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Volume 23 Number 8

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

February 22, 2008

## Civic Group water meeting packs the house

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Moore County continues to struggle under severe drought conditions but, according to Dennis Brobst, Director of Public Works, "We [Moore County] have all the water we need, just not all the water we may want."

Brobst was the featured speaker at the Seven Lakes Civic Group's Annual Meeting, held on Tuesday, February 19.

Addressing a room packed with more than 200 concerned Seven Lakers, Brobst, himself a resident of Seven Lakes West, provided a detailed presentation of past, current, and future county water projects, with a particular emphasis on the Seven Lakes water system.

"We are doing everything we can to bring water here," said Brobst.

Historically, the Seven Lakes system included seventeen production wells and was a stand-alone system. Radium, iron and manganese levels, contamination, and low-yield caused the majority of these wells to be closed, leaving only three currently operational. According to Brobst, the Seven Lakes system is now fed by the Pinehurst water system and is one hundred percent dependent on the Middendorf Aquifer.

With an operating range of 10.14 feet, currently the aquifer shows a 3.99 foot drop in static level from March 2007 readings, equal to approximately thirty-nine percent of the operational range.

Brobst reported little relief in sight for the aquifer with a drought deficit of 12.76 inches of rainfall

(See "Water," p. 42)

## Locks of Love



**Sydnie Kavanaugh, Kealee Morris, and Maddie Burrell** all donated locks of their hair to Locks of Love last week. Locks of Love creates wigs for children who have lost their hair due to disease or medical treatments like chemotherapy.

## Picerno, Fiorillo file for McKenzie's seat

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

McLendon Hills resident and Moore County native, Nick Picerno, declared his candidacy for a seat on the Board of Commissioners, on Wednesday, February 20. Picerno will be running against fellow Republican Nancy Roy Fiorillo for the District II seat, now held by Chairman

Colin McKenzie. District II encompasses both the Pinehurst and West End /Seven Lakes regions.

A Primary Election will be held on Monday, March 5. Commissioner Tim Lea's District IV seat is also up for election. The Board of Commissioners is a five-member board.

"I know the county faces some very serious issues" said Picerno.

"I want to find a way to help them pay for all this stuff without raising taxes. As a businessman, I want to put my expertise to work to find alternatives rather than look to the easy way which is to raise property taxes."

Fiorillo, a resident of Pinehurst and Chair of the Moore County Planning Board, is also running as a Republican candi-

date for the District II seat. She serves on the Pinehurst Civic Group Board of Directors and Small Area A Steering Committee, along with Southsider and Chair Dave Kinney.

"The reason I'm running is because I plan to live in my home forever and I want to make Moore County the best that it can be," said Fiorillo.

Explaining that most people contribute to their communities in many different ways, she said, "I feel my skills and abilities come from my twenty-one years of work in state and local governments. That's where my talents lie and that's how I want to give back – to serve on the team and give back to Moore County."

(See "Commissioners," p. 44)

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### In this issue

Foxfire Council . . . . .	3	Lucy's Kitchen . . . . .	8	Opinion . . . . .	36
SLWLA Work Session . . . . .	4	Obituaries . . . . .	10	Letters to the Editor . . . . .	36
SLLA Work Session . . . . .	5	SLLA Candidates . . . . .	14	Laura's Learning Curve . . . . .	36
Becky Gllmore Retires . . . . .	6	SLWLA Candidates . . . . .	15	Mason's Musings . . . . .	39
County Commissioners . . . . .	9	What's When . . . . .	22	Classifieds . . . . .	46

# 'Taste of the Town' tickets on sale March 6!

by Betsy Oliver Mikula  
Women of 7 Lakes

The Women of Seven Lakes will hold the Fourth Annual Taste of the Town at the West Side Park Community Center on Monday, March 31, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

This event will feature wonderful, eclectic foods presented by many of the most popular dining establishments in the area, including; Beacon Ridge Country Club, Coach Light Café & Wine Bar, Elliott's, Little River Country Club, Moore Delights Personal Chef Services, Rhett's Personal Chef & Catering, Seven

Lakes Country Club, Smithfield's Barbecue, Table on the Green, That's A Deli, and Wolcott's. Wine, beer, coffee, and dessert are included in the ticket cost of \$20.00 per person. Proceeds will benefit First Health Hospice

and Palliative Care.

Tickets sell quickly, so we urge you to get them as soon as possible. They will be available at The Women of Seven Lakes meeting on March 6. Tickets will also be sold at the mail houses with

times and days to be announced at a later date.

Raffle tickets will also be sold at the meetings and at the event. Prizes include gift certificates from Café Iano, Squire's Pub, Moe's Grill, Tripp's, Pine Crest Inn, Italian Table, Bonefish, Chili's, Beefeaters, Bavarian Brathaus,

Outback, Lone Star, Lula's, Mac's Breakfast Anytime, Nina's, and Thai Orchid. More gift certificates will be available.

If you need more information about tickets, please call Ginger Finney at 673-1330 or Sandi Carl at 673-7711.

## Open House bids Maier's farewell



Ray and Dodie Maier, longtime residents of Seven Lakes, are moving to Ohio at the end of March.

Please join them on Sunday, February 24, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm for an Open House at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Seven Lakes Drive.

Please come and take this opportunity to say so long to Ray and Dodie. In their almost thirty years in the area, they have made many, many friends. So, drop by to wish them well on their new journey in Ohio.

### 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
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.

## SLLA Candidates' Night is Monday, February 25

Members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] will have a chance to get a good look at the ten candidates running for seats on the Board of Directors Monday night, February 25, at a Candidates' Night hosted by the Seven Lakes Civic Group.

The event begins at 7:30 pm in the Great Room of the West Side Park Community

Center. *Seven Lakes Times* editor Greg Hankins will moderate the session.

Candidates will answer questions posed to them ahead of time by the Civic Group, as well as questions submitted in writing by audience members.

This year's election will likely fill a majority of the Board's seven seats, making the contest particularly important.



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# Foxfire Village sign ordinances spark debate

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

An occasionally heated discussion of what is considered fair enforcement of village ordinances was a primary concern at the Foxfire Village Council Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 12.

Local business owners Wayne Stepnoski and Ron Giles, of Foxfire General Store, recently received a letter from the village planning and zoning office demanding that a secondary commercial sign, affixed to their building and in violation of ordinances, be removed or a steep fine would be levied.

Arguing that they have posted similar signs on their property previously and that there are many other illegal signs in the village, Stepnoski and Giles said they were being targeted unfairly.

“Me and Wayne have shown our interest and dedication to the community through the years serving Foxfire in one business or another, helping the town and community in several ways,” said Giles. “I feel disheartened by the prejudice that we are feeling at this moment.”

Village ordinances stipulate that businesses may erect one ground sign and one additional sign on the building. The sign in question was a temporary professionally-made banner secured to the outside of the store.

Alluding to past leniency of ordinance enforcement, Stepnoski said, “All violations should receive a citation. The council should not just be picking and choosing.”

Mayor George Erickson and the Village Council agreed that ordinances had not been strongly enforced but that the citation had been issued in response to a complaint.

Resident Charles Coker charged, “If one ordinance applies, then all ordinances apply.”

Councilman Ed Lauer suggested the council seek a legal opinion before proceeding with additional enforcement activities. Citing previous experience, Lauer said that once a violation occurs and is not enforced it's difficult to go back at a later time and impose the ordinance.

Mayor Erickson encouraged Stepnoski and Giles to request

an appeal through the Board of Adjustments.

A resident also suggested that anticipated future village growth would include more commercial development and that the ordinances need to reflect reasonable business promotions and signage allowances.

**Finance**

Councilman Wally Peckitt reports the General Fund stands at \$433,000.

“It looks as though we’ll ride through the year with plenty of cash, but our objective is to save as much cash as possible,” said Peckitt.

Sixty-seven items totaling \$46,000 in as yet unpaid taxes

were reported; with a single tax payer owing the village \$33,000. No other tax items exceed \$2,000.

Peckitt requested his fellow council members compile and

(See “Foxfire,” p. 45)

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# West Side Board ponders staffing options

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

As might be expected this close to the Annual Meeting and the election of new Directors, the agenda for the Tuesday, February 12 Work Session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors was modest.

## Temporary staffing in office

The resignation of the Association's Financial Assistant Holly Foster has the Board looking for volunteers to man the office part time, as well as reducing the hours during which reservations, registrations, decals, and barcodes can be obtained from the office.

A part-time replacement with experience in Quickbooks has been hired two days per week to handle the financial end of the position, Treasurer Kathy Kirst told the Directors. Other administrative tasks will be handled for the time being by landowners volunteering their time, President Jim Haggard reported.

Haggard said he would prefer not to hire a full time replacement until the Board has decided whether to bring on a community management company to replace the current staffing strategy. He noted that the Personnel Committee had recently interviewed another such company and would be reporting on that to the Board.

"The whole point of this is, we have to decide whether to continue with employees or go with a management company," Haggard said. "We can use volunteers until the decision is made. It is difficult to hire a full-

time person if we're going to go with a management company."

Director Ray MacKay expressed skepticism that the volunteer arrangement would work in May, when the new fiscal year begins and all landowners must pay dues and register the boats and vehicles. "This shoestring arrangement isn't going to cut it come May 1," MacKay said.

Mary Ann Fewkes said she had volunteers lined up to help with boat registration and Haggard said the registration process had been streamlined to incorporate gates that should ensure residents have all the paperwork and documentation they need before they take up the time of registrars, be they volunteers or staffers.

## Other business

In other business, the Board:

- Heard from Director Ray MacKay that he and Long Range Planning Co-Chair Bud Sales are working on preparing a document that could be presented to the Moore county Board of Commissioners in order to get their approval on a North Carolina Department of transportation project that would upgrade the Lakeway Drive railroad crossing, as well as several others in the area.
- Heard from Director Bill Mamel that the Architectural Review Committee is meeting twice monthly with the builder or contractor responsible for each home under construction in the community. Mamel said the ARC is also recommending that the Board establish a policy that would prohibit blink-

ing lights as a regular feature of residential lighting, since blinking lights are often used as a house identifier by emergency vehicles.

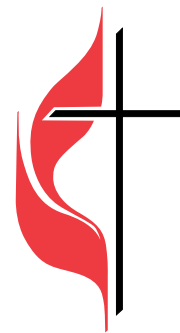
- Heard from Community Manager Tony Robertson that he has estimated the cost of repairing gate arms at the entrance gates to be \$120 per incident. "We have been charging \$200 to the person who breaks a gate arm," Robertson said, "and some people have objected to that." The Board decided to use the \$120 figure.
- Robertson encouraged the Board to consider the purchase of one or more Automatic Emergency Defibrillators. Haggard said they could be had for a good price through a program supported by Moore County. Haggard said he had contacted the Lake Auman Sports Club about a possible donation of one of the units.
- Mamel said the ARC is recommending imposing an additional fee for new home construction when it involves the use of heavy equipment for substantial site preparation. The idea is to help defray the cost of wear and tear on com-

munity roadways. The Board will consider imposing the fee once the language of the proposal has been finalized.

- The Board deferred action on the replacement or repair of the SLWLA Security Truck, which is nearly eleven years old and need approximately \$1,000 in repairs.
- Heard from President Haggard that he had asked Director Ed Tuton to head up the nominating committee for next year. Tuton will provide names of proposed committee members at the March 4 Work Session.
- Received a petition from more than two dozen residents objecting to the appearance of a railing at the mail house entrance made of pressure treated lumber. MacKay

explained that the railing would be painted once the wood has a chance to season. "The railing looks better than most of the building," MacKay said. The Board deferred action until it takes up consideration of refurbishing the mailhouse as a whole.

- Heard that Charlie Flinchum and Bill Carl have volunteered to repair the roof on the radio house near the water tower, saving the Association \$1,000.
- Discussed whether the Association should charge companies for water that they want to withdraw from the lake for use in construction projects — for example, in the current retrofitting on Pee Dee Electric's underground cables. The Board asked MacKay and Fewkes to develop a policy.



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# SLLA Board ponders policy, bylaws changes

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

In marked contrast to the donnybrooks that have characterized many recent meetings of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors, the Wednesday, February 13 Work Session was a business-like proceeding in which Board

members worked through a number of proposed bylaws and rules changes, setting them up for a vote at the February 27 Business Meeting.

## Nominations Committee

Directors Donna Stephan and Ed Nuti have been working on a revision to Bylaw 6.3, which

describes the make-up and the composition of the Nominating Committee.

Stephan has argued that the Board should approve not only the Chairman, but the members of the committee as well — a suggestion that has the support of most Board members. Nuti has resisted that change, as

well as the suggestion that the Board should approve the list of nominees submitted by the committee.

In language he presented during the Work Session, Nuti included Board approval of committee members, but required "unanimous" approval.

President Don Truesdell argued that that was unnecessarily restrictive and asked Nuti to remove the clause. Truesdell also suggested that the revised bylaw state that "no candidate should be excluded."

Nuti said he would bring two versions of the amended bylaw to the February 27 Business meeting, where it is scheduled to be voted on.

## Legal Expenses

The Board then turned to consideration of a policy, suggested by Director Michael Florence, that would require that Board members and staff get advance Board approval before consulting an Attorney.

Community Manager Dalton Fulcher said he often consults with the Attorney via telephone concerning relatively routine matters — like a landowner who wants to turn over property to the Association rather than continuing to pay dues. Requiring advance approval for such consultations would be unnecessarily cumbersome, Fulcher said.

Treasurer Steve Hudson said

(See "SLLA," p. 12)

## Board approves budget

An Association budget that cuts operating expenses by more than \$50,000 and anticipates adding more than \$100,000 to reserves was passed in a Special Meeting held after the February 13 Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors Work Session.

Because the budget includes no dues increase for the coming year, no additional approval will be required from landowners.

The budget projects total operating expenses of \$974,000, down from the \$1,025,000 budgeted this year. Capital expenses are pegged at \$165,000, which includes, \$100,000 for dam repair and maintenance, \$50,000 for road repaving, \$5,000 for pool maintenance, and \$5,000 for work on the stables.

Total Association revenues are budgeted at \$1,272,000, up from \$1,228,000 budgeted for the current year. Ten thousand dollars of that increase is in fees; the result of raising the mailbox rental fee from six dollars to ten dollars.

If revenues and expenses occur as the budget predicts, the SLLA will add \$138,000 to its year-end cash balance by the end of the 2008-2009 Fiscal

Year, bringing the total reserves to just under \$500,000, of which \$262,000 is allocated for road repaving.

## Pool Deck Repair Approved

The Board also approved a \$32,000 contract for repairs to the pool deck during the February 13 Special Meeting. After some preparatory work to fill cracks and repair a problem area around the diving board, the deck will be coated with a durable sealant.

Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane, Recreation Director Laura Douglass, and some other members of the Recreation Committee had examined examples of the coating earlier in the day.

In addition to sealing the pool deck, the surface will also be applied to the walkways in front of the North Clubhouse and Landowners Office. The work is expected to be completed well in advance of the pool opening in May.

## Election Committee

During its January 30 Business Meeting, the Board had asked Ray Pardue to head up the Election Committee, which will count the annual meeting ballots.

During the February 27 Special Meeting, the other mem-

bers of the committee were approved. They are: Al Anderson, Wayne Burris, Don Heysel, and Ione Katz.

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# 7 Lakes' First Banker, Becky Gilmore, will retire

Long-time manager of First Bank's Seven Lakes Branch, Becky Gilmore, is retiring. After working for the bank for thirty-six years, thirty of which was spent as the Branch Manager of Seven Lakes, Gilmore is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and traveling.

To celebrate her last day, First Bank is inviting friends and family to stop by the Seven Lakes Branch for an open reception and retirement party, February 29, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Hors'd'ouvers and refreshments will be served throughout the day. Please mark your calendars!

Since opening the Seven Lakes office in September 1978, Becky has become a familiar, smiling face to residents of Seven Lakes and surrounding communities. As the first female President of the local Kiwanis Club and an active Sunday school teacher at the Robbins First Baptist Church, residents have always known her as someone they could rely on.

"It has truly been an experience watching the Moore county area grow and change for the past three decades," commented Gilmore. "I remember when we first opened, we would make trips to neighborhoods and open accounts on the hood of my car. The community has been so great in supporting the branch. It has been a pleasure to assist people in making their dreams come true."

Chris Brady, who was initially hired by Becky in 1989, will resume the role as Branch Manager at this office. After serving this community for eighteen years, most recently as Branch

Manager at First Bank's Pinehurst South office, Brady's co-workers have confidence that the transition will be seamless.

"Becky is the shining example of a first-class employee for any company," said Roger Gentry, First Bank Regional Executive. "While we're saddened to lose a professional like her, we're lucky to have Chris replace her. Becky and Chris have been working with each other for the past eighteen years and they are very familiar with each other's style. Seven Lakes is in the best

hands possible under Chris' leadership."

"I'm looking forward to retirement as an opportunity to get back in touch with the things I enjoy doing," adds Gilmore. "Both of my daughters work for nearby schools and helping out with our local education system is very important to me. Our Team Kids program at church, which I'm heavily involved in, is really starting to get going. My husband of forty years wants me to take up golfing...but I'm not sure I'll have the time to even do that!"



Becky Gilmore

Harry sez:



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# Westside Long Range Planning explained

During the course of the recent discussions about the budget and the dam remediation, there have been questions raised, as recently as candidate's night, about the Long Range Planning Committee and its function.

The Long Range Planning [LRP] Committee is a standing committee of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association and was formed many years ago and presided over by Joe Fellingham until about four years ago. It was formed to fulfill three basic functions; continuity, vision, and financial planning. There are currently nine members on the committee of varying interests, expertise, locale, and community longevity. The members are Bill Schmidt, Kathy Kirst, John Oravetz, Gus Danielson, Gerhard Hergenbahn, Joel Martin, Jeremy Rust, Roger Brooke, and myself. Also the president of SLWLA Board, currently Jim Haggard, serves as an ex-officio committee member.

**Continuity:** The By-laws provide that the Board of Directors elect one-third of its members every year. Thus, over a period of three years the board may completely change leaving no one with any history for what has gone on before or what areas are being looked at for the future. LRP bridges this gap and, while it has no decision making charge, it provides a view of what previous boards have accomplished and how that continues forward to meet the future needs of the community.

**Vision:** Our community is made up of over 1,600 members – residents and lot owners alike. Therefore, it is safe to assume that there are many, many visions

of what Seven Lakes West should look like and how it should function in the future. Part of the function of the LRP is to collect ideas from community members and examine, evaluate, make cost analyses, prioritize, and make recommendations to the board about those feasible potential future projects which will shape our community in the years to come.

The basic formula for "strategic planning" is 1. Where are we today?; 2. Where do we want to be in the future? and 3. How are we going to get there? It is our job to work toward providing these answers.

Over the years many projects designed to meet the needs and desired improvement of the community have been considered by the committee. Many have been discarded as either not feasible, inappropriate, or without a positive cost/benefit ratio.

Other ideas, after careful study, involve beginning the long process of planning, approval, funding, bidding, constructing, and completion as evidenced by our Seven Lakes West Side Park and Community Center. Sometime this process can take several years.

Currently, there are around two dozen projects on our list which are being studied and prioritized prior to making any recommendation to the board. Some will move forward, some will not.

Long Range Financial Plan-

ning: Finally, once projects have been identified and approved by the Board, provisions must be made to pay for these improvements. We have developed a financial spreadsheet which cov-

## West Side Stories



*Bud Sales &  
Roger Brooke  
Long-Range  
Planning*

ers the past year, the current year, and projects seven or more years into the future. It can be extended farther into the future fairly easily by expanding the formulas. Its primary function is to examine current costs, make reasonable assumptions about

the future [community growth, interest rates, inflation, and expanding costs] and examine the effect of various "what-if" questions to insure that, once a future need is identified and approved, there is enough money in our future reserves to pay for it or a means of financing has been identified.

An obvious example of this is the need for repaving Longleaf at some point in the future. Based on today's costs we can make projections of future costs to determine how much we have to put away to insure that we won't be unable to meet this need financially when the time comes. Unfunded or deferred maintenance has been the downfall of many communities.

Our committee currently does not hold open meetings and there is a very good reason for

this. As explained above, we evaluate a lot of "blue sky" ideas. There would be little point, and lots of downside, to exposing these to the membership before we had even determined the feasibility of the idea.

Six or seven years ago an idea was suggested to use the ponds between Lakeway or along Longleaf to raise minnows to provide forage for our game fish so that we wouldn't have to buy baitfish. Before it was even studied, someone mentioned it at a general meeting and a comment was made about having to eliminate the turtles before it could be done. "Board to kill turtles," the rumor mill raged. The idea, although potentially feasible, was immediately dropped.

The point is that there is little  
(See "LRP" p. 8)



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To see all we have to offer join us for refreshments at the Seven Lakes Country Club, Thursday, February 28th. Seating is limited. Call 800.961.4889 to RSVP.

# Whole roasted cauliflower

Here's another good recipe I found after the cookbook came out. There are some half-pages in the Project Linus cookbook that you may attach other recipes to.

If any of you missed it, and would like one, Bookshop by the Lakes has some.

## Whole Roasted Cauliflower

### Ingredients

Half a sweet onion  
4 or 5 cloves garlic  
1 medium head cauliflower  
4 Tablespoons olive oil  
salt and pepper to taste  
2 Tablespoons Parmesan  
Cheese (or more)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place 2 large sheets of aluminum foil on counter, crossing each other. Chop or slice onion, and place onion and garlic in center of foil, then a whole head of cauliflower on top. Pour olive oil over it. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Wrap foil around vegetables, sealing completely.

Place packet in baking pan. Place pan in oven and roast for 1 hour, or until tender when pierced with sharp knife. Pour all vegetables in serving dish, breaking up cauliflower.

Toss to combine. Sprinkle with cheese.



from Lucy's  
Kitchen

Lucy Ingram  
Seven Lakes South

# Show off your stitches!

Quilters and needle or fabric artists are wanted to fill the walls of The Gallery at Seven Lakes, in the St. Mary Magdalene building. Small quilts and needle art need hanging support with screw eyes. Framed needle art also requires screw eyes, and large quilts will be unfolded during gallery hours.

Art works will be received on Thursday, February 28, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, or at other times by special arrangement.

The Grand Opening is Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. The Gallery is also open on Wednes-

days and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and is located on Seven Lakes Drive at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church.

The Quilt and Needle Art Show will continue until Thursday, March 13. Fine art will be featured

at the March 19 opening of the "Grande e Piccolo" show. All mediums are welcome.

For more information, call Carol Burgess at 673 0356 or Helen Pardue at 673-6347.

## New range taking shape



by Rollin Tomberlin, SL Country Club

Seven Lakes Country Club is pleased to report their new practice range is nearing completion. The installation of the irrigation system on the range along with the protective netting around the perimeter was accomplished during December. Since then, favorable weather has permitted the finished grading of the range field and final shaping of the teeing areas.

To accomplish strong erosion control the tees have had sod installed, while the range areas have been seeded with fast emerging rye grasses. Later, after the growing season arrives in late Spring, the range portion will be sprigged with Bermuda grass to facilitate a more deep-rooted permanent grass system.

Although much work remains to be done – including cart paths and cart parking area construction, upon completion the Country Club anticipates that the new driving range will provide a safe area for practice as well as an attractive addition to the South Side.

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Call 673-1596

## LRP

(Continued from page 7)

value to a public discussion of ideas before facts are gathered. It will either serve to stifle new thought or force potentially viable projects from consideration before they can be properly evaluated. Not all ideas are great but each idea deserves a fair appraisal of its broad appeal to the community.

The Long Range Planning Committee welcomes your ideas, your concerns, and your hopes for a better community. Any communication or submissions should be addressed to the LRP Committee and delivered to the SLWLA office.

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# County approves funds for new schools

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Moore County Board of Commissioner said yes to two funding requests that will get the ball rolling on a new middle school and a new elementary school during their February 18 regular meeting.

Moore County Schools [MCS] asked for \$1.1 million toward the cost of a new middle school, which will be located near Vass, and also asked commissioners to approve the purchase of a 49 acre site for the school at a cost of \$433,000. MCS Superintendent Susan Purser asked for \$700,000 toward the new ele-

mentary school, which will be located in the area served by Pinecrest High School.

The funds the Commissioners released for these projects are actually state funds — proceeds from the corporate tax — allocated on a county-by-county basis for use in building schools. County Finance Director Lisa Hughes told Commissioners that the funds could only be used for that purpose. After the meeting, Hughes said that the county has approximately \$1.88 million of these funds available.

The Board of Commissioners approved the MCS requested unanimously.

## Public works projects

Meeting as the Board of the East Moore Water District, the Commissioners approved a contract with CSX Incorporated — the railroad — for an easement that will allow the county to run a water line under CSX tracks near Lobelia.

Public Works Director Dennis Brobst told Commissioners that the pipeline in "the last piece of the puzzle to get one million gallons per day from the East Moore Water District" to feed into the Pinehurst/Seven Lakes system.

In a related action, the Commissioners accepted an ease-

ment from Little River Farms at no cost to the County that will provide a site for the location of booster pumps to deliver water from the East Moore Water District to the Pinehurst/Seven Lakes system.

The Commissioners awarded Hydrostructures, P.A., a \$100,250 contract for engineering consulting services for Phase 3 of the Lake Pinehurst Sewer Rehabilitation project, which includes 18,500 linear feet of gravity sewer mains along Lake Pinehurst. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.2 million.

## Other Business

In other business the Commissioners:

- Approved the rezoning of the adjoining parcels totaling 0.67 acres on Juniper Lake Road from RA-20 to B-2.

- Approved the naming of twenty-seven new roads in the Dormie Club subdivision off NC Highway 73 and the Peacock Farms subdivision off Youngs Road

- Adopted Rules of Procedure for the Board of Commissioners meetings that were developed by County Attorney Misty Randall Leland.

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*Waterfront, Lake Auman*

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# In memory of . . .

**Lois "Sunny" Fritz**, 86, of Mechanicsburg, PA, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Thursday, February 7, at Bethany Village.

Mrs. Fritz was born in Warren, PA, the daughter of the late Earl Sundell and Mary Hesch Sundell. She met her husband, Richard M. "Dick" Fritz, while both were serving as U.S. Army officers during World War II. They lived mostly in the Rochester and Buffalo, NY, areas before retiring to Seven Lakes in 1993.

She was a member of The Chapel in the Pines. The Fritz's moved to Mechanicsburg, PA in 2006.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Earl Jr., and George Sundell.

Survivors include her husband, Dick; four children, Kathy Bogdan, of Mechanicsburg, Maryanne Busch, of Ludington, MI, Rick Fritz, of Petersburg, AR, and David Fritz, of Warwick, RI; eleven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two sisters, Anne McKown, and Betty Swanson.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, February 13, at Malpezzi Funeral Home, Mechanicsburg, PA. Burial will be held in Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

Memorials may be sent to the Bethany Village Care Assurance Fund, 325 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

**Kathleen Ryan Kelly Stubbs**, 82, of Seven Lakes North, died Monday, February 11, at her residence, following a battle with cancer.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, William P. Kelly.

Mrs. Stubbs is survived by her husband, Donald Stubbs; a daughter, Maureen K. Polonus, of North Augusta, SC; a son, Peter Kelly, of New Bern; and three grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 am on Saturday, March 1, at The Chapel of the Pines in Seven Lakes, with Mrs. Stubbs' nephew, the Rev. John Durbin, officiating. Interment will follow in the Chapel Memorial Gardens.

A visitation will be held after the service at Seven Lakes Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to FirstHealth Hospice, 5 Avimore Drive, Pine-

hurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines is assisting the family.

**Anthony "Marc" Thomas Marcantonio**, 75, died Wednesday, February 13, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Marcantonio was born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of the late Severino and Mary Dinardo Marcantonio. He was employed in the marketing department with International Currency and Gold Company for many years, and was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army. He also attended Pace University.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eileen Keough Marcantonio.

He is survived by a son, Robert Marcantonio, of West End; two daughters, Mary Marcantonio, of Raleigh, and Kathy De Pietri, of Sussex County, NJ; a brother, William Marcantonio, of Apache Junction, AZ; and one sister, Lucille Sweeten, of Advance; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

**Henry "Hank" C. Williams**, 83, of Seven Lakes, died Wednesday, February 13, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Williams was born in West Orange, NJ, son of the late Fred and Anna Williams. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and later retired as a firefighter for the West Orange Fire Department. He was also owner of Kartko Service Inc.

Mr. Williams and his wife, Dorris, have resided in Seven Lakes for the past fourteen years and have been members of the Seven Lakes Country Club.

He is preceded in death by a brother, Fred Williams.

Survivors include his wife, Dorris Williams; four children, Thomas F. Williams, of Lakeland, FL, Judith A. Williams, of Hilton Head, SC, Carol D. Terrieri, of Succasunna, NJ, and Dorris M. Ridolfo, of Brick, NJ; and six grandchildren.

A Mass of Resurrection was held Saturday, February 16, at Our Lady of the Americas

Catholic Church in Candor. The Rev. Sanchez officiated.

Memorials may be sent to the American Diabetes Association, 434 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes served the family.

**Daniel Allen Talley Sr.**, of Eagle Springs, formerly of High Point, died Sunday, February 17.

Prior to his retirement, Mr. Talley worked at Thayer Coggins as an upholsterer for over thirty years, and also ran Dan's Upholstery. He enjoyed being outdoors, and spent many weekends on North Carolina lakes, especially on his favorites, Buggs Island and Badin Lake.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Taylor Elizabeth Idol.

Mr. Talley is survived by four

children, David Talley, Daniel Talley Jr., Joseph Talley, and S. Joan Talley; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, February 23, at Eagle Springs Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Cameron Boys Camp School, c/o Baptist Children's Homes of NC, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC, 27361-0338.

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# Spring’s around the corner; time to garden!

The old saying that “weather is discussed by everyone but little can be done about it,” is a fact but let’s be optimistic and hope moisture conditions will improve.

According to the weather reports, we are in severe drought conditions here in the Sandhills and statistics indicate here in our area we are nine to ten inches below normal rainfall levels. Some meteorologists and other weather forecasters predict a dry season again this year. Watering restrictions are still in effect for watering plants from irrigation,

hose watering of plants or other mechanical sources; therefore, it is important that we conserve water for household uses only.

Some water use savings practices I have heard; wash dishes only when the dishwasher is full, use leftover water washing vegetables to water houseplants, catch rainwater from the house roof downspouts for plant watering purposes, and catch water from the air conditioning system to apply to plants. Don’t over water – be sure to water plants only as needed. Mulch all plants two to three inches to conserve

moisture, use a well-decomposed organic source such as a compost pile, well-aged pine straw, or hardwood leaf accumulations.

February is always the month for cleaning the home and surrounding after the trash leftover from the holidays and Winter.

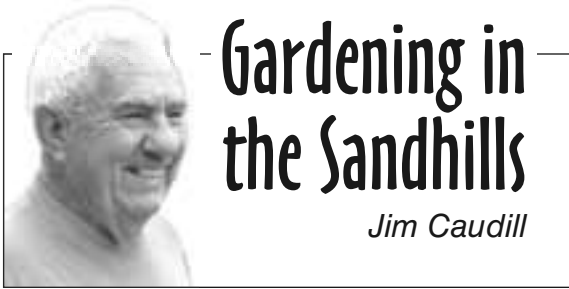
**Reminders for February:**

It’s time for a second application of fertilizer on your Fescue lawn. In the absence of a soil test, as a general recommendation, broadcast apply five pounds premium slow-release 10-

10-10, 16-4-8, or another lawn special analysis per 1,000 square feet. A Winter fertilizer weed-killer [weed and feed] lawn combination product, if used properly, will give satisfactory results for

Also fertilize with a liquid plant food.

Vegetable plantings for February are asparagus crowns, edible pod and garden peas, turnips, carrots, lettuce, radish, rutabagas, spinach seeds, cabbage plants, and Irish potato seed cuttings. Again, let’s hope we will get enough



Gardening in the Sandhills  
Jim Caudill

## Romance was in the air

by Norm Dyson  
Beacon Ridge CC

A year ago we starting working on Reminisce Deux, a dinner dance entertainment night. The culmination of our efforts was presented this past Valentine’s Day at the Beacon Ridge Country Club.

Local talent stepped forward to make the entertainment intermissions both professional and personal. The applause and laughter the performers received was heart-warming [a play on words] and sincere.

The comedians; Mike Foreman, Charlie Merical, Carole Skau, Bob MacGregor, and Susie Schlepper rang the bell with humorous anecdotes and snappy one-liners.

The dancers; Jim and Kay Haggard, Lionel and Clair Kuhn, Angie Huber and Lois Owen, Andy and Carol Mark, Paul Sowell and Candy Alderman, tripped

the light fantastic. They demonstrated the waltz, tango, synco-pating dance, cha cha, and mirror shag dance. The words describing them would be; fluid and smooth, hot and sensuous, synchronous and rhythmic, quick and lively, and intricate and tricky.

The singers; Ron Sickenberger, and Neil MacDonald, brought back pleasant memories with their interpretations of some of the old standards. Their renditions coupled with the candlelit ambiance provided just the right romantic atmosphere.

Last but not least was the backup gang; Bill Huber with his vast musical library helped us in selecting forty dance tunes, from over 700 possibilities.

Betsy Oliver Mikula designed the program cover and typed the program, making copies for one and all.

Jim Owen made arrangements

for Beacon Ridge to permanently expand the dance floor.

Jay Mikula, Dee Dick, and Fran Fellingham stapled, made bows, and put the programs together.

Glenn Davis provided the audio experience as well as bringing the evening to a close singing, “My Funny Valentine.”

If we missed anyone, chalk it up to senility. Without the group effort, it couldn’t have been done.

Thanks for the memories.

both practices.

Go ahead and plant any leftover Spring flowering bulbs as soon as possible. Shallow planting is recommended two to three inches in a protected barrier from voles, is deep enough. Bulbs planted now will bloom later in the Spring providing we get enough rainfall.

Check your garden tools and implements. Clean and sharpen them, and get them ready for use. Service your lawn mower, tiller, or other power tools, and make the necessary repairs.

Inspect your houseplants for pests and if treatment is necessary, take them outside on a warm day and spray with a recommended control pesticide.

rainfall and water supply to have successful landscape gardens.

Here is some information I recently received which should be of interest:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] found by placing two to three plants in an average-sized room can remove up to eighty-seven percent of air pollutants, according to Rebecca Kolls with the National Gardening Association.

Kolls recommended these plants for improving air quality in the home; Areca palm, Australian sword fern, Boston fern, dwarf-date palm, English ivy, Janet Craig dracaena, peace lily, reed palm, rubber plant, weeping fig.

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# SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 5)

he felt the more restrictive approval process should be triggered only when legal expenses were threatening to exceed budgeted levels.

"I like the idea that there is a heads-up on over budget expense, Director Laura Douglass said. "Whenever we are over budget on any line item there should be a notification to the Board."

Florence and Nuti agreed to work out language for the new policy that reflected Board member concerns and have a draft ready for a vote during the February 27 Business Meeting.

## Expense Reimbursement

The Board then turned to a second policy proposed by Florence, which would require advance Board approval for most expenses for which a Director expects to seek reimbursement from the Association.

Treasurer Hudson said he had spoken with the SLLA's auditing firm Dixon-Hughes and found that they have placed an outright ban on business lunches or dinners.

President Truesdell said he felt the Association should reimburse Directors for items like paper, ink cartridges, file folders, and binders purchased for Board business.

"I think a Director should be reimbursed for any expense out of pocket, as long as he provides receipts," Truesdell said. "It is unreasonable to expect that a director pay out of his pocket for expenses he incurs doing Board business."

Florence said that "doing volunteer work, sometimes, you just spend money." Stephan said she uses such expenses as a tax deduction.

Florence was charged with redrafting the policy so that it will be ready for a vote on February 27.

## Rules of conduct

Director Nuti once again asked that Directors work with him to draft rules of conduct that could be put into place before the next Board takes office after the Annual Meeting.

"We need something to govern ourselves. We need to get something in place for new Board coming on," Nuti said.

He asked other Board members to submit suggestions to him prior to the upcoming business meeting, when he plans to present a draft to be voted on.

## Drainage Policy

Director Stephan asked that the Board consider abandoning a drainage policy that dates back to the early 1990s. Passed by the SLLA Board during a time when repaving was underway and curbing was being installed, the policy says the Association will pay to correct drainage problems on private property when they are created by Association changes to paving and curbing.

Discussion of the policy has come to the fore because the SLLA maintenance crew had recently installed a storm drain on an undeveloped lot on Devonshire Avenue in Seven Lakes South.

"North Carolina is a caveat emptor state," Stephan argued, suggesting that the price of residential lots reflect existing drainage problems — and it should not be the responsibility of the Association to correct the problems and increase the value of the lots. Stephan said continuing the policy could ultimately result in substantial expense for the Association.

Though Stephan said she expected resistance to the change from Community Management, Dalton Fulcher said abandoning the policy would create no headaches for the office staff. "That works great for us, we'll just say, 'The Board said we don't do it.' It would cut down on the cost. Did the Association, by putting curbs in, damage some properties? Yes. Do we want to walk away from it? Okay."

"We are spending our money to improve private property," Treasurer Hudson said. "Some of these lots were bought as deals. They're looking for the Landowners to pay to fix up their lots for them. The policy should be done away with altogether."

"I agree we should remove the regulation," President Don Truesdell said.

That removal was placed on the agenda for the February 27 Business meeting.

## Ad-Hoc Committee

Stephan also proposed establishing an ad hoc committee that

would research and rewrite job descriptions for members of the SLLA staff.

"Having looked through the bylaws and the policies and procedures, I see that we have job descriptions," Stephan said. "I feel they are not sufficient. I would like to know exactly what some of these people are supposed to do, who supervises them, and who they supervise. I would like to have people sign up for a committee to research job descriptions."

Directors Randy Zielsdorf and Michael Florence volunteered to serve on the committee, as did Director Ed Nuti, who noted his professional background in human resources management.

## Employee bonuses

Treasurer Hudson brought up the subject of employee bonuses, which are budgeted at 1.5 percent of each person's salary. "Most businesses have shut down giving this kind of money," Hudson said. "I think the Board should revisit this, and it should be under the Board's direction."

Fulcher explained that the bonus, as currently configured, is "the old Christmas bonus. It is a Christmas present that has been on the books for the past 30 years." He noted that it started at three percent of annual salary but that had been cut in half some time ago.

"It has been SOP [standard operating procedure]," Nuti said, "so now the entire staff is dependent upon it. If we are getting more sophisticated, how about letting people earn the bonus. If they meet standards, then they would get the bonus."

"It should be evaluated," Hudson said. "Some type of committee — ad hoc or personnel — should look into this and decide at the appropriate time."

"I am wondering if the bonuses haven't outlived their usefulness," Randy Zielsdorf said. "If we want good management, we should pay good salaries. I think it is kind of obsolete. We're not a profit-making entity. I would be in favor of doing away with it. Why waste Board time on this?"

"If you are going to put it on a performance basis it would be impossible for the Board to do that," Fulcher said. "The Board has no idea about the performance of most of our employ-

ees."

"It is part of the pay that they expected to get," Fulcher continued. "The employees consider that part of their pay. They get it the first payday in December. You have a couple of options. If you just cut it, then you will be cutting their compensation a 1.5 percent. The recommendation a couple of years ago was to raise the base 1.5% and then cut the bonus out."

"If we do decide to do away with it, we should go back and review the salaries," President Truesdell said. "We have very dedicated employees. I wouldn't want to discourage them. The Board should go back and revisit the salaries before cutting the bonus."

He suggested tabling the issue for consideration by the new Board.

## Other Business

In other business the Board:

- Heard from Hudson that he and his wife Mary, as well as Tom and Roberta Robinson,

would be dropped as Plaintiffs in the lawsuit they filed with Alan Shaw to attempt to void an agreement between the SLLA and Seven Lakes Country Club [SLCC] concerning the development of the SLCC driving range.

- Heard from Nuti that copies of the rewritten SLLA Bylaws are available from the Landowners Office or for download on the Association website.
- Heard from Truesdell that he had suspended the SLLA Attorney's work to determine the validity of agreements that exempt Alan Shaw from the payment of dues on his Southside properties. "I should have consulted the Board before undertaking this engagement," Truesdell said. "I have suspended this investigation and will leave it up to the new Board to decide. To my knowledge the Association has not incurred any expense."

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

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# Farewell to a 7 Lakes original: Pete Sundheim

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Pete Sundheim was a friend of mine. Pete died a couple of weeks ago. Attending his memorial service, I realized that he was a friend to a whole lot of people.

I met Pete in the Spring of 1999. It was one of those perennial seasons of bad news in Seven Lakes. Folks were feuding about something or another and we, of course, were reporting their battles in *The Times*. I was getting the occasional call from a Realtor®, letting me know that all the bad press meant they couldn't include a copy of *The Times* in the marketing packets they sent out to prospective homebuyers.

It was a time not unlike the present.

I was sitting in *The Times*' office, then upstairs at 1008 Seven Lakes Drive, above The Property Center. I heard our notoriously squeaky door open and someone making his way up the stairs.

"You don't know me," he said. "I'm Pete Sundheim. I live on the South Side. I think it's about time your newspaper had something in it about why Seven Lakes is such a great place to live, instead of all this stuff you've been printing."

Then he invited me to his Triathlon

At the memorial service the other day, I noticed someone

had put up the poster from Pete's sixth annual Triathlon, in 2004. If I've done my math right, I reckon that means the one I attended in 1999 was the first.

I brought my camera, Pete offered me a beer, and Jimmy Carpenter fixed me up with a hamburger. There were two or three dozen guys there — all ages. Bob King, Major Coxhill,, Steven Sawyer, Steve Malone, Fred Lawrence — it's a long list.

These were the guys who participated in Pete's three darts leagues: the American League, the National League, and the Independents. I heard from somebody that they were really the old guys, the young guys, and who knows what else, but Pete figured it would be a more dignified scorecard if he fancied up the names.

Aside from the beer, hamburgers, and hot dogs, there was a well-manicured bocce court, a putting competition, and, inside in the basement, a darts tournament. Outside, Pete had a scoreboard where he tallied up points and worked out the calculus required to identify the overall winner.

Pete spent the evening shuffling from one venue to another, making sure everyone was having a good time — and making sure everyone was following the rules.

It was, as Pete had promised, a little window onto the beauty of Seven Lakes. I printed up a page

full of photos, wrapped a little copy around them, and printed it in *The Times*.

It was pretty gratifying, when I walked into the Chapel for Pete's memorial service, to see that he had that page matted and framed, and his kids brought it over to the church, to display along with the much more significant pictures of Pete in his WWII uniform, or playing with his children, and, later, his grandchildren.

After the Triathlon article came out, Pete became a regular in *The Times* office.

He'd wander in every day or so, visit for a few minutes, check his list, and then head over to Food Lion to pick something up for Jane — "Mrs. Pete," we called her.

He'd bring the latest newsletter put out by vets of the engineering battalion he served with in the Battle of the Bulge, share the jokes, and the obits. He'd pull a yellowed scrap of paper out of his wallet and share some gag that we'd seen dozens of times and he'd seen hundreds. And we'd laugh together all over again.

Pete adopted us, like he adopted folks all over Seven Lakes. He adopted us because he loved people and loved to help people put aside their worries for a minute or two and share a smile.

I can just see Pete fishing a worn leather wallet out of his robe and showing St. Pete the

one about the donkey and tomato — and I'd wager the guy with the keys to those pearly gates will be tickled to meet a namesake with such an irrepressible sense of humor.

It was dark times in Seven Lakes that brought Pete Sundheim into our lives — like a ray of sunshine breaking through storm clouds.

And it's dark times again.

But looking around the Chapel

at Pete's memorial service I saw plenty of "old guys" that were Pete's comrades, plenty of "young guys" that were his heirs. And I knew then that we'd weather this storm.

Seven Lakes could use more Pete Sundheims. But when they made Pete, they broke the mold.

Fortunately for us, Pete spent his whole life molding his own heirs, by hand, one at a time.



Pete Sundheim

## Slippery roads made for a messy morning

The highlight for January occurred on Tuesday morning, January 22. The temperature was around the twenty-five degree mark and at approximately 8:00 am some rain clouds passed over the northern part of Moore County creating black ice which turned the roads, particularly NC-211, into one big hockey rink.

In less than two hours, the 911 center received 648 calls! Most of these were ice related such as automobile wrecks and pedestrians falling on the ice. Your emergency services were extremely busy during that period.

We thank all of those resi-

dents that decided to turn around and go home and wait it out. Emergency vehicles had as much difficulty getting through as those people who were caught by surprise.



### Standing Watch

Robert L Haan

The statistics for the month of January are:  
Total calls responded: 42

Total ambulance responses: 21  
Total ambulance transports: 5  
Average response time: 5.26 minutes

The 2008 Seven Lakes EMS Telephone Books are now available for purchase at \$6.00 per copy. You can purchase them at the Seven Lakes EMS building at 714 Seven Lakes Drive, The Seven Lakes West

Landowner's office, and the Seven Lakes Landowner's office. This project is our largest fund

raiser. It is produced by a committee of Seven Lakes citizens under the direction of Doreen and Art Smith of Pineneedle Drive in Seven Lakes North. We appreciate all of the support that the committee and the community have given us.

Art and Doreen Smith will be

moving from Seven Lakes sometime this Spring and we need to find someone to replace them. If you are looking for a great way to contribute to Seven Lakes, call Bob Haan at 673-8001 to volunteer for this opportunity. The committee exists but we need someone to coordinate it.

## Seven Lakes GOP to Meet

Chairman Bud Shaver of the Seven Lakes Republican Precinct will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 pm at the Seven Lakes Fire Department.

The purpose of this meeting is to approve a recommended slate of officers and elect delegates and alternates for the County Convention on March 29.

# SLLA Elections

## The Times interviews SLLA Candidates

Over the past two weeks, *The Times* met with each of the ten candidates for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors in our office. We asked each the same set of questions, which were not given to the candidates in advance of our interviews. The pages that follow reflect as accurately as we are able just what the candidates told us.

Because the candidates are being asked to discuss their backgrounds during the SLLA Candidates' Night scheduled for Monday, February 25, we have provided a minimum of information of that type here. We will report on Candidates' Night in our March 7 edition.

### Our Questions

Here are the questions we posed to the candidates:

1. What, specifically, caused you to run for the Board this year? What, specifically, do you hope to accomplish?

2. SLLA Directors have taken to calling their Board "dysfunctional." Despite pleas from community members and former directors, meetings continue to include acrimonious exchanges among Board members and pro-

posed amendments to Bylaws and policies that appear to be aimed at particular Directors. Former Director JoAn Moses told the Board, "Our community does not need to be embarrassed any longer by our landowner Board of Directors." What can the Board do, and what will you do, personally, to ensure that the new board is a functional rather than a dysfunctional board and that it is no longer, in JoAn Moses' words, an embarrassment to the community?

4. Let's envision a hypothetical situation here — but one that Board members within the few years have found themselves facing, first over the Company Police issue and more recently over the SLCC Driving range. The Board is confronted with making a critical, controversial decision. You feel strongly that your side is not only right, but that the opinion held by the other side is damaging to the community. Your side loses, in a four-to-three vote. What do you do?

5. Are Seven Lakes North and South a better place to live now than they were five years ago? Why or why not?

6. Seven Lakes County Club has proposed selling its driving range so that homes can be built there. Are you for or against that proposal? Is it any business of the Association or members of the community who are not members of the club?

7. For a number of years, all meetings of the Board of Directors have been open to the public, except those dealing specifically with personnel or legal issues. Because recent Board meetings have become so acrimonious, some have suggested that the Board should do more of its work behind closed doors. If elected, would you support a motion to close some or all Board work sessions? Why or why not?

8. If elected, which of the various jobs on the Board would you be most interested in?

Finally, we asked several candidates specific questions that have been raised in the community regarding their previous service on the Board, their ability to work together, and possible conflicts of interest.

### Bud Shaver

Retired Major General Manila G. (Bud) Shaver retired to Seven Lakes in 1990 after a career that included both active and reserve duty with the US Army.

His civilian career included stints as a chemical engineer, salesman, and marketing manager and concluded in St. Paul, MN, where he managed the 3M Company's Resource Recovery Department.



Bud Shaver

### 1. Why run?

Shaver told *The Times* he had been prompted to stand for election because of the community's "dismay with the inaction of the board and the public display of personal antagonism and agendas."

"This may be the most critical vote ever faced by this Association," he added.

Seven Lakes is made up of two primary groups, Shaver said, retirees who purchased a retirement home in the community and young working people, for many of whom their home in Seven Lakes is their first home. "It represents a major investment regardless of which group you belong to," he noted. "The reputation, appearance, function of operations of the community have a direct impact on the value of those homes."

"The board has to take a look at a long range plan," Shaver continued, "not just at this year. Five years is a good start, but they'll need to look out ten years ultimately."

"To do that we need a Board that has maturity, discipline, and civility. Talk it out among yourselves rather than have disagreements become a public issue. I also feel that the Board periodically should have some closed sessions, so that no one is playing to the audience."

"We will have other developments in our area that are going to be competitive in the marketplace when we want to sell our homes," Shaver said. "There is going to be some competition and, as an association, we have to be prepared to meet it."

### 2. Repairing the Board

"I can't do that entirely by myself," Shaver responded, when asking how would go about making the Board more functional. But added that he could provide an example of discipline, maturity and civility."

"I may not agree with somebody. I can say that, but let's talk about it. To say the other

(Continued on page 20)

## Michael Florence lays out his positions

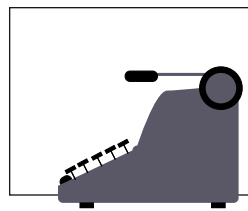
I am seeking a second term as an elected Director of the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association.

I feel that during the last two years I have given much of my time to serving on this volunteer board. I feel that this board has accomplished many of the things that I originally felt that I could help them do,

There are still many things that need looking at here in Seven Lakes, but with your help I can continue to volunteer to help serve this wonderful community that I and my family call home:

Some of the things I hope to accomplish when I am re-elected will be:

A comprehensive review of every employee we currently have here in Seven Lakes. We need to look closely



### Your Turn

Michael Florence  
SLLA Board  
Candidate

at our administration, and also our maintenance department. There needs to be a better system for assigning tasks for our maintenance personnel, for tracking their work, and for improved follow-up by our administration. Establish a Long Range Plan-

ning Committee [like Dave Kinney and the Small Area A Planning] — with no board members on this committee.

Task the committee with establishing five, ten, twenty, twenty-five, and fifty year goals for Seven Lakes. Then present

their findings to the board and work to implement their suggestions. We may need to fund this group so they can have adequate resources to do the job.

To meet and work closely with the board of the Westside, and the residents of McLendon Hills,

West End, and Jackson Springs. The purpose to these alliances would be to present to the county government of Moore County a unified front on our water issues. We face the real possibility of critical water issues this Summer, and beyond, and the time to take action is now.

These are just some of the ideas that I have and would like your help to implement them during my next term. I ask you for your vote, and I say "Thank You" in advance.

[The Times welcomes position statements from candidates. They should be limited to 500 words. The deadline for our March 7 issue is 5:00 pm on Friday, February 29].

# SLWLA Elections

Seven Lakes Times  
February 22, 2008

## Westside candidates talk to *The Times*

Over the past two weeks, The Times met with each of the five candidates for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

We asked each the same set of questions, which were not given to the candidates in advance of our interviews. The pages that follow reflect as accurately as we are able just what the candidates told us.

Because the backgrounds and qualifications of the candidates have already been well-covered in the SLWLA Newsletter and in our report on Candidates' Night, we have not repeated that information here.

### Our Questions

Here are the questions we posed to the candidates:

1. What, specifically, caused you to run for the Board this year?

2. What, specifically, do you hope to accomplish?

3. There has been some debate in the community about the remediation of the Lake Auman dam. Some folks have asked about the credentials of SLWLA's dam engineer, Dan Marks. Other folks have suggested bringing in another engineer for a second opinion. Some folks are concerned that the remediation strategy that has been chosen has been selected with the assumption that Longleaf Drive will never be re-opened across the dam; they want to know whether a different strategy would allow the road to be reopened. Even one director questioned whether Marks should have been invited to make a presentation to the Board and/or the membership before the decision was reached — or afterwards, to ease the community's worries. What do you think? Was this decision handled in exactly the right way? What would you have done differently? If elected to the Board, what will you do to ease concerns in the community about the dam remediation and the closing of Longleaf across the dam?

4. Are additional recreational

amenities something that should be on the SLWLA planning horizon? The community recently had a debate about the creation of a trail ringing Longleaf; the Board has deferred action on that one. Other folks have suggested that there need to be more boat slips, either at Johnson Point or someplace else. Does the community need more recreational amenities? What kind? And where should that rank in the list of priorities?

5. How much is too much when it comes to dues? At candidates night, it seemed most candidates were comfortable with incremental annual increases as a way to build reserves. But when are those increases too much? Residents of Beacon Ridge and the Pinnacles have seen their dues rise by twelve percent every year since 2002. Do folks look at dues levels when they are deciding if they want to buy property in a community? If so, should Seven Lakes West be the most expensive, the least expensive, or somewhere in the middle of Moore County Communities? Or should what other communities charge even be a consideration?

6. We've heard a lot about building reserves in anticipation of future capital needs. And we've even heard about special assessments. What about borrowing? When does it make sense to borrow money to pay for capital projects?

### Ron Shepard

#### 1. Why run?

"I had the time, and the desire. I want to be involved," Ron Shepard told *The Times* when we asked why he's running for the Board. "I've been thoroughly involved in a lot of different community activities in the three years we've been here: golf, tennis, sailing, the Sports Club, creating fish habitat . . . I've been involved with a broad range of the community. I think I can

offer a broad perspective of the ideas and the kinds of things that people are looking for. I was asked last year to run, but I thought it was too soon. Now that I have been here a while, I thought I would take a shot at it."

#### 2. Accomplish what?

"I'd be good at Architectural Review, which Bill Mamel will be leaving" Shepard said when asked what he hoped to accomplish if elected. "I think I can do that well. Without chasing things down specifically, I would like to continue the work the Board has done in a positive manner since the last election: open communications, watching the budget, getting along with each other, and taking the community forward in a positive direction. With my people manage-



Ron Shepard

ment skills and broad base of contacts in the community, I believe I can take that forward."

#### 3. Dam Remediation?

"As I said at candidates night, leave it to the experts," Shepard replied when asked about the process of selecting a dam remediation strategy. "There is no one in our community who has any real idea as to how that works. My understanding is that Marks is the preeminent expert — that he teaches other dam engineers. That doesn't mean we shouldn't look further. But a lot of time and energy has gone into

the process already."

"In terms of openness, it would not hurt with communications to have a presentation by Marks at an association meeting," Shepard added. "Let the questions come out, let him address them, and let the facts come out. Let the people hear their answers from a true professional."

"Some people's only access to the lake was going over the dam to see the beauty of it," Shepard noted. "I really feel for those people. But the welfare of the community comes first. If there's a way to open the road, fine; if not, fine. We accept it, buy in, and move on."

#### 4. Recreational amenities?

"Probably the answer is yes, at some point we are going to need more recreational amenities in the community as we grow," Shepard told *The Times*. "There are more young families coming in that are going to be looking for more amenities. I don't have a boat slip, but I use the lake to sail, motorboat, and waterski. I have a good feel for things that need to be done to make it better for people."

"I have talked with some of the old-timers who have looked at some of these projects — like adding slips," Shepard said. "It sounds easy, but it doesn't make sense to look at adding them near the beach — where you have problems with oil spills, wave action, and so on. So I think we are stuck with what we have for now."

In terms of other things, it is time to get the long range plan in writing. The LRP Committee has put in a lot of work and put in a lot of effort, but the community doesn't know what it is. It's time to get it writing, put dollars on it, assign priorities, and get it out in front of the community."

#### 5. Dues levels

"I wouldn't worry about the other communities, because we are quite different from them," Shepard said when asked if Seven Lakes West needs to

have competitive dues levels. "What other community has a lake? Our golf course is great. Our community offers more than a lot of these others, so we don't have to compare our dues to them."

"Could dues get too high? Probably at some point, but a few percentage points a year won't put a strain on anybody. If we have a long range plan in place, then we know where we are going. The community can say 'This is where we want to go and we're willing to pay for it.'

"Over the past several years the Boards have done us all a disservice by holding dues exactly where they were, so now we might be looking at larger increases instead of a couple bucks a year."

#### 6. Borrowing for projects?

"I would think that would be the last thing that we would want to do — start paying interest on something," Shepard said when asked about borrowing to fund capital projects. "I would rather pay more on a dues increase and have that go into a worthwhile project than have it go into some banker's account. I see borrowing as the absolute last resort."

#### Other thoughts

"I want to note the broad background I have and the broad group of people I have been associated with here," Shepard said when asked for additional thoughts. "I offer a broad perspective, believe in giving everyone a shot, and would like to see the board continue forward in a congenial fashion, minding the Ps and Qs and watching our dollars."

### Dr. Lionel Kuhn

#### 1. Why run?

"I want to be of service to the community," Dr. Lionel Kuhn told *The Times*, when we asked why he is running for the Board. "I've

(Continued on page 16)

# The Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 15)

lived here for a long time, seen a number of changes in the community and the amenities and, by virtue of my dental practice, become friends with a great many people. I have deep roots in this community."

## 2. Accomplish what?

Asked what he hoped to accomplish if elected, Kuhn said, "I would like to encourage the further development of Seven Lakes West and continue with the evenhanded approach that Jim Haggard has brought to the Board. Even though there are issues that are going to be emotional to many people, I would hope that differing approaches can be taken without personalizing issues and making good guys and bad guys."

## 3. Dam Remediation?

"The first thing that has to be done is evaluate several proposals to fix the dam," Kuhn said when asked about the best approach to the dam remediation. "I wouldn't go to just one individual and have what is essentially a no-bid contract issued. The fall-back is that the dam must be approved by the state. They are the final arbiter."

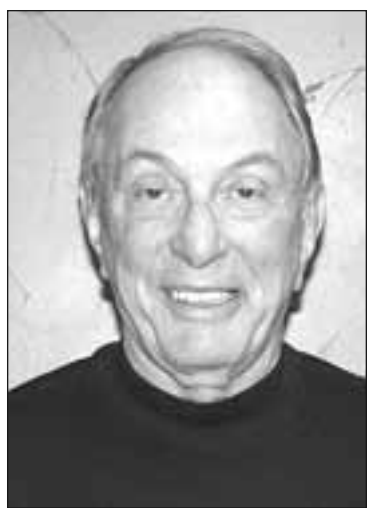
"Once that is done, the community should be able to question the group that is going to fix the dam and ask questions about the effects of traffic. If traffic is to be allowed, how will it be controlled with regard to truck traffic? How long can we expect the fix to remain in effect? How long can the dam be expected to be in good working condition without traffic and with traffic? Then the Board and the community can make their decision from that."

"If it turns out every five years you have to spend \$300,000 because you are allowing cars over it then that's something you should know. I am in favor of Ray [MacKay]'s suggestion that whoever does the work be available to answer questions from the community."

## 4. Recreational amenities?

The area that I would agree with is more boat slips," Kuhn said when asked about planning for more recreational amenities. "Those slips were originally

designed for five spokes on the wheel. From what I understand there is a long waiting list to get a boat slip. It does offer remuneration from the landowners who rent the slips, so I would



Dr. Lionel Kuhn

think that more boat slips is something that we should consider."

## 5. Dues levels

"It's hard to answer that," Kuhn replied when asked about dues levels. "I don't know what people pay in Pinewild and elsewhere, so can't answer from that point of view."

"The most important thing we have to do now is that Pinnacles and Beacon Ridge have to be brought up to parity. As it is now, we can't levy an assessment because they have to be levied equally throughout the community. It can't be done until everyone is brought in line with Seven Lakes West."

"No one can forecast the future, so it is difficult to come up with a plan for dues increases, because I don't know what we are going to come up against next. We may find a section of road that has to be repaired ahead of schedule."

"The dam has to be considered a living thing and it is going to change. It's really difficult to forecast that. I would hope the community would appreciate what must be done and would go along with whatever spending is necessary to keep our community desirable and intact."

## 6. Borrowing for projects?

"It makes sense to borrow for projects when you don't have enough reserves to cover and

you have no choice," Kuhn told *The Times*. "It's got to be cheaper to spend your money than borrowing it from the bank."

Other thoughts?

"I liked what *The Times* had to say about not having the politics get personal," Kuhn said in conclusion. "We are all neighbors here."

## Karen Milligan

### 1. Why run?

"I look around the community, and I look at the Board of Directors, and I see that there's a little piece of the puzzle missing," Karen Milligan said when asked why she is running for the Board. "Our community isn't just made up anymore of semi-retired and retired members."

"We are attracting families, working families with college

and high school kids."

"I am involved in the community anyway, and I felt I could bring a little different viewpoint, help unite the community. I get along great with retirees, on the other hand," Milligan said both the Recreation Committee, on which she serves, and the Beaconettes golf group, which she serves as President, include both retirees and non-retirees.

(Continued on page 17)

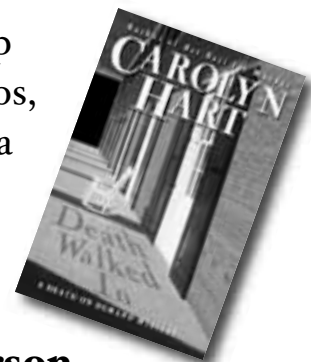
## Meet Mystery Writer Carolyn Hart



Join us for lunch at  
Seven Lakes Country Club

Tuesday, April 1, 11:30 – 12:30 pm

As a guest of Seven Lakes Kiwanis, Bookshop by the Lakes, and the Seven Lakes Book Clubs, best-selling author Carolyn Hart will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the mystery-writer's craft and sign copies of her just-released novel *Death Walked In*.



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Please complete and detach the reservation form below. Mail it with your check for \$12 to **Pat Weber**, 2041 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 16)

## 2. Accomplish what?

"I don't really have an agenda," Milligan said when asked what she hopes to accomplish if elected. "I would like the community to be able to have as much information as possible about the working of our Board of Directors and how decisions get made. So I'd like to continue to work on the Communications Committee. That group is a great group of people who are very motivated. They are interested in getting information out in an impartial way. Just the facts."



**Karen Milligan**

"I don't have an agenda," Milligan said. "I'm not here to promote driving across the dam; I'm not here to promote raising dues to build reserves. I'm not a political player. I just want to make good decisions for the community."

## 3. Dam Remediation?

Asked whether the dam reme-

diation decision was handled appropriately, Milligan replied, "The job of the Board is to make informed decisions that best benefit the community." Noting that she attended the Work Session at which Lakes and Dams Director Mary Anne Fewkes explained the process used to select the best remediation option, Milligan said she believed that process was a good one.

"But I agreed with Mr. [Ray] MacKay, that, once the decision was made, given the fact that we are spending \$300,000 or more of the community's money, a simple, factual presentation, would be something that should be done. Don't think it should be a debatable issue, but it should be question and answer. I think the community is interested enough to hear what is going to happen."

"The way the decision was made is not an issue," Milligan reiterated. "You don't put everything out for a survey. We elected people to make factual informed sensible decisions. At the end of the day the community should be able to hear how the decision was made in full presentation."

"I would agree with Mr. McKay: I think we should have Dan Marks come and give an informative presentation of scenarios and timelines."

## 4. Recreational amenities?

"I would love to see lots of recreational amenities" Milligan said when asked if these should figure into the community's plans. "I think at the end of the day I

equate the community budget to a household budget. There are lots of things I would like to have, but first I have to take care of the hot water heater or the roof."

"I believe you save for recreational amenities, like a family saving for vacation. All the niceties that would be lovely to have in the community, have to go down on the list with road paving and dam repair — all the things that are coming. Let's take a little savings approach and put a little away and a little away, and then, at some point you have enough saved to extend the swimming pool hours."

"I'm not for or against Loop the Lake. I have no agenda there. I want nice things too, but you have to take care of business first."

The Recreation Committee is thrilled right now to actually have a budget. We're thrilled that the Board has given us a few thousand dollars. We already have a great Christmas Party, and other great events. Now we can do more — maybe a Monte Carlo night, more sand at Johnson Point, new picnic tables up at the children's play area."

## 5. Dues levels

"I don't think about how much is too much, and I don't think

about how much it costs to live in Pinehurst, Pinewild, and Seven Lakes North and South," Milligan said when asked whether dues levels should be in line with surrounding communities.

"It has to depend on what we need for our community. It has to be reasonable and has to be based on cost of living — everything is going up. I don't know that I can put a number on it. Twenty years from now hard to say what cost of living will be."

Milligan said every family has a budget, and dues increases have to be made with common sense. "A lot of people only have some much per year to spend on community dues. So we have to look at expenses. It all comes back to prioritizing."

Referring to budget cuts the Board found but did not implement, Milligan said, \$110,000 is a lot of money — one-tenth of the budget — but I don't want to take away all the niceties. When I pay my dues, I want to see something concrete — fresh sand, a concrete bench, little flowers at the front gate."

## 6. Borrowing for projects?

Noting that she is "not an accountant anything like that," Milligan said she had, as a member of the Communications Com-

mittee, interviewed Treasurer Kathy Kirst and asked about borrowing as a funding strategy.

I asked "When does it make sense to pay off the loan on the Community Center and borrow against that asset?" Milligan said. "It turns out to be a very complicated question that takes a lot more research than a few moments. It is a really complicated question that takes research and scenario-building

(Continued on page 18)

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# The Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 17)

to answer. So I am not prepared to answer that right now."

## Other thoughts

"At the end of the day, I'm just me," Milligan said when asked if she had anything else to say. "I'm a pretty straightforward honest person. I get along with most everyone. I'm out there to do something beneficial. My family is here for the long haul. This is it for us. We'll move from Otter up to the golf course at some point. We're here, and we're staying."

## Jim Johnson

### 1. Why run?

"I'm interested in the community," Jim Johnson said when asked why he was running for the Board. "I thought that was something I could make a contribution to. After I bought my lot in 2005, I went on the Internet to keep up on the community. Looking at the Wildlife Resource Commission [WRC] issue, I decided I wanted to watch what happened there. I watched closely, I go to meetings, I pay attention. I believe things could be done better. I'm ready to make that effort."

### 2. Accomplish what?

"What I want to do is help the Board weed through what I think is a lot of indecision," Johnson said when asked what he hoped to accomplish if elected. "Like the

dam. I don't think WRC was handled as well as it could have been — but that's done."

Other things on the Board's agenda include developer rights and the gatehouse, mail delivery, protecting the lake, Johnson said. "You have to step up to the bar, say we've got a problem, how are we going to fix this? Let's do it and get on with it."



Jim Johnson

You don't judge progress by whether you have problems," Johnson said, "but by whether you have the same problems today that you had last year."

### 3. Dam Remediation?

"I think there needs to be more communication with the residents about what we are doing," Johnson said when asked about the Lake Auman remediation.

"Are we headed in the right general direction? Probably so, but we haven't had Marks come and talk to us."

"Some people probably don't want the road reopened across the dam," Johnson said, "but having it closed, it divides the community into two. Some way should be had to bypass it or open the dam road. Nobody has shown the technical reasons why it should be closed."

"There is a letter from Marks that says, 'since you can't control the traffic and you can't control the speeding close the road.' I'm continuing to research the issue. There's no lack of qualified dam engineers in this country."

"The more information you disseminate," Johnson said, "the fewer questions and concerns there are that maybe somebody is hiding something . . . If elected, I would be proactive in telling the community about all the critical things that are going on. The last thing you want is for someone to hear something through the grapevine and go make a foolish issue of it."

### 4. Recreational amenities?

Asked about additional recreational amenities, Johnson said the Board should look at ways to make them pay for themselves. "Boat docks — you lease them, they pay for themselves. If not boat docks, how about mooring buoys. Absolutely. Somehow

they should pay for themselves — should be self-sustaining."

"Johnson Point should pay for itself, between rental and boat docks," he added. "The Community Center ought to be self-sustaining. I think we need to look at what the people want. Our demographics are primarily retired, but there are lots of young families moving in. We have a nice playground. And there are plans for a nature trail behind the Community Center."

### 5. Dues levels

Asked whether it is important for Seven Lakes West to have dues levels competitive with neighboring communities, Johnson said, "We didn't look at it, because my perception was that the dues structure came along with the price of the house. In other words, the higher-priced neighborhoods have more

amenities and higher dues."

"There's is a valid concern about dues," he added. "Retired people have more fixed income and less ability to absorb increases. We need to get parity across the community so we have the flexibility to do what needs to be done."

### 6. Borrowing for projects?

"It's always an alternative," Johnson said when asked about borrowing to fund SLWLA capital needs. "Sometimes you go borrow. If you really look at it, it's probably the same either way. If you are going to ask people to pay \$200 more a year to build reserves, doesn't bother me, if it's for a project. I would have trouble borrowing money for operating expenses."

## Other thoughts

(Continued on page 19)

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# The Times interviews Westside candidates

(Continued from page 18)

If elected, Johnson said, he plans to "listen to everybody; try to do what I think is right."

## Ed Silberhorn

### 1. Why run?

"I felt like I should volunteer to give back to the community," Ed Silberhorn said when asked why he is running for the Board. "This is a wonderful community. I believe I have expertise that might be helpful to the Board. We are lucky to have a nine person Board, which gives us the luxury of having some support spots, like legal, and finance. I have had a lot of experience doing just that, being a town attorney and an attorney for Community Associations. I wasn't going to run, because Hugh [Beckwith] was the incumbent and doing a fine job. Once Hugh announced he wouldn't be standing for re-election, I felt I could help fill to void created by his leaving the Board."

### 2. Accomplish what?

Asked what he hopes to accomplish on the Board if elected, Silberhorn said, "I hope just

to support the Board and make sure that the legal affairs are professionally handled. I'd like to create a legal affairs committee to really put together a talent pool of past judicial people, past legal affairs people, and past community advocates, to make sure we have consensus on



Ed Silberhorn

those issues."

Silberhorn said he also hopes to create a legal archive for the Association. "Currently, our documents are spread all over south Moore County and Raleigh in different legal offices and people's homes," Silberhorn said. "I want

to get all those pulled together so we can make decisions based on our history."

### 3. Dam Remediation?

"I believe in open government," Silberhorn said, when asked whether the community needs more information about the planned remediation of the Lake Auman dam, noting that he was a town attorney in Florida, the state that pioneered open government "sunshine laws."

"Everything has been handled quite well to date," Silberhorn said of the dam repair plans. "It would be appropriate to have Dr. Marks come and speak to the community and answer questions so that people are comfortable with his recommendations and can test them and judge them. More information is always appropriate in a democratic group. I would favor having him here and having a hearing where he explains his process. That way we can get behind his recommendations and, if we see flaws, get a second opinion. From what I hear, he is the preeminent expert in the state."

### 4. Recreational amenities?

"I know the long range planning

committee includes recreational amenities in its planning," Silberhorn said when asked whether they should be on the Westside agenda. "To my knowledge it does not have any large scale recreational amenities prioritized, given the budgetary issues and reserves issues."

"We are a community that lends itself to recreation," Silberhorn added. "I would listen to any proposals and judge them by community interests and feasibility with regard to cost and maintenance."

### 5. Dues levels

"I think dues levels really need to be fiscally prudent in these economic times," Silberhorn replied when asked if dues can get to high. "We need to do what we can to keep expenses down and not spend money unnecessarily. We have to accumulate dues for essential things like dams and road repaving."

"Beyond that, the volunteers do a great job on things like recreation and beautification," Silberhorn noted. Because we are blessed with wonderful volunteered we can get away with less dues increases than we otherwise might in order to maintain the quality that we all desire."

### 6. Borrowing for projects?

"The planned Community Act prohibits borrowing absent a vote of the members," Silberhorn said when asked whether borrowing is an option for funding community capital needs. "I believe it's eighty percent, to the extent you want a collateralized loan. To the extent that you are going to want to have an uncollateralized loan, the board could do that assuming it's provided for in the articles of organization."

"I don't believe it is appropriate in most instances to borrow,"

(See "Westside," p. 20)

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 14)

guy's idea doesn't have merit is disrespectful."

"I for one will not tolerate from the Board or the audience, any name calling," Shaver said. "If it happens, I will turn to the president and say, 'Stop right now.' That kind of thing is uncalled for, unnecessary, and improper."

## 3. Handling split decisions

"I'd have to accept it," Shaver replied, when asked how he would respond to losing an important vote on the Board. "We live in a democracy."

"If there is a vote contrary to my position, I have two choices. Once choice is to say 'Okay, the majority rules.' If I cannot live with that, then I resign. The latter choice, in a way, is sort of a grandstand position," Shaver added.

"If elected, I am elected to do a job. If the vote goes counter to my wishes, I have to accept it and work with it."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"That's a good question," Shaver said when asked whether Seven Lakes is a better place to live than it was five years ago. "For whatever reason, dissension has arisen within the community — whatever the cause. And if we're going to move forward, we're going to have to set aside the creators or the cause of that dissension. If we don't we're never going to get anything done."

The dissension in the community threatens to drive a wedge between those who are members of the Country Club and those who are not, he added. "That's unfair. For people who are not

members to view those who are members as enemies, when they are neighbors, is just plain wrong."

"Whatever the cause is, it has to be set aside," Shaver said. "If the future Board cannot operate without that friction still existing, it might as well step down, too."

## 5. Driving range issue

When asked about his support for developing the SLCC driving range, Shaver said, "The club, for financial reasons, had no choice but to relocate the driving range, because of the potential for an accident and a lawsuit that would destroy not only the Country Club but impact the Association, too. To accomplish the relocation would mean the sale of the existing range to pay for what they are doing."

"There's good cause for people to be concerned about what is going to be built there," Shaver added. "But the agreement that was reached, set aside a potentially disastrous lawsuit for both the Club and the Association."

"The developer who buys that property will have to work with the Architectural Review Board on what is going to go there," he noted, adding "The current appearance is not all that attractive by itself."

Shaver said the development of the driving range is now a matter before the court, and "if the court denies the plaintiffs pleas, then the Club members will have to decide if they want to sell it."

"Those folks with no interest in the country club should realize it is the Club that brings new people into the community,"

Shaver said. "Over 3,000 a year come in to play golf. These are the people that are going to buy your home, but not if the only thing [Times Editor] Greg Hankins publishes is dissension between the Club and the Association!"

## 6. Closed meetings

"I think the members should be present at the business meeting," Shaver replied when asked about closed meetings. "I think some of the work sessions should be closed. There are going to be differences of opinion among board members, which is healthy, as long as it doesn't become acrimonious."

The Board needs some closed sessions "so they can lower their hair, debate, and shake hands once agreement is reached," Shaver said. "How do you reach an agreement in front of an audience who all have their own opinion about what you should do?"

"The Board should go off site without an audience spend the

day putting together a five year plan on what needs to be done," Shaver said. "We don't need an audience when we do that — It cannot be done in front of an audience."

## Denny Galford

Denny Galford spent his career with the Internal Revenue Service, first in Ohio and then in Kentucky. An Ohio native, he graduated from the University of Akron and spent two years with the US Army in Panama.

The Galfords retired to Seven Lakes in 2000. He has served for six years on the Board of Seven Lakes Country Club, including stints as President, Secretary and Treasurer. Galford told *The Times* that he will be resigning from the Country Club Board in order to devote time to serving the Association.

## 1. Why run?

"What caused me to run is that I feel I have the ability to sit down with people, get along

with them, and work through problems and disagreements to come up with solutions," Galford told *The Times*.

The current members of the SLLA Board "are all good board members, but they aren't working together as a unit," he explained.

He noted that his son's family has purchased a lot in Seven Lakes and will soon be part of the community, giving Galford an

(Continued on page 21)

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## Westside

(Continued from page 19)

Silberhorn said, "absent an emergency situation. With long range planning, budgeting, and dues management, to have to pay interest is something I would like to avoid. On the reserves issue, all the way up and down the East Coast every other state in the Sunbelt requires by law that communities have reserves. Though we don't have that law, it is still incumbent on us to use common sense to make sure we do reserve appropriately."

## Other thoughts

"I like to listen and learn from the community and the existing Board members," Silberhorn said, when asked if he had anything else to discuss. "

We have a fine Board. I would like to be supportive. I don't see myself as the Indian chief I see myself as Tonto — just trying to help out. I want to maintain as nice a community as we already have."

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 20)

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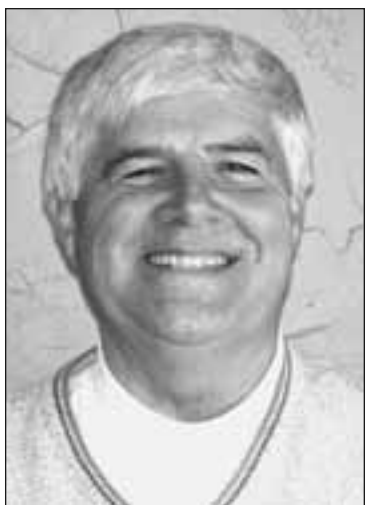
## 2. Repairing the Board.

Galford described the history of the SLLA Board over time as swinging on a pendulum. "Now we have gone too far to one side," he said. We need to return to a closed work session. We should invite the press, so that the community is informed about what the Board is doing. But a closed work session lets Board members sit around the table to informally discuss issues openly."

The Board shouldn't vote in closed session, Galford added. Votes should be taken in open session. With both the work session and the business meeting open to the public, he said, "Board members are sitting there addressing the public, rather than addressing each other. What we have are two open meetings with Board members throwing darts at each other."

Having only open meetings means that Board members "don't have the opportunity to voice their opinions, so they can't work out solutions" Galford said. "The larger the crowd that is at an open meeting, the more inclined people are to stand fast with a commitment rather than openly discuss alternatives."

"But I do think votes should be handled in open session," he added.



Denny Galford

## 3. Handling split decisions

Asked how he would handle losing on an important issue in a four-to-three vote, Galford provided a simple succinct reply, "You're on the board. It's a majority vote. You support the decision of the board."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"Yes. They are as good as they ever were," Galford responded when asked whether Seven Lakes North and South are a better place to live than they were five years ago. "The community hasn't declined in any perspective."

"It can improve," he added. "It

has aged. We do need a face lift. Dogwood, when you drive in, as a first impression is bad. Sections of Hastings are uneven. We do need to present a very attractive first impression. Updating can do that. Look at the playgrounds. They are great, but they are the old style. When my grandkids come to visit, they are used to playground equipment like they have on the West Side."

"You've got to make that first

impression," Galford continued. "With the population we have, we're going to have a major turnover in property in the coming years. We want people moving in who are going to share the pride we have in the community. Connie and I have enjoyed it, and we want our son to have the same opportunity."

## 5. Driving range issue

As an SLCC Board member,

Galford has been intimately involved in plans for the new driving range — and negotiations concerning the old one.

"From day one we sat down with the Association to discuss our plans," Galford told *The Times* when asked about the plan to develop the range. "It is the Country Club's property; the community cannot control it. But the Country Club receives members from the community, and

(Continued on page 26)

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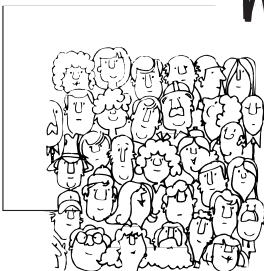
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- **Drought Tolerant Plants Presentation** – 10:30 am – Noon, Pinehurst Village Hall, located at 395 Magnolia Road. Sponsored by the Pinehurst Conservation Commission Greenway Wildlife Habitat Committee, Master Gardeners Dolores Muller and Mike Zihal will provide specific information on plants that survive well under drought conditions and which perennials, annuals, trees, and shrubs are suitable for spring planting. The event is open to the public at no charge. Information 673-4239.
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## What's When Calendar

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- **Sandhills Natural History Society Meeting** – 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Road, Southern Pines. Mike Dunn, educator & photographer from the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, will present a program on Yellowstone National Park Visitors are welcome. Information

692-2167 or visit www.sandhillsnature.org.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- **Maier's Open House Farewell Party** – 2 pm – 4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. All are invited to this special farewell party Open House in honor of Ray and Dodie Maier.
- **Methodist University Chorale Performance** – 6 pm, West End United Methodist Church. In addition to singing by the students, performance will include one or two pieces by accompanist, Dr. Scott Marosek.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- **SLLA Candidates Night** – 7 pm, West Side Park Commu-

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – Noon, Seven Lakes Country Club. Guest speakers: Jill Brown, RRT, and Alyson Campbell, RRT, of Carolinas Pulmonary Rehab. Visitors are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

- **Personal Safety Training** – 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. The Moore County Sheriff's Department presents an informative demonstration on effective techniques for staying safe. A free program. Reservations 215-0900.
- **Adult Academy: Lenten Series** – 7 pm – 8 pm, Crawford Center at West End Presbyterian Church. Led by Rev. Dudley Crawford and Dr. Paul James, a session on "True Confessions and Other Prayers." Second in a four-part series, the free program is open to all.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29**

- **Moore County Home Builders Home and Garden Exposition** – Fair Barn, Pine-

hurst. Event runs through Sunday, March 2. Gardening in the Sandhills presents special challenges as well as special opportunities. Stop by and talk to the Master Gardeners and/or attend the following Master Gardener presentations. Fri, 2/29 12 pm – Shawna Smith, Preparing your Garden for Spring; Sat, 3/1 10 am – Kathy Byron, Overview of the Moore County Master Gardener Volunteer Program; Sat, 3/1 11 am – Marisa Back, Gardening for Butterflies

- **Fish Fry Fridays** – 5:30 pm – 7 pm, St Anthony of Padua Parish Hall at 320 N. Ashe Street in Southern Pines. The Knights of Columbus of St Anthony of Padua invite everyone to Fish Fry Fridays during the Lenten season. Baked and fried fish with sides will be served, eat in or take out, cost is \$9.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children six to twelve years, kids under six eat free. Fish Fry Fridays continue through March 7.

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

- **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** – 7 am – 11 am, West End Elementary Cafeteria. The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club hosts their 25th Annual Pancake Breakfast. Cost of the breakfast is \$6 per person [children 6 and under eat free]. Tickets are available from any Kiwanian and will be sold at the door.
- **Quilts and Needle Art Show** – 1 pm – 4 pm, The Gallery of Seven Lakes, located at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. Quilts both small and large, and needle art will be displayed. Show continues to March 13, with open hours on Wednesday and Thursdays from 1 – 4 pm. Watch for the open sign in the garden.
- **Chicken and Dumpling Dinner** – 4 pm – 7 pm, Doubs Chapel United Methodist Church at 1444 Doubs Chapel Church Road, West End. Serving up chicken and dumplings that would do your grandma proud, with green beans, cole slaw, a roll, homemade dessert, iced tea or coffee. Eat in or take out plates, \$7 each, proceeds benefit the church building fund. Those

who want something sweet for later may bid on homemade desserts; pound cakes, Japanese fruit pies, sour cream coconut cakes, buttermilk custard pies, mandarin orange cakes, German chocolate pies, and banana nut bread.

**MONDAY, MARCH 3**

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – Noon, Seven Lakes Country Club. Featured speaker is Jim Kozlowski discussing 'The Impact on Business.' Visitors are welcome.
- **Kelly Cup Championship** – Pinehurst No. 8. Presented by Sandhills Children's Center, Outback Steakhouse, and Pinehurst Resort & Country Club. Entry fee is \$200 per player or \$1,000 for a team of four and a Hole Sponsorship. Information, Teresa Copper or Kathy Desmond 692-3323.
- **FirstHealth Seminar** – 5:30 pm, Conference Center of FirstHealth Moore Regional

Hospital. Paul Kuzma, M.D., will discuss "Understanding Back & Neck Pain: Causes and Treatments." The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Call 715-1478 or (800) 213-3284.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

- **Project Linus Workshop** – 10 am – 3 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Blanketeers will be working on fleece, sorting yarn and fabric, and labeling blankets. If you want to stay all day, pack a lunch or snack. Bring sharp scissors, needles, and thread. We hope to see you there! Information, Pat Weber 673-1457.
- **LWV Presentation: Iron Jawed Angels** – 2 pm – 4:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. The Moore County Chapter of League of Women Voters are sponsoring a free presentation of the movie, Iron Jawed Angels starring Hilary Swank, Angelica Houston, and Frances O'Connor as the women who led the fight guaranteeing women the right to vote. Presentation is open to the public and refreshments

served.

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series: Timothy Tyson** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. Author Timothy Tyson will discuss race relations and his book *Blood Done Sign My Name*, a memoir and history of the murder of a black man, Henry Marrow, committed by the white father of a childhood friend in Oxford, North Carolina in 1970. Dr. Tyson is the Senior Scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, with secondary appointments in the Duke Divinity School and the Department of History, and adjunct Professor of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Admission is free and open to the public with no tickets required.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 6**

- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 1 pm, West Side Community Center. Fancy Thompson and Paula Kamrowski-Poppen of Total Design Solutions will be speaking on "Designing on a Budget."
- **Moore County Planning**

**Board Meeting** – 6pm, Carthage.

- **Adult Academy: Lenten Series** – 7 pm – 8 pm, Crawford Center at West End Presbyterian Church. "Will you Pray for Me? Intercession and Supplication," led by Don Welch, pastor at The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, and McDonald's Chapel. Third in a four-part series, the free program is open to all.
- **Republican Precinct Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes Fire Department. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a recommended slate of officers and elect delegates and alternates for the County Convention on March 29. Chairman Bud Shaver encourages participation

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7**

- **Mark Twain! On Stage** – 8 pm, Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage Street, Sanford. Show continues through March 16. Opening night, meet the performers and designers and enjoy a complimentary champagne toast. Tickets \$20 adults; \$16 groups; \$10 students and children. (919) 774-4155.

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 21)

must respect the community if they are going to survive."

"We ultimately did an informal arbitration," he explained. and came up with an agreement." Galford said there will never be more than fourteen units built on the range, and that you could put ten or eleven average southside lots on the same acreage. "It's not high density."

Galford said a well-designed patio home development on the property could be an asset to the community — "part of what I was referring to as the face lift. Cluster home, patio home developments are happening everywhere around here." Noting that the structures will have to meet Southside building restrictions, he added "I can't see how that wouldn't be an asset to the community."

In any case, the development of the driving range is "an issue that has already been resolved," Galford said. "We just have to wait for the end result of the lawsuit. The SLLA and SLCC have reached agreement. The current lawsuit is not landowners against country club but is landowners and country club together as defendants."

"With the outside play that the Country Club has been forced to come up with," Galford noted, "we are bringing in 7,000 people per year . . . The more people who come in, the more interest in the community, the more bids on the homes, and so on."

"The community is more than the country club, but the community needs the country club and the country club needs the community."

## 6. Closed meetings

"I really believe that the closed session with the press recording it will create an attitude of cooperativeness," Galford said when

asked about closing some Board work sessions. "There won't be the necessity to express our individual opinions in letter to the editor. When you can't express your point of view in the closed session face to face and do it in the paper instead, you generate conflict. If elected, I would not be expressing opinions in the newspaper."

## 7. Assignment

Asked what Board assignment he would prefer to have, Galford replied, "I would serve at any position that the Board would need me to serve in. I would not be coming there with an agenda — I just feel that I have a rounded business background with detail in accounting."

"We need to set priorities for our long-range expenditures. This board has accomplished quite a bit in terms of controlling operating expenditures."

Galford said he could offer expertise in finance and long-range planning but had also gained experience in many areas of Board activity during his time on the Country Club Board.

## Ed Nuti

Ed Nuti and his wife Barbara moved to Seven Lakes in 1993, when he signed on as Manager of Regulatory compliance with Syngenta Crop Protection in Greensboro.

He commuted from Seven Lakes to Greensboro for ten years, retiring in 2003.

## 1. Why run?

"Unfinished business," Ed Nuti replied when asked why he chose to run for re-election to the SLLA Board. "I have things that I need to do. I didn't get the maintenance building up. The Bylaws just came in under the wire. We need to reestablish

congeniality on the board. I don't want to exit with at kind of situation. I think the board could accomplish more."

Nuti said he had worked a lot behind the scenes on personnel issues during his first term. "Now we have performance appraisal forms, job descriptions, and so



Ed Nuti

on. We have a collections policy that I wrote up for Treasurer Steve Hudson. The personnel policy manual has been updated. We have the organization up to speed."

Looking at a second term, Nuti said he is "interested in long-range planning. That will be my emphasis in my next term — planning for capital projects, inevitable repairs on infrastruc-

ture, and financing them is going to be the big challenge."

## 2. Repairing the Board.

"Right now we're being too responsive to a puppeteer who appears to be influencing a lot of the thought processes of some Board members," Nuti said, when asked how the Board can become more functional. "We need to work towards seven people working together and bringing to the table their own thoughts and ideas that coincide more closely with the needs of the community."

"We need to be able to debate openly and frankly and not feel like we 'lost' when we lose a vote four to three," he added. "The essence of debate is that everyone has the same facts. When the minority loses, they have to close ranks and go on to the next battle."

## 3. Handling split decisions.

Asked how he would handle losing a close vote on an important issue, Nuti said, "What I wouldn't do is what happened with the Driving range debate."

Part of the difficulty a Board has in recovering after divisive debate is "the degree of polarization that has been created in advance," Nuti said. "There is a middle ground that can be found in most situations."

After losing a close vote, "I would not consider it a loss," he added. "The other side debated it more forcefully and won out. If they have persuaded more people . . . That's democracy. It just means you lost the debate, that's all."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"Unquestionably yes," Nuti said when asked if Seven Lakes was better now than five years ago. "Since I've been retired, I have come to appreciate what the community really has to offer. I have been very impressed by the professionalism of many of the groups that operate in town."

"Having been on the Board for two years, I have to attribute a lot of what I have seen to the Community Manger. He's the common thread that stretches through to last twenty or so years of our existence. He knows the community inside and out. I will champion his efforts as long as I'm on the board. He has faults, of course, but who doesn't?"

## 5. Driving range issue

"We are so far away from anything being developed on that 5.5 acres," Nuti said, when asked his opinion of a residential development on the SLCC driving range. "The agreement we made

(Continued on page 27)

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 26)

with the club does not mean that we encourage the development. I don't know what the vote would be on that subject if you took it."

"It's not our decision," Nuti continued. "The SLLA has agreed with the Club, that, if and when their members agree to sell, the parcel will come under the auspices of the ARB. That's about all that you can do. If it can't be subdivided, that's the end of the story. That's the battle that is being fought now in the lawsuit. The central issue is whether it can be subdivided. It's in the courts, so be it."

Nuti noted that he had lived in the Pinnacle neighborhood in Seven Lakes West — a patio home development, and wondered why a similarly attractive development could not be designed for the driving range property.

## 6. Closed meetings

"Never. Never," Nuti replied when asked whether some Board meetings should be closed. "We are committed to going forward — to copying the Moore County model and keeping our meetings open. The most significant thing we have been able to accomplish this year is just that — getting the fresh air into the meeting."

"While closed meeting are more convenient, seemingly," Nuti said, SLLA meetings "are open and should remain open."

Let's work on making them less acrimonious rather than shutting the door."

## 7. Assignment

"Long range planning would be my choice," Nuti said when asked what Board assignment he would prefer. "I think I could bring management skills from my previous employment all my life, and project management skills. I think I could lend a lot to some vision planning — what is needed and the financing thereof."

## 8. Maintenance Committee

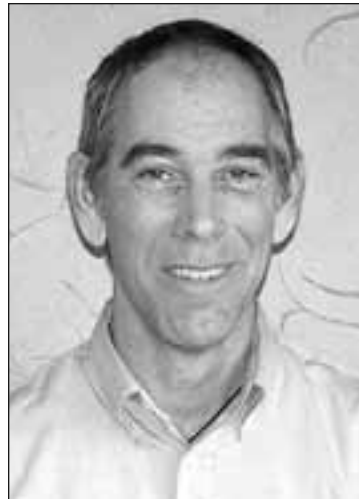
Nuti has drawn fore from some quarters because of the slow pace of some maintenance projects and the rarity of maintenance committee meetings under his watch. *The Times* asked him to comment on these criticisms.

"The new maintenance building is my greatest disappointment," Nuti said, noting that permitting issues, septic tank location, and other problems that have held up the problem have now been cleared.

"We have gotten the debris yard straightened out. We had a good start on the road shoulders, but progress has been slow. Maintenance seems to take a back seat to more urgent things — cleaning out a catch basin, storm drain, that sort of thing. I'm satisfied that we have good people working in the maintenance department, but there's unfinished business, which is why I am running for reelection."

about the time the Dennis Roberts was President of the Board?" Caulk continued. "Back then we didn't even know we had a board, things functioned so well. My main goal is to make sure the Board functions as it should."

"We have an excellent community and we need to get back to our community standards, back to pitching in and helping one another."



Gary Caulk

## 2. Repairing the Board.

Asked how the Board could be repaired and how he could help fix it, Caulk said. "I know people throughout the community. People read *The Times*. The Board's becoming a joke in the community, and we don't need that. Seven Lakes is one of the premier communities in the state. We need to get back to acting like it. We need to set an example for what a community can be instead of the way we are doing it now."

"I don't have a personal agenda," Caulk added. "My agenda is the agenda of the landowners of Seven Lakes. People want to have good security at the gates. The pay dues and want to get their money for it. They want the streets paved, stables taken care of, and the pool filled. They want it to run smoothly and don't want to be bothered worrying about what their Board of Directors is up to."

"Security is a major problem right now," Caulk added. "The way things are set up at the gates, the guards can't do their jobs. There have been some good ideas but they haven't been carried through . . . There need to be some changes."

He noted that increased development around Seven Lakes will ultimately bring more of a security challenge. "We're going to be back to back with people — there are going to be a lot of security issues coming quickly." Those issues need to be anticipated and planned for, Caulk said. "People who live in Seven Lakes are used to leaving their tools and toys out and not having anyone bother them — that's why you live in a gated community."

## 3. Handling split decisions.

How would he handle losing an important issue on a split Board decision? "That's the ruling of the board," Caulk said. "You can't get your way all the time. You can't win every battle — and maybe we're not supposed to. Issues come up and you deal with the issue, do the best you can with the community in mind, and, when that's done you move on. Usually things do work out."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"Seven Lakes is still an excellent place to live," Caulk said when asked whether the community had improved in the past five years. "We still have neighbor helping neighbor, friend helping friend."

"But we have a dozen or two dozen people complaining. To the outside it looks more significant than it is. This is still a good place to live — just the focus is on the wrong thing right now."

## 5. Driving range issue

"If the property belongs to the Country Club, its the Country Club's property, as long as they stay within the guidelines," Caulk said, when asked his position on the development of the driving range. "Everything has to go under our standards. If a house is built it has to be approved. We already have townhouses on the South Side and we have townhouses on the North Side. Progress is something you can't hold up. You can't stop time and change."

## 6. Closed meetings

The open board session are good," Caulk said, when asked whether some Board meetings

should be closed. "People get to know what is going on. But, if the Board could get together a little while by itself they could talk more freely. People who live here need to know what is going on. But if you let people get together and hash it out things could work a little smoother."

## 7. Assignment

Caulk said he would like to take on the Security portfolio if elected. "That's where I am most qualified." He noted that he trained in law enforcement at UNC-Chapel Hill's Institute of Government "with some of the greatest professors in the state. These were the guys who wrote the laws."

Caulk said he is a certified instructor in firearms and has worked closely with the Moore County Sheriff's Office and police departments throughout the county.

"The Sheriff's Department is doing a great job serving Seven Lakes," Caulk said, noting their prompt response and courteous and professional service. Seven Lakes needs to work on its internal Security program, he added.

## Conflict of interest

Concerns have been raised that Caulk's candidacy may involve a conflict of interest, because his wife is a long-time employee of the Association. *The Times* asked Caulk to comment on the issue.

"I don't think anyone who has been married very long would think there is an issue there," Caulk said. "I don't tell my wife what to do. She has her defined role and I have mine. Being on the Board is not going to change my relationship with my wife. And its certainly not going to benefit me. I'm running for a job that has no glory."

"The main thing I want everyone to know is that we need to get back to where we were," Caulk concluded. "If people don't like Seven Lakes, maybe they should consider moving. People are always helping one another here. It is a great community — which is why you moved here in the first place."

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D

(Continued on page 28)

# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 27)

## Jeff Hermann

Jeff Hermann and his family moved to Seven lakes in 1999. Hermann began his career as a nurse, but now owns his own company and manages a distributorship selling surgical supplies. He previously served for two years on the SLLA Board of Directors, focusing his work on Community Standards.

### 1. Why run?

"I chose to run because of the board itself," Hermann said when asked why he was running again for the Board. He said he would describe the current Board's way of doing business as a "goat-roping."

"The board's primary objective seems to be their interaction with each other as opposed to solving problems in the community," Hermann explained.

"I would like to see the board coming back to some sort of meeting during the month where they are face to face, rather than for show. I do like the public work sessions, but I do feel the board needs to meet face to face without special groups looking over their shoulders. It's disappointing to see that there are factions of our board that focus more on the past — and putting the past out in the open — instead of solving those issues and putting the past behind them. I would like to see a better financial plan in place and would like to see us get started on the roads — which is one of the biggest complaints I hear in the community about how things look.

### 2. Repairing the Board

Asked how the Board can get back to functioning effectively, Hermann said, "I can only speak for one person, but I base my actions on fact, not on the influence that anyone else might have or think they might have on me."

"I don't affiliate with either side — anybody who goes back into the past history of the board will be able to figure that out pretty quick."

### 3. Handling split decisions

Asked about how he would handle losing a close vote on an

important Board decision, Hermann said, "If I were on the down side of that, which I have been in the past, first I would imagine having a cooling off period to get over whatever emo-



Jeff Hermann

tion was involved in the loss."

"Looking at the facts again after that, if there was a way of taking it back before the community, I might do that."

"Would I take it to litigation? Absolutely not. I do believe the Board in most cases should speak as a Board."

### 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"From the perspective of the average person, there's probably been no change" in Seven Lakes over the past five years, Hermann told *The Times*. "Our property values continue to go up, which is what you continue to want to see. Politics are politics — there's always going to be politics, and it's always going to be dysfunctional. But there are a lot of changes that we need to make."

### 5. Driving range issue

"I think it's everybody's business," Hermann replied when asked if the development of the SLCC driving range is any business of residents who aren't Club members. "But the idea that you can sanction a piece of property, except for national park land, so that it is never to be

built on is naive."

Hermann said he had been intimately involved in the original negotiations with the Club over the driving range issue, putting together a deal that was ready to be approved and signed before the 2007 Board elections. "It was pretty much the deal that's on the table now — why it took seven months to approve, I'm not sure."

### 6. Closed meetings

"I think that the work session should be open to the public as it is," Hermann said when asked about closed Board meetings. "I would like to see the board meet face to face in a closed non-voting work session to discuss ideas. A lot of our work sessions and special meetings have been opportunities to try to

embarrass and showboat."

"The work sessions would be just as they are now, as with the community meeting at the end of the month." Hermann acknowledged that this would create another monthly meeting for Board members to attend. "There is enough business that needs to be discussed" to warrant the additional meeting, he told *The Times*, adding that the closed session could be held 30 minutes prior to one of the open meetings so as to not add another meeting day to the calendar.

### 7. Assignment

Asked what Board assignment he would prefer, Hermann replied, "Obviously, I have the experience in Community Stan-

(Continued on page 30)

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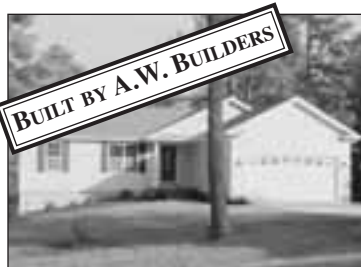
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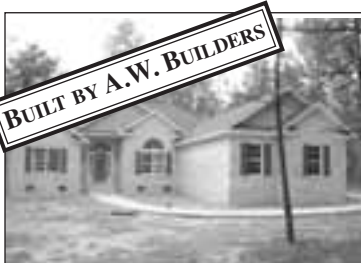
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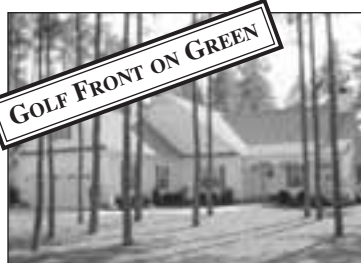
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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 28)

dards, and I would not be opposed to that again. Enjoyed the people I worked with and feel we accomplished something."

He said he would also not be opposed to handling Lakes or Maintenance. But he is less interested in the Treasurer's job, Hermann told *The Times*, suggesting that that job needs someone with an education in finance or accounting — not just a general business background. "I don't want to be solely responsible for a \$1.5 million budget," he said. "There are number crunchers better suited to that job."

## Time available

Hermann is the owner of one business and manager of another, which has caused some to question whether he has time to serve. *The Times* asked about that, and Hermann replied, "Yes I do have the time. 'If it comes to a point where I can't, then I will step down.'"

## Other issues

Asked whether he would like to address any other issues, Hermann told *The Times*, "I do think that instead of the nominating committee being a way of finding warm bodies, I think the

nominating committee should be more critical instead of just a pass through. You have too many people who are running for the Board for the wrong reason."

## Michael Florence

Michael Florence and his family have lived in Seven Lakes for five and one-half years, but have visited his in-laws here for ten years. The Florences moved to the Community from Atlanta; Florence works in outside sales.

### 1. Why run?

Asked why he was running for re-election to the Board, Florence gave a simple reply: "There are things that are unfinished."

### 2. Repairing the Board

Asked how what is seen as a dysfunctional Board could be fixed, Florence told *The Times*, "Fully ninety percent of what comes before the current Board of Directors are issues that are handled quietly with intelligent debate and with the best interest of the community in mind. But there have been some issues that have been definitely more public than in the past."

"One of the reasons for this was for the change in the meeting schedule that was changed

by the previous board from a Thursday 2:00 pm meeting to a Wednesday 7:30 pm meeting," Florence said. "When we did that the board lost the intimacy of the conference room table, and some members of the Board



Michael Florence

treated the new open setting as a chance to grandstand."

"It has been tried twice to change the meeting schedule back, and I still feel that is the best option for some of our problems. I do not want to close these meetings, I just feel a more "boardroom" atmosphere might be better for our planning meetings."

### 3. Handling split decisions

"The minority has the right to work within the system to change things," Florence said, when asked how he would handle losing a close vote on an important issue. "You may lose, but the minority still has the right to try and change what they think is the incorrect decision. You have to respect the majority decision but the minority has the right to work within the system to make a change."

### 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

Asked whether Seven Lakes is better than it was five years ago, Florence replied: "When my wife and I decided to move from Atlanta, the beauty, ambiance and lifestyle of Seven

Lakes appealed to us greatly — and it still does. However, the face of Seven Lakes is changing rapidly. We are no longer the second-home community, we are really no longer the retiree destination, that we used to be."

"The beauty that attracted my wife and I attracts more and more younger families with more children — i.e., more responsibilities. Seven Lakes has and will continue to be a gated community, a landowners association community, and everyone who moves here has to understand that we have many of the same problems that all small towns have. If you take the population of the North, South, West and McLendon Hills, we are the third

(Continued on page 31)

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 30)

largest "city" in Moore County. I still feel that Seven Lakes is the best place, and a great value for anyone looking for a home."

## 5. Driving range issue

"Yes it is true that the driving range is an asset of the Country Club," Florence said, when asked his position on the development of the SLCC driving range. "Since late 2006, the Club has said that they will have their membership vote on selling the range — the Club has to have a vote in order to sell any asset of the club."

"The Landowners position was to wait and not have any agreement with the club until after that vote," Florence continued. "Somewhere along the line in the May 2007 timeframe that began to change, and it changed into the current agreement that the Landowners Board voted on four-to-three."

"I still feel no action should have been taken until the Country Club had that vote and their members had determined what they wanted to do with the property. I personally would not like to see houses on that property, but, then, who will maintain it, if it is left undeveloped?"

"The Club has stated that they are not going to maintain it. They have offered to sell it to the Association, but can't come up with a reasonable price, and, what are we going to do with it? There's expense involved in maintenance, mowing, and so on."

## 6. Closed meetings

"Within our bylaws we currently have five reasons for the Board of Directors to go into closed meetings," Florence said when asked whether the Board should have more closed Work Sessions.

"We may need to look at another reason. But then you risk the slippery slope and you get the Board calling a closed meeting for no reason. It might be helpful if the mechanism was a little more flexible," he added.

## 7. Assignment

Asked what job on the Board he would prefer, Florence said, "I would like to stay with the same duties I am doing now, with one change. I will change my

record-keeping abilities." His allusion was to recent criticism that Board meeting minutes were incomplete, a deficiency that Florence said he has worked to correct.

## Empty Committees

In addition to his duties as Board Secretary, Florence handles the Security and Personnel portfolios, but has not assembled a committee for either function. *The Times* asked why.

"Since we've had SFI, the job of Security Director has gotten less complex," Florence replied. "That's the main reason I haven't had the need for a Security Committee. The issues with the gates have been maintenance issues. I regularly talk with Dalton and [security supervisor] Carolyn about stuff. The only way I could see forming an official committee is just to meet."

"The Personnel Committee deals with issues affecting our major employees," Florence continued. "The only way it is needed is in case of an employee filing an appeal of a termina-

tion. In that case, a committee can be formed very quickly. In recent memory, we have had no appeals from fired employees."

"There's just not a lot for committees to do in these area. There is a lot of behind the scene stuff that the community doesn't see. The Personnel Committee doesn't do the hiring and firing — that's left up to Dalton."

## Mike Roscoe

Mike Roscoe was born in western Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh, and received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Youngstown State University.

His career as a teacher brought him to Raleigh and then to Seven Lakes, where he purchased his home on Sandpsur Lane in 1990.

He teaches Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at Sandhills Community College and is Program Coordinator for the Computer, Engineering, and Technology Department.

## 1. Why run?

"I had heard all the consternation going on about the Board," Roscoe said when asked why he had chosen to run. "I talked with some of the homeowners who

were attending the Board meetings and heard there was a lot of strife."

Beyond that, Roscoe said that, as he walk his four or five miles a day around Seven Lakes, he has begun seeing some problems: "Homes not maintained, grass not cut. Homeowners being lax."

"Seven Lakes may be maintaining status quo," Roscoe told *The Times*, "but we're not doing enough to improve. It could be run more efficiently. I'm concerned what direction Seven Lakes is heading into. I plan on being here for a while."

## 2. Repairing the Board

Roscoe said restoring order and functionality to the Board is his number one goal in running

(Continued on page 32)



Mike Roscoe



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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 31)

for a seat. "The one thing that I would like to do is see the board work closely together. The cliques that are there are preventing anything from being done. Roscoe said he had "Attended a couple of meetings and was shocked. They were bringing things up that probably hadn't been resolved in a long time. There was a lot of rudeness there."

"It's not all the Board's fault," Roscoe told *The Times*. There's a lot of frustration among people. A lot of members come in and they are rude. They are expressing their frustration."

"There are a lot of very good board members — they want to work and they are almost embarrassed to be sitting up there in the middle of all that rudeness. I would simply like to work with them to better Seven Lakes. I would be willing to be honest and give a lot of my energy to bettering the community here."

### 3. Handling split decisions

Asked how he would respond to losing a close vote on an important issue, Roscoe told *The Times*,

"After a prolonged honest debate, I'm not sure there is anything to do but accept what was decided on. If the debate was open, honest, and in-depth, I'm not sure there is an alternative."

### 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"I don't think so," Roscoe replied when asked if Seven Lakes is a better place than it was five years ago. "Again, because of the upkeep. Homes seem a bit less tended."

"I can't speak as much for South Side," he added. "I feel it is better maintained. I have raised my kids in Seven Lakes North. I remember, when we moved here, we had some complaints — our boat, a tent in the back yard. Now seems like nothing is really enforced. A lot of covenants that are being overlooked."

### 5. Driving range issue

"I think it is a concern. They have a right to voice their concern," Roscoe said when asked if the possible development of the SLCC driving range was any business of non-Club members. "Anything you do inside there is going to affect property values. I'm not sure how much of a legal right — I'm not a lawyer. But it makes sense that people are concerned."

"I'm not sure what some people would really want to do with that property," Roscoe added. "High-density building is not what I would favor, but some sort of building . . . What are we going to do, build a park?"

### 6. Closed meetings

"I would not want to see them closed," Roscoe told *The Times* when asked about closing Board

work sessions. "I believe it could be run in an open session, I believe the Board members can handle that. When you meet behind closed doors, you are almost asking for dissension. I would like to continue to see it be open."

### 7. Assignment

Asked what job on the Board he would like to handle, Roscoe said, "A major concern is of mine is aesthetics, how Seven Lakes looks. Particularly Seven Lakes North has not fared as well as the South Side. I would be comfortable handling Maintenance."

### Other issues

Asked if he'd like to say anything else, Roscoe replied, "I am very open. I don't want to be friends with this guy or that guy and vote with him. I want to look at the information and make an intelligent choice. I am concerned about the worth of my house — so I want the aesthetics to be taken care of. Like a lot of people, I am concerned that the turmoil hurts the community. Things can be run a lot more efficiently. But I don't have any agenda I'd be bringing to the Board."

## Ron Erskine

Northsider Ron Erskine moved to his home on Lake Sequoia in 1995, retiring after a 30-year career in sales and marketing with Kimberley Clark.

### 1. Why run?

"I wanted to run for the board because it is dysfunctional," Erskine told *The Times*. "It doesn't listen, it doesn't react, it doesn't respond. And this includes management. I hope to be able to have some positive influence, if I get elected, toward making the Board more responsive."

"My real interest is the preservation of our greatest asset — which I consider to be our lakes and dams. The failure of any one dam would reflect very, very badly on Seven Lakes North and South and its real estate values — as would high density housing on the old driving range, which is the lovely feature of the community that made me stop, shop, and stay a while."

### 2. Repairing the Board

Asked how the dysfunctional SLLA Board can be repaired, Erskine said, "I believe that the first thing I would request of the board would be the establishment of an oversight committee, com-

prised of non-partisan residents who are not board members." The Board could go to this committee "on any split decision, such as four to three, which impacts the community." "The oversight committee could also interject and go to the board and recommend that they sound out the landowners on issues



Ron Erskine

of importance."

"I also think that the oversight committee would be a great committee to for the nominating committee to go to with their candidates," Erskine continued, "and let the oversight committee

(Continued on page 33)

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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 32)

recommend to the board whether they deem candidates are ineligible due to conflicts of interest or other reasons."

"The oversight committee could go the board and talk turkey to them. If they are highly-regarded members of the community, the board would listen. I think one of the things the board doesn't do is listen. In my sales and marketing experience you had to listen. In this case, the landowner are the Board's customer and they better heed what they say!"

"A long range planning committee is also mandatory," Erskine told *The Times*, "headed perhaps by Dave Kinney, chairman of the Area A Steering Committee."

## 3. Handling split decisions

"If it is an open vote upon which the landowners have had ample opportunity to discourse, then that vote should be accepted," Erskine said, when asked how he would handle losing a close vote.

"If we're thinking specifically of the Country Club issue, that wasn't the case. We were told there was nothing to talk about, and then it was signed, sealed, and delivered within days — and by an email vote."

"I also would push very strongly for a nine-member board, if elected — not on the basis of three year terms but remaining on the basis of two-year terms because three years is too much."

A nine member Board is less likely to have the kind of split decision that have often happened with the current Board, Erskine said. Five to four is more unlikely than four to three. The

more the better, as far as I am concerned. This is the way Lakes and Dams Committee operates and we get a multitude of ideas from a multitude of people."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"They're not," Erskine answered when asked if Seven Lakes North and South were a better place to live now that five years ago. "Real estate values have depreciated over the last five year period — that's in general, not lakeside. I dearly love the younger set, and I enjoy teaching tennis to their children, but I think many of them may be renters. I'm told that now more people rent than used to — and more so than on the West Side. I'm concerned that renters don't necessarily have the same affinity to property values that retirees had in earlier years."

## 5. Driving range issue

Erskine told *The Times* that he is opposed to plans to develop the SLCC driving range. "High-density housing would reflect badly on the appearance of Seven Lakes as one drives by," he said. "Many of us retiring here moved here because we had no high-density housing, because of the openness, the

pasture."

## 6. Closed meetings

"That's a very complex question," Erskine said, when asked whether some Board meetings should be closed. "I know a couple of Board members would like to meet in what was the old boardroom meetings, because it lends itself to more amenable, across-the-table, honest, open discussions."

"The problem is, that room doesn't hold but three or four people, including *The Times*. I am very ambivalent about it. I would personally be happier meeting in the smaller confines, only because I think we get to know each other better, but I recognize the public's right to know. I think maybe there's a way of rearranging the tables for the work session — as long as there are microphones, so the board members don't feel they are talking to the crowd — even if some have their back to the public, as long as the PA system is adequate."

## 7. Assignment

Asked what area of responsibility he would prefer if elected, Erskine said, "That is part of why I am critical of the board as presently comprised. Sometimes

Board members are appointed to an area in which they may or may not have any real interest."

"I am in favor of establishing individual committees chaired by residents, rather than by board members. The board should be encouraged to attend any of these meetings as silent observers. I personally would attend Lakes and Dams, which I currently chair. I would also attend most of the others. That is one of the reasons I like nine board members. We have a sufficient number of committees that they all could participate, bearing in mind that many of our board members also work."

Erskine said he would "sooner not be an officer of the Association."

## Working with Truesdell

Erskine has been a vocal and public critic of current SLLA President Don Truesdell, joining with other former members of the Concerned Citizens Council in urging Truesdell to resign from the Board. *The Times* asked Erskine if he could work with Truesdell, who has another year left in his current term as a Director.

"If he doesn't resign, I am

committed to working with him, if at all possible," Erskine said. "I would certainly not nominate him for President, nor would I vote for him. Whether or not I could serve with him as President . . . I would have a very hard time doing that."


## Sally Kindsvatter

Sally Kindsvatter and her husband Dick moved to Seven Lakes South ten years ago, retiring from the Akron Ohio area. Sally spent 39 years working as a hospital specialist in microbiology.

## 1. Why run?

Kindsvatter told *The Times* that her decision to run for the Board was made at the last minute, though she had been thinking about it for some time. The Board's conduct during recent meetings pushed her in the direction of running, but, with a nine-candidate field, she had decided against it. "Then when Laura [Douglass] resigned, and now we need four new Board members, I could see the complexion of the Board changing. I decided to put my money where my mouth is. Maybe I could do


(Continued on page 34)




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VIRTUOSO MEMBER



# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 33)

some good." The decision was made two days before candidate petitions had to be submitted at the January 30 Board meeting. Kindsvatter collected 181 signatures.

"In one sense, I hope to bring respect and responsibility back to the board," she told *The Times*, explaining her decision to run. "I don't think one person can do that, but if we have a complete change on the board, the board will have a completely different face next year and will be able to start fresh."

"I am very independent, not backed by any group or endorsed by any group," Kindsvatter told *The Times*. "I have no axes to grind, and I don't have any agendas. I am hardworking, open minded, and sensible. We need four people like that on the next Board."

## 2. Repairing the Board

"If I were the only sensible person elected to the board I couldn't do much," she told *The Times* when asked how the Board can be made more functional. "It really needs four people. We don't have to agree on everything, but we have to have the same objective for being on the Board — to serve the needs and concerns of the people who live in our community."

Kindsvatter said the Board should have a parliamentarian who is well-versed in Robert's Rules of Order.

"The most important thing the new board can do is elect the right president," She added. "We can't have a demagogue for a president. I hope new board members will have an open mind about that. I hope we can have a discussion before we elect a President."

## 3. Handling split decisions

"I like to put forth my views," Kindsvatter said, when asked how she would handle losing a close vote. "I'm not at a loss for words saying what I think. I have lost a lot of issues in my life; I think you have to be a good loser. If you have the good of the community at heart, then you will go with the majority decision. If you can't in your heart go with it, then you have to resign from the Board. The Board has to have a united front at some

point, even if there are still disagreements."

## 4. Is 7 Lakes Better?

"I like the fact that we are getting younger families in here," Kindsvatter said when asked if Seven Lakes is a better place to live now than five years ago. "Seven Lakes isn't going to grow



**Sally Kindsvatter**

if we don't have younger people with kids."

For a long time on the South Side, we had no growth in terms of houses and then suddenly folks were building them right and left, and that became a problem. A lot of the lots that are left are subprime lots. A lot are being bought for spec houses. That has made it more difficult for the ARB, of which I am a member now. The ARB has a lot more power than I thought," Kindsvatter said, "because the decision of that board is final. We could decide to deny something just because it didn't fit in with the neighborhood."

"I thought it was a wonderful place to live when I moved here and I think it is still a wonderful place to live. As any place gets bigger, there are more problems to face and more problems to solve. But everything is great. People here are absolutely the best people in the world, still the friendliest people, the most volunteers of any place I can imagine. I can't say it's any different."

## 5. Driving range issue

"I think that land, where the present driving range sits, is certainly the business of everyone who lives here — sort of the entrance to Seven Lakes

North and South," Kindsvatter said when asked her position on the development of the SLCC driving range. "It can be a big attraction or be a big detraction. Everyone who lives here should take an interest in that property."

"The club gets a lot of outside golfers — a lot of those people may want to retire here someday. That's the first thing they see when they come in the gate."

"I would hate to see it covered in high-density housing," Kindsvatter said. "I was against that from the very beginning. But if that's the way it works out when this lawsuit is settled, I'm not going to fight it, but do everything I can to make it the nicest area it can be."

"I would hate to see the court's decision appealed. I think it has to be settled; it is tearing the community apart."

"From the very beginning of this controversy, I thought it was a matter for the courts to decide. No one, I think, can figure out the covenants," Kindsvatter said her daughter, an attorney, suggested binding arbitration as a means of settling the matter. "I talked with Denny [Galford] and Don [Truesdell]. Neither would even consider such a thing. Their lawyers were each telling them 'You've got a case.' Once they had an agreement in place and Alan [Shaw] decided to take it to court, I was glad. At last we'll have a legal opinion on the disposition of that property and we can go forward."

"I would like to have seen a park area, with a walking path and fitness stations, on the property. I tried to push that idea: If

the SLLA could buy that property — obviously not for \$225,000 — and maybe the club could raise some money for paying for the range. But I couldn't get anyone interested in my ideas. I think now we just have to wait to see what happens in court. It needs to be settled."

## 6. Closed meetings

"That's a question that I have just discussed with some of sitting Board members," Kindsvatter said, when asked whether some Board work session should be closed. "I haven't had a chance to study the Bylaws, though it is spelled out in the bylaws. They must have discussed it pretty thoroughly last year. I don't know if the law requires that all meetings be open."

"In my own personal opinion, most of the work of the Board should be done in committees," she continued, "and the committees should bring their reports to the working session and the working session should discuss them. A lot of the committees have been non-functional this year, and the President has been too busy with other issues to make sure the work on the committees is being done. It is certainly easier to discuss issues in which there is a lot of disagreement if you have a closed meeting. It's harder to say what you really want to say in an open meeting. I could personally go either way."

## 7. Assignment

"In the first place, the committees may not even be the same," Kindsvatter said when asked what job on the Board

she would like to have. "I would hope we could think out of the box a little."

"My preference would be Safety and Security," she continued. "I was so encouraged when I read that there would be a Neighborhood Watch Committee." Kindsvatter said she felt Neighborhood Watch would dovetail with the "Neighbor helping Neighbor" program that she and JoAn Moses had spearheaded in 2002. That program compiled information on both the emergency needs and resources of Seven Lakes residents, to help the community prepare for a natural disaster or other emergency.

Kindsvatter said she talked with Truesdell and Security Director Michael Florence about the idea. "I talked with Michael, gave him the Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor files, and volunteered to help get the information updated. I never heard from him again."

"I would like to get those programs underway, and I think I have a leg up on it."

"I would love to still be on the ARB," Kindsvatter added, "but I think Donna should stay on as chair. I have enjoyed the ARB."

## Other issues

Asked if she other issues to discuss, Kindsvatter told *The Times*, "One of my real problems is with the term 'conflict of interest,' which is being used totally incorrectly. I looked it up in my big unabridged dictionary and talked with my daughter the lawyer. I think we are using it inappropriately."

"We are really using it to mean 'conflict' or 'disagreement' or

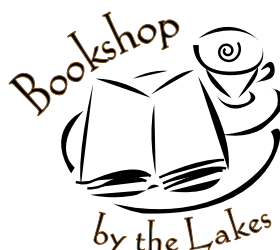
(Continued on page 35)

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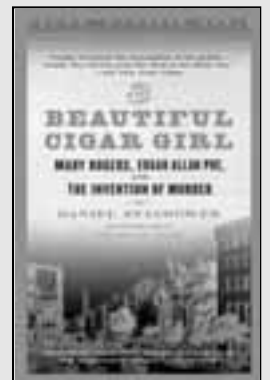
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# The Times interviews the SLLA candidates

(Continued from page 34)

'bias.' A real conflict of interest is when one person is wearing two different hats on an issue and can't make a decision without affecting the other hat he would be wearing."

"On the ARB Board, in the case of Jane Leach, I heard something about a 'conflict of interest.' If her husband or son worked for a construction company building houses, that could be a real conflict of interest . . . I really object to the use of "conflict of interest" because it doesn't apply to the majority of the cases."

"If you dismiss people from boards because they had a conflict there wouldn't be anyone on the committees."

"The other thing that is over-used is threat of a suit," Kindsvatter continued. "If we made all our decisions because we were afraid of being sued then we wouldn't make any decisions. We all know better than that . . . I'm kind of tired of that. I would like to not hear that anymore."

"I think the new board has to be strong when it comes to those two points I just mentioned."

**Steve Hudson**

Steve Hudson and his wife Mary moved to Seven Lakes from Greensboro in 1987. Hudson describes himself as "semi-retired" — he does high speed data and other installations for Carolina Cable. A native of Greensboro and a graduate of Guilford College, Hudson has owned and operated a number of small businesses, including an English tack shop and two seafood restaurants.

**1. Why run?**

"I feel like the experience I have gained in the past two years, I can bring forward in the coming years to help the Association and landowners get a lot of our problems on the right track," Steve Hudson said when *The Times* asked why he was running for re-election. "We need a definitive five year plan, that we can stick to, to address situations like problems with the dams that have been neglected over the years, main roads that need to be looked at, and our different departments need more checks

and balances. We need a plan to take us down that path — setting something in place that we can actually follow — that's not a pipe dream."

**2. Repairing the Board**

Asked how the Board can improve it's functioning, Hudson said, "I guess it would come back to the rules of order, as far as the board following that instead of bringing things out about each other in the public — name-calling, you're wrong here/you're wrong there. We need to stop that. A general openness and trying to work together should help that."



**Steve Hudson**

**3. Handling split decisions**

Asked about how to deal with a hypothetical split decision of the Board, Hudson, who participated in a suit aimed at overturning the Board decision o the driving range agreement, told *The Times*, "I felt like the majority of the Board — the four — did an illegal or unlawful action. The only way it could be rectified was through the suit that Alan Shaw brought."

"It is not only the responsibility, it is the duty of a board member to follow through with all avenues, especially if they feel it is an unlawful or illegal act. The agreement was decided behind closed doors and voted in by the narrowest of margins, on the email. That was totally wrong. The only way to combat it was to join the lawsuit at that time."

Noting that his name had been withdrawn as a plaintiff in order to control the cost of the lawsuit, Hudson said, "I still think anyone has the right to bring suit against

someone who is trying to give away the restrictive covenants. Those can't be voted away by any Board."

**4. Is 7 Lakes Better?**

"I think it's just as good as it was five years ago, but the problems that have been swept under the carpet or put in a file cabinet are now being brought out into the open," Hudson said, when asked whether Seven Lakes is a better place to live than it was five years ago. "We know what the problems are now — we just need to work toward correcting them and making the whole situation better for everyone. We have always had the problems, they've always been there."

"Lakes and Dams reports from the North Carolina Department of environment and Natural Resources have just been stuck in a file cabinet. Some of those reports are pretty bad. Through efforts of Ron Erskine and others, with a strong lakes and dams committee, we have found out what the problems are and are getting them addressed. We now have \$100,000 set aside for dam repairs and maintenance. That's an arbitrary figure, but at least it's a starting point. Most dams fail because of a lack of annual maintenance. We need top start addressing that and following through with it."

**5. Driving range issue**

"I'm totally against it," Hudson said when asked his position on the residential development of the SLCC driving range." I think it was always intended as a green space and should be left as such. And again, I feel that all Seven Lakers — North, South, members of the Club or not —

fall under our restrictive covenants and that's what the court case is about. We'll simply let the judge decide. If the judge decides in the Country Club's favor then the Country Club would not be under restrictive covenants and they can do as they wish. The Court would decide."

"Some big issues like this need to come before the community and have the community provide input before a Board decision is made," Hudson said.

**6. Closed meetings**

Asked whether some Board meetings should be closed, Hudson replied, "No. I would continue with open work sessions and open meetings where the community has their input into each motion that is made before the vote. I don't mind saying what I need to say whether I am behind closed doors or not. I don't have any problem working in open."

"The one thing that bothers me," Hudson added, "is that, at the work session we ought to be facing each other in a square. We're not there for the audience — to be playing to the commu-

nity. We're there to discuss and work back and forth. The community is welcome there to see and hear what is going on. But there's no input from community unless they sign up in advance."

**7. Assignment**

"If reelected, and the Board that is elected feels I have done a good job as Treasurer, then I would continue in that position," Hudson said when asked what job he would like on the Board. "It's just who the other six vote in if I'm reelected."

**Working with Truesdell**

Hudson and SLLA President Don Truesdell have had an ongoing feud that has often come to the surface in Board meetings. *The Times* asked whether Hudson could work with Truesdell.

"I can," he answered. "It just depends on the other person's feelings."

"If last night is indicative," he added, referring to an unusually peaceful February 13 Work Session, "we worked together last night, all seven of us."

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## A little like Walden . . . without the pond

Just in case you may have had a bummer of a week, did you read about the concert violinist who fell down a flight of steps and crushed his million dollar instrument? Talk about a bad day at the office.

I can't imagine a job where you carry around a seven-figure piece of carved wood like a common piece of luggage — much less the agony of smashing it to bits!

Not that I'd recognize a Guadagnini or Stradivarius masterpiece from a beginner's hack fiddle. Though I've heard in violins their true quality is imbedded deep in the wood rather than visible on the surface.

Funny how this also neatly sums up those human traits we all would hope to attain: sub-

stance over the superficial.

In gardens and jewelry, I've been known to let those standards slide. Experience has taught me that flowers, actually all plant matter, prefer to live somewhere other than within my reach.

I often tease that I can hear their little blossom voices screaming in terror when I draw near, "No, not more water!"

Yes, plants don't seem to live long under my roof so I've learned to appreciate the silk and dried varieties.

My faux jewels are another collection born of trauma: I decided paste looked just as good as ice the day I almost lost my engagement diamond. After shaking loose from its setting, that little rock — no bigger than a dew

drop — was nearly impossible to find. I decided then and there that anything of real value in life should be at least big enough to be seen without my glasses.

In life as we open one door we also



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

seem to close another and with this decree came a new set of problems. Yet again toeing the line of superficial via vanity, I wear those small, frameless eyeglasses that become invisible when laid upon any surface —

including my face, I hope. The result is that I frequently find myself, head ducked down to table level, squinting and cursing my way through the house in a desperate search for lost spectacles.

A spectacle indeed for the neighbors, should they catch me in the act!

Luckily our grand cabin

in the woods provides plenty of privacy, at least from human eyes. I shudder to think what the resident squirrels, opossums, snakes, deer, raccoons, frogs, fox, and assorted birds think of my antics. And yes, I

have come into close physical contact with each of the aforementioned species at least once over the past few years.

With the exception of those rare woman-meets-beast-woman-shrieks, face to face encounters in the dark of night, I find comfort in knowing that such a diverse ecosystem thrives in our community.

And as I bang away at the keyboard in my home office, I am fortunate to have the glory of Mother Nature's best quite literally at my backdoor.

So while my choice of vocation didn't come with a priceless instrument, at least I got the million dollar view.

## Volunteers too valuable to be squandered

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the recent WEE Ballfield articles and specifically address Mrs. Burrell's volunteering her time and talents, and sometimes her husband's, to refurbishing this facility. My husband and I were present at the ballfield in June of 2006 when she was presented the 'Volunteer of the Month Award' from Moore County Schools "that recognizes an individual [or group] who exemplifies the outstanding qualities that

we admire and respect in Moore County Schools' volunteers." We then were informed that of the more than 7,000 volunteers in the Moore County School system only one award per month is presented!

Having attended many a WEE festival, talent show, etc., I have personally seen Sandi's dedicated commitment to improving her children's school throughout the years. We also agree with Moore County Schools.

Without killing a dead horse

again, people/companies support and/or make donations usually for a specific purpose where they want to advertise their product — not always just because it is the right thing to do [excluding the church, of course]. If funds are being solicited for general or multiple purposes, it should be so stated out of courtesy to the contributor. If they notice that their donation is not presented in a positive way, this will tend to discourage future contributions.

Being a volunteer myself for

twenty plus years and still running, I am very much aware that volunteers are especially dedicated and reliable to an organization or project they believe in. Volunteers can be difficult to locate and should always be appreciated. One that is not, tends to resist further participation.

Recently, I received recognition for my eight plus years of dedicating my talents to an organization that I enjoyed serving. It did give me some personal pride to know that there really was someone out there that recognized me for my talents and skills, although usually an 'atta boy' is sufficient.

Our school buildings, students,

senior citizens, churches, Habitat, local hospitals, charitable organizations, etc. all need volunteers and even though they may shrug it off, they deeply appreciate being recognized for their efforts.

Appreciate your volunteers and be honest and open concerning their objectives. They can save an organization thousands of dollars which their budgets cannot afford.

I want to close with what my husband always says: "First Health Moore Regional Hospital would have to close their doors were it not for volunteers!" Always, always treat them courteously.

Do Shaver

Seven Lakes North

SEVEN  
LAKES TIMES

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

Publishers — Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins  
Editor — Greg Hankins • Layout & Design — Marcy Hankins  
Reporter — Laura Douglass

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.  
J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent, William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

## Good question

Dear Editor:

Because of all the hidden agendas behind the SLLA Board, and the carryover of these agendas into the coming election, I feel a pertinent question for every candidate would be:

"Do you support the idea of a person who is suing the Board being on the Board, or running for the Board?"

George Stahl

Seven Lakes North

# Will Rogers would have a field day with this

Dear Editor:

Let me get this straight  
The famous humorist, Will Rogers, had a tag line, "All I know is what I read in the papers!" Believe me, if Will were alive today, I'll bet he'd have

gathered lots of new material from our *Seven Lakes Times* over the past few months. The squabbling of the SLLA board members has been fertile ground for much faultfinding.

He'd learn that our SLLA board

has a secretary that has not kept accurate minutes of the board's meetings. He also would learn that the board president wasn't even aware of this until recently. He'd learn that the chairman of the nominating commit-

tee, which is mandates to have at least two other appointed members, never appointed anyone.

The fact that the board's treasurer ran for election on the platform that he wanted to reduce expenses, then turned around and sued the board over a vote in which his opinion did not prevail, would've given Mr. Rogers a lot of humorous political material.

He'd pick up the fact that the maintenance committee has held one meeting since September 2006. He'd acquire the knowledge that even if a serial killer somehow became a board

member, there is no way in which that person could be legitimately removed.

Recent *Seven Lakes Times* editorials have urged that the board shape up. I say "amen" to those requests. I also urge the citizenry to come out and vote for the new candidates so that we may get "new blood" and more effective board members for this wonderful community.

Then again, what do I know? All I know is what I read in the papers.

Rollin Tomberlin  
Seven Lakes South

## SLLA report card not so hot

Ladies & Gentlemen of  
*Seven Lakes North & South*:

Several of us who have worked or are working on the finance, maintenance, and lakes and dams committees regret that we find it necessary to make public our findings and share our conclusions. They are quite simply that:

**In Maintenance:** We have failed to establish oversight over a budget of approximately \$300,000 per year. We must exercise greater control, prioritize work orders, evaluate performance and the efficient use of our employees' time.

**In Lakes & Dams:** We have either disregarded or failed to routinely follow state mandated procedures for earthen dam operation and maintenance. The result of this neglect has been and will continue to be the absorption of additional costs to protect and maintain our greatest assets.

**Our Infrastructure:** Suffers from the lack of an adequate Long Range Plan. And, we have

no such committee in place to develop one. We must protect and maintain our roads, our dams, and our other physical facilities and establish inviolate reserves to do so. This means a change in attitude and becoming proactive rather than reactive.

**In Controls:** We find little evidence of controls over the use of company vehicles or other assets. Maintenance logs for our dams, and /or our roads do not exist. A multitude of questions remain regarding these assets, and the costs necessary to protect and replace them if indeed we must.

**Administration:** We find that the problems described above are widespread and symptomatic of a lack of direction and planning on the part of management for which we pay some \$225,000 per year in administrative costs.

Past boards and residents in general bear part of the blame but the lack of proactive management over the past twenty years is the one common

denominator.

In the final analysis, our report card is nothing to write home about.

We hope that you will vote for those candidates for the board, who you feel, will best guard your investment and who will pledge to work strenuously to correct these failings.

We ask also that you consider volunteering your own talents and time to the committees of your interest and choice and thus to your community.

Jim Allen, Bill Gross,  
Jerry Johnson, Jay Kenzel,  
Andy Lowe, Jack McCarthy,  
Charlie Oliver,  
Loren Swearingen

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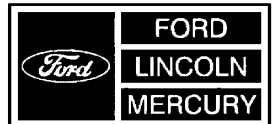
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10 Corn Chowder Bombay Shrimp Curry Dinner ♥	11 Tomato Dill Soup Lemon Chicken with Rosemary Orzo	12 Chicken Dumpling Soup Pot Roast Dinner	13 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Herb-Crusted Salmon Dinner ♥	14 New England Clam Chowder Pork with Apples Dinner ♥
17 Split Pea with Ham Soup Corned Beef with Cabbage Dinner	18 Potato Leek Soup Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	19 Lentil Soup ♥ Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	20 Mexican Meatball Soup Pecan-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	21 Asparagus Vichyssoise ♥ Basil Shrimp with Feta Dinner
24 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Salisbury Steak Dinner	25 French Onion Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	26 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Sausage Cheese Manicotti Dinner	27 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Sesame Salmon with Wasabi Mayo Dinner ♥	28 Creamy Chicken Alphabet Soup Chicken Enchiladas Dinner
31 Black Bean Soup ♥ Meatloaf Dinner	April 1 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Chicken Parmesan Dinner	April 2 Vegetable Soup ♥ Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	April 3 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	April 4 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Peachy Pork Dinner ♥

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# Move to replace Douglass sparks debate

## SLLA voters should decide who fills seat

Dear Editor:

Recently, I made the difficult decision to resign my seat on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] board. While I continue to be committed to working for and improving our community as a volunteer and Recreation Committee member, I am no longer comfortable serving as a Director.

By resigning midterm, I have created a one-year vacancy on the board. To fill a vacant seat, our Bylaws stipulate that first consideration be given to the resident receiving the next largest number of votes in the previous election.

With another election looming in the very near future, I made a conscientious effort to resolve my vacancy with as little politi-

cal machination as necessary by delaying my resignation until the eve of our Annual Meeting. In so doing, I hoped the board would make the reasoned decision to look to the current election to determine the candidate to fill my vacancy, rather than reaching back ten or eleven months for an appointee.

To accomplish this task, I proposed a resolution to appoint the fourth-highest vote getter in the next election rather than a named individual.

This action, which was approved by five of the seven directors, places the decision of who will serve on the board in the hands of the voting members of Seven Lakes — exactly where it belongs.

I feel the resolution worked

creatively within the Bylaws, rather than trying to change them.

I also offered to recuse myself from voting on the motion, but the presiding officer ruled that I should participate in the vote.

I am disappointed that the validity of the motion is now being questioned.

My only goal in pursuing this resolution was to give the landowners the right to decide who will represent them in the coming year.

I find it difficult to understand why anyone would be opposed to such a simple, fair, and democratic idea.

*Laura Douglass  
Director, Seven Lakes  
Landowners Association*

## Board vote ignored bylaws

Dear Editor,

On January 30 the Seven Lakes Landowners' Association did what we consider to be an illegal bylaws change. The motion and vote was to find a way to replace Laura Douglass, who said that she is resigning from the Board of Directors.

Since the vote seemed to be headed to another controversial split vote on the issue of Laura Douglass' replacement for her Board seat, Donna Stephan voted for the motion in an attempt to avoid another public disgrace. This motion must be rescinded.

Currently there is no vacancy on the Board of Directors, as the Board has received no resignation.

To make our position clear,

we think that the established rules of the Bylaws should be obeyed. We have no problem with the person getting the fourth highest vote total in the next election being appointed to fill the remaining term of a Board vacancy. We will commit to vote for that method of filling her vacant Board seat if Mrs. Douglass resigns before the election.

However, allowing her to participate in any vote or discussion to fill her position does not follow the mandate of the Bylaws.

The motion voted and passed at the January 30 meeting must be rescinded.

*Michael Florence  
Steve Hudson  
Donna Stephan  
Directors, Seven Lakes  
Landowners Association*

# Letter writer Berger misses the real issues

Dear Editor:

Peg Berger simplifies the issues facing Seven Lakes North and South in her letter to the editor in the most recent edition of *The Seven Lakes Times*. She says that there is an issue with the Country Club's right to

sell their property. That is not true. The disagreement is how the property can be used.

Don Truesdell encouraged me and was pleased when I agreed to defend in court the integrity of the covenants and preserve the land as planned

in 1976. It is my belief that I (yes, I) assured with recordation of maps and application of restrictive covenants that the land would be open area and not developed.

This is a legal question and not a popularity contest. I believe that development of the property into high-density housing will destroy the face of our community and along with the issues discussed below will affect property values much longer than the current discord.

Long after the discord has been resolved and forgotten we will see the effect of what happens to the property at the Seven Lakes South Entrance.

Our management has allowed the community to waste money, sometimes in violation of North Carolina Laws, in very large amounts.

We have unknown expenditures on our infrastructure that will bring significantly more cost than we have reserves.

The quality of housing being built, the condition of our infra-

structure, and the manner in which some homes are maintained, are the primary reasons our property values have suffered.

During Mrs. Berger's time at Seven Lakes, we have had only one community manager.

Are our volunteer Boards to be blamed for these issues or should our paid manager be held accountable? The answer is obvious.

The future of the North and South subdivisions is dependent on making the right decisions now. I believe this so strongly that

I have committed a significant amount of money to fight for the future of our community.

I join Mrs. Berger in hoping that everyone will read the positions of the candidates for election and demand that they commit to address the real problems before they receive your vote.

Unlike Mrs. Berger, the gentlemen she criticized speak to the real issues.

*D. Alan Shaw  
Seven Lakes South*

## A vote for Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

We in Seven Lakes West are very fortunate to have a good slate of candidates running for the Board.

There is one candidate who is uniquely qualified for a seat on the Board. That candidate is Ed Silberhorn.

As an attorney, he has practiced law as a village attorney and represented homeowners associations. He is an extremely well qualified person who cares about our community and has the ability to hear the many sides of an issue before making decisions.

We plan to vote for Ed Silberhorn with the knowledge that we have a candidate who has the legal expertise we need for the position of legal director on the Board.

Personally, we know Ed as a member of the teaching staff at Sandhills Community College, a member of the Sailing Club and ESU.

He wants to see our community prosper and continue to be the best place to build a great community.

*Jerry and Patt Lewin  
Seven Lakes West*



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# A few points to consider before you vote

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 16. At this meeting the results of the election will be announced. The silent majority will have their chance to speak at the ballot box. Please remember these facts before you vote and please remember to vote. Your vote is very important.

Ron Erskine and his friends in the Concerned Citizens Council [CCC] published a letter to the editor in *The Seven Lakes Times* dated January 25, 2008. Mr. Erskine stated that I am the reason why this board is fractured beyond belief and dysfunctional and that I should resign.

This board is fractured beyond belief and dysfunctional for one reason and one reason only. Mr. Hudson, the treasurer and a director, is a named plaintiff in the lawsuit against the Association.

The board was informed by an email from Mr. Shaw dated February 12, 2008, that Steve and Mary Hudson and Tom and Roberta Robinson were being removed as plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Association. I quote from Mr. Shaw's email: "This is being done as a cost savings measure. I [Mr. Shaw] have no interest in sitting thru nine hours of depositions and paying the correspondence cost."

The fact that Steve and Mary Hudson and Tom and Roberta

Robinson have been removed from the lawsuit has not yet been confirmed because as of this writing the Association's lawyers have not been notified.

You cannot un-ring the bell.

Because of Mr. Hudson's direct involvement in this lawsuit we have had to spend

is Mr. Hudson. It is unfortunate that Mr. Erskine cannot separate the facts from his emotions.

Mr. Florence published an article in the March 2, 2007, *Seven Lakes Times*, page 32, stating: "Also, since I work full time I have not had the time to organ-

ize a Neighborhood Watch Program. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to organize and run this group. I, and the

Board, will support you in what ever way we can."

For the record a Neighborhood Watch Program was never implemented.

Also Mr. Florence is the secretary of the board and one of those responsibilities is to take minutes at Closed Meetings. However, it has recently come to our attention that he failed to record any minutes at several key Closed Meetings.

And to think that Mr. Erskine, Mr. Florence, and Mr. Hudson are running for election to the board! Please remember these facts when deciding on the candidates for whom you vote. Thank you.

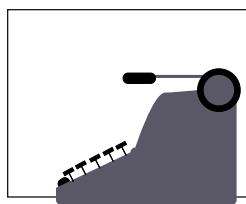
\$9,156.50, of your money in legal fees [\$5,000.00 deductible limit on our liability insurance and \$4,156.50, from August 7, 2007, the date the suit was filed thru January 31, 2008] to defend the Association.

Let me put it another way. There are nine [9] justices that sit on the United States Supreme Court. They frequently have split decisions and a judge in the minority will then publish a dissenting opinion. Does that judge in the minority then go back and sue the court and his colleagues to reverse the decision? The answer is of course not! This is exactly what Mr. Hudson has done with the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

The person who should resign

## Your Turn

*Don Truesdell*  
President, Seven Lakes  
Landowners Assoc.



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*Dr. Pete McKay, DDS*

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## Dispose of your cellphone wisely

Dear Editor:

Did you know that you can drop off your old cell phones for recycling at Mocha Mama's coffee shop [next to Food Lion]?

These phones are taken to the North Carolina Zoo where they are sent to an organization that reconditions them for free distribution to battered women as an emergency help-line.

This is "win-win-win" because the Zoo receives \$4 for each phone it collects.

The Zoo then uses those dollars to support an elementary

school in Namibia.

There are thousands of unused cell phones sitting in drawers and closets in Moore County.

Turn those unused phones into valuable help for those in need.

Remember: recycle drop at Mocha Mamas. I deliver them to the Zoo.

Thanks.

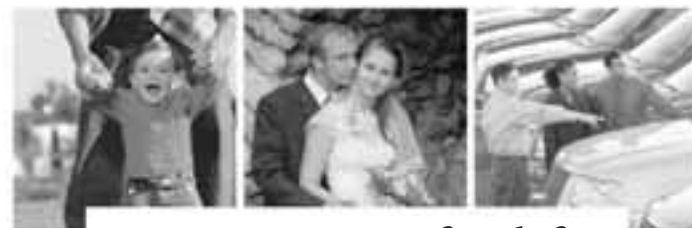
*Jerry Constantino*  
Seven Lakes West

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# Making a case for civil disagreement

Most of the time, disagreement between individuals, and among groups, is a welcome and healthy sign. It fosters open dialogue which often produces better solutions than either of the polarized positions could individually. Obviously, agreement would be the ideal for all, but rarely can it be achieved in large groups, so how we handle the inevitable disagreements is what we need to address.

Under our system of gover-

nance in Seven Lakes, policy-making is entrusted to an elected group of directors and the administration of our Association is the responsibility of the manager.

Recently, we seem to have forgotten how we operate. The CCC folks believe that their preferences should drive what your board does, regardless of the wishes of equally concerned but less vocal neighbors. To be sure, these people have a right

to feel as they do. However, others who are satisfied with the way things are being done also have rights. Our board has to serve them as well.

It would be far less destructive if this vocal minority were to act responsibly while voicing their disagreement, rather than to fan the flames of discord as they have been doing. Our board is very well aware of what the CCC group believes. They, on the other hand, must understand

that they are not in the majority. Continuing to press their causes in the newspaper serves no purpose and is counterproductive.

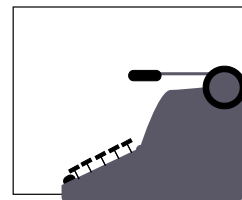
Denouncing the actions of their elected directors is hardly a civil course to follow; these volunteers were elected to serve us all, not just the complaining few. Your board is committed to doing whatever we feel is in the overall best interest of the community.

So, as we approach the end of another board cycle, I hope that

we can pass a set of rules of conduct to guide our discussions in a more professional manner.

## Your Turn

*Ed Nuti  
Director, Seven Lakes  
Landowners Assoc.*



In my opinion, that would be an appropriate way to end a disappointing year and to allow the new board to begin meeting with proper conduct guidelines in place.

# The case for Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

We would like to join others in enthusiastically supporting Ed Silberhorn's candidacy for the position of Legal Affairs Director for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Board.

Mr. Silberhorn has the educational background and tem-

perament for the position. We believe he is uniquely qualified for this position based on his years of related experience and service to similar communities.

His commitment to the people of Seven Lakes West is demonstrated through his service as Community Advocate, involve-

ment in the Lake Auman water usage study, and service as treasurer of the Seven Lakes Sailing Club, as well as serving other endeavors supportive of our community. His interests in serving the larger community of Moore County are evident in his participation in the lay Stephen Ministries to assist members of his church who are in crisis and his position as a part-time instructor at Sandhills Community College.

We believe Mr. Silberhorn is the best candidate for the position of Legal Affairs Director and urge our friends and neighbors to cast their vote for Ed.

Thank you.

*Thom. G. and  
Johanna P. Moran  
Seven Lakes West*

# The case for spaying

Dear Editor:

Because "it's not just rabbits who multiply like rabbits," the Moore Humane Society, along with The Humane Society of the United States encourages everyone to take part in the fourteenth annual Spay Day USA on February 26.

One of the best things a responsible pet owner can do for their pet is to have him or her spayed or neutered. Spaying greatly reduces the chance of breast cancer and prevents various reproductive tract disorders, while neutering eliminates the risk of various testicular diseases. Finally, pets who are spayed or neutered do not add to the heartbreaking tragedy of overpopulation, which results in shelter workers having to humanely euthanize of three to four million homeless cats and dogs each year. That's one every eight seconds.

Help be part of the solution by spaying or neutering your pets. If your pets are already spayed or neutered you can still get involved by sponsoring the spay or neuter of a pet awaiting adoption at Moore Humane Society or the beloved pet of someone

in need of financial assistance.

For more information, please contact Moore Humane Society at 947-2631 or visit our website at [www.moorehumane.org](http://www.moorehumane.org)

*Elizabeth Siebenhar,  
Moore Humane Society,  
Program Director*



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Bob Bierbaum

# ATTENTION!

## DUE TO GROWING FEAR OF THE WORD "WORK"

Our **WORKOUTS** will now be known as  
**ATHLETIC SOCIAL HOURS**

The 8 am **AEROBICS** Class will be renamed  
**GRUNTS AND GOSSIP**

**WATER EXERCISE** Classes will be renamed  
**LIQUID LANGUISHING CLASSES**

**POWER & PILATES** Classes will be named  
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# Water

(Continued from front page)

last year, and an additional 2.55 inch deficit recorded in January. A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] predicts drought conditions persisting through April 2008.

However, the drought is starting to show signs of improvement to our west "and hopefully will be moving in this direction."

## Current and completed water projects

Brobst reported eighty-four

miles of water line is being laid to connect the East Moore Water District [EMWD] to Harnett County. The \$1.15 million project includes a water tank and line booster station upsizing. This line is the crucial link necessary for Moore County to receive

a two million gallon per day water purchase from Harnett County. A related interconnect project, a water line along Rt 15/501 at a cost of \$771,000, will connect the EMWD to Pinehurst, which ultimately feeds Seven Lakes, is expected to be

complete by the end of week.

Completed in May 2007, another water line, this one along NC 211 plus a booster station, at a cost of \$1.15 million, increased the Seven Lakes system capacity from .68 million gallons per day

(See "Water," p. 43)



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**TOTALLY REMODELED & UPGRADED** - Located in 7 Lakes South this beautiful ranch has hardwood bamboo floors, upgraded kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliances & more. You have to see it to believe it! . . . **\$248,000**



**NEAR THE BEACH** - A block from Sequoia Pt. 3 BR, 2BA, fantastic Carolina Rm, beautifully landscaped private lot, low maintenance exterior on Primrose Ct. New tile in baths, kitchen, utility rm & Carolina Rm . . . **\$220,000**



**WATERFRONT ON LITTLE JUNIPER** - Lovely home (over 2000 sqft) with Carolina Rm, large great rm, large kitchen with breakfast bar, masonry fireplace with gas logs, super views of the lake from most rooms . . . **\$239,000**



**RENOVATED GEM** - New listing in SL North, located near Sequoia Beach area. Super condition with master BR on the main level and 2 BR above. Fireplace in great rm, separate family rm, workshop, huge bonus rm . . . **\$229,500**



**NEW CONSTRUCTION** - 7 Lakes South near bus stop. Lots of very nice upgrades in this 3 BR (split plan) with separate office. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood & tile, rear porch, front porch, & stainless steel appliances. . . . **\$242,000**



**COLONIAL IN 7 LAKES SOUTH** - Large home with 4 BR and 2.5 BA, hardwood floors in DR & LR, new appliances, lots of attic storage, located on three lots (1.79 acres) across street from the golf course (8th hole) . . . **\$249,000**



**LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT BARGAIN** - Six bedrooms, four baths with new hardwood floors in great room and new tile in kitchen. Boat dock with lift. A must see.  
... **Won't last long at \$580,000**



**GOLF FRONT ON 17th HOLE** - All brick home priced to sell & immaculate. Upgrades included. Spacious kitchen and eat in area. Relax in the Master suite with Jacuzzi tub & separate shower. Enjoy the view! . . . **\$305,000**



**SEQUOIA LAKEVIEW** - Wonderful home with unique floor plan. Two story with two Master Suites! View the beautiful lake from the wooden decks and balcony. Comfortable and in excellent condition! . . . **\$254,500**



**HIGHLY DESIRABLE TOWNHOUSE** - Priced for quick sale. Three bedroom, two bath with Carolina Room and very nice open floor plan. Great location near the south gate and the Seven Lakes Country Club. . . **\$155,000**



**ALL BRICK 2 STORY** - Beautiful Northside home on large wooded corner lot near amenities. MBR on main level with 2 BR on 2nd floor. Sep. DR, large screened porch, neat family rm with masonry fireplace (gas logs) . . . **\$248,000**

## SEVEN LAKES LOTS

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#3157 - Lake Auman - \$279,900  
#3388 - Lake Auman - \$299,000  
#3389 - Lake Auman - \$299,000

### GOLF FRONT

#2188 - SOLD! - \$35,000  
#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000  
#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

### COMMERCIAL LOTS

#114 - \$8,000

### INTERIOR

#1012 - Large Lot with Good Perc - \$25,000  
#1014 - Great Investment with Good Perc - \$25,750  
#1015 - Private with Good Perc - \$26,500  
#196 - Reduced/ Dbl Lots - \$27,000  
#215/220 - Reduced! - \$28,500  
#1004/05 - Two/wet - \$6,900  
#2574R - Lake View - \$19,000  
#2475 - Really Nice - \$21,500

### INTERIOR (CONT.)

#2495 - Private - \$20,000  
#2514 - Good Perc - \$24,900  
#2545 - Cul-de-sac - \$15,000  
#5218R - Double - \$79,000  
#5433 - Under Contract! - \$47,500

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## FEBRUARY ACTION

113 Winsford Circle - Under Contract  
117 Primrose Circle - New Listing  
Lot #2574R - Serious Reduction  
11 Deer Track Drive - SOLD!  
New Listing - Commercial Office Space \$110,000

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## Commissioners race

(Continued from front page)

Picerno is the founder and chairman of Southern Software, a Southern Pines-based company frequently in the news this

package to the Sheriff's Department.

A much needed upgrade of all law enforcement computer and record management systems would have required a substantial additional purchase.

This need was further complicated by the fact that current County Commissioner Larry Caddell is chief executive officer of Southern Software and a forty percent owner of the company. Caddell was not a member of the

board when the previous purchases and donation occurred.

According to Picerno, offering the county such a generous gift was a unique chance for

him and his employees to give back to the community.

Picerno founded Southern Software in 1988 with Bill White. Though he has retired from

actively managing the company, he continues to serve on the board of directors.



**Nancy Roy Fiorillo**

past year because of their donation of \$225,000 in computer software to Moore County law enforcement departments; specifically the Sheriff's Department, County Jail, and Public Safety office.

Previously Moore County had purchased software from Picerno's company and in 2005, Southern Software donated a



**Nick Picerno**

## Area A plan moves forward

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Area A Small Area Plan Steering Committee presented the results of sixteen months of research, public meetings, brainstorming sessions, and consensus building — all condensed into a 94-page document — to the Moore County Planning Board on Thursday night, February 7.

The plan is packed with fresh thinking about how to welcome development in Area A — a hundred square mile chunk of the county that includes Seven Lakes, West End, Eagle Springs, and Jackson Springs — while preserving the farm land, forest land, and natural and cultural resources that make folks want

to live here in the first place.

Steering Committee members John Monroe and Jesse Wimberley presented the plan. Monroe laid out the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies the committee had devised, while Wimberley told Board members "let's act now to protect what we value the most."

That action, however, will be taken by the Commissioners — not by the Planning Board. When the time came to vote on the plan, Planning Board member Ron Jackson asked whether the vote could be delayed for a few weeks so that he could have more time to review the document.

"We're only voting to pass it on to the Commissioners," former

Planning Board Chairman Harry Huberth told Jackson. Huberth was sitting in the meeting as an alternate Planning Board member.

"We're not voting to approve or deny . . . We're not endorsing — or not endorsing — the plan."

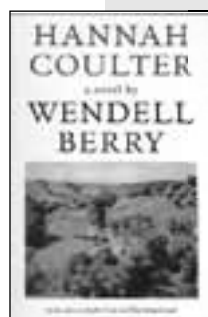
Planning Board Chair Nancy Fiorillo echoed Huberth's point. "We are just voting to pass this along to the Commissioners," she said. "We are not the approval body."

The Board ultimately voted to send the plan to the Commissioners with everyone in favor but Jackson, who sat out the vote.

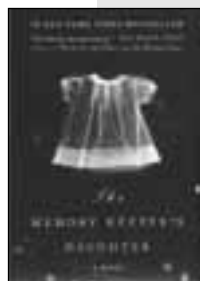
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## Who's Reading What?

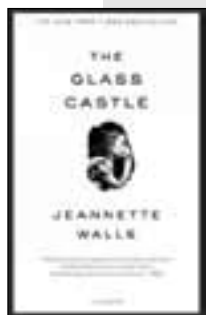
Here are the March Picks  
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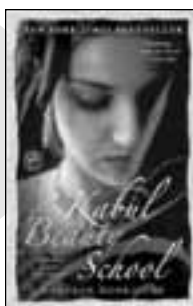
Books West  
**HANNAH  
COULTER**  
by Wendell Berry



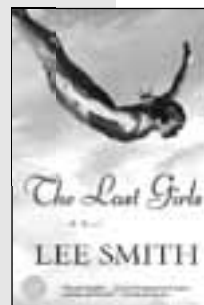
Sandhills Book Club  
**THE MEMORY  
KEEPER'S DAUGHTER**  
by Kim Edwards



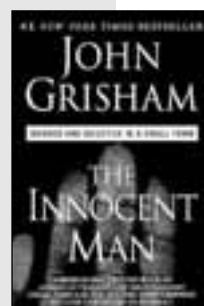
7 Lakes Bookies  
**THE GLASS CASTLE**  
by Jeannette Walls



BookGroup by the Lakes  
**KABUL BEAUTY SCHOOL**  
by Deborah Rodriguez



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# Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

submit preliminary department budgets at the March meeting, along with brief descriptions of any major projects.

## Public Safety

On January 18, police arrested a man suspected of robbing the Foxfire General Store on March 22, 2006. The man was identified through a national database of DNA evidence. Councilwoman Coker reports the suspect is not a Foxfire resident but had frequently traveled through the area.

Coker also reports the Foxfire Police telephone system was repaired and working well.

## Planning and Zoning

Zoning administrator Mimi Ainsworth reported twenty-two homes for sale on the East side of which nineteen are new construction. There are fourteen homes for sale on the West side of the village, of which eight are new construction. In the previous thirty day period, two certificates of occupancy were issued. Permits for an addition and to build an accessory building intended as workshop were also approved.

## Streets

Councilman Vic Koos reported that five of the six Stop signs ordered by the village were installed. The location for the sixth sign has not been determined. Koos recommends you contact him or the village office if you know where a Stop sign is missing or in need of replacement.

K.R. Mace Electric will be installing fans and electric boxes at the Village Park Green shelters. Koos also reported the park fitness trail was eroding again.

"We will need to sit down with the park committee as this is the same thing over and over," said Koos. "It's downright dangerous to walk or run, someone is going to get hurt in those little canyons that form every time it rains."

In November, the village spent \$3,500 to have the original contractor repair the trail. According to Koos, all areas have returned to the eroded condition except one.

## Mayor's Report

Mayor Erickson said he had received a complaint about speeding in the village. He responded that the council only has control of speed limits on village-owned roads.

Specifically, the letter identified the number of new homes as dramatically increasing the amount of traffic and that this growth includes many families with younger drivers and children on bicycles.

The letter requested the council lower the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph, and was signed by eight residents.

Erickson responded that he had called the Department of Transportation who recommended an ad hoc committee be created to address the problem.

Councilwoman Coker made the motion and it was approved to appoint the signatory names as the ad hoc committee.

Erickson also reported that results of a traffic study of Richmond and Hoffman Roads, conducted by the state, should be received before the March meeting.

"The state controls speed limits on these roads, a study has been conducted to see if the speed limit should be lowered," said Erickson.

A resident inquired if speed bumps or a stop sign could be installed along Richmond Road. Erickson responded that the village had no jurisdiction over state roads.

Councilwoman Coker also responded that Foxfire Police

had been working to reduce speed by issuing citations.

Councilman Koos complained that county school buses frequently speed in the village. "It's unbelievable. They just zing by my house!"

## Appointments

The council unanimously approved three new appointments to the Park Committee; Tommy McCaskill, Charles Coker,

Candy Howard.

Lisa Kivett and Angie McKew submitted resignation letters from the Appearance Committee and Nick Xanders and Al McNamara, were reappointed for four-year terms.

Any Foxfire residents interested in serving on the Appearance Committee are urged to contact Jean Brown or the village office

# Water

(Continued from page 43)

trial plants around Robbins were brought back on line, would this jeopardize the county's access to their water.

"That's a good point," said Brobst. "We need to make sure if we put that kind of capital in that we are guaranteed that capacity."

A resident asked why new wells were not being drilled closer to the user [Seven Lakes]. Brobst said test wells had shown low yields.

questioned Brobst what would happen if Harnett County was unable to provide the purchased two million gallons per day. Brobst said the contract requires Moore County to adhere to any water restrictions imposed on Harnett County.

"If the Cape Fear River runs dry we're in a whole heap of trouble," said Brobst. "However, they [Harnett] are bound by contract to supply us with this water."

"There's just no water. We can't spend for the cost of a well with a low capacity."

Northsider Michael Florence

## Grande Pines Water Assessment Public Hearing

A Public Hearing and Special Meeting regarding the Grande Pines Water Assessment will be held at the Foxfire Village Town Hall on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm.

The preliminary assessment roll estimates a total project cost of \$152,551, to be assessed in full to the affected Grande Pines property and lot owners.

Complete plans and the preliminary assessment roll are available for public inspection at the village offices during regular business hours.

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Seven Lakes Times  
February 22, 2008

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**QUEEN SOFA BED** – for sale \$375.00, call 673-1013.

**HEARING AID GN RESOUNDAIR** – small, digital, back of ear, high frequency. Like new. Paid \$1800. Sell \$900 or OBO 673-1243. *1tc/2/22*

**DELL 15" COMPUTER MONITOR** – flat screen. 1 year old. \$75. Call 673-7596. *1tp 2/22*

**SHOP AVON AT HOME OR IN YOUR OFFICE** – with guaranteed satisfaction. Contact: Marijola "Mary" Farley Avon Independent Sales Representative Seven Lakes (910) 673-2310 bierstadt1@aol.com *4tp\$ 2/22*

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**HOUSES FOR SALE** – SL North, 4BD/3BA, 2700 sf, near Sequoia Point. \$235,000. Call 910-246-8045 or 910-639-9123. *Brokers Welcome.*

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**CEDAR LOG HOMES** – 6x8 Tongue & Groove Cedar Logs; Best Insulation. Many Plans or Custom Designs. **Whelan Realty, LLC** 1008 Seven Lakes Drive, www.WhehanRealty.com Call 910-673-1818.

## FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS

**COMMERCIAL RENTAL** – Office space 720 sq. ft., along with 3480 sq. ft of warehouse space in Seven Lakes. Available now. Call for details. 910-673-6383 or 910-315-6383.

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## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT** – Woodlawn Square behind West End Post Office. \$600/mo. Call 910-673-0004.

**HOUSES FOR RENT** – One in SL North & one just outside Seven Lakes \$900/mo & \$1000/mo plus deposits. Call 910-246-8045 or 910-639-9123.

**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE** – 720 square feet, first floor, water included. Lease and Security deposit required. Call 673-4800.

## FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

**OFFICE SPACE** – second floor rentals start at \$125.00 per month and up, water and electric included. Lease and security required. Call 673-4800.

**TWO - SECOND FLOOR OFFICES AVAILABLE.** Water and electric included. Lease and security required. Call 673-4800.

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT** – at the Executive Center. 2 rooms and reception area. Will change to suit. Contact Fred at 673-1553.

**CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT: NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, OCEANFRONT** - 1BD/1.5 BA, living room, dining, kitchen, balcony overlooking ocean and whole grandstrand. \$65.00 per night off season/ \$189,000 purchase. good rental history. Largest one-bedroom for sale in North Myrtle. Last unit sold for \$309,000. Call 673-1653 or 295-7732.

**NEW OFFICE SPACE** – Seven Lakes Drive. 800 and 750 SF. Lease and Security deposit required. Call for Info 673-4800.

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is what we do best.

# CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times  
February 22, 2008

## FOR SALE LOTS

**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Lake Auman lake view, lot #4251. .54 ac., current perk, septic permit, Survey/topo close to back gate. \$86,900. Owner 727-595-8070.

**LAKE AUMAN WATER FRONT LOT 3455**– on Baker Circle. Offering great views and opportunity to build your dream home! Asking \$489,000. Call Lisa @ Stephanie Hill Real Estate Services – 910-215-8400.

**GREAT BUILDING LOTS IN SEVEN LAKES WEST** – #5707, current perk, near Community Center, \$47,500; #5201, near Club House on Cul-de-sac, \$54,900; #5496, near Community Center, private, \$55,000; #5237, near Club House, w/Lake peek, \$59,900. Call Judy at The Property Center, 690-3331.

**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Double lot 0.96 acre. 215/217 Longleaf Dr. Walking distance to BR Clubhouse. Nice pines. New perc. \$79,000. 910-673-2344.

**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Combination water front, water view lots for sale 3156 & 4107. \$285,000. Great view from both lots. Call Fred at The Property Center 910-673-1724 or 1-800-334-7869. *tfn 9/29*

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**6 GREEN VALLEY LN • FOXFIRE • \$338,000**  
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For a free consultation to discuss which type of mortgage loan will work best for you, **call Victoria Spannaus at Wachovia Mortgage Corp. at (800) 741-7813 or 910-692-6225.**