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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

November 26, 2008

Village gets first look at Stonehill plans

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Members of the Foxfire Village Planning Board got their first look at conceptual drawings and plans for the proposed 1,500 acre Stonehill Pines development during their Monday, November 17 meeting.

Foxfire resident Tom Collins, a civil engineer who will head up the Village's Planned Unit Development [PUD] Quality Assurance Team told the Board that Stonehill developers are "pretty comfortable with their layout right now," and are hoping to present a Master Plan after the first of the year [See page 7 for a complete description of their

proposal].

As the Village takes steps towards negotiating exactly what will or will not be approved in that Master Plan, Collins said the PUD team would be meeting with Stonehill representatives several times and would present updates at each regular monthly Planning Board meeting. In addition to Collins, the PUD team includes the Village attorney, Neil Smith Engineering, GCS – a geotechnical engineering firm, and Hydrostructures. The team is responsible for assuring the Planning Board that whatever is presented meets all county, state, federal, and

(See "Foxfire," p. 30)



Old Country Feel — This architect's rendering, taken from the Stonehill Pines PUD application filed with Foxfire Village last week, is labelled "Hotel Cottage Sketch." See page 7 for a full report on the developer's plans.

Westside board cuts budget \$105K

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Facing a projected revenue shortfall of \$85,000, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Direc-

from a proposal to charge a West Side Park rental fee to instructors offering classes in the facility and agreed to hire the engineering firm Hobbs-Upchurch and Associates to study options for correcting long-standing drainage problems on Butterfly Court. These were apparently among the items Directors discussed in an one-

hour-plus executive session held before opening the doors of the Work Session to landowners. [See page 3 for a report on

(See "Budget," p. 32)

DOT workshop could make or break plans for crossings

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

It's not so much a matter of whether the railroad crossing at the entrance to Seven Lakes West will have to be upgraded — it's a matter of who will pay for it.

Will the federal government foot the bill, or will the \$200,000 to \$300,000 cost of the project fall on the landowners of Seven Lakes West and the Westside businesses that depend on the

Lakeway Drive crossing to carry customers to their shops.

The answer to that question will likely depend on what North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] officials hear at a public input workshop scheduled for Tuesday, December 2 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the West End Elementary School Cafeteria.

The NCDOT Railway Division has developed a railway corridor safety project that will upgrade

the crossing at Seven Lakes West, making it a public crossing and equipping it with signals that coordinate with the traffic light and gate arms to keep vehicles off the tracks when a train is approaching. The crossing at NC Highway 73 and NC Highway 211 near West End Fire and Rescue would get the same safety features. Some other crossings in between would get minor upgrades.

(See "Railroad," p. 24)

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tors trimmed \$105,000 from its expense budget during a Tuesday, November 17 Special Work Session.

The Board also backed away

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Business Guild Tree Lighting is December 2

The Seven Lakes West End Area Business Guild will host its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in Seven Lakes Business Village on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm.

The event has become a Seven Lakes favorite and a wonderful way for families to kick-off the holiday season.

Local choirs are expected to perform a stirring selection of

seasonal tunes, and Business Guild members will make sure there are plenty of warming refreshments to help keep away the chill.

The Guild will announce the

winner of its Annual Holiday Decorating Contest, in which local merchants vie to see who can assemble the most attractive seasonal display.

And, of course, the capstone

of the evening — at least for the youngest members of the Seven Lakes Community — is the noisy arrival of the Jolly Old Elf himself — St. Nick, Santa Claus — carried directly from the North Pole by the good men and women of Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. It's a noisy parade, to be sure, but one eagerly awaited by every good boy and girl.

Youngsters can queue up for that all important few minutes on Santa's lap, making sure they have officially registered their hopes and desires for Christmas Day.

So be sure to mark your family calendar today for the evening of Tuesday, December 2, and join the Seven Lakes-West End Area Business Guild at 6:00 pm in the Village.

Southside woman arrested for forgery

Moore County Sheriff's deputies have arrested a Seven Lakes South woman on forgery charges, alleging she misappropriated payments for family members and neighbors that were intended to go to the West End Elementary School PTA.

Deborah Lynn Dew, age 37, of 147 E. Devonshire was arrested on November 4 on the charge that she altered a \$29 check written by her former sister in law, Brenda Measamer of Raleigh, in payment for items purchased from a PTA fundraising catalog.

According to an investigation report filed by Detective Kip Dennis, Measamer said she

made out her check to West End Elementary School but discovered that someone had added "Deborah Dew c/o" on the check and that Dew had deposited it in her account at the State Employee's Credit Union.

Further investigation by the Sheriff's office found multiple similar instances, resulting in the re-arrest of Dew on November 19 on multiple counts of forgery.

Dew's first court date was set for Monday, November 24. No further information about the case was available as *The Times* went to press.

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Board will impose no fees on instructors

Opening their Tuesday, November 18 Work Session after a lengthy executive session, Westside Directors swiftly backed away from a proposal to charge a West Side Park rental fee to "for-profit" instructors of classes sponsored by the Recreation Committee.

The proposal, discussed in a Board Work Session a week earlier, would have applied to the Tai Chi and Yoga instructors, as well as the new Flip and Fun tumbling program for children. The Board tabled the idea because Recreation Director Karen Milligan was not in attendance, but the proposal was reported in the November 14 edition of *The Times*.

Milligan sent an email to several dozen Westsiders on Monday, November 18, asking that they oppose the idea and make their opposition known during Tuesday's Work Session.

When that session was opened to the public the first order of business was an explanation by Legal Director Ed Silberhorn that the Board had dropped the proposed rental fee for instructors in favor of a policy that would require then to carry general and medical liability insurance, specifically naming the Association as a covered party.

Silberhorn explained that SLWLA's liability policy specifically excludes medical coverage for injuries sustained in athletic activities on Association property. Unless the instructors provide that coverage, he said, the Association could find itself

with a gap in coverage.

Specifically, the Board agreed that all "for profit" instructors, when participating in what the Insurance Committee determines to be "athletic activities," will carry \$1 million in liability

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coverage and \$5,000 in medical payments coverage.

Silberhorn noted that the three instructors currently offering classes in yoga, tai chi, and tumbling have all provided certification that they have such coverage.

"The Board's concern has been around making sure that there is coverage for whatever happens in this community," President Mary Anne Fewkes added.

Public comment

Though the Board quickly dispensed with the idea of charging instructors a fee, several landowners turned out to object to the idea, including former Board member Jan Patton, who headed up the committee that originally set the West Side Park fee structure.

Noting she had read about the proposal in *The Times*, Patton said "I am here to take exception to that."

"As a citizen of Seven Lakes

West it is fine with me if some of my dues are subsidizing recreational activities for others. This whole facility was built for the purpose of including as much of the community as we could in activities . . . I see no reason for anyone to charge a fee."

"Start down that road of 'pay as you go' and start running the numbers," Patton argued, and you are going to run into a brick wall."

She urged the Board to "stop micro-managing recreation" adding that, with the hiring of a management company, the Directors should "get your fingers out of the operational things if you can."

"Our biggest concern was not having people covered by insurance coverage," President Fewkes explained.

"Have you dropped the idea of charging them a fee?" Patton asked.

"Yes," Fekwes answered.

"That's a very good move," Patton replied. "I rest my case."

Paula Hill praised the work of the Recreation Committee and of Director Milligan in chairing it. "Karen has done excellent job bringing in programs for all the people in community," she said, noting that the community includes more and more young families with children.

Debbie Castro-Giovanni, the instructor for Flip and Fun, told the Board that "each person in

the community pays for every program that takes place in the facility . . . Since we pay for it in our dues, the Board shouldn't charge more to have programs brought here. I already pay for these programs to take place."

Noting that she had invested over \$3,000 in legal fees, insurance premiums, and equipment in order to offer her fitness program at West Side Park, Castro-Giovanni said it was a stretch to consider her a "for-profit" provider.

After the public comment period, Director Milligan said, "We have asked the instructors to obtain their own insurance. Now that they have obtained that, then there is no reason for the Board to charge the instructors

(See "Westside," p. 31)



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Colin McKenzie honored

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Moore County's Board of Commissioners faced a short agenda on Monday Night, November 17, but there was no shortage of praise for Chairman Colin McKenzie, who was marking his last regular meeting of the Board after twelve years of service.

McKenzie chose not to run for re-election in November; his seat will be filled by McLendon Hills resident Nick Picerno.

Among those who attended the meeting were Moore county GOP Chairman John Owen, and McKenzie's wife, Annie Sewell McKenzie.

Vice Chairman Jimmy Melton took on the role of Master of Ceremonies, recounting McKenzie's service to the county, his service on the Pinehurst Village Council, and his 31 years of service in the US Army. McKenzie, a helicopter pilot, retired from the military after 31 years that included service in both Korea and Vietnam.

Calling McKenzie "a man of integrity and honor," Melton said he had "never known a man so diligent in serving the community."

"We have among us truly a great person in this county,"

Melton said. "All the decisions that Colin has made, he has made with this county's best interest at heart. Whatever came before us, Colin, rest assured, was going to do what he felt was right."

McKenzie was given a plaque in appreciation for his service and posed for photographs surrounded by his fellow commissioners and county department heads.

Both Owen and McKenzie's neighbor Mary Jo Morris, who recently served as co-chair of the committee that rewrote the county's Animal Control Ordinance, addressed the Board, praising McKenzie for his service and concern for others.

"Thank you all so much for coming," McKenzie said when the speakers were done. "I'm very touched." Noting that he and Mrs. McKenzie had recently celebrated their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary, the Chairman said, "It's pretty easy to be successful when you've had a good running mate."

Other Business

In other business, the Commissioners:

- Authorize fifteen utility easements in Jackson Hamlet, part

of a joint effort by the County and the Village of Pinehurst to bring water and wastewater service to that community.

- Approved at the request of Planning Director Joey Raczkowski a Call to Public Hearing for the Monday, December 1, commissioners meeting to consider approval of an application for a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant to help the River Bend community in the eastern tip of the county repair a bridge and culverts that were destroyed in Tropical Storm Hannah.

- Appointed Paula Parke of Southern Pines to the RSVP Advisory Board.

- Appointed Dr. Pat Henderson to the Moore County Board of Health.

- Heard from the manager that the NC Department of Transportation would hold a public input workshop on the closing of two railroad crossings in West End as part of a larger rail safety project. [See story on page 1.]

- Heard from Moore County Tax Administrator Wayne Vest that the next revaluation of real property for ad valorem tax purposes is scheduled for 2011 and that there are no current plans to change that schedule.

Computer class at WEE: learn about Open Office

Open Office is a free program download that has many of the functions and capabilities of the Microsoft Office Suite.

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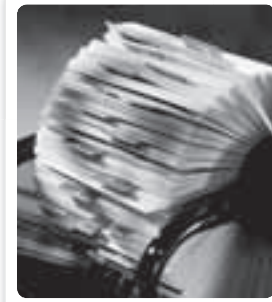
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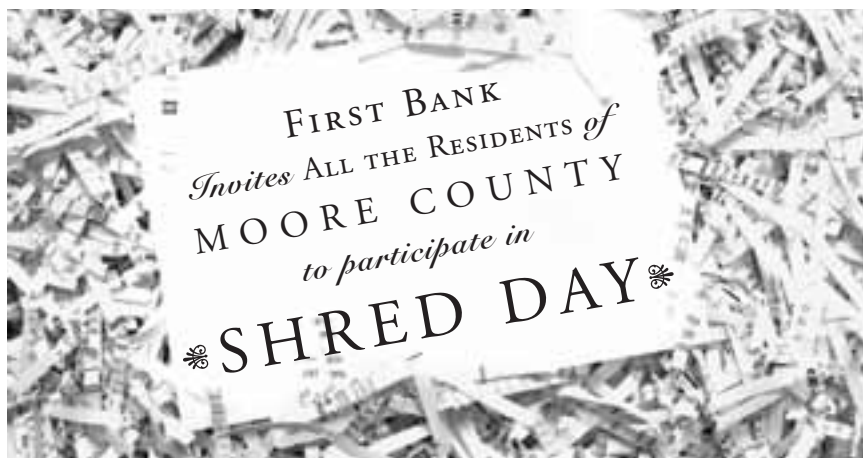
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Seven Lakes Hardware celebrates 30 years

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Standing sentry at the main crossroads of Seven Lakes, Westsider John Garner's little cash and carry service has grown and evolved over the years keeping pace with the furious pace of the surrounding communities. Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this month,

Garner said he is thankful.

"We've been blessed with a lot of good customers and employees and that's what makes things work."

One of those loyal employees is Rhonda Shields, who has worked alongside Garner since day one. She explained that in addition to their main brick building, Seven Lakes Hardware

expanded to include a full lumberyard, rental center, NAPA auto parts store, and a gift center over the years. Changing with the times and technology to meet the needs for today's consumer, the paint department offers computer color matching and Seven Lakes Hardware has developed a well-stocked plumbing department with the assistance of a very experienced salesman. The shop retains approximately twenty, mostly fulltime employees.

Garner said their growth, from 4,800 square feet to today's 40,000-50,000 square foot operation, is a testament to the support of the community.

"We appreciate each and every customer and what the com-

munity has done for us – not just Seven Lakes but the greater area," said Garner.

Unlike local competitors, Seven Lakes Hardware is also open on Saturdays from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

"Six days a week, ten hours a day, we're here for you," said Shields. "We can furnish a whole house or a light bulb."

In addition to assisting individual homeowners, Seven Lakes Hardware also serves as a major supplier to builders and the local trade industry. Garner said this mixture of customers helps them respond better to trends and needs.

"We have a friendly atmosphere and we know our customers by name – you'll get per-

sonal attention and we can answer your questions," said Garner. "We don't really have customers, we have friends."

On Friday and Saturday, November 28-29, Seven Lakes Hardware invites the community to help them celebrate their thirtieth anniversary with an After-Thanksgiving Sale featuring a twenty percent off storewide sale. Many items are below cost and the sale also includes all treated lumber. Refreshments and door prizes will be offered, including a Weber grill and thirty \$10 Gift Certificates [one for each year in business]. Come by and help Seven Lakes Hardware celebrate thirty years of great service.



Longtime Seven Lakes Hardware customer, Bill Reaves, with Rhonda Shields and John Garner.

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Pinecrest Orchestra is Inauguration bound

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Practice, practice, practice, makes perfect – or at least a great violin player, as demonstrated by Keelen Rabstajnek of Seven Lakes North. Along with twenty or so other members of the Pinecrest High School Orchestra, she will have the chance to show off her musical chops in Washington, DC during Inauguration Week in an annual competition that brings together school bands, choruses, and orchestras from around the

nation.

On Saturday, January 17, the Pinecrest Orchestra under the direction of Lindsey Leach, will be judged on five musical selections including a favorite of Rabstajnek's entitled "Amadeus." Held at varying locations, this year's event in the District of

Columbia will allow these students to experience a unique moment in American history.

A special concert by the Pinecrest High School Orchestra will be held on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 pm at the Pinecrest High School auditorium. A nominal entrance fee will

help off-set trip costs. The public is welcome to attend.

Orchestra members are also sponsoring a candy sale to assist with the trip and competition costs. A variety of different brand-name candies and cinema-size chocolate bars are available for \$1 a piece. For more information or to order candy, please contact Keelen at 673-3171 or Pinecrest High School at 692-6554.

"We practice everyday for an hour and forty-five minutes during school and I also practice at home – even on weekends," said Rabstajnek.

A violinist since the fourth grade, she said her mother used

to force her to practice. "But this year was when I really began to believe in myself."

She continued, "The violin can help you learn so many other instruments. The guitar is easier because I know the strings – once you play a stringed instrument you can play a lot of others."

Now in the tenth grade, Rabstajnek aspires to a career in pediatric medicine. She is the daughter of Pam and John Rabstajnek of Seven Lakes North. Along with her sisters, Allison and Casey, Keelen also operates KAC Candles, a home-based business making soy candles.



Keelen Rabstajnek and other Pinecrest Orchestra members will compete in Washington, DC, during Inauguration Week.

Christmas Table

Presented by Moore County Extension and Community Association, the Creative Christmas Table features creative holiday table arrangements, handmade crafts sale, and a raffle on Tuesday, December 9 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Little River Resort Club in Carthage. Admission is \$3 and proceeds benefit the North Carolina 4-H Museum, which will be built at the 4-H Camp Millstone near Ellerbe.



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Real Estate

By SANDY STEWART

REALTOR

"CAVEAT EMPTOR?" — NOT TODAY

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Well, maybe. This legal principle of "caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware) is dead or dying. We are living in an age of consumerism and it's hard to find a court that won't favor the buyer in a dispute. In fact, consumer groups and many government agencies are taking the posture that the seller must disclose everything.

If you have a problem in your home, don't mask it. A common example is the homeowner who spray paints a ceiling to cover

water stains caused by a leaking roof. If you have a problem that you don't intend to correct, be candid about it. Sure, some people will be turned off by it, but the serious buyer will be understanding about a problem openly displayed. Usually, they will discount the price by far less than the cost of repair. . . and a whole lot less than a day in court would cost.

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by Stuart Ross

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Stonehill: 1,050 homes, hotel, two golf courses

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Envisioned as a world-class, mixed-use, golf resort community, Stonehill Pines will be a phased long-term development with public dining and retail spaces and gated residential, private communities.

As initially presented to the Foxfire Village Planning Board in conceptual drawings and plans, the low density community of 1,050 homes will be anchored by a luxury resort hotel plus other private recreational facilities including two championship golf courses and clubhouses, a trail

system, pocket parks, and active recreational spaces.

According to the proposal, Stonehill Pines will enhance the financial and aesthetic wellbeing of Foxfire Village while preserving the relaxed, small town feel that makes Foxfire an attractive place to call home. They maintain the success of Stonehill Pines will be a major victory in Foxfire's ongoing efforts to direct future growth in a planned, strategic, and environmentally sensitive way.

The conceptual plan centers on a village environment reminiscent of earlier, simpler days

using a mix of traditional residences in Low Country, English Cottage, Georgian, and Craftsman styles. The predominant common characteristics of each style are pitched roofs with upper storey setbacks and dormers.

As presented, Phase One site infrastructure includes construction of entranceways off Hoffman and Foxfire Roads, development of the North Course and clubhouse, twenty to thirty-five Founder's Estate homes, 100 villas, up to 300 single family homes, and up to fifty multi-family units.

The villas are identified as an integral component of the resort nature of the site. They will be comprised of clustered, single story patio homes and story and a half villas with smaller yards and flowing courtyard designs. All buildings, including the hotel, will have a maximum height of forty-five feet. The developers are seeking a Gold LEED certification for the hotel and spa. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design [LEED] is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

As presented, the plan also calls for construction of a tertiary

wastewater reuse treatment facility. This type of waste facility has come under close scrutiny this year after similar units were proposed for two other major subdivision projects within Moore County. Members of the Moore County Planning Board, department of Public Works, and Board of County Commissioners participated in a daylong workshop to better understand the technology and when and where it could be appropriate for this area.





The proposed sewer plan also includes a network of conven-
(See "Stonehill," p. 30)



Stonehill Pines Resort Hotel — This front elevation of the hotel planned for Stonehill Pines was included in the developer's PUD application.



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WEE students have mumps, whooping cough

The Moore County Health Department is currently responding to two highly contagious diseases reported at West End Elementary School. A laboratory confirmed case of Pertussis, better known as whooping cough, and a clinically diagnosed case of mumps were announced on Thursday and Friday, November 20-21.

Both mumps and whooping cough are spread person to person through coughing and sneez-

ing. Good hygiene through frequent hand washing and staying home if you are ill are two ways you can help prevent the spread of infection.

Whooping cough is a bacterial infection characterized by severe "coughing fits." Infants, children, and the elderly are at greatest risk for this disease. Symptoms of pertussis usually appear between six and twenty-one days after exposure and start with cold symptoms [runny

nose, cough] followed by episodes of severe coughing that can last one to two months. Vomiting may occur after coughing spells, however, the person may look and feel healthy between coughing episodes. Immunized school children, teenagers, and adults have milder symptoms than young children. Persons treated with antibiotics are contagious until the appropriate antibiotic treatment is completed.

Mumps is a virus that can grow in the nose, throat, and lymph nodes. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with saliva and discharges of the nose and throat. Infected individuals are contagious three days prior to and five days after the onset of symptoms.

Mumps is considered a rare disease in the United States because of routine vaccination. Symptoms typically appear sixteen to eighteen days after infection, but this period can range to twenty-five days after infection.

The most common symptoms are fever, headache, muscle

aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite, followed by onset of parotitis [swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears-on one or both sides]. In rare cases, complications can include inflammation of the testicles, brain and/or tissue covering the spinal chord, and death.

There is no specific treatment for mumps and supportive care should be given as needed.

For more information, contact the Moore County Health Department at 974-3300 or visit www.moorecountync.gov/health

Chapel Fund marks 20th

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines

The Chapel in the Pines commences their twentieth year of holiday fundraising this month. Slanted towards needy adults, children, and seniors, the Chapel's community Christmas Fund encompasses much more than Christmas. It also includes Thanksgiving and Easter.

The money raised takes care of food vouchers and gifts for more than fifty area families in West End and Jackson Springs.

The Chapel works hand-in-hand with Moore County's Department of Social Services to ensure appropriate selection of recipients of the fund's offerings.

"The source of money for these endeavors is threefold: individual contributions, Seven Lakes area businesses, and the Chapel's Benevolence Fund," said Alice Shaughnessy, the benevolence chairwoman. "A

substantial part of the Chapel's contribution is the proceeds from their annual rummage sale which was held last month."

With the dire current economic conditions becoming so troubling, the local need for aid is getting urgent. Please make out your check to the Chapel Community Christmas Fund, c/o Alice Shaughnessy, 3081 Seven Lakes West, West End NC 27376.

Kiwanis Holiday Decorating Contest

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club will award a \$65 prize for the Best Lawn and/or Lakefront Decoration Display within the community. Three prizes will be awarded: one each for North, South, and Westside homes. Judges will be surveying properties Friday through Sunday, December 19-21 between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

Please help beautify the community.

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Wilcox, Markey exchange vows in Pinehurst

Mollie Amber Wilcox and Thomas Dermott Markey were married on November 1 at The

Holly Inn in Pinehurst by Rev. Larry Lyon.

The bride is the daughter of

Steve and Noreen Sawyer of Seven Lakes North, and Mike and Diana Wilcox of Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Her grandparents are John D. Broyhill of Blowing Rock and Billie Phillips of Seven Lakes, Doug Coffey of Blowing Rock and Madolyn and Wayne Cearley of Boone, North Carolina.

The groom is the son of Betsy Markey of Southern Pines and Bernie Markey, also of Southern

Pines. His grandparents are Harrison Garner of Carthage, Ellen Donovan of Asheville, and Frances Markey of Carlsbad, California.

Traci Cortes served as Matron of Honor and Paige Patton was the bridesmaid. Derek Markey served as Best Man and Jack Manning was the usher.

Mollie graduated from Pinecrest High School in 2004. She received an Associates

degree from Sandhills Community College and is employed at Hobbs Upchurch in Southern Pines as a CAD technician.

Tom graduated from Pinecrest High School in 2001. He will receive an Associates degree from Sandhills Community College and is employed at Hobbs Upchurch in Southern Pines in the surveying department.

The couple will reside in Seven Lakes.



Mollie Amber Wilcox and Thomas Dermott Markey

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In memory of . . .

Mary Graham Waddell, 50, of the Eastwood community, died Monday, November 10, at her residence.

She attended Sandhills Community College and was employed at Botanicals Florist.

She is survived by a daughter, Shalanda Waddell; her mother, Ethel Graham; brothers, Clifton and Clinton Graham; and sisters, Olivia and Sharon Graham; stepdaughters, Walita Waddell and Keisha Mitchell; and four step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 15. Burial followed at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Helen Jackson Harris, 92, of the Eastwood community, died Wednesday, November 12, at Durham Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Harris was a member of St. Peter United Church of God in the Eastwood community.

She is survived by a son, Donnell Harris; daughter, Lucy Harris; eight grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 16 at St. Peter United Church of God. Services were directed by Simon Funeral Home. Burial followed at Eastwood Community Cemetery.

Flora Lee Martin, 70, of West End, died Thursday, November 13, at her home.

Mrs. Martin was born in Montgomery County, the daughter of the late Jack Armstrong and Mary Simon Armstrong. She was employed as a textile worker.

She is survived by sons, Robert Martin of Rockingham, Willie Martin of Jackson Springs, and Jay Lee Martin of Ellerbe; daughters, Connie Stroman of West End, Shirley Martin of Mt. Gilead, and Robin Harrington of Ellerbe; sister, Sally Sullivan of Rochester, NY; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 17 at St. Luke Free Will Baptist Church in Ellerbe. Services were directed by McLendon Funeral Home of Ellerbe. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Jane Hill Brown, 63, of Pinelake Nursing Facility in

Carthage, died Saturday, November 15, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Brown was a native of Randolph County and a member of Hopewell Friends Meeting. She formerly owned and operated an in-home child daycare center in Denton and was a salesperson for House of Lloyds.

She is survived by her husband, Maxwell Brown; two daughters, Marla Morfin of Seven Lakes, and Laura Brown of Southern Pines; seven grandchildren; three sisters, Janet Henley, Deborah Robbins, and Sharon McIntosh, all of Asheboro; a brother, Larry Hill of Asheboro.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 18 at Hopewell Friends Meeting in Asheboro under the direction of Pugh Funeral Home of Asheboro. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to Taylor Harmon Family Life Center, Russell's Grove Baptist Church, 5118 U.S. 220 Business South, Asheboro, NC 27205.

Miriam Louise Rovnak, 80, died Tuesday, November 18, at her residence in Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Rovnak was the daughter of the late Charles Collier and Rose Snyder Collier in McKeesport, PA.

She retired to the Seven Lakes area with her husband of forty-eight years John Leroy Rovnak.

She was preceded in death by a son, Scott Michael Rovnak.

Survivors include a son John Alan Rovnak of Burgaw, NC; four grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

A memorial mass was held at Our Lady of The Americas Church in Candor, on Friday, November 21. The Father Ricardo Sanchez was the celebrant. Burial will be at a later date.

Karen Marie Bibey, 56, died Friday, November 21, at her residence in West End.

Ms. Bibey was the daughter of the late Billy and Jessie Carlyle in Pinehurst. She grew up in the Moore County area.

Survivors include her sons, Robbie Bibey Cameron; Blue Bibey of Hope Mills, and Pudge Bibey of West End; four brothers, Steve Carlyle of Eagle Springs, Jeff Carlyle, of Holden Beach, Tony Carlyle of West End, and Cliff Carlyle of Holden Beach; three sisters, Judy Boles of Asheboro, Cathy Fulford of Holden

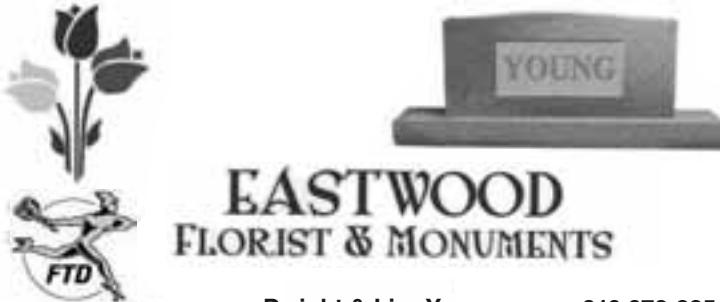
Beach, and Sam Hayes of Holden Beach; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Beulah Hill Baptist Church in West End on Tuesday, Novem-

ber 25. The Pastor Lee McKinney officiated.

Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.




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Staying home for the holidays? Try the Club!

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Staying home for the holidays doesn't have to mean hours of cooking and a sink full of dirty dishes. Seven Lakes Country Club and Beacon Ridge Dining



General Manager Dean Allgeyer at Beacon Ridge.

Room have plenty of delicious reasons to eat out this holiday season.

Beacon Ridge Country Club

Lunch is served Tuesday through Sunday at Beacon Ridge Country Club from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Menu items include a combination of salads, sandwiches, and wraps.

"We are offering a healthy menu with sides of soup, chips, and fruit, but if you want a burger and fries we've got that too," said General Manager Dean Allgeyer.

He also recommended Sunday breakfast, which is offered every week from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, as another popular offering. Sunday mornings include omelet and waffle stations and the ever-popular sweet treat breakfast lasagna.

Evenings at Beacon Ridge from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm on Tuesdays feature a dinner menu that varies between buffets and a la carte offerings of prime rib, grilled or blackened chicken, fresh salmon, fish & chips, and hamburgers. On selected Fridays, Beacon Ridge also offers a prime rib and chicken buffet.

On Friday and Saturday, December 19-20, the Club will host two evenings of Christmas festivities. Cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm featuring crisp salad, filet mignon and shrimp scampi, twice baked potato, bouquet of asparagus, and cherry cheesecake. Enter-

tainment will be provided by the David Howard Vision Band. Tickets are \$49.95 per person. For reservations call 673-3158.

The Club is also proud to serve the community as a drop-off location for the Toys for Tots campaign.

"Beacon Ridge wishes everyone a happy holiday — and we would love to see you," said Allgeyer.

Seven Lakes Country Club

Across town at Seven Lakes Country Club, Chef Jacki Scotti is also busy preparing holiday temptations and treats.

Lunch is served each Monday through Saturday from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm and includes kid-friendly menu choices, such as Toasted cheese sandwiches for \$2.99. Every third Sunday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club offers a \$12 inclusive brunch featuring omelet and waffle stations, a full selection of Danishes and fruit, plus traditional fare such as biscuits and gravy. Dinner is served on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Reservations are preferred but not necessary.

On Saturday, December 13 at 5:30 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club along with hosts Carole & Leonard Barnard welcome you to their annual Christmas Party with cocktails at 5:30 pm, and 6:30 pm dinner of Holiday ham, Caesar salad, potatoes au gratin, roasted asparagus bundles, cheese biscuits and topped off with a Christmas

dessert. The Boston Marimba Duet will provide music at 7:30 pm. Member's pricing is \$25.00 inclusive and non-member's is \$30.00 inclusive. For reservations call 673-1100.

After the holidays, the Club will close for two weeks and reopen on Friday, January 9

with a special evening Seafood Bake.

"Please come and join us," said Scotti, "You can get a hamburger or filet mignon and don't hesitate to ask for something you want because if I've got the ingredients back there — I'll make it."



Chef Jacki Scotti [right] and the staff at Seven Lakes Country Club look forward to serving you this holiday season.

Golf Chorus elects officers

The Golf Capital Chorus performs regularly around the area. Its annual show is always on the first Saturday in November, and its Singing Valentine program features quartets serenading all over the Sandhills.

All of the money raised by its activities goes to local charities.

New elected officers for the 2009 season are president, Bill Tilton; executive vice-president, Dave Milson; secretary, Bob Northrup; treasurer, Alan Langley and Bob Tweed; vice-president of marketing, Fred Wolferman; vice-president of membership, Chuck Norberg and Dave Conklin; vice-president of music, Jerry Ritter; vice president of performance, Dick Curl; vice-president of quartet development, Dave Milson; past president, Bob Tweed; ombudsman, Ron Smith; show chairman, Bob Young.

Open rehearsals are held every Monday at 7:00 at the Village Presbyterian Church.



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Top Hat & Tails adoption event is Dec. 8

A most sophisticated pet adoption event on Monday, December 8 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm at Olmsted Village in Pinehurst.

Truman Capote was famous for his "Black & White Ball:" sophisticated creatures socializing at a

wonderful party! He would be proud of this upcoming event featuring black dogs, white dogs, black cats, white cats, black and white dogs, and black and white cats accompanied by their classy caretakers dressed in style for an

equally wonderful party. This is the second year that the award winning Homewood Suites in the lovely Olmsted Village is hosting this most sophisticated pet adoption event. At Homewood Suites, pets are always

welcome.

While attendees enjoy tasteful music, wine, beer, and appetizers, they can socialize with adorable dogs and cats that are looking for a forever home. Moore County animal welfare groups

together with invited groups from the Sandhills area will be presenting their adoptable pets at this truly unique event.

Last year, more than twenty-nine dogs and cats found a home for the holidays!



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HORSE LOVER'S SPECIAL - AW Builders home near stables with 3 BR, 2 BA, split BR plan. Hardwood & tile, neutral carpet in bedrooms. Gas log fireplace in Great Rm and 2 car garage. Level lot with beautiful views \$220,000



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



COLONIAL in SL SOUTH - Large home, 4BR, 2.5 BA, hardwood floors in DR & LR, New appliances, New carpet in bedrooms, lots of attic storage, located on 3 lots (1.79 acres) across from the golf course (8th hole)! . . \$225,000



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 room & Carolina Room . . . \$197,000



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#2473 - Nice Slope to the Road - \$16,000
#2475 - Nice Slope - \$21,500
#2562R - Under Contract - \$13,500
#2545 - Cul-de-sac - \$15,000
#2508 - Super - \$22,900
#5433 - Good Perc - \$32,500

GOLF FRONT

#2147R - Under Contract
#2211 - 15th Hole - \$35,000
#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000
#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

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Lot #2147R - Under Contract

109 Stallion - SOLD!

113 Sandham - Under Contract

Lot #2562R - Under Contract

Festival of Trees



Members of Mrs. Maples and Mrs. Hayes classes from West End Elementary attended the 12th Annual Festival Of Trees at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst.

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If you are not sure of the location of your tank, contact Moore County at 947-6283 and ask for Barbara. All you need to know is your street address. Barbara can research the record and mail you a copy of your plot plan showing the location of these two critical components.

Please look for this column in future issues. Thank you.

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Lakes and Dams Committee

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Sandhills Circuit Advent Calendar

Revs. Myron and Barbara Dice welcome everyone to come and worship at one of the three Sandhills Circuit United Methodist Churches during the Advent season.

The Hanging of the Greens Services will be held Sunday, November 30 beginning at Pleasant Hill UMC, 732 Morganton Road in Jackson Springs at 9:00 am; Eagle Springs UMC, 650 Eagle Branch Road in Eagle Springs at 10:00 am; and Marcus UMC, 2081 Windblow Road in Jackson Springs at 11:15 am. The community is invited to attend.

On Sunday, December 14, Marcus United Methodist Church Choir will present the The Love of God at Christmas at the 11:15 am worship serv-

ice. Linda Thompson will direct and accompany the choir and fruit bags will be distributed following the service.

On Sunday, December 21, the Sandhills Circuit Youth will present a drama of the Christmas Story beginning at the 11:15 am worship service at Marcus United Methodist Church. Melissa Sherman and Deanna Bynum serve as youth coordinators. At 5:30 pm, the Sandhills Circuit of the United Methodist Churches will gather for a Christmas Covered Dish dinner in Fellowship Hall at Marcus. At 7:00 pm. Tom Page and Mary Lou Troutman, founders of Dust and Ashes, will lead a Christmas Candlelight Holy Communion Service.

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Santa drops in for early visit with Scouts

by Michelle Barnes
Seven Lakes

Bill McNeill, a very close friend

of Santa's, was able to get the Big Guy himself to stop by the recent 7th Annual Girl Scout Swap-a-

Thon held on November 14 at West End Presbyterian Church. Eleven local troops and 115

scouts attended, bringing with them enough food and canned goods to fill three huge boxes to

donate to the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care.



West End Junior Troop #820 thought Santa was the best!



Seven Lakes Brownie Troop #1301 were excited to visit with Santa.

College Club December Luncheon

The College Club will hold its December luncheon at National Golf Club on Tuesday, December 2 at 11:30 am with featured guests the Note-a-Belles, a Sandhills area women's singing group. Their program will consist of a variety of carols and sacred and humorous songs.

The College Club has been in operation for twenty years. The requirement for member-

ship is a degree from a four year institution.

The College Club members expand their knowledge through various speakers, programs, and interest groups, as well as providing two scholarships at the end of the year.

The club has six yearly luncheons with speakers or entertainment included.

For more information, contact Katharine Bozarth at 255-6286.

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Droppers visits Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Alice Droppers, the director of admissions of The O'Neal School in Southern Pines Pines visited the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on November 18.

Droppers gave a presentation about the school, its origin in 1971, and its growth through the years to the current position as one of the premier schools for Pre-K through twelfth grade in the Sandhills.

Started in 1971 on twenty acres of donated land with four

trailers and thirty-six students, O'Neal has expanded to forty acres and serves 440 students on their impressive campus. Many students come from outside Moore County, and bus transportation for these students is supplied by the School.

An amazing statistic is the fact that one hundred percent of O'Neal's graduates attend college.

O'Neal is currently in the midst of an extensive expansion program which will make its goal of "Educating the Entire Child" even

more successful. Under this program, physical education is part of everyone's curriculum, including all team sports except for football and fast pitch baseball.

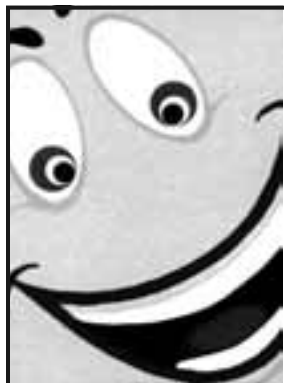
Three major scholarships are available to students to help with the rather substantial costs of attendance.

The Helen Pringle Holmberg scholarship is awarded based on merit alone.

The Hannah Marie Bradshaw and the Nezzo Family Foundation scholarships are both need-based.



Alice Droppers of the O'Neal School with her father, Program Coordinator, Kiwanian Frank Hayes.



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An Historical Christmas

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Tour three local house-museums decorated for the holidays in the traditional manner of the 1700 and 1800s. Musicians and refreshments will provide holiday cheer. Free admission and the gift and book shops will be open.

Christmas at the Shaw House will be held Thursday through Sunday, December 4 - 7, from 1 – 4 pm. The Shaw

House is located at the corner of SW Broad Street & Morganton Road in Southern Pines.

Christmas at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 13 - 14, from 1 – 4 pm. Step back in time with the Friends of the Bryant House and the Moore County Historical Association at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin at 3361 Mount Carmel Road, just west of Carthage. For more information call (910) 692-2051 or visit www.moorehistory.com

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Lakes couple donates boats to Mattamuskeet

Keith and Donna Myers of Seven Lakes have donated two sailboats to the nonprofit Mattamuskeet Foundation. The larger boat was an 18' Hobie Cat with trailer, and the small boat was a 14' Laser. The foundation will sell the boats to support their educational mission.

Keith Myers is the National Sales Manager for Woolrich, Inc., an outdoor apparel company in Woolrich, Pennsylvania, established in 1830. Donna Myers owns and operates a home-based company called Brand Vizion & Associates, LLC, providing merchandise to corporate markets that promotes each client's brand identity.

The mission of the Mattamuskeet Foundation is to engage in research and educational activities to preserve, publish, and otherwise tell the stories of the rich history and ecology of Lake Mattamuskeet and the surrounding areas of eastern North Carolina. Lake Mattamuskeet is the largest natural lake in the state, and is located near the coast on the mainland of Hyde County. Ocracoke Island is also

part of Hyde County.

Executive Director Dr. Lewis Forrest explained that among projects partially funded by revenues from the sales of donated boats include the production of two wildlife videos. The first,

"A Winter Day – Lake Mattamuskeet" was filmed entirely on Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge and presents tens of thousands of migratory birds, plus other wildlife, in their natural setting from dawn until the

moon is high in the night sky. This video has received ten international video awards. The second video along the same theme, "A Winter Day – Pungo Lake," was filmed entirely on the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and has won nine international awards since its release in May 2008.

According to Forrest, there are no humans in these videos—only wildlife, the natural sounds of the wildlife, and a music score to compliment the beautiful visuals. The foundation is raising the funds to donate both of these

videos to all of the public and charter schools of North Carolina. These videos are available from the foundation in DVD format for \$24.95 each.

Over the past year, generous donors from the Seven Lakes area have donated four sailboats, a runabout, and a pontoon boat to the Mattamuskeet Foundation. For more information about the Mattamuskeet Foundation programs, contact Forrest at 252-746-4221, or by email at mat-lake@coastalnet.com or online www.mattamuskeet.org or www.awinterday.com



Keith and Donna Myers of Seven Lakes

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Plenty to do in garden despite colder weather

This Fall the hardwood leaves coloring have been beautiful. Also I noted that the berry-bearing shrubs and trees are absolutely full of berries. Some of the older superstitions indicate "it is sign of a cold Winter ahead," which remains to be seen.

Between Thanksgiving and the end of January is the optimum time I recommend planting and transplanting shrubs and trees, Spring flowering bulbs, and many flowering perennials. The reason for planting during this period is it allows plants to become settled in, roots to form, and receive moisture so that early growth can begin next Spring.

A few suggestions:

Plant vole-loving bulbs in small mesh wire cages or in containers above ground or at ground level.

Select only good-looking or superior appearing quality trees and shrubs free from diseases and insects from a reliable nursery or garden center.

Prepare the planting site by tilling or spading the entire anticipated root zone area or location, and dig the hole at least twice the size of the root ball. Some recommend not adding soil amendments at planting, but I like to add a small handful each of pulverized limestone, soil insecticide of granular sevin, and bone meal, thoroughly mixing these amendments with the soil dug from the hole.

Do not plant to deep and no higher than the plant was grown in the container, and no deeper than the top of the root ball. The number one reason for plants dying is from being planted too deep.

If the plant is root bound after removing it from the container, cut off any damaged roots spread out the system and plant at the proper depth.

When purchasing a balled and burlap plant [B&B], it is not necessary to take the wrapping off, but loosen the tacks or nails around the top of the burlap. The burlap will eventually deteriorate in the soil. There is a plastic substitute being used similar to burlap which requires holes to be cut or punched in it before planting.

Remember to water the plant-

ings well at planting and thoroughly again, as needed, if significant rainfall doesn't occur.

Some reminders for Fall:

Leaves continue to drop. Dispose of them by mulch mowing in the lawn, or raking them and carrying to the dump or to rot

before they germinate in the soil. Pull existing weeds out or control them with a broadleaf herbicide.

Cut back your chrysanthemums to the ground after they cease blooming.

Many have observed pansies growing slowly since planting.

In order to speed up growth and aid in quicker establishment, fertilize with a diluted water soluble plant food. One table-

in your compost mulch pile.

Now is a good time for taking soil samples before the farmers Spring rush begins to overload the State soil testing laboratory.

Control chickweeds, dandelions, or other Winter weeds

spoon fertilizer per gallon water as needed to get desired results.

If you haven't fertilized your fescue lawn, do it now. Use five pounds per 1,000 square feet of 10-10-10, or similar analysis, slow release premium lawn special.



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

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Holiday Crafts at Seven Lakes West

Join Professional Crafter **Linda Rosskamp** to create your own masterpieces for the holidays. Linda has been featured on *Good Day New York*, hosted updates on *WB-11 Craft News Hourly*, taught at *Boces Technical School*, created and taught classes for 10 years with *Michaels Crafts*, and has been a Professional Crafter teaching corporate seminars for over 20 years.

Children's Holiday Craft Classes

Childrens Greeting Card Class — ages 5 and up welcome
Under the instruction of Linda Rosskamp children will create Four Holiday cards for someone special using a variety of professional mediums-may want to bring a craft smock.

Date and Time: Dec 7th from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Location: WSPCC craft room- lower level
Cost: \$10 (all supplies and instruction included)

Embellished Star Ornament- all ages (ages 2,3,4 must be accompanied by adult)
Under the instruction of Linda Rosskamp children will embellish their own 7-inch wooden ornament using a variety of professional mediums- may want to bring a craft smock.

*Your choice of red, green or golden star
Date and Time: Dec13th from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location: WSPCC craft room – lower level
Cost: \$10 (all supplies and instruction included)

Registration for all classes @ WSPCC office.
***Class sizes are limited and will be on a first come first serve basis.
Registration cut off dates are 3 days prior to scheduled class starting date.

Some in Seven Lakes, including myself, have limited space for vegetable gardening and must use the same space and location year after year. The shortage of space has prevented proper rotation which affects yield, promotes diseases, insects, and nematodes.

My suggestion for partial control is to pull out all plant parts and take them to the garbage dump, including plant roots, leaves, stalks, and residue.

Thoroughly till or spade the garden area and seed it with common rye grass, cover crop by

first mixing, and adding to the soil some organic material such as potting soil, cow manure, or well-rotted compost or leaves.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

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MAR0408

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- **Thanksgiving Day**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- **Hanging of The Greens Service** – 11:15 am, Marcus United Methodist Church, Eagle Springs. The Sandhills Circuit of the UMC regular worship services are held in Pleasant Hill at 9:00 am; Eagle Springs at 10:00 am; and Marcus at 11:15 am. All are welcome to attend these services.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

- **College Club Meeting** – 11:30 am, National Golf Club. Featured guests the Note-a-Belles, a Sandhills area women's singing group, will perform a variety of carols and sacred and humorous songs. The College Club members expand their knowledge through various speakers, programs, and interest groups, as well as providing two scholarships at the end of the year. The club meets six times per year. Info: Katharine Bozarth 255-6286.
- **Paws for Celebration** – 12 pm, Pine Knoll at St. Joseph of the Pines, Southern Pines. A doggone-good celebration with Luther & Friends CARE volunteers.
- **Community Christmas Tree Lighting** – 6 pm, Seven Lakes Business Village Green. Sponsored by the Seven Lakes

Business Guild, enjoy music, refreshments, a special reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and a visit from Santa Claus.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- **Instant Piano Class** – 6 pm – 9:30 pm, Sandhills Community College. A beginning class in chord piano where, in one session, students will learn all the chords needed to play any pop song, any style, any key, reading chord symbols not notes. They'll

Orchestra Concert – 7 pm, Pinecrest High School auditorium. A special concert featuring works that will be performed by the orchestra in Washington DC during Inaugural Week competition, the public is invited to come support our local musicians. Nominal entrance fee will help offset trip costs.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 1 pm, West Side Park Community

Center. A special holiday Open House and concert featuring Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble, a nationally

recognized choir. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will follow.

- **Christmas at the Shaw House** – 1 pm – 4 pm, corner of SW Broad & Morganton, Southern Pines. Decorated in holiday tradition of the 1700's-1800's. Free admission. Music and refreshments. Event continues daily 1 – 4pm through Sunday, Dec 7.
- **Light Up a Life Tree Lighting** – 5 pm, First Health Hospice & Palliative Care office, Avimore Road, Pinehurst.

What's When Calendar



also learn how to embellish songs using the secrets and magical shortcuts of professional piano players. Registration, 695-3766.

- **Moore Chamber Leadership Institute Graduation** – 6 pm, Pinehurst Resort. Keynote speaker is Walter Sturdivant of WCHL broadcasting. The public is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$35 per person and include dinner. Reservations, 692-3926.
- **Pinecrest High School**

Each light on the tree represents a life to be remembered and honored.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **Plaid Tidings: Opening Reception** – Sunrise Theater. Moore OnStage presents a Christmas version of the hit "Forever Plaid" with singing swinging holiday favorites in everyone's favorite color – plaid! Show continues through December 14. Reservations, 692-7118, do not call the Sun-

rise Theater. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for students eighteen years and under. Credit cards accepted.

- **Dust & Ashes Christmas Concert** – 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Dust and Ashes is the husband and wife duo of Tom Page and Mary Lou Troutman. They have recorded thirteen albums and have performed in virtually all arenas. Everyone is invited to this evening of special music. A "love offering" will be taken

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You can help by donating wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, bows, boxes, tags, and tape. Please drop off your donations between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm at The Executive Center Building in Seven Lakes, December 1st through December 5th in the donation boxes provided in the Seven Lakes Library.

You can also help by coming to Goody's on the wrap dates and purchasing gifts for SARL to wrap for you for a nominal fee!

Volunteers will be wrapping gifts on December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, & 21 from 12:00 'til 5:00 pm. And, for those last minute shoppers, on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve.



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

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



Project Blue Light

Concerns of Police Survivors is encouraging law enforcement families, friends, and law enforcement agencies to decorate in blue lights for the coming holiday season. By placing one blue light in a window of your home, you'll be showing your support for officers killed in the line of duty and those who continue to work America's streets. By placing strings of blue lights outside your home, at the department, and throughout the community, law enforcement officers will understand that they are appreciated!

The color blue is symbolic of **peace**. By displaying your blue lights, you will be sending a dual message—that you support America's peacekeepers and that you hope the coming year will be a year of peace.

Let your blue lights shine for law enforcement during the holidays!



after performance, CD's available for purchase.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

- **Holiday Wagon Rides** – Seven Lakes North Stables. A wagon ride around the lake. \$5 per person, reservations 673-4738.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

- **Children's Holiday Craft Class: Greeting Cards** – 1 pm – 2 pm, West Side Park Community Center, lower level craft room. Children ages five and up are welcome to learn how to create four Holiday cards. Bring a craft smock. Cost \$10 includes all supplies. Class size limited. Register at SLWLA office.
- **Seven Lakes West Community Christmas Tree Lighting** – 6:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Concert featuring the trio, You Must Remember This, with soloist Valerie Stancik. Light refreshments.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **Top Hat and Tails!** – 5 pm – 7:30 pm, Olmsted Village, Pinehurst. A most sophisticated pet adoption event featuring lavish refreshments and the opportunity to meet adoptable black dogs, white dogs, black cats, white cats, black and white dogs, and black and white cats from various animal welfare organizations.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **The Creative Christmas Table** – 11 am – 7 pm, Little River

Resort Club, Carthage. Presented by Moore County Extension and Community Association, event features creative Christmas table arrangements, handmade crafts sale, and a cash raffle. Admission \$3; proceeds benefit the North Carolina 4-H Museum to be built at 4-H Camp Millstone near Ellerbe.

- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes** – 3pm, Game Room, Seven Lakes North. Eric Collins of Time Warner will discuss changes to television service starting February 2009.
- **Seven Lakes Children's Christmas Party** – 5:30 pm – 7 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Refreshments, gifts, and a visit from Santa. A free event.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

- **MRH Auxiliary Holiday Ball**

– 7 pm, Grand Ballroom, Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Dinner and dancing to benefit FirstHealth Hospitality House. Raffle tickets and information, call 695-7502.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **Old-Timey Holiday Open House** – 1 pm – 4 pm, Bryant House & McLendon Cabin. 3361 Mount Carmel Road, Carthage. Guests may tour two historic houses decorated in the traditional manner of the 1700s and 1800s. Refreshments and music. Free. Event continues on Sunday, December 14. 692-2051.
- **Children's Holiday Craft Class: Embellished Star Ornament** – 3 pm – 4 pm, West Side Park Community Center, lower level craft room. All ages welcome, under four years w/adult. Choice of red,

green, or gold star. Bring a craft smock. Cost \$10 includes supplies. Class size limited. Register at SLWLA office.

- **Seven Lakes Country Club Christmas Party** – 5:30 pm cocktails, Seven Lakes Country Club. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Boston Marimba Duet providing music. Member price \$25 inclusive; non-member \$30. 673-1100.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **The Love of God at Christmas** – 11:15 am, Marcus United Methodist Church, Jackson Springs. The Marcus Choir are directed and accompanied by Linda Thompson. Fruit bags will be distributed following the service.
- **Seven Lakes West Children's Christmas Party** – 1 pm – 3 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Santa will arrive by

fire truck and visit with each child. Photo and small gift provided. Children may decorate a ginger bread man. Light refreshments.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **Beacon Ridge Country Club Christmas Party** – 6 pm, Beacon Ridge Country Club, Seven Lakes West. Cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres. Dinner at 7 pm. Entertainment by David Howard Vision Band. Cost \$49.95 per person.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

- **Beacon Ridge Country Club Christmas Party** – 6 pm, Beacon Ridge Country Club, Seven Lakes West. Cocktails, light hors d'oeuvres. Dinner at 7 pm. Entertainment by David Howard Vision Band. Cost \$49.95 per person.



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Local vets sponsor homeless stand-down

by Joe Kristek
VVA Chapter 966

A small detail from the Moore County Chapter 966, Vietnam Veterans of America, extended its borders for one day by participating in and co-sponsoring the 2008 Fayetteville VA Medical Center homeless stand-down.

The stand-down committee used the VFW facility and grounds, located at 116 Chance Street, to conduct the homeless stand-down.

Homeless vets and non-vets alike were treated to a hot breakfast and lunch. In between meals the homeless were offered flu shots, blood pressure checks, hair cuts, VA eye care information, Operation Iraqi Free-

dom/Operation Enduring Freedom information and information about jobs in the area.

Those who qualified could sit down with a VA service rep to determine if they were eligible for veterans benefits.

Outside, under a huge open-ended tent, the homeless were issued new clothing, sleeping bags, ground cloths, boots and a number of items to help them survive the elements.

Chapter 966 became co-sponsors of the event when it decided to use money donated in memory of local resident and World War II Veteran Pete Sundheim in support of the homeless stand-down.



Looking over some of the donated items that are ready for distribution to the homeless are Chapter 966 members Bob Desanto, Mike Pusillo and Mike Shapiro.

Toys for Tots

The 2008 Toys for Tots Campaign, whose belief is "every child deserves a little Christmas," is underway.

Local Marines and their helpers are collecting and distributing toys to numerous local agencies, churches, and community programs. Ron Base of Pinehurst, a member of the Sandhills Detachment #1001 of the Marine Corps League, is the local Coordinator. Last year over 8,000 toys were distributed to almost 4,000 children in our county. Your help is needed to reach every child of families who are unemployed, underemployed, and homeless.

Donate a toy to your local TFT's campaign [collection

boxes are located at Beacon Ridge Country Club, the West Side Park Community Center, Curves, & Dollar General]; donate your time and effort to increase the number of toys collected; donate service support by allowing collection boxes at your Church or business, or, finally, make a tax deductible donation by writing a check to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and mail to Ron Base at 55 Oak Hills Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Financial donations are extremely helpful in giving the campaign the means to purchase educational or ethnic toys for children with special needs.

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Sunday, November 30th

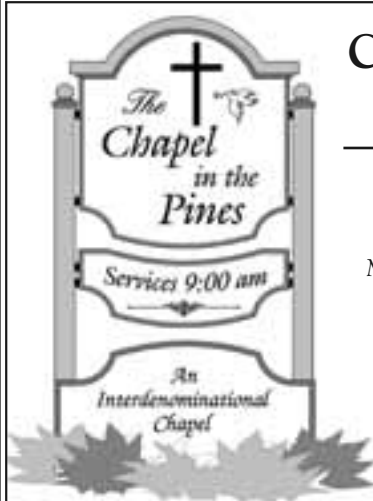
Reverend Don Welch

Soloist – Glenda Clendenin

Sunday, December 7th

Reverend Don Welch

The Chapel Choir



Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines was founded in 1976 to serve the Seven Lakes Community and beyond.

VVA Chapter recognizes Veteran's Day baby

by Joe Kristek
VVA Chapter 966

There was no shortage of

baby's being born at the Fort Bragg Womack Army Medical Center on Veterans Day 2008, it

was only a question of who was born first.

That distinction belonged to

Travis LeMarquis Manning III, son of Travis and Army Spc. Kinta Manning.

Moore County Chapter 966, Vietnam Veterans of America, was honored to present Travis and his parents a U.S. Flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol,

a check for the purchase of a fifty dollar U.S. Savings Bond and a Chapter certificate recognizing Travis as being the first baby born at Womack Army Medical Center on Veterans Day 11/11/2008.



Chapter 966 President Joe Kristek, Travis Manning II holding young Travis, Army Specialist Kinta Manning, and Chapter 966 Director Jim Schrum.

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Puttin' on the Ritz



Phoenix Fashion models wearing the latest holiday styles entertained the Women of Seven Lakes for their Fall Luncheon which raised over \$1,200 for local charities and holiday giving. Catered by the Pik'n Pig, the delightful afternoon included cards, raffles, and a mini-craft show.

The Women of Seven Lakes invite all community women to join them in fun and philanthropy. The models included Susan Killmeyer, JoAn Moses, Jo Nicholas, Mary Price, Alice Ridenhour, and Myra Taylor.

Chamber Ensemble to Entertain Women

Join the Women of Seven Lakes a very special holiday Open House and concert featuring the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble, a nationally recognized and award-winning choir.

The meeting will be held Thursday, December 4 at 1:00 pm at the West Side Park Community Center. The community is cordially invited to attend this wonderful performance. Refreshments will follow.

An Open Letter to All Women Over 40

“How Much Longer Are You Going to Tolerate Using Horse Urine for Your Menopause Problems?”

That's what you're doing if you're taking the usual run-of-the-mill hormone replacement therapy!

What drug firms call “Hormone Replacement Therapy” is really “Horse Urine Therapy.” The hormones found in most Hormone Replacement Therapies are derived from horse urine!

And using these horse hormones to replace your own is so dangerous according to Dr. Jonathan Wright, internationally recognized medical doctor and co-author of *Natural Hormone Replacement for Women Over 45*, that “it's a miracle millions more women don't get breast cancer.”

Horse hormones are not the same as human hormones.

Your estrogen is actually a blend of three different molecules... *Estrinol*, *Estrone*, and *Estradiol*. These exist in a delicate balance.

Now, compare that with the horse urine hormones in HRT which consist of *Estrone*, *Equilin* and *Estradiol*, along with two equine estrogens. You'll notice that the hormone that comprises 90% of your estrogen, *Estrinol*, isn't even in there—and two hormones which are only found in horses are.

Studies have shown that the estrogen in a healthy cancer-free woman is mostly *Estrinol*. It's the gentlest of the three molecules and is generally considered to be anti-carcinogenic. But you aren't getting it anymore. You're getting horse urine.

Here's is what you need to know right now.

The solution is BIO-IDENTICAL HORMONE THERAPY. It gives you the exact same estrogen balance that healthy women have been enjoying for hundreds of years—and no horse hormones.

Talk to your doctor now about getting BIO-IDENTICAL HORMONE THERAPY. If either you or your doctor want to find out more about this truly outstanding and superior therapy, please call Melissa at (910) 673-7467. She'll be happy to talk to you—or your doctor.

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Sam's Drug Store

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Mon-Fri 9a – 6p; Closed Sat & Sun

Smart Computing at club

by Melva Johnston
Seven Lakes South

Chad Hanthorn from Smart Computing presented a program to the Computer Club of Seven Lakes at the November 11 meeting. He outlined the topics in the publication and how a subscriber could take advantage of the services that Smart Computing offers.

Questions about computer problems can be accessed in their publications, past and present, as well as posting questions on their Q & A site and calling them at their headquarters in Nebraska. A call to the headquarters in answered by a technician who resides here in the states.

Many members who have used the publication have found it is well worth the cost. The web site is smartcomputing.com

On Tuesday, December 9 at 3 pm, all are welcome to join the Computer Club of Seven Lakes for an informative discussion of

what changes to expect of your television service after February 2008. Eric Collins of Time Warn-

er is the featured speakers. The meeting will be held at 3:00 pm in the Northside Game Room.

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Kersey travelogue entertains Kiwanians

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On November 11 the Seven Lakes Kiwanis heard from one of

their own. Chuck Kersey, assisted by his wife Jane, took us on an escorted trip through Yellowstone National Park. The

travelogue was a result of a recent trip by the Kersey's to Yellowstone and a subsequent creation of a most interesting program of slide pictures.

One of the personal aspects of the presentation was the background music, a violin concerto composed by a local wrangler, Jett Hitt. It was a fitting backdrop to the pictures of this park, our first National Park.

The Kersey's were able to meet Mr. Hitt and spend an evening with him, at which time they were exposed to the music, and thought it to be particularly haunting and appropriate to the pictures of the area.

In 1872, President McKinley declared the Yellowstone area as the first National Park in Amer-

ica, and it remains today as our most popular National Park. The program covered virtually the entire park, with pictures of the many kinds of wildlife that make their home there, as well as excellent pictures of the many natural phenomena that make

Yellowstone a favorite with so many people, both Americans and foreigners.

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



Jane and Chuck Kersey

Saturday Night Turkey Shoot

Every Saturday night, weather permitting, a Turkey Shoot will be held at Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs starting at 7:00 pm.

Turkey Shoots benefit the Sandhills Animal Rescue League, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of stray and abandoned pets. Come out and win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon, or money!

Alec Creek Farm is located at 396 Thomas Road in Jackson Springs. For more information, call 974-4468 or 638-1921.

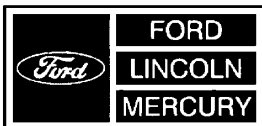
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(Standing) Nicole Vogt, CDA; Janice Yarborough, CDA; Harriet Wicker, Office Administrator; Stacey Britt, RDH; Beth Harris, RDH. (Seated) Tiffany Visceglie, DAI; Dr. Pete McKay, DDS.

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Railroad Crossing

(Continued from front page)

And Federal railway safety funds would pay for the whole thing.

There's just one hitch. Those federal funds can be used only if the project includes closing some crossings. The NCDOT plan calls for closing the crossing at Mode Road, which runs along the northside of the old Stanley Furniture plant, near the West End traffic signal. And it calls for closing the private crossing at Edgewood Terrace, which is one of two entrances to a small West End neighborhood.

"It's money that we already have," NCDOT Project Engineer Nancy Horne told *The Times*, "but we can only spend for safety projects that involve crossing closures."

The entire project is expected to cost more than \$800,000.

Public input critical

"It's really important that people come out," Horne told *The Times*, referring to the December 2 public input session. "It's very important for us to see if there is actually support out there for a project."

"Often people who support a project don't come out," she added. "So we only hear from those who are opposed."

The December 2 input session is what NCDOT calls an "informal workshop." The room will be open and NCDOT staff will be on hand from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, but interested citizens can drop by at any time between those hours.

Maps and handouts on the proposed project will be available, along with forms that attendees

can use to provide input on the project. Those forms can be handed in the night of the meeting, or taken home and mailed in at any point in the subsequent thirty days.

Comments on the project can also be emailed directly to Horne

during the thirty day comment period. Her email address is nhorne@mcdot.gov.

"Public input is very important on a project like this," Horne told *The Times*. "We don't live in that community; we need to hear from people who do —

from people who have information that we might not have."

Asked whether it's simply a matter of counting the number of comments for and against the project, Horne replied, "It's not like it's a vote. It depends on the type of input we get. We do

weigh the numbers, but our decision is based more along the lines of what they are saying, too."

Once the thirty-day comment period is done, an internal NCDOT committee reviews the

(See "Railroad" p. 25)

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Railroad Crossing

(Continued from page 24)

project and the public input and then makes a formal recommendation to the NC Board of Transportation, which has the final say about whether to move forward with a project.

Opposition likely

Horne told The Times that there is almost always opposition to closing any crossing. So, far, she added, she personally has heard only from Moore Countians opposed to the project.

Several West End residents and business owners have written to NCDOT, to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, and to state elected officials asking for help in preventing the closures. The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] asked the Commissioners to support he project.

Although most commissioners were skeptical of weighing in on a decision they could not ultimately control, County Manager Cary McSwain, after a several month delay, told the Westside Association that the Commissioners could not support the project. He also asked NCDOT to attempt to find little-used crossings elsewhere in the state that could be closed in

lieu of closing the crossings at Mode Road and Edgewood Terrace.

"It doesn't work that way," Project Engineer Nancy Horne told The Times when advised of the County Manager's request. "You can't just pick one somewhere else. We had one where a town in North Carolina was trying to buy a crossing someplace else."

"If I'm expending federal funds, the closings have to be in that area. They [the federal funders] look at a benefit to cost ratio within the project area."

"There's a lot of benefit to this particular project," Horne told The Times. "That crossing at Seven Lakes is not being used as it was originally intended to be used."

"The intent of the crossing has changed because of the growth in the community. It used to be access to very little. Now there's even a shopping center. The usage has changed."

"The railroad could probably close the crossing" based on that change in usage, Horne added. "That would probably not be a good thing. There's not a lot of other access to the residential community — particular from an emergency services situation."

"If you change the intent, the railroad can often come in and close the crossing — or force you to upgrade it," she added.

Input wanted

The NCDOT Public Input Session on the proposed Seven Lakes-West End Railway Corridor Safety Project will be held on Tuesday, December 2 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the cafeteria of West End Elementary School on NC Highway 211 in Seven Lakes. Public comment on the project will be accepted during the thirty days following the meeting. During the public input period, comments may be emailed to Project Engineer Nancy Horne of the NCDOT Railway Division at nhorne@ncdot.gov.

Southside Baptist Hosts Evangelist

Special services with Evangelist Byron Foxx, founder and president of Bible Truth Music of Newport News, Virginia, will be held at Southside Baptist Church in Biscoe Sunday through Tuesday, November 23 – 25.

On Sunday at 10:00 am, Foxx will speak during Sunday School and at the 11:00 am and 7:00 pm Worship Services. He will also speak at the 7:00 pm evening services on Monday and Tuesday.

Byron Foxx was saved in 1972 and surrendered to fulltime

Christian service at the age of twelve. He began playing the piano for his church at thirteen and began preaching at the age of fifteen. As a fulltime evangelist, he preaches about five hundred times a year and has a weekly radio ministry — the Bible Truth Broadcast.

His presentation, Revive the Church and Refresh the Choir, is open to the public. Southside Baptist Church is located at 125 Cedar Creek Road in Biscoe.

For more information, call 428-9243.

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Coffee, tea, or something a bit stronger?

Have you heard about the new Obama blend coffee? A mixture of Kenyan, Hawaiian, and Indonesian beans — the flavor is reported to be strong and mellow, like the man. It's been getting great reviews from both Republicans and Democrats. However that all-important Independent vote is the one that really matters isn't it?

Not to be overlooked is McCain Tea which is billed as an 'extra-mavericky' robust leaf. Its bold, assertive flavor has a hint of smoke that won't be overpowered by the addition of cream and sugar. If that's not your cup of tea, literally, you can always try the McCain blend — a sweet, full bodied American classic brew based on the ever-popular donut

shop coffee tradition.

As an unrepentant caffeine addict, I'll be bipartisan and put both blends on my Christmas list, just to be safe. Though, I think I'll skip the tea with a hint of smoke because it reminds me a little too much of those fancy wine descriptions. You know, a paragraph-long sentence detailing the earthy oak flavor with cigar and mineral undertones balanced by a robust, rustic body and long fruity finish: which also accurately describes a few landowners association meetings I've attended . . . but I digress.

Coffee makers don't have the only patent on gimmicky products. As proud barley and hops consumers, Darling Hubby and I

have drained plenty of glasses and resources on our share of microbrews with witty names.

Thus, in the true spirit of the holiday season, I'm also adding a few Bible inspired concoctions to my Santa list. I just need to decide whether it'll be Genesis Ale, Messiah Bold, or Jewbelation — all are kosher — or Consecration, Damnation, or Judgment Day Ale. Though, I must admit I'm partial to He'Brew, the chosen beer.

While religion and alcohol have not always sat together comfortably on the same shelf, they are nonetheless irrefutably tied together in history. According to a Colorado-based brewer, before Pasteur discovered yeast fermentation, brewers simply

called the glop in the bottom of the keg by one, all-inclusive omnipotent word, "godisgood."

In hubby's church, namely the great Roman Catholic tradition, a good sturdy wine is considered

copalians have mastered the art of compromise in theological differences between the protestant tradition and ancient church.

Hey did you hear the one about when two or more Episcopalians are gathered in His name, there's probably a fifth? So, from the bottom of my heart and mug, let me be the



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

an essential ingredient of a well-set table: which is not so dissimilar to my own upbringing in the Anglican faith. Known as via media — the middle way or in layman's terms "half-cath," we Epis-

first to wish you a warm, well-cafeinated and ever-so-slightly inebriated holiday season. And please, drive your sleds responsibly.

SLLA Board has cut expenses substantially

This letter is in response to Steve Hudson's letter headlined, "Raise Dues? How about Looking for Savings" printed in the November 14 edition of *The Times*.

Since December 2005, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors has implemented the following reductions for a total savings of \$202,627:

- Disband Company Police in December 2005 for an annual cost savings of \$90,000 plus one-time capital charge savings of \$25,000
- Hire Security Force Inc [SFI]

in June 2006 for \$18,000 savings [See note 1.]

- Contract with Blue Cross in August 2007 for a \$69,627 savings [See note 2]

Note 1: We reduced the number of hours of coverage for the Southside from sixteen hours per day to twelve hours per day. The annual savings is \$18,000

Note 2: Because we hired Security Forces Inc we were able to reduce the number of full-time employees from twenty-one [FY05] to twelve [FY09]. We also made several key changes to our health insurance census. As a result of these

changes we were able to reduce our health insurance costs from a high of \$120,369 [FY05] to \$50,742 [FY09].

The Association pays eighty percent of the employee's premium and the employee pays the remaining twenty percent. An employee pays 100% of the premium for any family member/s added to the plan.

As you know, a fulltime office employee left last year for another job. She was a full time employee with benefits. We were very fortunate to be able

to hire two very capable Seven Lakers as part-time employees. The benefit is we have better coverage in the office and because these employees are part-time we are not required to provide health insurance.

We are very fortunate because without exception we have a talented, hard working, and dedicated work force. The basic reason is because each employee is appreciated for the contribution that he/she makes to the Association. In my opinion, to eliminate any bonuses [approx-

imately \$6,500] or IRA contributions [approximately \$9,000] would be counter productive.

Bob Darr was hired as a working supervisor to replace Toody Phillips who retired, so Mr. Darr's salary does not represent an increase in our expenses. Bob has done an excellent job because he is supervising and

ating expenses will be \$972,402. This represents a decrease of \$125,598!

Our year end cash reserves have increased from \$252,000 for FY05 to \$548,000 forecasted for FY09. This increase has been achieved in spite of the \$265,000 we had to spend for State mandated repairs to Echo Dam in FY06 and FY07.

Denny Galford, our current treasurer who is also a CPA, will present a detailed list of the capital requests totaling \$229,000. There are some capital requests that we may not be able to quantify at this time [in addition to the \$229,000] but must be considered in our long range planning. I can assure you that Mr. Galford and his finance committee have looked at every line item in the budget to see if any reductions can be made.

We have not had a dues increase since 2005. If the Board proposes a dues increase for FY09/10, and the landowners approve, it will be the first increase in four years. How many counties in North Carolina have not imposed an increase

(See "Truesdell," p. 28)

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
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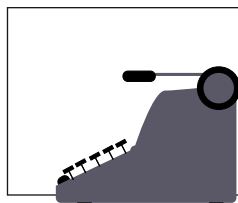
Laura Douglass, Reporter

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J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent, William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

Your Turn

Don Truesdell
SLLA Board



working forty hours per week with our maintenance staff. Dalton Fulcher has many other responsibilities that have prevented him from spending forty hours per week dedicated only to maintenance.

Hudson did not initiate any of these savings during his tenure on the board. As a result of all of these cost savings our annual operating expenses, exclusive of capital expenses, has decreased! In FY05, our operating expenses were \$1,098,000. The budget for FY09 forecasts our oper-

Time for input on crossing

As reported elsewhere in this issue of *The Times*, the North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] has scheduled an “informal workshop” for the proposed closures of the railroad crossings at Edgewood Terrace and Mode Road on Tuesday, December 2 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at West End Elementary School.

So why should you care, you wonder?

The issue for Seven Lakes West is whether or not our railroad crossing will be upgraded from a private, unguarded, unsafe crossing to a public, state-of-the-art crossing. This is part of a \$700,000 project which will be paid for with federal railway safety funds.

It will include improving the safety of our railroad crossing, improvements to our intersection,, improvements to the two NC 211/ NC 73 intersections (including installation of a stop light near the West End fire station to facilitate a left turn from NC 73 onto NC 211) and a safety upgrading of the railroad crossing at NC 73.

But there is a catch. In order to qualify for Federal funding, there has to be what is termed a “cost-benefit ratio.” NCDOT tells us that Federal guidelines stipulate that if a new public crossing is created, two other public crossings must be closed.

I suspect that no one in Seven Lakes favors someone else losing their crossing so that ours can be upgraded. Unfortunately, this isn't our choice to make, and it is important that our crossing be upgraded for several reasons.

First, based on a professional traffic study commissioned by Long Range Planning in January and February, over 4000 vehicles cross the tracks at our front entrance each day, including 16 school buses (study available in the Community Center). And that number of crossings will only increase as our community grows. Our railroad crossing has zero safety features to protect our members and guests. So far, we have been fortunate in that we have had only minor accidents at the railroad crossing. Our luck with an unprotected crossing won't continue forever.

Second, our private crossing is dependent upon a lease between our developer and the railroad. Our growing usage of this crossing increases the potential liability to the railroad in case of an incident, unless the crossing is upgraded to Federal standards. Once upgraded to Federal standards, the railroad's liability is eliminated due to a 1999 Supreme Court

upgrade the crossing at our expense — or face the potential loss of our front entrance.

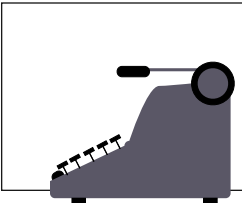
NCDOT will only accept written comments at this “workshop.” Those folks who are affected by the closings of Mode and Edgewood Terrace will be out in numbers to protest the closings — as I would be in their shoes. We also need to show our feeling about

the needed safety improvements to our railroad crossing.

If you feel we deserve a safe public railroad crossing and support

Your Turn

*Bud Sales
SLWLA Long
Range Planning*



ruling (Norfolk Southern R. Co. v. Shanklin [529 U.S. 344]). I do not speak for the railroad, but I can assure you that they are aware of this ruling and, if this effort to upgrade our crossing with Federal funding fails, it is reasonably certain that they will require the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association to

the NCDOT project, please go to this workshop any time between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm and give them your written statement of support. Or, cut out the statement at right, sign it, and hand it in. I cannot stress how important your support of this issue is. We will only have this opportunity for Federal funding once.

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Railroad Crossing Workshop Input Form

I/we strongly support the need for a safer, improved, state of the art, public railroad crossing at the intersection of Seven Lakes Drive and NC Route 211.

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Address	

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SLLA is wasting money on bad management

Dear Editor:

Thirty years ago, Dr. Keener Smathers and Pauline Williams staffed the office of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA]. Smathers was the Executive Director, and Williams was the Secretary, Bookkeeper, and Receptionist. The community was the same size geographically, had the same two gates with the same hours as today, operated the swimming pool and recreation program, kept the stables open, and maintained the same grounds as today. Also, a point of note, there were no office computers.

Today, during very difficult economic times, the Board of Directors ignores excessive administrative cost and is forced to seek solutions for problems resulting from ineffective management.

Recently Dalton Fulcher, the SLLA Community Manager, announced his retirement effective at the end of 2009. Let there be no question, it is my view that this retirement letter was forced by the Board of Directors as a political move to avoid facing the need to terminate Fulcher immediately for his poor

performance and excessive cost of office operations. Unfortunately, while Fulcher works as a lame duck, he will cost the SLLA in salary and benefits around \$90,000. The two current management jobs in the SLLA office should be combined into one job with the best person possible hired to fill the job.

Treasurer Denny Galford tells you that Seven Lakes dues are a bargain as compared to other area communities. Ask him for a like analysis of administrative

responsibilities and their corresponding cost.

It is clear that the SLLA needs money for major projects that have been ignored for years. But it is even clearer that the first step in getting that money is with immediate revision of the cost of administration. When I ask Board members why Fulcher is not fired, I am told that there is nothing in his employee file that would warrant his termination.

Wasting over a half a million dollars providing police protec-

tion on your private property when the Company Police Act (NC General Statute 74E-6) did not allow it without a contract that did not exist between you and the SLLA, ignoring a disgraceful maintenance area (Thanks, Bob Darr, for cleaning it up in a few weeks) for twenty years, a lawsuit against the SLLA for sexual harassment and discrimination which was settled behind closed doors, and paying an employee more than \$80,000 to dump debris in an unlicensed dump obviously did not qualify for inclusion in Mr. Fulcher's employee file.

North Carolina labor laws do not allow termination because of age, race, or gender. The reason I point this out is that I am also told by Board members that they are afraid that Fulcher will sue if terminated. Anyone that uses

that excuse simply does not understand the cost protection from the liability insurance policy, NC law, and or wants to snow you.

I doubt there is member of the Board of Directors that would pay Fulcher for the job he has done and is doing if it came from personal funds. If this Board asks you for a dues increase before they get their own house in order, they should be impeached. If they get cost under control, and ask you for an increase, you should support it, as the future of the community depends on the infrastructure being maintained.

Past mistakes cannot be changed, but they must be corrected.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

True friend

I love sapphire because you love it.

I sat with you at The Nutcracker because you love it.

I felt warm about your being moved by the artistry of the

symphony.

I sensed your awareness of the graceful flow of a stallion's gait.

What is life without the beauty of moments like these?

And of persons like you: caring, depthful, and replete with reverence, causing me to break out into an abundance of fondness that knows no end.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Truesdell

(Continued from page 26)

in property taxes in the last four years? Remember how painful it was for all property owners when Moore County re-evaluated our properties?

PS: This Board has looked into resurfacing the roads. The current cost is approximately \$60,000 per mile.



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Bernard completes seminars

Michael J. Bernard of West End, a Modern Woodmen of America representative, has completed a five-day educational program at Modern Woodmen's home office in Rock Island, Illinois.

The program covered retirement distribution techniques to maximize income to recipients while minimizing potential tax liabilities during retirement years.

The program also focused on helping business owners with Modern Woodmen life insurance plans, annuities, and IRAs.



Michael J. Bernard

Additional emphasis was given to the use of employee benefit plans in various types of businesses.

Founded in 1833 as a fraternal benefit society, Modern Woodmen of America celebrates 125 years of serving members and their communities.

The organization offers financial services and fraternal member benefits to individuals and families throughout the United States

Southern hospitality

Dear Editor:

The parking lot of The Italian Table was the scene of Southern hospitality at it's finest!

A guest of the restaurant discovered that he had left his parking lights on, and came out of the restaurant to find his car battery dead.

In short order, the chef/owner of the restaurant came out from the kitchen and pulled his truck alongside to use his jumper cables. Almost as quickly, three young men who were

in the restaurant came out to help. Due to the efforts of all, after a search for the battery location in this foreign car, the cables were hooked up, and immediately the car started.

The car owner, myself, was and is, for the willing and gracious manner of The Italian Table's owner, and his guests who contributed their services, extremely grateful for their efforts. Thank you to all!

*Parke Sandler, DDS
Cedar Grove, New Jersey*

December blood drives

by Jack Lynn

Moore County Red Cross

The Blood Mobile almost made goal with fifty-seven productive units collected from fifty-seven presenting donors, on Thursday, November 12.

Thanks go to new donors Michael Gunther, Joseph Fitzgerald, Lyla Owens, and Nancy Sabo. The next Blood Drive at Seven Lakes will be held on Wednesday, February 18 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

Blood Drives in December:

Friday, December 5 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. Appointments, 692-

8571.

Saturday, December 6 – 10 am – 2:30 pm, First Baptist Church in Robbins. Appointments, 948-4064.

Tuesday, December 9 – 9 am – 1:30 pm, Agriculture Building in Carthage. Appointments, 947-6362.

Monday, December 15 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Southern Pines United Methodist Church. Appointments, 692-8571.

Wednesday, December 17 – 10 am – 3 pm, First Health Moore Regional Conference Center. Appointments, 715-1478.

Friday, December 19 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Hampton Inn &

Suites in Aberdeen. Appointments, 692-8571.

There is no upper age limit. Donors must be at least seventeen years of age and weigh at least 110 lbs. For any questions about eligibility, call Donor Counselor at 866-562-7156.

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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)
local ordinances.

"These are the people who will represent us as a Village and be making sure the project goes along as it should," explained Collins.

Stonehill Pines will be the first major development constructed under the Foxfire PUD, which was most recently updated in September 2008. Collins said that while meetings with Stone-

hill are ongoing, the PUD team will not discuss the project outside the confines of public meetings with the Planning Board or Foxfire Village Council.

Water has been a priority concern and Stonehill Capital Group CEO Kevin Justice stated that protecting the environment is a major emphasis within the project. Under the signed water agreement between Stonehill Pines and Moore County, the

Village will have the right – at any time the Council feels it is necessary – to hook up to the county water system using lines proposed by the development, at no cost.

"Foxfire has a different chlorination system because we use wells. To switch to County water will be more than just hooking two pipes together," explained Collins. "We'll have to revamp our system. Any costs that we incur will be paid by Stonehill."

The development conceptual plans also include an on-site tertiary wastewater treatment facility which, according to Collins, will allow Stonehill to request smaller, tighter lots and townhouses that encroach closer to streets and buffers. However, the development must confirm to the Foxfire Storm Water Management Plan guidelines.

Collins described the project

as "massive" with a total cost of well over a billion dollars. In March 2008, Stonehill purchased the 1,500 acre tract for \$19.7 million and they have retained the right-of-first refusal for several large tracts fronting Hwy 211 at Hoffman Road, for future commercial development.

The first three to four years of development, Phase One of the plan, includes construction of entranceways on Hoffman Road and Foxfire Road, the hotel and conference center, the North Course and clubhouse, and approximately half of the 1,050 proposed homes.

As presented, the development also includes fourteen miles of paved roads. Collins said Stonehill Pines is considering turning eight of those miles over to the Village: the remaining four road miles will be located in gated communities within the

development and will be managed under private property owner associations.

"Our first initial conversations have been terrific and very professional," said Collins. "Some discussions were private because we felt some items needed to be settled before we even talked, such as water: We knew nothing could move if water was not in place. But this project is such a shot in the arm. It's such a great thing for Foxfire."

Site Clearing

A lengthy discussion of what defines clearing vexed members of the Planning Board as they sought to clarify the site clearing ordinance and improvement permit process.

On a 5-3 split vote, the Board approved recommending a revision of the ordinance requiring

(See "Foxfire," p. 31)

Stonehill

(Continued from page 7)

tional gravity collection mains and pump stations that will discharge to a conventional built-in-place wastewater treatment plant that will be located in the southwest quadrant of the site. The treated effluent will become a portion of the supply for the golf course irrigation system.

Water has been a priority concern and the developers anticipate a daily consumption of approximately 400,000 gallons per day to build-out. The first step in the construction process will be developing a \$3.3 million water system which will extend the 12-inch county water main line located on Linden Road,

near the entrance to Pinewild. The line will be extended over to Hoffman Road, eventually linking at the far side of the development with the existing 12-inch water main located on Hwy 211. A proposed elevated storage tank will also be located near the intersection of Hoffman Road and Hwy 211.

As part of their negotiations with Moore County for water use, the developer has agreed to install three new, off-site public potable production wells to be owned and operated by Moore County at locations to be determined.



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Proposed Westside By-Law Change

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors will have its final reading and will conduct a public hearing of the below-noted proposed By-Law Amendment on Tuesday morning, January 6, starting at 8:00 am, during the public work session at the Westside Park Community Center (WSPCC). Prior to such final action the Board will read the proposed change at its General Association night meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd at WSPCC during its meeting which starts at 7:30 pm. The Board will also read the proposed change at its regularly scheduled work session in December (on Tuesday, December 9th starting at 8:00 am).

By-Law Amendment Proposal

Notice - November 11, 2008
Proposal to change Section 3 of Article V of the By-Laws of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, Inc.

(Current) Article V, Meetings Of Directors, Section 3, Quorum. A majority of the number of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the directors present at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present shall be regarded as the act of

the Board.
Proposed Amendment (Addition):
(.) ; provided, however, that, if the Directors, in their discretion, deem the matter to be one of significant interest to the membership, (a) the membership shall be afforded an opportunity to comment thereon at two duly held meetings of the Board prior to the final approval of the matter by the directors and (b) the matter shall likewise require the approval of the Directors at two duly held meetings thereof; further provided, however, that the Directors shall be entitled to waive the requirements of subsections (a) and (b), above, in the event of a bona fide emergency (as determined by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all incumbent Directors) and finally, (c) except in the event of a bona fide emergency, as aforesaid, if the Board deems a matter to be one of a significant interest to the membership, the Board shall provide the membership with notice of the matter and an opportunity to be heard at two ensuing work sessions, as follows: by giving notice of the hearing at least ten (10) days before each respective work session on the community's official web site (<http://www.sevenlakeswest.org>) and also by prominent posting on the community's mail room doors on Lakeway Drive.

Westside fees

(Continued from page 3)
an additional fee. Agreed?"
"Agreed," Silberhorn replied.
"Agreed," Fewkes replied. "We are not going to be imposing fees for the instructors."

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, November 17 Work Session, the SLWLA Board of Directors:
• Approved a mid-year revision of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget, reflecting an anticipated \$85,000 shortfall in revenues and cutting expenses by \$105,000. [See page 1 for a detailed report on this portion of the meeting.]
• Approved the expenditure of up to \$6,000 with the engineering firm Hobbs-Upchurch and Associates to study options for addressing drainage problems that cause flooding on Butterfly Court during extraordinarily heavy rainfall. Silberhorn noted that the Board was not admitting to any liability for the problem, but considered it in its best interest to have the problem stud-

- ied.
- Learned that the Board has sent a letter to John Garner, owner of the Parkwood section of the West Side, informing him that this area had never been formally incorporated into Seven Lakes West and offering to work with him to accomplish that.
 - Learned that former Westside developer GS Communities had paid \$1,400 to cover half the cost of seeding and watering roadsides in Morgan Wood, in order to correct problems that had resulted in a notice of violation from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
 - Heard from Jane Sessler of Cook Point that a flatbed truck had brought forty or so unruly adolescents into the community on Halloween night.

Advertise in
The Times

Foxfire

(Continued from page 30)
lot owners to receive approval from the Army Corps of Engineers prior to clearing. There is no cost associated with this process unless the land must be delineated for wetlands. Applicants should complete a form available at Village offices, and wait for approval before removing trees, brush, structures, or encumbrances on a permitted piece of property. Asked for clarification, Collins explained that removal means "out of the ground."
The ordinance applies to both residences within the Village corporate limits and those in the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ].
The next meeting of the Foxfire Village Planning Board will be held at Town Hall on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 pm.



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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Potato Bacon Soup Salisbury Steak Dinner	2 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Chicken Parmesan Dinner	3 Black Bean Soup Pork with Sage & Apples Dinner	4 Creamy Chicken Vegetable Soup ♥ Herb-Crusted Salmon Dinner ♥	5 New England Clam Chowder Shrimp Enchiladas Dinner
8 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥ Swiss Steak Dinner	9 Italian Meatball Soup Lemon Chicken with Rosemary Orzo ♥	10 Goldie's Chili Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	11 Mushroom Bisque Tilapia Scampi Style Dinner ♥	12 Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥
15 Split Pea with Ham Soup Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	16 Beef Vegetable Soup ♥ Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	17 Corn Chowder Pot Roast Dinner	18 Spinach & Broccoli Soup ♥ Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner ♥	19 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Enchiladas Dinner ♥
22	23	24	25	26
CLOSED! Merry Christmas!				
29 Lentil Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	30 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥	31 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner	Jan. 1	Jan. 2
CLOSED! Happy New Year!				

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Budget

(Continued from front page)
these items.]

Lower fees, missing lots

A steep decline in the real estate market exacerbated by the global credit crunch has translated into a near freeze on new residential construction on the West Side, and that means the Association has collected little in the way of impact fees from builders.

The Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget had anticipated \$45,000 in fees. Anticipating a slowdown, the Board included only half that in this year's budget. But only \$3,900 has been collected six months into the budget year, so the Finance Committee revised that income line item downward from \$22,500 to \$5,000.

Lower than expected interest rates have reduced the income anticipated from SLWLA investments from \$75,000 to \$69,000, a \$11,000 decrease. On the other hand, based on year-to-date activity, the Finance Committee revised upwards by \$7,300 the income expected for rentals of Association facilities at Johnson point and West Side Park.

By far the largest income revision is a \$67,000 decrease in amount of dues the Finance Committee expects to be collected from lot owners. Kirst said the Committee had discovered that the number of lots the Association has been using in estimating dues income was apparently too high, though she was not confident of the reason for the faulty estimate.

Kirst said some lots in the

community had been combined. Once that is done, the owner pays dues on a single lot; however, the lots cannot be redivided later. Kirst said a couple of recombinations had involved as many as ten or twelve lots being combined into "huge pieces of land."

She said the Finance Committee was continuing to work on coming up with a solid number as the responsibility for managing SLWLA finances is being turned over to Community Association Services, Inc. [CAS]. A portion of CAS management fee is based on the number of lots.

Expense cuts

The Finance Committee identified a number of cuts that could be implemented to reduce the expense budget and avoid having the revenue shortfall reduce Association reserves. Among the cuts recommended and approved by the Board were:

- \$6,000 in expenses relates to Johnson Point maintenance.
- \$4,400 in salary for a Lake Compliance Officer, a function that was handled by the volunteer lake patrol instead.
- \$2,000 for fish stocking, an expense covered by the Lake Auman Sports Club.
- \$9,000 in various elements of the maintenance budget.
- Nearly \$9,000 in West Side Park maintenance expenses.
- \$33,000 in anticipated interest expense on the West Side Park mortgage, which is on an adjustable rate that did not increase as expected.

The committee's revised budg-

et also recommended cutting

- \$10,500 in Security Equipment, including cameras at Johnson Point.
- \$17,000 for painting new lines on Longleaf Drive.
- \$20,000 of the \$25,000 budgeted for the second phase of the Lakeway Mall Drainage Project, and
- \$23,000 for a boundary fence to be built behind West Side Park, separating it from the truss plant.

Left untouched was the \$300,000 budgeted for the remediation of the Lake Auman Dam, though turnover at the state engineering office reviewing those plans continues to delay the start of that project.

Director Mick Herdrich, noting that the community had approved, at the Annual Meeting last March, a budget that included these capital projects, asked whether it was within the authority of the Board to cut them out of the budget.

"We have the right to trim,"

Herdrich said, "but I'm not sure we have the authority to dump the projects."

Herdrich recalled that the community had a vigorous debate over the approval of the budget, which anticipated a \$171,000 draw down of reserves. The debate centered on \$100,000 in expense budget cuts the Board had identified but not incorporated into the final budget for technical, procedural reasons. Some of those expense reductions are the same as those recommended in the Finance Committee's mid-year budget revision.

Herdrich noted that the Finance Committee's recommended cuts go well beyond what is needed to make up for the anticipated \$85,000 revenue shortfall and would reduce the drawdown against reserves from the \$171,000 the membership approved to \$141,000.

"As I recall, there was lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth and \$100,000 in cuts the Board

did not make last Spring," Herdrich said. "The Board passed a budget with a \$171,000 deficit and membership approved it."

In casting their votes to approve, Herdrich said, the members reasonably expected that the Board would implement the capital projects that were included in the budget.

"I think, yes, we have to manage our budget, but we have to be careful. I'm not sure we have the authority to carve into the deficit. The membership approved some of the projects we are talking about cutting."

Herdrich also noted that CAS has pledged to implement a significantly stepped up collection effort that could bring in most of \$66,000 in unpaid, delinquent dues, which would make up most of the \$85,000 revenue

(See "Budget," p. 33)

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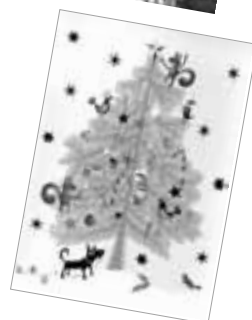
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Budget

(Continued from page 32)
shortfall.

"If I'm a member I have to ask why you are going way beyond your shortfall," he said.

"I see your point" Treasurer Kathy Kirst replied, "but, from the standpoint of managing the budget, if we're looking at a shortfall in income of \$85,000 and saying we could save \$30,000 by making these cuts, to me that is not a bad thing to say we are going to save the community \$30,000. It doesn't go away. It's still there."

Director Ed Silberhorn noted that the \$100,000 in unrealized budget cuts was an issue in the Spring Board of Director elections — and that he, along with then candidates and now Directors Ron Shepard and Karen Milligan — had pledged to implement the cuts if elected.

"You have to make up the income shortfall," Herdrich replied. "You don't have to go beyond the income shortfall."

"As long as we don't exclude capital projects that were voted on [as part of the budget] and that are still feasible, we are within our rights," Silberhorn said.

Though the Board did not fully resolve the philosophical principals underlying that debate, they did manage a compromise based on practical concerns.

Infrastructure Director Ray MacKay explained that the Association had already solicited bids on the boundary fence project and received a low bid of \$30,000 — well in excess of the \$23,000 budgeted for that project. Based on the higher than anticipated cost, Board members reached consensus that that project should be deferred.

MacKay explained that the repainting of striping on Longleaf Drive needs to occur after crack-sealing operations planned for this Winter, noting that crack sealing needs to be done when

the weather is colder and the cracks expand.

"The earliest you will be able to paint is April," MacKay said. As a result, the striping may or may not be bid and completed in the current budget year, which ends April 30.

Based on that explanation, the Board left \$17,000 for restriping in the budget, recognizing that it may or may not be spent.

Finally, MacKay said he had concerns that the Lakeway Drive Drainage Project is straying from its original intent, focusing more on beautifying the entrance drive than on simply improving drainage.

"The concept on Lakeway Mall was to address the drainage problem by installing plantings that would absorb the water," he explained. "We are drifting away from that. It is a multi-year project."

The Board agreed not to cut

the \$25,000 budgeted for Lakeway Mall Drainage but to put expenditures in that account on hold until MacKay could make a presentation at the February Board Meeting aimed at refocusing the project.

Bottom line

After agreeing to leave the capital projects in place — while recognizing that the boundary fencing and, possibly, restriping of Longleaf might be deferred until the next Fiscal Year — the Board moved to approve the rest of the Finance Committee recommendations.

Picking up on Herdrich's point that CAS collection efforts could potentially bring in a significant portion of the \$66,000 in delinquent dues, Silberhorn asked that the motion reflect that these monies would be added to reserves.

Treasurer Kirst noted that

would happen in any case, but the motion unanimously approved by the Board accepting the revised budget included Silberhorn's proviso.

The revised budget includes \$1.13 million in anticipated revenues, a reduction of \$85,000

from the original budget, and \$1.28 million in expected spending, a reduction of \$105,000. The new budget anticipates a \$147,000 drawdown of reserves, assuming that the dam remediation and other capital projects are completed in this fiscal year.

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