public is invited to attend.

Wittmann has served as the Moore County Health Director since 1985. He serves on numerous health-related boards and has been a founding member of several health-related organizations.

He is a member of the American Public Health Association and the North Carolina Public Health Association. He is a US

Army Vietnam veteran and continues to serve with the US Air Force Auxiliary. Wittmann received his Masters degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For reservations, call Char-

lotte Gallagher, 944-9611, by January 11. The charge for the lunch is \$12, payable by check to LWVMC. The meeting will start at 11:45 am at the Pad-dock Restaurant at the Longleaf Country Club.



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7 LAKES WEST GOLF FRONT

Lot 9TBD Paula Ct., The Commons\$74,900
Lot 6190Banbridge Dr\$64,000

Hot Apple Pie — Yum!

I suppose all of you readers think that I am stuck on apples, but I can't let the season go by without telling you about my favorite apple pie.

A friend gave me this recipe about forty years ago, and I haven't found a better one. You will find the same ingredients as most apple pies, but the method somehow makes it special.

By the way, I never make my own pie crust, because I can buy better than I can make. I use the Pillsbury brand, that I place in my own pie plate. It is not frozen, but refrigerated. The new rolled version works beautifully, no cracks!

APPLE PIE

2 pie crusts
1 cup sugar
1 Tablespoon cornstarch
3 Tablespoons water
Juice of 1/2 large lemon or 1 small lemon
Enough cinnamon to make the paste turn dark (I'm quoting

from the original recipe. This would be about 1 teaspoon, plus a little more according to your taste)

5 cups apples, sliced thin
2 Tablespoons butter or margarine

Place apples in unbaked crust. Make a paste with

sugar, water, lemon juice, cornstarch and cinnamon. Spread over apples evenly. Dot with butter.

Place other crust over all. Cut a couple of slits in top crust.

Bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce 350 degrees and bake 30 minutes more.



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Recycle your tree, paper

Bring your Christmas tree for recycling to the corner of Hwy 15-501 and Murray Hill Road beside Tripps Restaurant in Southern Pines on Saturday, January 12, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Trees will be chipped into mulch on site. Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc. will provide bags for taking home free mulch.

Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc. is also sponsoring a Mixed Paper Recycling Drive on Saturday, January 12, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Kangaroo Station in the Fresh Market Shopping Center in Southern Pines.

Acceptable items include anything that is paper: Paper grocery bags, flattened boxes, telephone books, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, flattened corrugated cardboard, office paper, and newspapers.

For additional information, contact Joan Nea at 947-3478 or by email at jneal@moore-countync.gov.



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145 WEST PLAZA DRIVE • SEVEN LAKES

Parenting expert to speak January 25 & 26

Family psychologist, author, and popular parenting speaker John K. Rosemond is coming to the Sandhills area January 25 and 26 to present lectures on those topics and more. "Assuming the Power of Parenthood"

is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Friday, January 25; "Bringing Out the Best in Your Child" is the topic at 10:00 am, Saturday, January 26. Sandhills MOPS [Mothers of Preschoolers] is sponsoring his appearances.

Rosemond, a nationally syndicated columnist in more than 175 newspapers, advocates a return to parent-centered families where children are raised to become responsible adults. He teaches logical, proven approach-

es for the most significant challenges parents face today. Straightforward guidance covers issues such as self-esteem and discipline to television and chores.

Advance tickets are \$15 and

are available online at the MOPS Web site www.sandhillsmops.com and at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Group sales are available. Tickets at the door will be \$18.

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120 Pittman Rd (Lot 3158).....\$285,000
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Happy Holidays, healthy eating at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Rev. Don Welch presented a Christmas program to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis on Decem-



Rev. Don Welch

ber 11. He discussed the concept that there is a conspiracy to deemphasize Christmas because of the politically correct usage of such terms as "Happy Holidays." He also reviewed all of the religious celebrations that take place during December and how he felt that using terms such as "Happy Holidays" should be viewed more as recognition and sensitivity to the beliefs of different cultures.

Rev. Welch is the Resident Minister at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and is also the current Pastor at McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church.

Also during the holiday season, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis appropriately heard from Kathy Hefner, a registered dietician with First Health during their Decem-

ber 18 meeting.

Hefner covered a ten-point program that anyone can follow if he or she is serious about managing their weight.

She discussed many normal things to do to lose weight, but also surprised the crowd with a few facts such as the major source of sugar and calories in

America are soft drinks with sugar in them.

Hefner displayed a plastic bag with the amount of sugar contained in one twenty ounce soda, catching the attention of every one in the room.

She said that diet drinks have zero calories which then prompted a discussion about the rela-

tive merits of the different sweeteners available.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at the Seven Lakes Country Club at Noon. Everyone is welcome.



Kathy Hefner with Ken Jenkins, Kiwanis program coordinator.

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Dear Chuck and Michelle,

Well, in another week the movers will be here loading our "stuff" to bring to NC. Needless to say, we are living with a lot of boxes, but know the hardest part is ahead – unpacking!!!

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Please give our very best to Bascom and Sally – they are really great at what they do for all of us.

See you next week,
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Women of 7 Lakes hear from 'Water Man'

by Jo Nicholas

Women of Seven Lakes

Guest speaker, Ben Vaughn, Operations Manager for Moore County Public Works presented an overview of the county water system to the Women of Seven Lakes during their monthly meeting held on Thursday, January 3.

During the presentation, Vaughn shared the mission statement of his office and historical aspect of water in Moore County and Seven Lakes areas. A water study was recently completed with many current projects underway as well as future projects for the county in trying to obtain more water to accommodate growth.

He stressed that even though there has been rain, the county and the state are still in drought conditions and he encouraged everyone to continue conserving water. Vaughn said the biggest abusers of water are those who irrigate their property.

Water conservation kits were distributed and Vaughn provided conservation tips to the Women.

He fielded questions involving fines for water abusers during drought times, how members could assist the county in attaining plans for needed water, and more. Vaughn said the county website had information detailing additional conservation tips.

Women's President Peggy

McCallum welcomed new members and visitors and presided over the business portion of the meeting. Several topics were discussed including information on upcoming events.

The Taste of the Town will be held on Monday, March 31. Tickets will cost \$20, and proceeds will benefit the event First Health Hospice and Palliative Care program.

McCallum announced that several donations were distributed in December to organizations needing assistance, and included the Chapel in the Pines Holiday Fund, Coat Drive for West End Elementary and West Pine Middle Schools, the children's recreation programs for SLLA and SLWLA, Seven Lakes EMS services, and more.



Ben Vaughn, Moore County Public Works

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Newcomers Open House

The Women of Seven Lakes will sponsor an open house for newcomers to Seven Lakes, though all residents are welcome and encouraged to attend this interesting and informative event. The open house will be held on Thursday, January 24 at 7:30 pm at the Seven Lakes Country Club and refreshments will be served.

Many of the area's organizations and groups will be on-hand to give information about their activities and volunteer opportunities in the Seven Lakes area.

If you wish to participate in this event and your organization has not been contacted, please call Jo at 673-3604, or Maureen at 673-2553.

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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 4)

Coker said several speeding tickets have been issued along village roads and she is investigating whether signs reading "speed limits strictly enforced" can be placed on existing speed limit posts.

Mayor George Erickson said that a requested study to monitor the speed and number of vehicles in the village was completed this year and that he will follow up with the state agency to see if Foxfire now qualifies for a reduced speed of 35 mph along Richmond and Hoffman Roads.

Community Emergency

Response Team [CERTS] training will commence in February. Residents interested in participating should contact Coker.

A burning ban is still in effect in Foxfire and permits will not be granted, stated Coker.

Streets

Councilman Vic Koos approved an expenditure of \$520, to install fans, lights, and electrical cables in the Village Green Park shelters. The Foxfire Property Owners Association donated \$1,900 towards this project and an additional \$1,000 gift was given by an anonymous donor.

Koos reported new stop signs

have arrived and the new metal poles are expected by next week. The signs will then be installed, with priority given to those locations where signs are missing.

A resident suggested the missing signs were being knocked down by grass mowers.

Koos responded that the signs he inspected showed damage from being sideswiped by vehicles. "I am convinced the damage is not being done by residents," said Koos.

Koos reported several problem areas need to be addressed specifically three large potholes along Woodland Circle and the road over the privately-owned

dam on Forest Lake Drive. Hudson Paving, the firm hired by the village for street paving projects begun in 2005, has been solicited to provide an estimate and complete these repairs.

After several attempts, Mayor Erickson said he was able to reach the owner of the dam and the village has his permission to move forward.

Councilman Peckitt raised a concern that repairs at this location in effect use tax payers money on a private road.

"If the road over the dam is private, what kind of liability are we incurring?"

While no resolution to his concern was offered, the Council agreed it was a legitimate question and would research the matter more fully.

Planning and Zoning

Zoning Administrator Mimi Ainsworth reported nineteen homes for sale on the east side of the village, and eleven for sale on the west.

Parks Committee

Councilman Vic Koos resigned his seat on the Parks Committee, creating a vacancy. Any resident interested in serving should contact Committee Chair Jack Olson.

The NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund [PARTF] grant will be completed and submitted for approval by the end of the month, reported Mayor Erickson.

Need some help quitting?

Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 440,000 Americans each year. It is also the top cause of preventable death in North Carolina, and a leading cause for several cancers and a variety of other debilitating illnesses including heart disease, emphysema, asthma, blindness, and leukemia.

Quitting tobacco is the single-most important thing that an individual can do to prolong his or her life. But while studies show that most tobacco-users want to quit, many are unable to overcome their addiction.

The North Carolina Tobacco Use Quitline, 1-800-QUIT-NOW, offers free support services to those who want to quit. Telephone quitlines help tobacco-users quit their addiction by offering advice, support and referrals to local cessation resources.

The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund [HWTF], in partnership with the NC Division of Public Health, launched the first state-funded quitline service. It is available to all North Carolina residents for no charge at 1-800-QUIT-NOW [1-800-784-8669].

Quitline NC is available daily from 8:00 am until midnight. Trained quit coaches help tailor a cessation plan for each tobacco-user who wants assistance, including those who use spit tobacco. Coaching is available in English, Spanish, and a vari-

ety of other languages.

While Quitline NC is available to everyone, the HWTF is especially concerned about helping teens and young adults get off tobacco. The telephone quitline is a quality option for youth

tobacco-users since most tobacco-cessation programs are not designed for young people.

For more information, visit www.QuitlineNC.com or call (877) 342-2255 about programs in the Sandhills.

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7 Lakes West
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3BR/2 BA \$298,500 MLS#125760
www.village-properties.net

Lot 6189 Banbridge Dr. Seven Lakes West \$70,000
Beacon Ridge Country Club Golf Front

Suffering side-effects of a Wii Christmas

Sans the cultural guidance of a teenager under my roof, I usually don't spot hot trends or fashions until they're as fresh and desirable as last week's chicken leftovers. Like so many other adults, I seem to be stuck in suspended animation: listening to the same music, wearing the same styles, and comfortable with the technology and toys that were present in my own pubescence.

Teens, on the other hand, are kind of like automotive idiot lights for the rest of us. Blinking and dinging away whenever something new happens, despite our stupor.

So this holiday season as I tried to ignore the all-to-

frequent media lamentations over whether one could or could not hope to find a Wii in time for Christmas, it just didn't resonate.

On New Years Eve, I resurrected my inner-teen and it was smokin'! or should I say groovy, or killer, or wicked? Hmm, there's never a sixteen-year old translator around when you need one.

Now in case you too have spent the last decade or few complacently sailing upon the sea of new technology, without ever wetting your feet, let me explain. Wii is a laser-guided video game where you engage play by actually mimicking the movements of a sport.

What the fine print on the box doesn't say is that while you no longer have to swelter on a hard court, make a tee time, or even change into your bowling shoes to play – sprained ankles, sore



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

backs, black eyes, and worse, are not altogether uncommon. And 'You Tube' is awash with footage of perspiring cyber-jocks losing grip on their controllers at mid-

swing thereby sending this plastic projectile at light speed directly into their new high-def, plasma screen TV.

Undaunted and encouraged after an hour-long pizza and beer feast, I peeled myself off the couch and readied for battle. My friends, let's just call them the "You Paid

How Much For It Family?," wisely secured the controller to my wrist and set about tutoring me in the art of Wii – speaking slowly with simple words. I mean, I

was fairly good at Pong once upon a time but that's pretty much the extent of my video gaming endeavors. I never even mastered PacMan!

But Wii proved to be unique and great fun, and not altogether impossible once I tweaked my volley timing.

Of course, the next morning while most of America woke with a champagne hangover, I rose to greet the New Year with my very first Wii injury – tennis elbow.

Ding! Dang! There goes my Check Engine idiot light again: just another unwelcome reminder that this redheaded mare "ain't what she used to be."

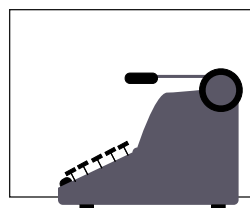
In defense of nominating committees

The reader of the December 21 issue of the *Seven Lakes Times* will form his own opinion of Mr. Nuti's explanation of the nominating process as he sees it, and just how well he fulfilled his obligation to the community as a board member and Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

He simply ignored the By-laws for which he is responsible and, because he did so, he now wants to amend them. He suggests that having a committee of two or more is nonsensical and that any future nominating committee chairperson should be

able to use his or her own ingenuity and approach the task as one sees fit.

The By-laws state



Your Turn

Ron Erskine
Seven Lakes North

that in addition to the chairman, there shall be at least two residents on the committee.

The presumption is that the names of these residents must

be revealed to any landowner who asks.

Nuti, unable to follow this simple directive, simply stretched everyone's imagination by declaring that 1,200 households comprised his committee and that "if you

want their names, they're in the 'phone book." In essence, he told us to "Get lost, I have a bet-

ter way."

My letter was precipitated not only by that remark, but also by Nuti's statement that he didn't wish to repeat what he termed the "shameful performance" of last year's nominating committee.

As a member of last year's committee, I was prepared to go to some length to refute that comment, but why bother? Why expose him to more publicity — good or bad?

Let me simply state that last year's committee "went by the

book" as it was, and still is, written. I hope that we won't allow anyone to change that book and amend or obliterate By-Law 6.3 on a single individual's whim.

Nothing could be worse than allowing a future board member, all by him or herself, to simply pick and choose candidates of choice without any thought given to actual or perceived conflicts of interest or indeed, to any other failings, including past inadequate records of attendance.

How much reserve is enough?

Dear Editor:

I was more than a little chagrined to read that Mrs. Kirst would like to use the need for dam repairs as an excuse to raise dues for other purposes [The Times 12-21-07]. This would amount to a permanent annual levy for what is, hopefully, a one time expense. Thankfully Mr. Beckwith and Mr. MacKay have more reasoned approaches.

Ours was house 113 here, and Seven Lakes West has cer-

tainly come a long ways in these sixteen years. We own the lake, Johnson Point, additional land and Westside Park — the latter along with the bank, as it should be. We also have nearly \$600,000 in reserve funds. I agree that it is prudent to have some money in the bank but how much is enough?

We are a small but growing community and as such does it make sense for us to subsidize the larger communities of 2015,

2020, etc.? The scope of our infrastructure will remain pretty much of a constant over time so doesn't it make sense to spread the cost of maintaining it over a larger population? Put a limit on reserves.

I have the impression that each board tries to out do its predecessor. How about taking a breather and just maintain the status quo for a change?

Ed Young
Seven Lake West

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Community is key for Women of 7 Lakes

Dear Editor:

As president of the Women of Seven Lakes, I would like our community to know that we are a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of North Carolina. The purposes of the corporation are to engage in charitable enterprises and community outreach in Seven Lakes and Moore County.

The Women of Seven Lakes meet the first Thursday of the month and alternate between the North Clubhouse and the West Side Park Community Center. In an effort to encourage a larger number of younger women in the community to join, the monthly meetings were changed to 1:00 pm.

During the year the Women of Seven Lakes have three fundrais-

ing events; our annual luncheon/fashion show/card party in November, the Taste of the Town in March, and a golf tournament in May.

Last year we assisted many organizations by sharing over \$18,000 for their programs. Some of the recipients were the Seven Lakes and West End Fire Departments, Seven Lakes EMS, Chapel in the Pines Christmas

Fund, the Seven Lakes and Seven Lakes West Landowners Associations Children's Christmas parties, the annual coat drive for needy children of West End Elementary and West Pine Middle Schools, Moore County Shrine Club Children's Hospital, Sand T's of Moore County, ARC of Moore County, and books for Robbins Elementary School. The largest contributions were to

the following; \$4,000 Children's Care Fund which was raised at Taste of the Town, \$6,000 to Moore County School Backpack Pals program which was raised at our First Golf Tournament, and \$3,500 for the new Sequoia Point Playground at Seven Lakes North.

Without the support of our community, the Women of Seven Lakes will not be able to continue to give back to our community. Please mark your calendar and support our Fourth Annual Taste of the Town on Monday, March 31, and our Second Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, May 16.

You too can make a difference in your community.

Peggy McCallum
President,
Women of Seven Lakes

Merger agreement should be honored

Dear Editor:

As a former director of the Beacon Ridge Landowners Association [BRLOA], and also of the Master Agreement Board, I feel it necessary to respond to the excellent article presented in the December 21 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* by Kathy Kirst, Lois Rocco, and George Ellis, concerning the West Side Landowners Association [WSLOA] funding options.

The reference to the BRLOA is a fairly accurate presentation and need not be repeated. However, at the time of the proposed merger, there was considerable heated discussion among the three Boards [BRLOA, WSLOA, and Pinnacles] as well as among individual members on certain provisions. The biggest obstacle to the agreement was the WSLOA dues structure and how to get BRLOA and Pinnacles to that level.

The BRLOA Board was quite adamant with respect to capping of the dues structure for its members at no more than the BRLOA Covenants allowed. That cap, as you know, was limited to twelve percent in any given year. Any increase above this required membership approval. With this in mind, the BRLOA Board stressed that any

increase in WSLOA dues would extend the date of parity. It is my opinion that by virtue of the good faith under which the agreement was signed, it should continue to be honored.

I sincerely hope the WSLOA Board would consider no other alternative than Plan #3 of the article. Although, I cannot speak for all BRLOA landowners, I

would presume that, knowing the facts, the majority would agree.

Bob Mitchell
Seven Lakes West

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Thanks for the trimmings

Dear Editor:

What a pleasure it is to see the red and green Christmas deco-

rations that adorn the entrances to the North, South, and West gates of Seven Lakes. I hope

every landowner will join me in thanking the Women of Seven Lakes for caring enough about our community to decorate all the gates, club houses, and mail houses for us for the holidays.

We are truly blessed to have this organization for all the women in Seven Lakes. If you are not a member, I hope you will want to join this group that does so much to make our community so special.

JoAn Moses
Seven Lakes North

Respect: An American Electoral Tradition

A refreshing and proud feeling came over me as I listened to the aspiring candidates for the US Presidency voice their views.

It was the civilized, courteous respect for the right of every

the opportunity to serve. Actually, they had much in common, especially love of country, despite different approaches. Well meaning, upright, and persons you would be please to have as neighbors.

No catcalls, boos or other evidences of derision. At least, I didn't hear them. Just a civilized respect for the rights of all Americans to voice their views. It's the American way.

hopeful entrant to be heard out that caught the entire scope of my attention at the New Hampshire debate.

This was democracy at work. It was as though I didn't wish to deny any of the candidates

We should feel thankful that, predominantly we are a nation that has learned from our forefathers who set up this nation.

Thank God for that fact.



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Mason Gould



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Dam options

(Continued from front page)

tors were taken into account.

Some options were ruled out quickly because they threatened the integrity of the dam or involved lowering the lake level as much as ten to twenty feet. Any repair to the dam must be approved by state regulators, and the engineers recommended submitting two options. That way, if the first choice is denied, the Association will not have to start all over at square one of the approval process.

The preferred option is a Vibrating Beam Slurry Cut-off System, which employs a system not unlike that used for the installation of fiber optic cable, Director Mary Anne Fewkes told members. A vibrating beam will be used to cut a channel in the dam that will then be filled with a slurry that will stop the flow of water through the top of the structure. This option will require the lowering of the lake by one to five feet — the exact amount won't be known until a contractor is selected after the state approves the plans.

The second option is a Pressure Injection Grouting System. Fewkes said either option is expected to cost \$240,000 to \$300,000.

Once the state has approved one or both options — hopefully by late spring of 2008, Fewkes said — the projects can be sent out for bids. She noted that only

a few contractors are able to handle the preferred vibrating beam option.

If the contractor needs to lower the lake level five feet, then the repair will be scheduled after the summer boating season. If the work can be done with only a minimal lowering of the lake level, then it may be possible to begin earlier than that.

Presentation needed?

After Fewkes made her presentation, Infrastructure Ray MacKay said he was surprised that Marks Enterprises was not being asked to make a presentation on the options to the Board and the membership. "I have fourteen questions that I want to ask Mr. Marks," MacKay said. Fewkes said she would be presenting information about the repairs at the January General Meeting.

Noting that he had three public input sessions on the upgrade proposed for Lakeway Drive, he

asked whether the absence of a public presentation by the engineer didn't conflict with "our philosophy about communications."

"I don't mind communicating," President Haggard responded. "But the entire membership is not making all the decisions for the community, because that is not how we are set up."

"I am wondering what we are trying to hide by not having him in," MacKay replied. "We are talking about our communications philosophy."

"If I hear enough from the community that they want to hear a presentation from Mr. Marx, I will see if that can be arranged," Fewkes said. "What we are trying to do is be efficient — we are trying to do things in a timely manner. We are not trying to hide anything, and I am offended that you would suggest that."

Other Business

In other business conducted

during the January 8 Work Session, SLWLA Directors:

- Deferred action on the Loop the Lake Trail proposal until the costs and other implications of that project can be evaluated along with others being considered by the Long Range Planning Committee.
- Heard that a meeting with a US Postal Service District Manager resulted in an "Oh" rather than a "No," and a promise that he will investigate how Pinewild was allowed to switch from centralized mail-houses to curbside delivery and the implications of that for curbside delivery in Seven Lakes West. A response is expected in a month or two.
- Reiterated a Board policy that

barcodes will not be given to non-resident family members of landowners. Any barcodes that have been issued to such folks by mistake will be deactivated, after the family is notified.

- Heard from MacKay that a letter and calls to Moore County Manager Cary McSwain regarding the installation of fire hydrants in Seven Lakes West have gone unanswered.
- Heard from Security Director Blaine Rowland that late night roving patrols have begun in the community and that the delay in the closing of the back entrance gate after vehicles enter has been cut in half.

(See "SLWLA," p. 30)



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Do nothing

(Continued from front page)

ed by the Finance Committee, which would have raised Morgan Wood and WSLA dues by twenty percent and Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle dues by twelve percent. Treasurer Kathy Kirst expressed disappointment with the decision, telling her fellow Directors: "We have approved a budget with a \$180,000 deficit next year. . . . Over three to four

years we will be taking reserves down \$350,000 to \$400,000, which I believe is a fiscally irresponsible decision to make for this community."

The deficit that Kirst refers to is created by the need to pay for \$240,000 to \$300,000 in repairs to the Lake Auman Dam next year.

Arguing for the Finance Committee's proposal, Kirst admitted

it was a "front-end loaded option," asking for a twenty percent increase in 2008-2009 and no increase in 2009-2010. "That pumps up the reserves so that, even though we don't know the cost of dam remediation, it will definitely cover it. We will be putting money into the reserves and not taking money out of the reserves" — one of Kirst's and the Finance Committee's goals.

"I don't want to hold up Seven Lakes North and South as a terrible example," Kirst said, "but they have a lot of infrastructure needs now and are having a hard time figuring out where the money is going to come from. I want to make sure, when it comes time to do the roads, that we don't have \$50,000 when we need \$1.2 million."

Other revenue options

Without the need to repair the dam, Director Hugh Beckwith noted, the "Do Nothing" option would yield a \$130,000 operating surplus in FY 2008-2009.

Beckwith was responsible for introducing a third option into the conversation: lowering Morgan Wood and WSLA dues to a level that would match 2008-2009 Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle dues — achieving "parity" — and then asking landowners to approve a special assessment to pay for repairs to the dam.

That would spread the burden of paying for dam repairs evenly across the community,

he argued. "This is a classic example of what you use an assessment for," Beckwith said.

Kirst disagreed, noting that the dam must be repaired, but landowners could say no to an assessment. "This is something that has to be done. Don't want to gamble on the fact that the special assessment might not pass." Kirst said the appropriate use for special assessments is to pay for special projects that would be nice but perhaps not necessary — like a new entrance or gatehouse.

Ray MacKay argued that, under the merger agreement, no assessment could be levied on Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle in the coming year, even if dues parity were reached. Whether he was correct on that point was not determined during the work session.

The fourth 2008-2009 revenue option was forwarded by President Jim Haggard who suggested the compromise of raising WSLA and Morgan Wood dues by twelve percent, match-

(See "Revenue," p. 31)

SLWLA Meeting

(Continued from page 29)

- Heard from Rowland that the pilot who landed a seaplane on Lake Auman last month was identified and contacted by the Federal Aviation Administration with notice that such landings are not permitted on Lake Auman. The Lake is being noted as off limits in a list maintained by the seaplane pilots association.
- Heard that the Long Range Planning Committee has met under the new co-chairmanship of Roger Brook and Bud

Sales and has identified twenty-three possible projects that need to be evaluated for presentation to the Board.

- Heard from Secretary Ed Tuton that the plan for of assembling, printing, and mailing the Annual Meeting packet is complete. The mailing will go out at the end of the month.
- Heard from Community Manager Tony Robertson that, if the Board would like, he would be willing to continue to serve in that capacity for another two years or so. Robertson

had previously indicated he would like to retire by the end of 2008, but said he had reconsidered.

- Decided to leave the Wall of Honor display where it is in the Great Room of the Community Center, after evaluating a request to move it.
- Assembled a list of questions that will be posed to candidates for the Board of Directors during a Candidates Night scheduled for January 28 at 7:30 pm in the Great Room.

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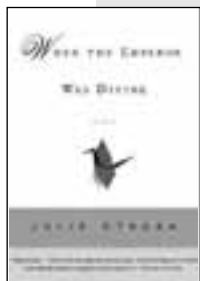
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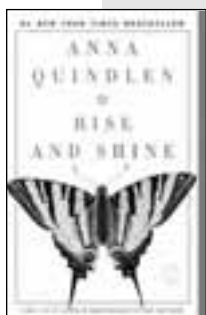
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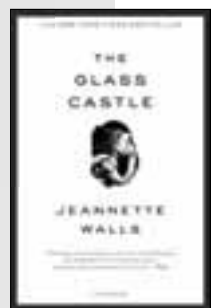
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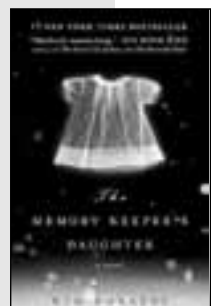
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by Kim Edwards



Turning Leaves
**THE GARDEN
OF RUTH**
by Eva Etzoni-Halevy

Revenue budget

(Continued from page 30)

ing the mandated increase for Pinnacle and Beacon Ridge landowners.

"No one pays more, no one pays less," Haggard said. "It doesn't do everything that we would like, but everyone pays the same." He noted that a special assessment could amount to as much as a 48% dues increase for one year for some landowners."

No handsprings

Noting that no one was "jumping handsprings" over any of the four options, Secretary Ed Tuton said it was a matter of finding the "least objectionable" choice.

"I don't like the idea of a future assessment crapshoot," he added. "There are members of the community who will not perceive that they are receiving benefits equal to others when looking at the dam. This will happen with anything that comes up."

Jo Nicholas said she wanted to make sure that "everyone is sharing equally" and agreed with Beckwith that special assessments are the right mechanism to use to pay off one time necessary expenditures.

After thanking the Finance Committee for their work, Mary Anne Fewkes said, "I feel we are one community and the sooner we can get close to that, the better. I don't like the idea of one group paying for the dam repair. I feel we need to reach parity and then look at an assessment. I am for trying to get to parity as soon as possible."

Finance Committee member Lois Rocco told Board members, "This budget attempts to look at the financial security of the whole community. What we built was a lean, mean sound budget." She said concerns about fairness and parity were not an issue in the community until the Board began to express concerns about them.

After discussion, Haggard suggested eliminating one or more of the options to narrow the field before voting, and asked if anyone objected to removing the "Do Nothing" option. MacKay

objected, leaving all four options still on the table. Blaine Rowland moved to adopt the twelve percent across the board increase and Ed Tuton seconded, but no one voted for that option.

Ray MacKay then moved to adopt the "Do Nothing" option,

Mary Anne Fewkes seconded the motion, and Jo Nicholas, Tuton, and Rowland joined them in approving it.

Options after the vote

How the Finance Committee and Board will deal with the resulting revenue shortfall was

unclear as the meeting broke up. There are sufficient reserves on hand to pay for the dam repairs, but tapping them for that purpose will drop total reserves by \$167,000, leaving a FY 2008-2009 year-end total of just over \$400,000, according to projections prepared by the

Finance Committee.

Another option is borrowing to cover the expense without depleting reserves, but Kirst objected to that strategy: "To borrow for something that has to be done, I have a problem with it."

'Bluebirds in my Belfry' at Temple Theatre

Artistic Director Peggy Taphorn makes her Temple Theatre performing debut in *Bluebirds in My Belfry*. For the past several years, Ms. Taphorn has won rave reviews around the country starring in a cabaret revue that pays tribute to 1940's film and recording star Betty Hutton.

With the cooperation of Miss Hutton's estate, that cabaret revue is now being transformed into a Broadway-style musical that will take its place alongside such classics as *Gypsy* and *Funny Girl*.

Bluebirds in My Belfry, co-written and directed by Tony nominee Craig Rhyne, presents the story of Betty Hutton's life from her early days to her "lost years," from the bright lights of Hollywood to the rectory of a church in Rhode Island where Betty finally found what she spent her entire life searching for. There are loads of jumpin' jivin' swing tunes that capture the Hutton "candor" spirit, which made Bob Hope call her "a vitamin pill on legs!"

Temple audiences will be the first ever to get a glimpse of this

exciting new musical and will be able to contribute to the continuing creative process. Temple will be presenting, for three performances only, the results of a two-week workshop that will develop this new script.

After watching a staged reading and fully sung version of the script, audiences will be encouraged to stay for a post-show talkback that will help the authors shape this new piece into the

next great American musical.

Bluebirds in My Belfry will be presented at the Temple Theatre January 18, 20 and 22 at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased by calling the box office at 919-774-4155. Online ticketing is available by visiting www.templeshows.com.



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Nominating Committee

(Continued from front page)

nine candidates. Douglass told *The Times* on Tuesday that her committee would include former SLLA Directors Noreen Sawyer, JoAn Moses, and Jack Fathauer.

The debate

After Florence laid out the plan to remove Nuti and revalidate the candidates, Hudson opened the debate by saying that "Bylaws need to be looked at and need to be followed to the letter . . . All we want to do is correct a wrong and get things straightened out."

Truesdell then read a lengthy statement arguing that Nuti had used announcements in public meetings and *The Seven Lakes Times* to attract the largest number of candidates in the history of Seven lakes.

"Was anyone excluded?" Truesdell asked. "The answer is unequivocally no! Did Nuti stack the deck? The answer is unequivocally no!" Did Nuti follow the by-laws to the letter? The answer is no . . ."

But, Truesdell said, he had obtained an opinion from Attorney Henry Jones — author of the Planned Community Act — which found the process Nuti used both "defensible" and a "harmless error."

Truesdell read Jones' letter on the matter, which included the following paragraph:

"While it can be said that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee did not follow the letter of the provision in the Bylaws regarding the composition of the Committee, I think that the process is nevertheless defensible. The desired outcome has been achieved, and in fact has resulted in greater competition

than usual. The rights of no members have been prejudiced in any respect. Anyone wishing to serve on the Board has been allowed to run. Further, any deficiency in the process is cured by the opportunity for any late comer to submit a petition and run for the Board on that basis."

"If it is determined that the Chairman of the Committee committed error, then it is certainly harmless error and would probably be governed by the rule of harmless error. Accordingly, I conclude that the process could be defended on that basis."

Truesdell said Jones opinion would likely cost the Association \$1,000 "in pursuit of a frivolous claim. I felt compelled to get this opinion because I wanted confirmation from an lawyer that Mr. Nuti's harmless error would not leave the Association open to a lawsuit."

Director Randy Zielsdorf asked "What is the purpose of this committee?" and questioned whether it could in fact be used to exclude certain candidates. He said his name was dropped from the list of candidates by last year's Nominating Committee because he couldn't adjust his schedule to accommodate the traditional Thursday afternoon Board Work Session. "What rule was I violating?" he asked.

"The whole business of having a nominating committee," he said, "its time has come and gone."

"The nominating committee had a purpose," Director Donna Stephan countered. "We need someone familiar with the law, so that we don't have to keep spending money on attorneys. We need someone familiar with architecture . . . We need a committee that can discuss people

before we ask them to run. I don't know that this was done. All I know is that Ed did not follow the rules."

Nuti Then read the names of eight people whom he said had contacted to ask whether they would be willing to run for the Board — and, if not, whether they could recommend others for the slate.

"To my mind that is a committee of nine," Nuti said. "Did I formalize it and have them over to my house? We have come a long way from the cloak and dagger meetings of the past. Randy had trouble getting on the board because the nominating committee became a

selective committee."

"In last two years, I have served this community in an open fashion," he added. "I used all 1,200 people in town as my committee."

"There was a process that I put in the paper . . . I accomplished the task that was assigned to me the best way I knew how. I called a number of folks and asked that they assist me in finding candidates."

Nuti said he believed the Association should avoid any "selective practices" when it comes to nominations. "The place to exclude is in the ballot box . . . We need to reword that provision

(See "Nominating" p. 33)

Kindsvatter named to SLLA ARB

Sally Kindsvatter has been named to to the Architectural Review Board of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, to fill a vacancy created when the Board removed Jane Leach in December, after complaints from a developer that he had been ill-treated by the ARB.

The Board of Directors made the appointment during their Monday, January 7 Special Open Business Meeting.



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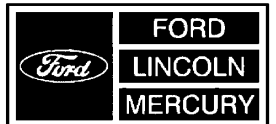
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Nominating Committee

(Continued from page 32)

that a clique can get together and select a set of candidates."

"The process I used was in keeping with the intent of our bylaws one hundred percent," he argued.

Director Laura Douglass offered no comment, saying she preferred to hear the public first. Later, when she attempted to offer a comment before casting her vote, she was shouted down by the crowd.

Public Comment

A crowd of about fifty landowners attended the meeting. They were permitted to address the nominating committee issue prior to the Board's vote.

Southsider Pete Sonderfan, one of the eight person whom Nuti said he had contacted, told the Board that he was not approached to serve on the Nominated Committee but was asked to serve on Board of Directors.

Northsider Bud Shaver, one of the nine current candidates, said, "I'm dismayed. I am going to have to reconsider my wish to serve on this Board because this Board is totally ineffective."

"What really disturbs me is that the person who wrote the bylaws violated them," Northsider Charlie Oliver said. He noted that the election could result in a Board that includes five members of Seven Lakes Country Club and questioned whether the slate was representative of the community.

Northsider and former Board member Jeff Hermann, also a nominee, noted that the Bylaws call for the Nominating Committee's slate to be presented in December — not January — as would be the case with the revalidated slate proposed by Florence. "It could be interpreted that you are going to break the bylaws in order to fix this mistake," he said, arguing that the slate should stand as is.

"I've always been under the impression that anyone who wanted to run could run," Northsider Virginia Roth said. "Our nominating committee doesn't really function as a nominating committee. You've just got things kind of tied up in knots."

"This whole unsavory situation could have been avoided if Nuti had been upfront and

honest," Loren Swearingen said. "He should have confessed that he might be a candidate for reelection." Swearingen noted that the Board has observed an "unwritten Bylaw" that precludes anyone who will be a candidate from serving as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Northsider Mary Hudson asked both Director Florence and Treas-

urer Hudson whether they were aiming to exclude any of the currently named candidates from the slate. Both replied that they were not.

"I have heard an awful lot of crap tonight," Southsider Dave Kinney told the Board. "The bylaws were violated, pure and simple. Only one person has addressed the issue of skills.

This Board needs skills. It doesn't need a popularity contest to determine who will lead this community."

Northsider Dewitt Petterson said "The purpose of nominating committee is to be neutral to existing Board — to seek skills that will serve the community. The procedure was not followed.

The issue was brought to a

vote and Florence, Hudson, Stephan, and Douglass voted in favor of removing Nuti.

Both Douglass and Stephan expressed a willingness to form a new nominating committee. Douglass' name was put up for a vote first and won the votes of all but Florence.

Red Cross offers wilderness first aid class

The American Red Cross Moore County Chapter is proud to introduce a new course in backcountry emergency response, Wilderness First Aid. The course will be taught at Weymouth Woods Nature Center in Southern Pines from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays, February 9 and February 16.

This sixteen-hour course is

for those who work, live, or play in remote areas away from the usual EMS service. Hikers, backpackers, kayakers, canoers, campers, forest rangers, law enforcement, rescue crews, and those persons interested in preparing themselves for a major disaster such as a hurricane will benefit from this training.

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the Boy Scouts, accredited by the American Camping Association, and endorsed by the Civil Air Patrol.

Course work covers assessment and urgent first aid techniques, but not in-depth CPR. Basic first aid skills are covered, making this course appropriate for anyone regardless of experience level. No prerequisites are

required. A minimum age of fourteen years is recommended for participants due to the serious nature of the course and scenarios. The class is limited to ten participants. Preregistration is required. The fee for the sixteen-hour training is \$120.

Contact the American Red Cross Moore County Chapter at 692-8571.



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